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## CHAMBER NEWS



Mr. Kashif Anwar, President LCCI, Mr. Cao Ke, Acting Consul General of China, Mr. Zafar Mehmood Ch, Senior Vice President, Mr. Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President and LCCI Executive Committee Members cutting the cake on the occasion of 74th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China organized at LCCI.



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## Lahore Chamber News

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Rashid Yaqoob Editor Coordination

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# LCCI organizes People's Republic of China Anniversary Event

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry celebrated the 74th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The spectacular ceremony was attended by Acting Consul General of China Cao Ke and LCCI President Kashif Anwar spoke on the occasion while Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce Chen Qianijang, Vice President Pakistan

Chinese Federation He Yubing, Vice President Pakistan Chinese Chamber Chen Qianjiang, President Pakistan Tax Bar Association Rana Munir Hussain and LCCI Executive Committee Members were also present. Acting Consul General of China, Cao Ke, emphasized the significance of Lahore as a pivotal city and lauded the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its commendable efforts in promoting trade and industry. He expressed a strong desire for knowledge sharing and technology transfer

between China and LCCI, highlighting the importance of mutual learning. Furthermore, Cao Ke noted that this year marks the 10th anniversary of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative, along with the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He underscored CPEC's transformative impact on Pakistan's economy, with a substantial \$24.4 billion investment. Cao Ke also emphasized the commitment of the leadership of the Com-







munist Party of China, the Chinese people, and President Xi Jinping in modernizing and socializing China and said that China is committed to uphold global peace. He pledged continued support for Pakistani businesses, facilitating their participation in events such as the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Canton Fair.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that it has been great honour for all of us to have the opportunity to host very important Chinese business leaders in this event who are not only represent-

Enduring friendship between Pakistan and China cornerstone of our foreign policy, says

**Kashif Anwar** 

ing the key business support organizations in Pakistan but also doing excellent job for bringing the business people from both the countries close to each other.

He extended warmest congratulations to all the Chinese friends who celebrated their National Day on 1st October 2023. This day signifies not only the birth of a great nation but also a reminder of their remarkable journey towards making excellent progress in almost all fields of life. We applaud the achievements and advancements that China has made, serving as an







inspiration to other nations across the globe.

The LCCI President said that the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China began in 1950 which brought two countries very close as dependable strategic allies and trustworthy neighbours. The enduring friendship between Pakistan and China is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. This friendship is based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for social and economic prosperity. You all will agree with me that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has added great value to these mutual ties.

He said that the 10th Anniversary of CPEC speaks itself about the collective vision of China and Pakistan whose prime aim is to shift the focus from geo-politics to geo-economics. Pakistan's strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East is ideal to transform it into a regional hub for trade, commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture.

Kashif Anwar said that we have already witnessed tremendous infrastructure development in recent years on account of numerous projects being carried out under CPEC. We are pinning great hopes on these partnerships which have already laid solid foundation for transfer of technology and transfer of knowledge from China through direct investments and joint ventures in many sectors of economy.

He said that it is paramount responsibility of organizations like Lahore Chamber of Commerce to play an instrumental role in promoting these partnerships which are not only essential for the development and progress of our respective countries but also important for promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond. The LCCI President hoped that the strong bonding among Lahore Chamber of Commerce, Consulate of China, and Joint Pak-China Business Support Organizations will go a long way in reaping the sweetest fruits of friendship between China and Pakistan. He also mentioned about the Chinese culture that assign a symbol at the beginning of new Chinese Year. On 22 January 2023, 'The Year of the Rabbit' began which is a symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity. I pray that 2023 may prove to be a year of hope for every one of us.



# LOOK AFRICA A GOOD INITIATIVE BY GOP, SAYS NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER



High Commissioner of Nigeria Mohammed Bello Abioye has said that Nigeria is the most populous and biggest economy in Africa and Look Africa by the government of Pakistan is a good initiative for the enhancement of mutual trade and economic ties.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Kashif Anwar presented the address of welcome while Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion.

The High Commissioner, who was on his farewell visit to LCCI, said that Pakistan is my second home and he will continue to facilitate Pakistani businesses in Nigeria.

He said that we are introducing medium of communication between Pakistani and Nigerian business people, in order to increase trade opportunities, the Nigerian High Commission has eased the visa processing.

The HC said that facilitating and fast tracking business activity is what we are working for, and we are trying to en-

## Repatriation of profit from Pakistan easy for investors: **Kashif Anwar**

courage investments in Nigeria.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar appreciated High Commissioner for keeping regular interaction with LCCI. He said that we attach a lot of value while talking about trade and economic relations with Nige-

ria which is one of the largest economies in Africa with GDP touching 500 billion dollars. Kashif Anwar said that as per trade data taken from State Bank of Pakistan, the volume of bilateral was around 117 million dollars in 2021-22 which came down to 52 million dollars in 2022-23.

He said that the main reason of this fall was instant dip in imports from Nigeria which drastically decreased from 50 million dollars to 4 million dollars during that period. In the meantime, the exports from Pakistan to Nigeria also contracted from 67 million dollars to 48 million dollars. These trade trends call for making some serious efforts from private as well as public sectors from both the countries. The LCCI President said that Pakistan's main exports to Nigeria consist of Pharmaceutical products, Tractors & parts and some textile products etc.

On the other hand, Pakistan imports from Nigeria include petroleum gas, cotton and resins etc.

He added that the total global imports of Nigeria are above 60 Billion Dollars while the total exports of Nigeria are above 63 Billion dollars. There is considerable potential for both countries to take the trade volume to at least 1 Billion dollars.

