



PAKISTAN BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

May 31, 2014

Consulate General of Pakistan,
Commercial section,
12 E, 65th street, NY-10065,
New York, USA.
Tel: +1-212-8793117
Fax: +1-646-5533314
pakcom.nyc@tdap.gov.pk
www.pakistanconsulateny.org

Main Contents

- **Pakistan can be robust economy if reforms continue: ADB**
- **FPCCI outlines steps for 7pc GDP growth**
- **Pakistan targets exporting mangoes worth \$65m in 2014**
- **Pakistan, UK set up body to achieve major economic target**
- **Pakistan considers Poland as gateway to Europe: Dastgir**
- **PIAF hails Pak-US Joint Action Plan**
- **Pakistan to facilitate US investors: Khurram Dastgir**
- **Accelerated pace of economic development top priority of govt: Dastagir**
- **After decade's gap, TIFA to be materialized this year: Khurram Dastagir**
- **\$2 million export orders expected: TMA delegation sees about achieving goals in Australia**
- **Cameron commits to a prosperous Pakistan**
- **Pak-US deal signed to complete Chaman-Kalat road**
- **Steps being taken to improve economy**
- **Pak show in Amritsar**
- **PM lays foundation of 1320 MW power plants in Sahiwal**
- **Strengthening exports: Country to hold exhibition in Kuala Lumpur**
- **World Bank approves 3 loans for Pakistan worth \$1.125 bn**
- **Nandipur power plant first unit starts generating 95 MW**
- **Major Chinese groups to assist Pakistan in mega projects**
- **PIBC-IPBC joins hands to promote Pak-India trade**
- **Cross border trade flourishes between India and Pakistan**

Pakistan can be robust economy if reforms continue: ADB

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Takehiko Nakao, on Tuesday appreciated Pakistan government's efforts in bringing back the economy on the right track in less than a year, by implementing the structural reforms and stabilization measures.

The ADB president was talking to Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, who met him in Astana, Kazakhstan. Nakao said if efforts for economic reforms continue, Pakistan has a great potential to become a robust economy in the next few years with high growth, low inflation, employment generation and infrastructure development.

The finance minister thanked the ADB president for continued support to Pakistan, especially the recently approved assistance of \$900 million for the Jamshoro Power Project, \$400 million Development Concessionary Programme loan and \$430 million support for the Income Support Programme for vulnerable population of Pakistan. The finance minister invited the ADB president to visit Pakistan, which he accepted. Details of his visit in September will be worked out in due course by the two sides.

FPCCI outlines steps for 7pc GDP growth

KARACHI: The apex trade body of the country is presenting its first-ever shadow budget on Monday, May 5, advising the government that GDP growth at seven percent – minimum rate for survival of the economy - is possible in the fiscal year 2014-15 with curtailment in the budget deficit to 3.6 percent and accelerating the revenue collection at 34 percent.

Zakaria Usman, president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), said the premier trade body of the country representing chambers and associations, and his team of economic managers headed by Dr Ayub Mehar – one of the senior economists – have finalised the first-ever shadow budget of the private sector, claiming to be prepared on impartial, unbiased and transparent basis.

The main objectives of the shadow budget are to advise the government to achieve at least seven percent GDP growth for the economic survival, which will help create 500,000 job opportunities and in the long-term will revive the economy that needs GDP growth at 11 percent by 2025.

The minimum growth rate of seven percent is also necessary to bring the country at par with the regional economies.

“The trickledown effects of growth are not possible at a growth less than seven percent,” according to the FPCCI’s shadow budget document. “If the economy grows by less than seven percent, the growing poverty will not reduce,” it added. The government has estimated that the economy will grow at the rate of 5.5 percent during 2014-15, while an estimated rate of inflation is eight percent. The FPCCI said that with the rate of inflation if GST proposal of five percent is accepted by the government. “However, estimates indicate that because of accelerated growth in the economy, the rate of GDP growth will be around seven percent,” according to the document.

The total outlay of the shadow budget proposed by the FPCCI is Rs4.4 trillion that is around 22 percent higher than announced in the last budget. Current expenditures are estimated at Rs3,110 billion, which is 71 percent of the total budget, while Rs1,260 billion have been reserved for development expenditures, which is around 29 percent of the total budget. The share of development expenditures in total budget was 21 percent last year. Expenditures for the payment of interest are estimated at Rs1,269 billion, for defense affairs and services Rs690 billion and the rest of the budget will be used for grants and transfers, subsidies and running of civil government, etc, according to the FPCCI’s shadow budget document. On the revenue side, total tax collection is estimated at Rs3,146 billion, which is 34 percent higher than last year; however, this increase in the tax revenue is not based on the higher tax rates. The FPCCI suggested a new tax regime where the rate of GST will significantly decline to five percent. Of Rs.3,146 billion gross tax revenue, Rs.1,866 billion will be transferred to provinces under the divisible pool transfer mechanism described in the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.



Pakistan targets exporting mangoes worth \$65m in 2014

KARACHI: All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchant Association (PFVA) set a target of exporting 175,000 tonnes of mangoes worth \$65 million this year, co-chairman of the association reported on Tuesday.

“The export is all set to start from May 25, and may last till October,” PFVA co-Chairman Waheed Ahmed said.

The target, in terms of tonnage, is similar to the previous year; however, the worth of the set exporting target is \$5 million more than last year, he said. “The association kept its target unchanged due to its complete focus upon exporting quality mango this year rather than the quantity of mangoes,” he said, adding, that the European Union (EU) has informed they will make an unusually strict examination of Pakistani mangoes this year. Pakistan exported 24,000 tonnes of mangoes to EU last year. “We may see a decline of above 30 percent in mango exports to EU, from last year’s 24,000 tonnes,” he said.

For the last two-three years, another source said, EU has been warning Pakistan of a ban. Only last year, the 28-nation bloc rejected 200 to 250 shipments of Pakistani mangoes after finding different pests. In April 2014, EU banned import of mangoes from India after finding fruit flies in its consignments. However, it has reportedly withdrawn the ban recently, the source added. To avert a likely ban from EU, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, and the Pakistan Quarantine Department of Plant Production have made hot water treatment mandatory for mangoes to be exported to EU. "The treatment kills fruit flies and another eight to 10 diseases in mangoes, increasing shelf life of the fruit by up to 35 days," he said.

However, those farms which have been declared free from fruit flies and other pests would remain exempted from giving hot water treatment.

In this regard, PFVA co-Chairman Ahmed said that earlier, the quarantine department, which is responsible for exporting bug-free mangoes globally, declared over 15 farms free from pests and fruit flies. "Officials of the department are still visiting orchards in Sindh these days, as the province starts producing the fruit in May," he said.

