

# Independent

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## CPEC journey to move forward; detractors to lose relevance very soon, says PM Kakar

Unveils Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital and Desalination Plant in Gwadar

GWADAR (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly the youth to avail the historic opportunity of development in their province as the detractors of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were about to lose their relevance very soon.

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant here, said the journey of CPEC would surely move forward, not the backward, so joining the development course would be a prudent decision.

"Those who think to change the course (of CPEC) by force, violence or any other means are committing historic blunder

as their relevance will be over very soon. The prudent decision in the nation's fate is to join the course of development, instead of resisting it and miss the opportunity," he remarked.

The ceremony was attended by federal ministers Sami Saeed and Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Mardan Domki, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and the Chinese and Pakistani officials attended the event.

The prime minister said the ease in the form of reduced travel durations across the province was just due to CPEC intervention.

He told the gathering that trade worth \$36 trillion was expected to take place in and around China in the near future, therefore

it was a must to join the journey through skill development and claim the share, instead of showing hostility.

He said the journey of China's modernisation was significance and steering millions of people out of poverty was unprecedented.

The prime minister said that the development of China had a positive impact across the region, particularly Pakistan and its Balochistan province.

He said the clean drinking water had been an issue faced by the Gwadar people and the desalination plant project would address it to a great extent. Besides, the construction of a 150-bed hospital would provide quality healthcare to the people, he added.

The prime minister also thanked the Chinese

ambassador for announcing the solar power project and emergency services for Quetta.

Prime Minister Kakar assuring the all-out support of the federal and provincial governments on the matter of security, reiterated that the Pakistan Army, police and law enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their lives.

He expressed the hope that Gwadar would complete its course of development soon to become a trade hub with the Pak-China cooperation for the benefit of future generations.

He directed the authorities concerned to connect Northern Zone with main grid to address the electricity issue.

Earlier, the prime minister, along with the Chinese ambassador and Balochistan chief minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate the projects which followed the presentation of the souvenirs to the prime minister as well as the envoy.

PM Kakar, later talking to reporters on the occasion, said the direction of the progress of Balochistan was set forth and expressed confidence that the province would witness a new era of development.

He thanked the provincial government on completion of the development projects, which he said, would facilitate the locals of Gwadar.

The prime minister hoped that the financial crunch would be over with the steps taken by the interim government.

addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China friendship hospital and desalination water plant in Gwadar on Monday.

The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, federal ministers and other high ups were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister said that ours' full attention is on development of Balochistan at every level.

He said that we are determined to put Gwadar on path of development and prosperity.

He said that the local people would get ample opportunities of employment with completion of different departments projects of worth billions of dollars in the province.

Moreover, the economic activities would be accelerated in the region, he



GWADAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar unveils the plaques to inaugurate the completed Pak-China Friendship Hospital Project and the China-Aid Gwadar Seawater Desalination Project.

## Pakistan's development linked with development of Balochistan: We are determined to develop Gwadar as international city: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki has stated that development of Pakistan is linked with the development of Balochistan, and we are determined to make Gwadar an international city.

The Chief Minister said that the local people would get quality healthcare facilities with construction of the Pak-China friendship hospital in Gwadar.

The dwellers of Gwadar city would be available around 500,000 gallons of water daily from desalination water plant.

With this, the long-standing issue of the dwellers of Gwadar would be resolved.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Chief Minister while

addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China friendship hospital and desalination water plant in Gwadar on Monday.

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Moreover, the economic activities would be accelerated in the region, he

added.

The Chief Minister also said that the CPEC has progressed tremendously because of the vastness and farsightedness of the leadership of Pakistan and China.

He said that the CPEC is major project which has the status of economic game changer.

He said that the invaluable partnership between Pakistan and China would be put on sustainable lines further.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki on the occasion congratulated the caretaker Prime Minister on his successful visit to United Arab Emirates.

He termed the PM's visit to UAE as biggest economic success.

In the end, the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki presented souvenir to the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.



GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China friendship hospital and desalination water plant

## Nawaz, Fazl discuss possibilities of seat adjustment

LAHORE (INP): Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday met Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Fazlur Rehman and discussed collaborative efforts, including seat adjustments and a joint presidential candidate.

