

## Students set up 'global village', call for peace



Staff Report

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**LAHORE:** Students from different countries, including Pakistani universities, set up a "global village" at Alhamra Cultural Complex with the objective to rediscover peace.

The daylong event arranged by the Lahore chapter of AIESEC and Bargad Volunteers Network (BVN) in collaboration with Punjab Youth and Education Department was attended by more than 500 students from various universities including LUMS, PU, FAST, LSE, FCU and other educational institutions. Also, interns from Brazil, China, Palestine, Columbia, Philippine, Palestine, and Somalia set up stalls about their countries. In total, more than 15 countries introduction stalls were set up to tell the students about the countries. Students showcased culture of different countries on the stalls in which local students took lot of interest.

Punjab Youth Minister Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, in his message, said that the government was encouraging such activities promoting peace and diversity. He said it was important to involve youth in peace and diversity efforts and inviting students from different other countries to come to Pakistan and talk to Pakistani youth. He said it was third such "global village" which was set up in collaboration with Bargad Volunteers Network and AIESEC local chapter.

Sabiha Shaheen, executive director Bargad NGO, addressing the students said that it was important to understand need of peace and diversity on the world, especially, Pakistan. She said these foreign students were brave to visit Pakistan at this difficult moment and security risk.

Umar Saif, chairman Punjab Information and Technology Board, addressing the students said country's youth were agents of change in the society. He said such activities promote peace, dialogue, tolerance and diversity and bring different cultures together.

Wasma Imran, students at LUMS and vice president of Lahore chapter of AIESEC, said the Global Village was arranged by undergraduate and postgraduate students and interns of different countries. She said the organisation offers volunteer internship to international students. She said AIESEC has five chapters in Pakistan. She said Global Village was meant to support peace in Pakistan and re-branding the image of Pakistan through students.

Usman Rasheed, president BVN, said the celebration was focused to promote volunteerism, celebrate diversity, and create physical and virtual space for youthful expressions. He said BVN was working with more than 2000 volunteers across 80 districts of Pakistan.

The intern students from China, Columbia, Brazil, Somalia and Palestine also gave presentations about their countries' culture and societies.

The students, at the end of the day, held a candle light vigil in memory of martyrs of Army Public School Peshawar attack and Shikarpur Imambargah blast. They call for peace and taking the culprits of terrorism in Pakistan to the task.