Another major reason for keeping the export target unchanged from last year is end of trade ties between Pakistan and Iran due to US sanctions upon latter. "Iran has a \$10 million (30,000-tonne mangoes) market for Pakistani mangoes," he said.

Industry sources, however, added that Pakistan sells its mangoes to Iran through different channels and/or under barter system. "Last year, Pakistan exchanged its mangoes for fruits, dry fruits, tar, and a few chemicals," an industry source said.

Like previous years, co-chairman of PFVA said, Pakistan could not export mangoes to value added markets like Japan and US because of non-availability of the technology and the treatment, which the two countries demand. However, Pakistan can increase exporting mangoes to recently found new markets, including China, South Korea, and Mauritius. "We can increase export of our mangoes to such countries by focusing more on quality and more importantly on appearance of mangoes," he said. Pakistan exports mangoes to about 27 destinations including Britain, France, Germany, Norway, Holland, Canada, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Australia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, UAE, and other counties of Middle East, he concluded.



Pakistan, UK set up body to achieve major economic target

Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK) have set up a committee of trade champions with the terms of reference to achieve bilateral trade and investment target of £3 billion by 2015. The committee has been set up following a recent trade and investment conference held in London.

Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Dr Miftah Ismail told *Business Recorder* that the committee had a total of four members: Chairman BoI Dr Miftah Ismail and Chairman

Lucky Cement, Mohammad Ali Tabba would represent Pakistan and Nosheena Mobarik, Joint Chief Executive, M Computer Technologies, Scotland and John Tucknott, British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi would be from the UK side. The trade champions would represent the government and private sector of their respective countries. Dr Miftah maintained that these champions would arrange trade and investment meetings and conferences to boost bilateral investment and trade.

A UK company Asian Precious Metals had already shown an interest in a £ 100 million project in Pakistan, Miftah revealed. The trade champions would prepare a revised roadmap to boost bilateral investment and submit its recommendations within 15 days. A final agreement would be signed subsequently. On May 9, 2012, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and UK Prime Minister Cameron had launched the Trade and Investment Roadmap to promote business and increase bilateral trade to £2.5 billion by 2015. At that time, both Prime Ministers challenged UK companies to look at the opportunities in the Pakistan market and build on the success of over 100 UK-based companies already doing business in Pakistan. However, the success of this roadmap was extremely limited. The Bol organised an investment conference in UK on April 30, 2014 and highlighted the following facts: over 100 UK based multinational companies' are successfully operating in Pakistan with an FDI of US \$2.7 billion over the last decade. The highest amount of FDI inflow from UK was US \$860.1 million in 2006-2007.

Bol during the Nawaz Sharif's first bilateral visit to the UK since he took over as the Prime Minister arranged a meeting with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) which reportedly is considering investing in Pakistan. The Prime Minister also met the Oracle Coalfields PLC, a UK based coal developing company with its primary coal projects in Pakistan. The company's primary interest is in Thar Coalfield Block VI license. Currently, Oracle is advancing its US \$1.5 billion integrated thermal coal and power plant project in Pakistan at Block VI; and has successfully secured funding from large Chinese state-owned groups to develop the open pit coal mine and a 600 MW coal-fired power plant at site. Chris Gibson-smith, Chairman, London Stock Exchange Group, also met the Prime Minister.



Pakistan considers Poland as gateway to Europe: Dastgir

Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan Thursday said Pakistan considered Poland as gateway to Central and Eastern Europe and was keen on developing strong trade relations with this country. Dastgir Khan who attended the Pakistan-Central Europe Economic Cooperation Forum during the European Economic Congress in Katowice, stated this while meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy of Poland Janusz Piechocinski. He also explained that Pakistan was very keen on developing strong trade relations with Poland. Dastgir explained that Pakistan considered Poland as gateway to Central and Eastern Europe and thanked the Deputy Prime Minister for hosting

Pakistan Central Europe Economic Co-operation Forum during the European Economic Congress in Katowice Poland, says a message received here from Poland. The Minister also invited Polish companies to invest in coal fired power generation in Pakistan and in this regard Polish Government can take the lead.

Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan informed Janusz Piechocinski that the Government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has embarked upon a comprehensive plan to generate energy through coal and Polish expertise in this regard could be of great support to Pakistan. He also invited Deputy Prime Minister to visit Pakistan to hold Joint Ministerial Meeting to further enhance the trade. The Deputy Prime Minister explained that European Economic Congress was one of the biggest business events in Central and East Europe and it could provide a useful platform for Pakistan to enhance ties with Central and Eastern European countries. He thankfully accepted the invitation of Minister for Commerce to visit Pakistan and was greatly impressed with the large Pakistani delegation of businessmen from FPCCI which also participated in the European Congress. He showed resolve of Polish government to work in coal based power generation in Pakistan. He also met with Jerzy Buzek, President of European Parliament (2009-12) and Prime Minister of Poland (1997-2001) and thanked him for support for Pakistan's GSP Plus status in European Parliament and requested for continued support. Buzek expressed happiness on Pakistan's participation in the European Economic Congress and assured full support for Pakistan in European Parliament.

Addressing the plenary Session of the Congress, Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Commerce informed the audience that Pakistan was very keen to enhance its relations with the European countries as Pakistan saw Europe as potential market for its product and also an important source of investment.

He also urged European Companies to establish projects in Pakistan in energy, heavy steel industry, food and other important sectors of the economy and Government of Pakistan will provide full support to European Economic Congress. The Minister invited the Polish and Central European businessmen to take part in the 9th Expo Pakistan 2014 which will be held from 23rd to 26th October 2014 in Karachi.

The Minister said Pakistan was the gateway to Central and South Asia and Government of Pakistan would facilitate companies from Poland and Central European region to invest and trade with Pakistan. The Minister informed the audience that the Privatisation Commission of Pakistan was in the process of privatising public sector entities with good business prospects and it will be a good chance for the businessmen from Poland and Central Europe to take benefit. During the meeting with President Polish Enterprise Development Agency (PAED), Bozena Lublinska-Kasprzak, President of Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, the Minister emphasised need to develop deeper co-operation between enterprises of the two countries. He also stressed the need to develop joint projects with Small and Medium Development Authority of Pakistan and PARP to strengthen economic co-operation between the two countries.



PIAF hails Pak-US Joint Action Plan

Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has welcomed the Pak-US Joint Action Plan to expand trade and investment ties between the two countries and termed it a good news for national economy. PIAF Chairman Malik Tahir Javed said in a statement on Wednesday that present regime was moving towards right direction since its inception and this initiative would certainly take mutual trade and economic relations between Pakistan and US to the new heights.

