

AJK Observes World Civil Defense Day with Renewed Resolve and Public Awareness Activities



میرپور آزاد کشمیر میں شہری دفاع کی تنظیم نے آزادی کے نام پر ایک بڑی پارٹی کا انعقاد کیا۔

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MIRPUR (AJK), March 1: Azad Jammu and Kashmir observed World Civil Defense Day on Sunday

with renewed pledges to protect the nation and support the armed forces in both peace and emergency situations.

Ceremonies were held across all ten districts of AJK, including Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli,

Bhimber, and Rawalakot, under the supervision of the AJK Civil Defense Department. The main event in Mirpur was coordinated with the District Administration and included participation from civil defense volunteers, 1122 Rescue Service, and workers from PWD, Highways, Electricity, Information, Health, and Education departments. School students also took part in practical demonstrations, rescue drills, and awareness walks to mark the day.

Speakers at the Mirpur ceremony, including Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Naeem Akhtar, Additional Chief Warden Civil Defense Faisal Manzoor, and City Mayor Usman Ali Khalid Chaudhry, highlighted the significance of the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO), which has operated globally since 1972 to safeguard communities during emergencies and disasters.

“The commemoration of this day serves as a reminder of the vital role of civil defense in protecting citizens in both peace and wartime emergencies,” said the speakers. They emphasized that public participation, volunteerism, and continuous training are essential to strengthen community resilience and preparedness for natural or man-made disasters.

Recalling past tragedies, such as the devastating October 8, 2005 earthquake in northern AJK and KPK and the September 24, 2019 earthquake in Mirpur, officials noted that improved civil defense arrangements could have reduced loss of life and property. They encouraged citizens and students

to actively participate in emergency drills and awareness programs throughout the year.

The speakers concluded that World Civil Defense Day not only honors the sacrifices of volunteers but also reinforces the nation's commitment to modern, efficient emergency response systems, public safety, and national preparedness against all eventualities.