

PRESS RELEASE

PTA OPPOSES 10 DAYS CLOSURE IN PAKISTAN ON EID

Karachi: 3rd May, 2021: The **Chairman, Pakistan Tanners Association, Mr. Anjum Zafar** issued a press statement today to print & electronic media and strongly opposed the announcement of Government made with 10 days holidays effective from 8th May'21 onward, which would ultimately be a complete closure for **Leather Industry of Pakistan**, which is still in survival plight with heavy clutches of declining trend continuously. Moreover in the wake of persistent impacts of pandemic COVID-19, which is getting severe in comparison with previous months/year, the finished leather industry has already suffered a lot.

The Leather Industry being 2nd biggest export oriented industry of the country after textile and its most value added mother product of **"finished leather"** which is almost **300% value addition** from raw hides & skins to innovative finished leather is striving very hard and trying to arrest the declining trend with vigorous efforts of PTA's members around the country. They have finalised their export orders for fetching foreign exchange for the national exchequer which will be delayed in delivery and ultimately daily workers would also be deprived for their daily livelihood during unnecessary long holidays announced by the Government as all customs and banks would completely be closed during 10 days holidays.

As such **Mr. Anjum Zafar, Chairman, PTA** has shared with the media that by virtue of hard efforts the pace of export / orders for Leather Sector seems to be getting stable specially with Int'l reputed top leading Brands for Leather shoes, leather bags, leather garments, leather products etc., The most important to retain Foreign buyer is to make **TIMELY DELIVERY** of goods to them **"on OR before deadline"** otherwise heavy negative repercussion would be brought out to the export of leather sector of Pakistan and buyers once lost are difficult to get back .

Another setback has specifically been highlighted by PTA's Chairman that in result of long closure of holidays the import clearance at ports of Customs @ Karachi for the basic raw materials such as **"raw hides & skins" which are "perishable"** specially under prevailing humidity climate would NOT only be delayed considerably BUT also to lead to the cause of putrefaction and also heavy demurrage at ports . Thus pendency will also lead to increase the production cost which is already on higher side as compared to regional competitors. Our member exporters are seriously feared for the delay in the procurement of basic raw materials for the Industry for due process of value addition in Pakistan for the execution of export orders to honor the commitment already made with foreign buyers/customers.

The **Chairman, PTA Mr. Anjum Zafar** has also shared that it is the right time with great opportunity for Pakistani businessmen to cash & explore the vacume of business for all commodities including Leather Sector in the World Business Arena, which needs special arrangements for the smooth & uninterrupted operation/production in Pakistan for meeting foreign buyers/customers requirement with timely execution.

Therefore, it is strongly urged by the **Chairman, PTA, Mr. Anjum Zafar** with humble request to the **Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan & Advior to PM on commerce, Mr. Abdul Razzak Dawood** to consider positively for the **reduction of announced holidays on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr** to be from 13-16th May'2021 which would enable Leather Sector of Pakistan among other export sectors of the country to complete export orders timely and participate in export growth of our country .
