

# LAHORE CHAMBER NEWS

An Official Publication of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry



LCCI President Almas Hyder, Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir receiving the Federal Finance Minister Asad Umar and Minister of State for Revenue Hammad Azhar during their visit to LCCI.



Vice President LCCI Faheem-Ur-Rehman Saigol receiving a souvenir from the President of Pakistan Mr Arif Alvi at the 2nd Maritime Security Workshop organized by the Pakistan Navy at the Navy War College.



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Federal Finance Minister, Minister of State for Revenue, Provincial Minister for industries,  
Chairman FBR Visit LCCI

## Business community to be given single

tax collector facility in next federal budget:

## Asad Umar

**F**ederal Finance Minister Asad Umar has pledged to make clubbing of taxes in the Federal Budget to facilitate the businessmen who paying a large number of taxes.

Federal Minister made this announcement on demand of the LCCI President Almas Hyder while speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, former office-bearers and Executive Committee Members also spoke on the occasion.



**“Special Economic Zones are of utmost importance. “I believe that operations of these SEZs should be in the hands of private sector”,**

**Asad Umar Federal Finance Minister**

Asad Umer said that business community would be given the facility of single tax collector in the coming federal budget. He said that trust building between government and business community is need of the hour as private sector will be leading economy in the 21st century while government would act as facilitator. He said that FBR and private sector would have to give honor to each other for trust building. He said that promissory notes for industrial sector was the idea of private sector and it will help resolve the issue of liquidity. He said that cabinet will approve finance bill soon. To a question, he said

**“Elimination of Regulatory Duties (RD) on all raw material lines vital to reduce the cost of doing business and making manufacturing competitive.**

**Almas Hyder President LCCI**

that interest rate is the matter of central bank saying that savings are a must for sustainable economic development. Last year, saving were only 10.4 per cent that were very low.

These should be 25 to 28 per cent to achieve the annual growth target of 7 per cent. State Bank of Pakistan would have to maintain a balance.

He said that industries are provincial subject after 18th amendment. Federal and Provincial government would take stakeholders on board to get their valuable feedback. He said that Special Economic Zones are of utmost importance. “I believe that operations of these SEZs should be in the hands of private sector”, Federal Finance Minister added and said that Information Technology Sector is near to his heart.

A task force has been formed and soon a package will be announced for IT sector. He said that Privatization commission has been asked to work with full throttle for loss making public sector enterprises. He said that 11-member board has been formed for “Sarmaya Pakistan” that would have 8 representatives from private sector while remaining will be from the government.

The LCCI President Almas Hyder said that the benefit of the payment of Refunds through



## “Industrial policy draft has been approved by the cabinet while work on Quaid-e-Azam Apparel Park on 1500 acres and Special Economic Zones is well on the way.

Mian Aslam Iqbal Provincial Minister for Industries

promissory note should also be extended to all the other sectors in addition to five zero rated sectors. He said that elimination of Regulatory Duties (RD) on all the raw material lines to reduce the cost of doing business and making manufacturing competitive. He said that government should take steps to reduce the interest rate. The recent hike in the SBP policy rate to 10% (highest in five years) has made borrowing highly expensive for private sector and discourages investment that needs debt financing. The Government should rezone urban centres, demarcate industrial land and set up SEZs all over Pakistan.

The LCCI President said that the exemption from the payment of Sales Tax on imported plant and machinery for Greenfield projects in the Mini-Budget should also be granted to the brownfield projects for Balancing, Modernization and Replacement of existing units. For the hand-holding of SME sector and enabling it to realize its true potential, the Government should announce a five year Tax Holiday for the new SMEs. He said that Prior notice should be served before the visit of Tax Officials on the premises of business community. Almas Hyder said that the total number of taxes should be reduced to 6 by clubbing Labour related taxes e.g. EOBI, PESSI, WPPF, WWF Professional and Property Tax Federal and Provincial Sales Tax. The frequency of the tax payments of above proposed labor tax (EOBI, PESSI, WPPF, WWF Clubbed) and Sales Tax (Federal and Provincial Clubbed) should be once a year. The frequency of the payments of Corporate Income Tax should also be once a year. This will bring down the total frequency of tax payments to 6 a year.

The services sector (Wholesale & retail trade, Transportation, Storage & Communication, Finance & Insurance and Housing) is the main driver of economic growth in Pakistan with a contribution of 60 percent in the GDP. To enable the services sector to realize its potential in terms of exports, it should be incentivized and included in the priority sectors in the “Trade Related Investment Policy Framework 2015-2023” for export oriented investments.

The IT sector in Pakistan has remarkable potential as evident by the increasing number of IT based

startups in Pakistan. To enhance the exports of IT sector, it should also be included in the priority sectors for export oriented investments. Appropriate and easy payment solution also needs to be designed for IT sector.

Mian Muhammad Ashraf called for immediate measures for

rehabilitation of steel industry, Farooq Iftikhar said that issues of local producers of LPG should be resolved. Mian Anjum Nisar urged the government to allow purchase of land and vehicles to the non-filers. Muhammad Ali Mian said that old industries should also be given same facilities which are being offered to the newly established. Sohail Lashari called for



promotion of tourism industry while Shahid Hassan Sheikh called for elimination of Saturday's off. Federal Minister of State for Revenue Hammad Azhar said that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are being evolved for issuance of tax exemption certificates. He said that raids at business premises have been ceased and SOPs are being formed in this regard as well. He said that Tax Reforms Implementation Committee is active while tax policy and tax administration are being separated. Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Dr. Jahanzeb Khan said that FBR reforms are one of the top priorities of the government for trust building. He said that litigation is nothing else but waste of time and capital. He said that alternative dispute resolution mechanism is being promoted to settle the issue out of court. He said that Lahore Chamber will be FBR's partner in this regard. He said that Tax-to-GDP ratio would have to make better.

Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal said that draft of industrial policy has been approved by the cabinet. Work on Quaid-e-Azam Apparel Park on 1500 acres and Special Economic Zones is well on the way. Cabinet has also passed labour deletion policy while rules and regulations for land lease policy would be forwarded to the cabinet for approval soon.

