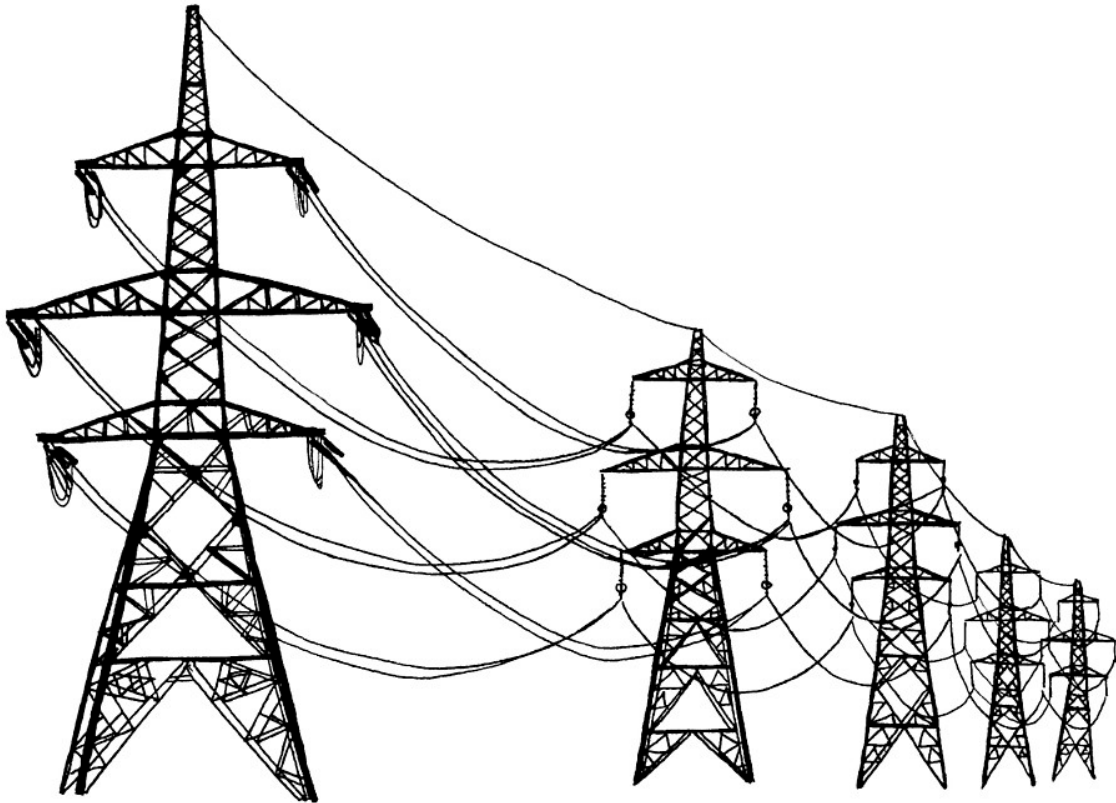


# NEWSCLIPPINGS

*JULY TO DECEMBER 2025*

## ELECTRICITY



## Urban Resource Centre

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## KE agrees to pay Sindh govt millions collected as electricity duty since Sept

The K-Electric on Monday agreed to pay Rs500 to Rs700 million in duty, collected from consumers every month from September 2024, to the provincial government after the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly warned the city's sole power utility of financial penalties and possible criminal proceedings if it failed to comply.

However, the PAC meeting, headed by its Chairman Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, was informed by KE representatives that the utility's payment of Rs32 billion in electricity duty, collected from consumers up to Aug 2024, was conditional on the recovery of Rs23.5bn from the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) and Rs7.4bn from other provincial government institutions.

The meeting, attended among others by committee members Qasim Siraj Soomro, Khurram Karim Soomro and Makhdoom Fakhar-uz-Zaman, K-E's Sadia Dada, KWSC chief operating officer Engineer Asadullah Khan and director general audit Sindh, was reviewing the issue of K-E's payment of Rs32bn collected from consumers as duty to the Sindh government.

