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PRESS RELEASE

The 16th anniversary of the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005 that hit Azad Kashmir and Northern Pakistan is being observed across the country today (Friday). Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) pays homage to the people who lost their lives in the deadly earthquake.

Besides death of over 80,000 people, more than 100,000 people were injured in the quake, which also destroyed villages, roads, schools, hospitals, and bridges and caused massive land sliding in the most affected areas.

PMA and all its branches collectively participated in the relief activities and established medical camps in the affected areas and served the people with dedication round the clock during that hard time.

The government of that time assured that destroyed buildings will be repaired

Within two years but unfortunately it has to be restored even after 15 years. The damaged school and hospital buildings are yet to be repaired.

Regrettably we have not learnt from the past and the abilities of our National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) are still not up to the mark. We suggest government to immediately improve the ability of NDMA to deal with any such natural or accidental disaster in future.

Dr. S.M. Qaisar Sajjad
Honorary Secretary General
Pakistan Medical Association (Centre)

