

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Minister for linking rail network to PIBT

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has directed the authorities concerned to prepare a feasibility report for linking the rail network with Pakistan International Bulk Terminal (PIBT).

The minister issued the direction while chairing a meeting held at railway headquarters in which Pakistan Railways Chairperson Mrs Parveen Agha, Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Javed Anwar, Adviser to Ministry of Railways Anjum Pervaiz, Additional General Manager Infrastructure Humayun Rashid, Member Finance Faisal Ismail and other senior officials participated.

Pakistan Railways freight company Managing Director Zafar Zaman Ranjha briefed about the establishment of

three different lines of railways for connecting with PIBT. He also briefed the meeting about various hurdles to the lines.

According to a press release, on the occasion, Saad Rafique said that to link railway network with Pakistan's first terminal was necessary for the transportation of coal, clinker and cement.

He stated that over a period of four years of the PML-N government, Pakistan International Bulk Terminal has been established at a cost of \$285 million.

"Not only PITB, We have completed many other projects pending for the last 40 to 45 years, including the project of Lowari Tunnel", he added.

بلک ٹریڈنگ کو ریٹیل سے ہٹانے کے لیے ریلوے کو منسلک کرنا ضروری ہے، سعد رفیق

کوئٹہ، گلنگر اور سیمنٹ کی ترسیل کے لئے پاکستان کے پہلے ٹریڈنگ سے ریلوے نیٹ ورک کو منسلک کرنا ضروری ہے، سعد رفیق

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق نے پاکستان انٹرنیشنل بلک ٹریڈنگ (پی آئی بی ٹی) کو ریٹیل سے ورک سے منسلک کرنے کے لئے فزیشنری رپورٹ تیار کرنے کی ہدایت کر دی ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ ہدایت ریلوے ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں منعقدہ ایک اعلیٰ سطحی اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کی جس میں چیئر پرسن پاکستان ڈیگر اعلیٰ حکام نے شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر ٹیچنگ ڈائریکٹر پاکستان ریلوے فریٹ کمپنی ظفر زمان راغجا نے ریلوے کی مین لائن سے پی آئی بی ٹی کو منسلک کرنے کے حوالے سے تین مختلف لائنوں کے قیام کے بارے بریفنگ دی اور ان لائنوں کے قیام میں مشکلات سے بھی آگاہ کیا۔ خواجہ سعد رفیق نے کہا کہ کوئٹہ، گلنگر اور سیمنٹ کی ترسیل کے لئے پاکستان کے پہلے ٹریڈنگ سے ریلوے نیٹ ورک کو منسلک کرنا ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان انٹرنیشنل بلک ٹریڈنگ کو مسلم لیگ کی حکومت نے چار سال کے عرصے میں دو سو چالیس ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے مکمل کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مسلم لیگ (ن) کی حکومت نے پی آئی بی ٹی ہی نہیں بلکہ چالیس، پینتالیس برسوں سے زیر تعمیر لواری ٹنل جیسے منصوبوں کو بھی مکمل کیا ہے اور ملک کی معیشت کو درست راستے پر گامزن کر دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان ریلوے کو انٹرنیشنل بلک ٹریڈنگ کے ساتھ منسلک کرنے سے ماحول دوست لاجسٹک سپلائی ممکن ہوگی۔ انہوں نے اس سلسلے میں ریلوے حکام کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ پورٹ قاسم اتھارٹی سے رابطے میں رہیں تاکہ تکنیکی سطح پر کوئی اہتمام باقی نہ رہے۔ وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق نے ایک دوسرے اجلاس میں ریلوے کی سلیپر فیکٹریوں کی پیداوار میں اضافے کے حوالے سے بھی غور کیا اور اس سلسلے میں درپیش ٹیکنیکل ایٹوز کو حل کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر ریلوے خواجہ سعد رفیق نے پاکستان انٹرنیشنل بلک ٹریڈنگ (پی آئی بی ٹی) کو ریٹیل سے ورک سے منسلک کرنے کے لئے فزیشنری رپورٹ تیار کرنے کی ہدایت کر دی ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ ہدایت ریلوے ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں منعقدہ ایک اعلیٰ سطحی اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کی جس میں چیئر پرسن پاکستان

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DAWN

\$1.5bn financing secured for coal power plants

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: China Power Hub Generation Company Pvt Ltd (CPHGC) — the sponsor of proposed 1,320MW coal power project — on Monday said it had finalised \$1.5 billion financing arrangements with a consortium of Chinese banks led by China Development Bank (CDB) and Exim Bank of China.

