

**Razzak, Uzbek Deputy PM discuss enhancement of trade**

SLAMABAD: Abdul Razzak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, had a conference call with Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister, Sardor Umurzakov,. Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan, Furqat Sidikov, also joined the meeting in Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.

During the meeting, both sides expressed the desire to enhance trade relations between the two countries. It was resolved that all out efforts would be made to enhance Bilateral Trade relations, establishing Joint Ventures in the fields of agriculture, textile, pharma, tourism and construction, and greater utilization of the institutions like Inter-Governmental Commission and Joint Business Council for giving impetus to Government to Government and Business to Business cooperation.

Uzbek side expressed desire for utilization of Karachi and Gawadar Ports for its trade operations, and establishment of Joint Working Group for trade and investment cooperation. Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister also requested Pakistan to support its cause in accession to Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA), and share experience on achieving GSP Plus status.

It was agreed that institutional mechanism between both the countries needs to be upgraded. The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile and Investment apprised the Uzbek side that the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment Of "Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment" will be ready for signature after seeking approval from the cabinet of Pakistan. He assured the Uzbek side of Pakistan's support to join Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA). Both sides agreed to cooperate in Joint Ventures.