Ms Dada told the PAC that the KE was owed Rs23.5bn by the KWSC and Rs7.4bn by various provincial institutions. "If these institutions pay their dues to KE, the power utility will pay the full amount of the Sindh government's duty," she added.

She added that the KE collects Rs500 to Rs700m monthly in the form of a six per cent electricity duty from the 6.5m households that it serves in Karachi. It may be noted that out of six per cent electricity duty, the KE deducts three per cent as service charges of collecting the duty.

Despite facing financial losses, she said, the KE paid Rs721m in electricity duty to the Sindh government in April 2024 and Rs545m in May 2024.

KWSC COO Engr Asadullah Khan informed the committee that under agreements signed between the federal government and the Abraaj Group on Nov 14, 2005, and April 13, 2009, the federal government had committed to covering the bills of strategic customers, including the KWSC, prisons and the high court if they failed to make payments.

He pointed out that the agreements did not carry the signatures of the Sindh government or KWSC and that the Rs23.5bn dues were, in fact, owed to the federal government.

However, the KE's representative argued that according to an SHC decision, the provincial government and the KWSC were responsible for paying the Rs23.5bn owed to the power utility.

Mr Khan said that the federal government had constituted an arbitration committee to address the matter of past dues. He also said that the KWSC itself is owed Rs5bn by the provincial government departments and an additional Rs10bn by federal institutions.

The PAC directed the KWSC to send the issue of payment of water utility dues against KE and federal and provincial governments' institutions to the Sindh cabinet for resolution.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 14, 01/07/2025)

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## Nine town chairmen of JI move SHC against prolonged loadshedding

Nine chairmen of as many town municipal corporations (TMCs) belonging to the Jamaat-i-Islami have moved the Sindh High Court against prolonged loadshedding being carried out by the K-Electric in hot and humid weather in the city.

Jl's nine chairmen of New Karachi, Liaquatabad, Gulberg, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Model Colony, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Jinnah and Landhi TMCs filed the petition.

Citing the secretary of power division, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) and KE as respondents, the petitioners asked the SHC to declare the KE's loadshedding policy illegal and unconstitutional.

They submitted that the regulatory authority had also declared such power outages not in line with applicable laws and illegal.

The petition is fixed for hearing before at two-judge bench of SHC comprising Justice Muhammad Faisal Kamal Alam and Justice Muhammad Hasan Akber next week.

### *Ask court to declare KE's policy on outages illegal*

The petitioners submitted that they were representing the residents of their respective towns who were aggrieved by excessive loadshedding carried out by the KE.

They argued that after receiving several complaints of public, Nepra had conducted an inquiry against prolonged loadshedding in the city and it transpired that loadshedding was being carried out by the KE in pursuance of its Aggregate Technical and Commercial (At&C) Losses Policy in proportion to the losses being incurred by KE in each area.

However, they contended that the regulatory authority had passed an order in April last year declaring the AT&C losses policy not in line with the Nepra Act, 1997 and Performance Standards (Distribution) Rules, 2005 as well as illegal.

Nepra had also held that it was the responsibility of KE to ensure equitable and uninterrupted distribution of electricity services in its territory. It also imposed a fine of Rs50 million on the city's sole power utility, they maintained.

The petitioners submitted the superior courts have time and again held that access to electricity was part of right to life as enshrined under Article 9 of the Constitution, but the policies of KE materially infringe upon such a right of residents of Karachi.

They contended that in response to another identical petition filed earlier by JI city chief Monem Zafar, the power utility had submitted an "action plan" to reduce loadshedding, which was nothing but an eyewash since the same only focused on social media campaigns and heatwave camps instead of illegal loadshedding policies.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 14, 05/07/2025)

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### **Nepra, KE put on notice in petition against loadshedding**

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday issued notices to the secretary of Power Division, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) and K-Electric (KE) on a petition filed against prolonged loadshedding in the city.

A two-judge bench of the SHC, comprising Justice Muhammad Faisal Kamal Alam and Justice Muhammad Hasan Akber, also put a federal law officer on notice for July 25. It also directed the regional head of Nepra to be in attendance at the next hearing.

