

Vinod Khanna will be honoured in his birth place Peshawar for his utmost contribution in Hindi cinemas



Lahore: Remembering Vinod Khanna as a proud Peshawari, people in his birthplace here today paid tributes to veteran Hindi film actor and said the Cultural Heritage Council will organise a conference in his honour.

"Khanna was born in Peshawar on 6 October, 1946 at Sardar area in Cantonment jurisdiction. His father Mehr Chand Khanna was a prominent businessman and former Minister in Congress," said Muhammad Ibrahim Zia, a renowned film historian in Peshawar.

Zia is also the writer of Peshawar the Funkar (Artists of Peshawar), highlighting the actors who belonged to Peshawar and performed in different film industries within the last few a century.

Zia said he met Khanna in 2014 during a call to India as an element of a delegation to meet up with legendary actor Dilip Kumar who also belonged to Peshawar.

"During our meeting with Khanna, he was very happy over a reunion with people of his birthplace Peshawar."

His father Mehr Chand was a well-off person in Peshawar and moved to India in 1947 when Khanna was a child. Into the late 1990s during a function in Dubai, Khanna "proudly announced on stage that he is a Peshawari", Zia said, including that his ancestral home in Peshawar is intact and getting used by All Pakistan Women's Association.

Through the ending up in Khanna, the delegation offered him with gifts including Peshawar Chappali (footwear) and a normal dress that he accepted happily. Zia said he also presented a copy of his book into the star.

"In his autograph, Khanna extended his good wishes to people of Peshawar and expressed desire of visiting his ancestral city," said Shakeel Waheedullah, General Secretary Cultural Heritage Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Khanna desired to visit Peshawar to look at an area where his parents and forefathers lived. He had sent a consult for his stop by Pakistan, but could not succeed, Shakeel said. Shakeel said the Cultural Heritage Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will soon hold an event in honour of Khanna.

Khanna passed away at HN Reliance Hospital in Mumbai on the morning of 27 April. He had been 70. The veteran Hindi film actor breathed his last at 11:20 AM as a result of advanced bladder carcinoma. In a profession spanning five decades, Khanna starred in over 140 films.