He expressed the optimism that Pak-US Joint Action Plan would provide a base for promoting trade, investment between the two countries. He said that nation expected the present government to deliver good as far as trade, economy and investment was concerned and it was a matter of great satisfaction that people sitting on the helm of affairs was doing rightly. He said United States should provide direct market access to Pakistani merchandise to the US market as economic stability of Pakistan was must to crush the menace of terrorism in the region. He said that aid or grant was a remedy for the Pakistani economy but it was not substitute of trade. Chairman PIAF urged the US government to fulfill all commitments made on various occasions that Reconstruction of Opportunity Zones will be established in Pakistan. He said there is a vast scope for US investors to make investment in several sectors of Pakistan including power, textile, food, livestock, diary and petroleum etc. The US Administration must convince the potential investors to put their money in Joint Ventures with Pakistanis.

Malik Tahir Javed said United States of America must transfer latest food technology to Pakistan as Pakistan can not only meet our national food grain requirement but can also properly meet the global needs as well. Pakistan has been ranked the 4th largest milk producer country in the world with rate best variety of livestock breed and cattle wealth. He said = US also must exercise its influence on India to help resolve core issue of occupied Kashmir and water dispute.

Pakistan to facilitate US investors: Khurram Dastgir

WASHINGTON: Pakistan offers tremendous business opportunities for foreign entrepreneurs in view of Islamabad's liberal policies and recent macroeconomic progress, Commerce Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan said, while pledging to facilitate American investment in various sectors of the economy. "Pakistan offers liberal and transparent investment policies in different sectors, and opportunities for the business communities of the two countries," the minister said, addressing members of U.S- Pakistan Business Council.

Khurram Dastgir, who co-chaired Washington for USPakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council meeting with US Trade Representative, also apprised the gathering of Islamabad's efforts towards predictable economic growth through trade liberalization, and the Joint Action Plan the US and Pakistan unveiled this week to advance bilateral cooperation. The Joint Action Plan on trade and investment over next five years follows Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's meeting with President

Barack Obama at the White House last year, which provided a fresh impetus to the bilateral relationship, the minister said.

Esperanza G Jelalian, President of the Council, welcomed the commerce minister and his delegation to the meeting at the U.S Chamber of Commerce. Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Jalil Abbas Jilani also attended the meeting. In his address, Minister Khurram Dastgir said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government inherited a situation where energy shortage alone cause a loss of about 2 percent of our GDP annually. "Promoting bilateral business, trade and investment in Pakistan is a key component of the Government's policy". "We are currently engaging in efforts on economic recovery, improved security and good governance to attract local and foreign investment."

The commerce minister cited the growing international confidence in Pakistan's economic prospects since the inception of the government. In this respect, he said the Foreign Direct Investment, which had gone to its lowest in last decade, has started to pick up. From \$820.7 million in the year 2011-12, it has registered a jump of 76.31 percent, taking it to \$1447.3 million in the year 2012-13. Moreover, there has been a 6.1 percent increase in Net FDI in 2013-14 (July-Mar) as compared to 2012-13 (July-Mar). Islamabad, he said, attaches the highest priority to improvement in the energy scenario, which is the ideal sector for foreign investors.

In addition to bringing 1700 MW of power to the national system through payment of the circular debt, government is working on several energy projects including Dasu Hydropower project, Nandipur, Jamshoro coal power project, CASA 1000, Energy-park at Gadani, and Neelum-Jhelum. "We are introducing structural reforms for market development and efficient public sector management. We will ensure fair competition, remove exorbitant taxes, rationalize tariff and policy distortions, ease entry barriers, reduce government involvement, and improve regulatory quality". "Most importantly, we will ensure good governance as our core principle," the minister said.

He also cited a latest survey by Overseas Investors Chamber, according to which business confidence has improved 36 points from 34 percent negative in August 2012 to 2 percent positive in August 2013. "There is a keen interest by investors of several major international companies towards investing in Pakistan. Major sectors where opportunities exist include energy, infrastructure, housing, agriculture and others. "This is evidenced by the performance of the Karachi Stock Exchange, whose index rose by 43.74 percent from 19,916 on 11th May, 2013 to 28629.63 on 5th May, 2014."

Besides, foreign remittances have increased by more than 10 percent to \$9 billion in the first seven months of the current fiscal year. The GDP growth is accelerating towards four percent and within the next three years, the government plans to raise GDP growth rate to 6-7 percent.

The underlying fundamentals of Pakistan's economy remain strong with a robust middle class consumer base rise in rural incomes, and rapid telecom and media penetration across the country, he said. Pakistan's exponential growth in technology adoption and the government's mandate to develop infrastructure allows for the youth based and fast growing technology sector to complement US innovation and industry, the commerce minister said. The minister noted that a number of major US corporations and

businesses have a long history of association with Pakistan, and boast extremely good returns on their investments.

"This has understandably encouraged some of these companies to expand their investments in Pakistan. We welcome this and strongly feel that US programs can play a key role in disseminating their good stories and business experiences in Pakistan to potential American investors." He thanked the Council for its longstanding support for expansion in trade and investment relations between Pakistan and the United States. President of the Council Ms. Jelalian reaffirmed the organization's firm commitment to boost cooperation in trade and investment areas to further expand the key Pakistan-US bilateral relationship.



Accelerated pace of economic development top priority of govt: Dastagir

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Engineer Khurram Dastagir Khan has said that an economic turnaround followed by an accelerated pace of economic development was among the foremost priorities of the present government. "A substantive increase in our trade therefore, holds the key for much of our future", he said while addressing Pakistan Envoys Conference on "Interactive Session on "Economic Cooperation" here today.

The Commerce Minister while appreciating Ministry of Foreign Affairs for organizing this conference said that he was privileged to have been invited on the occasion of today's Envoys Conference represented by Pakistan's Ambassadors in the Middle East Region.

"It is indeed, a commendable initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This forum, I am sure, would give a new momentum to our growing relations with neighbors in the Middle East. It is a unique opportunity for us to share our perception of the regional potential and present appropriate strategies to serve our economic and trade interests", he remarked.

Pakistan, he said, "we understand is ideally placed among regions and countries stretching across Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia and China.

Our geographic proximity with energy and oil rich economies of Middle East and Gulf regions has opened up many new economic avenues in diverse sectors of economy including export of merchandize goods, services, investments in energy, industry and infrastructure". Khurram Dastagir Khan told the envoys that in today's world, relations among countries and regions were no longer confined to political and diplomatic spheres.