Nine chairmen of as many town municipal corporations (TMCs) and a member of City Council, all belonging to the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), have moved the high court against prolonged loadshedding being carried out by the KE in hot and humid weather in the city and inaction on the part of the regulatory authority against the sole power utility.

At the outset of hearing, the counsel submitted that before moving the SHC, the petitioners had approached Nepra against the KE over prolonged and excessive loadshedding. However, the regulatory authority had not taken any action so far apart from issuing a notice to the power utility on May 6, he added.

He also maintained that the KE was carrying out up to eight hours of loadshedding in the respective constituencies of the petitioners.

*Nine JI town chairmen ask SHC to declare policy of planned outages 'illegal'*

After a preliminary hearing, the bench in its order said, "Issue notice to the respondents as well as learned DAG, by all modes including electronic made except publication, for 25.07.2025. The regional head of the respondent No. 2 Nepra in Karachi, shall be in attendance on the next date of hearing".

The chairmen of nine TMCs — New Karachi, Liaquatabad, Gulberg, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Model Colony, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Jinnah Town and Landhi — as well as a member of the City Council have filed the petition, asking the SHC to declare the KE's loadshedding policy illegal and unconstitutional.

The petitioners submitted that after receiving several complaints of public, Nepra had conducted an inquiry against the prolonged loadshedding in the city and it transpired that loadshedding was being carried out by the KE in pursuance of its Aggregate Technical and Commercial (At&C) Losses Policy in proportion to the losses being incurred by the KE in each area.

However, they also contended that the regulatory authority had passed an order in April last year declaring the AT&C losses policy not in line with the Nepra Act, 1997 and Performance Standards (Distribution) Rules, 2005 as well as illegal.

Nepra had also held that it was the responsibility of the KE to ensure equitable and uninterrupted distribution of electricity services in its territory. It also imposed a fine of Rs50 million on the city's sole power utility, they maintained.

The petitioners also submitted that the superior courts had time and again held that access to electricity was part of right to life as enshrined under Article 9 of the Constitution, but the policies of the KE materially infringed upon such a right of the residents of Karachi.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 08/07/2025)

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### **Moonis Alvi reappointed as KE CEO**

The Board of Directors of the K-Electric has re-appointed Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the power utility.

According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, the decision was taken in the BoD meeting held on Monday.

Mr Alvi joined the utility in 2008 and held key roles as the chief financial officer, company secretary and head of treasury prior to his appointment as the CEO in 2018.

(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 09/07/2025)

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### **Solar policy**

SOLAR net metering reforms are back in the limelight. On Thursday, Power Minister Awais Leghari announced that he will soon present a revised strategy for reforming the existing policy. One can expect another round of heated debate to follow. It is important to understand what is at stake. The current policy allows solar users to sell their surplus electricity to the national grid at generous

rates. With moderate investments, many users have been able to drastically slash their electricity bills thanks to this policy. Its spillover costs, however, are now increasingly being borne by ordinary grid users, ie, those who do not or cannot have solar net metering. The economics behind this are straightforward: the fixed costs of energy production, transmission, and distribution have to be passed on to ordinary users, whose numbers are falling. Not only that, but the current tariff structure also subsidises underprivileged segments at the expense of the country's elite by charging different rates based on consumption. Since most net metering customers typically come from privileged segments, Discos are losing consumers who were previously absorbing the costs of subsidies for 'protected' classes.

It is, therefore, quite simple to see why this is a significant problem. The authorities believe they may be able to mitigate the unanticipated fallout of the solar transition by revising the policies that incentivise solar adoption. This is not, in principle, an unfair move, whatever critics may say. The costs of maintaining a functioning and adequate national power generation and supply infrastructure cannot be borne disproportionately by those who can least afford it. What does seem unfair, however, is how policymakers appear more concerned about curtailing solar than about controlling other factors that contribute to high tariffs. For example, curtailing transmission and dispatch losses will substantially lower tariffs, but this doesn't seem to be as high a priority. This tendency, to reach for the lowest hanging fruit instead of taking difficult measures, has defined Pakistani policymaking for decades. It is why solar policy reform remains politically difficult: the people are just not convinced. A credible reform package would require the government to tackle deep-rooted inefficiencies, such as transmission losses and theft, alongside changes to solar incentives. Without that, public trust will erode further, and those with means may simply exit the system altogether, leaving a weaker grid and a heavier burden on the poorest.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 12/07/2025)

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### **KE agrees to pay Sindh Rs9b electricity duty**

The K-Electric (KE) after several years of delay has started payments of electricity duty amounting to Rs32 billion, it has collected from consumers through monthly bills, to the Sindh government.