# No quota restriction for Pakistani businessmen, says Chinese Ambassador

## businessmen, says Chinese Ambassador

**A**mbassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that China has no quota restrictions for Pakistani businessmen.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Almas Hyder presented address of welcome while Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, Vice President

water, poverty alleviation and socio economic development of less developed areas like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that Special Economic Zones are also underway which should be given priority because they would boost joint ventures, private to private cooperation specially in manufacturing and socio-economic sectors of the country. He added

**“From 2014 on, the average increase in Pakistan’s imports from China are almost \$ 2 billion per year. In contrast to that Pakistan’s exports are constantly dipping.**

Almas Hyder President LCCI



Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol and Executive Committee Members were also present on the occasion. The Chinese Ambassador said that mutual trade can be enhanced through people to people direct contact. Businessmen of both the countries should play their role to further increase bilateral trade. He said that good trade policies, low rate of taxes, tax incentives and business-friendly environment in Pakistan can attract huge Chinese investment. The Chinese Ambassador said that under Joint Coordination Committee meetings, they are working on several projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor like power plants, Railways, Metro train, road infrastructure and Gwadar port. He said that Chinese government is also focusing on health, education, agriculture,

that 70-80% priority would be given Pakistan’s share with main focus to enhance exports of Pakistan. When the LCCI President Almas

Hyder informed that the LCCI delegation is visiting China in March, the Ambassador ensured full cooperation and support to the delegation.

“There is a dire need to find ways to develop consistent policies and stable economic relations with each other. Our present level of trade seems to be the result of lack of knowledge about the mutual potential of Pakistani and Chinese economies”, the Ambassador

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that Pakistan and China being steady geo-political partners have very cordial relations. CPEC which is part of the Belt and Road Initiative promises even greater fortunes for us. It will certainly prove to be a game changer. "Be it electricity generation, infrastructure

**“Our present level of trade seems to be the result of lack of knowledge about the mutual potential of Pakistani and Chinese economies.**

Yao Jing Ambassador of China

development, technology transfer, knowledge sharing or joint venture projects with Chinese firms, Pakistan knows that tomorrow is bound to get better than today”, he added. It is worth mentioning that bilateral trade figures are following increasing



trend from the last four years in particular. From 2014 on, the average increase in imports from China is almost dollar 2 billion per year. In contrast to that Pakistan's exports are constantly dipping for the last three years.

Almas Hyder said that Prime Minister of Pakistan visited China in November 2018 and he was given that assurance that China would offer special concessions to Pakistan for enhancing exports. He said that China and Pakistan have agreed upon sharing trade related data to address the issue of disparity in the figures of imports and exports between two countries. For example, Pakistan's imports from China in 2017 were shown as dollar 15.4 billion on ITC website. When the base country is taken as China, the same source shows that China exported to the tune of dollar 18.3 billion to Pakistan.

The LCCI President said that due to misdeclaration, both countries are suffering losses to their national exchequers therefore necessary measures should be taken to stop it. He said that Pakistan has not been able to reap full benefits of FTA with China in terms of exports as China has given better tariff rates to ASEAN countries. Since the said FTA is being re-negotiated, so, we would like you to take the aforementioned fact into consideration.

He proposed formation of a Task Force comprising members of business community of Lahore and Chinese counterparts to address these concerns. He said that due to the buildup of unfavourable trade scenario for the Chinese companies in USA, many of these companies are relocating to India, Vietnam and Cambodia etc. but not to Pakistan that is surprising.

UAE Ambassador visits LCCI

# UAE Consulate to start operations in Lahore soon: Ambassador

To facilitate the business community, Consulate of United Arab Emirates will start operations in Lahore soon.

It was revealed by the Ambassador of UAE Hammad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi while speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI president Almas Hyder presented the address of welcome while Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, former President Malik Tahir Javed, former Senior Vice President Amjad Ali Jawa, EC members Ch. Aurangzeb Aslam, Naeem Hanif, Mian Zahid Javed and Adeeb Iqbal Sheikh were present on the

UAE companies visited Pakistan and had meetings with their Pakistani counterparts. He said that UAE investors are interested to invest in renewable energy, power, oil and gas sectors of Pakistan.

The LCCI President Almas Hyder said that Pakistan and UAE have close, diplomatic and cooperative relations. These ties are well reflected in sizeable trade volume and cooperation in various fields including defence sector.

“We hope that the recent visit of our Prime Minister to UAE to meet His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi would contribute towards strengthening ties between

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**Pakistan and UAE have close diplomatic relations. These ties are well reflected in sizeable trade volume and cooperation in various fields including defence sector.**

Almas Hyder President LCCI

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below one billion dollar which went as high as dollar 2.87 billion in 2012. The volume of exports to UAE in 2017 was just dollar 869 million. It is a matter of concern for us and we are keen to revive the same level. He said that there is a consistent rise in imports from UAE to Pakistan. From 2015 on, the imports figures are going up year after year closing in at dollar 7.52 billion in 2017. Pakistan's major items of exports to UAE are rice, meat, bed & kitchen linens, fresh fruits and vegetables etc. Similarly Pakistan imports crude oil, petroleum products, ferrous waste & scrap of iron & steel, polymers of ethylene and propylene etc. He said that the workers' remittances play a substantial role in strengthening the balance of payment. At present, our country is in great need of additional remittances. He said that UAE comes at second place with regards to receiving highest amount of foreign remittances. He said that UAE has imposed new restriction for seeking work visa. Special preference should be given to Pakistan so that we could send manpower to UAE. Almas Hyder said that other than professionals, we can provide technically skilled workers.



occasion.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued NOC for establishment of UAE Consulate in Lahore. He said that it is a giant leap towards expanding mutual trade and economic ties. He said that UAE and Pakistan have agreed to sign a new agreement to further strengthen bilateral relations. He said that two recent visits of Prime Minister Imran Khan have opened new avenues for cooperation. He said that 15 top

two countries", the LCCI President said and added that UAE and Pakistan are major economic and trading partners. Among the top importing and exporting countries for Pakistan, UAE comes at 2nd and 7th places respectively. Almas Hyder said that the balance of trade has always been in favour of UAE because major share of imports made from UAE consist of petroleum products and crude oils which stood at around 85% last year. He said that during last three years, Pakistan's exports remained

# High Commissioner says Sri Lankans love Pakistanis

**H**igh Commissioner of Sri Lanka Noordeen Mohamed Shaheed has said that terrorism remained a big challenge for Sri Lanka but today Sri Lanka is a peaceful country. He said “we have defeated terrorism but this target could not be achieved without immense support of Pakistan. He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI President Almas Hyder presented the address of welcome while Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, Vice President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol also spoke on the occasion. Executive Committee Members and former office-bearers were also present on the occasion.

