

LAHORE CHAMBER

NEWS



An Official Publication of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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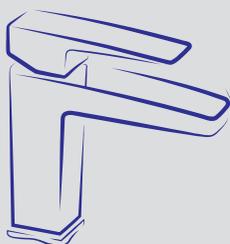
LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil photographed with Governor Punjab H.E. Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana at LABARD Fundraising dinner.



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil in a meeting with Provincial Minister for Industries Sheikh Alauddin.



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid and Secretary Excise & Taxation Balal Ahmed jointly inaugurating of Facilitation Center (E&T) at LCCI.



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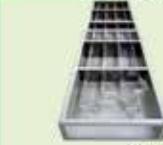
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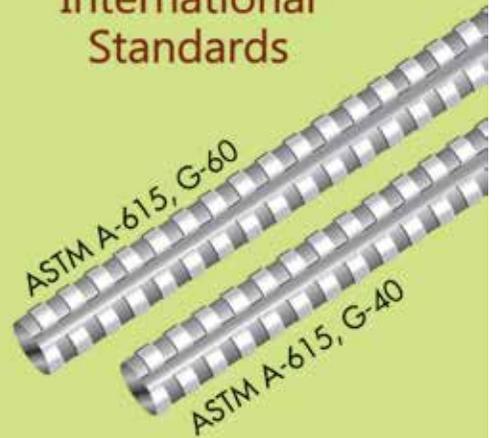
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LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid and Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid presenting souvenir to Governor Punjab H.E. Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana. LCCI Executive Committee Members Ch. Tahir Manzoor, Muhammad Naeem Hanif, Shahid Nazir, Ch. Aurangzeb Aslam, Adeb Iqbal Sheikh, Sheikh Zafar Iqbal, Mian Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Wasim and Secretary General are also present.

Governor Punjab visits LCCI

Governor Punjab Rafique Rajwana has said that business community is the backbone of the economy and it must be facilitated for sustainable economic growth of the country. He was talking to the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Executive Committee Members here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Governor Punjab agreed with the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid that prices of gas and other inputs should be same throughout the country. He said that protests and sit-ins at Mall Road have become major issues for the business community, students, patients and the masses. Politicians and civil society should show responsibility and avoid disturbing trade and economic activities. He said that recommendations regarding parking plazas have been forwarded to Punjab government.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that government has largely overcome the energy shortfall. There has been a considerable decline in electricity load shedding. It is an obvious result of concerted efforts from government side which is really praiseworthy. He said that business community will be much relieved if per unit price of electricity is also brought down to further decrease the already high cost of production and also enhance our competitiveness in international market. While calling for uniformed rate for gas, he said that it is not fair to keep comparatively high price of gas for Punjab.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that law & order situation in Punjab and Lahore in particular is better than other parts of country but there is still a lot of room for improvement. With the introduction of Dolphin Force in Lahore, we have seen some improvement but there is a need to enhance their strength to improve the vigilance that will further control street crimes. We suggest that the same force should be introduced in other major cities of Punjab. The LCCI President said that the Mall Road is an important and central road of Lahore City. Lahore High Court gave that judgment that no one would be allowed

to protest on that road by way of blocking, sit-downs or public meetings. We keep noticing serious violation of this decision which must be implemented at any cost. He further said you know that with the passage of time the flow of traffic in Lahore has increased manifold. Despite this fact that Punjab Government has broadened roads and made some of them signal free, but there is still a heavy load of traffic especially at peak hours. Parking of vehicles on the sides of roads aggravates the situation further. We have already proposed government to construct new parking plazas near major markets in Lahore. You are requested to please expedite this matter.

He said that many of LCCI members are having industrial units on the main roads of city which were established around Lahore under Rural Industrial Scheme. LCCI proposal was favorably considered that these industries should be regularized at their existing locations. The Secretary Industries has agreed in this connection and submitted a report to provincial government for approval. We are still waiting for the required notification. He said that there are almost 1200 industrial plots available in industrial estates whereas more or less 40,000 industrial units are located on main roads of Lahore city. He said that all these industries should be declared as part of industrial corridor. That is how commercial tax imposed by LDA will be waived.

Malik Tahir Javaid apprised the Governor Punjab that Lahore Chamber is playing active role in consolidating industry academia linkage. He was of the view that universities should work in close liaison with private sector for producing such kind of research work which is helpful in the promotion of local industry. Similarly there is a dire need for public private partnership and we are ready to contribute in this connection under your kind supervision.

Aftab Ahmed Vohra, Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Mian Muhammad Nawaz, Adeb Iqbal Sheikh, Khamis Saeed Butt, Aurangzeb Chaudhry, Naeem Haneef, Nadeem Qureshi, Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, Bao Bashir, Nasira Taskeen, Mudassar Masood Chaudhry, Awais Saeed Piracha and others were present in the meeting.

WAPDA to launch first ever National Water Policy soon

Chairman WAPDA Lt. General ® Muzammil Hussain has said that first-ever National Water Policy would be launched soon that would help overcome water challenges. He was talking to the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javed, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil, Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Mudassar Masood Chaudhry, Mian Muhammad Nawaz and Syed Mukhtar Ali also spoke on the occasion.

Chairman WAPDA said that energy and food security is as essential as security of borders. He said that country is preserving only 10 percent of flowing water despite the fact that water resources are depleting. He said that Pakistan stood at 15th in the list of water deprived countries. He said that economic worth of water being wasted to sea is around \$ 14.5 billion. He said that we have to plan today for our future as population of Pakistan will be crossed the mark of 300 million by 2050. He said that government is

working on various water and power projects out of which a number are near to be completed.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that though government has largely overcome the energy shortfall and there has been a considerable decline in electricity load shedding but there is a dire need to bring down the electricity prices to give some relief to industry.

He said that some three decades ago the energy mix of Pakistan was roughly 70% from hydel resources and 30% from others. This proportion has almost reversed. Expensive Energy Mix is causing more problems for us. The high price of energy adversely affects the export competitiveness of country as it takes major share in the production cost. The business community will be much relieved if per unit price of electricity is brought down because that would make our products more competitive in international market.



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil in a meeting with Chairman WAPDA Lt. General ® Muzammil Hussain at LCCI. Former LCCI Member Mudassar Masood Ch. is also present.

The LCCI President said that unlike Pakistan, India took right steps at appropriate times while building a number of small and large size dams in the same period of time. We kept hoping against hope and relying mostly on thermal based power plants. Resultantly, we are suffering as a nation on account of not being able to generate sufficient and cheap electricity.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that due to its inherent advantages, hydel power is the best bet for overcoming the energy shortage in Pakistan which ranged from 5000 MW to 7000 MW in the peak season in 2017 according to unofficial sources. A significant push should be made towards building medium and long-term hydel capacity in the country. He said that the main sources of electricity generation in Pakistan are hydel, oil, gas, coal and nuclear power. Among these, hydel power is the only renewable source of energy; the others are mainly fossil fuels.

He said that according to the World Energy Council, the total Hydropower resource in Pakistan is estimated at about 50,000 MW. Most of the resources are located in the North of the country, which offers sites for large scale - ranging from 100 MW to 7,000 MW power projects. Smaller sites having the capacity of less than 50 MW are available throughout the country.

The LCCI President said that in addition, canal system with total of 58,450 km watercourses, farm channels and field ditchers running another 160,000 km in length has a huge hydropower potential at numerous sites/locations on each site, ranging from 1 MW to more than 10 MW hydro plants can be installed. It is indeed a matter of grave concern that the current power generation from hydel sources is less than 15 percent of the total potential.

