

## Kot Diji, Khairpur, Upper Sindh. Foundation-Laying of the first Memorial Library for Peshawar's Innocent Martyrs and Opening of Sayani DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) Training Park.

Sayani DRR Park has been developed by Heritage Foundation of Pakistan in collaboration with District Government, Khairpur and funded by Spiritual Chords, South Africa. On the occasion of the opening of the park, the foundation laying of the first Memorial Library in remembrance of Peshawar's Innocent Martyrs also took place on the 3rd of January, 2015.

On the invitation of HF CEO, Ar. Yasmeen Lari and Mr. Munawar Ali Mithani, DC, Khairpur many guests attended the event. Among honoured guests were Mr. Mohammad Abbas Baloch, Commissioner, Sukkur, Dr. Saeed Mangnejo, Commissioner, Larkana, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui, Director IBA, Sukkur, Captian Anwaar, DC, Qambar Shahdadt, and Mr. Javaid Ahmed, DC, Larkana. Mr. Mohammad Variawa, representative of Ms. Safeeyah Moosa, founder Spiritual Chords, specially flew in from South Africa to attend the event. The Commandant Rangers also visited. On the occasion were present representatives of District Government, Khairpur, Mr. Haque Nawaz and Mr. Nizamani, along with Directors of Social Welfare and Education Departments, Heritage Foundation Team, Government School Children and Teachers, Khairpur Scouts, the Youth Council, Sukkur Police Band and many local artisans.

The opening was carried out by recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by ribbon cutting ceremony at the park's entrance. The foundation-laying of the Memorial Library along with *Fateha* and a candlelight vigil in remembrance of Peshawar's Innocent Martyrs was carried out by honoured guests. In the meantime the audience enjoyed performances by school children.

Formal program was begun by *tilawat* and flag hoisting ceremony accompanied by Sukkur Police band who played the national anthem, after which scouts conducted their march past around the amphitheatre.

This was followed by an introduction by Ar. Yasmeen Lari. She briefed the audience regarding the importance of the DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) Park. She expressed the shock and horror felt by the entire nation at the heinous attack on school children in Peshawar and expressed the resolve at the necessity of educating the youth. She informed about the support provided by Ms. Safeeyah Moosa for the welfare of flood affected areas in Sindh since 2012 due to which hundreds of housing units, 1 primary school, 4 dispensaries, 7 ParhoPakistan centres, 3 women's centres and 3 DRR Centres have been built.

Mr. Munawar Ali Mithani welcomed the guests and thanked Ms. Safeeyah Moosa for her contribution and the work by Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, along with his resolve to counteract militant forces by putting extra effort in providing education to school children. Mr. Mahomed Variawa, in his passionate speech expressed the grief felt around the world and particularly in South Africa. He also read out a message from Ms. Safeeyah Moosa expressing her resolve to spread education to all corners.

Mr. Abbas Baloch joined Mr. Mithani in thanking Ms. Moosa and the Foundation for the gift of the Park to the citizens of Khairpur. He also resolved to support all efforts for children's education and offered his support to counteract the forces of militancy. Likewise Mr. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui expressed their grief on Peshawar's tragedy and offered the services of IBA students for community service. Dr. Saeed, Commissioner Larkana, agreed to the request of Ar. Lari to arrange for tours of World Heritage Moenjodaro for school children of Kot Diji.

At the end of the speeches another *Fateha* for Peshawar's Innocent Martyrs by all participants was carried out. Souvenirs in the form of Ajrak and Khaddi silk shawls were gifted to the honoured guests by the District Government, Khairpur. On conclusion of the formal ceremony school children presented their performances on the stage to great excitement and enjoyment of all participants. The Samosas and Pakoras prepared on HF's Karavan PakoSwiss Fuel-efficient smokeless Chulah were served to all.

This park has been designed to provide training for various aspects of disaster preparedness based on HF's program Build Back Safer with Vernacular Methodologies is now open to all segments of society especially women and children. The park includes Children's enclave, ParhoPakistan Centre on stilts for e-learning, Women-centered DRR Centre, Crafts Cluster, Amphitheatre and stage, ChaiKhana on stilts, Karavan PakoSwiss Chulah, Demonstration units for safe construction and Chaurah Pavilions for seating.



HF's Amphitheatre and stage.



Ribbon cutting ceremony by honoured guests.



HF's Build Better Demonstration Units.



Appearance by Commandant Rangers.



Candlelight vigil & fateha for Peshawar Martyrs.



School girls enjoying the children's enclave.



School children performances for the event.



Guests sitting side by side for the occasion.



Flag hoisting & National anthem ceremony.



Sukkur Police Band performance.



Mr. Munawar Ali Mithani addressing the guests.



Ar. Yasmeen Lari welcoming the audience.



Children enjoying the refreshments.



Refreshments served in the ChaiKhana on stilts.



View of the bamboo roof detail.



Pakistan and South Africa's collaboration.



Mr. Mahomed at the Chaikhana with the scouts.



Local artisans displaying their craft work.