He said that Nigeria imports wheat (worth 2260 million dollars), sanitary fittings (worth 973 million dollars), sugar (worth 844 million dollars), medicaments He said that Pakistan has a thriving IT industry, and Nigeria is rapidly developing its technology sector. Collaboration in information technology, software development, and services can create opportunities for knowledge transfer, joint projects, and software exports. He said that Pakistani IT companies can offer their expertise to Nigerian counterparts, and Nigerian companies can outsource IT services to Pakistani firms. Tourism is another sector where there is immense potential for Joint Ventures.

of a joint economic commission can facilitate discussions, identify opportunities, and address obstacles to bilateral trade and investment. Similarly, we should also make the best use of Income Tax Treaty signed between Pakistan and Nigeria in 1989 for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains. He also mentioned about the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) established by the Government of



(worth 828 million dollars) and frozen fish (worth 678 million dollars). Pakistan has great potential of exporting all these items to Nigeria at much competitive prices.

The LCCI President said that Pakistan and Nigeria can explore opportunities for expanding trade volume. Pakistan is known for its value added textile, rice, leather products, sports goods, carpets and surgical instruments etc., which can be exported to Nigeria. There is also a tremendous room for cooperation between two countries in energy sector.

Kashif Anwar said that strengthening financial cooperation and establishing banking channels can facilitate trade and investment. Encouraging banking and financial institutions from both countries to establish branches or correspondent relationships can facilitate trade finance, investment flows, and easier remittances between Pakistan and Nigeria. He said that repatriation of profit is easy for the foreign investors. He said that regular high-level meet-ups, business delegations, and the establishment

Pakistan to primarily focus on expediting new investments in five areas including Defence, Agriculture, Minerals, Information Technology / Telecommunication and Energy. We hope that you will apprise the investors in Nigeria about SIFC and encourage them to invest in Pakistan in these sectors through Joint Ventures. In addition to that the Government of Punjab is making all out efforts to improve doing business in the province by facilitating international and national investors through one window operation.

# NAB, LCCI ORGANIZE SEMINAR AND WALK ON ANTI-CORRUPTION



A Seminar and walk on the theme of Anti-Corruption held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry which was participated by the people from different walks of life.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Director NAB Imran Sohail and Additional Director Atiya Azmat were prominent amongst the others.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar informed the participants that he has discussed difference between interbank and open market dollar rate, reduction in the rate of sales tax and income tax on electricity bills and grey economy during his meeting with the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir.

He was of the view that the elections should not be held until the Charter of Economy is signed by all the political parties. He said that all stakeholders should be taken on board while formulating trade and economy related policies.

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that

there should be a close liaison between the institutions to get the desired results.

There should be a close liaison between the institutions to get the desired results.

## Kashif Anwar President LCCI

Director NAB Imran Sohail said that NAB is following a three pronged strat-

egy to prevent corruption. The strategy is including awareness, prevention and enforcement. He said that the awareness is the key to stop corruption. Every year anti-corruption day on December 9 is celebrated all over the world. In this regard. NAB has also started campaign. for awareness and prevention in which they are starting awareness sessions in various institutions and universities. Director NAB said that corruption is a multi-dimensional and multi-faceted problem. First of all, we have to develop a sense of avoiding corruption. We are united against corruption. Awareness campaigns are also important so that we can address the root causes of corruption. He said that the chambers can play

the role of the best facilitator in this regard. Advocacy efforts should be done through Chambers. He said that anti-corruption networking should be done. A collective voice can play an effective role against corruption. Collective voice against corruption has impact.

# SEMINAR ON "ROLE OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION & REHABILITATION" AT LCCI



Commander Anti-Narcotics Force Punjab Brigadier Sikandar Hayat Chaudhry said that narcotics is a strategic level epidemic because it is considered an easy way to earn money, so some people are attracted to it.

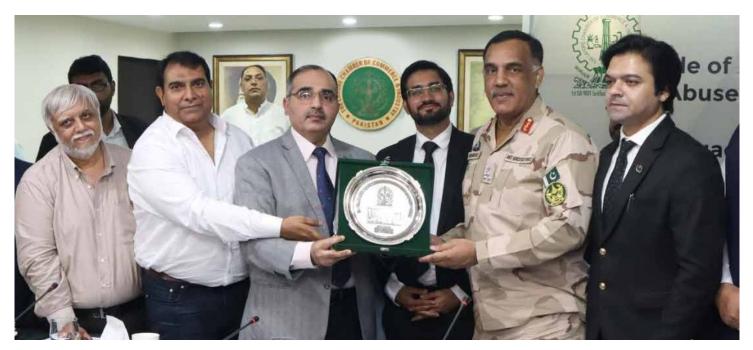
He was speaking at a seminar on "Role of Business Community in Drug Abuse Prevention & Rehabilitation" at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Kashif Anwar presided over the seminar while people from different sectors of the society were present on the occasion. ANF Commander said that according to the UN report, globally 45 people die from terrorism every day, while 570 people die from narcotics in a day. He said that narcotics are therefore a bigger problem than terrorism because it is a silent killer and a huge threat.

The aim of the seminar is to make our society free from addiction through mutual efforts, in which the ANF will prevent the use of drugs.

## Kashif Anwar President LCCI

He said that there is not a single government hospital in the whole of Punjab which is only for drug addicts. In this regard, a detailed discussion was held in the meeting with Chief Secretary and Chief Minister Punjab. The government has assured to provide land for the establishment of hospitals dedicated to the drug addicts.

He said that ANF spends 14 million dollars annually to capture and dispose of 6 billion dollars' worth of narcotics. He said that the business community should actively play its role for this cause. Speaking on the occasion, LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that the aim of the seminar was to make our society free from addiction through mutual efforts, in which the Anti-Narcotics Force will prevent the use of drugs or other types of narcotic substances. He said that it is a matter of concern for all of us that our youth are getting addicted to drugs. We used to hear about ICE or such



synthetic drugs at college and university level but now school children are also falling prey to it. It is very important to take remedial measures otherwise the future of our young generation will be dark.