He said that the scope of hydel power generation needs to be expanded as it will also solve the irrigation problems of the country. Instant development in hydel sector is the urgent need of the hour. It is high time for allocating maximum resources to this sector. The LCCI urges the Government to expedite the completion work on Neelum Jhelum hydropower project and Tarbela 4th extension project before the coming peak season as both of these projects would add more than 2000 MW to the system.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that since Diamer-Bhasha Dam which has a gross capacity of 8.1 million acre feet (MAF) and installed power capacity of 4,500 megawatt (MW) is not a part of CPEC, the Government should strive hard to mobilize maximum local resources for the timely completion of this project.



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Secretary Excise & Taxation Balal Ahmed after inaugurating the Excise & Taxation Facilitation Center at LCCI.

Excise & Taxation Facilitation Centre starts working at LCCI

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry has taken another giant leap to facilitate its members by establishing Excise & Taxation Facilitation Center at its premises. Now the LCCI members would get all Excise & Taxation facilities within the premises of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid and Secretary Excise & Taxation Balal Ahmed jointly inaugurated the Facilitation Center while Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Executive Committee Members were present on the occasion.

Secretary E & T Balal Ahmed said that Excise & Taxation related various facilities would be available at the facilitation center for the businessmen. He said that it is a great facility that must be availed by the business community. He said that such initiatives are a must to promote tax culture and for trust building between public and private sectors.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that Excise & Taxation Facilitation Center is a great facility for the business community

of Lahore. He said that this center would provide the facilities of collection of provincial taxes/fees, motor vehicle registration, property tax and professional tax etc. He said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry has become only chamber of the country where important institutions like SMEDA, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Traffic Police, NADRA and Excise & Taxation department have established facilitation centers for the business community. The LCCI President said that Public Private Partnership and a well-built & meaningful liaison between public and private sectors is of vital importance. The LCCI President said that strong public-private partnership can help surmounting the unprecedented economic challenges being faced by the country. The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry would continue its untiring efforts in this regard. He said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry aims to promote trade and investment in the country through enacting upon the policies of the government and securing a business friendly environment in the country.

LCCI Office-Bearers presenting cheque of donation to Federal Commerce Minister Pervez Malik for LABARD



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zehsan Khalil are presenting donation cheque for disabled citizens to Pervez Malik. LCCI Executive Committee Members Muhammad Naem Hanif, Shahid Nazir and Adeeb Iqbal Sheikh are also present.

Fundraising dinner of Lahore Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled (LABARD) held that was largely attended by the prominent personalities including Governor Punjab Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana, the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zehsan Khalil, Saeed Khan, Ahmer Malik, Mian Nusratudin, Governing body members of LABARD and people from different walks of life. Fundraising dinner is a permanent feature of LABARD's activities and it is held to generate funds for rehabilitation of disabled.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana said that bright future is the destiny of nations that look after the distressed segments of the society enabling them to play their part in economic building of the country. He expressed pleasure that Lahore businessmen after fulfilling their corporate social responsibility by ensuring that all disabled children of the city are provided proper education and vocational training so that they could join the main stream economic activities. Governor said that Pakistan needs all helping hands to eradicate widespread poverty from the society. "One reason for our backwardness is that we have not

encouraged our women to participate in economic activities" he said adding that similarly the physically handicapped are deprived from education and vocational training. He said organizations providing helping hand to the disabled are doing great service to the country. He praised the philanthropic spirit of businessmen that have responded to admirably whenever the nation faced any calamity.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid in his address termed LABARD a feather in the cap of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. President Lahore Chamber

of Commerce and Industry Malik Tahir Javid has said Persons with disabilities should not be unseen, unheard and uncared in Pakistan.

President LCCI said the People with disabilities are the most marginalized group in our society. Persons with Disabilities face overwhelming barriers in education, skills development and daily life.

He said Persons with disabilities also face multiple social, economic, physical and political handicaps, hampering their freedom of movement in society. These barriers include stigmatization and a misunderstanding of the abilities and aspirations of persons with disabilities. There is also a pronounced lack of informational data, rules and regulations, rehabilitation centers, and specialized services for persons with disabilities.

He further said In Pakistan, no single ministry or federal department deals

with, issues related to disability. There is only the ministry for social welfare, women's development and special education, which touch upon person with disabilities issues. However, at the local level, there are no specific sections or departments responsible for person with disabilities programs at the local level.

Moreover, Pakistanis believe that persons with disabilities are a social burden and a curse on the family. These beliefs lead to the misunderstanding of disability. They prevent people from obtaining appropriate information and being educated. Employment opportunities for persons with disabilities are very limited and so they are a financial burden for their families.

LABARD General Secretary Saeed Khan said that an uneducated and unskilled physically handicapped person becomes a burden on the society but the same person can

become highly productive if he is provided education or trained in skills. He said that LABARD has a vision of creating a society where equal opportunities are available, and equal treatment is provided to all the members irrespective of their physical capabilities, with a mission to facilitate the disabled members of the society to become self-independent in all sphere of life.

He said it has only been possible due to the support of friends and well-wishers of LABARD that we have been able to impact the lives of more than 18000 persons with Disabilities. LABARD provided employment to 6048 PWDs, Vocational trainings to 3786, Educational Assistance to 2569, financial assistance to 2230, Medical Assistance 3019, Aiding instruments and wheel chairs to 6023, Cornea Replacements for visibility to 491 and Qarz-e-Hasana (Interest free Loans) to 483 Persons with Disabilities.

Federal Commerce Minister lauds LCCI members' role for ailing humanity

Federal Commerce Minister Muhammad Pervez Malik has said that role of business community is of utmost importance in Corporate Social Responsibilities and it is a matter of satisfaction that premier business organization like the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry are impressively working for the help of ailing humanity.

Pervez Malik, who is also president of Lahore Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled (LABARD), was talking to the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Muhammad Naeem Hanif and Shahid Nazir Chaudhry were also present.

Federal Commerce Minister said that public welfare is always a biggest challenge for the governments and they cannot handle it alone. It is a matter of satisfaction that business community of Lahore fully active in social sector and supporting government in its endeavors aimed at reducing the miseries of ailing humanity.

Pervez Malik paid rich tributes to the members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry saying that

they are sharing the burden of the government and always contributed with full zeal at all testing times whether it is earthquake or flood.

Federal Minister also thanked the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry for contributing impressively to the Lahore Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled (LABARD) for the cause of special persons.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javid said that business community of Lahore will continue to fulfill its social responsibilities and utilize its all resources for the help of ailing humanity. He informed the Federal Minister that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry is not only playing a leading role for the promotion of trade and industry but is also quite active in the social sector.

He said that the actual force is the members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry who always say yes to the LCCI call during all catastrophes and donated generously for the help of their deprived brothers and sisters. Malik Tahir Javid also presented a cheque of Rs.1.6 million to Lahore Businessmen Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled (LABARD).

LCCI & Environmental Department to hold “Green Awards Competition”



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid is addressing a press conference on Green Award Competition at LCCI. Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zehsan Khalil, Punjab Environment Minister Begum Zakia Shahnawaz and LCCI Executive Committee Member Tehmina Saeed Chaudhry are also present.

To overcome serious environmental issues, the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Punjab Environment Department will jointly hold Green Award competition. At first stage, it would be held between Sunder Industrial Estate & Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate after that other sectors would be covered.