As per the agreement, the power utility has agreed to pay Rs1.25 billion to the provincial government in two installments.

This move is part of a broader agreement under which KE has committed to pay Rs9.142 billion out of a total outstanding amount exceeding Rs32 billion. A payment schedule has also been issued.

According to the agreed timeline, the power utility will pay Rs4.258 billion to the Sindh government by September 2025.

Additionally, the K-Electric will now be required to regularly remit the electricity duty it collects from consumers through monthly bills.

The issue of non-payment of electricity duty was taken up by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Meanwhile, the Rs25 billion dues between KE and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board remain unresolved. K-Electric has warned government departments of potential disconnection if bills are not paid on time.

The power utility in its letter to the secretary of the Sindh Energy Department referred to the discussion between KE team and PAC members on June 31, during which payment with respect to Electricity Duty (ED) was deliberated upon.

As agreed, reconciled electricity consumption dues of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) will be held for adjustment against ED accumulated up to August 2024 and the excess amount of ED for the said period shall be paid by KE in line with the agreed installments as reflected in the schedule.

Furthermore, KE will also deposit the respective ED amount for the period from September 2024 to September 2025, no later than 30th September 2025, into the respective Government Treasury. Moreover, it was also discussed that payment to KE for electricity dues by Sindh government and its various departments should also be paid on timely basis failing which, KE would be at liberty to take appropriate action including, but not limited to, disconnection of the respective electricity connections albeit in accordance with law.

(By Muhammad Salim Jhandir The Express Tribune, 04, 24/07/2025)

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### **Nepra told to conduct 'technical survey' of KE to verify claim of infrastructure improvement**

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has asked the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to conduct a technical survey to ascertain whether the K-Electric (KE) has improved its infrastructure, as claimed before the court.

The direction came as a two-judge bench comprising Justice Muhammad Faisal Kamal Alam and Justice Muhammad Hasan Akber took up a petition against prolonged loadshedding in the city, filed by nine chairmen of as many town municipal corporations (TMCs) and a member of the City Council of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI).

At the outset of the hearing on Friday, counsel for KE filed a counter-affidavit along with documents, claiming that the power utility had made improvements in electricity supply to its consumers.

Nepra officials, along with their counsel, appeared in court and submitted that a penalty of Rs50 million had earlier been imposed on KE.

They sought additional time to submit their comments.

SHC asks power utility, regulator to address issue of loadshedding

However, the court was also informed that the appeal regarding the penalty was currently sub judice before the appellate tribunal under Section 12G of the Regulation of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electric Power Act, 1997 (Nepa law).

After hearing all sides, the bench directed the appellate tribunal to decide the appeal within four weeks. It also asked Nepra to undertake a technical survey to ascertain whether KE had improved its infrastructure.

"Nepa should also undertake a technical survey that whether during the years, K Electric has improved its infrastructure as claimed by its counsel today, for the betterment of the city of Karachi and other areas, where K-Electric is supplying the electricity," the order reads.

The court observed that the metropolis continued to face prolonged power outages, particularly during the summer months, which added to the miseries of the residents of Karachi.

It further remarked that this persistent issue must be addressed by both the KE and Nepra.

"We may observe that the basic of privatisation is that the state owned entity (SOE) once privatised would and should operate in an efficient and feasible manner, all the more, when the entity is tasked with the generating, transmitting and distributing of electricity, which is a public utility service," it added.

Meanwhile, the court also allowed Nepra's request for additional time and directed it to submit its comments within 10 days and adjourned the hearing till Aug 12.

**'KE will remain available for any technical surveys'**

Later in the evening, a spokesperson for the KE said in a statement that the power utility received the court's order and it "will remain available for any technical surveys".

