



Atta Tarar asks youth to draw inspiration from Quaid's principles



Mohsin Naqvi extends heartfelt Christmas greetings to Christian community



Quaid's vision continues to guide Pakistan on the path of progress, stability: Awais Leghari

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Friday 26 December 2025 Rajab Al-Murjab 05, 1447 A.H VOI No: 05 Issue No. 341 Pages 4 Rs.20

PM Shehbaz reaffirms equal rights, hails Christian community's national contributions

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed the government's firm commitment to safeguarding the constitutional rights of minorities, declaring that Pakistan belongs equally to all its citizens irrespective of faith.

The prime minister was addressing a Christmas ceremony held here at the Prime Minister's Office. Speaking at the event, the prime minister highlighted the teachings of Jesus Christ (Hazrat Isa A.S.), describing him as a symbol of peace, compassion and service to humanity. He said the message of love, justice and tolerance preached by Jesus Christ was deeply relevant in the present age and aligned with the core principles of Islam and

Pakistan's founding vision.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid rich tribute to the Christian community's historic and ongoing contributions to Pakistan's development, particularly in the fields of education, healthcare, defence and the justice system. He specifically acknowledged Justice A.R. Cornelius, former Chief Justice of Pakistan, for his exemplary role in strengthening the country's judicial system; Air Commodore Cecil Chaudhry (Shaheed) for his valour and services in the defence of Pakistan; and Dr. Ruth Pfau for her extraordinary humanitarian work in healthcare, especially her lifelong fight against leprosy in the country. The prime minister also recalled the sacrifice of Haroon William (Shaheed).



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif cuts a cake at the Christmas ceremony at PM House.

Eight Indian-sponsored terrorists killed in Kalat IBO: ISPR

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan security forces have killed eight Indian-sponsored terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Kalat district of Balochistan, the Inter-

Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday. According to ISPR statement, the operation was conducted on December 24 following credible intelligence regarding the presence of terrorists affiliated with Fatah al Hindustan operating in the region. Security forces effectively engaged the terrorists' hideout, leading to an intense exchange of fire. "As a result of the operation, eight Indian-sponsored terrorists were neutralized," the military's media wing said. A cache of weapons, ammunition, and explosives was also recovered from the site. The terrorists were reportedly involved in multiple acts of terrorism in the area, targeting both security personnel and civilians. ISPR added that sanitisation operations are currently underway in the surrounding areas to eliminate any remaining militants and ensure the region is cleared of hostile elements. The statement reaffirmed that Pakistan's security forces remain committed.

Protection of minorities rights cornerstone of Pakistan's ideology: COAS

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS & CDF, attended the Christmas celebrations at Christ Church in Rawalpindi, joining the Christian community in commemorating the joyous occasion. He extended heartfelt Christmas greetings and best wishes for peace, harmony and prosperity to the community. Paying tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Field Marshal highlighted the Founder's vision of equality, freedom and religious tolerance, emphasizing the protection of minority rights as a cornerstone of Pakistan's ideology. Interacting with the con-



gregation, Field Marshal highlighted the enduring contributions of Pakistani Christians to national development and security, including their proud and distinguished service in the Pakistan Armed Forces across generations. He also stressed upon the importance of interfaith harmony, mutual respect

and unity, stating that Pakistan's strength lies in its diversity, equal opportunities and shared constitutional values beyond religion, ethnicity, caste and creed. The COAS & CDF reaffirmed Pakistan Armed Forces' commitment to upholding the dignity, security and equal rights of all citizens, as

enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. The Christian community leaders expressed gratitude for the Field Marshal's visit, acknowledging Pakistan Armed Forces' role for protection of homeland, inclusivity, religious harmony, and national unity in Pakistan.

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed to arrive Pakistan today on official visit

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: United Arab Emirates (UAE) President and Abu Dhabi's Ruler Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will undertake official visit to Pakistan on Friday (today). The UAE President is undertaking this visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This will be his first visit to Pakistan as the President of United Arab Emirates. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers and senior officials. During the visit, UAE President will hold a meeting with Prime Minister.

Key militant killed in Kulachi

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District on reported presence of Khwarji. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarji location. Resultantly, two Khwarji, including Khwarji ring leader Dilawar, were sent to hell. Killed Khwarji Dilawar was highly wanted by Law enforcement agencies due to his involvement in multiple terrorist activities and Government had fixed head money of PKR 4 Million on him. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed khwarji.