The LCCI President said that because many synthetic drugs are made from chemicals found in the market, Anti-Narcotics Force either bans or heavily regulates the sale of many chemicals. It is becoming difficult for LCCI members who are attached with the business of chemicals.

He said that the ANF staff should consult with the business community to come up with rules and regulations that will keep the businesses running.

He added that Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry holds a special position in Corporate Social Responsibility across the country. Lahore Chamber has always done relief work for earthquake and flood victims. Apart from this LCCI also patronize an LABARD which works for the rehabilitation of disabled persons. He said that Lahore Chamber donates to many other hospitals and dispensaries including Shalamar Hospital and also provides funds to many educational institutes to provide community services in every way.

He said that Lahore Chamber has also signed more than 60 MOUs

during one year, the main purpose of which is to provide affordable services of health and education to LCCI members.

Kashif Anwar said that awareness campaign should be run for the rehabilitation of drug addicts and the youth should be encouraged to stay away from the scourge of addiction.

He said that just as the Zero Tolerance policy is being implemented to end terrorism, there should be no exemption for drug mafias. People who patronize drug mafias or become their tools are considered as criminals. Punishment should be given so that this scourge can be eradicated from our society completely.



## **KASHIF ANWAR ENVISIONS COLLABORATIVE** MEASURES TO CURB SMOG PROBLEM

### DG EPD highlights smog challenges and solutions at LCCI

Director General of the Environment Protection Department. Zaheer Abbas Malik has promised all out facilitation for the industry. In a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), he emphasized the importance of addressing the smog crisis in Punjab. He stated that the department had meticulously mapped the pollution sources, identifying fugitive dust on the roadsides as a major contributor to smog. To combat this issue, the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC), Lahore Development Authority (LDA), and Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) have joined forces with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to initiate road-sprinkling efforts. President LCCI, Kashif Anwar warmly welcomed the Director General of EPA and stressed the need for collaborative efforts between LCCI and EPA to improve the environment and industry. The DG pointed out that AQI levels tend to rise from Monday, peak on Wednesday, and decrease over the weekends. The aim was to mitigate this midweek peak by introducing a holiday, recognizing the costs of a business closure but also emphasizing the health risks and reduced life expectancy associated with poor AQI.

Furthermore, the DG announced a comprehensive plan to address crop burning, substandard fuel usage, solid waste management,



and the installation of scrubbers. He urged every member of society to be environmentally conscious.

President Kashif Anwar high-

### **President LCCI** emphasizes dual focus on industry & environmental responsibility

lighted LCCI's commitment to supporting industry while actively contributing to smog reduction. He identified five key sectors, with a particular focus on the steel industry's need to install scrubbers. He also emphasized that the industry should refrain from using substandard fuels, such as rubber, tires, or

solid waste etc.

Kashif Anwar raised concerns about the Daroghawala dumping site, which also contributes to pollution. He suggested that addressing this issue is crucial.

Moreover, President LCCI advocated for a more collaborative approach, suggesting that instead of immediately closing factories, the **Environment Department should** provide show-cause notices and training to improve facilities. He also recommended extending the duration of the required 3-monthly scrubber reports and involving scrubber manufacturers in the process to prevent the sale of substandard scrubbers.

President LCCI proposed that industry players should possess the same emission-checking instruments as the department, enabling them to monitor their scrubber performances. He emphasized that LCCI should be included in the policymaking process, and member awareness should be prioritized in policy decisions.

# SKILLED MANPOWER EXPORT CAN FETCH HUGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE: LCCI



Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kashif Anwar has said that Pakistan can fetch huge foreign exchange by exporting skilled manpower, so special attention should be paid to the skill development.

He expressed these views while talking to Director General Punjab Skills Development Authority Sahibzadi Wasima Umar at LCCI. Additional Director General Punjab Skills Development Authority Haroon Naseer was also present on the occasion.

LCCI President said that due to the lack of skill development, we cannot take advantage of opportunities at the global level. He said that Saudi Arabia is establishing five new cities but we do not have the required skilled manpower to take advantage of this opportunity.

He said that students studying from universities face difficulties in getting employment due to lack of skills, so skill development should be made an integral part of education.

Kashif Anwar said that Lahore

Chamber of Commerce and Industry emphasizes on self-reliance of women and is taking all possible steps in this regard. Recently, the Lahore Chamber has

on self-reliance of women and is taking all possible steps in this regard

## Kashif Anwar President LCCI

also established a Women Entrepreneur Corner, which aims to help women entrepreneurs to grow and take advantage of business opportunities. He suggested that training should be provided to people from all walks of life for an-

ti-smog and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry should be taken on board to control smog.

President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that there should be strong liaison between LCCI and Skill Development Authority which will help in overcoming many problems. Director General Punjab Skills Development Sahibzadi Waseema Umar while agreeing to the proposal of the President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that regular contacts will help the organization to understand the needs of the business community and help in skill development accordingly. She said that it is not possible to achieve the desired goals without constant liaison. She said that the industry should inform the Punjab Skills Development Authority about its required manpower. She added that Punjab Skills Development Authority is a regulatory body. She also announced a focal person for Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

# LCCI PRESIDENT SUGGESTED FORMATION OF INDUSTRY-LED SKILL COUNCIL

Strong liaison between TEVTA-Chambers need of the hour. Chairperson TEVTA



There is a dire need of strong liaison between TEVTA and the Chambers. Chief Minister Punjab has instructed to have meetings with Chambers and incorporate their point of view in TEVTA. These views were expressed by the Chairperson TEVTA Muhammad Sajid Khokhar while talking to the President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt was also present.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar also called for a consistent liaison between LCCI and TEVTA besides expressing his views about the rupee devaluation, need of skilled human resources, current account deficit and importance of raw materials availability.