It said that during the hearing of the case related to loadshedding in Karachi, the KE submitted before the bench that 70 per cent of its network was exempted from loadshedding.

Following privatisation, KE had invested over \$4 billion in its infrastructure and as a result of this investment, distribution losses had been halved and the customer base had doubled, the statement added.

It claimed that loadshedding was carried out only in areas with high electricity theft and losses.  
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 26/07/2025)

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**K-Electric tariff increase**

In a deeply troubling move that has rightly sparked political outrage across party lines, Nepra has approved K-Electric's multi-year tariff that allows the utility to recover a staggering Rs50 billion in write-off losses from consumers. This decision, which effectively permits K-Electric to pass on the cost of unpaid bills and inefficiencies to its paying customers, raises serious questions about the priorities and regulatory philosophy of Nepra.

That both the treasury and opposition benches in the Sindh Assembly stood united in condemning the move is telling. Rarely do provincial legislators find common ground on economic matters, but in this instance, the sheer injustice of the decision appears to have bridged political divides. It is not difficult to see why. In a city already reeling from record inflation and inconsistent electricity supply, saddling ordinary citizens with the burden of corporate write-offs amounts to little more than injustice.

The justification, ostensibly, lies in ensuring K-Electric's financial viability and long-term service delivery. Yet this line of reasoning is difficult to defend when viewed against the company's consistent failure to control transmission losses, curb theft and improve recovery. That a private, profit-making entity can recover its losses from a captive consumer base — without showing commensurate accountability or performance — is emblematic of the regulatory capture and policy drift that plague Pakistan's energy sector. More broadly, the decision sets a dangerous precedent. If utilities are allowed to routinely offload their losses like this, there remains little incentive for reform or efficiency.

Nepra must revisit its decision and hold K-Electric to higher standards of transparency and fiscal responsibility. The answer to chronic power sector woes cannot lie in continuously penalising the consumer.  
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 30/07/2025)

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**Where did the gas go?**

IN most middle-income countries, particularly across the Global South, it's rare for households to receive piped natural gas directly into their homes. Pakistan is one of the few exceptions. In cities like Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, gas flows directly into people's kitchens, a convenience many developed countries still don't offer. We've taken it for granted.

But step outside these urban centres, and the story is different. Rural areas continue to rely on LPG cylinders or even firewood to cook meals. And unlike piped gas, there's no real national infrastructure for LPG. Distribution is patchy, pricing is unstable, and most of it runs through private dealers. We focused too much on expanding the pipeline grid and never developed this system.

Yet now, despite all this infrastructure, there's a question a lot of people in urban Pakistan keep asking: why does the gas disappear every night at 9 pm?

Every winter, and now increasingly throughout the year, people are told that Pakistan is running out of gas. That we've depleted our local reserves. That there just isn't enough to go around. For the longest time, this explanation was followed by calls for more LNG imports. It made sense: if domestic supply couldn't meet demand, import the difference. The long-term LNG contract with Qatar was sold to the public as a success story. It guaranteed a steady supply. In theory, that should have solved the problem. But the shortages and the nightly cut-offs have only persisted.

*The gas cuts at 9 pm are a policy failure.*

In fact, Pakistan now finds itself in a situation that's quite unusual: we have a surplus of gas, and yet people are still being told to light candles at dinner and prep their food early. Why?

The answer lies in a mix of government mismanagement, rigid international contracts, and external conditionalities. Under pressure from the IMF, Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee approved a 10 per cent increase in natural gas prices for industrial users and power plants but kept household tariffs unchanged.

For years, these industries had relied on cheap gas to run their captive power plants (privately operated electricity systems) to ensure uninterrupted supply for their operations. The state made this possible by subsidising the gas they used even while households were being told to ration. But the IMF called for a change. So, the government complied: subsidies were slashed, and industrial gas suddenly became expensive. Naturally, many industries responded by transitioning to alternatives such as solar, or back to the grid.