This was revealed by the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid and Punjab Environment Minister Begum Zakia Shahnawaz at a joint press conference at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zehsan Khalil, Tehmina Saeed Chaudhry and DG Environment Protection Ch. Asif Iqbal also spoke on the occasion.

Provincial Minister Zakia Shahnawaz said that shifting of entire responsibility to the industry for pollution is a sheer injustice because various other factors are also playing havoc in this regard. She said that issue of environment can be tackled through joint efforts as it is harming all segments of society. She said that conservation and plantation of trees is our prime responsibility. She urged the industrial sector to avail latest technologies for waste management, water treatment and to reduce gas emission. She also called for separation of residential and industrial areas.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said Green Award is a pioneering plan to CLEAN and GREEN the industrial areas of Lahore. The main focus of the campaign is to motivate the industrialists to take ownership and responsibility to clean the environment around their place of work by beautification/landscaping inside and outside of their factories on available spaces and by removing solid/industrial waste around.

Malik Tahir Javaid explained that removal and safe disposal of solid waste, wastewater, and plantation of trees, flowers and plants and improvement of landscape are main goals of the competition. He emphasized that the beautification and landscaping which includes planting trees in the

industrial areas is the first step towards providing a clean and safe environment.

“We the industrialists, as citizens, play an important role and feel that it is every citizen’s responsibility to take steps to improve and clean our environment and not just the Governments. Planting trees is Sadqa-i-Jariya . It is a known fact that Environment friendly industries not only conserve environment but also promote their green image, as a result enhancing their clientele and profits”, the LCCI president said.

He said that only industries are not responsible for environmental pollution. Various other factors including rising number of vehicles, deforestation, digging of roads at vast scales etc are playing horrific role in this regard.

About forestation, he mentioned that Pakistan ranked 79 with around 1% under-forest area while Russia and India stand first and 10th position respectively with over 49% and 23%. He said that deforestation in Pakistan not only leaving adverse impact on the environment but is also hitting the economy hard.

He said that forests are not only safeguarding biodiversity and acting as a shield against climate changes but are also equally important for the economic safety of the country. He said that wood production, processing and the pulp & paper industries accounts over one percent of the global gross domestic product.

“We have to recognize that forestry is an integral feature of sustainable economic development. It should be the focus policy corridors for generating new economic opportunities”, the LCCI president said.

Tehmina Saeed Chaudhry said that Pollution in the environment is the presence of contaminants in the natural environment, which causes adverse changes and health hazards to human beings and nature. She said that by developing forestry as a commercially viable sector, the country can make the agriculture sector stable and valuable for economy.

LCCI and Employers Federation of Pakistan sign MoU



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid presenting LCCI Souvenir to Majyd Aziz President Employers Federation of Pakistan. LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and other members are also present.

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Employers Federation of Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to build a dependable, pragmatic and advantageous relationship.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid and President Employers Federation of Pakistan Majyd Aziz signed the Memorandum of Understanding. The ceremony was also attended by the LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Executive Committee Members and Vice President of EFOP Zaki Ahmed Khan.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that agreement between the two organizations is an important breakthrough and help establish friendly and cordial relations between the two organizations through an increased cooperation mode among the industrialists, businessmen and entrepreneurs of their respective organizations. He said that LCCI will enhance growth in interaction with Employers Federation of Pakistan. Both organizations will make joint efforts to focus mutual cooperation for increase in membership by capitalizing on the opportunities of engaging them intensively in issues

of common interests.

The LCCI President said it is imperative that there should be maximum dissemination of information that can lead to further increase in bilateral relationship between the industrialists, businessmen and entrepreneurs. He said that coordination between LCCI and EFOP will help promote joint ventures, initiate partnership, provide technical expertise and introduce joint project possibilities.

He said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Employers Federation of Pakistan will work together to dispel negative perceptions about industrial issues, will attract investment and will also make efforts to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that being the premier most business support organization of Pakistan, the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry always leads from the front to highlight the issues of private sector. LCCI works very systematically and it continues to analyze the present scenario of business and suggest ways to government to address the issues. He said that LCCI organizes various

activities for the capacity building of its members like seminars, workshops and conferences etc. These events help them in obtaining up-to-date information about national and international market and allow them to learn new methodologies to remain competitive. He said that LCCI plays vital role in policy making by way of sending proposals to government which are duly considered while finalizing annual budget and different policies meant to regulate business affairs.

President Employers Federation of Pakistan Majyd Aziz also welcomed the agreement between the two important organizations. He said that EFOP is providing a forum to the employers of Pakistan to progress in the global society through decent work and better human resource management while keeping in view the corporate social responsibilities. EFOP is also striving for Industrial Peace, Harmony, Poverty Reduction and Business Promotion and peruse Policies and Legislation conducive to Investment, Economic Growth, Employment Generation, Decent Wages and keeping peace with socio-economic development of Country.

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Entrepreneurs urged to adopt modern communication techniques

Telecommunication has become one of the most important tools for business promotion as it helps businessmen to reach their targeted clients at local and global levels therefore Pakistani entrepreneurs must adopt modern communication techniques.

These views were expressed by the LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid while speaking at MOU signing ceremony between the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Pakistan Mobile Communication Ltd. Regional Manager of Pakistan Mobile Communication Shoukat Ali Mayo and LCCI Executive Committee Member Naeem Hanif also spoke on the occasion.

Khawaja Khawar Rashid said it is a good omen that communication sector of Pakistan growing at good pace but still a lot of room is available to become at par with the developed countries. He said that cellular market in Pakistan has flourished rapidly during the last 15 years. He said that in 2002, only 3.29 % people were using Cellular phones but in February of this year, 70% people have become



LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid is presenting Souviner to Regional Manager of Pakistan Mobile Communication Shoukat Ali Mayo at LCCI.

the part of this circle.

The LCCI Senior Vice President said that government should continue to improve telecommunication system of the country by adopting latest technologies that would help businesses make their operations more effective.

Earlier, the LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Regional Manager of Pakistan

Mobile Communications Ltd signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of their respective organizations.

According to the agreement, the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Pakistan Mobile Communications Ltd. will form a business relationship whereby LCCI members will be able to avail certain discounts at all facilities of PMCL.

خدمت میں عظمت ٹرسٹ

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- مختلف ہسپتالوں میں مستحق مریضوں کے لیے ادویات اور میڈیکل ٹیسٹوں میں امداد فراہم کرنا۔
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- مریم یوسف فری ہومیو پیتھک کلینک کا قیام
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“Look Africa Trade Forum” at LCCI

Group photo of LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, LCCI former President Sohail Lashari, Executive Committee Members Shahid Nazir, Ch. Tahir Manzoor and former Executive Committee Member Zafar Mehmood with African Countries Diplomats at LCCI.

Pakistan needs to show strong presence in huge African market to take full advantage of its infinite potential. African destination not only has precious reserves of oil and gold but various other sectors have a lot to offer Pakistan.

