

BUSINESS RECORDER

Lahore, Tuesday 18 January 2011, 13 Safar 1432

Saarc business leaders' conclave in Dhaka on April 30

ISLAMABAD: The Leaders of the South Asian Business Community have decided to convene the 4th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave on April 30, 2010 at Dhaka, Bangladesh which will be organised by SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI) and all the National Chambers and Federations of South Asian countries. Friedrich Nuemann Foundation (FNF), New Delhi, India shall be the main partner of the Conclave.

The decision came into a meeting held here under chair of A K Azad, President FBCCI in presence of SAARC CCI President Annisul Huq and immediate former President Tariq Sayeed who also heads the Finance and Accounts Committee of SAARC CCI. The meeting convened on the request of Secretary General SAARC CCI Iqbal Tabish, was attended by five Vice Presidents including Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Snr Vice President (India), Iftikhar Ali Malik (Pakistan), Kashem Khan (Bangladesh), Pradeep Kumar Shrestha (Nepal), Kosala Wickramanyake (Sri Lanka) and Executive Committee members of SAARC CCI from Bangladesh.

The SBLC, which is the most prestigious event of SAARC CCI is customarily inaugurated by the Head of the Government of the host country and the 4th is likely to be launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

The Steering Committee decided to organise 4th SBLC under the theme of "Peace and prosperity through regional Connectivity" in the backdrop of the prevailing situation of the region and declaration of 2010-2020 as the decade of Regional connectivity adopted by the leaders of the South Asian region.

The inaugural session will be followed by a Ministerial Round and working sessions of core socio-economic issues faced by South Asia, which will be addressed by prominent figures from the World and the

Bangladesh to host 4th SAARC conclave

LAHORE
STAFF REPORT

The leaders of the South Asian business community have decided to convene the fourth SAARC Business Leaders Conclave (SBLC) on April 30, 2011 at Dhaka, Bangladesh, which will be organised by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) in collaboration with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and all national chamber and federations of South Asian countries.

The decision was made in a meeting held here on Monday, which was chaired by the FBCCI President A K Azad. The meeting was convened on the request of SAARC CCI Secretary General Iqbal Tabish, which was attended by the President Annisul Huq and former President Tariq Sayeed, Senior Vice President (India) Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Iftikhar Ali Malik, Kashem Khan from Bangladesh, Pradeep Kumar Shrestha from Nepal, Kosala Wickramanyake from Sri Lanka and other executive committee members from Bangladesh. The SBLC, which is the most prestigious event of SAARC CCI, is customarily inaugurated by the head of the host country and the fourth conclave is likely to be launched by the Bangladeshi prime minister.

Daily Times

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

B'desh to host 4th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave on April 30

KARACHI: Leaders of South Asian Business Community decided to convene 4th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave on April 30, 2010 at Dhaka, Bangladesh. The event will be organized by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry FBCCI and all national chambers and federations of South Asian countries.

The decision was taken at meeting chaired by A K Azad, president FBCCI and it was also decided to organize 4th SBLC on theme peace and prosperity through regional connectivity in backdrop of prevailing situation of the region and declaration of 2010-2020 as decade of regional connectivity adopted by leaders of South Asian region. **PPI**

BUSINESS

Irritants removal to foster regional economic integration

LAHORE (APP) - SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), an apex body of chambers Saturday urged upon the respective governments of SAARC member countries to play proactive role for removal of irritants and non-tariff barriers to foster regional economic integration for implementation of SAFTA in true spirit.

According to a message received here today from Dhakka, speaking at the inaugural session of 3-day SAARC special high level meeting commenced today at Dhakka (Bangladesh) wherein leader of Pak delegation, VP SCCI, Pak chapter, Iftikhar Ali Malik gave a detailed presentation and outlined the vision and the activities of business community under the umbrella of SCCI. President SCCI Annisul Huq who belongs to Bangladesh chaired the session while former SCCI Chief Tariq Sayeed from Pakistan was also present on the occasion.