Nation celebrates Quaid-e-Azam's birth anniversary with patriotic zeal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The nation on Thursday observed the 149th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Founder of Pakistan, with patriotic zeal, paying tribute to his visionary leadership and renewing the pledge to uphold his guiding principles of faith, unity and discipline. President Asif Ali Zardari, in his message, stressed the enduring relevance of Quaid-e-Azam's leadership and called upon the nation to recommit itself to the democratic, inclusive and constitutional ideals laid down by the Founder of Pakistan. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam, urging

citizens to follow his principles of democracy,

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Science



and Technology Minister Khalid Hussain Magsoo and Overseas Pakistanis Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain emphasised national unity, tolerance and adherence to constitutional values. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah visited Mazar-e-Quaid to pay homage, while governors of Punjab, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan underscored the need to follow the Founder's vision in letter and spirit.

The armed forces' leadership, including Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, also paid tribute to the Father of the Nation.

Messages were also issued by the leadership of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, while media outlets across the country aired special programmes highlighting Quaid-e-Azam's role in the creation of Pakistan and the continued relevance of his ideals for national unity, peace and progress.

Police suspect suicide bomber behind Nigeria's deadly mosque blast



PEAK POINT

MAIDUGURI: Nigeria police said Thursday that they suspected a suicide bomber was behind the blast that killed several worshippers in a mosque on Christmas eve in the country's northeastern Borno state. A police spokesman put the death toll at five, with 35 wounded. A witness on Wednesday told AFP that eight people were killed. The bomb went off inside the crowded Al-Adum Juma'at Mosque at Gamboru market in the capital city of Maiduguri, as Muslim faithful gathered for evening prayers around 6:00 p.m. (1700 GMT), according to witnesses and the police.

"An unknown individual, whom we suspect to be a member of a terrorist group, entered inside the mosque, and while prayer was ongoing.



SPORTS



Global investors line up as 12 parties bid for two new PSL franchises



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League's (PSL) stature as a premier global T20 competition reached a new milestone as 12 investor groups from five continents formally submitted bids for two new PSL franchises, underlining the league's growing international credibility and commercial power. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed that the bidding process attracted interest from investors based in the United States, Convention Centre, where owner-Australia, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan, a response officials described as both excep-

ional and deeply encouraging. The diversity and scale of interest reflect the PSL's evolution into a globally marketable sporting brand. According to the PCB, the results of the initial technical evaluation will be announced on December 27, 2025, determining which parties qualify for the decisive stage of the process. Technically approved bidders will then participate in an open and competitive auction scheduled for January 8, 2026 at the Islamabad based in the United States, Convention Centre, where owner-Australia, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan, a response officials described as both excep-

erated its commitment to conducting the expansion process with full transparency and in line with international best practices, ensuring the Pakistan Super League's long-term sustainability and commercial growth. Launched in 2016 with five teams and expanded to six in 2018, the PSL is now poised for its most significant structural transformation in seven years. The addition of two new franchises will raise the total number of teams to eight, beginning from the league's upcoming 11th edition, marking a decisive step in the PSL's ambition to strengthen its competitive depth and global foot-

print. The league's growing international pull was further underlined recently when the PSL trophy embarked on a high-profile roadshow at two of world's most iconic locations, The Oval in London and Times Square in New York. The showcase drew significant attention from fans, media, and potential stakeholders, symbolising the PSL's intent to expand beyond traditional boundaries. By taking its most prized symbol to global sporting and commercial hubs, the PCB reinforced its vision of positioning the PSL as a truly international brand, capable of attracting world-wide investment, viewership.

Key players to return as PCB prepares to announce T20 squad for Sri Lanka tour



PEAK POINT

SRI LANKA: Key players are expected to make their return as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) prepares to announce the T20 squad for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka.

The selection process for the T20 series in Sri Lanka is currently underway with the selectors holding consultations.

Reports suggest that all-rounder Shadab Khan is set to make a return to the team, while fast bowler Haris Rauf is also under consideration for inclusion. Rauf had been dropped for the series against South Africa and the Tri-Series, but now appears to be in contention once again.

There is also a possibility that young cricketer Maaz Sadaqat and fast bowler Ahmed Daniyal could be included in the squad.