Rehman visited the central secretariat of PML-N at Model Town where he received a warm welcome from Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif.

The participants in the meeting included PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Senator Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal and Khawaja Saad Rafiq.

The leaders discussed the current political landscape of the country, strategising for the upcoming elections. They deliberated

upon the seat adjustment formula between JUI-F and PML-N.

Saad Rafiq briefed the participants on the status of political negotiations with the MQM in Sindh.

They reached a consensus on MQM's proposed nationwide local government system, agreeing to support a constitutional amendment for its implementation in the next parliament.

The two parties decided to form an electoral alliance with the MQM and like-minded groups. In Sindh, the three parties will collaborate on seat adjustments, entrusting the decision of candidates to provincial leader Bashir Memon, and the nominated leaders of MQM.



LAHORE: Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman meeting with PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif.

## Saudi Arabia seeks closer ties with Pakistani private media for collaborative ventures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Press Attaché Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi on Monday conveyed Saudi Arabia's eagerness to foster increased cooperation with private broadcasters in Pakistan in a bid to strengthen bilateral ties in the realm of media.

Briefing the media persons underscoring the significance of this development, he said, "We aspire to see a deepening of collaboration between private media institutions in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Such cooperation holds immense importance as both nations share a mutual interest in each other's content."

The press attaché emphasized the people's desire in both countries to engage with the cultural offerings, particularly dramas and films, from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He said this collaboration aimed to meet this demand

by facilitating the exchange of content between the media entities of the two nations.

"We envision a future where the exchange of films and productions between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is increased. This will not only strengthen cultural ties but also provide an opportunity for both countries to showcase their rich histories and traditions through each other's media platforms," Dr. Al-Otaibi explained.

Expressing specific desires for collaboration, he said, "Saudi Arabia wants to publish content in Pakistan that contributes to enhancing the relationship between the two brotherly nations. Additionally, it wants to feature content that aligns with Saudi Vision 2030, offering benefits to the Muslim Ummah and Arab countries."

## PTDC planning to establish TIC at Gwadar airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) is planning to establish a modern Tourist Information Center (TIC) at New Gwadar International Airport to facilitate the foreign and domestic tourists about their destination.

Talking to APP, a PTDC official said the establishment of the center would provide complete, accurate and comprehensive information to the tourists thronging to Pakistan from different countries to enjoy the beauty of recreational sites of Balochistan province. He said that TIC would not only play a crucial role in promoting tourism but also emphasize the need for state-of-the-art facilities.

The official highlighted the growing significance of Gwadar as a tourist destination that attracting visitors from across the country and around the world.

He said that Minister of State for Tourism, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Wasi Shah was committed to construct Tourist Information Center at Gwadar airport as soon as possible to provide all kinds of information and facilities to the tourists.

## Army's help sought for general elections amid police shortage

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday sought the help of the Pakistan Army to ensure the law and order situation during the general polls, set to take place on February 8 next year. In the lead-up to the polls, all political parties have geared up for a face-off, while the ECP has notified the final list of delimitation of constituencies of the national and four provincial assemblies.

The electoral watchdog is also expected to announce the election schedule, later this month — 54 days before the polls in line with the law. During the elections, the security situation is a grave concern for the authorities concerned and to ensure that nothing goes south, law enforcers are deployed at polling stations and they are also on patrol.

"While the ECP takes all necessary steps to organise an election, [...] it also expects the same commitment from the executive authorities and law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order in the area of the constituencies during the conduct of elections," the ECP's letter to the interior ministry read.

In its bid to prepare for the elections, the ECP had sought a report from all inspector generals of police to determine the availability of police personnel for the polls.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Amjad Rasheed, Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem and Sohailur Rehman meeting with Caretaker Interior Minister Mir Sarfaraz Khan Bugti

## Will name ex-COAS Bajwa, US embassy officials as witnesses in cipher case: Imran

RAWALPINDI: Former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Monday stated that he will include former army chief General (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and US embassy officials as witnesses in his defence in the cipher case.