The High Commissioner said that Sri Lankan nation has great honor of Pakistan and learnt a lot from its experience. He said that Sri Lanka and Pakistan have signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) but some certain issues need to be resolved. The Agreement should be implemented and made beneficial for both countries. He said that there is a vast scope for the expansion of two-way trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Both countries should introduce new products for trade and make business-to-business contacts stronger. He said that Sri Lanka offer huge opportunities in various sectors of economy.

The LCCI President Almas Hyder said that Sri Lanka is at take-off stage and Pakistani business



community should avail this great opportunity. He said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of SAARC and enjoy friendly relations based on historical linkages. He said that cooperation between two countries especially in defence sector has played major role in further strengthening the mutual ties.

He said that both the countries are steady trading partners. By signing Free Trade Agreement in June 2005, the private sector representatives of Pakistan and Sri Lanka were provided with greater opportunities to take the trade and economic relations to the next level. He said that from 2005 on, there was significant increase in bilateral trade but it is also a fact that we have so far not succeeded to fully exploit the existing potential of trade between two countries. He said that among the top importing and exporting countries for Pakistan, Sri Lanka comes at 43rd and 19th places respectively.

The balance of trade is in favour

of Pakistan and it is encouraging to see that bilateral trade figures are following increasing trends. The overall trade figures went up from dollar 314 million to dollar 372 million during 2016 and 2017. Pakistan is exporting cotton, pharmaceuticals, cement, rice, fertilizers and home textiles etc. to Sri Lanka. The imports from Sri Lanka are vessels for breaking up, vegetable products, fibre board of woods, natural rubber and fruits etc.

Almas Hyder said that there is considerable demand in Sri Lanka for Pakistani products like light engineering goods, auto parts, industrial raw materials, surgical instruments and plastic goods etc. “We are in a position to easily tap the market demand of Sri Lanka in fields like sports goods, electrical fans and household appliances etc.”, he added and said that the business communities of the two countries should keep on exploring the opportunities of mutual interest. Business delegations composed of sector-specific participants or product-specific groups of entrepreneurs

4th CAC Pakistan Exhibition

# 'Exhibition to help tap true potential of agriculture sector'

Minister for Excise Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed, LCCI President Almas Hyder inaugurate the Exhibition



**T**wo-day CAC Pakistan Exhibition organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Expo Center with an objective to promote agriculture sector of Pakistan.

Provincial Minister for Excise and Taxation Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed, who was representing Chief Minister Punjab and the LCCI President Almas Hyder jointly inaugurated the Exhibition.

The LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, Vice President Fahim-ur-Rehman Saigol, Ms. Maggie Ma from Sub-Council of Chemical Industry, China, Director of China Council for Promotion of International Trade Ms. Isabel Dong, Chairman Engineering Council of Pakistan Engineer Jawed Saleem Qureshi, Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Chairman Pakistan Crop Protection Association Sheikh Muhammad Arif and exhibitors

were present on the occasion. Thousands of people attended the opening ceremony and shown keen interest in agri products displayed at over 50 stalls, set up by the 34 Chinese and 16 Pakistanis companies.

Minister for Excise hoped that the exhibition will help tap true potential of agriculture sector. He said that latest technology is need of the hour to enhance per acre yield that is low as compared to the other countries. He said that CPEC will open up new avenues of cooperation in agriculture sector as it would help transfer of technology pertaining to agro chemicals,

pesticides, seeds and fertilizers. The LCCI President said that well performing and high yielding agri sector is the need of the hour. Pakistan cannot do well without improving agriculture sector. For ensuring long term growth, it is necessary that all the sectors of

**“Well performing and high yielding agriculture sector is the need of the hour, Pakistan cannot do well without improving the agriculture’ performance**

**Almas Hyder  
President LCCI**

economy pick up and complement each other to excel. He said that agriculture sector cannot be left out due to inherited limitations of



resources and various challenges in the way of moving from conventional method of farming to modern technologies. “We desperately require locally developed as well as imported solutions in the fields of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, agriculture machineries and equipment etc. We are glad that our Chinese friends who have developed cost effective solutions in these areas, are offering these solutions at reasonable rates to us. It is important to mention that these Chinese companies are gathering a lot of success on account of improving their standard and products range”, He added. Ms. Maggie Mah said that Pakistan is one of the top ten exporting markets for China and



the ocean. He said that recent visit of PM was successful and further strengthened the mutual relations. Khawaja Shahzad Nasir and Fahim-ur-Rehman Saigol said it is encouraging to see that some of our local manufacturers of pesticides have started to export their products to Middle East and African countries. It is the result of importing Chinese machinery displayed in last three

we have to take revolutionary measures to grow our agriculture sector of Pakistan. He said that 80 to 90 per cent farmers of Punjab are small therefore their welfare should be top priority of the



their mutual relations are sweeter than the honey and deeper than

**“Present scenario demands that the government and private sector join hands to make the most out of available resources through introducing innovative ways at affordable prices to our farmers.**

**Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol Vice President**

editions of CAC Pakistan. The present scenario demands that government and private sector need to join hands to make the most of the available resources through introducing innovative ways. Jawed Saleem Qureshi said that Punjab is agriculture based province but it’s per acre yield is lower than Sindh. He said that

**“It is encouraging to see that some of our local manufacturers of pesticides have started to export their products to Middle East and African countries.**

**Khawaja Shahzad Nasir Senior Vice President**

government. Chairman Crop Protection Association of Pakistan Sheikh Muhammad Arif said that growing interest of Chinese companies in CAC Pakistan Exhibition is a welcome sign.



MD WASA visits LCCI

# WASA plans to utilize surface water for Lahore area: Syed Zahid Aziz

**T**he Managing Director (MD) of the Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) Syed Zahid

Aziz during his visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, showed flexibility towards new industrial water tariff.

The LCCI President Almas Hyder, Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, Vice President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol and Executive Committee Members also spoke on the occasion.

The MD WASA said that lowering under ground water level is a matter of concern as water is going down with an average of one meter per annum. He said that WASA is working on plan to utilize the surface water for Lahore area and by 2035 it is expected that 90 percent of water for Lahore will be coming from the surface water. He said that irrigation department has allowed WAPDA to use 100 cusecs water from Bambawali Ravi Bedian (BRB) canal which will be

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Industry is already in trouble due to high input cost, falling competitiveness, strategy of fixation of water charges will bring more challenges for the industrial sector.