And that's where the surplus comes in. Once industry stepped back, gas demand fell. We now have more gas in the system than we know what to do with. But instead of diverting that gas to homes, it just sits there. It's forced into the system under take-or-pay LNG contracts, which require Pakistan to pay for imported gas whether we use it or not. Since it's already paid for, the system prioritises this expensive gas and squeezes out the cheaper, locally produced supply. Local producers are asked to curtail production or shut it down.

This is especially affecting SNGPL in the north, where the system is overloaded — not from demand, but from expensive imported gas households can't afford. Affordable local gas is sidelined to make space for costly LNG. Yet homes still go without gas after 9 pm.

To make matters worse, the LNG contracts don't include a resale clause. If we don't need the gas, we can't sell it elsewhere. That kind of flexibility wasn't built in. It's the kind of foresight we never seem to plan for — a recurring flaw in our policymaking.

And there's another layer to the problem, UFG — unaccounted-for gas. That's the official term for gas that is supplied into the system but can't be traced to any paying customer. In reality, a lot of this gas is lost to theft. So, the more gas the government supplies, the more loss it has to absorb. If recovery isn't guaranteed, the logic becomes: supply less, lose less. And the less gas you supply, the less subsidy you have to pay. Behind the scenes, it becomes a balancing act between preventing financial loss and delivering what citizens actually need.

So here we are. With a surplus of gas, but not enough policy clarity to put it where it's needed. With a massive pipeline network, but no plan for equitable or rational distribution. With contracts that are rigid, and priorities that are political.

The gas cuts at 9 pm aren't just a technical issue. They're a policy failure. They represent a system that's failing to adapt to changing energy realities and one that continues to ignore the actual needs of the people it's supposed to serve.  
(By Sraraa Tahir Dawn, 07, 30/07/2025)

### **K-Electric CEO found guilty of harassment**

The Sindh Provincial Ombudsman has ordered the immediate removal of K-Electric's Chief Executive Officer, Moonis Alvi, and imposed a fine of Rs2.5 million after finding him guilty of workplace harassment.

The order came in response to a complaint filed by Mahreen Aziz Khan, a former consultant and the company's first female CxO since its corporate restructuring began in 2009. The complaint, lodged in November 2020 under the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, accused Alvi of harassment and creating a hostile environment.

In his verdict, Justice (retired) Shahnawaz Tariq, who presided over the case, stated that Alvi had committed harassment and caused psychological distress to Khan and her team.

"Accused No.1 Moonis Abdullah Alvi has committed harassment, created hostile environment and caused mental agony at the workplace to the complainant Mahreen Aziz Khan and her team," the ruling said, citing Section 2(h) of the Act.

The Ombudsman ordered Alvi's removal from service under Section 4(ii)(d) of the Act and directed him to pay the fine within one month. In case of non-compliance, the verdict allows for the seizure of his movable and immovable assets, and the blocking of his national identity card and passport.

Three other individuals — Rizwan Dalia (Chief People Officer), Col (R) Wahid Asghar (Chief of Security), and Khalid Rafi (Board Member, HR Committee) — were also named in the original complaint but were discharged due to lack of evidence.

"In the absence of direct evidence, the allegations against the three co-accused could not be substantiated," the ruling said.

**K-Electric's response**

KE CEO Moonis Alvi has strongly denied the allegations of harassment levelled against him in a 22-page order issued by the Sindh Ombudsman on Thursday, and announced that he will be challenging the decision.

In a series of posts on X, Alvi—who is the longest-serving CEO in KE's history—said he was “deeply distressed” by the ruling and vowed to fight back through legal channels.

“While I respect the legal process and the institutions that uphold it, I must, in good conscience, state that the findings do not reflect the truth of the situation as I experienced it,” he wrote. “I am currently reviewing the decision with my legal counsel and will be exercising my right to appeal... I remain committed to ensuring that the truth is fully brought to light, through all lawful means available.”

Alvi's legal team, led by senior counsels Barrister Abid S Zuberi and Barrister Ayan Memon, also confirmed plans to file an appeal against what they called an “unreasoned order.”

“We respect the honourable court and all its decisions. However, in light of serious procedural and legal inconsistencies, we are moving to appeal this decision before the appropriate forum and are confident that justice will prevail,” the statement said.

