

## Leather industry demands priority status

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE—Leather Sector may be treated as a model sector in Strategic Trade Policy Frame Work for the next three to five years. Newly elected Chairman Pakistan Tanners Association (Central) Mr. Agha Saiddain said while talking to APP here on Wednesday.

He said the Leather Industry had potential to grow as 3.00 billion dollar Industry in next 3 years which was stagnant at US\$ 1.00 billion for last five years. On the other hand, leather sector exports of India had grown up to US\$ 4.86 billion during the year 2011 - 2012 from their previous exports of US\$ 1.96 Billion.

He said export of Leather & Leather Products had grown up by 17% in Bangladesh. Leather exports of Ethiopia doubled in last 3 years.

Pakistan's exports of leather industry have declined by 3.94% during the year 2011-2012. All Countries including China have recorded positive growth in exports of Leather and Leather Products but the only country lagging behind is Pakistan.

With limited animal population in Italy, they enjoy 13% market share at global level. The best example is that of China having 37.5% global market share of leather trade. One reason for this excellent performance of China is its value addition of 29% as compared to 18% in South Asia.

Agha added that India

had successfully harvested fruits of 10th & 11th Leather Development plan (ILDLP) with an outlay of IRs 400 IRs 912.67 Crore ,respectively and have now announced 12th ILDP with an outlay of Indian Rupees 1251.29 Crore. Under 12th ILDP India has set up target of US\$ 14 billion with Annual Cumulative Growth of 24.03% in next five years. He said "In Pakistan we have no Leather development plan and for this reason we have lost our market share to other countries in South Asia. He expressed his disappointment and said the government specially the ministry of commerce must sit with Leather Industry to draft a strategy to boost our exports.