He was of the opinion that regional economic integration was must for creating complementarities and regarded it as an effective and tangible arrangement to face the challenges of globalization highlighting the role of the private sector under the umbrella of SCCI he said that it has embarked upon a comprehensive plan to promote trade activities in the region which includes SAARC business leaders conclave, seminars on economic freedom and create SAARC Pavilion in all "expo" of Asia and said that SCCI will continue such productive activities to reap maximum benefits out of SAFTA. Iftikhar Ali Malik also identified some of the constraints being faced by businessmen of the SAARC region while engaging in intra-regional trade.

He put forth several proposals for exploring existing and indicative potential of the region. The proposals include

multi modal transport road map for efficient economic union, additional road links for border trade, utilization of rail, road and sea routes for improved transportation, priority berthing for the shipping lines of the region, establishment of custom stations including warehousing, container terminals, availability of cargo handling equipments and space for parking of trucks at all trade points across the border.

He asserted on the need of removal of such barriers and said that the provision of recommended facilitation would transform the region into one of the most active commercial hubs of Asia.

Iftikhar also emphasized for introducing a centralized mechanism including the adoption of mutual recognition of certification, harmonization of standards and Testing Procedures, enhanced communication linkage, SAARC banking and insurance system including

insurance coverage with regard to the goods lying at no man's land throughout the region and hoped that such initiatives would enhance business transaction within the region.

He stressed the need to formulate and adopt a uniformed policy on joint ventures and investments. He said that now Investments have overtaken as a basic instrument to promote international trade and since joint ventures are crucial as it is a major trade promotion tool for the SAARC Region.

He vowed that during presidential tenure of Annisul Huq with SCCI he will progressively follow up the SAARC Secretariat on enhancing the flow of foreign direct investments across the region to promote joint ventures following the example of China as in the year 1951 it had USD 551 million worth of exports which now touched historic figure in memory due to FDI.

Removal of non-tariff barriers key to SAFTA implementation

LAHORE: The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday urged upon the respective governments of SAARC member countries to play a proactive role for removal of irritants and non-tariff barriers to foster regional economic integration for implementation of SAFTA in true spirit.

According to a press release issued on the occasion of the moot, the inaugural session of the 3-day SAARC special high level meeting commenced on Saturday in Dhaka (Bangladesh) wherein leader of the Pak delegation, Vice President SAARC Chamber (Pak chapter), Iftikhar Ali Malik gave a detailed presentation and outlined the vision and activities of business community under the umbrella of the chamber. President SAARC Chamber, Annisul Huq who belongs to Bangladesh, chaired the session while former chief of the SAARC Chamber, Tariq Sayeed from Pakistan, was also present on the occasion.

Malik was of the opinion that regional economic integration is

must for creating complementarities and regarded it as an effective and tangible arrangement to face the challenges of globalisation.

While highlighting the role of the private sector under the umbrella of SAARC Chamber, he said that it has embarked upon a comprehensive plan to promote trade activities in the region which include SAARC business leaders' conclave, seminars on economic freedom and creating a SAARC Pavilion in all expos of Asia.

He further said that SAARC Chamber will continue such productive activities to reap maximum benefits out of SAFTA. Malik also identified some of the constraints being faced by businessmen of the SAARC region while engaging in intra-regional trade. He put forth several proposals for exploring existing and indicative potential of the region.

The proposals include multi modal transport road map for efficient economic union, additional road links for border

trade, utilisation of rail, road and sea routes for improved transportation, priority berthing for the shipping lines of the region, establishment of custom stations including warehousing, container terminals, availability of cargo handling equipments and space for parking of trucks at all trade points across the border. He asserted on the need of removal of such barriers and said that the provision of recommended facilitation would transform the region into one the most active commercial hubs of Asia.

Iftikhar also emphasised on introducing a centralised mechanism including the adoption of mutual recognition of certification, harmonisation of standards and testing procedures, enhanced communication linkages, SAARC banking and insurance system including insurance coverage with regard to the goods lying at no man's land throughout the region and hoped that such initiatives would enhance business transactions within the region. —APP

BUSINESS

Saarc trade list

LAHORE - Vice President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former president Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that he would campaign for inclusion of more items on the restricted list for trade among the member countries of SAARC chamber. He stressed

the need that services sector facilities like education and health should also be shared among the member countries, says a press release.

Vice President SAARC Chamber Iftikhar Malik was of the opinion that trade and other economic activities among SAARC countries should not be linked to their political relations.