Almas Hyder President LCCI

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enhanced in phases. Syed Zahid Aziz said that to save the water,

they are working on multipronged strategy and bringing regulations for mosques, shrines and car wash.

He said that water act has been forwarded to the cabinet and after its approval water commission and regulatory authorities would

as per the use of water.

The best way is to conduct a new survey so that re-assessment of all WASA customers could be done. Secondly, WASA should install meters at all the industrial and commercial units so that billing could be generated according to



be formed. He said that in there is a demand of one million water meters in Punjab but not a single manufacturer unit exists. Private sectors should pay attention towards this issue.

The LCCI President Almas Hyder said that WASA has fixed Rs.100,000 per month and Rs.50,000 per month respectively for installation of tube-well of 1 cusec and ½ cusec.

The industry is already in trouble due to high input cost, falling competitiveness in the international market and various other challenges.

The strategy of fixation of water charges will bring more challenges for the industrial sector. It would have been much appropriate, if bills are generated

the actual use of water.

He said that LCCI members have complained that WASA has added heavy amounts in bills as 'Arrears' from nowhere. They are neither defaulters of WASA nor using excessive water for commercial purpose. These arrears should be waived.

He said that sewerage system of Lahore especially in the old markets of Lahore where sewerage pipelines are either damaged or dysfunctional. In the rainy season, we have to face flood-like situation whenever there is heavy downpour. There is a dire need to improve the existing drainage system. During winter season, WASA should initiate some construction work so that sewerage system could be reconstructed gradually.

# Pakistan's tourism industry grows because of peaceful environment:

## Khawaja Shahzad Nasir

**M**inister for Tourism of Oman Ahmed Bin Nasser Al Mahrizi has said that private sectors of Oman and Pakistan can play an important role to tap huge economic potential in various sectors of both countries. He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, Vice President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol, Executive Committee Members and former

Hiking, Historic & Cultural Locations, Forts, World Heritage sites, Cultural Festivals and Sporting and adventure events. He said that Oman and Pakistan can work together in tourism sector. He invited the LCCI delegation to visit Oman and explore trade and investment opportunities. He said that Oman

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**“Oman has rich experience in oil exploration and Omani companies can go for joint venture in exploration of oil in Pakistan.**

Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol Vice President

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Saigol said that Tourism industry of Pakistan is growing because of peaceful environment all across the country, foreign tourists are feeling safe to visit Pakistan.

They invited Omani investors to invest in tourism industry of Pakistan and avail huge benefits.

They said that Oman has a rich experience in oil exploration, therefore Omani companies can go for joint venture in exploration of oil in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan can provide manpower services in sectors like education, health, engineering, construction, telecommunication and etc. Former Omani Ambassador Abdullah Bin Zaher Bin Saif Al Hussaini said that he wants to look more Pakistani Businessmen in Oman. He

said that Omani respects

Pakistani brothers a lot. Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry, Naeem Hanif, Khaleeq Arshad, Dr. M Arshad, Mian Zahid Javaid, Aqib Asif, Rehmatullah Javed, Aqib Asif and Zafar Mahmood were also present in the meeting.

They said that Oman has a rich experience in oil exploration, therefore Omani companies can go for joint venture in exploration of oil in Pakistan.



Omani Ambassador Abdullah Bin Zaher Bin Saif Al Hussaini also spoke on the occasion.

The Minister said that chambers of both countries should establish strong contacts and ensure timely dissemination of trade related information. He said that the tourism industry of Oman is growing rapidly.

There are a lot of tourist attractions which includes beaches, Desert Safari, Caving,

is one of the few countries who had signed Free Trade agreement with United States. It can be beneficial for Pakistani business community as well. He said that Oman has road communication with Africa, Yaman and Arab Countries. It is a hub of economic activities in this geographical territory.

LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir and Vice President Faheem Ur Rehman

# LCCI Vice President for promotion of Blue Economy

**V**ice President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce

& Industry (LCCI) Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol has said that dream of economically strong Pakistan can easily come true if we focus on “Blue Ocean Economy” and avail all of those opportunities which land-locked countries don’t have. The LCCI Vice President said that unlike various other countries, Pakistan has a vast area of deep blue sea with ideal ports of Gawadar, Ketii, Qasim and Pasni but

role of these valuables in economy is not as important as it should be despite the fact that strong economy guarantees good defense.



tourism to mineral extraction. He said that fisheries, oil drilling, ship building and ship breaking industries have a lot of economic scope. He said that Pakistan can

earn billions of dollars through exports of sea food but during the fiscal year 2017-18, its fisheries exports remained just \$ 451.026 million.

Faheem-ur-

**“Maritime transport is backbone of global trade and economy, around 90 percent of world trade is carried by the international shipping industry. Pakistan can grab immense benefits from these sector through public-private partnership.**

Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol Vice President

He said that blue ocean economy is ranging from transportation of trading goods, communication,

Rehman Saigol said that maritime transport is backbone of global trade and global economy. He

said that every country relies on Maritimes trade to sell what it has and buy what it needs. He said that around 90 per cent of world trade is carried by the international shipping industry. He said that Pakistan can grab immense benefits from these sector through public-private partnership. During the workshop Chief of Navel Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbassi have lauded the role of Lahore Chamber for the promotion of Blue Economy. He said that importance of maritime has been increased after China Pakistan Economic Corridor project under One Belt One Road program. Pakistan Navy is fully capable of defending national maritime interests.

# Justice for all a must to ensure peaceful society: Almas Hyder

**P**resident of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Almas Hyder said that justice cannot be ensured until it is conveniently dispensed on the doorsteps of the people living below the poverty line.

He was speaking at the annual function of Free Legal Aid Society for the Help Less (FLASH) here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. President FLASH Shahid Ikram Siddiqui, Sheikh Abdul Majeed and Asif Saeed also spoke on the occasion.

Almas Hyder said that justice for all can ensure a peaceful society. He said that the right of having access to justice is indeed a fundamental right that should easily be available to each and every citizen of Pakistan. But in real terms how many of them actually happen to become recipients of justice when they are in dire need of it? The rigors and inequities prevalent in our Society in reality, however, make the obtaining of

justice extremely difficult in the real life situations that confront our citizens.

The LCCI President said that there is acute lack of financial resources that is an endemic fact of life in

our country. This gets invariably coupled with the very wide spread ignorance that our citizens have in respect of legal procedure. This naturally gets further accentuated for sheer lack of proper legal assistance from legal experts and the inability of the accused/litigant to get the services of counsel due to financial restraints.

