

NEWS

[Govt. halts capacity payments to 22 IPPs, saving Rs. 1.5 trillion](#)

- The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Power was informed that the government has ceased capacity payments to 22 Independent Power Producers (IPPs), resulting in an overall saving of Rs1.5 trillion and expected to provide relief to consumers by reducing electricity costs by Rs4 to Rs5 per unit.
- The secretary also mentioned that efforts are underway to terminate payments to additional IPPs.
- The power secretary responded by saying that several IPPs had violated the terms of their contracts, and these violations were pointed out by the government teams.
- Furthermore, the power division is conducting modern forecasting for the next 10 years, anticipating that many of the furnace oil-based power plants will be decommissioned within the next three years.

[Govt. to provide relief for electricity consumers using up to 300 units](#)

- The government has decided to provide relief to agricultural tube wells and electricity consumers using up to 300 units per month, as the Power Division has written a letter to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) requesting relief for these users.
- Federal Minister for Energy, Ovais Ahmad Khan Leghari, announced a significant step to benefit agricultural tube wells and consumers using up to 300 units of electricity, stating that the reduction in monthly fuel adjustments will now also be extended to them.
- According to the letter written by the Power Division, consumers using up to 300 units per month had been deprived of the benefit of the monthly fuel adjustment reduction since June 2015, while agricultural tube wells had lost this benefit since December 2010.

[Pakistan, Uzbekistan set goal to boost bilateral trade to \\$2B](#)

- Pakistan and Uzbekistan signed multiple agreements on Wednesday aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in defence, technology, technical training, and youth empowerment
- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov exchanged documents related to visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders, military intelligence, internal affairs, professional and technical training, and the training of diplomats.
- Additionally, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and the Director-General of the National Information Agency of Uzbekistan, Kuchimov Abdusaid, exchanged an agreement on news cooperation between the two countries' news agencies.

[IMF objects to sales tax exemption for EVs](#)

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has rejected Pakistan's proposed sales tax exemption on electric vehicles (EVs), insisting that the tax rates should remain in line with standard policies.
- The Ministry of Industries and Production had recommended the tax relief to boost EV adoption, but the IMF opposed the move, arguing that sales tax on raw materials for EVs should not be waived.
- Talks are also scheduled on electric vehicle charging stations and tariff adjustments, with authorities set to brief the IMF on the country's target of establishing 3,000 charging stations by 2030.

[IT sector eyes \\$25M in exports to Qatar](#)

- As part of this initiative, a delegation of 10 IT companies with over 30 delegates is attending Web Summit Qatar 2025, one of the world's leading technology conferences.
- Pakistani companies are presenting cutting-edge IT solutions, software services, and innovative tech products. Their participation reinforces Pakistan's position as a rising hub for IT and digital services, fostering connections with international investors, partners, and technology leaders
- Qatar remains a key export destination for Pakistani tech companies, as growing engagement is expected to unlock new business opportunities, investments, and knowledge-sharing in key technology sectors
- Under the National Qatar Vision 2030, the Qatari government is working to promote the digital

[Govt. raises Rs. 2.2 trillion through Sukuk auctions since Dec 2023](#)

- Trading volumes in secondary market also increasing gradually as the market participants become familiar with system
- The Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has helped the government in conducting 18 auctions and raising a gross amount of Rs 2.25 trillion by issuing Ijarah Sukuk since December 2023.

[Iron, steel scrap importers: FBR withdraws EFS facility](#)

- The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has withdrawn facility of Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) 2021 from importers of iron and steel scrap to check massive misuse of the facility.
- A tax expert opined that by excluding iron and steel scrap from EFS, now the importers of compressors/motors will have to pay all taxes at import stage like customs, sales tax and income tax.
- Moreover, when they will sell their scrap locally, they will not be able to issue sales tax invoices - which will close the door of tax evasion.

[IMF team to visit Pakistan next week, say FM Aurangzeb](#)

- A mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will arrive in Pakistan next week, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Wednesday, with a first review of a \$7 billion bailout programme due in March.
- A separate IMF team is visiting Pakistan to discuss around \$1 billion in climate financing on top of the EFF.
- That disbursement will take place under the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust, created in 2022 to provide long-term concessional cash for climate-related spending, such as adaptation and transitioning to cleaner energy.

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