

## **AJK Presiden urges for vibrant individual role to strengthen Kashmir freedom movement as national duty:**

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MIRPUR ( AJK): March 28: Azad Jammu Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that it was the national duty of every citizen in the state to support and strengthen the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir.

While addressing a grand Iftar dinner in Khari Sharif in outskirts of Mirpur on Friday, the president said that Kashmir has been at the center of his politics.

“Kashmir was my first priority and it is and will remain to be until Kashmiris achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India”, he said, adding that throughout his three and a half years in office, he worked diligently to make Azad Kashmir truly a base-camp of freedom

movement and to promote the Kashmir issue on the international stage.

Referring to his foreign trips, Barrister Chaudhry asserted that he had the privilege to present the Kashmiris' case before the world and visited important countries including the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Jeddah, Turkey and Dubai to highlight the plight of Kashmiri people.

At national level, the president said that he tried to foster a national consensus on the matter by uniting leaders from various political backgrounds, ensuring that all political parties stand together and united on the issue.

On diplomatic front, the president said that he held several meetings with ambassadors of different countries and sought their countries' pivotal role in resolving the longstanding Kashmir dispute.

Referring to US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's visit to Muzaffarabad where she announced the formation of a caucus in the US Congress for the Kashmir cause and the British High Commissioner's visit to his residence in Chichiyan along with a high-level delegation, the president said that it was part of his campaign to bring Kashmir to international lime light.

These high profile visits, he said, had pressured the Indian government, prompting it to initiate a formal protest against the United States and the UK.

The president, in his speech, supported the idea of elevating the Khari Sharif constituency to tehsil level status. He questioned why Khari Sharif should not receive this status when other regions such as Dadyal, Chakswari, and Samahni already do.

" I immediately direct the government to immediately grant Khari Sharif the status of a tehsil", he said.

He said that the Rural Health Center Pindi Sabharawal should be given the status of a tehsil hospital.

Barrister Chaudhry thanked Chaudhry Arshad Hussain and others for according him warm welcome on his arrival at Khari Sharif.

” The people of Khari have always supported me through every thick and thin “, he added.

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