With this, the company said it was getting closer to have a financial close for the project by end of 2017, according to a company statement which said the financing documents including the main foreign loan facility agreement were signed last week in Chengdu, China.

The consortium of banks will provide up to 75 per cent of total project investment that works out at approximately \$1.5bn. It said the China Power International Holding Ltd (CPIH) had until now provided \$300 million as shareholder loan to pay for project construction.

The documents were signed by representatives (CPIH), Hub Power Company (Hubco), CPHGC, CDB and Exim Bank of China as well as the other participating banks of the consortium including Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, China Construction Bank and Bank of Communications.

The project of CPHGC is located at Hub, Balochistan, 45 kilometre northwest of Karachi. The equity proportion of CPIH in CPHGC is 74pc and that of Hubco is 26pc. The total investment in

the two (660MW each) projects based on imported coal along with a dedicated jetty is approximately \$2bn. During commercial operations, the project is expected to provide 9 billion kWh electricity to the national grid every year — enough for about 4 million households.

China Development Bank is the largest foreign investment and financing cooperative bank in China as well as the largest development financial institution in the world with an estimated gross asset nearing \$2.4 trillion, the statement said.

Until now, the bank has supported 19 projects in Pakistan with a combined worth of around \$7.8bn, covering a number of key areas of cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Since 2006, CDB has established a good cooperative relationship with Pakistani government, local banks and Pakistan-based Chinese enterprises, giving a credit of \$1.7bn to the Ministry of Finance and \$500m to Habib Bank Ltd.

Yu Bing, Chairman of China Power International Holding, said the CPIH was committed to the One Belt One Road initiative, and was actively participating in the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

CPHGC project is recognised as one of the “Priority Projects” under CPEC and it is highly valued by the governments of both sides.

He said the project will help ease Pakistan’s electricity shortage and bring considerable tax income and employment opportunities and improve the local people’s livelihood.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC), one of the Fortune 500 companies, CPIH mainly engages in the development, construction, operation, overseas investment and financing and capital operation of power generation projects.

The company has assets in 23 provinces of China as well as in Hong Kong and Macao. Overseas it has investments in Pakistan, Vietnam and Germany among other countries. By end of 2016, the CPIH’s total installed capacity stood at 28,110MW and its total assets reached \$18.45 billion.

Hub Power is the largest Independent Power Producer (IPP) in Pakistan with a combined power generation capacity of over 1,600MW. The company’s RFO-fired thermal Plant, situated at Mouza Kund, Hub Balochistan, supplies net 1,200MW of reliable and uninterrupted electricity to the national grid.

Concentration of CO2 in atmosphere hits record high: UN

GENEVA

The amount of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere grew at record rate in 2016 to a level not seen for millions of years, potentially fueling a 20-meter rise in sea levels and adding 3 degrees to temperatures, the United Nations said on Monday. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO2), the main man-made greenhouse gas, hit 403.3 parts per million (ppm), up from 400.0 in 2015, the UN World Meteorological Organization said in its annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin. That growth rate was 50 percent faster than the average

over the past decade, driving CO2 levels 45 percent above pre-industrial levels and further outside the range of 180-280 ppm seen in recent cycles of ice ages and warmer periods.

"Today's CO2 concentration of ~400 ppm exceeds the natural variability seen over hundreds of thousands of years," the WMO bulletin said. The latest data adds to the urgency of a meeting in Bonn next month, when environment ministers from around the world will work on guidelines for the Paris climate accord backed by 195 countries in 2015.

The agreement is already under pressure be-

cause US President Donald Trump has said he plans to pull the United States out of the deal, which seeks to limit the rise in temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times. Human CO2 emissions from sources such as coal, oil, cement and deforestation reached a record in 2016, and the El Niño weather pattern gave CO2 levels a further boost, the WMO said. As far as scientists can tell, the world has never experienced a rise in carbon dioxide like that of recent decades, which has happened 100 times faster than when the world was emerging from the last ice age. Sci-

entists know prehistoric levels from tiny air bubbles found in ancient Antarctic ice cores, and they can derive even older data from fossils and chemicals trapped in sediment.

The last time carbon dioxide levels reached 400 ppm was 3-5 million years ago, in the mid-Pliocene era.

During that period, global mean surface temperatures were 2-3°C warmer than today, ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica melted and even parts of East Antarctica's ice retreated, causing the sea level to rise 10-20 m higher than that today," the WMO bulletin said.—Reuters