

# India, Pakistan urged to work for prosperity

**By Our Correspondent**

**LAHORE**

TIME has come for India and Pakistan to take bold actions to move forward for economic and social development of the people and stability of the region, South Asia as a whole and free media of both the countries could play a vital role to make it possible.

It was opined by the speakers at a seminar on "Role of media for stable and prosper South Asia" held in connection with the 26th anniversary of SAARC which was organised by the Media and Communication Department of a private university on Friday.

According to a press statement, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former Secretary General Rahmatullah Javed was the chief guest on the occasion. The university Rector Prof Dr Hassan Sohaib Murad presided over the seminar.

The university's Department of Media and Communication Chairman Prof Dr Mujahid Mansoori, noted political scholar of Canada and Pakistan Prof Mian Muhammad Asif and a large number of media students attended the event.

Rahmatullah Javed briefed the students about

the SAARC history, objectives and its functioning. He said that trustful ties between India and Pakistan were crucial to utilise maximum potential of the SAARC member states for the collective wellbeing of the people of South Asian region. He was of the view that the media could play a greater role in promoting people-to-people contact and trade ventures among the SAARC countries.

He said if Germany, France and other countries even after fighting against one another in the Second World War could come close with each other in the form of European Union, why not Pakistan and India which had lived with one and other for around 800 years before separation of the Sub-Continent.

Dr Hassan Sohaib Murad said that Pakistan and India needed to learn lesson from other regional blocs and associations like European Union, NAFTA, ASEAN, GCC (Gulf Co-operative Council) and ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) etc. He said Pakistan must take advantage of its geopolitical position by working as an active member to get maximum advantages from the upcoming developments.

Prof Dr Mujahid Mansoori said that unfortunately SAARC was not that successful, however, it had very favourable environment to promote regional stability and transform it into the prosperity of the member states. About media role, Dr Mansoori said it was an era of internationalism and the media was not merely meant for propaganda it was also playing its new role as a peace-maker.

Prof Dr Mian Muhammad Asif while presenting a comparative study of SAARC and European Union said that European nations had set an example of supernatural nations without caring of their sovereignty and borders to improve the values and life of their people. He said that Pakistan and India must realise the problems of their people and in the greater interest of the people of South Asia, they badly needed to activate and strengthen SAARC forum.