He lauded the efforts of Free Legal Aid Society for the Help Less (FLASH) for actively engaging in a broad spectrum of social welfare activities, particularly, for the weaker segments of the society.

President FLASH Shahid Ikram Siddiqui said that a large number of working for the welfare of the ailing

**“Access to justice is indeed a fundamental right that should easily be available to every citizen.**

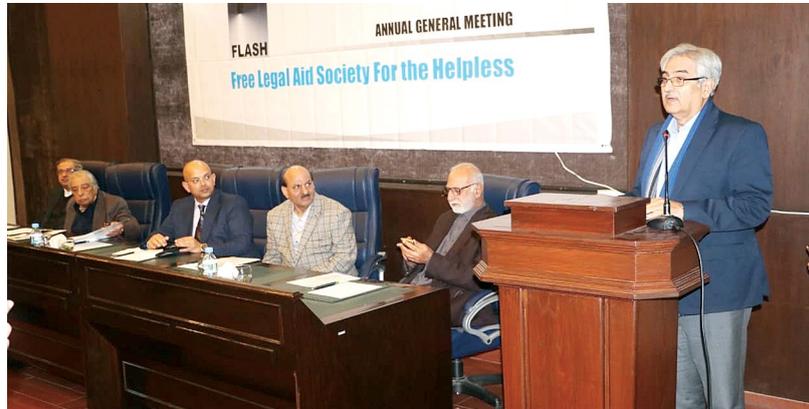
**Almas Hyder President LCCI**

humanity. Most of them work in areas the problems of which are witnessed nearly every day by almost everyone, e.g. poverty alleviation, education, health, water and sanitation, environment, human rights, women and children rights, consumer rights etc. Though absence of the right to access to justice is noticed in a few cases that are highlighted by the media for one reason or the other, yet the tail-enders of those rundown by inaccessibility to this right are the ones rotting behind the bars for indefinite time just because they do not have enough resources and/

or awareness. “Nonetheless, we hardly come across with such examples in our everyday life. Probably, that is why this most crucial issue fails to attract the attention of most of the philanthropists of the society.

Recognizing and

addressing this issue is exceedingly important, since it is concerned not only with a huge number of the destitute litigants but also bound to affect the present and future of their families and next generations. In order to meet the pressing social need of providing free legal aid to the disadvantaged, including the destitute prisoners, a vigorous initiative has always been needed”, he said and added that sensitizing the society about this burning issue may not be very easy as it is not expected to bring fame and riches for the doers, still it is something that would be most desirable in terms of true and pure philanthropy.



# LCCI launches Employment Portal for youth, business community



**T**he Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Wednesday launched “LCCI Employment Portal” in collaboration with Rozee.pk and has become first chamber of the country to implement take such an initiative to help government bring down graph of unemployment. LCCI President Almas Hyder inaugurated the portal along with Chairman & CEO of Rozee.pk Mohsin Rehman. LCCI Vice President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol also spoke on the occasion. LCCI President Almas Hyder said that finding human capital remains one of the most important challenges for businesses. “LCCI Employment Portal” is equipped with latest filters options will greatly help our members to fill their vacant job positions without spending money on job ads and wasting a lot of time in screening or short-listing relevant job applications besides allowing create accounts, post jobs, search desired candidates and mark hires through the platform. It is also a giant leap towards providing job opportunities to the youth. He said that Rozee.pk is a famous website of jobs seeking and has developed LCCI Employment

**“Human capital remains one of the most important challenges for businesses.**

**Almas Hyder LCCI President**

Exchange portal which can be utilized by all the members of Lahore Chamber totally free of charge. On the occasion, the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Rozee.pk also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The LCCI President Almas Hyder and Chairman & CEO of Rozee.pk Mosin Rehman inked the document. According to the MOU, the LCCI will be controlling the portal through administrative features and by accessing reports to understand and manage the program. Rozee.pk will manage day to day technical operations of the portal to ensure smooth running of the exchange. Rozee.pk will invest in development costs to build the LCCI employment exchange for LCCI and bear the expenses of hosting, servers, bandwidth and maintenance. The LCCI and its members will receive these services on a free-of-cost basis.

“Industrial revolution”

# SPEL Pakistan Goes Robotic

**S**PEL Pakistan has become first Pakistani industrial group to have installed robots to work its assembly lines.

The industrial robotic system was jointly inaugurated by the President & Chief Executive Officer of Honda Cars Pakistan Limited Hironbou Yoshimura and the LCCI President Almas Hyder on Saturday. CEO SPEL Zia Hyder Naqi, Vice President Production of Atlas Honda Cars Pakistan Limited Kenichi Matsuo, Assistant Vice President M. Ashraf, General Manager Asif Mehmood, Advisor to Chief Engineer Quality Toshinori Awaya, Senior Manager Purchasing Shinji Shinozawa. Honda Cars Pakistan Limited Hironbou Yoshimura said that installation of industrial robotic system is an impressive initiative. He said that auto market of Pakistan has huge potential. He said that they want to enhance business in Pakistan as despite some challenges, customer demand is still there.

The LCCI President Almas Hyder said that the global industrial robot market is expected to reach at the growth rate of around 9% as need for automation is rising. He said Robotics and Automation are key areas of focus, both as a Potential New Growth Area,

and as Enablers to Help Our

Enterprises Adopt Advanced Manufacturing Processes to Increase Productivity.

“We live in an era where robotics and automation technology have

brought fundamental changes in industries”, Almas Hyder added and said that advantages commonly attributed to automation include higher production rates and increased productivity, more efficient use of materials, better product quality, improved safety, shorter workweeks for labour, and reduced factory lead times. Higher output and increased productivity have been two of the biggest reasons in justifying the use of automation. Despite the claims of high quality from good workmanship by humans, automated systems typically perform the manufacturing process with less variability than human workers, resulting in greater control and consistency of product quality. Also, increased process control makes more

and introduced many items first



time in Pakistan. He said that difference between filer and non filer is shrinking the auto market as non filer cannot purchase vehicles. He said that a large people from Gilgit Baltistan, Triable areas and from agriculture sector do not need to file returns. They should be allowed to purchase vehicles.

The LCCI President said that SPEL Group has laid a foundation

“**Robotics and automation are key areas of focus, both as a potential new growth area, and as enablers to help our enterprises adopt advanced manufacturing processes to increase productivity.**

Almas Hyder President LCCI

by installing industrial robotic system and other sectors should follow the footprints as future is connected with technological advancement.

