

Two more airlines to start Hajj flights next year

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs Agha Sarwar Raza Qazilbash has said that government has taken several measures to ensure the convenience of pilgrims going for Haj while during the running year, 160000 Pakistanis would go to offer Haj. Federal Secretary was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Monday. The LCCI President Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry and Senior Vice President Ijaz A. Mumtaz also spoke on the occasion while Executive Committee members Shahzad Ali Malik, Anwaar A. Sheikh, Dr. Shahid Raza, Mian Zahid Javed, Amjad Ali Jawa, Khalid Pervez and LCCI former Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Arshad were present in the meeting. Agha Sarwar Raza Qazilbash said that five categories had been formed for quota system of private operators. He said that next year two more airlines would initiate services for Haj. He said that medical has been divided into eight sectors to ensure medical facilities for the people going for Haj. Every sector, he said, has a dispensary and ambulance. He said that Prime Minister had also ended the political Haj quota of 7500 Hujjaj and allocated it for public. Speaking on the occasion, the LCCI President Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry said that Ministry should provide foolproof security to the pilgrims, going for Haj, Umra and ziaaraats. He said that Ministry for Religious Affairs is responsible for Haj Policy, Haj and Umrah arrangements, License quota of private operators, Ruit-e-Hilal Committee and Zakat and Ushr Committees and one of its prime duties is to create harmony between the religious communities. He said Pakistan is an Islamic State and Ministry for Religious Affairs should take concrete measures to aware the world that Islam is a religion of peace, which protects the rights of people and keeps humanity alive. Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry said that lack of knowledge on Islamic rules & regulations and laws was causing complexities among religious sects. He urged Ministry to evolve a comprehensive strategy with the consultation of all stakeholders to end the conspiracies of anti Pakistan elements. He said that Ministry should also accelerate its activities including research-based Islamic studies, holding of conferences, seminars, training of Ulemas and Khateeb, ensuring rightful use of zakat and exchange of visits of Islamic scholars from international institutions. .

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