



GANDHARA NEWS

March -2026, Vol:3, No.25

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Ejaz Rahim Praises Sadaf Munir For Versified Translations Of Ahmad Ali Saaen's Poetry Into English Under the Auspices of Gandhara

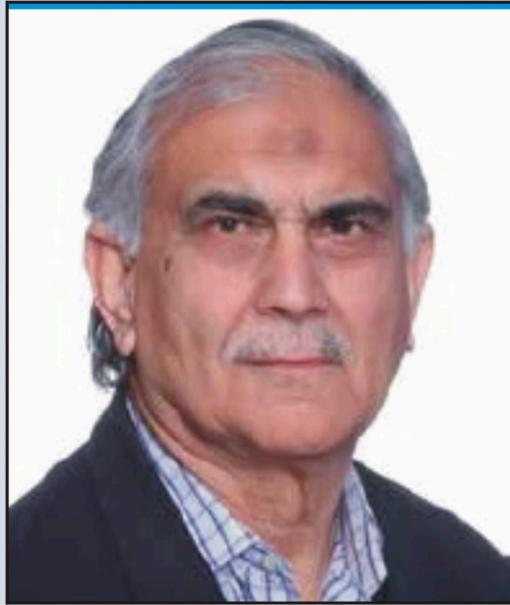
We are delighted to share a heartfelt letter from the distinguished poet and scholar, former Cabinet Secretary, Govt of Pakistan **Mr. Ejaz Rahim**, who recently wrote scholarly note on the work of Dr. Sadaf Munir, who Translated Ahmed Ali Saaen's Hindko Poetry into English Language which was published by Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar under the supervision of **Mr. Muhammad Zia ud Din** (General Secretary Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar). In his letter, Ejaz Rahim praises the effort to bring Saaen's mystical poetry to a wider audience, highlighting its spiritual depth, literary fidelity, and cultural significance. We are including his letter here, sharing his insights, commendations, and thoughtful reflections on this important literary endeavor.

“Dear Qibla Zia Ud Din Sahib!”

I have spent time today in poring over the translations of Sufi Ahmed Ali Saaen Sahib's transcendental verse which you very kindly sent me. It was such a pleasure to be absorbed in the great Sufi's Hindko verse in English translation. You deserve praise for making this verse available to your English-language readers of your journal. We feel a sense of empowerment in entering the Sufi's shrine through this newly opened portal. Please accept my sincere

gratitude for your truly imaginative Endeavour.

I was delighted to find some renderings of his verse by my friend Professor



Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Awan. The work of Dr. Muhammad Adil is also commendable. The introductory essay by the scholarly Professor provides important insights into the Sufi bard's poetic utterance. The translations have attempted to convey the poet's thoughts and tropes with excellent fidelity. The tone and temper of spiritual verses stand conveyed with eminent success.

You may like to reconsider the words in the title: **VERSIFIED TRANSLATIONS**. It gives the impression that a set of prose pieces have

been verified in the English language. Perhaps it would be more apt to say: **TRANSLATED VERSES** of Dr. Sadaf Munir. However, as the meaning of the exercise is already clear to your audience, you may stick to your title.

I am a bit surprised that Ahmad Ali Saaen has been compared with Ghalib whose poetry is a probing into the contradictions that envelop our human existence. On the other hand, Saaen Sahib's poetry is based on a complete acceptance of the Creator's compassion towards human beings. The theme of total surrender to God is not found in Ghalib. Indeed, the poetry of Saaen Sahib is closer to that of Hafiz, Rumi and Khayam. The theme of 'the rival' so important in Ghalib's verse is altogether non-existent in Ahmad Ali Saaen's world-view.

Your initiative on Saaen Sahib's poetry can become a good basis for holding a series of tri-lingual workshops under your Gandhara umbrella. It will add to the cross-lingual understanding of his mystical verse, with its distinct thought, language and imagery; all the best to you and your accomplishments.

