



Fortnightly

The Gandhara Hindko Board online English Newsletter

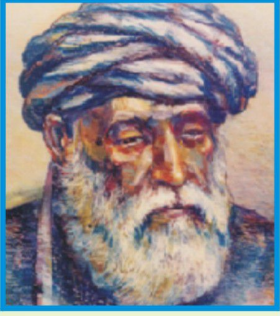


# GANDHARA NEWS

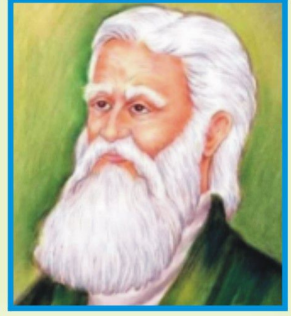
گندھارا نیوز

November -2025, Vol:1, No.20

Chief Editor: Muhammad Zia ud Din Editor: Dr. Muhmmad Adil Sub Editors: M. Nouman Qayum, Ali Awais, Haris Zia, Umar Zia



## Scholarly Milestone: M.Phil Thesis Explores Literary Links between Rehman Baba and Ahmad Ali Saaen



Gandhara Hindko Board, Peshawar, holds the honor that scholars from within Pakistan and abroad have, from time to time, benefited from its library and publications to complete their research theses. Recently, highlighting the intellectual and literary connection between Hindko and Pashto literature, M-Phil scholar Farooq Jan Hussain from the Department of Pashto, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, successfully defended his dissertation titled **The Influence of Rehman Baba's Poetry on the Hindko Poetry of Ahmad Ali Saaen**.

The research was supervised by Professor Dr. Shukria Qadir



of Abdul Wali Khan University, while Dr. Kiran Saneen, Director of the Pashtun Studies Centre, Bacha Khan University Charsada, served as the external examiner.

On this occasion, experts appreciated the research as a valuable and insightful contribution toward understanding the literary relationship between the Pashto and Hindko languages. They remarked that the study would serve as a significant source of mutual enrichment for both literary traditions.

# Muhammad Zia Ud Din Insists for Funding to Gandhara Hindko Board from Governor and Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



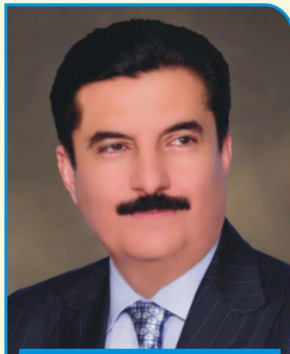
Muhammad Zia ud Din

Muhammad Zia Ud Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, has stated that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly's decision to include Hindko, Saraiki, and Gojari as official languages of the Assembly stands as a historic milestone. He expressed his gratitude to Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Saleem Swati and the assembly members, saying that this decision will not only strengthen the province's linguistic and cultural

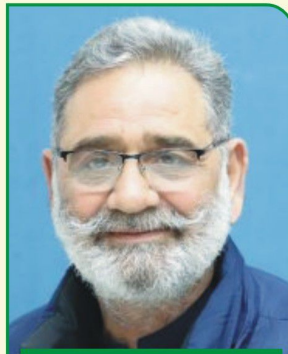
heritage but will also arouse a sense of pride in the identity of speakers of these languages. Muhammad Zia Ud Din emphasized that the diverse languages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are a reflection of the region's culture, history, and traditions, whose promotion is an urgent necessity of the time.



Muhammad Sohail Afridi



Faisal Kareem Kundi



Babar Saleem Swati

Through Speaker Babar Saleem Swati and the assembly members, he appealed to Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi to provide funds to the Gandhara Hindko Board. This would enable the expansion of ongoing projects dedicated to the promotion and development of these languages. He noted that the Gandhara Hindko Board has been serving the cause of promoting and developing Hindko, Saraiki, Gojari and other regional languages for the past three decades. He added that with official patronage, the Board would be able to further accelerate the literary and academic activities not only for Hindko but for other regional languages as well.

## "Gandhara News and Events" WhatsApp Group Launched

Under the supervision of Muhammad Zia Ud Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, the staff members of Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar have created a new WhatsApp group titled **Gandhara News and Events**. The group includes respected members of Gandhara as well as individuals from diverse backgrounds and schools of thought. Through this group, information about the weekly activities of the Gandhara Hindko Board, newspapers, newsletters, events, and the promotion of the Hindko language both in Pakistan and abroad is shared regularly. The primary objective of the group is to keep members informed about the Board's activities in a timely and efficient manner.

Previously, members had to receive publications such as the Hindkowan Newspaper, the English newsletter "Gandhara News", literary works of Sufi poet Ahmad Ali Saaen, and other magazines individually, which was time-consuming. This new initiative allows thousands of people to access Gandhara's activities instantly with just a single click, significantly enhancing outreach and engagement.

## Gandhara Hindko Board Aggressively Active on Social Media



Under the patronage of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, hundreds of academic and literary events, including international and provincial conferences, poetry recitals, critical sessions, debates, workshops, and Naat competitions (both written and oral), have been organized over the past thirty two years. Recently, the Board has started

creating short-duration video highlights of these events, documenting decades of activities in a visual format, and sharing them on social media platforms. These videos have received wide appreciation and popularity among the public, while also contributing to the promotion and awareness of the Hindko language and the Hindkowan community's narrative.



