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SUB	T.M.A NEWS CLIPPING
DATE	January 16, 2025

# DAWN

Thursday Jan 16, 2025

#### **GOVT HIKES PETROL PRICE BY RS3.47, HIGH-SPEED DIESEL BY RS2.61**

The federal government on Wednesday hiked the petrol price by Rs3.47 per litre and that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs2.61 per litre for the next fortnight.

#### **GOVT PLANS \$250 MILLION 'GREEN FUND'**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is working on launching a \$250 million Green Impact Fund (GIF) to channel international commitments meant for climate change to finance green micro and small enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

#### **BIG INDUSTRY OUTPUT DOWN 4PC IN NOV**

ISLAMABAD: The Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector contracted 1.25 per cent in the first five months of 2024-25, data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics showed on Wednesday.

#### EXPORTS TO FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN STATES FALL 9PC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to five Central Asian countries (CACs) witnessed a negative growth of 8.87 per cent during the first five months of the current fiscal year over the corresponding period last year.

#### **GOVT RAISES RS421BN, CUTS YIELDS ON PIBS**

KARACHI. The government on Wednesday raised Rs421 billion through the auction of Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) against the total bids of Rs1.5 trillion.

#### **NEPRA QUESTIONS KE'S FUTURE AMID HEAVY GRID RELIANCE**

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday approved a Rs4.98 per unit refund for K-Electric consumers for November's fuel cost adjustment (FCA), applicable in February bills. However, the regulator wondered why the utility should have a generation licence if it's drawing more than two-thirds of its supply from the national grid.



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#### PETROL PRICE UP BY RS3.47, DIESEL BY 2.61 PER LITRE

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has increased the price of petrol by Rs3.47 per litre for the next fortnight, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

#### **NEPRA GRILLS KE OVER OUTAGES**

ISLAMABAD: Karachi residents and industrialists lashed out at K-Electric (KE) during a public hearing on Wednesday, accusing the utility of failing to provide reliable electricity to industrial and commercial areas.

#### <u>'SMES CAN CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$60BN IN EXPORTS OVER NEXT FIVE</u> YEARS'

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday detailed a transformative economic roadmap under the Uraan Pakistan initiative aimed at increasing the country's exports to \$60 billion.



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#### **GOVT INCREASES PETROL, DIESEL PRICES IN LATEST REVIEW**

The federal government has raised the price of petrol by Rs3.47, setting the new rate at Rs256.13 per litre, effective from January 16 for next fortnight.

## PM SLASHES TARIFF BY 44% FOR EV CHARGING STATIONS

Price comes down from Rs71 per unit to Rs39.70 ISLAMABAD:

The government on Wednesday announced a 44 per cent decrease in the electricity tariff for the charging stations from Rs71 per unit to Rs39.70 per unit to provide relief to consumers.

#### PM APPROVES NEW POWER SYSTEM FOR SEZS

Industrial estates to gain direct electricity provision eliminating intervention by power companies

#### **ISLAMABAD:**

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Energy on Tuesday, approved a new power supply system for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Industrial Estates to accelerate industrial development.

#### IQBAL PROPOSES EXPORT WINDOW

Planning minister insists such facility will make Uraan Pakistan successful KARACHI:

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has stressed that in order to make Uraan Pakistan programme successful, heads of all commercial banks should immediately establish a special export development window.

#### KE CONSUMERS TO GET TARIFF RELIEF OF RS4.98/UNIT

NEPRA conducts hearing on fuel cost adjustment that will provide Rs7.17b relief ISLAMABAD:

K-Electric (KE) customers are set to receive a third consecutive relief of up to Rs4.98 per unit on account of fuel charges adjustment (FCA) for November 2024.

# **SBP RAISES NEARLY RS385B AT PIB AUCTION**

Exceeds target of Rs350b; gold rises to Rs280,800/tola while rupee drops 5 paisa against dollar **KARACHI:** 

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) successfully raised Rs384.7 billion through the latest Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) auction on January 15, 2025, exceeding its target of Rs350 billion. The auction drew strong interest, with total bids amounting to Rs1,568 billion, reflecting robust investor demand.

## **EXHIBITORS LEAD WITH AI, RECYCLED MATERIALS**

Pakistani home textiles shine due to eco-friendly innovations, may get big orders at Heimtextil FRANKFURT:

Pakistani home textile exhibitors at Heimtextil 2025 have received an overwhelming response from international buyers, with many hopeful of securing substantial export orders.



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# **BANKS APPRISED OF ROAD MAP TO EXPORT GROWTH**

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday, in a meeting with presidents of commercial banks at the SBP head office, presented a detailed transformative economic roadmap under the Uraan Pakistan initiative, aimed at increasing Pakistan's exports to \$60 billion.

## **ECONOMY'S GROWTH MODEL NEEDS URGENT OVERHAUL: WB**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's model of growth — dominated by (public) consumption, high levels of debt, low productivity and poor capital accumulation — is increasingly unsustainable and

requires measures to increase investment and productivity, while heavily investing in human capital accumulation to increase the country's long-term growth potential, says the World Bank.

## LSM SECTOR SEES 1.25PC CONTRACTION YOY KARACHI:

ISLAMABAD: The overall Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector has shown a growth of -1.25 percent during the first five months (July-November) of 2024-25 when compared with the same period of last year, says the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

#### **EV STATIONS' CHARGING TARIFF CUT TO RS39.70/UNIT**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Leghari stated on Wednesday that the government will soon be in a position to supply the cheapest electricity to consumers — industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic — in the region, following the finalization of relevant steps in the coming months..

#### **NEPRA ISSUES DAILY PENALTY WARNING TO KE, DISCOS**

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday warned K-Electric and other Discos of imposing daily penalty in case they did not avoid load shedding under the garb of Technical and Commercial (T&C) basis.

## PETROL PRICE HIKED BY RS3.47, HSD'S BY RS2.61

ISLAMABAD: Federal government announced on Wednesday a raise in petroleum products prices up to Rs 3.47 per litre for fortnight starting from January 16, 2025.

## FCA RELIEF – A RAY OF LIGHT IN KARACHI'S POWER WOES

There is some good news for Karachi's power consumers. NEPRA has concluded its hearing on KE's provisional FCA request for a relief of Rs. 4.98 per unit. This reduction translates into a relief of Rs. 7.18 billion. Following the public hearing, the regulator is expected to issue a decision clarifying the exact FCA amount to be passed on to customer bills and the period for which it will apply.

#### KCCI URGES GOVT TO PROBE STEPPED-UP LOAD-SHEDDING

KARACHI: President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Muhammad Jawed Bilwani while strongly criticizing K-Electric (KE) for subjecting Karachi's residents and businesses to intensified load-shedding, urged the federal government to intervene in this pressing matter as all the efforts being made to somehow provide relief in electricity bills by the government were at stake purely due to KE's unbridled load-shedding.

#### SELECTIVE BUYING SEEN ON COTTON MARKET

LAHORE: The local cotton market on Wednesday remained steady and the trading volume remained moderate. Cotton Analyst Naseem Usman told Business Recorder that the rate of cotton in Sindh is in between Rs 18,000 to Rs 19,500 per maund. The rate of Phutti in Sindh is in between Rs 8,000 to Rs 8,800 per 40 kg.

#### **<u>SENATE PANEL TOLD</u>** Exporters fail to avail CPFTA-II opportunities

ISLAMABAD: Commercial Section Pakistan Embassy Beijing admitted that neither the opportunities arising from China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II) were fully utilised nor were Pakistani exporters able to penetrate large Chinese market in sectors where Pakistan enjoy a reasonable comparative advantage.