

## 'Women Solidarity Mela'

# 'Govt takes steps for women's uplift'

ISLAMABAD (APP) – Women from across the country participated enthusiastically in the colourful activities of 'Women Solidarity Mela' held here in connection with the 16 days of activism to end violence against women.

The 16-day activism campaign was started last week by national and international organizations for the early passage of domestic violence bill.

Addressing at the mela arranged by Aurat Foundation and Oxfam-GB, Managing Director, the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Zammurd Khan said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto always discouraged any kind of discrimination within the party and gave equal status and privileges to women.

The PPP led government has appointed women as Speaker National Assembly

and Governor Gilgit Baltistan and will continue to ensure women rights.

The PBM is supporting the deserving girls through providing them dowry and financial help and helping the women with severe diseases.

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal has recently helped the one of the cameraperson who was facing brain tumor and now she is well. Any woman facing cancer, hepatitis or heart ailment can contact PBM and they will be given financial help. It will compensate the women prisoners who are fined upto Rs 50,000, Zammurd Khan said.

The PBM has also formed a committee in compliance with the implementation of the Harassment Act 2010, he said.

President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Pervez Shaukat said that the PFUJ has extended full support to the newly developed

forum of Women Journalist Pakistan (WJP) which will help protect the rights of female journalists working in print and electronic media.

"Islam has given equal status to the women and men and women are not less than men in their capabilities," he said. The PFUJ has also taken strict notice of the recent incident in which someone made a video of women anchorpersons travelling with the some minister and pasted on the Youtube, he said.

The PFUJ has condemned this incident and called the owner of the private channel, which aired that footage.

He acknowledged the support of Aurat Foundation and Oxfam GB extended to the forum of WJP.

Women leader from District Bhakkar, Southern Punjab, Riffat Khan sharing her experience on the occasion said that

the 50 Women Leaders Group (WLG), a project of Oxfam, has encouraged women at grass root level to raise their voices against injustices and discriminatory practices. They are working collectively for the protection of their rights and carrying out activities for the betterment of womenfolk.

She said they had voluntarily contributed in the flood relief activities and also providing guidance for holding CNIC for women at three tehsils in their district through their established centres.

Another community leader, Nigar Baloch from Nowshera said the non governmental organizations are working for the welfare of women across the country. WLG comprising councillors, doctors, lawyers, political party workers had played their dynamic role in flood relief and rehabilitation activities.