The three T20 matches in Sri Lanka will take place on January 7, 9, and 11. Additionally, the deadline for submitting the preliminary squad for the ICC T20 World Cup is January 7. The World Cup is scheduled to be held from February 7 to March 8 in India and Sri Lanka.

FG/Asean and BN Polo qualify for Lahore open Polo semis



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: FG/Asean and BN Polo qualified for the semifinals from the second pool after the league matches concluded on the seventh day of the 14th Lahore Open Polo Championship 2025 - Patrons Cup at Lahore Polo Club. As a result, the first semifinal will be played on Friday between Diamond Paints and BN Polo, while the second semifinal will be contested between Master Paints Black and FG/Asean.A

large number of spectators and families were present at the Lahore Polo Club to watch the polo matches. In the first match of the day, FG/Asean defeated Newage Cables/SQ Seagold by 8-3 after a thrilling contest. For FG/Asean, Raja Mikayial Sami scored five goals, while Saqib Khan Khakwani added three goals. For Newage Cables/SQ Seagold, Amirreza Behboudi scored two goals and Bilal Haye converted one. In the second match of the day, FG/Din defeated Team Balochistan by 6-4. For FG/Din, Malik Ali Kuli Khan, Sheikh Muhammad Raffay and Agha Musa Ali Khan thrashed in two goals each. For Team Balochistan, Marcos Rivarola hammered three goals, while Omar Asjad Malhi struck one goal. The opening chukka was evenly contested, with both sides exchanging a goal, clinching a hard-fought 6-4 victory.

locked at 1-1. FG/Din then shifted gears, launching a blistering attacking spell and firing in three successive goals to open up a commanding 4-1 lead. Team Balochistan, however, showed resilience and mounted a spirited comeback, slotting in two quick goals to narrow the deficit to a single goal at 4-3.

Maryam Nawaz vows zero tolerance for minority rights violations in Punjab. The third chukka remained finely balanced as both teams found the net once, with FG/Din maintaining a slender 5-4 advantage. In the decisive final chukka, FG/Din displayed composure under pressure and sealed the contest with a well-executed final goal, clinching a hard-fought 6-4 victory.

Australia opt for all-pace attack in fourth Ashes Test



Virat Kohli breaks Sachin Tendulkar's record with fastest 16,000 runs

PEAK POINT

MUMBAI: Virat Kohli has added another historic chapter to his glittering career, becoming the fastest batter to reach 16,000 runs in List A cricket and eclipsing a long-standing record held by Sachin Tendulkar. The landmark came during the Vijay Hazare Trophy match between Delhi and Andhra at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1, where Kohli produced a commanding



century. The India star brought up the milestone in his 330th List A innings, taking 61 fewer innings than Tendulkar, who had reached the mark in 391 innings. Kohli's knock against

Andhra was a fluent 131, his 58th List A century, and it proved decisive as Delhi successfully chased down a 299-run target with six wickets to spare.

PFF head Gilani engages JFA on youth, women, coach development



Quaid-e-Azam Hockey Tournament held

REPORT WAJHA TAMSEEL MIRZA

MULTAN: The All Multan Quaid-e-Azam Day One-Day Hockey Tournament was held at the District Sports Ground, in which four teams participated: City Club Multan, Kamran Hockey Club Multan, Cantt Hockey Club Multan, and Eagle Hockey Club Shujaabad. In the first match, Cantt Hockey Club Multan faced City Hockey Club Multan and won by 2 goals to 1. The second match was played between Kamran Hockey Club Multan and Eagle Hockey Club



Shujaabad, in which Kamran Hockey Club Multan won by 4 goals to 2. The final match was played between Kamran Hockey Club Multan and Cantt Hockey Club Multan. The match was decided on a penalty shootout, where Cantt Hockey Club Multan won by 3 goals to 1. The chief guests of the match were

Nadeem Iqbal Tony and Mohsin Gilani. Accompanying them was Abdul Saeed, representative of Punjab, Goalkeeper Coach Pakistan WAPDA, and Coach Multan MEPCO Hockey Team. The umpiring duties were performed by Irfan Samad and Ali Raza.