"Will include General Bajwa and US embassy officials as witnesses [in the case]. General Bajwa did everything on Donald Lu's directives," claimed Khan during an informal

conversation with journalists in Adiala jail during the cipher case hearing.

A special court established under the Official Secrets Act 2023 held an open court hearing in Adiala jail where Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi are incarcerated. The court is conducting the trial afresh after the Islamabad High Court nullified the jail trial on November 21. Both of them were indicted on October 23 but the indictment stood cancelled after the IHC order.

Speaking to the media person today, the former

prime minister predicted that his party would win the February 8 polls, adding that he was arrested under a plan.

Khan said he was thankful to those PTI leaders jumping the ship.

He also rejected reports that he held negotiations in jail. In November, PTI President Parvez Elahi claimed that officials of the European Union and the International Monetary Fund routinely visit Imran Khan at Adiala.

He also shared that he did not face any difficulties in jail.

## No crisis in meeting ECP's financial needs for holding general elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday ruled out any "crisis on meeting the financial needs of the ECP" in order to hold free, fair and transparent general elections in the country.

"The Cabinet had approved Rs 42 billion for the budgetary needs of the ECP. An amount of Rs 10 billion was already released," the minister wrote on X formerly Twitter.

He said the Election Commission of Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi.

had approached to release Rs 17.4 billion, out of the budgeted amount.

"Whatever budgeted amount is needed by the ECP, will be released as per its needs accordingly," Solangi added.



GWADAR: Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## Fire broke out in Musakhail-Shirani forests overcome

Caretaker CM appreciates DC, Levies force for timely response

Independent Report

QUETTA: The extensive fire erupted in the forests situated in the Musakhail-Shirani district mountainous range was overcome in wee hours of Monday.

The fire was broken out in Toi Laghara Tehsil on Sunday evening, which was extinguished with cooperation of the Levies force and local community on Monday morning, confirmed Deputy Commissioner Musakhail, Zulfiqar Karrar.

According to the Deputy Commissioner Musakhail, the operation remained continued whole night to control the fire in the forests. During the op-

eration, fire balls were also used ensuring that the fire may not spread further.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki highly appreciated the efforts made by Deputy Commissioner Musakhail, Levies and local community for extinguishing the fire in the forests.

In an official statement issued here on Monday, Chief Minister said that fire was overcome by having an access to the difficult mountainous range.

He recalled that the precious forests had been destroyed due to the fire broken out in the forests located in the same area last year.

## We are determined to steer Pakistan out of all issues: More than 0.4 mln immigrants repatriated so far; desirous of early repatriation of remaining ones: Jan

Caretaker Provincial Minister Information urges Afghan government not to allow terrorists' dens use against any country

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the process of repatriation of illegal immigrants is continued at a fast pace.



Asim Munir. The Minister Information stated so while addressing a hurriedly called

press conference at Quetta Press Club on Monday.

He said that while more than 0.4 million immigrants

have so far been repatriated to their homeland, we are desirous of expelling remaining immigrants at the earliest. The initiative of expulsion of the illegal immigrants to their country was also very necessary for relations of better future of both the countries, Jan Achakzai added. He said that every country has freedom to take steps under its constitution and law, so Afghanistan has also complete choice to make internal and external policies in accordance with the international rules and regulations.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

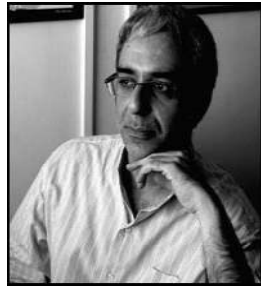
### One crucial year of extraordinary achievements

Undoubtedly it was an extraordinary year of extraordinary achievements made by an extraordinary person. He is no other but the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir who completed one year as the COAS recently. General Syed Asim Munir had taken command as COAS on November 29, 2022 at the times when Pakistan was really facing numbers of challenges, economic crisis, poor law and order condition and also the political instability. When we talk about the achievements during a period of just one year as Army Chief there are some of the most important goals and success which Pakistan achieved due to the efforts of General Asim Munir. During this year, under his leadership, the Pakistani armed forces and affiliated institutions tirelessly worked to make the country successful on every front. When General Asim Munir assumed command, the country was politically and economically vulnerable. There were fears that it might default in few days, leading to upheaval in the military. Things got to a point where rumors began to circulate about Pakistan's nuclear assets falling into the wrong hands. All in all, the entire country was gripped by a strong grip of panic and uncertainty. It was during those days that General Asim Munir stepped to the front with a determined resolve. The tenacity with which he steered the military towards pulling the country out of these challenges should be appreciated. He initiated steps to improve the economic and military aspects of Pakistan all the while focusing on a vision that aimed at the betterment of the nation.