The Chairman TEVTA said that his aim is to fill the skill gap. TEVTA is the nursery of industry. The linkage between TEVTA and industry are of utmost importance so that the efforts could be synchronized

and the TEVTA could produce what industry is needed. He said that TEVTA has 41 colleges in Punjab. Along with this

Industrial setup and expansion is the need of the hour

Kashif Anwar President LCCI

we have an Institute Advisory Committee which is based on people from the industry. The Committee values input from the industry.

He added that our curriculum needs to be revised as it is no longer according to the needs of the industry. He said that the course is old and technology has been advanced so that synchronization must be ensured. He said that to improve the quality of training, it is also important to enhance the knowledge of the faculty. We want our teachers to be trained. They should be linked with the relevant industry so that they can then increase the effectiveness of the training given by them to the students.

He said that TEVTA training capacity in whole Punjab is 90 thousand, out of which 50 thousand avail diploma courses while the rest do short courses. Now the pattern is not understood whether the industry needs such a skill set or not. We have to see the demand for overseas as well. We have seen that there is a lot of scope in construction and hospitality sectors. We want this manpower to be internationally certified.

### **World Cotton Day**

# LCCI CHIEF HAPPY WITH COTTON SECTOR'S REVIVAL

Cotton sector of Pakistan can play a critical role in economic development and poverty alleviation provided the government forms sustainable and supportive policies with the consultation of stakeholders. In a message on World Cotton Day, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar said that it is a good sign that Pakistan's cotton sector has made a remarkable recovery after suffering massive losses due to last year's devastating floods and around 71 percent surge has been recorded in cotton production.

He said that the credit goes to the Federal Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and Punjab Minister for Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Development SM Tanveer for making serious efforts for the revival of cotton sector.

The LCCI President added that the cotton is the primary raw material of textile sector which contributes about 60 percent to the overall exports of the country. He said that cotton, often referred to as "white gold," is an essential crop that forms the backbone of our textile industry, supporting the livelihoods

of millions of people across Pakistan.

He said that shocking rains during last year triggered flash flood, destroying people's houses and farmlands

raw material
of textile sector
which contributes
about 60 percent to
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of the country

Kashif Anwar
President LCCI

across much of the country. LCCI President said that it was a matter of concern that the production of cotton has witnessed a sharp decline, dropping from 8.3 million bales in the 2021-22 season to 4.9 million bales in the 2022-23 season. But now it has been registering a noteable improvement.

He said that cotton is not merely a commodity; it is a lifeline for our textile industry, which is a significant contributor to our national economy. The decline in cotton production impacts not only our farmers but also the entire value chain, including textile mills, exporters, and allied industries. It is imperative that we work collectively to revitalize this crucial sector and improve the overall economic landscape of our nation.

Kashif Anwar said that to enhance cotton production, we need to focus on adopting modern agricultural practices, utilizing advanced technologies, promoting research and development, providing access to quality seeds, and offering financial support to our farmers. Additionally, fostering an enabling environment that encourages innovation and sustainability in cotton farming is paramount. He added that our collective efforts to bolster the cotton sector will not only lead to increased production but also contribute to achieving self-sufficiency and economic security for our nation. As stakeholders, let us join hands to promote the cultivation of cotton and invest in sustainable agricultural practices, thereby securing a brighter future for our farmers and the textile industry. The LCCI President hoped that the sustainable growth will be continued in cotton sector.

# LCCI commends EU Parliament decision to extend GSP

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) commends the unanimous decision of the European Parliament to extend the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for another four years until 2027, offering developing countries like Pakistan invaluable opportunities to enjoy duty-free or minimum duty on exports to the European market. In a statement. President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar. Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmod Chaudhry and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said that LCCI appreciates the unwavering efforts of the Government of Pakistan in advocating for this extension, further strengthening trade relations and fostering economic growth for our nation. He said that the GSP Plus status, which Pakistan has enjoyed in the past, has significantly contributed to enhancing our export potential and economic prosperity. They said that GSP Plus status holds paramount importance for Pakistan's Economy as it has played an important role in expansion of multilateral trade. According to the trade statistics from ITC World Trademap, Pakistan's exports to EU, which were around 6.3 Billion Dollars in 2013, have increased over the time to 11.3 Billion Dollars in 2022, primarily due to the deeper market access provided by European Union under GSP plus. They said that this essentially means that due to

GSP Plus, European Union is by far the biggest destination for Pakistan's exports as more than 30% of our exports reach EU market.

The LCCI office-bearers said

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) commends the unanimous decision of the European Parliament to extend the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for another four years until 2027, offering developing countries like Pakistan invaluable opportunities to enjoy duty-free or minimum duty on exports to the European market.

that this privilege has played a pivotal role in boosting our export sector, particularly in textiles, apparel and other key industries. The GSP Plus status has not only bolstered our economic prospects but has also supported job creation and sustainable development within the country.

They said that looking ahead,

the extension of the GSP program until 2027 presents an exceptional opportunity for Pakistan to further elevate its trade relations with the European Union. They said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry believes that by leveraging this extended GSP status, Pakistan can diversify its export base and explore new markets, thus amplifying the growth trajectory of our nation.

They added that Pakistan's exports to EU are heavily dominated by Textiles and clothing products which account for more than 75% of Pakistan's exports to EU. Going forward, some potential areas where Pakistan can enhance its exports to EU are Engineering Goods, Leather Products, Furniture, Carpets, Plastics, Sports Goods and Rice etc. There is also a tremendous potential to increase exports of agro based processed foods to EU in collaboration with European companies through Joint Ventures and transfer of technology. The LCCI office-bearers said that LCCI remains committed to working in tandem with the government and stakeholders to harness the full potential of the GSP Plus scheme and to capitalize on the benefits it offers. Furthermore, LCCI firmly believes that this extension will empower Pakistan to strengthen its economic ties with the European Union and strengthen its position as a key player in the global trade arena.