These views were expressed by the diplomats from Africa. High Commissioner of Kenya Professor Julius Kibet Bitok, High Commissioner of Nigeria General (Retd) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi, Ambassador of Sudan Tageldin Elhadi Eltahir, Ambassador of Somali Khadija Mohammed Al-Makhzoumi and High Commissioner of Mauritius Rasid Ally Soobadar while speaking at “Look Africa Trade Forum” joint organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and TDAP. The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, DG TDAP Riaz Ahmad, Sohail Lashari, Zafar Mahmood, Amjad Ali Jawa, Executive Committee Members and Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce Maria Qazi spoke on the occasion. Diplomats said that Pakistan’s trade with Africa is minor that should be enhanced. They said that establishment of new commercial sections in Africa can help in this regard. They said that Pakistani pharmaceutical, textile, agriculture, rice, wheat and cement have a lot of scope in African market.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that Pakistani products can easily make way to Africa which is world’s second-largest and second-most populous continent. He said that the trade analysis of last two years shows that overall trade of Pakistan with different African countries is following decreasing trend as both imports and exports

are falling. From 2015 to 2016, the value of overall trade decreased from dollar 3.23 billion to dollar 2.91 billion on account of 15.7% fall in exports and 4.7% fall in imports from Africa.

He said Pakistan needs to make concerted efforts to reverse this trend. It can be made possible with efforts done by private sector coupled with some assistance provided by the respective embassies of African group and relevant public organizations of our country. He said we have been emphasizing on product and market diversification. Pakistani business community should be made aware of it that there are incalculable market opportunities available in Africa. Look Africa Trade Forum can serve as a good source for networking.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that African countries can greatly benefit from Pakistan’s experience and expertise in the fields of infrastructure development, agriculture, auto-parts, light engineering, pharmaceuticals, banking and information technology. Pakistan’s education sector, particularly professional institutes can provide excellent opportunities and venues to the students belonging to the African countries to learn modern sciences and arts. He said the specific role of embassies cannot be ignored at all in this connection. With the help of influence and unique importance of embassies, things can be turned towards a certain direction for ensuring mutual benefits. Similarly, when CPEC gets fully functional, it will also cut down transit time and transportation charges to send exports via sea route to Africa.



Pakistan soon be in top-10 trading partners of Italy: Italian Ambassador

Group photo of LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil with Ambassador of Italy H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo at LCCI. Executive Committee Members Chaudhry Khadam Hussain, Tahir Manzoor, Shahid Nazir, Awais Saeed Piracha, Shahrukh Jamal Butt, Tehmina Saeed Chaudhry, Nabila Intisar and former LCCI E.C Members Raja Hamid Raiz, Ch. Wajid Ali and other members are also present.

Ambassador Italy Stefano PONTECORVO has said that Pakistan will be in the top-10 trading partners of Italy by the end of this year. Traders of both countries should be “the one” to take mutual trade to new heights.

He was talking to the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Executive Committee Members here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Convener LCCI Standing Committee on Pak-Italy Trade & Marble Industry Chaudhry Khadam Hussain, Awais Saeed Piracha, Mian Muhammad Nawaz, Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Adeb Iqbal Sheikh, Tehmina Saeed Chaudhry, Shahid Nazir, Shahrukh Jamal, Sheikh Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Chaudhry were also present. “We have set the basis for strong position for Italian presence in Pakistan”, the Italian Ambassador said and added that more Italian companies from Energy, Steel, Chemicals, mining and various other sectors are planning to start operations in Pakistan. He said Pakistan should take benefit from technological advancement of Italy. Italy’s per meter value addition in textile is highest in the world and it is producing 100% energy from renewable resources. He said that Italy is establishing three centers of excellence and an initial amount of \$ 1.2 million has been allocated for this purpose.

Italian Ambassador also called for exchange of trade delegation and participation in trade fairs & exhibitions on reciprocal basis.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that Italy is an important trading partner of Pakistan in Europe which simultaneously comes at 4th place among the top importing and exporting destinations for Pakistan in European Union. He said that the balance of trade favors

Pakistan and it is encouraging to see that volume of bilateral trade is being maintained over one billion dollar. We wish to maintain this favorable trend and also enhance the volume of two way trade with the help and cooperation of individuals like you.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that the worth of bilateral trade of Pakistan with Italy slightly increased from dollar 1.1 billion in 2015 to dollar 1.2 billion in 2016. The rise in trade volume is due to the increase in both imports and exports. The exports of Pakistan has increased from dollar 618 million to dollar 667 million and the imports from dollar 443 million to dollar 528 million from the year 2015 to 2016.

He said that Pakistan’s main exports to Italy include bedlinen, woven fabrics of cotton, articles of apparel, leather items, rice, footwear, and cotton etc. Pakistan imports pharmaceutical products, organic chemicals, electrical machinery, mineral fuels and articles of plastics etc., from Italy.

“It is really good to see that Italian investors and businessmen are taking interest in fashion and marble sectors of Pakistan in particular. If Italy could help Pakistan get the latest technology required in these sectors then we can perform much better which in a way would also benefit Italy”, Malik Tahir Javaid said.

He said that Pakistani business community want to develop a close liaison with the Italian Trade Commission office in Pakistan in order to exchange important information related to trade queries. Under CPEC, special economic zones are being built up. If Italian companies take interest in these zones then Pakistan can become a lucrative destination for them. We expect you to play active role in this connection.

LCCI chief suggests ways to boost Pak-Finland trade



Group of LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil with Honorary Consul General of Pakistan to Finland H.E Wille Eerola. LCCI Executive Committee Members Ch. Tahir Manzoor, Shahbaz Aslam former LCCI E.C Member Adnan Khalid Butt, Zahid Maqsood Butt, Raja Adeel Ashfaq, Syed Mukhtar Ali, Shahzad Aslam, Arshad Baig and other members are also present.

Two-way trade between Pakistan and Finland is losing its momentum from the last three years which must be reverted. In 2014, the volume of total trade was dollar 121 million that dipped to dollar 90 million in 2016.

These views were expressed by the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid while talking to the honorary Consul General of Pakistan to Finland Wille Eerola here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil, Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Shahbaz Aslam, Adnan Khalid Butt, Raja Adeel Ashfaq, Syed Mukhtar Ali and others were also present on the occasion.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that in 2014, Pakistan exported goods to Finland worth dollar 60 million which dropped to dollar 27 million in 2016. It will not be wrong to say that such a low level of two-way trade does not reflect the actual potential of trade between two countries.

He said that business communities on both sides need to improve their linkages and the frequency of general, multi-sectoral and sector-specific exchanges. Similarly, in order to explore and capitalize on all present and future bilateral trade opportunities, we have to keep regular follow up.

The LCCI President said that joint venture opportunities exist in the field of power generation and for development of biomass technology. He said Finnish equipment and

technologies can help exploit Pakistan's full potential in agriculture, horticulture, dairy and livestock sectors. The LCCI President suggested that it is necessary that both countries have access to each other's markets to further expand commercial and economic ties. This will definitely lead both sides to a more strengthened and stable economic partnership. He said that LCCI values to have greater interaction with Finnish counterparts in order to develop close linkages.

He said that Pakistan can partner with Finnish technological think tank for development of technological industry in Pakistan. He said that over 400 Finnish companies are currently operating in South Asian Region and had made substantial investment in the last ten years in this part of the world and business community here is of strong hope that more Finnish investors would divert their attention towards Pakistan in coming days.

Wille Eerola said that Finland and Pakistan have a huge scope to expand relations in various sectors of the economy therefore the private sector in Pakistan should enhance its interaction with Finnish counterparts. He said that the existing trade volume between Pakistan and Finland is enough to make the point that both sides have multifaceted and strong trade ties. He said a number of Finnish companies had already recognized Pakistan's potential and are working here.