CEO SPEL Group Zia Hyder said that it has been a fruitful journey as SPEL group contributed to the national economy as it started exports in 70s. He said that we are focusing to invest in technology and human resources.



efficient use of materials, resulting in less scrap.

About SPEL, Almas Hyder said, the company was produced miracles after its foundation

# Workshop on

## “Self-Motivation & Stress Management” at LCCI

**S**tressful environment hits the productive activities therefore its management is direly needed, not only to ensure good amount of productivity but to maintain healthy relations between employer and workers.

This was crux a workshop on “Self-Motivation and Stress Management” at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI Acting President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir, Vice President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol, Leadership Trainer Tanzila Khan, former LCCI Presidents Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry and Engineer Sohail Lashari and Executive Committee Members also spoke on the occasion.

“Through stress management, the businessmen could not only save their time and energy but money as well. Stress has direct bearing on the efficiency of a person and resultantly on an industrial unit therefore a proper strategy to manage stress must be part of training of top management officials.”

The Trainer Tanzila Khan quoted a number of examples whereby an industrial unit touched the zenith by adopting stress management strategies or by implement best business doing practices.

“It is common experience that in a stress at workplace,

the efficiency of a worker or an officer nose dive while in a stress free atmosphere, the efficiency of worker even surpasses his or her abilities”, they said and added that regular stress management practice stave off the negative effects of stress, but it can also bring positive outcomes like increased productivity, better health and more happiness in general.

At workplace issue management is the key to success and in order to determine and succeed at a winning position, a successful issue manager should begin by thoroughly and carefully identifying all stakeholders and their particular interests. For the sake of definition, stakeholders are generally comprised of a diverse group of people and depending on the issue at hand, may include business owners, local, state, and federal elected officials, constituents, customers, competitors, colleagues and peers, or simply the general public. Consequently, any solution to resolve a conflict among opposing viewpoints must take into account the interests and concerns of all stakeholders and seek unifying and mutually-beneficial solutions.

Not only this is excellent issue management, but it promotes positive public relations and turns issues into opportunities for the growth of a community.

The Workshop was also attended by Mian Nauman

Kabir, Amjad Ali Jawa, Bao Bashir, K h a l i q u e Arshad, Haris Attique, Nisar A h m e d , A u r a n g z e b Aslam, Mian Zahid Jawaid, Aqib Asif, Usman Khalid, Faisal Iqbal Sheikh and M a r g h o o b Shakir Izhar.



Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri visits LCCI

# Cumbersome, anti-business rules and regulations always promote corruption: Almas Hyder

**D**eputy Speaker of National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri has said that government is making all-out efforts to overcome inherited economic crisis. Business community has a key role in economy and economic challenges will be tackled with their cooperation.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI President Almas Hyder, Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir and Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol also spoke on the occasion. Former LCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar and Executive Committee Members were also present. The Deputy Speaker said that burden of debt has reached to Rs. 30,000 billions while a huge amount is required for debt servicing. He said that 2008 to 2018, than government borrowed Rs.24,000 billions but situation in all sectors of economy remained discouraging.

He said that after holding the reigns, Prime Minister sought help of Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey and Abudhahbi, to get rid of economic crisis, instead of IMF. He said that if IMF help would be unavoidable, than no anti-country condition will be accepted. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is selfless and just want to put country on the rails of economic prosperity. He said that local investors deserve

one-window and all other facilities as they are working in difficult circumstances. Business community across the country should have equal facilities. He said that efforts are well on the way for trade in local currency. He said that 100-day play was a self-check on the government. He said that Central Asian States and various other



markets are being focused for Pakistani merchandise. Earlier, the LCCI President Almas Hyder said that we are listening to approach IMF 13th time. IMF should be the last option as it is working for just squeezing the developing countries. He said that when Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand were facing currency crisis, Malaysia rejected IMF prescribes. He questioned that if IMF has some good suggestions then why don't we do that ourselves. He said that if borrowing

**“Debt burden has reached to Rs 30,000 billions. In last decade, Rs.24,000 billion have been borrowed but situation in all sectors of economy remained discouraging.**

**Deputy Speaker  
NA Qasim Khan Suri**

from IMF is essential than no harm conditions should be accepted. Almas Hyder said that there are 10 indicators of Ease of Doing Business about government's rules and regulations. He said that doing

business has become a most difficult task in the presence of these rules which must be simplified and business friendly. He said that cumbersome and anti-business rules and regulations always promote corruption. He said that duties and taxes on raw material should be reduced as China is selling finished products less than our cost of raw material. He said that manufacturing sector is not competitive at the existing tariff. He

said that same facilities should be given to the local investors which are being offered to the foreign investors.

He said that difference between filer and non-filer has shrunk the market as there is a difference between taxpayer and filer. He said that stakeholders from agriculture sector, tribal area and people having a certain salary are not filer. He said that difference between filer and non-filer should be eliminated in coming mini budget.

# LCCI welcomes restoration of Advance Payment Facility

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) welcomed restoration of advance payment facility and said that State Bank of Pakistan deserves appreciation for feeling the woes of business community. In a statement, the LCCI President Almas Hyder said that restoration of advance payment facility up to \$ 10,000 per invoice for import of essential items for exporters without the requirement of Letter of Credit (LC) or bank guarantee to suppliers abroad would give a big relief to the export oriented sectors. He said that this business-friendly step of State Bank of Pakistan would make easy import of necessary items for export oriented sector. He said that exporters would now be able to complete their international orders easily and cost of doing business will also be reduced. Almas Hyder said that the SBP vide its F.E. Circular No. 6 of July 14, 2018 has withdrawn the facility extended to the authorized dealers to make import advance payments against irrevocable

Letters of Credit (L/C) up to 100 percent of the value of the goods and up to \$10,000 per invoice for import of all eligible items without a requirement of L/C or a bank guarantee from the supplier abroad caused huge difficulties for the export-oriented industry but after restoration of this facility,

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“SMEs generate maximum employment and needs government support, the markup for the SME sector must be at the lowest so that this sector could breath and accelerate.

Khawaja Shehzad Nasir  
Senior Vice President LCCI

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situation would take a positive turn. The President said it seems that State Bank of Pakistan has withdrawn this facility to shrink gap between imports and exports but it is not doing any service to the economy and creating more impediments for the exports instead of controlling the trade deficit. He said that imports are not a matter of concern if exports are increased. Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir and Vice President Fahim-ur-Rehman Saigol said that restoration of advance payment facility would help release import consignment that were pending. LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir said that high markup rates hurt the SME Sector. SMEs are the most important segment of economy, it generates loads of employment and also needs government support in order to further enhance the capability of this sector the markup must be at the lowest so that SME sector could breath and accelerate.

