

# WARGEYSKA

## Students set up 'global village' in search for peace – Pakistan Today

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Students from different countries and Pakistani universities set up a "Global Village" at Alhamara Cultural Complex with the objective to rediscover peace.

A daylong event arranged by the Lahore chapter of AIESEC (international association of students of science, engineering and commerce) 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. In addition, interns from Brazil, China, Palestine, Columbia, Philippine, Palestine, and Somalia set up stalls about their countries. In total, more than 15 country introduction stalls were set up to inform students about the nations. Students displayed cultures of different countries on their stalls, and local students took lot of interest in the information they were being provided with at the event.

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

Bargad Executive Director Sabiha Shaheen, addressing the students said that it was important to understand the need of peace and diversity on the world, especially, Pakistan. She said these foreign students were brave to visit Pakistan at this difficult moment due to the security risks at hand.

Punjab Information and Technology Board Chairman Umar Saif addressed the students and said that the 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.

AIESEC Lahore Vice President Wasma Imran, who is a student at LUMS, said the Global Village was arranged by undergraduate and postgraduate students and interns of different countries. She said the organisation offers volunteer internships to international students. She said AIESEC has five chapters in Pakistan. She said the Global Village was meant to support peace in Pakistan and it was supposed to help re-brand the image of Pakistan through students.

President BVN Usman Rasheed said the celebration was focused on promoting volunteerism, celebrating diversity, and creating a physical and virtual space for youthful expressions. He said that the 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 those martyred at Army Public School Peshawar and the Shikarpur Imambargah blast. They called for peace and asked that the culprits behind terrorism in Pakistan be taken to task.