

**Next JCC meeting in Beijing on December 20: Industrial cooperation framework to be signed**

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Khusro Bakhtiar has said that an industrial cooperation framework is being signed during the next Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, scheduled for December 20, 2018 in Beijing, China.

"The framework would help move forward with relocation of Chinese industries and large scale investment in Pakistan. The 8th JCC would be foundation to ensure implementation of this important sector," the minister expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review progress on Pak-China Industrial Cooperation here on Tuesday.

The minister said while highlighting importance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that the industrial parks would be developed aligned with local available resources. "We will promote such investments that help in import substitution and value addition of the products in order to help balancing Pak-China trade," he added.

The minister stressed on the KP government to develop Rashkai only for industrial purposes and discourage real estate business. He reiterated that the government would provide all type of utilities to Rashkai Economic Zone.

The minister also instructed concerned ministries to ensure provision of utilities including natural gas supply and connecting the zone with national grid to ensure power supply in line with development of this zone.

He asked the KP government to make all arrangements for equal participation of local investors in Rashakai Zone.

Officials from the Board of Investment, the Prime Minister Office and KP government briefed the meeting about industrial cooperation and development of Rashkai Economic Zone.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Project Director CPEC Hassan Daud and officials from Board of Investment, Ministry of Energy and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

**NAVEED BUTT**