PIA sold for Rs135 Billion as Parliament warns of Sky High fares, Tax Burden and industry collapse risks

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's national flag carrier has officially changed hands in a landmark privatization deal, with the Arif Habib Consortium acquiring Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) for Rs135 billion a move hailed by Parliament as transparent, but shadowed by deep concerns over crippling airfares, heavy taxation, workforce uncertainty and systemic weaknesses in the aviation sector. The development came to light during a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence, where lawmakers welcomed the successful completion of the bidding process while simultaneously sounding the

alarm over unresolved structural and regulatory challenges that continue to plague Pakistan's aviation industry. Briefing the committee, the Ministry of Defence confirmed that the Arif Habib Consortium emerged as the successful bidder in the privatization of PIA. Members appreciated the ministry's handling of what they described as a transparent bidding process and took note of public assurances by the new owners regarding employee welfare and improvements in flight operations in the near future. However, lawmakers stressed that commitments made during privatization must translate into measurable action, particularly in protecting employees and

restoring public confidence in the national airline. Beyond PIA's sale, the committee turned its focus to broader aviation sector failures, expressing serious concern over flight cancellations, delays, irregular schedules and escalating domestic airfares. Members warned that unchecked fare increases are pricing ordinary citizens out of air travel and demanded stronger regulatory oversight by the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure consumer protection and service quality. Public complaints regarding airline operations were discussed in detail, with lawmakers emphasizing the need for continuous monitoring and accountability of private airlines alongside international route expansion. The

committee identified excessive taxation as a major contributor to the financial distress of airlines, including PIA. Members noted that while ticket prices have not risen sharply in dollar terms, the cumulative impact of sales tax and other levies has significantly increased operational costs. It was decided that a comprehensive study on aviation taxation would be prepared and presented to the Defence Minister and subsequently to the Prime Minister. The committee chairman was tasked with convening a high-level meeting with the Finance Minister to explore options for tax rationalization to prevent further erosion of the sector. Lawmakers also flagged shortages of trained person-

nel, radiation-related concerns at aviation installations, and inadequate medical facilities. To address these issues, the committee resolved to conduct on ground inspections of aviation facilities to assess conditions firsthand and propose corrective measures. The committee deliberated on how proceeds from PIA's privatization would be utilized, particularly in relation to debt servicing and social sector development. Members also reviewed delays in ECNEC approved defence and aviation projects, including strategic airports and the National Aviation Security Academy. The Ministries of Defence and Planning were directed to provide updates on fund utilization, project timelines,

and pending allocations. Additionally, pending sub-committee reports will be taken up in the next meeting. The committee decided to follow up with the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Finance regarding possible relaxation of recruitment rules for the armed forces and police, with outcomes to be shared with relevant ministries. While lawmakers acknowledged the historic nature of PIA's privatization, they made it clear that selling the airline alone will not fix Pakistan's aviation crisis — warning that without regulatory reform, tax relief and institutional accountability, the sector risks further instability despite the Rs 135 billion deal.

Farah Naz Akbar hosts commemorative gathering at Islamabad Club

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Farah Naz Akbar, Member of the National Assembly and President of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Women's Wing, Islamabad, on Thursday hosted a commemorative gathering at the Islamabad Club to mark the birth anniversaries of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and former prime

minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, along with Christmas celebrations. The event was attended by Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Anjum Aqeel Khan, Zeeshan Naqvi, Nuzhat Sadiq, Akbar Jan Marwat, former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister for health, and Manzoor Masih, in addition to members of civil society and the PML-N Women's Wing.



Cakes were cut to mark the birth anniversaries and Christmas, symbolising unity, joy and shared national and social values. Speaking on the occasion, Akbar highlighted the enduring vision of Quaid-e-Azam, founded on unity, faith and discipline, and paid tribute to the leadership and democratic contributions of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Opinion & Editorial

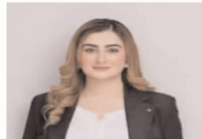
Resident Editor: Refaat Khan
Resident Editor: Arif Mehmood
DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD
Arif Mehmood Khan
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
Samra Athar Kakakhel
Resident Editor
Nadim Tanoli
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

Year of the Quaid

THE year 2026 is, by some accounts, to be officially declared the 'Year of the Quaid-i-Azam', in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mr Mohammad Ali Jinnah. No display of gratitude, no matter how grand, can match what the Quaid bequeathed to this nation; nonetheless, the gesture is a worthy one. According to the federal planning minister, there will be "befitting and dignified commemorations at the national level". The minister has stressed that the commemorative activities should be "meaningful, impactful and memorable". One hopes that the Quaid's teachings and his vision for Pakistan also receive due attention, particularly at a time when the country appears increasingly adrift from them. A passage from his address to the Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947, stands out in the context of Pakistan's current socio-political disarray. "Now, if we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor," the Quaid said. "If you will work in co-operation, forgetting the past, burying the hatchet, you are bound to succeed." He also set out the principles by which he intended to govern as Pakistan's first governor-general.

