

THE TRIBUNE

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LCCI CHIEF CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NEW FLASH POINT STANDARDS FOR 40 IMPORTED CHEMICALS

By Our Commerce Reporter

LAHORE: - The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has raised serious concerns regarding recent regulatory changes in Pakistan's flash point standards for imported chemicals regarding import, transportation and storage which is hitting 40 chemicals including Prop BH, Isobutanol - IBA, Styrene Monomer, Gum Turpentine, N Butanol - Normal Butyl Alcohol, Butyl Acrylate, Acetic Acid and others. The Minister for Petroleum should convene an urgent meeting of the stakeholders to have their feedback on this serious issue which is hitting pharmaceutical, printing, adhesive and various other industries. In a letter to the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) Musadik Masood Malik, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad said that the new standards were imposed without prior consultation with the business community, potentially endangering thousands of industries that rely on these chemicals as essential raw materials. The LCCI President said that the decision has been implemented immediately while DPL License application process, can take up to two years to complete. The industry could not survive for such a long time without necessary chemchemical. He said that this delay, along with additional demurrage and detention fees that accrue after 24 hours of port holding time has led to significant financial strain for the business community.

PM DESIRES TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN PAK-IRAN RELATIONS



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen its relationship with Iran and enhancing mutually advantageous cooperation across all spheres of shared interest. Agencies

COLLECTORATE OF CUSTOMS APPRAISEMENT SETS RECORD WITH RS1,906 M CD COLLECTION IN OCT

LAHORE — The Collectorate of Customs Appraisement West, Lahore, has collected Rs1,906 million on account of Customs Duty. The Collectorate chieved the milestone in October 2024 by collecting an unprecedented Rs 1,906 million in Customs Duty (CD). This achievement marks the highest monthly collection in the history of the Collectorate and represents a significant increase of Rs 449 million, approximately 31 per cent, compared to the same month of the previous financial year. Beelam Ramzan, the Collector, attributed the performance to the facilitation of industrial and commercial trade, coupled with stringent measures to prevent tax evasion and fraud. During the month, the Collectorate identified and intercepted seven attempts of misdeclaration, with a total offending value of Rs 53.8 million.



During the month, the Collectorate identified and intercepted seven attempts of misdeclaration, with a total offending value of Rs 53.8 million. This historic accomplishment underscores the Collectorate's commitment to enhancing trade efficiency while maintaining rigorous oversight to safeguard public revenue. "The record-breaking collection is a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering a conducive environment for industrial and commercial trade, while upholding the highest standards of compliance and integrity" the collector said. "We remain dedicated to maintaining this momentum and ensuring that public revenue is protected through vigilant oversight," she added.- **Our Correspondent**

LAHORE IS EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED BY HEAVY SMOG FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS



By Asim Shahzad

LAHORE: The city of Lahore is expected to be affected by heavy smog for the next three days. Lahore is once again at the top of the air pollution index. According to the American Air Quality Index, the pollution score in Lahore is 609. Lahore will be affected by strong winds for the next three days, the US Meteorological Agency has warned, adding that Lahore's pollution index may be 600 to 700 on November 6, 7 and 8. The smoggy winds coming from India at a speed of 4 km per hour from east to west are affecting Lahore and adjoining Pakistani areas. In air pollution index, New Delhi is second with 408 score, Iraq's capital Baghdad is third, Indian city Calcutta is fourth with 160 score. Senior Minister Punjab Maryam Aurangzeb has said citizens should immediately complain to 1373 on environmental laws, regulations and any violation, use Green App, monitoring and control established regarding smog situation is continuously reviewing all data carefully.

YOUSAF SHAH CREDITS PBG LEADERSHIP FOR SHIFTING LAHORE'S BUSINESS POLITICS

Interview with Muhammad Yousaf Shah, vice chairman of the Pioneer Businessmen Group (PBG).

Q: You have a history with the LCCI politics, what led you to join the newly made Pioneer Businessmen Group (PBG)?
Muhammad Yousaf Shah: My family has been involved with the LCCI for generations. I served on the Executive Committee multiple times, like my father before me. But we were constantly ignored for leadership roles, which were given instead to those who were well connected. The top leaders in my previous group preferred to push their own offspring and close affiliates into high offices, ignoring capable, dedicated members. This system became annoying, and it was clear that merit was suspended. That's when I, along with others who felt similarly, joined the Pioneer Businessmen Group to challenge the status quo.
Q: How has PBG impacted LCCI's internal politics?
Yousaf Shah: The PBG has changed the political landscape immensely. We broke the long-standing PIAF-Founders Alliance hold over the LCCI by winning all 32 seats for both corporate and associate classes with the help of remanent of the PIAF.



The influence of Ali Hussam Asghar's leadership brought fresh perspectives and energy, which attracted members seeking change. This shift wasn't just political; it made inroads for merit and fairness in LCCI's politics, something that was missing previously.
Q: As Co-Convener of the Membership Committee, you've got 1,239 new memberships. What impact does this have on the Chamber and the tax net?
Yousaf Shah: This influx of new memberships strengthens the LCCI both financially and in terms of representation. Importantly, every new member must be a taxpayer, so we're directly helping to broaden the tax net.

This approach not only boosts LCCI's funds but also supports the government's efforts to increase tax compliance, which is critical for the country's economy.
Q: As VC of PBG what top issues the PBG aims to resolve for the business community?
Yousaf Shah: We're prioritizing the key issues facing traders and industrialists, including parking, infrastructure, and dealing with encroachments. Customs intelligence processes also need reform to better support legitimate businesses. Addressing these issues will ease day-to-day business operations, allowing for smoother trade and helping businesses grow.
Q: Finally, how do you see the PBG's role in LCCI's future?
Yousaf Shah: The PBG is committed to restoring trust, merit, and efficiency to the LCCI. We've started on a strong note and will continue to work for transparency and fairness. I believe the community sees the difference, and with their ongoing support, we're confident about creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all members. **By M Qadeer**