# KASHIF ANWAR EMPHASIZES CRUCIAL ROLE OF STABLE RUPEE IN BOOSTING BUSINESS AND EXPORTS



In order to foster stronger trade relations, the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement was signed during a visit by LCCI President Kashif Anwar to the PCMEA. During the visit, LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the importance of robust trade relations between various trade organizations and chambers. He emphasized the need for effective collaboration in an ever-evolving global economic landscape. The event also provided President Kashif Anwar with an opportunity to tour the Carpet Training Institute, where he observed the intricate process of handcrafting carpets.

Kashif Anwar noted the increase in business costs, particularly related to utilities. However, he expressed optimism that the stability of the Rupee would contribute to a more favorable business environment. He underscored that continued

government policies in the same vein would further strengthen the rupee's value.

The LCCI President stressed that for exports to thrive, it is imperative to

Stability of the Rupee would contribute to a more favorable business environment

Kashif Anwar

President LCCI

reduce input costs and utility prices. He underlined the significance of fostering a strong partnership between the business community and the government, emphasizing that a stronger rupee is crucial for boosting exports as majority of

the raw materials, including those used for export products are being imported from various countries and a weak currency is not suitable for exports as well. Kashif Anwar also drew attention to the urgent need for the construction of the Kalabagh Dam, stating that its absence puts the nation's future at risk. Furthermore, LCCI President called for a shift toward Islamic banking and a move away from interest-based economic models, emphasizing that business interests should be prioritized.

Senior Vice Chairman of PCMEA, Usman Ashraf, warmly welcomed President Kashif Anwar, characterizing the visit as a milestone in the interaction between the Lahore Chamber and the Carpet Association. Ashraf noted the significance of the handcrafting of rugs, particularly in rural areas, as a source of employment for millions of individuals and a valuable contributor to the nation's foreign exchange reserves. He lamented that this vital industry is often overlooked.

# LCCI and Handicrafts Association pave way for women's economic empowerment

"President LCCI Kashif Anwar emphasizes on Women's role in LCCI and the need to address the challenges faced by women in the business world"



A delegation representing the Handicrafts Association of Pakistan (HAP), headed by Chairperson Maryam Igbal, paid a visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and engaged in a productive meeting with LCCI President Kashif Anwar. The delegation comprised other esteemed members such as Tanzeela Yusuf and Zeeshan Raja, among others. During this meeting, LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed his enthusiasm for women's involvement in the Lahore Chamber and emphasized the need to address the challenges faced by women in the business world. He mentioned that the Lahore Chamber has established a Women Empowerment Lounge and encouraged its utilization.

President Kashif Anwar highlight-

ed the active role played by the Lahore Chamber's ADRC (Alternative Dispute Resolution Center) and the various services and facilities available to members. He also mentioned the State Bank's introduction of several subsidized schemes, including up to 1 crore rupees available through the SAAF scheme, and assured full support to the delegation in availing these opportunities. Moreover. President Kashif Anwar announced that the Lahore Chamber would be hosting an exhibition in December, urging women entrepreneurs to actively participate in it. Maryam Iqbal, Chairperson of the Handicrafts Association, praised the progressive nature of the organization and expressed her desire to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lahore Chamber. She

emphasized the importance of networking among women and highlighted that the Handicrafts Association has been a registered body for a decade with its headquarters in Lahore. Maryam Igbal stressed that the organization's main focus is networking and organizing events, leveraging its approximately 1000 members, and called on government and institutions to pay attention to their initiatives. President LCCI acknowledged the pivotal role women play in economic development and shared his intention to collaborate further. He said collaboration between the Handicrafts Association of Pakistan and the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry holds promise for empowering women in business and fostering economic growth in the region.

# ROLE OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY IMPORTANT FOR POVERTY ERADICATION: ADNAN KHALID BUTT



A delegation of All Pakistan Cottage Industry and Sweets and Bakers Association called on Adnan Khalid Butt. Vice President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and discussed closure of markets at 10 pm in the context of smog and Wednesday holiday and other issues being faced by the cottage industry. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said that the Lahore Chamber is trying hard to solve the problems of the cottage industry. The government should pay immediate attention to the restoration and improvement of this important sector. He said that by paying attention to the cottage industry, the government can solve many economic issues. He said that cottage industry is very important all over the world. He said that there is a

huge demand for hand-woven carpets, embroidery work,

Wth the help of cottage industry, the people of rural areas will get employment and the trend of migration from these areas to urban areas

Adnan Khalid Butt Vice President

brassware and traditional bangles at the global level. He said that cottage industry in urban and rural areas can grow more with less resources.

He said that with the help of cottage industry, the people of rural areas will get employment and the trend of migration from these areas to urban areas

Ghulam Sarwar Malik, head of the delegation, said that Bangladesh has developed because of the cottage industry. Keeping this in mind, facilities should be given to the cottage industry in Pakistan as well. Other members of the delegation include Rizwan Ahmed. Lutfullah, Rana Bilal Ahmed, Gulraiz Ahmed. Nadeem Abbas, Abdul Latif, Qari Ameer Ali Siddiqui, Muhammad Nafees, Muhammad Inam. Asif Chaudhary, Qudratullah Bhatti, Haider Javed, Nadeem Hussain, Abid Ali, Azmat Qayyum, AR Niazi and Shiraz Hussain were included.

