

Lahore Chamber strongly condemned the NATO aggression

The President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Irfan Qaiser Sheikh, Senior Vice President Kashif Younis Meher and Vice President Saeed Nazar on Monday had hour-long meeting with the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Khalid Shamim Wayne and strongly condemned the NATO aggression & termed the incident as an attack on Pakistan's sovereignty. They had also discussed economic challenges being faced by the country with the Chairman JCSC. According to the details, during their meeting with Chairman JCSC, the LCCI office-bearers said that the entire business community unanimously condemns the NATO attack on security posts in Mohmand Agency, martyring 24 security forces personnel and injuring 13 others. They said that whole nation was standing with the Pakistan Army and fully supports the stance of government and Pakistan armed forces on the issue of NATO aggression. They said that NATO forces was calling Pakistan ally in the war against terrorism but treated like an enemy and Pakistani nation would not tolerate any such aggression in future.

They said that Pakistan had faced loss of thousands army personnel & civilians and more than \$60 billion in war against terrorism. They said that international community should take notice of this blatant violation of the international norm. They said that acute electricity, gas shortage, over 72 per cent hike in electricity prices in the last five months, highest ever markup, huge banking spread, Rs 600 billion annually loss making State-owned Enterprises, unskilled workforce and poor infrastructure are the main factors of economic meltdown.

Irfan Qaiser Sheikh, Kashif Younis Meher & Saeeda Nazar informed the Chairman JCSC that certain sectors have reservation on MFN status to India. Government must remove the reservations of pharmaceutical, automobile, motorcycle, petrochemical, autoparts, sugar, textile, cooking oil and ghee industries before signing MFN treaty document with India.

They said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry was in favour of promotion of trade with regional countries especially with the next door neighbours for the sake of peace, prosperity and economic revival. But the MFN must not be at the cost of Industry therefore private sector must be taken into confidence before signing Most Favoured Nation Treaty with India. On the occasion, issues of Pak-Iran Gas pipeline project and security situation also came under discussion. At the end, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Khalid Shamim Wayne presented the mementos to the LCCI office-bearers.