Taking command during a crucial time, he recognized the necessity of the IMF program for the country. General Asim Munir engaged with strategic allies like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, ensuring them of credible progress during their diplomatic visits and managed to secure a \$3 billion deposit. This Saudi and Emirati injection of confidence, in turn, paved the way for Pakistan to enter the IMF program. Following this, a special Investment Council was established, based on General Asim Munir's vision, aiming to provide protection for investments within the country. As per the vision, this could only be achieved if all obstacles hindering economic stability were removed and steps taken to control inflation. General Asim Munir's personal efforts within the business community instilled confidence in the nation's progress. The Investment Council's long-term program for foreign investment includes the significant involvement of the COAS. Saudi Arabia acknowledged the success of General Asim Munir's efforts, pledging a \$25 billion fund solely for Pakistan. The UAE is also working on a \$20 to \$22 billion investment program. Meanwhile, chatter on the street celebrated that China's investment in Pakistan is evident. After General Asim Munir took charge, he revived projects under the CPEC. Some questioned the inclusion of the Army Chief in the Investment Council, but it should be remembered that going beyond its traditional role, the Pakistani military has played a crucial hand in bringing foreign investment, especially in projects requiring security clearance.

The military's support is vital for investment, and General Asim Munir's inclusion in this forum has provided credibility. Pakistan's deep-rooted relations with these countries and past experiences demonstrate that the military has played a significant role in enhancing ties when civilian leadership fell short.

### Hell's architects



Zarrar Khuhro

Gaza wasn't always what it is today. Gaza wasn't always a giant prison that has now been transformed into a death camp; a hellscape of broken bodies and buildings and butchered babies.

Before 1948, Gaza was a wealthy territory in Mandatory Palestine. Located on the coast, it benefited from trade and fishing and was also blessed with fertile land, which led to a strong agricultural economy. Then came the Nakba, with Zionist terror militias — which later coalesced into the Israeli army — killing, looting and raping across the territory. The first Arab-Israeli war saw Egypt occupy the territory, which remained in Egyptian control even after Israel prevailed in the conflict that ended the war.

For a brief period during the Suez crisis, when Israel, France and the United Kingdom jointly attacked Egypt, and Israel occupied both the Sinai and the Strip, Egyptian military rule continued till the 1967 war, which saw the comprehensive defeat of the Arab armies and the military occupation of the Strip by Israel.

The usual formula of apartheid and Jewish settlements — under the guard of the Israeli army — began, and continued until 2005, when Israel's then prime minister Ariel Sharon withdrew its forces and dismantled the settlements. This is presented by pro-Zionist circles as a magnanimous step towards peace that was 'typically' spurned by the Palestinians, but it is instructive to see

what the actual architects of that move had in mind.

Israeli geo-strategist Arnon Soffer is considered to be the originator of the separation and withdrawal plan, and he is clear that Israel undertook this process not out of a desire for peace — a word he says he despises — but because the alternative would be the end of Israel as a Zionist state with Jewish supremacy as its cornerstone, because — if Gaza were to be integrated into Israel proper — the Jews would eventually be outnumbered.

And so, it was considered better to fence Gaza off from the world, with that fence eventually becoming a wall and with everything going in and out being at the whim of the Israeli authorities. The minimum daily caloric intake for a human being to survive on was calculated so that the average Gazan permanently remained on the brink of starvation.

This too was by design, because as Soffer himself says in a 2004 interview with Jerusalem Post titled 'It's the demography, stupid': 'It's a fence that we will be guarding on either side. Instead of entering Gaza, the way we did last week, we will tell the Palestinians that if a single missile is fired over the fence, we will fire 10 in response. And women and children will be killed, and houses will be destroyed. After the fifth such incident, Palestinian mothers won't allow their husbands to shoot Kassams, because they will know what's waiting for them.'