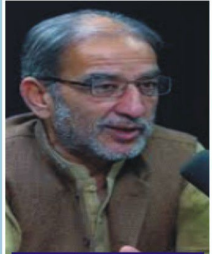
## The New Issue of Pakistan Journal of Languages (PJL) Published

Under the auspices of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar has, since its establishment, been actively working for the promotion, development, and preservation of the literature and culture of all Pakistani languages. Along with the publication of books in various languages, several regional-language magazines are also regularly issued by the Board and the Academy. The English-language research journal, Pakistan Journal of Languages (PJL), is another important addition to this

ongoing academic and literary effort. The latest issue features research articles authored by renowned scholars, including Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, Rukhsana Qambar, Dr. Shahida Asghar, and Dr. Syed Waqar Ali Shah. The journal's patron-in-chief is the Chairman of the Gandhara Hindko Board, Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi; the Chief Editor is the General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, Mr. Muhammad Zia Ud Din; while Dr. Muhammad Adil serves as the Editor and Ali Awais Kheyal along with Muhammad Noman Qayum serve as Sub-Editors.



## Pashto Writers Acknowledge Gandhara Hindko Academy



Dr. Hanif Khalil

Dr. Hanif Khalil, Director of the Pakistan Studies Center at Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad and author of numerous books in Pashto, Urdu, and English, along with renowned Pashto poet and writer Mr. Johar Khalil and poet, writer, and researcher Sher Ahmad Khalil, recently visited the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar. During their visit, they presented copies of

their books as a gift to the Prof. Dr. Ilahi Bakhsh Akhtar Awan Library of the Academy. They expressed their appreciation for the Academy's work in promoting the languages of the province, particularly its significant efforts in the promotion and development of the Hindko language, calling these initiatives highly commendable. They emphasized that if more institutions dedicated to the promotion of language and literature fulfill their responsibilities with similar commitment, it would not only strengthen the cultural and linguistic

heritage of the province but also foster linguistic and cultural harmony across Pakistan.

The visitors also acknowledged Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Awan as a mentor and an accomplished writer. They expressed satisfaction that the Academy, operating under the supervision of the Gandhara Hindko Board, was established on the foundation laid personally by Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Awan, a contribution that has greatly strengthened the languages and cultures of the province.

## “Ensure the Protection of the Hindko Language”, Demands Muhammad Zia Ud Din

The General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, Muhammad Zia Ud Din, has emphasized in a statement that all the languages spoken across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa constitute a shared cultural heritage, and therefore require special attention for their development and preservation. He stated that every language spoken in the province and its speakers; deserve equal respect and recognition.

Muhammad Zia Ud Din expressed concern over a recent remark by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Suhail Afridi, who referred to Peshawar as "a city of the Pashtuns"

during a ceremony. He clarified that historically, Peshawar has always been a multicultural and multilingual city where, alongside Pashtuns, numerous communities have been living for centuries. These diverse cultures form an essential part of the city's beauty and its rich traditions. He further noted that Hindko is Pakistan's sixth-largest language and

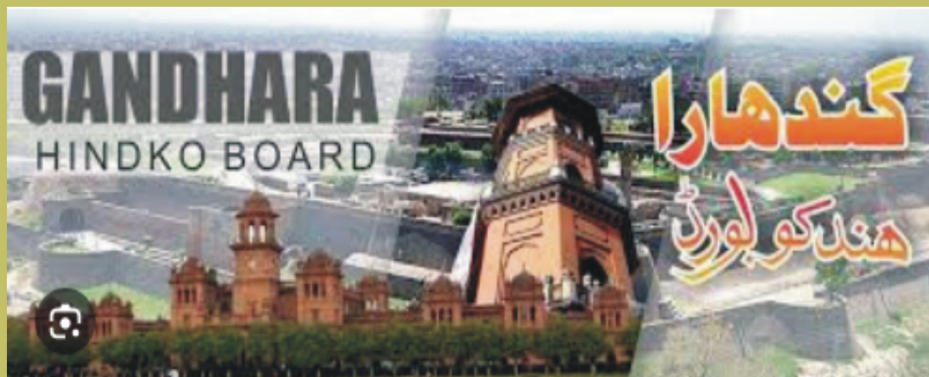
the second-largest language of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, counted among the ancient languages of the region with a civilization based history spanning thousands of years. Hindko has a dedicated category in the national census form and is also recognized among the official languages of the provincial assembly.

Zia Ud Din highlighted that Hindko is widely

Pakhtunkhwa is home to dozens of Indo-Aryan languages. The speakers of these languages have played a prominent role in national development and in the struggle for independence. The names of Peshawar's ancient neighborhoods, markets, graveyards, and places of worship still preserved in Hindko and Persian are evidence of this rich linguistic heritage.

Muhammad Zia Ud Din emphasized that every language spoken in the province is precious, collectively forming a beautiful bouquet that enhances our cultural identity. He noted that the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, for the past thirty years, has consistently worked for

the promotion of Hindko, Pashto, and other regional languages. He concluded by stating that the Constitution of Pakistan provides clear guidance on the protection of languages and the rights of citizens; therefore, it is imperative for public representatives to play an active and effective role in safeguarding and promoting the rights of all languages spoken in the province.



spoken not only in Peshawar but also in D. I. Khan, Kohat, Hazara, Mansehra, Battagram, Azad Kashmir, Murree, Galiyat, Attock and Akora Khattak, as well as in various regions abroad. Its speakers number in the millions, reflecting the language's vast reach and enduring popularity.

He added that restricting the province to a single language is neither appropriate nor reflective of its diversity, as Khyber