Sincerely

Ejaz Rahim

International Mother Languages Day Celebrated Under the Auspices of Gandhara

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, a very graceful and meaningful ceremony was organized under the auspices of the Gandhara Hindko Board, Mansehra Chapter. The event was presided over by Muhammad Raza Khan Tanoli, while the Chairman of the Educational Board Abbottabad, Inayatullah Waseem, attended as the chief guest.

In his address, Inayatullah Waseem stated that a mother language represents a community's identity, culture, and emotions in their purest form. He emphasized that a nation which preserves its mother language also

keeps its traditions and history alive.

Speaking on the occasion,



Muhammad Raza Khan Tanoli remarked that Hindko is not only a sweet language but also possesses a rich historical background. He stressed the urgent need for practical steps to promote

Hindko, particularly in the field of writing and literature, so that the younger generation may

remain connected with their language.

During the ceremony, speakers reaffirmed their commitment to preserve the traditional songs, literature, and cultural

heritage of Hindko by documenting them in book form. They also urged the government to further promote Hindko in educational institutions and to introduce it as an optional subject at the high school level.

At the conclusion of the event, the participants unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to the preservation and advancement of the Hindko language, emphasizing that only through sustained collective efforts can this rich linguistic heritage be safeguarded and gracefully passed on to future generations in all its dignity and cultural splendor.



History and Scholarly Advancement of the Hindko Language

Hindko is counted among the most ancient languages of the Indian subcontinent. According to linguists, its roots stretch back nearly five thousand years. Over time, dedicated scholars have explored and documented its rich past, among whom Professor Dr. Ilahi Bakhsh Akhtar Awan

stands out as a particularly eminent figure. In the present era, another respected intellectual; Muhammad Zia Ud Din, General Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar and author of numerous books, has embarked upon an ambitious new phase of research into the history and evolution of the Hindko language. After years of tireless effort, perseverance, and scholarly rigor, he has succeeded in gathering a remarkable body of authentic references, literary records, and historical sources from diverse

and credible origins.

What makes this endeavor truly exceptional is its strong devotion to modern linguistic principles, combined with a clear, accessible, and engaging style. The history and evolution of Hindko are presented with depth and clarity, addressing each aspect in a systematic clear and logical manner. This rare scholarly treasure is now being shaped to meet contemporary academic needs and will soon be made available to students, researchers, and intellectuals of Hindko language and literature.

Undoubtedly, this work is targeted to become a milestone in the history of Hindko language and literature, serving as a guiding light for future generations of scholars and researchers. The research continues with full momentum and scholarly passion, and there is strong hope that this invaluable academic and literary contribution will soon be published in book form, marking a significant step forward in the promotion and preservation of the Hindko language.

A Special Session on “Hindko Language, Literature and Culture”

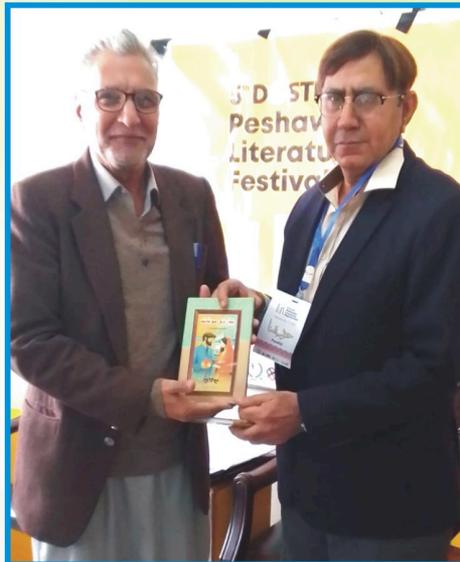


As in years past, the Fifth Dosti Peshawar Cultural Festival unfolded in Peshawar, spanning 9 to 15 February, transforming the city into a vibrant celebration of culture, language, and artistic expression. This lively cultural celebration annually brings together poets, writers, intellectuals, and cultural figures to highlight the literature and heritage of the languages spoken across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, alongside the national language Urdu.