FTA between Turkey & Pakistan well on the way: Turkish Envoy



Group photo of LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil with Ambassador of Turkey H.E. Inshan Mustafa Yurdukal at LCCI. LCCI former Presidents Bashir A. Buksh, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Executive Committee Members Shahbaz Aslam, Awais Saeed Pirach, Adeeb Iqbal Sheikh, Muhammad Khaliq Arshad former E.C Members Rizwan Akhtar Shamishi, Ghulam Sarwar Malik and others are also present.

Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Yurdukal has said that friendly and cordial relations between Turkey and Pakistan should be translated into trade and economic ties.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil, Bashir A. Baksh, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Awais Saeed Piracha, Adeeb Iqbal Sheikh, Shahbaz Aslam and Rizwan Akhter Shamsi also spoke on the occasion.

Turkish Ambassador agreed with the LCCI President that the volume of bilateral trade between both countries is 497 Million dollars only which is very low. It should be exceeded through joint efforts and close contacts between the businessmen of the two countries. He said that Free Trade Agreement between the two countries is under-negotiation. Trade will jump once FTA is finalized. He said that Pakistan especially Lahore is an investment hub for the Turkish investors.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that Pakistan and Turkey have long historical ties and both the countries have been cooperating with each other since long for mutual benefits. He said that governments as well as the private sectors of the two countries are taking keen interest in developing close relations between Pakistan and Turkey. He said Pakistan's exports to Turkey are constantly decreasing since 2011 when it reached dollar 756 million. In 2016, the value of total exports to Turkey reached down to USD 237 million. As far as imports from Turkey to Pakistan are concerned, these have been ranging between USD 160 million to USD 260 million from the year 2011 to 2016. Hence the total volume of bilateral trade is around dollar 497 million in 2016.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that Pakistan mainly exports cotton, plastic and articles, articles of apparel and clothing (knitted and non-knitted), other made up textile articles and cereals etc., to Turkey. He said as we all know that

the Turkey-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement is under-negotiation. This FTA can potentially help us in increasing the bilateral trade to USD 4 billion from the current level of USD 497 million. In order to achieve this objective, elimination in tariffs along with the concerns regarding non-tariff barriers need to be addressed in the FTA. With the implementation of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) both countries will come closer to each other and will open a new horizon in economic and commercial ties.

He further said Pakistan is known worldwide for producing unique variety of carpets, which includes both machine made and hand knotted. Similarly auto parts manufacturers of Pakistan are producing wide variety of spare parts which can be exported to various destinations in Turkey due to their good quality and international standards.

He said the Turkish Ambassador can play important role in encouraging Turkish firms to invest in Pakistan. For example, the power sector, oil & gas exploration, leather industry, sports goods, auto parts are some areas which may attract Turkish investors. Presently, the volume of Turkish investment in Pakistan stands at USD 900 million which can be increased to manifold to ensure win-win situation for both the countries. He said that Turkey is well positioned to take advantage of Pakistan's economic potential and its geo-strategic location.

Former President LCCI Bashir A. Baksh acknowledged the Turkish ambassador for visiting Lahore and requested to work for FTA. Another request was to work on Train service from Istanbul to Lahore. As transportation by sea route is much longer and time consuming.

Former President LCCI Shahid Hassan Sheikh also requested the Turkish ambassador to work for FTA as far as possible. He said that the taxes on Garments and Carpets exports are so high which should be decreased. He also invited Turkish investors to work in Educational sector of Pakistan. As there is plenty of work is needed.

UAE Ambassador-LCCI chief for more trade between the two countries



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid is presenting LCCI souvenir to Ambassador of UAE H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi. LCCI Vice President Zeshan Khalil, former Senior Vice President Amjad Ali Jawa, former Vice President Aftab Ahmad Vohra, LCCI Executive Committee Members Faheem ur Rehman Sehgal, Muhammad Khaleeque Arshad, Dr. Shahid Raza, Muhammad Naem Hanif, Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Ch. Aurangzeb Aslam and Moazzam Rasheed are also present.

Ambassador of UAE H.E Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi has said that Pakistan and UAE have historic friendly relations and close bond of common faith. Both countries should draw a roadmap to cement mutual trade and economic ties.

He was talking to the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Executive Committee Members at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The Ambassador said that exchange of trade delegations, participation in each other's fairs and exhibitions, protection to foreign investments and timely dissemination of trade related informed would now be pursued with a new strategy. He said that such visits will help strengthen greater cooperation between the two sides. He said that UAE greatly values its deep-rooted relations with Pakistan and committed to further consolidate the existing economic ties.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that Pakistan really eager to make best use of each other's strength and UAE Embassy in Pakistan can play vital role in this connection. He said that Pakistan and UAE are members of Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States and both countries have close, friendly, and cooperative relations. He said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry would arrange a trade delegation for UAE soon to find out new avenues for mutual cooperation. He called for establishment of display centers for Pakistani products in UAE and also urged for restriction free exports of Pakistani pharmaceutical sector to UAE.

He said 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. The balance of trade has always been in favour of UAE because major share of imports made from UAE consist of oils. He said that there was a dip in bilateral trade from 2014 to 2015 but in 2016, almost 5% increase

was registered in it because of 8% rise in total imports made by Pakistan from UAE. When the value of imports went up to dollar 6,202 million, it brought bilateral trade to dollar 6,987 million.

The LCCI President said that change could have been greater if there was rise in Pakistan's exports to UAE. The value of our exports contracted by 13% and remained limited to dollar 785 million. He said that UAE used to be the largest destination of Pakistani exports. In 2012, the magnitude of Pakistan exports peaked to dollar 2,873 million but after that there was witnessed a consistent fall. It is a matter of concern for us and we are keen to revive the same level.

"It is important to mention that UAE applied 5% VAT on all the trading commodities. There are many Pakistani products that are traded through UAE as a third country and this tax has slashed our competitiveness. If some relaxation is given to Pakistan in this connection then there can be significant improvement in our exports to UAE", Malik Tahir Javaid added.

He said that 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.

The LCCI President said that the workers' remittances play a substantial role in strengthening the balance of payment of Pakistan. UAE comes at second place after Saudi Arabia with regards to receiving highest amount of foreign remittances. There was 6.7% fall seen in foreign remittances in October 2017 as compared to the corresponding month i.e. October 2016. If there are some issues relating to Pakistani labour working there, these can be discussed and resolved.

At the end, the LCCI Vice President Zeshan Khalil presented the vote of thanks.

Non Taxpayers Perception



Mr. Kashif Anwar
LCCI Former Vice President

It is very important in current economic conditions of Pakistan to increase the tax base and enhance revenue collection to cater the appreciating fiscal deficits. As per the general public point of view the main focus of tax departments is revenue collection and not the expansion of tax base.

tax on withdrawal of cash is again a tool of revenue collection.

In order to differentiate the filer from non-filer, a filer must not be charged any tax on withdrawal of cash. It is the responsibility of the department to increase the number of tax payers and give the filers due respect.

A person can become filer in income tax law by submitting his annual income tax return and majority is of retailers and individuals. However, a sales tax registered person has to register himself under both income tax law and sales tax act 1990. The majority among them is of manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, dealers and distributors. It is mandatory for manufacturers and exporters to make their supplies to sales tax registered persons to get relief from extra 2% sales tax for unregistered persons and make supplies at normal 17% sales tax rate. Similarly, a manufacturer has to deduct 0.5% withholding tax on supplies made to retailers and 0.1% tax on supplies made to wholesalers, dealers and distributors. If the department cannot expand the income tax base, how a manufacturer and exporters can find a sales tax registered person and make their supplies to them. It is a pity that the retailers and individuals are not duty bound to justify their purchases in returns.