"Economic dimensions continue to assume considerable importance in determining relations among states. Trade is the basis for a meaningful and sustainable economic cooperation. It is now, a determining factor in bilateral, regional and global relations", he remarked.

Growth in trade and investment, he said was crucial for Pakistan at this juncture.

"An economic turnaround followed by an accelerated pace of economic development is among the foremost priorities of the present Government. A substantive increase in our trade therefore, holds the key for much of our future", he remarked.

Khurram said that an open and liberal trade regime pursued by Pakistan helped in the integration process to multilateral trading system under WTO. He added that liberalized trade without enhanced market access carry no meaning. To be of benefit, positive reflection on exports, industrial base, and FDI inflows must be visible.

"It was in quest of these significant gains that Pakistan has been actively engaged in regional arrangements under SAARC, ECO, CAREC and D-8. The benefits of Pakistan's membership of regional initiatives and bilateral preferential agreements with China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Indonesia could also be beneficial for other economies and adjoining regions", he added.

"We believe that our relations with Middle Eastern countries stem from common aspiration of lasting peace, security and stability - vital pre-requisites for economic development. Pakistan shares common membership of UN, WTO and OIC forums with the Middle Eastern countries", he remarked.

Pakistan, he said has also formalized bilateral trade cooperation arrangements with important regional economies.

Under Trade Preferential System of Organization of Islamic Conference (TPS-OIC), Pakistan has ratified three agreements, he remarked.

To further foster economic and trade relations with the Islamic countries, process for Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement was initiated.

Progress on the stalled FTA negotiations could create a level playing field for our exporters. Higher tariffs, Non tariff and other policy barriers continue to impede market access for Pakistani businesses, he remarked. The Commerce Minister said that a steady increase in Pakistan's trade with Middle Eastern countries has been maintained.

Pakistan's Trade Missions , he said established in UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait undertake regular activities for tapping the regional potential."The volume of trade between Pakistan and Middle Eastern countries during the year 2012-13 was recorded at US \$ 31.47 billion. Pakistan's exports stood at US\$ 5.421 billion and imports from Middle East amounted to US\$ 26.05 billion", he remarked. The UAE is also an important trading hub for Pakistan's re-exports to Middle East, North African and South Asian Countries (MENSA). Market domination by major Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) in the Middle East pose a challenges of stiffer competition, he remarked. "UAE is Pakistan's top trading partner with US\$ 10.42 billion dollar trade. It is Pakistan's top import destination with total volume amounting to US \$ 8.37 and the third biggest export destination of Pakistani products and services amounting to US \$ 2.05 billion

In areas of trade, he said national policies are directed towards evolving institutional mechanism to add further vigor to the ongoing initiatives.

"We are adopting plans for Pakistan to become a knowledge based economy. Our agenda is now more focused on upgrading the domestic commerce and promotion of

trade in services. Private Sector is being facilitated to function more efficiently as engine of economic growth", he added.

"The infrastructural development projects to facilitate Pakistan's cross-border trade with neighboring markets are being undertaken with assistance from international development institutions", he remarked.

Khurram on the occasion urged all the Ambassadors to redouble their efforts and create synergies for carving out an enviable position for our country in the regional and global markets. "I would urge envoys to more actively initiate and support endeavors for expansion of trade in Middle East. Together we can overcome challenges and convert challenges into opportunities", he said.

He assured that the envoys for extending maximum facilities will be extended the Missions in their plans for enhancement of trade and investment.



After decade's gap, TIFA to be materialized this year: Khurram Dastagir

ISLAMABAD: US-Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) will be implemented this year after the gap of one decade since signing of this document, Federal Minister for Commerce, Engineer Khurram Dastagir said here Wednesday.

"The TIFA is in place for last ten years and six rounds of negotiations have already been held but without any outcome," he said while addressing a press conference to brief the media on his recent visit to United States.

The federal minister said that the TIFA agreement could not be materialized due to lack of interest of the previous governments. He said that during the 7th round of TIFA, both Pakistan and United States identified targets to be achieved under the agreement, adding that the implementation strategy would be announced in the first week of June.

Khurram Dastagir said that he met with Ambassador Michael Froman in Washington DC to discuss variety of trade and investment issues and to chart a path forward on improving bilateral trade and investment flows over the next five years. He said that both the countries announced agreement on Joint Action Plan to expand bilateral trade and investment flows in next five year. The areas of cooperation under this plan include diversifying agriculture production, enhancing intellectual property protection, implementing the World Trade Organization (WTO), Trade Facilitation Agreement and engaging on Pakistan's accession to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement.

In addition, it also included increasing trade in services, outreach to US State and Local Governments, promoting entrepreneurship and increasing dialogue between respective private sector of both the countries. He said both the governments would immediately begin work on implementing the Joint Action Plan.

He said at TIFA meeting, Pakistan and United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding on joint efforts to empower women and to promote women entrepreneurship. To a question he said that the bilateral trade between US and Pakistan was around \$5 billion, out of which exports from Pakistan are about \$3.5 billion while imports from the US are round about \$1.8 billion.

He said that the exports from Pakistan could be doubled to \$7 billion provided 'we set our house in order.' He said that issues like market access, market exploration, capacity of accessing markets and engaging US and other instituted in enhancing trade were also discussed during the talks. He said that Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) also came up to discussion, adding that representative of some ministries would be visiting US to have better understanding on the agreement. He said that the Commerce Ministry will be studying the agreement line by line and would point issues that would be against interest of Pakistan.

To a question, the federal minister said that his ministry was ready to hold talks with India on trade issues, so whenever India is ready we are ready to negotiate. Khurram Dastagir said that he had meetings with representatives of various US fora including US Business Chamber, International Finance Corporation, EXIM Bank etc.

The meetings were held in candid and friendly atmosphere, aiming at promoting bilateral trade an investment between the two countries.



\$2 million export orders expected: TMA delegation sees about achieving goals in Australia

A delegation of Towel Manufacturers' Association of Pakistan (TMA) on a visit to Australia expects to execute export orders worth two million dollars. According to a message received here, TMA delegation comprising prominent manufacturers-cum-exporters of terry towels and home textiles has successfully accomplished its desired goal.

B2B meetings were arranged in Sydney and Melbourne by Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Consul General and Trade Minister in which TMA delegates got an opportunity to interact with Australian importers of home textile and signed export orders with them. Besides these meetings delegation members also participated in exhibitions which were held in Sydney on April 28 and Melbourne on May 1. The exhibitions were visited by potential Australian buyers of terry towel and home textile. Besides the export orders which have been signed, many more are in the pipeline. On these occasions Mehtab Chawla, leader and chairman of sub-committee trade delegation and fair and exhibitions emphasised on improving the perception of Pakistan and asked importers to visit Pakistan on the occasion of Expo 2014. The delegation is now moving to Auckland, New Zealand and hope to achieve good results there as well.

