

Sanjrani for relaxing visa restrictions among Asian countries

GWADAR: Acting President Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has emphasised the need for relaxing visa restrictions among Asian countries.

The Acting President expressed these views during his meetings with different foreign delegations on the sidelines of the conference of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)'s Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Special Committee on the formation of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Gwadar on Tuesday.

Sanjrani stressed the need for concrete and practical steps for the formation of Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

During his meeting with France's Senator Pascal, he said a Pakistan-France friendship group has been formed in Pakistan's Senate, adding that exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries would create new opportunities of cooperation.

The French senator said he has witnessed immense foreign investment opportunities in Gwadar, which need to be availed by investors.

Sanjrani told the French senator that Gwadar Master Plan would be ready by December 2018, which would boost the development process in the area.

The Acting President also met Inter-Parliamentary Union's Secretary General Martin Chungong. The two dignitaries exchanged views on parliamentary matters and other issues of mutual interest.

Sanjrani said Asian countries should not only promote cooperation in political and economic fields, but visa restrictions among them should also be eased.

He said an Asian Speakers Conference is being planned in Pakistan, which

would review progress of APA's agenda. He said the APA conference is a laudable step and it provided an opportunity to present the true picture of Gwadar to the world.

While talking to APA Secretary General Muhammad Raza Majidi, the Acting President said there is need for further promoting economic cooperation between Pakistan and Iran. He also called for further improving travel means between the two countries.

In a meeting with Turkey's parliamentary delegation, Sanjrani said the cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey in APA is exemplary, and this cooperation should be taken forward to make APA an excellent forum.

He urged Turkey's investors to benefit from investment opportunities in Gwadar. Sanjrani said there is no law and order issue in Pakistan anymore, especially in Balochistan and invited investors to invest in the Pakistan and the province.

Iran's parliamentary delegation also met the Acting President and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Sanjrani said Pakistan and Iran share various commonalities. He said economic cooperation is the need of the time for the progress and prosperity of the people.

The Acting President said Pakistan wants to further strengthen relations with Iran. He said Pakistan-Iran friendship group can play an effective role in parliamentary diplomacy between the two countries.

The delegations of Nepal, Syria, Bahrain and other APA member states also met the Acting President on the sidelines of the moot.—APP