Pakistan's Unwavering Opposition to Islamophobia in the West

One of the most prevalent and concerning types of discrimination in the modern world is Islamophobia, especially in Western societies that otherwise assert a strong commitment to freedom of religion, pluralism, and human rights. Islamophobia, which is defined as unreasonable fear, hatred, or prejudice against Islam and Muslims, shows up as negative stereotyping in political and media discourse, discriminatory laws, hate crimes, and social exclusion. This phenomenon has become more intense in recent years, creating significant obstacles to international harmony, minority rights, and social cohesion.



SIDRA SADOZAI
Resident Editor

Muslims in North America and Europe are increasingly confronted with social and institutional obstacles. Bans on religious symbols, like the hijab, niqab, or minarets, have been justified in the name of national identity or secularism, but they disproportionately affect Muslim communities. Following international political crises or acts of terrorism that are unjustly and falsely connected to Islam as a religion, hate crimes against Muslims, such as attacks on mosques, verbal abuse, and physical violence, have increased. The sad truth is that a religion that is practiced by almost two billion people is frequently evaluated based on the deeds of a select few, while other communities or religions are not held to the same standards.

Social media and mainstream media are major contrib-

utors to Islamophobia in the West. Negative stereotypes are reinforced by sensationalist reporting, selective coverage, and the frequent association of Islam with extremism. Anti-Muslim sentiment has been further normalized by political rhetoric in some Western nations, with populist leaders using fear of immigration and cultural change as a means of winning elections. By justifying intolerance and exclusion, these narratives not only marginalize Muslim citizens but also undermine democratic values.

The effects of Islamophobia go well beyond personal prejudice. They erode community trust in the state, promote radicalization, and impede social integration. Young Muslims who are raised in settings where their identity is continuously questioned frequently feel alienated and suffer psychologically. Prejudice feeds resentment as a result of this exclusion, widening societal gaps even more. Islamophobia harms ties between the West and the Muslim world on a global scale, making it more difficult to work together on issues like economic growth, peace, and climate change.

Pakistan has continuously voiced its opposition to

Islamophobia in international forums against this backdrop. Pakistan has considered the defense of religious freedom and the dignity of faiths to be essential to its foreign policy since its founding. Pakistan, a prominent nation with a majority of Muslims and an active member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has been instrumental in drawing attention to the perils of anti-Muslim bigotry and promoting group action.

Pakistan has been actively working through the United Nations to address Islamophobia. They have used resolutions, speeches, and teamwork with other countries to ask the world to recognize Islamophobia as a separate type of religious discrimination. A major success came in 2022 when the United Nations General Assembly decided to make March 15 the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. Pakistan played a big role in making this happen, working closely with other members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This decision showed that the world is aware of the issue and gave a formal way to increase understanding, talk about it, and create better policies to deal with it. Critics often say Pakistan should focus only on its own problems. But Pakistan's stance on Islamophobia shows its bigger goal of supporting global justice and human rights. Just like the world stands against antisemitism and racism, Pakistan believes Islamophobia should also be recognized and addressed in the same way.

When some countries only focus on certain human rights issues, it weakens the idea of fair international standards and makes the world more divided.

Also, Pakistan connects Islamophobia to world peace and security.

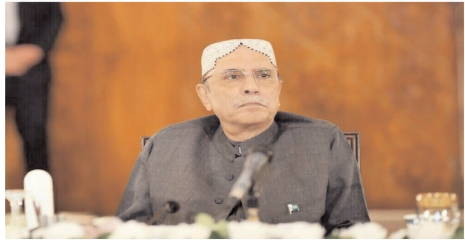
When people face discrimination and are excluded, it can lead to feelings of anger, isolation, and even extremism. So fighting Islamophobia isn't just about being fair—it's also important for keeping society united and preventing violence. Pakistan's message is clear: true peace happens when people respect and understand each other, not when they exclude or ignore others.

In a world that's getting more split up by different ideas and cultures, Pakistan's steady opposition to Islamophobia shows a demand for fairness and equal treatment. It encourages the global community to stop just talking and start taking real steps to protect religious minorities, especially Muslims in Western countries. Fighting Islamophobia needs better education, fair media coverage, and strong government efforts.

