

## Govt extends red zone's boundary to cover almost all of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: In what appears a move to thwart the long march by the opposition, the federal government on Monday decided to extend the Red Zone in the federal capital area up to Zero Point – or nearly the entirety of the federal capital territory. The decision has reportedly been taken to protect key installations against any threat. Federal authorities have included the Faisal Avenue, Margalla Road, Bari Imam and the Fifth Avenue as part of the red zone. —APP

# The Business

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## Sanjarani rejects disqualification reference against Yousuf Gillani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjarani has rejected PTI reference seeking disqualification of PPP senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani. Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjarani while giving ruling on already filed reference has maintained that the allegations were levied against Senator Yousuf Raza Gillani as Member of National Assembly (MNA) and Prime Minister. He was elected as Senator on March 3, 2021. The reference filed against him for his disqualification does not stand justified on becoming senator. —APP

## Dastgir opens two grid stations of NTDC

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE/FAISALABAD: The Federal Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan has inaugurated 220 kV grid station Lalian and 500 kV grid station Faisalabad West in districts Chiniot and Faisalabad respectively. Both projects will strengthen the transmission network and improve power situation in Faisalabad and Sargodha regions.

While addressing the inauguration ceremonies, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan said that reliability of power transmission network is equally important to provide uninterrupted power supply to the consumers with improved voltage profile. The present government is fully cognizant of the difficulties of consumers and their issues, like low voltage and forced load-shedding, which are being resolved through addition of grid stations and transmission lines. He said that 500 kV grid station Faisalabad West and 220 kV grid station Lalian have been completed with the cost of Rs 16.9 billion and Rs 4 billion respectively. The projects will help to evacuate power from two LNG power projects with cumulative capacity of 2400 MW.

Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan also addressed the ceremony and said that the projects will strengthen the transmission network of NTDC in the region, which in turn will provide relief to FESCO and help address the issues of overloading, low voltage and forced load shedding in FESCO region. The completion of the project will facilitate and help to tackle the increasing demand of electricity of domestic, industrial, commercial and agri consumers of FESCO. Faisalabad, Jhang, Chiniot, Toba Tek Singh, Samundari, Gojra, Jaranwala, Chenab Nagar, Chiniot Industrial, Sargodha, Ludewala, Narwala Road, Thikriwala Road and Lalian and other areas will benefit from these two grids.

## Imran chapter stands closed, says Javed Latif

LAHORE: Federal Minister Javed Latif has said Imran Khan chapter stands closed and he will not be allowed to flee.

He said this in PML-N central secretariat here Monday. He raised question who is incurring expenses on long march. Who is providing funds of billion of rupees on long march. Is Punjab or KP incurring expenses?

He held Imran Khan has withdrawn from his demand of snap election. The institutions have to decide either the men of bad character have to be brought forward or men of good characters have to be made popular.

No one can side with one who is playing with the institutions. Imran is first leader against whom the evidence of corruption are available but the decision does not come.

He underlined Imran Khan call others Mir Jaffer and Mir Sadiq and now he asks for talks with them under what position. Nation will not accept these talks. —Online

## PTA receives Rs 11.43b license fee from Zong

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has received Rs 11.43 billion equivalent to \$52.44 million against the third annual installment of the license renewal fee from CMPak Limited (Zong) in line with payment terms of the license renewed in the year 2019.

"The amount has also been deposited in Federal Consolidated Fund (FCF). With this deposit in FCF, the cumulative deposit by PTA in FCF during the current financial year i.e. 2022-23 has become Rs 22.98 billion equivalent to \$106 million" said a statement of PTA here on Monday. The PTA has so far deposited \$ 1.79 billion equivalent to Rs 300 billion in FCF, received from cellular mobile license renewals and spectrum auctions since 2019. —APP

## FM to represent Pak at virtual SCO-CHG meet

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will represent Pakistan at the SCO Council of Heads of Government (SCO-CHG) meeting scheduled to be held in Beijing on Tuesday. The SCO-CHG will be held in a virtual format owing to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The CHG will be chaired by the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Li Keqiang and attended by the heads of government from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The heads of government of SCO observer states, i.e. Belarus, Iran and Mongolia will also attend the meeting. The Council of Heads of Government is the second highest forum in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that focuses primarily on the areas of trade, finance, commerce and socio-economic cooperation among SCO member states.

The SCO's cardinal objectives include promoting mutual trust and good-neighborly relations among member states, strengthening regional peace, security and stability. The upcoming CHG meeting will deliberate upon vital regional and global issues of interest, adopt a Joint Communiqué and approve the SCO's budget for 2023. It will also discuss a comprehensive matrix for productive cooperation in trade and economy. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad and Frontier Constabulary Police personnel stand alert on a green belt near Faizabad Bridge as capital administration deployed police around Islamabad entrance due to PTI long march arriving.