# LCCI president

## wants representation of private sector in policy making

**P**resident of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Almas Hyder Wednesday called for representation of private sector in policy making to ensure immediate treatment to the economic issues.

In a statement, the LCCI President said that being most important stakeholder, private sector must have representation in policy making teams that will be equally beneficial for the government and private sector.

He said that business community has a great combination of fertile ideas both for businesses and economy but these cannot be decoded until and unless private sector has representation at the supreme forums. Almas Hyder said that government should make necessary legislation in this regard as health of economic indicators is not good at the moment. He said that health of leading economic indicators including Ease of Doing Business, Manufacturing, Stock Market, Gross Domestic Product, income & expenditure, unemployment rate, Consumer Price Index, Currency Strength, availability of energy, debts, balance of trade and foreign exchange reserves is not good and needs immediate treatment as these are directly linked to the economic prosperity and also to the foreign investors' sentiments.

"If these indicators are healthy, these would

**“Starting new business in Pakistan is a hard task and can be tackled through one-window operation to reduce the interference of various government departments in this process.**

*Almas Hyder President LCCI*

attract huge foreign direct investment, build the confidence of local investors, increase remittances and turn the country into hub of manufacturing and economic activities”, the LCCI President added. He said that manufacturing activities influences the Gross Domestic Product strongly (GDP), an increase in which boosts revenue of the state and generates employment opportunities. He said that Industrial Production Growth Rate averaged 5.32 percent from 1990 to 2018. He said that government should facilitate manufacturing sector and resolve its major obstacles like availability of cheap energy and early refunds etc. to achieve the target of highest growth rate.

Almas Hyder said that startup of new business in Pakistan is a hard task and this issue should be tackled through one-window operation to reduce the interference of various government departments in this process.

# LCCI foresees immense development in auto industry, alternative energy sector

**P**resident of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Almas Hyder said that government did well in the critical state of affairs and presented a good package of reforms that will definitely produce investment opportunities in auto industry, solar equipment manufacturing and other potential sectors.

While talking to a group of businessmen, the LCCI President said that government has taken some important initiatives including lifting ban on purchase of vehicles for non-filers for new locally manufactured cars up till 1300cc capacity and exemption to the investment in solar panels & wind turbines from duties and taxation for five years. He said that these measures will bring huge local and foreign investment in these sectors, will generate job opportunities besides rising revenue of the government.

About auto industry of Pakistan, the LCCI President said that it was one of the fastest growing industries of the country with around four per cent contribution to GDP besides employing, directly or indirectly, over 3.5 million people. He said that production of car industry was shrunken up to 30 per cent because of ban on purchase of vehicle for non-filer.

He said that government has taken a step in right direction by lifting ban on purchase of cars for non-filers for new locally manufactured cars up till 1300 cc capacity. It will definitely expand the volume of auto industry which has the ability to act as driving force for the national economy.

“Pakistani auto industry is well on the way of technological advancement and will become at

par with the developed economies”, Almas Hyder said and added that recently SPEL Pakistan has installed industrial robotic system and gave a positive gesture to the foreign investors about the potential of Pakistan’s industrial sector.

“There should be no difference between filers and non-filers as non-filers of returns are not tax evaders.

Discrimination should be between taxpayer and non-taxpayer”, the LCCI President said. He added that the constraints faced by non-filers of tax

returns are hampering the overall business environment because such limitations have caused troubles for automotive and some other sectors.

Almas Hyder said that exemption to the investment in solar panels & wind turbines from duties and taxation for five years seems little but indeed a major announcement with great futuristic impacts on the energy sector of

Pakistan. He said that Pakistan relies heavily on fossil fuels to meet its energy requirements is one of the biggest reasons of energy crisis and rising trade deficit as the country is spending billions of dollars on import of petroleum products every year.

Apart from its very high financial cost, Pakistan remains at strategic risk because it remains heavily dependent even for its vital services. He said that all these issues can be tackled by promoting renewable energy sources that are a very viable option to meet energy demands. Government has done well by encouraging manufacturing of equipment for power generation through alternative sources.

**“Government has taken some important initiatives including lifting ban on purchase of vehicles for non-filers for new locally manufactured cars up till 1300cc capacity and exemption to the investment in solar panels & wind turbines from duties and taxation for five years.**

**Almas Hyder President LCCI**

# LCCI for reviewing human & economic cost of anti-encroachment drive

**H**uman and economic factors have been ignored while launching anti-encroachment drive, therefore, the operation must be reviewed. In a letter to Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, the LCCI President Almas Hyder said that existing anti-encroachment drive in Shahalam Market is depriving the workers of their jobs and besides loss of the capital of the traders.

Almas Hyder said that this government has started anti-encroachment drive which is always welcome but it is being done with total disregard to human and economic cost being paid by genuine business. He said that before such a step, the government should have planned and provide alternate site to affectees of this drive.

He said that the move has also created discontentment among affected traders. Anti-encroachment staff is doing what they want to do and destroying the assets of traders.

The LCCI President said that this difficult situation has not arisen in a day. There has been callous disregard of rules and regulations by the subsequent government over the last 10 years whereby unscrupulous elements were allowed to build and sell properties. He said that no government official has been taken to the task for allowing such a situation,

while honest tax paying businesses are bearing the brunt of this drive.

Almas Hyder demanded that compensation should be given to all those businesses which were built on land where proper registries were executed and government taxes were paid. He also suggested that the area outside Ring Road which is still vacant may be zoned for commercial purposes and all the affectees may be allowed to purchase land and build their shops/offices there. This zoning will reduce pressure within the city and also allow for expansion of economic activities. He said that this zoning should be announced immediately and the town planning completed next three months.

The LCCI Vice President Faheem-Ur-Rehman Saigol said that

government should also take into consideration the encroachers at

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**End users must not bear the loss alone but the government departments and sellers of encroached land also held accountable.**

**Faheem-Ur-Rehman Saigol  
Vice President LCCI**

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the first place. the government departments, which had approved the encroachments and the sellers, builders beside the end users who are being solemnly victimized. He said the end users must not bear the loss alone but the government departments and sellers of encroached land also held accountable.