Soffer knew the consequences, and welcomed them. He continues: 'When 2.5 million people live in a closed-off Gaza, it's going to be a human catastrophe. Those people will become even bigger animals than they are today, with the aid of ... fundamentalist Islam.



Parvez Rahim

Prominent labour leaders in Sindh recently complained to the caretaker chief minister of the province about non-compliance with labour laws by some employers. In response, the CM asked the secretary labour to carry out inspections of all factories in Sindh and prosecute the violators. The labour leaders' concern was more focused on the contracting out of most jobs, non-compliance with the law on minimum wages, and termination of employment without notice.

It is an arduous exercise to keep track of the status of compliance stipulated in some 200 labour laws and rules. However, one can concentrate on those areas which are critical to the economic welfare of workers and workplace safety. The Employers' Federation of Pakistan recently developed a labour inspection questionnaire, covering questions regarding the maintenance of records, payment of wages, occupational safety, health and environment, work timings, overtime benefits, the right to organise, collective bargaining, disciplinary action, etc.

The questionnaire, taken by labour inspectors to factories, primarily comprises questions relating to record-keeping in pursuance of the rules framed under the Factories Act, 1934, Shops and Establishments Ordinance, 1969, and the Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers Ordinance, 1969.

Rules relating to record-keeping, such as the display of notices, maintenance of various registers, etc. were legislated decades before the advent of IT, when such work was done manually. However, despite electronic advancement, no effort has been made by successive governments to simplify the requirements or digitise them. In fact, the government, with the involvement of workers and employers' representatives, should review whether such record-keeping is required when lifestyles and technology have drastically changed over the last half century.

The following are some administrative requirements besides the maintenance of certain records and display of notices on factory premises, which might have been relevant decades ago, but are now obsolete, even absurd. A rule under the Factories Act, 1934, provides: 'A well for the supply of drinking water to a factory or for the purpose of humidification in a factory, shall not be constructed or located within 50 feet of any latrine, drain or other source liable to pollute the water in the well'. Similarly, the Factories Canteen Rules, 1959, provides that 'The canteen building shall be situated not less than 50 feet from any latrine...'

An entrepreneur, who has invested in establishing a factory, will discard such a primitive system and switch over to modern living standards. A labour inspector from Sukkur used to frequently visit an American MNC's state-of-the-art fertiliser plant in Daharki, where I worked in the 1970s. Mostly, he would be accompanied by his family and stay in our guest house for a few days. Taking advantage of the legal provision cited here, he would object to the distance of just a wall between the urinal in the washroom and the electric drinking water cooler in the corridor outside. During the inspection of factories or establishments, inspectors ask employers to produce registers for employment, remuneration and leave, and the inspection book. They also check whether the employers have displayed the following notices near the main entrance: abstracts from the Factories Act, the Shops and Establishments Act, and a few other laws and rules, the day of wage payment, and a list of holidays.

Now that it has become more economical for employers to maintain electronic records, instead of age-old manual record-keeping, there will hardly be anyone still maintaining registers as required under the prevailing laws. According to the laws, the notices to be displayed at or near the main entrance of the factory should contain abstracts of the laws and rules in English and Urdu. The purpose was to make workers aware of their rights and benefits, so that they were not kept in the dark. As most employers have adopted electronic record-keeping, the traditional time offices at the main entrance to the factories no longer exist. Such offices now cater only to the security staff, or to control the entry and exit of visitors and employees. Now that most people have access to Google and WhatsApp, who will be interested in reading abstracts from the acts displayed on the noticeboard? There is a dire need to simplify the requirements of inspection, besides converting them to electronic form. The level of inspectors should also be raised, and their performance consistently monitored by superiors to ensure that they also start inspecting the establishments of those employers who do not bother to learn about the labour laws. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### German Dev. Bank boosts support for Pakistan's Power Transmission & Health Sectors

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Ministry of Economic Affairs and KfW, the German Development Bank, solidified their partnership with the signing of agreements aimed at enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's power transmission sector and supporting the health sector, particularly in areas affected by floods on Monday.

