



# GANDHARA NEWS

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## The performance of the Gandhara Hindko Academy is commendable: Saeed Ashar



Saeed Ashar, a Hindko and Urdu language poet, writer, author, columnist and researcher from Haripur, met with Muhammad Zia-Ud-Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, at his residence. During the meeting, literary topics, the current situation of the Hindko language, prominent literary figures and quality versus non-quality literary trends were discussed in detail. Mouhammad Zia-Ud-Din informed Saeed Ashar about several important literary and research events that occurred during his long association with the Hindko language. On this occasion,

Saeed Ashar presented his Hindko work "Meri Hindko Rubaaiya an" to



Muhammad Zia-Ud-Din, who praised the book and the

author's work. As a gift from Zia-Ud-Din, the guest was presented with the extensive research collection "Ganjina e Saaen", which contains the poetry of the great Sufi poet Ahmad Ali Saaen. Saeed Ashar praised the performance of the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar and said that under the supervision of Muhammad Zia-Ud-Din, the Gandhara Hindko Board and Academy are performing remarkable services. The meeting concluded in a pleasant atmosphere, marked by hospitality, literary dialogue and cheerfulness.



## A Legacy of Trust: Gandhara's Growing Impact and Public Confidence

For over three decades, the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar has been actively engaged in the promotion, development, and preservation of Hindko and other Pakistani languages. Thanks to the Board's persistent hard work, the Government of K h y b e r P a k h t u n k h w a established the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar in 2015, placing its management and administration in the hands of the Board as a sign of trust.

Under this management, Gandhara Hindko Academy has achieved outstanding accomplishments. These include successfully organizing seven

International Hindko Conferences, nine Regional Language Conferences, and three Women's Conferences, in addition to hundreds of other events. The Academy has published more than five hundred books across various languages, and the publication of



eighteen periodicals, including the Hindkowan newspaper, continues uninterrupted.

As time passes, public confidence in Gandhara continues to rise. Its

performance is acknowledged not only by the Hindko-speaking community but also by people from diverse intellectual backgrounds. The association of eminent figures such as Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Awan, Dr. Ilahi Bakhsh Akhtar Awan, Ijaz Rahim, Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, Dr. Adnan Gul, Muhammad Zia-Ud-Din, and Dr. Salah-Ud-Din; along with their scholarly, literary, research, and financial contributions has further solidified the public's trust in Gandhara. The impact of Gandhara's work is now celebrated and respected not just regionally, but also at national and international levels.

## Evolving with the Times: The Unstoppable Promotion of Hindkowan and Gandhara Magazines

Keeping pace with the demands of the modern era, the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar is not only active in print media but also highly engaged on social media. The Academy's various activities and achievements are regularly displayed across different social media platforms and websites. All its events are uploaded on YouTube and Facebook, ensuring widespread visibility.

The programs and events organized

under the Gandhara Hindko Academy are also shared on the Gandhara Hindko Board's official website

, [www.gandharahindko.com](http://www.gandharahindko.com), as well as on dedicated Facebook accounts and through WhatsApp. This multi-platform approach helps keep the public informed about the Academy's ongoing work and ensures that our younger generation gains access to fresh knowledge about their mother tongue.





## *Gandhara Hindko Academy Continues Research and Promotion Efforts*

In a statement, Muhammad Zia-Ud-Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, said that the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar, established under the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, has been working for the past ten years for the development and promotion of Hindko and other languages spoken across Pakistan. These include languages spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa such as Hindko, Pashto, Gojri, Kohistani, and Khowar; in Punjab, languages like Punjabi, Saraiki, and Pothohari; in Sindh, Sindhi and Urdu; in Balochistan, Balochi, Brahui, and Pashto; in Gilgit-Baltistan, Shina, Balti, and Wakhi; and in Azad Kashmir, \*\*Kashmiri, Pahari, and Hindko.

Under the Gandhara Hindko Academy, not only have seven International Hindko conferences been successfully organized, but

nine Regional Language Conferences have also been held. Scholars and researchers associated



with all the mentioned languages presented their research papers at these conferences. The Gandhara Hindko Academy has preserved these papers in its archives and published them in book form.

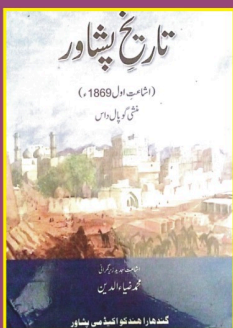
Additionally, under the Gandhara Hindko Academy, more than 18

journals in various languages are being published, which are receiving significant appreciation not only at the regional level but also at national and international levels.