# KASHIF ANWAR HIGHLIGHTS ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND THE NEED FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY





Dr. Deena Qadeer Khan reiterated her father Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan's vision for Pakistan's self-sustainability in all aspects of economic development, social progress, energy production, education, healthcare, and more. She made these remarks during a discussion on Nuclear Energy's role in addressing Pakistan's energy crisis. President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Kashif Anwar, warmly welcomed Dr. Deena Khan. acknowledging Dr. Qadeer Khan's invaluable contributions to strengthening Pakistan's defense. President LCCI commended Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan for his services to this nation. The event also featured LCCI Executive Committee members and the Chairman of Six B Foods, Tahir Anjum. Dr. Deena Khan continued by highlighting her father's belief in the transformative power of nuclear energy, emphasiz-

ing that he considered it a solution to many of Pakistan's challenges. She also lamented that he passed away with a

Dr. Deena
Qadeer Khan
advocates
self-sustainability and
nuclear energy
solutions

sense of unfulfilled potential. She stressed that Dr. Qadeer Khan's work was aimed at promoting peace, not war, and underscored the importance of striving for self-sufficiency in all aspects of the nation.

President LCCI, Kashif Anwar, noted the changing nature of conflicts, stating that modern wars are fought on the economic front. He identified devaluation as a root cause of many issues, leading to challenges in boosting exports. He also emphasized the urgent need for water reservoirs in Pakistan.

Kashif Anwar expressed optimism regarding the decreasing disparity between the interbank and open market exchange rates and anticipated that the reduction in petroleum prices would have a positive trickle-down effect on commodity prices, electricity tariffs, and policy rates in the near future. He stressed the importance of reducing imports through import substitution and raised questions about the cost and losses associated with nuclear energy plants, advocating for the exploration of nuclear energy as a source of power.

### Provincial Minister calls for exposure about opportunities

# SEMINAR ON "CAREER COUNSELING OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD" AT LCCI



A seminar on Career Counseling Opportunities Abroad was held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The seminar was addressed by the Provincial Minister for Education Mansoor Qadir, LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Chief Executive Skill for All Sikandar Hameed Lodhi and expert speaker Mubeen Rasheed. LCCI President Kashif Anwar spoke highly about the aims and objectives of the seminar and spread his deep thoughts on education and economy related issues which were highly appreciated by the audience.

Provincial Minister for Education Mansoor Qadir said that a large number of children in our country are left behind in the world due to lack of exposure despite being well educated. He said that our children don't know what opportunities are existing in the world and they could perform better if a field was suggested for them according to their abilities. The Minister said that we as a

nation have felt the lack of this for a long time and we are trying to solve this issue but we have not yet reached the level where every child knows what opportunities are available to him.

# Kashif Anwar underlined the need for skilled human resources

He said that in our country it is generally understood that doing MA or post-graduation is actually education otherwise education is incomplete although in the world what we call matriculation already covers the field in which these children go. He said that today the best and most successful people in the world are working in non-traditional sectors that

earn good income.

He said that it is not possible for the state to provide employment to every child. We have to look at other areas where we can place our children and where they can express their full potential. He said that the government has kept a fund of Rs. 65 billion only for scholarships so that we can help those children who are unable to express their talents due to lack of funds.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that our children should start career counseling after class 5 and parents, teachers and also the child should know what he wants to become in future.

He said that the biggest problem we have at the moment is foreign exchange reserves. Our work force going out of the country is not skilled due to which foreign remittances cannot be sent as much as the skilled labor can send. He said that there should be such programs and Lahore Chamber fully supports this.

# LCCI ORGANIZES SEMINAR, PANEL DISCUSSION ON BREAST CANCER





The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday organized a seminar/panel discussion on Breast Cancer at its premises.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar was the Chief Guest while LCCI Executive Committee Member Fareeha Younas, Entrepreneurs, Life Coach, Business Strategists and Change Specialist Ali Murtaza, Cardiologist, Integrated Medical Care Hospital Dr. Gohar Saeed, Medical Oncologist at SKM-CH&RC Dr. Umm-e-Kalsoon Awan, Oncologist, Anmol

Hospital Dr. Hira Butt, Health-care Professional Global Development and Consultancy Dr. Arooj Fatima Gillani, Asst. Prof Anatomy, AIMC, Jinnah Hospital Dr. Sitwat Mudassir, CEO Pink Ribbon Omer Aftab, Capt. Dr. Kashifa Ehsan and LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion.

The Seminar was attended by large number of businessmen, professors, doctors, paramedics and people from all segments of society attended the seminar.

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar in his address thanked First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi for making this important topic public as before the people were shy to talk about breast cancer.

He said that the disease should be prevented before it spread and emphasized the importance of timely diagnosis. He said that it is also the responsibility of parents to check their children and if they see any such changes in them, they should consult a

doctor without wasting time. The LCCI President said that instead of aggravating the disease by hiding it, we should get our medical condition examined by a doctor. He stressed the importance of the elders of the house in this situation.

LCCI Executive Committee Member Fareeha Younis said that early diagnosis is very important as it can prevent the disease at a recoverable stage. She also shed light on the aims and objectives of the seminar.

Ali Murtaza stressed the need to pay attention to the mental state and health of the cancer patient.

Dr. Hira Butt gave a presentation on breast cancer and said that prevention, management and support are the three stages. Apart from this she discussed other important topics including self-examination and diet.

Dr. Sitwat Mudassar talked about breast self-monitoring method.

Dr. Gohar Saeed said that

along with breast cancer, we also have to look at heart diseases in women because women are dying more from heart diseases.

He said that at present the

# Disease should be prevented before it spread:

### Kashif Anwar President LCCI

trend of smoking among young women is increasing which is dangerous. He said that obesity and lack of exercise are also one of the reasons for this.

Dr. Umm e Kulsoom Awan said that our people come to the doctor very late which increases the risk. 1 in 100 breast cancer patients is male, so men should be careful. She said that we have seen patients as young as 8 years.

Omer Aftab said that education health is also important for women that why we have simultaneously started pink and white ribbon 20 years ago. We felt the need to address the pressing issues women face even when visiting a doctor, he added and said that this is the pink October breast cancer awareness month and we have been listening to the ring tunes of mobiles telling us of visiting a doctor and have a monogram for the women particularly over 40 years of age but this awareness, unfortunately, has not converted into action and this is where we need to put our efforts.

