

Pakistani, Indian peace caravans march to border

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KHOKHROPAR: Hundreds of people, including women, representatives of NGOs, journalists, doctors, advocates, retired judges and notables, from different parts of the country took a peace caravan to the Pakistan-India Khokhrapar-Monabao border on Friday evening.

The caravan was organized under banner of the Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPPFD). Another peace caravan from the Indian side also came to the border. The Pakistani peace caravan, led by Anis Haroon, chief of the PIPFD, left Mirpurkhas in the morning. Shahid Fayaz, general secretary of the PIPFD's Sindh chapter, Rais Ahmad Khan, Imtiaz Ali Phanwar from the Mirpurkhas chapter of the organization and others carrying banners, placards and Pakistani flags and travelling in buses and coaches arrived in Umerkot town where Umerkot district nazim Faqeer Maghan Mangrio and hundreds of people of the town welcomed the caravan.

The caravan reached their destination (zero point) at 5:30 in the evening where Col Basharat, Commander 61 Wing Qasim Rangers Chhore base, and other paramilitary forces welcomed the caravan. The Indian peace caravan was led by Tapan Kumar Bose, chief of the India-Pakistan Peoples Forum for Peace and Democracy. People from all states of India participated in the peace caravan. Prominent among them were Mahesh Bhat, film director/producer, singer Seema Ghazal, poet Shashi Mule and singer Ms Rabia.

Both sides chanted friendship slogans and sang peace songs. Members of the peace caravans also lighted candles. Newspaper columnist Madam Amar Sindhu, Irfan Mallah, Justice Mirza Salahuddin, Arbab Naik Muhammad and other participants of the peace caravan said it was a great moment. Khemchand Singh Sodho from Rajasthan said peoples of Thar and Rajasthan were eagerly waiting for the reopening of Monabao-Khokhrapar border.
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