# SNGPL wants RLNG contracts with businesses

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) has appealed to the business community to sign RLNG contracts, at least, for the upcoming winter period as resources of system gas are depleting with the passage of time.

"After meeting KPK's consumption requirements, Punjab only receives about 500 MMCFD which is not enough for the domestic users", according to Senior General Manager Syed Jawad Naseem, who also added that signing an LNG contract is a viable option for the industry.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion while Executive Committee Members were also present.

SNGPL, on the request of LCCI, will put up the extension in disconnection date of October 31 to the higher authorities.

The President LCCI Kashif Anwar said that Lahore Chamber will convince its members to shift to the RLNG for the upcoming winter period. Jawad Naseem said RLNG and system gas supplied through same pipes, the industry will not need to change the equipment after shifting on to the RLNG gas, he informed and said the department was trying to find out a solution to the problem of difference in production, price and GIDC in Sindh and Punjab.

He said that there is no production of gas in Punjab but the state is the highest consumer base in terms of number of users.

"The global energy crisis spurred by the conflict in Ukraine has already affected global energy supply chain, price hike and took people to the roads around the globe due to price increases", said MD SNGPL and informed that due to the policies of the government the rupee is stabilizing and it will reflect in the prices of energy as well.

The SGM SNGPL pointed out that the domestic consumers are the top priority in terms of gas supply. All the commercial consumers, including new housing societies are being shifted to the RLNG for the last 4-5 years. He said that the winters are a challenge and commercial consumers should cooperate in this regard. He said that there are two options for commercial consumers including RLNG and LPG.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar said that Gas in Punjab is very expensive as compared to Sindh and KPK due to which the production cost here is very high. He said that the government has assured five zero-rated sectors to supply the gas at \$9 per MMBTU while the rate for remaining sectors is double. He said that the gas should be provided a uniform rate throughout the country like electricity and POL.

Kashif Anwar said that the commercial

customers have been served notices that the gas supply to them will be suspended from November 1st. He said that those commercial customers, who will sign the contract by October 31, will be able to have RLNG supply otherwise the connections will be disconnected. He said that the commercial consumers have been given very little time. At least one month should be given and their legitimate demands should be considered.

The LCCI President said that the rate of gas for commercial consumers are too high and if RLNG is supplied to the corrugated, packaging and other industries at expensive rates, it will become difficult for the industrialists to run their businesses. He said that the new connections are being shifted to the RLNG that is directly linked with the dollar. This decision should be reviewed in the larger interest of the industry.

He said that the equipments for RLNG are designed for gas which will require replacement and sufficient tile to shift to RLNG so the shifting should be in the phases. He said that disruption in industrial process causes a lot of damage. In case of scheduled load-shedding of gas, the industry completes its production process but in case of unannounced load-shedding, the industries have to bear a huge loss so unscheduled load-shedding of gas should be stopped. Moreover, the industry should be the first priority for gas supply as it is the major sources of exports,

## LCC Fly Jinnah takes off with its first flight to Islamabad

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's new low-cost carrier (LCC), on Monday held the inaugural ceremony of its first flight to Islamabad, marking the start of the airline's operations. The ceremony took place at the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Karachi Airport Hotel prior the departure of the inaugural flight which included delegates and members of the media.

The inaugural ceremony, which also included a press conference prior to departure, was attended by members of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA), along with senior leaders of Lakson Group, Air Arabia Group, Jinnah Airport, members of the press and other delegates.

Iqbal Ali Lakhani, Chairman of Fly Jinnah, said: "Today's milestone marks the beginning of Fly Jinnah's operations, a new airline serving Pakistan is and contributing to the nation's aviation infrastructure with the latest innovation and technology. We are confident that Fly Jinnah will offer its customers a convenient air travel option backed up with a value-driven product and services. We look forward to working closely with our partners to effectively cater to the needs of the Pakistani market and to contribute to the growth of the travel and tourism sector of Pakistan."

Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer, Air Arabia said: "Today marks a special occasion as Fly Jinnah takes off to the skies. This step reflects the carrier's strategic commitment to offer a reliable and value for money air travel to its customer base in Pakistan. We are excited to mark the start of Fly Jinnah's operations with four domestic routes and remain eager to further expand our network and services. We thank our partners and the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority for their support, and we look forward to welcoming customers on board our flights."

Upon the arrival of the inaugural flight at Islamabad Airport, the aircraft was received with the traditional water cannon salute. Fly Jinnah now operates direct daily flights from Karachi to Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar. In addition to that, the airline operates direct flights four times weekly between Karachi and Quetta. Customers can book their flights by visiting Fly Jinnah's website (www.flyjinnah.com), by calling the call center (021-3565096) or through travel agencies.