In a ceremony held in Islamabad, Mr. Sebastian Jacobi, Country Director of KfW and Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs inked agreements that signify Germany's commitment to furthering the development goals of Pakistan.

Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan was also present on the occasion.

Under the accompanying Measures support to the "Promotion of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency" program, KfW, representing the German Government, will provide an additional grant of Euro 2.5 million to the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC). This funding will assist NTDC in ensuring the effective operation and maintenance of installations, incorporating robust environmental and social management systems.



ISTANBUL: Caretaker Minister of Commerce and Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz meeting the Turkish Trade Minister H.E. Dr. Omer Bolat on the sidelines of the 39th Ministerial of COMCEC.

### Services' exports increase by 3.34% to \$2,416 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of services increased by 3.34 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The services exports during July-October (2023-24) were recorded at \$2,416 million as compared to the exports of \$2,338 million during July-October (2022-23).

The services' imports increased by 19.57 percent by going up from \$2,729 million last year to \$3,263 million during the first four months of current fiscal year. Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit increased by 116.66 percent during the period under review by going up from \$390 million last year to \$847 million this year. Meanwhile, on year on year (YoY) basis, the services' exports from the country increased by 5.63 percent by going up from \$621.07 million in October.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI) calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House.

### Sanjrani recognizes role of business community in driving economic progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday recognized the pivotal role of the business community in driving economic progress and affirmed the Senate's dedication to creating an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth.

During meeting with a delegation from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI) who called on him, he expressed unwavering commitment to supporting the chamber's endeavors in promoting economic growth and displayed keen interest in understanding the challenges and opportunities facing the business community in Gwadar. The discussions focused on fostering collaboration and addressing key economic issues, providing a platform for GCCCI officials to share insights on regional economic development and trade dynamics, said a press release.

The economic policies, infrastructure development, and strategies to boost trade and investment in the Gwadar region were also discussed in detail.

He highlighted the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port as driving forces behind future economic initiatives in Pakistan. He emphasized that Gwadar Port is not only important for Pakistan but for the entire region.

They underscored the importance of collaboration with the government to promote economic prosperity, attract investments, and facilitate a conducive business environment in the region. Senator Palwasha Muhammadzai Khan and Senator Prince Ahmed Omer Ahmedzai were also present during the meeting.

### KPTMA delegation calls on KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association (KPTMA) led by Ex-Senator, Salim Saifullah Khan called on the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday.

The delegation expressed serious reservations on the recent decision of Economic Coordination Committee with regard to increase the price of gas for industrial sector and appealed to the chief minister to take up the issue with the federal government on urgent basis.

The ECC had taken a decision to enhance the price of industrial gas from Rs. 1238/MMBTU to Rs. 2400/MMBTU.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Florence Rolle, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research at Minister Office.

### Minister, CCIs presidents visit Business Facilitation Center

LAHORE (APP): Business Facilitation Center as a revolutionary initiative by the caretaker provincial government to bolster investment. Completed within a month under the efficient leadership of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the center is poised to significantly benefit the business community and accelerate the pace of industrialization, he added.

SM Tanveer mentioned that the center houses officers from 17 to 20 departments of both federal and provincial governments, ensuring a comprehensive and streamlined service to the investors and business community.

### Energy minister participates GRA session at COP 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Energy Mr Muhammad Ali participated in a session organized by the Renewable Energy Alliance (GRA) between the government of Pakistan and Renewable Energy Investors at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28).

### Pakistan emerging as hub of ICT, digital innovation in the region: Dr.Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT), Dr. Umar Saif, said that Pakistan is emerging as the hub of information and communication technology (ICT) and digital innovation in the region.

Earlier, Dr. Umar Saif inaugurated the Pak-Qatar IT Conference, a collaborative effort mainly involving the Ministry of IT and Telecom (MOITT), the Embassy of Pakistan in Qatar, and Pakistan Business Council Qatar with support from the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), said a news release received here on Monday.

This conference featured esteemed speakers from the public and private sectors, along with representatives from IT companies of both countries, showcasing their expertise and strengths.



