AJK President, Prime Minister pay rich tributes to Kashmiri martyrs:

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MIRPUR (AHR): July 12: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that July 13 has a historic significance in Kashmiris' struggle for political emancipation.

In his special message issued on the occasion of Kashmir Martyrs' Day, today, the president said,

"The sacrifices offered on this day in 1931 serve as a beacon of light for Kashmiris".

Terming Kashmiris' ongoing struggle and sacrifices as continuation of the martyrs of 13 July 1931, the president said that the candle of freedom lit by the martyrs of July 13, 1931, would be kept lit

despite all odds.

Lauding the unprecedented sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people, Barrister Chaudhry said, "Kashmiri people have kept the torch of freedom alight with their blood".

Reiterating all out political, moral and diplomatic support for Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for right to self determination, the president said that the government and people of Azad Kashmir stand in support and solidarity with their brethren in their struggle".

He said that Kashmiris living on both sides of the line of control were like a body and soul to each other. "We consider them as a part and parcel of our body", the president said.

"The freedom movement of Kashmir has entered a new phase owing to the matchless sacrifices of the Kashmiri people", he said, adding that it were the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people that have brought Kashmir at the center stage at global level.

Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while paying rich tributes to martyrs of July 13, has said that Kashmir Martyrs' Day marks an important milestone in Kashmir's freedom movement.

"This day holds a special significance in Kashmiris' struggle for political emancipation", the PM said in his message issued on the eve of Kashmir martyrs day, today.

He said that it was the time when the Kashmiri people challenged the Dogra Maharaja and raised the banner of revolt against his despotic rule.

"In 1931, the tyranny of the Dogra Maharaja had reached its peak. Muslims subjects of the state were being persecuted and exploited economically and their religious symbols and shrines, their Holy books and places of worship were being desecrated with impunity", the message said, adding that no one was allowed to raise his voice against the tyranny of the rulers.

Referring to the martyrdom of 22 Kashmiris who were gunned down by the forces of Dogra Maharaja in the premises of central jail Srinagar on July 13, 1931, the PM said that it was unprecedented in world history that 22 people sacrificed their lives one after the other while completing Azan.