Due to non-consistency of our policies, the public is normally afraid of the mini budgets which come after the annual budget. A Pakistani resident is not confident regarding changes in laws and cannot forecast regarding his investments and planning in business. As in last amnesty, tax payers show their maximum turnovers in returns but in the budget 2017-18, the turnover limit for minimum tax 1% was reduced from 50Mn to 10Mn. However there should be no limit to turnover and tax rate must be decreased with the increase in turnover in order to document the maximum undocumented sector. Such policies hurt the trust level of public on State departments.

Individuals out of tax net feel themselves very comfortable that they are not being examined and questioned by the tax departments but they are ignorant of the fact that all their financial activities are being recorded and can be used against them anytime in future. As a true Pakistani everyone must register themselves in the tax net but it is not possible until the tax departments will divert their focus from registered persons to nonregistered persons and justify the benefits of coming into the tax net to non-filers.

It is a bitter reality that the compliance of law has become very difficult and is for those who are in the tax net like audits, submission of statements, returns, maintenance of record etc. Whole of the tax machinery is after the mistakes of registered persons and seemed least interested in expanding the tax net. The revenue collection is being increased many folds just by increasing tax rates and squeezing the existing taxpayers.

On the other hand, due to lack to awareness and literacy no one is fully aware of the daily changes in tax laws. A filer is always under the fear of being questioned by the tax authorities. As per the new audit policy, a person who has an NTN is eligible for audit and an audit of an individual or company can be opened several times under different sections of the same fiscal year.

Under such situation my question is who will register himself for the tax net? In my opinion audits are also very important for maintaining books properly and to prevent yourselves from further mistakes but after audits you should be guided and not penalized. The criteria for being selected for audit must be clear and some framework must be made to make the audit for facilitation, education and guidance.

Due to the current policies many non-filers have started filing NILL income tax returns to avail the benefits of a taxpayer by showing their presence on the Active Taxpayer List of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and save them self from extra withholding taxes. On the other hand it is also true that they do not declare their income as per their expenditures. However, when a person has submitted his return, why there is a restriction for him to withdraw Rs.50,000 cash only from bank per day without tax deduction. The filer has to withheld 0.3% and non-filer has to withheld 0.4% tax if the withdrawal of cash from bank increases from Rs.50,000 per day. Withholding

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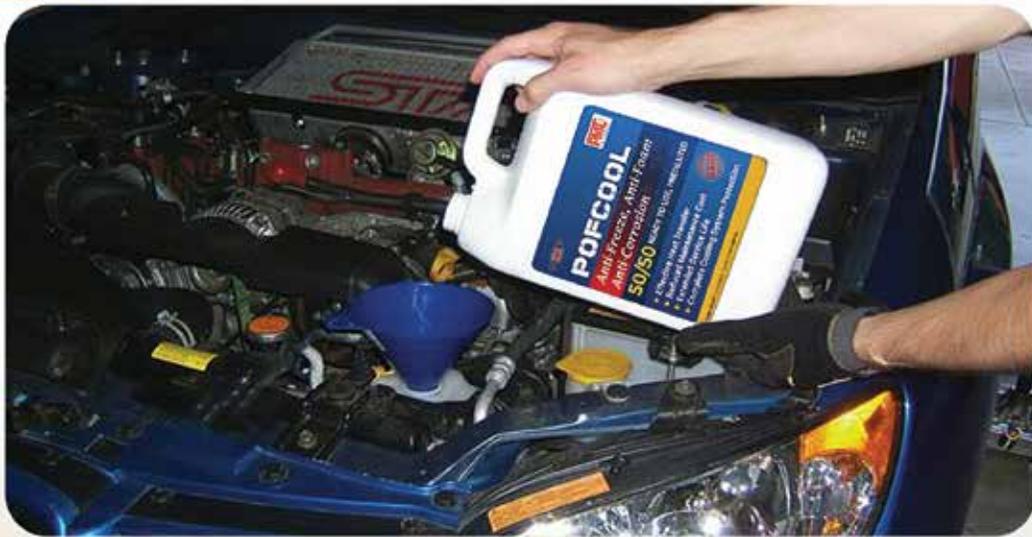


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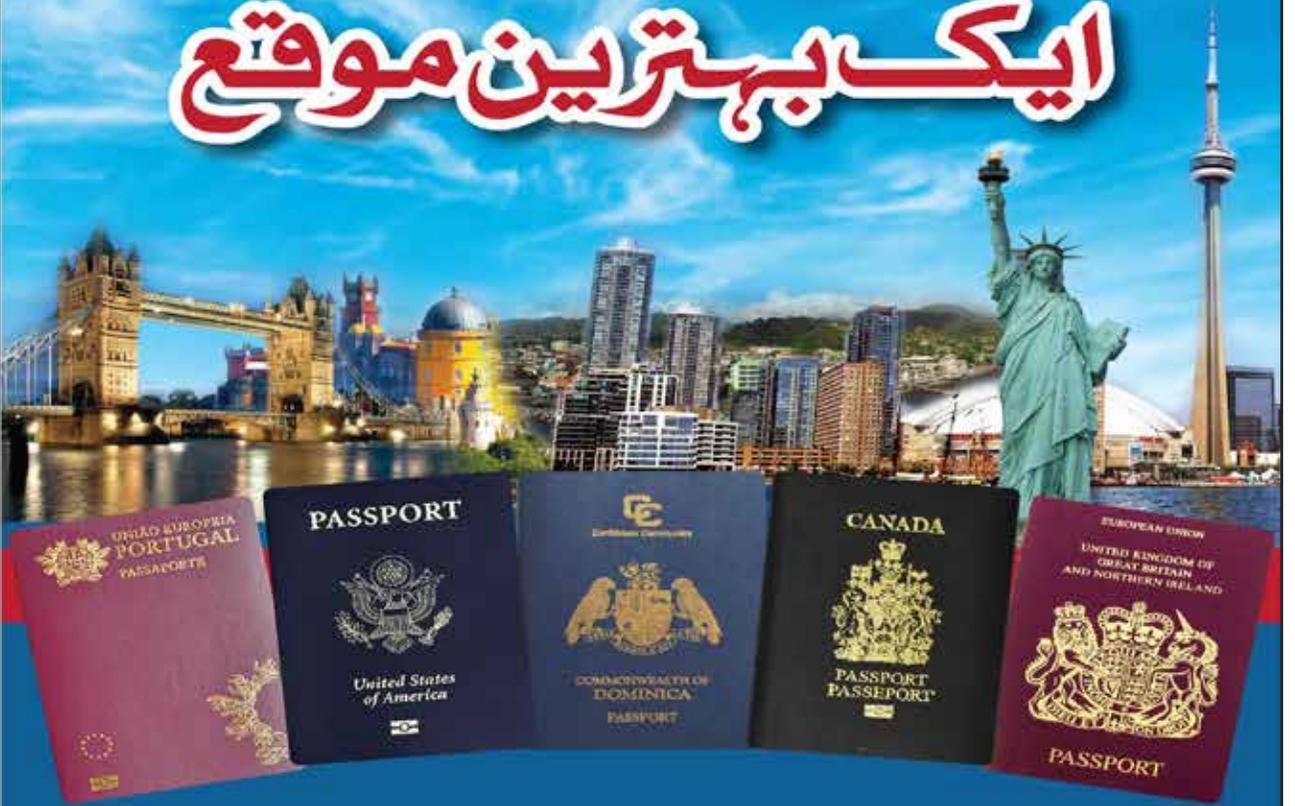
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India and Pakistan should have future different



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil in a meeting with Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria. Secretary General Shahid Khalil is also present.

Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria has said that India and Pakistan should have future different from the past and must not carry the burden of history. Mutual relations should be built on the basis of trade and economy and must be away from violence and war. We should not talk about negative and positive lists rather we should work on the windows of opportunities.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Executive Committee Members also spoke on the occasion.

Indian High Commissioner said that there is no better way of improving bilateral relations than mutually beneficial economic ties. He said that both Pakistan and India needed to take more steps to remove Non-Tariff Barriers that were a major impediment to bilateral trade relations. He said that at present over \$ 5 billion trade is being done through third country. He said that removal of non-tariff barriers, liberalization of visa and normalization of mutual relation can bring the two-way trade to the height of \$ 30 billion. He said that two-third

population of India is below the age of 35 and same is in Pakistan as 65% people of Pakistan are under the age of 35. He said that both countries have a lot of potential to cater to each other.

“Chambers of Commerce & Industry of both countries are the most important lobby as not only they can play an instrumental role in strengthening mutual trade and economic ties but they can also influence the policy makers”, Indian High Commissioner concluded.

The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that at present, an unfavourable scenario has developed both at political and diplomatic fronts. We have been witnessing these cycles time and again that first there is a trust deficit and some joint efforts are made for trust building then a bad incident happens and we end up yet again at trust deficit. One such incident must not halt the process of relation building. He said that both countries should give the peace another chance to prevail in the region for our youth and coming generations.

“In this context, we – the representatives of private sector – think that both Pakistan and India have to show a lot of maturity and act very sensibly. We believe that

people to people contacts can play effective role in dispelling the wrong perception about each other”, the LCCI President added.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that there are a number of issues prevailing at both the sides in the way of normalization of trade links between two key members of SAARC region. He said that regional trade is significant which cannot promise any good results until Pakistan and India join hands with futuristic approach. It is high time that greater trade between two countries should be given a fair chance to contribute in the prospects of region for peace and prosperity.

The LCCI President said that trade in the region constitutes only 1.4% of the total world imports and 1.2% of exports, whereas merchandise trade is only 27.9% of GDP, the lowest in the world. South Asia is the least integrated region in the world. One reason is trust deficit amongst the neighbouring countries but the other important factor is poor connectivity.

He said that for India it would be 20% cheaper to trade with Brazil than with Pakistan. For better trade relations countries have to invest in confidence building measures as well as on connectivity. He said that from the

last couple of years, the bilateral trade is averaging around dollar 2 billion whereas it is estimated that India and Pakistan have a potential for trade of something between dollar 10-20 billion. Unless we pave the way for commercial importers and exporters, the businessmen from both sides will continue to opt trading via Dubai & Singapore etc. This only adds to cost and time factor.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that chambers of commerce from Pakistani and

Indian sides have to play a sensible role to facilitate their members with regard to developing networking amongst each other. He said that India is an established brand for offering world class healthcare facility. These facilities are using the same technology delivered by competent specialists attaining similar success rates as in developed world at much lower costs. India has emerged as a leader in medical tourism. These services should always be available for

the Pakistani patients on humanitarian grounds and LCCI offers its services for this noble cause.

The LCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil also called for joint efforts for trade normalization and for removing of non-trade barriers. They suggested establishment of a common area at border where businessmen of the both countries can meet each other for business deals.

Soaring dollar prices ring alarming bells: LCCI

The Lahore chamber of Commerce & Industry has demanded of the State Bank of Pakistan to control rapid surge in dollar price through strict measures otherwise Pak rupee devaluation will give a big blow to the economy.

“Inter-bank US Dollar rate is ringing alarming bells and calling for immediate attention of State Bank of Pakistan to avoid economic crisis. Rupee devaluation would be the last straw on the back of camel as external debts are already around \$ 89 billion, exports are stagnant, trade deficit is swelling”, the LCCI Acting President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Executive Committee Members said in a statement.

They said that after a short span, dollar has once again started to crush Pak rupee that will reignite high inflation and halt growth by hitting all the important sectors of economy.

“US dollar price against rupee was Rs.4.76 in 60s, Rs.59.30 in 2005 and reached touched the heights level during the current financial year. Soaring dollar price led to trade deficit, import costs, hike in POL prices etc”, the LCCI office-bearers said.

They said that the recent surge in the prices of the greenback would jack-up the input cost that would hit the export-oriented industries hard.

The LCCI President said that the State Bank of Pakistan needs to ascertain the factors weakening the value of rupee and check the possibilities of undue speculations and malpractices in the operation of foreign exchange markets in Pakistan. This will help stabilize rupee and restore the confidence of the business community.

They said that an unchecked increase in the dollar rates is multiplying the cost of doing business and badly

affecting the industrial, manufacturing and agriculture sectors as Pakistan has to import fertilizers, food items, oil, machinery and industrial raw material.

The office-bearers said that the government should take immediate measures to arrest further devaluation of rupee to avoid more damaging consequences for the economy. They said though the weaker rupee benefits the exporters by giving them more rupees per dollar, but this benefit is neutralized by the costly imported inputs of manufacturing sector including textiles thus eroding the financial advantage of a weaker rupee.

The LCCI office-bearers said that the economy was already under tremendous pressure owing to multiple internal and external challenges it has been facing for the last many years.

They said that an acute energy shortage and heavy government borrowing is mother of all economic ills. They said that the government observed a little restraint; the economic situation would have been quite encouraging. They said that today all sectors of economy are in trouble and a further fall in value of rupee will cause more contraction in economic activities leading to a drastic cut in the tax revenue for government.

The LCCI office-bearers said that if the greenback continues its upward flight, it will certainly inflate import bill besides lowering the competitiveness of Pakistan’s business and industry. Therefore, government should get quickly into action to arrest this dangerous trend. The LCCI President suggested to the government to immediately review its energy plan, introduce institutional reforms and curtail non-development expenditures for the sake of country’s economy and its people.





Group photo of LCCI president Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil with Provincial Minister for Industries Sheikh Alauddin at LCCI. Executive Committee Members and Secretary General are also present.

Minister ensures relief to traders of Multan, McLeod

Provincial Minister for Industries Sheikh Alauddin has ensured relief to the businessmen of Multan Road and McLeod Road saying that their issues would be taken up with the Chief Minister Punjab. He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil, Muhammad Arshad Chaudhry, Bao Bashir, Mian Muhammad Nawaz, Fahim ur Rehman Saigol and Awais Saeed Piracha spoke on the occasion.

Representatives of Multan Road Industrial Association informed the minister that demolition of industries for the sake of Hadyara Drain Project is not a good plan as it would not only deprive thousands of people of their jobs but would also air a negative message to the investors. They said that demolition of industries at Multan road would hit economy of

the province hard besides applying reverse gear to the government efforts aimed at progress and prosperity. They said that government should shelve the plan as not only the industry but government would also be the loser as closure of hundreds of industrial units of Multan Road would cause huge lose to the national exchequer in term of taxes and utility bills etc.