They criticised the ruling for what they termed the mischaracterisation of “performance feedback” as harassment and objected to what they described as the imposition of the harshest penalty without a reasoned explanation.

“Mr Alvi gave full disclosure regarding work performance issues concerning the complainant, along with retaliatory complaints made after her termination. These facts were completely overlooked,” the legal counsels noted, adding that a substantial portion of the order focused on “frivolous allegations not backed by hard evidence.”

(By Web Desk The Express Tribune, 04, 01/08/2025)

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### **Sindh ombudsperson orders removal of KE CEO for harassing female colleague**

The provincial ombudsman for protection against harassment of women at workplaces on Thursday ordered the removal of K-Electric (KE) Chief Executive Officer Moonis Alvi after finding him guilty of workplace harassment.

Alvi, along with other KE employees, was accused of workplace harassment by the company's former chief marketing and communication officer, Mahreen Aziz Khan, said the order issued by provincial ombudsman Justice (R) Shahnawaz Tariq.

In her application, Khan had accused Alvi, Chief People Officer Rizwan Dalia, Chief of Security Col (R) Wahid Asghar, and Member of the Board of Directors and Chairman Board HR Committee Khalid Rafi, of “causing harassment, intimidation and mental agony”.

The ombudsman's order said that Alvi had “committed harassment, created a hostile environment and caused mental agony at the workplace to [Khan] and her team”.

Consequently, Alvi was penalised under Section 4(4)(ii)(c) of the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, and ordered removed from his service instantly, along with a penalty of Rs2.5 million, which shall be paid to Khan as compensation within 30 days of the order being passed.

It said that if he failed to pay the fine amount within the stipulated period, it would be recovered as land revenue in terms of the Land Revenue Act, 1967, through the concerned deputy commissioner from Alvi's moveable and immoveable properties, including bank accounts.

It also said that his CNIC and passport would be blocked through Nadra and the Ministry of Interior till recovery of the fine. The order said it was self-executory and in case of its non-compliance, contempt proceedings under Section 10(1)(vi) of the act would be initiated against the concerned delinquent officers.

The order can be appealed in the high court.

Regarding the three others accused, the order said: “There is no direct evidence for committing harassment to the complainant; therefore, they are discharged from the allegations of harassment as alleged by the complainant.”

Alvi responded to the development in a series of posts on X.

“I have always upheld the values of integrity and dignity in professional interactions, and I deeply believe in fostering safe and inclusive workplaces for all.

“The recent verdict is deeply distressing to me,” he said.

“While I respect the legal process and the institutions that uphold it, I must, in good conscience, state that the findings do not reflect the truth of the situation as I experienced it.

He added: “This has been a painful journey — not just professionally, but personally.”

Alvi said he was currently reviewing the decision with his legal counsel and would be exercising his right to appeal.

"It is for anyone who feels wronged to be heard. I remain committed to ensuring that the truth is fully brought to light, through all lawful means available," he said on X.

Meanwhile, Khan's legal adviser, Barrister Talal Wasif Qavi, released a statement on her behalf.

"This judgment affirms that no one who disrespects the daughters of this nation deserves to hold any office — public or private. It is a clear message that power cannot shield misconduct.

"Across Pakistan, working women face harassment in silence. This case proves they no longer need to be afraid. Justice is possible," the statement read.

"This decision serves as a beacon of hope for every working woman who has been forced into silence. We stand with all women who speak out — and will continue to fight until dignity and safety are guaranteed in every workplace."

Alvi was reappointed as the CEO by KE's board of directors on July 7.

In 2020, he and other senior KE officials were booked after another citizen died from electrocution in Karachi. Following the incident, the government formed a special committee to streamline KE operations and called for the removal of its top leadership over poor service during the monsoon.

Sources said government board members had pushed to replace Alvi and the distribution head with professionals capable of handling crises and ensuring efficient service.  
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 01/08/2025)

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### SHC suspends ombudsman's order against KE CEO

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday suspended the provincial ombudsman's order to remove K-Electric Chief Executive Officer Moonis Alvi and impose a Rs2.5 million fine in a workplace harassment case filed by a former company executive.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Faisal Kamal Alam and Justice Hassan Akbar issued the order while hearing a petition filed by Moonis Alvi, who challenged the ombudsman's ruling on grounds of jurisdiction and procedural flaws.