The Nation

Cameron commits to a prosperous Pakistan

LONDON - The two friendly prime ministers, David Cameron and Nawaz Sharif, who met here to the 10 Downing Street expressed complete understanding on all issues of common interest and their resolve to meet all the challenges – including combating the menace of terrorism being faced by the two Commonwealth partners. Mr Cameron received his visiting counterpart in front of his office and while shaking hands with Premier Nawaz Sharif he mentioned the excellent weather by raising his finger to the sky. Remaining members of the delegation, including Chief Ministers Shahbaz Sharif of Punjab and Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of Balochistan, followed the two prime ministers as they walked inside the main door of PM Cameron's office. At 10 Downing, David Cameron hosted a working luncheon in honour of the Pakistani delegation after which he held a one-on-one meeting with his counterpart. On the sidelines, National Security Adviser Sartaj Aziz and Tariq Fatemi held a meeting with their counterparts. A joint communiqué was issued at the end of today's interaction between the two prime minister and their colleagues at different levels. The two leaders reaffirmed strong bonds of friendship and partnership between Pakistan and the UK. They emphasised their commitment to support the UK-Pakistan relationship by agreeing to open a new British Deputy High Commission in Lahore that would facilitate a large number of people living in remote areas of central and southern parts of the country. The two leaders were of the view that Britain and Pakistan enjoyed a long history of working closely and effectively together as members of the Commonwealth. The large population of Pakistani origin has made a significant contribution to British cultural and economic life. They pledged that both countries were committed to broadening their relations across many areas. The joint statement said that Prime Minister Sharif also held comprehensive discussions with UK ministers about security and stability in Pakistan and the wider South Asia region. They agreed to the importance of supporting the new Afghan government and developing closer cooperation with the new government in India.

Both governments also reaffirmed their commitment to working in partnership to counter the shared threats from terrorism, organized crime and illegal migration, and to support Pakistan's new National Internal Security Policy. On support to a secure and stable Pakistan, both sides agreed to continue counter-terrorism training and support, including aviation security, building on our existing counter-IED programme, and increasing security cooperation at customs. This was PM Sharif's first official bilateral visit to the UK since Pakistan's landmark elections in May 2013. He will be also meeting the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Defence Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development, and deliver a keynote address at the Pakistan Investment Conference.

PM Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan had suffered a lot due to terrorism and extremism, and tackling it was part of his government's national policy. He appreciated the continued support and assistance by the DFID UK to the country and said the people of Pakistan are grateful for the support. PM Cameron, who had warmly welcomed PM Nawaz,

reiterated UK's all-out support to Pakistan in its pursuit to strengthen economy and achieving socio-economic development. He also backed Pakistani government's efforts in combating terrorism and extremism. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the current level of bilateral ties in various areas, including trade and economy, and renewed their commitment to further strengthen these relations. The two leaders discussed how to further the trade and investment links between the two countries and renewed their commitment to increase bilateral trade to £3 billion by 2015. A revised Trade and Investment Roadmap sets out new cooperation course. On specific new initiatives, UK company Asian Precious Minerals has announced a new project with over £100m of investment in Pakistan. The UK also supports the growing dialogue between Pakistan and UK investors highlighted by a roundtable meeting with Prime Minister Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar hosted by Peter Sands, Global CEO of Standard Chartered Bank. PM Sharif was also guest of honour at a trade and investment-focussed conference attended by over 100 delegates. The UK welcomes signs of growth in Pakistan's economy as a result in achieving GSP+ trading agreement status with the EU: GSP+ status is dependent on a number of measures including human rights conditions, which are monitored by scorecard. The UK will provide Pakistan with further advice and support on effective monitoring.

The visit also marks the launch of a UK-Pakistan cultural and education cooperation 'roadmap' which sets out the basis of cultural engagement between the two countries, enables collaboration on a calendar of cultural engagement for the next 3 years, and builds on elements of the strong existing UK-Pakistan relationship on education. In partnership with UK providers, the roadmap includes the British Council's commitment to train 1 million teachers of English over the next 4 years in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces to help enhance the quality of English language teaching in Pakistan. A new Memorandum of Understanding on the status of the British Council in Pakistan maps out a range of joint activities around the British Council's work there, including English language learning, arts and the creative industries. The roadmap also highlights work through the Department for International Development to support delivery of primary and secondary education in Pakistan, which by 2015 aims to benefit 4 million more children in school and train 90,000 teachers per year. The UK welcomed the priority the Nawaz government has given to education, including the recent commitment to increase education spending to 4% of GDP. Both governments noted recent progress on education in Punjab and the re-launch of UK's education partnership in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which will benefit all primary and lower secondary schoolchildren in the province. Both sides also welcomed the partnership between the UK and Punjab government to provide vocational training to 135,000 people living in poverty, 40% of them women.

Pakistan agreed to the importance of honouring the shared history and WW-I sacrifices made by the soldiers from the areas now called Pakistan, and as part of this, committed to a memorial copse in Islamabad to mark the fallen. The UK and Pakistan welcomed indicators of an upturn in economic activity and agreed on the importance of improved conditions in Pakistan to foster economic stability, inclusive growth and prosperity. They agreed to work together to support Pakistan's implementation of critical economic reforms, particularly to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio towards 15% and welcomed the developing relationship between the Federal Board of Revenue and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to support this. The two governments welcomed the launch of

UK support to help improve the business environment and increase domestic and international investment in small and growing businesses in Pakistan. This aims to create up to £400 million in additional economic production, and generate up to 400,000 jobs, half of which will be for women and young people. They also agreed on the importance of effective regional cooperation for stability and growth. Both sides agreed to work to improve Pakistan's trade competitiveness, particularly in reducing trade barriers between Pakistan and its neighbours. The two sides also agreed to exchange expertise and business dialogue on energy. They also welcomed the Punjab government's new approach to delivering health reforms, supported by the Department for International Development, which aims to improve basic primary healthcare service across the province, including increasing immunization coverage and reducing maternal and child deaths.

The Nation

Pak-US deal signed to complete Chaman-Kalat road

ISLAMABAD -Pakistan and the US Monday signed a project implementation agreement to complete the N-25 highway connecting Chaman to Kalat through Quetta, Balochistan.