The Minister said that business community is the backbone of the economy and their issues will be taken up with the Chief Minister Punjab at the earliest.

On the occasion, the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid formed two committees to settle down the issues of the businessmen of Multan Road and McLeod Road. The committee for the businessmen of Multan Road will have Sheikh Alauddin, Malik Tahir Javaid, Muhammad Arshad Chaudhry, Shahzad Azam Khan and Tahir Qadeer while the other will have

Sheikh Alauddin, Malik Tahir Javaid, Muhammad Talat and Shahzad Khan in their folds.

The LCCI President said that reservations of the business community must be addressed to ensure a business-friendly atmosphere in the country.

He said Punjab is the linchpin of Pakistan's economy and it has highest contribution in the GDP of the country. The industrial sector of Punjab consists of large scale and small scale manufacturing, mining and construction etc. As per the study recently conducted by LCCI, the share of Punjab in the national value added in Large Scale Manufacturing fell slightly from 49.3% to 48.9% during 2010-11 to 2014-15. However, Punjab has dominating presence in Small Scale Manufacturing with a share of 71% in national value added. Due to consistent boom in construction industry, the share of Punjab has

significantly increased from 58% in 2010-11 to 75% in 2014-15.

He said over the course of our economic history, the different experiments with federal and provincial industrial policies led to low industrial growth in Pakistan. Similarly, the industry which is paying its taxes judiciously is facing trust deficit. It is need of the hour to stimulate industrial growth, leading to higher GDP growth.

The LCCI President further stated that the industrial policy of Punjab province should incentivize the industry to move up the technology ladder. It will be even better that the industrial policy should focus on private sector led investment strategy which must lead to greater private

investments in mega projects. This would balance the effect of crowding out private sector in terms of getting the bank credit. Furthermore, the banks should arrange sufficient funds for industrial credit rather than focusing more on short term financing to general consumers.

He said that the prices of plots in industrial estates and the opportunity cost of setting up hi-tech industry are fairly high. Foreign investors are taking Pakistan as a case of premature de-industrialization. In this scenario, the government should provide basic infrastructure to private sector on lease so that the pace of industrialization could be increased. Malik Tahir Javaid said that for the swift implementation

of these requirements in industrial sector, the discretionary powers of the government officials be curtailed and the role of chambers of commerce and trade associations should be enhanced.

The LCCI President said that many of our members are having industrial units on the main roads of city which were established around Lahore under Rural Industrial Scheme. Our proposal was favourably considered that these industries should be regularized at their existing locations. The Secretary Industries has agreed in this connection and submitted a report to provincial government for approval. We are still waiting for the required notification.

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LESCO to establish “Help Desk” at LCCI



LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeshan Khalil are presenting LCCI Souvener to Chief Executive LESCO Mujahid Pervaiz Chattah. LCCI Executive Committee Member Mian Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Bashir, Ch Muhammad Arshad and other members are also presents.

On demand of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Chief Executive of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Mujahid Pervaiz Chattah has announced to establish “LESCO Help Desk” at the LCCI. The announcement was made during a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which was also addressed by the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid, Senior Vice President Khawaja Khawar Rashid, Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Executive Committee Members.

The LESCO Chief also agreed with the LCCI President that mindset of LESCO staff should be changed that to get resolved various problems automatically. “LESCO really needs change in mindset and I am doing a lot in this regard along with my dedicated team”, he added.

To a question, LESCO chief said that depreciation ratio on transformers is 5% annually. It is policy of NEPRA and LESCO has approached for a reasonable change. He said that system for purchasing of meters has been changed after establishment of NEPRA. Before LESCO was able to negotiate but now contract has to be given the lowest bidder. He said action has been taken against the supplier of low quality meters and hopefully situation would be better in the days to come.

About load shedding at commercial feeders, Mujahid Pervaiz Chattah said that all industrial feeders are being checked to avoid unscheduled load shedding. He said that there are some problems due to load shifting. He said that technical and commercial losses are the reasons of minor power cuts. “We have taken oath to get rid of the over billing. We are controlling line losses and have also launched an effective campaign against electricity theft. We have uncovered power theft at 15 tube wells in a day at

Ferozewala”, the LESCO chief told the house and added that that LESCO is working aggressively at technical side to control the flaws. He said that 17 new grid stations have been established and upgraded. Two grid stations have been made double source with the cost of Rs.1 billion.

Earlier, the LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid said that the cost of new transformers is borne by consumers but when these are replaced or removed, the LESCO team claims the ownership. Moreover, the depreciation of transformers is calculated at the rate of 10% per annum. In case, the industry remains closed for a year even then depreciation is applied.

He said that in case, the load is increased and new transformer is purchased, the old transformer should be handed over to the consumer. He should be allowed to use that transformer somewhere else or LESCO should purchase it from the consumer to compensate his cost. He said that if the consumer is responsible for a damaged meter then he should bear the cost of new meter. In case, a meter has got damaged or malfunctioned due to rain, loose connection or negligence of LESCO staff then the cost of replacing new meter should be borne by LESCO.

The LCCI President said that our members are complaining about low quality of meters being installed by LESCO. Any malfunctioning in these meters, which has nothing to do with consumers, results in heavy penalties. LESCO should arrange reliable and durable meters which meet all the quality standards.

He said that the industry is exempted from load shedding even then there are some industrial feeders where at least 2 hours duration load shedding is being done. The industry is already facing crisis situation and working

hard to enhance the exports of country. It is suggested that load shedding should only be done after 8 p.m. so that 90% of industry which runs their operation in morning shift does not get suffered.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that LESCO makes necessary adjustment in bills upon receiving income tax exemption certificates. However, in the bills of June which are due in July, the same taxes are included. As fiscal year ends in June, therefore, the exemption is applied on bills of June as well. He said that there are still some issues of meter reading being faced by industry. It is suggested that only experienced and skilled staff members should be allocated in industrial areas for this job. If possible, we can introduce meter reading cards to be placed in factories to keep the record of meter reading.

“Many problems can be curtailed if there is a specific timeline for addressing each issue. In case of general complaint, meter replacement, transformer up-gradation, new connections, we must be able to track the status of our applications. You should ensure that SOPs must be followed to improve the performance of LESCO. It is strongly suggested that there should be more focus on preventive maintenance of LESCO installations. By way of following the schedule of general maintenance, the

issues like tripping and down-time can be reduced”, the LCCI president added.

Malik Tahir Javaid said that LESCO also needs to launch Electricity Saving campaign in Lahore to create awareness among the consumers about the use of energy. Consumers are to be educated for using particular electric gadgets which are energy efficient.

We need to change the mindset of LESCO support staff. From Chief Engineers to meter readers, all the staff members should practice professionalism with full responsibility and customer care attitude”, the LCCI President concluded.

Senior Vice President LCCI Khawaja Khawar Rashid and Vice President Zeeshan Khalil said that complaint centers do not seriously respond to the complaints of customers. They said that LESCO should introduce Solar System at local level. They said that electricity shut downs due to maintenance have also become a routine of LESCO but no maintenance work has been seen anywhere in the city.

Mian Muhammad Nawaz, Shahid Nazir Ch, Aziz ur Rehman Chan, Muhammad Arshad Chaudhry, Mian Abdul Razaq, Bao Bashir, Javed Iqbal Bhati, Khaliq Arshad and others were also present on the occasion.

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Group photo of LCCI President Malik Tahir Javaid with Members of Standing Committee on Air-Conditioning



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