In this spirit, a dedicated session titled “Hindko Language, Literature, and Culture” was organized on 10 February to illuminate the historical depth, literary richness, and cultural significance of Hindko. The session was gracefully hosted by the renowned Hindko-Urdu poet Dr. Khadim Ibrahim.

The proceedings opened with a recitation from the Holy Quran

by Waseem Shahid, a member of the executive council of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar. Insightful discussions on the theme were offered by



Ahmad Nadeem Awan, Joint Secretary of the Gandhara Hindko Board Peshawar, along with Malik Arshad Hussain, Gul Arbab and Hina Rauf, all of whom shared the stage. Lending further prestige to the event, the

renowned poet, writer, and columnist Mushtaq Shabab graced the gathering as a special guest.

The speakers engaged in thoughtful and wide-ranging discussions on the historical importance of Hindko, its literary traditions, cultural expressions, and everyday usage. Their reflections were warmly appreciated by the audience, who expressed keen interest throughout. The session concluded with a lively and well-attended question-and-answer segment, reflecting the participants' deep engagement and enthusiasm for the subject.

Overall, the session stood out as a meaningful and enriched contribution to the Dosti Festival; honoring Hindko as a living language with a proud past and a vibrant cultural presence.

Tribute to Muhammad Zaheen for Forty Years of Distinguished Service at United Airlines



United Airlines in the United States of America has paid tribute to Pakistani-origin employee Muhammad Zaheen on the completion of forty years of dedicated service with the company. On this occasion, the airline issued a special message of appreciation along with a commemorative certificate acknowledging his hard work, commitment, and outstanding performance. The company's management stated that trustworthy and hardworking employees like Muhammad Zaheen are the true assets of the organization. His energy and professional capabilities have played an important role in helping the airline maintain its position among the world's leading aviation companies. The management described him as a valuable asset to the organization and

praised his four decades of exemplary service. Fellow employees also congratulated him on the occasion and appreciated his professional integrity. It is noteworthy that earlier as well, United Airlines had honored Muhammad Zaheen for his remarkable 35 years of performance, punctuality, and dedication to duty. In recognition of his exceptional service, the airline inscribed his name on one of its aircraft — a unique distinction that was considered the first of its kind in aviation history. During a visit to the Gandhara Hindko Academy Peshawar, Muhammad Zaheen shared that he originally belongs to the city of Peshawar and moved to the USA in 1986. He had been serving United Airlines for 35 years at that time. Being selected among the company's 85,000 employees was, according to him, not only a matter of pride for himself but also for the Pakistani community and the people of Peshawar. The airline had offered him two major rewards in recognition of his exemplary attendance and punctuality: a cash gift card worth Ten Thousand US Dollars and a two-week complimentary world tour with his spouse. However, instead of accepting these offers, Muhammad Zaheen requested that his name be written on an aircraft. Explaining his decision, he said, "My first name is Muhammad, and I wished that the blessed name of our Holy Prophet

(peace be upon him) would be seen flying in the skies so that passengers traveling on the aircraft could see it." He further explained that the decision was not easy for the company, as no employee's name had ever been written on a United Airlines Aircraft before. Eventually, however, the company's Chief Executive Officer approved his request. Muhammad Zaheen also shared that throughout his thirty five years of service he never arrived late at work and never took any leave, not even medical leave. He added that he wanted to present a positive image of Pakistan so that whenever people saw his name on the aircraft, they would know that this honor had been awarded to a Pakistani in recognition of his punctuality. Attributing his success to his mother, he said that she would regularly wake the children for the Fajar prayer, which instilled in him the habit of waking up early. This habit later became the foundation of his punctuality in professional life. He further noted that the company continued to acknowledge his performance every year, which encouraged him to work with even greater dedication and commitment.