The agreement, signed by US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard Olson and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, provides \$64 million to the Government of Pakistan for this crucial infrastructure project, with an additional \$26 million to be allocated at a future date. The rehabilitation of the highway will restore a major trade route between Afghanistan and the Central Asian states. The highway will also establish a vital link between Balochistan and the rest of Pakistan, reaching all the way to Karachi. It will help revitalize cities and communities along the highway, expand communication and transportation services, and improve access to basic health, education, and other social services. "The United States is proud to partner with the Government of Pakistan in rebuilding essential infrastructure. When completed, this highway will become part of the growing legacy of partnership between our two nations, as it will serve the people of Pakistan for generations to come," Ambassador Olson said at the signing ceremony. Under the agreement, the United States, through USAID, will fund the construction of the remaining 111 kilometers needed to complete the 247 kilometer-long highway. Work on the project began in 2004, but was interrupted in 2010 because of security challenges in the area. The Pakistani National Highway Authority will be responsible for all construction and will work with stakeholders to ensure its completion.

The funding of the highway is one element of a comprehensive US programme in Pakistan to help restore essential public infrastructure in remote communities. To date, the United States has funded the construction and rehabilitation of nearly 900 kilometers of roads, including the four major trade routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the construction of 474 kilometers of roads in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

The Nation

Steps being taken to improve economy

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government was taking steps to bring about improvement in the economy besides streamlining system in different sectors. He said focus was being given to ensure development in all sectors. Talking to Pakistan Television channel, he said foreign investors had reposed confidence in the leadership and dynamic policies of the present government. He said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had visited Balochistan and taken keen interest in the fast development of these areas. He said Gawador Port, Gadani and other mega projects would be completed in near future to facilitate the masses. The Minister said China was investing a huge amount in the energy sector. Several power projects would help resolve the problem of loadshedding, he added. Ahsan Iqbal said Ministry of Planning and Development was fully functioning to ensure progress in all the sectors. Replying to a question, he said there was a need to work together to make progress and prosperity for the people. He said PML-N had clear agenda to put the country on the path of development. He added that all available resources were being utilized to achieve this objective.

The Federal Minister said Prime Minister Loan Scheme for youth would help bring results soon. Pakistani youth was fully capable to take the country forward, he added. He said PML-N government after coming into power was making efforts to increase GDP, literacy rate, stock market besides taking steps for stabilizing the prices of daily use items.

The Nation

Pak show in Amritsar

LAHORE - The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry is organizing its first-ever Pakistan Show at Trillium Mall, Amritsar, from May 8-12, 2014. This was stated by LCCI President Engineer Sohail Lashari while addressing a press conference here at the LCCI on Monday. He said that a large business delegation comprising leading members of various chambers in Pakistan will also be participating in the Pakistan Show 2014. The five-day mega event also features cultural shows where prominent Pakistani singers would be performing. The positive vibes will translate into a significant leap in transactions and flow of goods across the border. Trade has already accelerated with the formal exchange of goods between India and Pakistan increasing from \$250 million in 2003 to \$2.4 billion in 2014, showing an annual growth rate of 25 percent in the last 10 years. Experts quote the potential trade between the two nations to be as high as 10 times the current value. The show, while aiming to

showcase the best of Pakistan in the 21st century, is also a conscious effort to build the bilateral relations.

To serve this purpose, a strong presence of Pakistan industry has been ensured with more than 90 Pakistani companies representing sectors as diverse as basic and value added textiles, agriculture and allied services, healthcare, gems and jewellery, steel industry, warehousing, construction equipments, jute products, wedding concepts and consumer durables. The Pakistan Show in Amritsar offers manifold benefits to all stakeholders. It has the potential to expand trade networks between India and Pakistan, bringing down costs, generating employment and expanding regional trade. It offers a gateway to a huge potential market in the region, an opportunity for businesses on both sides to explore investment and joint ventures and a valuable platform for forging business linkages in the region.

The Nation

PM lays foundation of 1320 MW power plants in Sahiwal

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday laid the foundation stone of two coal-based power plants in Sahiwal, a private news channel reported. PM Sharif was accompanied by Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif and Water and Power Minister Abid Sher Ali. The two power plants, built with the cooperation of China, will be built by 2016 and are expected to generate 1320 megawatt electricity collectively, once functional.

Addressing the ceremony, PM Sharif said Pakistan inherited several challenges, including energy crisis, but the government is working diligently to overcome the challenges. He said that the motorway planned to be built from Karachi to Lahore will also benefit Sahiwal and its people. He added that additional 21,000MW of electricity will be generated that in the next ten years.

The PM also expressed his desire to develop Gwadar at the same level of Dubai and Singapore.



Strengthening exports: Country to hold exhibition in Kuala Lumpur

Festivals exhibiting mangoes and oranges would also be held in Malaysia in order to promote Pakistan's fruit exports. PHOTO: FILE

KARACHI: Pakistan High Commissioner to Malaysia Syed Hasan Raza has announced to promote Pakistan's exports in Malaysia in a broader way and assist the business community to hold a single country exhibition in Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking at a seminar at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in collaboration with the Halal Association of Pakistan, Raza also announced that festivals exhibiting mangoes and oranges would also be held in Malaysia in order to promote Pakistan's fruit exports. The seminar was also attended by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive SM Muneer and Halal Products and Services Association of Pakistan Chairman Kazi Asad Abid, who also addressed the business community.

The high commissioner highlighted the potential of fruits and vegetables, readymade garments and Halal products. He also informed the initiatives taken for the promotion of Pakistani exports to Malaysia. Muneer informed that he recently held a meeting with the Minister of Commerce and highlighted the importance of Pakistani foreign missions in the promotion of exports. He said a list of Pakistani foreign consulate / embassy officials would be updated to find out those, that are not performing their duties as per the role assigned to them for the promotion of Pakistani exports.

"The business community is very happy that Hassan Raza is now posted as the Malaysian Ambassador and we are sure that he will do his best efforts to identify and create opportunities for our exporters to increase Pakistan's exports to Malaysia for the Halal certified Food and non food products," said HAP Chairman Kazi Asad Abid. Appreciating the appointment of SM Muneer as the chief executive of TDAP, Asad assured the audience that HAP would organise similar lectures on a regular basis, especially for the markets which are still not open for Pakistan, and would make efforts to resolve the issues and difficulties faced by our exporters under the leadership of SM Muneer.



World Bank approves 3 loans for Pakistan worth \$1.125 bn

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of World Bank approved on Thursday three loans for Pakistan totaling \$1.125 billion including \$600 million for energy sector reforms.

The energy sector loan is aimed at reducing power subsidies and line losses and improving the accountability of the power sector. The WB also desired that the government role in determining the electricity prices be minimised and it surrenders its right in favour of the power sector regulator, according to the Pakistani officials. The WB lending will augment an earlier loan of \$400 million approved by the Asian Development Bank for the power sector.