Capt. Dr. Kashifa Ehsan told her survivor story to the participants.

LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt while giving his closing remarks have urged the participants to take away few things with them from this session like spreading the word and taking care of their families. At the end, question answer session was also held.



# LCCI CHIEF VISITS HAILEY COLLEGE OF COMMERCE



President of the Lahore
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry Kashif Anwar
visited Hailey College of
Commerce and Industry on
Thursday along with a team
where a permanent Chair is
reserved for the LCCI.
The LCCI President had a

The LCCI President had a detailed exchange of views with Principal Hailey College of Commerce Dr. Hafiz Zafar Ahmad besides visiting different departments. LCCI Executive Committee Member Fareeha Younas, Secretary General Shahid Khalil and Professor Sadia Farooq were also present on the occasion.

There was a discussion on promoting industry academia linkage to support the industrial sector, particularly SMEs by conducting demand based research. Kashif Anwar requested the Principal that the LCCI members may be facilitated to avail new programs

The President
LCCI also visited
the LCCI Chair
in Hailey College, dedicated to
the members of
LCCI.

being introduced by the Hailey College of Commerce.

The Principal Dr. Hafiz Zafar Ahmad invited the LCCI President to participa<u>te in</u> the international seminar being organized by Hailey College of Commerce on November 14th.

He also announced to depute a dedicated room and a wall for the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dr. Hafiz Zafar Ahmad also invited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry to organize programs at Hailey College of Commerce and Industry. He said that the feedback from the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry would be helpful to resolve the issues. The President LCCI also visited the LCCI Chair in Hailey College, dedicated to the members of LCCI. There was also a discussion to jointly undertake various initiatives including seminars and conferences.

At the end, Principal Hailey College of Commerce presented a bouquet to the LCCI President.



# LCCI PRESIDENT AND VC LCWU INAUGURATE WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR CORNER



Women who are related to cottage industry or home-based business do not have enough resources to display their products for sales or marketing purpose. They can benefit from the display corner at LCCI. Kashif Anwar, President LCCI

President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar and Vice Chancellor of Lahore College Women University Prof. Dr. Shagufta Naz inaugurated the Women Entrepreneur Corner, which aims to help women in the business Member and Convener Standing Committee for Women Empowerment & Personal Development Fareeha Younis and Shamim Akhtar for presenting the idea of Women Entrepreneurs Corner.

He said that Lahore Chamber wants



sector to take advantage of business opportunities.

LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Executive Committee Member and Convener Women Empowerment & Personal Development Fareeha Younis and Shamim Akhtar were also present on this occasion.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar appreciated Executive Committee

to empower women and is playing role for it. He said that such women who are related to cottage industry or home-based business do not have enough resources to display their products for sales or marketing purpose. They can benefit from this display corner.

The LCCI President said that the Lahore Chamber has put on display the products made by women belonging to the cottage industry for a

period of one week free of cost initially. He also invited women who have recently started their own businesses to display their products in the display center which would help them find buyers for their products. He said that Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry will make all possible efforts to achieve the goal of Women Entrepreneur Corner. LCCI President further stated that women are increasingly making their presence felt in business activities. The Chamber has established a separate Standing Committee where women entrepreneurs get an opportunity to meet and discuss matters of relevance. He said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry is committed to resolve the problems women face while operating their business such as getting loans from the banks, developing contacts with various government departments. It educates the women entrepreneurs about the techniques and strategies of national and international marketing. Kashif Anwar said that the LCCI also organizes business orientation programs, workshops and lectures for the guidance of old and new women entrepreneurs and enhancing quality consciousness. It also holds business awareness seminars like how to start new business and how to export their products in other countries.

## LCCI and DHF ink MOU



The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Dilawar Hussain Foundation have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure diagnosis and access to affordable and high-quality medicines to diabetics in Pakistan.

The agreement, which aims to improve the lives of millions of people currently living with diabetes, was signed by the LCCI President Kashif Anwar and Chairman Dilawar Hussain Foundation Hassan Zubair Sheikh in the presence of other dignitaries from both organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar said that LCCI is commit-

LCCI is committed to support the health and well-being of its members and their employees

Kashif Anwar President LCCI

ted to supporting the health and well-being of its members and their employees. He said that we are pleased to partner with Dilawar Hussain Foundation, a leading organization in the field of diabetes healthcare.

Kashif Anwar said that this MOU will not only help us to provide our members with access to quality healthcare services and diabetes education, our partnership also has the potential of bringing hope to a large population.

Chairman Dilawar Hussain Foundation Hassan Sheikh said that diabetes is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition that effects nearly 26.7% of our population, of whom an alarmingly high and undocumented population is marginalized and doesn't have easy access to quality treatment.



# LCCI AND SCCI TO COLLABORATE, CONSULT ON BUSINESS ISSUES



A delegation of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar presented the address of welcome while LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Acting President of Sahiwal Chamber Mian Umair Ali and Vice President Muhammad Irfan spoke on the occasion.

LCCI President informed the delegation that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has completed 100 years of its establishment. He is 100th President and he has declared his tenure as Business Compliance and Facilitation years.

Kashif Anwar emphasized that the collaboration between all the chambers would be highly beneficial for business communities, enabling them to explore new trade and investment opportunities. He said that the imports are closed because of L/C issues that must be resolved. He said that the policy rate is high that must be brought down.

Kashif Anwar said that the mea-

sures to tackle the issues of smog and environment should be taken in consultation with the stakeholders. He said that LCCI is organizing

Collaboration
between all the
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and investment
opportunities.

Kashif Anwar President LCCI

seminars and awareness sessions for its members. Kashif Anwar said that several help desks of federal and provincial departments are working under one window smart services in the premises of Lahore Chamber. He said that Chief Minister Punjab wants one window operation in the province.