# LCCI for easy property registration mechanism

**T**he Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has urged the government to make registration of property easy for the businessmen through modern technologies and one-window

other hand, he said, New Zealand holds first position with just two procedures and a single day for property registration.

The LCCI President said that reliability of infrastructure,

to shift responsibility for the procedure from an applicant to government. He said that an independent complaint resolution mechanism, related to issue of land and property registration, should be developed. He suggested that a schedule for fee should be made for accessing maps of land plots publicly available. Almas Hyder suggested that tax on land transfer should be eliminated and one lump sum fee should be charged. He said that a local commission should only be hired in exceptional circumstances as provided by the law. In person attendance should be mandatory.

**A complete electronic database should be established for encumbrances (checking of lines, mortgages, restrictions and the like) and make it available online.**

Almas Hyder President LCCI

electronic database for recording land boundaries, transparency of information, geographic coverage, land dispute

operation.

In a statement, the LCCI President Almas Hyder said that registration of property is a big headache for the businessmen as it consumes long time and capital therefore it should be made business-friendly. Almas Hyder said that we have to make ease-of-doing-business related indicators better and better if we want to secure impressive place in the international trading arena. He said that at present Pakistan ranked 161 in the global index as far as registration of property registration is concerned. He said that businessmen would have to follow 6 procedures for the registration of property which take 25.5 days and cost 4.2 per cent of the property value. On the

resolution and equal access to

property rights are some of the areas which demand special.

Almas Hyder recommended a complete electronic database should be established for encumbrances (checking of lines, mortgages, restrictions and the like) and make it available online. He said that inter-government electronic procedure should be introduced to obtain non-objection certificate (one government principle)

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# Be positive for sustainable economic growth:

## LCCI President

Challenges always bring opportunities and give economies a chance to grow therefore we should see the things positively and government should take steps in consultation with the stakeholders for economic wellbeing.

While reacting over quarterly report of State Bank of Pakistan on Wednesday, the LCCI President Almas Hyder said that nothing is impossible in today's arena as a number of countries became economically developed from nowhere. If they can do this then why we can't, he said and added that all economic targets can be achieved through strong public private partnership.

Almas Hyder said that all economic issues can be controlled if government focuses on some major areas. He said that pending refunds are causing liquidity crunch for the industrial sector.

Government took a good decision of issuing promissory note for the payment of refunds but its benefit should be extended to all the other sectors in addition to five zero rated sectors.

He said that Regulatory Duties on all the raw materials lines should be eliminated to reduce the cost of doing business and making manufacturing competitive.

The LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir and Vice President Fahim-ur-Rehman Saigol said that government should take steps to reduce the interest rate. The recent hike in the SBP policy rate to 10% (highest in five years) has made borrowing

highly expensive for private sector and discourages investment that needs debt financing.

Almas Hyder said that Government should rezone urban centers, demarcate industrial land and set up SEZs all over Pakistan to boost the manufacturing activities. He said that the exemption from the payment of Sales Tax on imported plant and machinery for Greenfield projects in the Mini-Budget should also be granted to the brownfield projects for Balancing, Modernization and Replacement of existing units.

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Government must take steps to reduce the interest rate. The recent hike in the SBP policy rate to 10 percent has made borrowing highly expensive for private sector.

Khawaja Shahzad Nasir  
Senior Vice President LCCI

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He said that for the hand-holding of SME sector and enabling it to realize its true potential, the Government should announce a five year Tax Holiday for the new SMEs.

Un-informed Raids on premises of Business Community were spoiling the business atmosphere. Federal Minister for State Hammad Azhar has recently announced to cease the raids but needs is to implement the decision in true sense of word.

The LCCI President welcomed the announcement by Federal Finance Minister Asad Umer for reducing

the number of taxes by clubbing and hoped that policy in this regard would be announced in the coming budget. He suggested that the frequency of the tax payments of above proposed labor tax (EOBI, PESSI, WPPF, WWF Clubbed) and Sales Tax (Federal and Provincial Clubbed) should be once a year. The frequency of the payments of Corporate Income Tax should also be once a year. This will bring down the total frequency of tax payments to 6 a year. He said that all tax payments should be accepted through 'Credit card / debit card, direct debit or using internet / mobile banking.

He further stated that the services sector (Wholesale & retail trade, Transportation, Storage & Communication, Finance & Insurance and Housing) is the main driver of economic growth in Pakistan with a contribution of 60 percent in the GDP. To enable the services sector to realize its potential in terms of exports, it should be incentivized and included in the priority sectors in the "Trade Related Investment Policy Framework 2015-2023" for export oriented investments. The LCCI office-bearers said that IT sector in Pakistan has remarkable potential as evident by the increasing number of IT based startups in Pakistan. To enhance the exports of IT sector, it should also be included in the priority sectors for export oriented investments. Appropriate and easy payment solution also needs to be designed for IT sector.

# LCCI Vice President visits Taiwan, Japan to enhance exports

**V**ice President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol visited Taiwan and Japan to discover new avenues for Pakistani merchandise.

The LCCI Vice President conducted B2B meetings with his counterparts besides visiting the offices of trade and industrial associations.

Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol said that main objective of his visit was to extract huge economic benefits for the country through exploring new opportunities for trade, investment and joint ventures.

The LCCI Vice President held a meeting with Mr. M Mujahid in Taiwan and discussed economic opportunities for Pakistani businessmen. Mr. Mujahid is living and working in Taiwan for more than two decades and works for the promotion of mutual trade between Pakistan and Taiwan.



Vice President LCCI Faheem-Ur-Rehman Saigol presenting a souvenir to Director International Division and Secretary General Osaka Business and Investment Center Mr Susumu Saito. Deputy Secretary General Ms. Fujita Noriko and Mr Muhammad Mujahid are also present.

## Appeal for Help

Mr Mukhtar Nawaz is suffering from Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) concerned doctor has advised him for Bone Marrow Transplantation Surgery. The estimated cost of the treatment is Rs 35,00,000/ (Thirty Five Lac). He is very poor person and son of a school teacher. Anybody who is willing to help him can contact:

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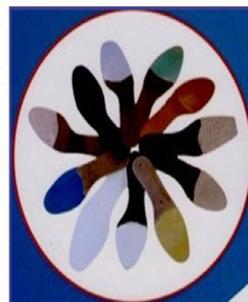
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- Exhibitions details are being Published for the information of LCCI members.
- Interested members may contact directory on given email address.



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