

### **Gas crisis worsens across country**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's current gas crisis is worsening day by day due to cold weather. The Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, said the gas crisis, including the issue of low gas pressure would be resolved soon as steps are being taken to mitigate the sufferings of the consumers. The government has notified a ban on the import of furnace oil, and is looking to move the generation of electricity to LNG and coal in the future.

The government has also decided to shut down Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across Punjab and capital Islamabad from December 28 to January 10. On December 13, Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered that boards of directors of the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and SSGCL be dissolved owing to the prevailing gas shortfall in the country.

The premier also gave directions for further strict action against gas suppliers, as the CNG crisis continued to disrupt public transport. The demand for gas has increased in Pakistan's domestic sector with the change in weather. Already facing power shortage, people are forced to rely on alternative sources of gas. Meanwhile, industrialists have decided to shut down their factories in Karachi in the wake of worsening gas crisis.

The chairman of Sindh Industrial and Trading State Area said maladministration of Sui Southern Gas Company has caused heavy losses to the industry. He also announced to hold a protest on January 1 at the Sindh Governor House.