He said that all business details are now available on FBR portal so tax returns should be filed carefully.

President Sahiwal Chamber Mian Umair Ali praised the harmony between LCCI and SCCI, asserting that it would further bolster inter-chamber interactions. He said that the facilities should be different for the taxpayers and nontax payers. He said that industrial land is expensive. Chambers should be allowed to buy land and establish industrial zones that would bring down the land cost besides generating job opportunities. He invited LCCI President to visit SCCI along with a delegation and said that the members of SCCI need to learn from LCCI's experience and urged the LCCI to invite them in every significant event which will take place in LCCI.

Later, the delegation visited LCCI one window operation.



چین پاکستان کا ایسا بے مثال دوست ہے جس نے ہرکڑے وقت میں پاکستان کی بھر پور مدد کی اور شانہ بشانہ ساتھ کھڑ اہوا ہے۔ چین پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں جوکر دارا داکرنے کا خواہاں ہے اس کی منہ بولتی مثال چین پاکستان اکنا مک کاریڈور ہے جس کی تکمیل سے ملک کوبے پناہ فائدے حاصل ہو نگے اور بیسر ماییکاری کا مرکز بن جائے گا۔

لا ہور چیمبرآ ف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری نے چین کی 74 ویں سالگرہ کے سلسلے میں ایک شاندار تقریب منعقد کی جس میں چین کے قائم مقام تو نصل جزل چاو کے کے کی بطور مہمان خصوصی شریک ہوئے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ لا ہور تجارتی ، معاشی و ثقافتی حوالے سے ایک اہم شہر ہے۔ اس سال سی پیک کی دسویں سالگرہ کے ساتھ عوامی جمہور یہ چین کے قیام کی 74 ویں سالگرہ بھی منائی جارہی ہے۔ انہوں نے سی پیک کے تحت 4. 24 ارب ڈالرکی سرمایہ کاری کے پاکستانی معیشت پر اثر ات کواجا گرکیا۔ چاو کے نے چین کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی قیادت ، چینی عوام اور صدر شی جن پنگ کے چین کوجد بداور ساجی بنانے کے عزم پر بھی روشنی ڈالی اور کہا کہ چین عالمی امن کو برقر ارر کھنے کے لیے پرعزم ہے۔ انہوں نے چائنا انٹریشنل امپورٹ ایکسپو (CIIE) اور کینٹن فیئر جیسی تقریبات میں شرکت کے لیے یا کستانی تا جروں کے ساتھ تعاون کا وعدہ کیا۔

میں نے ان تمام چینی دوستوں کودلی مبار کباد پیش کی جنہوں نے کیم اکتوبر2023 کواپنا قومی دن منایا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات کا آغاز 1950 میں ہواجس نے دونوں ممالک کوقابل اعتاد سلم سلم سلم استان اور چین کے درمیان پائیداردوستی پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا سنگ بنیاد ہے۔ بیدوستی باہمی احترام ، اعتاد اور ساجی اور اقتصادی خوشحالی کے مشتر کہ ویژن پر بنی ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (CPEC) نے ان باہمی تعلقات میں بہت اہمیت کا اضافہ کیا ہے۔

سی پیک کی دسویں سالگرہ چین اور پاکستان کی بے مثال دوستی کا ثبوت ہے۔ جنوبی ایشیا، چین اور مشرق وسطی کے در میان ایک سنگم کے طور پر پاکستان کے جغرافیا کی مقام نے اسے تجارت ، مینونی چرنگ اور زراعت کے علاقائی مرکز میں تبدیل کر دیا ہے ۔ بی پیک کے تحت متعدد منصوبوں کی وجہ سے حالیہ برسوں کے دوران انفر اسٹر کچر میں زبر دست ترقی ہوئی ہے ۔ لا ہور چیمبر آف کا مرس جیسے اداروں کی اولین ذمہ داری ہے کہ وہ شراکت داریوں کوفروغ حالیہ برسوں کے دوران انفر اسٹر کچر میں زبر دست ترقی ہوئی ہے ۔ لا ہور چیمبر آف کا مرس جیسے اداروں کی اولین ذمہ داری ہے کہ وہ شراکت داریوں کوفروغ کے لیے بھی اہم ہیں ۔ دینے میں اہم کر دارادا کریں جونہ صرف ترقی اور بیشرفت کے لیے ضروری ہیں بلکہ پاکستان میں امن ، استحکام اور خوشحالی کے فروغ کے لیے بھی اہم ہیں ۔ امید ہے کہ لا ہور چیمبر ، چائینیز قو نصلیٹ اور جوائیٹ پاک چائیا زنس سپورٹ آرگنا کریشنز کے درمیان مضبوط تعلقات چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان دوستی کے بہترین ثمرات سے مستفید ہونے میں اہم کر دارادا کریں گے۔

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5501-5000425583 A/c #:

Bank Alflah Ltd. Islamic Banking Bank: Main Boulevard, Gulberg, Lahore Branch:

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A/c Title: BINQUTAB FOUNDATION

0245-010 2865666 A/c #: Meezan Bank Bank:

Ghalib Market, Gulberg, Lahore Branch:

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A/c #: 0962 - 011 - 2812 - 8 Bank: United Bank Ltd. Liberty Market, Lahore Branch:

Easy Paisa: 03458433319 Jazz cash: 03000407128

#### **Head Office**

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#### Regional Office (North)

Suit # 26, 3rd Floor, Twin City Plaza, I-8, Markaz Islamabad. Regional Office (South)

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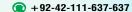
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CEO

### MIAN

**Muhammad Khalid Shad** 



+92 300 8448417



urban.khalid@gmail.com

**CFO** 

Aizaz Ahmad



+92 304 8813323

**Q** 12-B, Central Park Housing, Ferzopur Road Lahore.