

# Pak-India need bold measures to activate SAARC: seminar

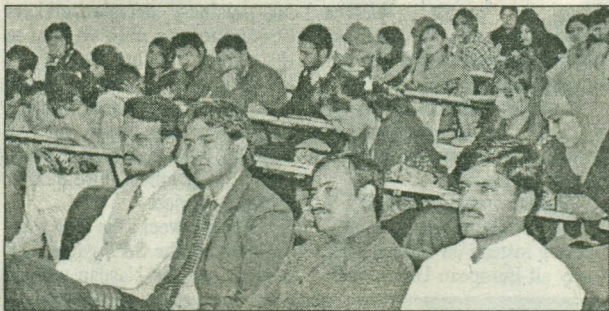
Staff Report

**LAHORE:** Time has come for India and Pakistan to take bold actions to stable and prosper their region, South Asia.

Free media of both of the countries can play vital role to make it possible, said speakers of seminar on 'Role of media for stable and prosperous South Asia' held in connection with 26th anniversary of SAARC.

Rahmatullah Javed, the former secretary general SAARC chamber briefed the students of Media and Communication Department, University of Management and Technology (UMT), who organised the moot that trustful ties between India and Pakistan were crucial to utilise maximum potential of the SAARC member states for the collective well being of the people of South Asian region.

"Unfortunately the value of distrust increase at once even after a firework blast in



India or Pakistan. The media can play a greater role in this regards to promote people-to-people contacts and trade ventures among SAARC countries," he said.

He said if Germany, France and other countries even after fighting against one another in the Second World War could come close in exemplary ties in the form of European Union, why not Pakistan and India who lives with one and other for 800 years before separation of Subcontinent.

UMT Rector Dr Hassan

Sohaib Murad said Pakistan and India need to learn lesson from other regional blocks and associations like European Union, NAFTA, ASEAN, GCC (Gulf Cooperative Council) and ECO (Economic Cooperation Organisation) etc.

He said Pakistan should cash its geopolitical position by working as an active members in all regional and international level organisation and also by getting status of observer in other regional association in order to get maximum advantages from the

upcoming developments.

Prof Dr Mujahid Mansoori said unfortunately SAARC was not that successful, however, it has very favorable environment to promote regional stability and transform it into the prosperity of the member states.

"Our needs are common and we have tremendous potential and capacity to care to the trader and other mutual needs but the only problem is unfriendly ties of India and Pakistan."

Political scholar Prof Dr Mian Muhammad Asif said European nations have set an example of supernatural nations even do not caring for their sovereignty and borders to improve the values and life of their people.

He said Pakistan and India should 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.