Earlier this month, the airline has received its Air Operator Certificate and Air Operating License from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) allowing Fly Jinnah to start its domestic operations.

Fly Jinnah is starting its operations with a fleet that is comprised of three Airbus A320-200 aircraft, the most modern and best-selling single aisle aircraft in the world. The aircraft is configured with 174 seats and therefore providing added comfort with one of the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin. The aircraft is also equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices. Customers can also

## Shehbaz unveils Rs 1800b package for agri sector

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in April 2022 and follows his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan on September 16, 2022. A high-level delegation will accompany the prime minister, the PM Office said in a statement on Monday.

The prime minister will be among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. "The prime minister's visit represents the continuity of frequent leadership level exchanges between Pakistan and China," the PM Office said. During his stay, the prime minister will meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang.

The two sides will review the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments. "The visit is also expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/Agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on October 27, 2022," the statement added.

**Pak-China friendship: A sacred tale of abiding trust and love**  
PM Shehbaz has said that both Pakistan and China were tied together by a common vision to play a role in a brighter future for the people of the two countries as well as for peace and stability of the broader region.

"This is a responsibility that history has placed on our shoulders and we would surely fulfill it" he expressed these views in an article published by Global Times, an English-language Chinese newspaper, ahead of his official visit to China starting on Tuesday. "There are three types of good friends: one that is direct and honest; one

that is trustworthy, dependable, and generous when you need help; and one that is knowledgeable and talented to guide you and show you what you can't see."

China-Pakistan's eternal friendship fulfills all three attributes as illustrated by the Great Master. Longevity, love and trust aptly describe the Pakistan-China friendship. There is no relationship like ours which so deeply touches the soul of our people and evokes such strong emotions. Poetic expressions with emotive diction are used to captivate the essence of these fabulous ties. Touching stories of mutual support and solidarity in difficult times, transferred from generation to generation, have become an ineffaceable element of our collective consciousness.

Nurtured by the enthusiasm of our people and steered by the vision of the leadership, the seed of the Pakistan-China friendship has blossomed into an evergreen tree with deep roots and strong branches. It

## French envoy, Mandviwalla discuss trade

ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador Nicolas Galey on Monday called on Chief Whip Senator Saleem Mandviwalla here and exchanged views on trade, investment and other issues of mutual interest.

Mandviwalla said improving inter-parliamentary relations between the two countries would help enhance business and trade ties, adding that he looked forward to see more interaction among the members of the Pak-France Friendship Group. The chief whip also hoped to see the Pakistan-France Business Alliance play a more active role in promoting trade activities between the two countries.

The ambassador said that he was pleased to see French companies operating in Pakistan and also expressed his satisfaction on the manufacturing of Peugeot in Karachi. He also congratulated the senator on Pakistan's removal from the FATF's Grey List and said France had immensely supported Pakistan on the issue. Discussing the recent floods and France's contribution in relief and rescue operations in Pakistan, he said the French rescuers assisting in the operation was a perfect example of developing people to people contact that would lead strengthening of bilateral ties.

He was of the view that parliamentary visits were an excellent means of improving and enhancing relations between the two countries. At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Nicolas was presented with a memento. He thanked Senator Mandviwalla for his hospitality and said he looked forward to developing stronger bilateral links through various parliamentary and business avenues. —APP

## Pak, China to ink accords during PM's visit: FO

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said on Monday that Pakistan and China will sign several agreements during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing.

The PM will visit China on 1-2 November at the head of a high-level delegation, according to a Foreign Office statement. The PM is undertaking the visit at the invitation of Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. This would be PM's first visit to China since assuming office in April 2022 and follows his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan on 16th September 2022. The Prime Minister will be among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

The PM visit represents the continuity of frequent leadership level exchanges between Pakistan and China. The PM will meet with President Xi Jinping and hold delegation level talks with Premier Li Keqiang. The two sides will review the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments.

"The visit is also expected to advance the wide ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/Agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on 27th October 2022," the statement said. —DNA

## Alvi for enhancing quantum of trade with Ireland

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday underlined the need to bring a substantial increase to the quantum of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Ireland to realize the full potential of bilateral trade.

Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Ireland Aisha Farooqui here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said that there were immense opportunities for the information technology-skilled youth and start-ups to secure online jobs in Ireland as more and more IT companies in Europe were shifting their headquarters to Ireland, which had been termed the 'Silicon Valley of Europe'.

He expressed the hope that the ambassador-designate to Ireland would work towards further deepening Pakistan's fruitful partnership with Ireland and expanding the mutually beneficial cooperation by taking meaningful steps. These steps, he said, may include an increasing level of bilateral engagements, catalyzing the flow of investment to Pakistan, creating online job opportunity for the IT