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Lahore Edition

'Minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan'

Azma, PA speaker greet nation on birth anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam, Christmas

LAHORE

Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari on Thursday congratulated the nation on the birth anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

According to official sources, the minister said that Pakistan was blessed with independence due to the inspiring leadership and political vision of Quaid-i-Azam.

She highlighted his guiding principles of unity, faith and discipline, calling them a beacon of light for the nation.

Azma Bokhari emphasised the importance of valuing Pakistan's freedom and praised Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for striving to realise Quaid-i-Azam's vision in practical terms.

The minister also extended Christmas greetings to Christian brothers and sisters worldwide. She noted that the Punjab government provides equal opportunities and protection to minorities.

Highlighting a 42-foot Christmas tree at Liberty Chowk, she said it reflected the Chief Minister's love and solidarity with the Christian community. She added that under the CM's instructions, spe-

cial arrangements for grand illumination and decorations had been made across the province for the first time.

Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan on Thursday congratulated the nation on the birth anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, saying the occasion serves as a reminder of the principles of the Quaid.

In a statement, he said the vision and principles of Quaid-i-Azam remain a guarantee of Pakistan's success even today, adding that the country can be made strong and prosperous by following his ideals.

The speaker also extended heartfelt congratulations to the Christian community on the occasion of Christmas, saying the festival conveys a message of peace, love and religious harmony. He said minorities in Pakistan enjoy complete religious freedom and equal rights.

Meanwhile, Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shaukat Butt extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation and the Christian community on the occasion of Quaid-i-Azam Day and Christmas.

In his message, the minister said Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation of Pakistan on the principles of religious freedom, equal rights, and tolerance. He added that the Founder envisioned a country where all citizens enjoy equal rights without any discrimination based on religion, race, or belief.

Sohail Shaukat Butt said the festival of Christmas conveys a message of love, peace, and brotherhood, reflecting Quaid-i-Azam's vision of Pakistan in practical terms.

He acknowledged the significant role played by the Christian community in the country's development and progress.

The minister said the Punjab government is taking all possible measures to protect minority rights and promote interfaith harmony.

Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, in his message, said Muhammad Ali Jinnah provided minorities with constitutional guarantees of complete religious freedom and equal rights, envisioning a country where all citizens could live with peace, respect, and equality, regardless of their religion. —APP

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پرامن معاشرہ پاکستان کی مضبوط بنیاد ہے: سہیل شوکت

لاہور (اے ٹی وی) صوبائی وزیر برائے سوشل ویلفیئر و ہیلتھ کے سوشل سیکرٹری نے کہا کہ قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح نے پاکستان کی بنیاد مذہبی آزادی، مساوی حقوق اور رواداری جیسے سنہری اصولوں پر رکھی۔ بانی پاکستان کا تصور ایک ایسے ملک کا تھا جہاں تمام شہریوں کو بلا امتیاز مذہب، نسل اور عقیدے کے یکساں حقوق حاصل ہوں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ کرسس کا تہوار رحمت امن اور بھائی چارے کا پیغام دیتا ہے جو قائد اعظم کے تصور

پاکستان کی عملی تصویر ہے۔ پاکستان میں بسنے والی نسلی برادری نے ملک کی تعمیر و ترقی میں نمایاں کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت پنجاب اقلیتوں کے حقوق کے تحفظ اور بین الاقوامی ہم آہنگی کے فروغ کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کر رہی ہے اور مستقبل میں بھی اس عزم پر کار بند رہے گی۔ انہوں نے اس عہد کا اعادہ کیا کہ ایک پرامن باہمی احترام اور رواداری پر مبنی معاشرہ ہی پاکستان کی مضبوط بنیاد ہے۔