The Board that met in Washington also approved \$400 million for macroeconomic reforms with a focus on overhauling the taxation regime. An amount of \$125 million was approved for the private sector, to be financed by International Finance Corporation of the WB Group. The package has been approved under the existing four-year Country Partnership Strategy that will end this year –the performance of the programme that the WB itself admitted was moderately unsatisfactory.

Most of the outcomes attached with the outgoing strategy could not be achieved and the WB said that the desired reforms in governance, energy, taxation and infrastructure were far less than satisfactory. The Board also approved a new five-year strategy for Pakistan under which it will extend \$11 billion loans till 2019. An amount of \$6 billion will be concessionary lending. Tied to the ability of the government to achieve minimum credit worthiness, the WB also cleared \$2 billion policy loans. The IFC is expected to offer over \$3 billion loans during the strategy period.

However, all these amounts are notional and the government will have to go to the WB board for approval of individual projects each time, according to the WB documents. According to the WB, Pakistan's energy sector is highly inefficient and unsustainable. Pakistan ranks 166 of 183 economies on the ease of getting electricity, worse than the average for South Asia. The WB strategy aims at mobilizing over \$10 billion to support new generation, a significant part of this amount will be offered by the WB. The new investment will be both public and private projects. But for complete overhaul of the energy sector, Pakistan needs at least \$3 billion to \$4 billion in funding annually.

The new investment is expected to increase the total generation capacity from present 21,000MW to 33,000MW. The WB says it will focus on hydropower development along the Indus River Cascade. "The key monitorable outcome from WB activities will be to reduce load shedding from 8 hours to 5 hours per day," the draft strategy notes.

However, the key to additional power is the WB's plan to shift additional 500 million cubic feet of gas per day for power generation to add additional 6,000MW.

Pakistan Observer

Nandipur power plant first unit starts generating 95 MW

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 - Islamabad—The first 95 MW unit of 425MW Nandipur Power Project has started [power generation](#) and would be formally inaugurated by May 31. Talking to APP Managing Director M Mehmood, said that the first unit was completed in just seven month and start supplying 95 MW to the [national](#) grid system.

He said that the project has four units and after every two month another unit would be added to the grid system. Around 60 per cent physical work on the second 95.4 MW unit has already been completed and would start generation by July, he added.. Mehmood said the whole project would be completed by December and the last unit would generate 134 MW electricity. The MD said that the project would cost Rs.59

billion and around Rs.7 billion was saved so far. He said that all technical tests of first gas turbine including performance, sound, temperature and vibration proved to be successful.

To a question, he said that the project was delayed due to policies of the past government which also cost billion of rupees to the [national](#) exchequer.—AP

Major Chinese groups to assist Pakistan in mega projects

Friday, May 09, 2014 - Karachi—Zheng Wanchun Senior Executive Vice President of Industrial Commercial Bank of China Group that 19 major Chinese groups will be involved in the mega projects including economic corridor between Pakistan and China ending Gwadar. All of these group companies are clients of ICBC in China,” informed Mr. Zheng adding, “It will be natural for these companies to have business relationship with ICBC Pakistan and this will boost ICBC Pakistan’s operation.” Mr. Zheng also expressed ICBC’s commitment to play effective role in the successful implementation of these projects. He apprised the Deputy Governor about his meetings in Islamabad with Planning Commission and other authorities in this respect. This was discussed in a meeting between Deputy Governor SB Saeed Ahmed and Zhen Wanchun and other officials of Chinese bank when they visited the State bank of Pakistan here today.

The theme of the discussion also traversed on mega projects like largest Nuclear Power Plant in Karachi with Chinese assistance and award of G4 license to Chinese based cellular giant Zong. “Economic Corridor between China and Pakistan ending at Gwadar is expected to have substantial impact with industrial estates being established alongside,” said Mr. Ahmad adding,” The move will benefit Pakistan all the way north to south and provide opportunities in a number of industries.” Deputy Governor also anticipated a great deal of employment prospects for skilled and non-skilled workforce along the corridor.

Saeed Ahmad DG – SBP welcomed Mr. Zheng Wanchun to State Bank of Pakistan. While acknowledging consistent support of China in diverse areas like energy, infrastructure development, trade and commerce, the Deputy Governor said that cooperation in banking sector was natural outcome and speaks volume of extent of close friendship the two countries enjoy. Mr. Ahmad termed China all weather friend and said China has always stood by Pakistan through thick and thin. “We value ICBC’s presence and operations in Pakistan,” said Mr. Ahmad.

It is pertinent to mention here that ICBC Group currently operates through 17,245 branches in China and 329 overseas institutions in 40 countries. The Group is conducting its business in Pakistan through its Branches since its commencement of its operations in August 2011 in Karachi & Islamabad and its Sales and Service Center in Lahore. Mr. Zheng elaborated strategic vision of ICBC for its Pakistan operations and thanked Mr. Ahmad for SBP’s continued support for the first and the only Chinese bank in Pakistan. He also appreciated the warm welcome and friendly feelings which Pakistani friends have for China and Chinese institutions like ICBC. Mr Ahmad reiterated that internationally it has been acknowledged by institutions like ADB, World Bank and IMF that the financial management of the country has now been established

on sound footing and it is moving in the right direction. “Based on this, Pakistan has been offered a number of long term facilities to assist with its energy generation and other projects,” he averred. He expressed optimism that if the present discipline is maintained, Pakistan will achieve sustainable economic stability and growth in the coming years. This will trickle down and benefit the economy and common person on a long term. This also provides sufficient comfort for foreign investors to invest in the country. He pointed out that investment returns in Pakistan are very attractive

Mr. Zheng reiterated ICBC Group’s commitment to Pakistan and discussed the ways in which ICBC could be a significant partner for Pakistan especially in sectors of national importance such as Energy, Telecommunications and Infrastructure. Mr. Saeed Ahmad reassured Mr. Zheng of SBP’s full cooperation for ICBC and its business growth in Pakistan. On some specific requests, SBP asked ICBC to submit proposals, which will be vetted and responded to very quickly.

Mr. Ahmad & Mr. Zheng expressed their confidence in the senior management of Pakistan operations to deliver on their commitments and build a sound bank based on strong Internal Controls and Governance. Mr. Zheng invited Deputy Governor Saeed Ahmad to visit ICBC Head Office in China. Mr. Ahmad ext

Pakistan Observer

PIBC-IPBC joins hands to promote Pak-India trade

Pak-India Business Council (PIBC) and India-Pak Business Council (IPBC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work jointly to promote trade opportunities between both the countries.