Dr. Yusuf Khushk, former Chairman of the Pakistan Academy of Letters, during his visit to the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar, praised its performance and described it as a "state-of-the-art academy".

Muhammad Zia-Ud-Din added that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had twice allocated funds for the Gandhara Hindko Academy in its Annual Development Program. However, for the past three years, the provincial government has discontinued the provision of funds, plunging the Gandhara Hindko Academy into a severe financial crisis. Despite this, the academy continues its work for the promotion and development of Hindko and other languages through self-help and community support.

## **"The History of Peshawar" Book Finds Widespread Acclaim**



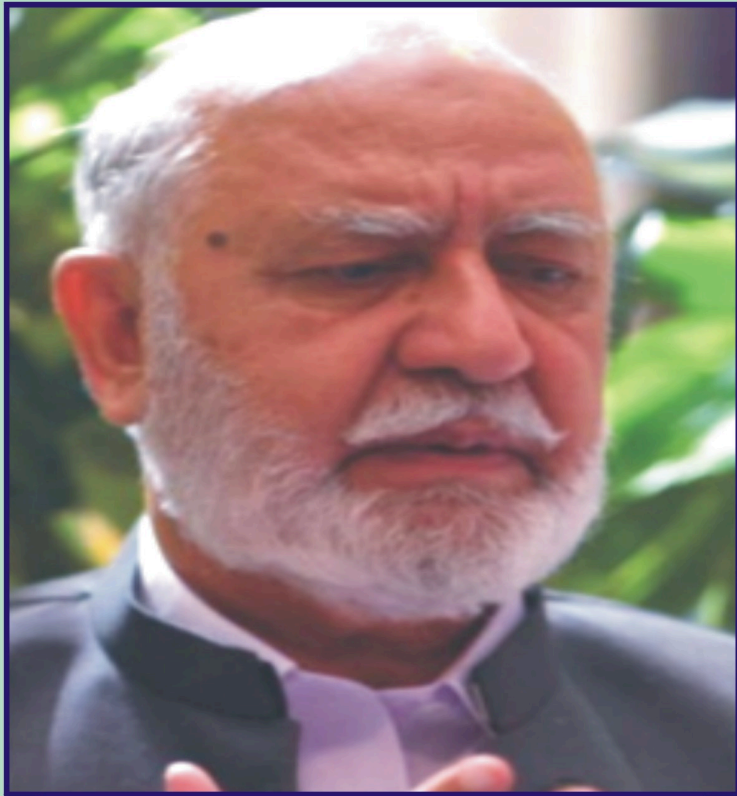
In the course of its work to promote and develop the Hindko language, literature, and culture, the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar has undertaken many notable initiatives. Among these is a significant focus on the preservation and revival of Peshawar's history, civilization, and cultural heritage. The Academy has ensured the publication of over five hundred books, covering a wide range of genres including literature; poetry and prose as well as research-based works. It has also brought forward topics like the life of the Prophet Muhammad (Seerat-Un-Nabi), Iqbal Studies, Linguistics, and History. Gandhara's consistent effort has been not only to introduce new creative literature but also to retrieve and showcase lost or rare literary, research, and historical treasures.

A prime example of this effort is the famous book "Tareekh-e-Peshawar" (The History of Peshawar), which first published in 1869. Its author, compiler, and researcher was Munshi Gopal Das. The General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, Muhammad Zia-Ud-Din, played a key role in ensuring this book's republication. The most important work carried out was the complete indexing of the book and its meticulous preparation to meet modern standards before bringing it back to the public.

The popularity of this book stands as its greatest testament. Among all the publications released under the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar, "Tareekh-e-Peshawar" has received the most widespread acceptance and fame.



## **A Year without Their Light: Remembering Sadiq Saba and Sikandar Zia**



Colonel (Retd.) Sikandar Zia



Sadiq Hussain Saba

It has been one year since the world bid farewell to Sadiq Hussain Saba and Colonel (Retd.) Sikandar Zia, two Executive Members of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar.

The late Sadiq Saba was not only an exceptional poet, writer, and researcher but also the author of several books. He actively participated in the

International Hindko Conferences organized under the Gandhara Hindko Board and presented his research papers there.

Meanwhile Colonel Retd. Sikandar Zia, besides being a member of the Gandhara Hindko Board, served as a former Director of Civil Defence and was among the ideological activists of the

Pakistan Muslim League (N). He also served with honor in the Pakistan Army.

In a statement, Muhammad Zia-ud-Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, expressed that the contributions of both these Executive Members will always be remembered.