In the end, Islamophobia is a challenge for how seriously the world takes human dignity.

Pakistan's firm support reminds everyone that the battle against hate must be for everyone, without bias, and based on fairness. Only by dealing honestly with Islamophobia can the world aim to create societies that are about living together, not living in fear.

President Zardari extends Christmas greetings, reaffirms commitment to religious freedom, harmony



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday extended warm Christmas greetings to the Christian community in Pakistan and across the world, describing the festival as a message of hope, peace and compassion for all humanity.

In his message issued by the Presidency, the president said Christmas symbolised love, tolerance and empathy, values that were essential for promoting harmony and

peaceful coexistence in society. He emphasized that Pakistan was founded on the principles of equality, justice and religious freedom for all citizens.

President Zardari recalled that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had unequivocally guaranteed complete religious freedom to people of all faiths, enabling them to practice their beliefs without fear or discrimination. He said that the Constitution of Pakistan ensured equal rights and religious freedom for every citizen,

regardless of religion.

Paying tribute to the Christian community, the president acknowledged their valuable contributions to national development, stating that Christian citizens had played a significant role in politics, defence, education and healthcare. He noted that their services and sacrifices were a source of pride for the nation.

The president also paid homage to prominent Christian figures, including S.P. Singha, lauding his historic services in support of Pakistan's creation, and Air Commodore Cecil Chaudhry, the hero of the 1965 war, for his bravery and distinguished role in the defence of the country.

President Zardari reaffirmed the government's resolve to promote religious harmony, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, stating that diversity was Pakistan's strength and a source of national unity.

Concluding his message, the president prayed for peace, good health and prosperity for the Christian community.

DPM Dar reaffirms commitment to equality, pluralism on Quaid-e-Azam's birth anniversary, Christmas

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday said the coinciding occasions of the birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the celebration of Christmas reflected Pakistan's inclusive vision and strong moral foundations, rooted in equality, pluralism and respect for fundamental rights.

The DPM/FM paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, describing him as not only the architect of Pakistan's independence but also a statesman of unwavering principles and exceptional clarity of vision, a statement from the DPM's Office news said. He said the Quaid had envisioned Pakistan as a democratic state based on equality, pluralism and respect for



the rights of all citizens, without distinction of religion, race or ethnicity.

Recalling Quaid-e-Azam's historic address of August 11, 1947, the DPM/FM noted that the founder of the nation had categorically affirmed that the state would make no distinction between its citizens. He said Pakistan's commitment to protecting minority rights, equality and religious freedom remained a cornerstone of the Constitution and the country's national ethos. Extending warm Christmas greetings to the Christian community,

Nation must advance with unity, collective effort under 'Uraan Pakistan' vision: Ahsan Iqbal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said that in line with the vision of Uraan Pakistan, the nation must move forward with collective effort, unity and consistency to lead the country towards new horizons of social and economic development, as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Addressing a ceremony titled "Quaid's Pakistan - Uraan Pakistan" here at the Convention Centre on the birth anniversary of the founding father, the minister said rebuilding Pakistan in accordance with Quaid-e-Azam's golden principles was the need of the hour.

He said adherence to the ideals of unity, faith and discipline provided a clear road-map to overcome challenges and ensure sustainable national progress.

Reflecting on Pakistan's 77-year journey, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said the country's history comprised both achievements and hardships; however, every challenge should be turned into an opportunity for growth and sta-

bility.

He stressed that nations progressed when they responded to adversity with resolve, sound planning and continuity of policies.

The minister identified education, health, women's empowerment and youth development as key pillars for building a strong, self-reliant and prosperous Pakistan.

He added that promoting innovation, research and modern technology was essential to enhance productivity, competitiveness and inclusive growth in the evolving global environment.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal said that the freedom, security and national identity enjoyed by over 240 million Pakistanis were the outcome of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's tireless struggle and visionary leadership.

Paying tribute to the founder of the nation, he said Quaid-e-Azam laid the foundations of Pakistan on the principles of sovereignty, freedom and national dignity, and never accepted any compromise on independence.

Calling upon the nation to adopt Quaid-e-Azam's mission,

Khalid Magsi for renewing collective pledge to work for prosperous Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magsi Thursday urged the nation to renew its collective pledge to uphold Quaid-e-Azam's ideal, strengthen national unity, promote tolerance and work for a prosperous Pakistan.