Sardar Tej Paul Singh and Noor M Kasuri signed the MOU from their respective organisations. PIBC chairman Noor Muhammad Kasuri said on Sunday upon his arrival from India after a four week-visit. He said during the visit, he held meetings with heads of different chambers of commerce and Industry and other important business and trade persons of India. He said under this MOU the interested exporters and importers would be provided business linkages, proper information regarding demand and supply of different products.

“We will set up information desks for traders where they can get the latest knowledge required to them for the changing scenario of demand and supply of different items in both countries”, he added. He said Pakistan exported number of items, including textile goods, marble, furniture, cement, gypsum to India while Indians exported agriculture machinery and livestock. The PIBC chairman said regional trade was a key to resolve economic issues and boost economy for both the countries.

Indian media, corporate sector and other stakeholders were convinced that they should work with Pakistan in fields of energy, petroleum gas product, railways, health, education and infrastructure facilities development, he said. He said the PIBC was playing role of a bridge to boost trade ties between both nations and would continue this

in future. Kasuri also held a meeting with President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and apprised him about details of his visit to India.

Pakistan Observer

Cross border trade flourishes between India and Pakistan

Cross border trade between [India](#) and [Pakistan](#) continues to flourish peacefully. Recently, more than 25 truckloads of bananas from India and ten truckloads of dry fruits from Pakistan crossed over, facilitating a huge volume of trade between the neighbours.

The Custodian of Cross Line of Control ([LoC](#)) trade in [Jammu and Kashmir](#), Mohammed Bashir Lone, said on Saturday that trade is flourishing between the two sides.

"Trade is flourishing peacefully. From our end, 25 vehicles are going on a daily basis. From there, around seven, eight, ten, and today, 14 trucks containing apples, herbs and dry fruits have arrived. Our trade of Chakan Da Bagh has got a boost. Traders are working hard," Bashir said.

The trans-LoC trade resumed in February which was suspended after Jammu and Kashmir Police had seized over 100 kilograms of heroin concealed in a truck full of nuts coming from the Pakistan side in January.

The row erupted when Indian police impounded a truck coming from Chakoti on the Pakistan side of Kashmir and arrested its driver, saying they had found 114 packets of heroin concealed in a cargo of almonds.

A trader, Mohammed Asif, said there was peace in the area.

"With this trade, our area has witnessed peace. The misunderstanding between people has been resolved," Asif said. Pakistan had halted cross-border trade and bus travel across the Himalayan region after the seizure. Asif added that the Indian Government has also requested the Pakistan Government to increase the number of items allowed under the LoC trade protocols from 21 to at least 40



PRGMEA to hold 2nd Edition of 'Made in Pakistan Expo' in India

Karachi: After witnessing an overwhelming response from the Pakistan Exhibitors and Indian buyers at the time of 1st Edition of MIPEM 2014 held from April 3-7, 2014 at World Trade Centre, Mumbai, Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers &

Exporters Association in collaboration with Evecon are pleased to announce the 2nd Edition of 'Made in Pakistan Expo Mumbai' from August 31- September 5, 2014 at the World Trade Centre Mumbai, India. According to PRGMEA Chairman (SZ) Arshad Aziz, the 2nd Edition of MIPEM 2014 (from August 31 to September 5, 2014) will help Pakistani products further enter one of the world's largest consumer markets. It will introduce high quality Pakistani products infused with rich culture to Indian business community and people at large and at the same time provide top Pakistani enterprises with a platform to meet Indian authorities and discuss trade-related issues. The main feature of the event and my thrust would be on arranging meetings of our exhibitors with their Indian counterparts so that they could procure long-term export orders especially for the readymade garments and other fabrics that's why PRGMEA has initiated this venture and is trying to establish this event as a regular feature in India.

He said that India is a lucrative market for Pakistani garments and textile made-ups. Maximum B2C and B2B meetings between the Pakistani exhibitors and manufacturers with Indian buyers would be arranged, so that Pakistani exhibitors could avail maximum benefit of the event. He said that the event is being organized in collaboration with EVECON at Mumbai's World Trade Centre. He further added that in the past, Made in Pakistan shows have been quite successful amongst the residents of Mumbai and the visitors' turnout has been enormous (approx 18000 to 20000 foot steps daily) and the exhibitors returned satisfied to breakeven the expenditure the exhibitors will be allowed to spot sale.

TDAP to focus on agro-food products' exports

ISLAMABAD: The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TDAP), Agro Food Division has geared up by the S M Muneer, Chief Executive TDAP and Rabiya Javeri Agha, Secretary, in order to give great focus on the export of Agro Food sectors including kinno, mango, rice, meat and seafood products. "These products are being promoted by the Agro Food Division by arranging participation of exporters in the world exhibitions and sending them abroad and inviting trade delegations. TDAP this year had sent rice to China and Chinese delegation also visited Pakistan in the last month for promotion of rice from Pakistan", says a statement issued by the organization here. The TDAP statement said that two special delegations visited Pakistan last month, one from Thailand for meeting rice exports and other from Malaysia with interest procurement of a number of items. Pakistan being an agricultural country which is backbone of Economy of the country and constitutes 22% of National GDP and employees 44% of the labor foods of the country. This is to be noted that Pakistan has a rich and vast natural resource base, covering various ecological and climatic zones; hence the country has great potential for producing all types of food commodities. Agriculture has an important direct and indirect role in generating economic growth. It is considered opinion of experts that Pakistan has a huge untapped potential for grabbing a significant share of the world agro-food exports.

The Agro Food Division at TDAP is focused on helping stimulate the export of agro-food products from Pakistan in order to achieve this potential. Participation in nearly 10 international exhibitions annually is undertaken for this sector by the Agro-Food Division. Some significant exhibitions attended by our exporters include Gulf Food, World Food Moscow, Sial Food Fair, Anuga Food Fair. Some local exhibitions are also organized by the Division to showcase potential of our Agro Food Products. The Division organizes exporters' Delegation to potential importer countries of Pakistan agro-food products. In recent years, some of the countries were visited by such delegations including Maldives, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Oman. Similarly delegations of buyers are invited to visit Pakistan in order to see the potential and range of Pakistani Agro Food products. In the last year, we had delegations from South Africa Yemen. There is a dire need in the country for improving the quality of our agro-food products by transfer of technology, improving the hygienic conditions at production and packaging stage, as well as value addition.

Disclaimer: The Commercial Section Consulate General of Pakistan New York has compiled, collated, and disseminated the 'Pakistan Business News Letter'" for informational purposes only to the business community. It should not be relied upon as the sole or correct source of information. The views and opinions expressed in the news items are those of the newspapers/periodicals and in no way reflect the views of this office.