In a message, the federal minister paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his birth anniversary, honoring the founding father of Pakistan for his visionary leadership, wisdom, and unwavering determination that transformed the dream of an independent homeland into reality.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam's guiding principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline continued to serve as a moral compass for the nation in confronting contemporary challenges. Khalid Magsi emphasized that Jinnah's steadfast commitment to justice, constitutionalism, tolerance and the protection of equal rights laid the firm foundations of a democratic and inclusive Pakistan. He noted that Quaid-e-Azam's message,

Quaid's vision continues to guide Pakistan on the path of progress, stability: Awais Leghari

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari has said that the visionary leadership and enduring principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah continue to guide Pakistan on the path of progress, stability and national harmony.

In his special message on the occasion of the 149th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the minister recalled Quaid-e-Azam's historic dictum, "Faith, Unity and Discipline," and said that national unity is the foundation of Pakistan's strength and sustainability.

He urged the nation to rise above differences of colour, race,



language, provincialism and ideology, and work collectively as a united and disciplined nation to take the country towards greater stability, prosperity and dignity. Leghari, citing Quaid-e-Azam's landmark address on the rights of minorities, said that Pakistan is a tolerant, inclusive and equality-based state. He reaffirmed that, in line with the Quaid's vision, the government is committed to ensuring equal rights, protection and opportunities for all citizens without discrimination.

Mohsin Naqvi extends heartfelt Christmas greetings to Christian community

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday extended warm and heartfelt Christmas greetings to the Christian community, expressing solidarity and shared joy on the festive occasion.

Naqvi said that the government and the people of Pakistan fully shared the happiness with the Christian community during Christmas, a day that reminded everyone of the message of love, sacrifice, brotherhood and peace.

Highlighting the universal message of Prophet Jesus (AS), the minister said that he preached tolerance, respect for humanity and compassion. "The teachings



of Jesus (AS) were meant not for a single group but for all of humanity," he added.

Reaffirming the rights of religious freedom, Naqvi said the Christian community in Pakistan enjoys complete liberty to celebrate their religious and cultural traditions with full zeal and dignity. He praised the Christian community's remarkable contributions to education,



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Addressing a ceremony titled "Quaid's Pakistan - Uraan Pakistan" here at the Convention Centre.

Atta Tarar asks youth to draw inspiration from Quaid's principles

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's relentless struggle for an independent Pakistan and unwavering commitment to his principles are a beacon of light for the youth.

Quaid-e-Azam never compromised on his values throughout his life, said the minister while addressing the ceremony titled "Quaid Ka Pakistan - Uraan Pakistan" held at the Convention Center.

The event was also attended by Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal,

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, and other dignitaries.

The Minister emphasized that such platforms help foster the understanding of the Quaid's life, vision, and principles for the public.

He noted that Jinnah's three golden principles—Unity, Faith, and Discipline—were the foundation of his success.

Tarar recounted that at age 16, Jinnah went to London for an apprenticeship and eventually decided to choose a legal profession as a career. He chose Lincoln's Inn to become a barrister, the minister added.

Historians note his choice



for Lincoln's Inn was inspired by the fact that the name of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was included in its list of the world's greatest lawgivers.

At just 19, Jinnah became

the youngest barrister from the subcontinent, he said, adding that the life of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah teaches us that the impossible can be made possible through determination,

faith, and continuous hard work.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam made intense struggle and diligence his hallmark. He added that the next phase of his life as a jurist and politician was built upon two fundamental pillars—principles and professional competence.

He further noted that Quaid-e-Azam left the Congress due to fundamental differences in principles. At that time, what the Congress intended to do was not acceptable to the Quaid, he added.

The minister urged the youth to study the 1908 Pherozeshah Mehta case,

which established Jinnah's reputation as a brilliant legal mind. Reflecting on the current geopolitical climate, Attaullah Tarar highlighted a recent incident in India where a woman's hijab was pulled, describing it as a manifestation of extremist Hindutva ideology.

"This is not just the desecration of one woman; it is an insult to women worldwide. Today, the Hindutva ideology continues to prove Quaid-e-Azam's Two-Nation Theory correct. Every passing day strengthens our belief in this theory, which remains the foundation of our independence," the Minister stated.