The petitioner appeared in court with his counsel, Barrister Abid Zuberi, who argued that the provincial ombudsman had no legal authority to decide the case, as K-Electric is an inter-provincial organisation supplying electricity beyond Sindh to areas including Lasbela, Hub, and Winder. Barrister Zuberi further contended that such cases fall under the jurisdiction of the federal ombudsman, not the provincial one.

He also questioned the legal soundness of the ombudsman's findings, citing previous precedents where jurisdictional conflicts arose in similar cases involving the National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC) and labour courts. Zuberi pointed out that the complaint relied heavily on WhatsApp messages and that the proceedings lacked due process.

Justice Alam inquired about the legal basis of the provincial ombudsman's decision, to which the petitioner's counsel responded that both the removal order and the monetary penalty were unlawful. He prayed the court annul the decision and grant interim relief.

The bench suspended the implementation of the ombudsman's decision and directed the petitioner to deposit the Rs2.5 million fine with the SHC registrar. The court did not grant the petitioner's plea for a reduction in the amount. It also issued notices to the provincial ombudsman and the complainant, Mehreen Zehra — former Chief Marketing Officer at K-Electric — for August 8.

Later in the day, the SHC issued a written order noting that the provincial ombudsman lacks jurisdiction over complaints involving inter-provincial institutions, and that such matters fall within the federal ombudsman's purview.

The written order directed the Deputy Attorney General, the Advocate General Sindh, and other relevant parties to submit their replies before the next hearing. The court also warned that failure to deposit the Rs2.5 million by the petitioner would result in the revocation of the interim relief.

On Thursday, the provincial ombudsman had found Moonis Alvi guilty of harassment and ordered his removal from office, along with the imposition of the penalty. The court will take up the case again on August 8.  
(By Nasir Butt The Express Tribune, 04, 02/08/2025)

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### Sindh High Court suspends order removing KE CEO

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday suspended an order by the provincial ombudsman for protection against harassment of women removing K-Electric (KE) Chief Executive Officer Moonis Alvi from his position over allegations of sexual harassment.

A day prior, the ombudsman ordered the removal of KE CEO Alvi after finding him guilty of workplace harassment.

Alvi, along with other KE employees, was accused of workplace harassment by the company's former chief marketing and communication officer, Mahreen Aziz Khan, read the order issued by provincial ombudsman retired Justice Shah Nawaz Tariq.

According to a petition Alvi filed with the SHC today — available with *Dawn.com* — his lawyers argued that Khan has neither levelled any allegations of “harassment of a sexual or physical nature” before the ombudsman, nor presented any evidence of gender discrimination within KE.

“There was no allegation that the petitioner, being in a position of authority, sought out any sexual favour, nor any gender based discrimination was alleged or could be made out as several women are holding high-level positions within the organisation,” the petition read.

“In the circumstances, the findings in the impugned order are flimsy, not sustainable and completely disproportionate. No hostile work environment was alleged or proved as a result of gender based discrimination nor as a result of harassment.”

The plea also noted: “The learned provincial ombudsman did not have jurisdiction over the affairs of a trans-provincial organisation such as KE and so also did not have jurisdiction to take cognisance on a complaint filed by an ex-employee.”

In a court order issued today and seen by *Dawn.com*, the SHC said that as per the petitioner, KE was a “trans-provincial entity/establishment” and the provincial ombudsman had no jurisdiction to act upon the complaints, which should instead be addressed by the federal ombudsman.

The order said the “contention raised requires consideration” and said that notices be issued to the respondents, as well as the Sindh advocate general and deputy advocate general for August 8.

“Till the next date of hearing, [the] operation of the impugned decision will remain suspended,” the order read. It, however, ordered Alvi to deposit the Rs2.5 million penalty with the court’s nazir.

In her application, Khan had accused Alvi, KE Chief People Officer Rizwan Dalia, Chief of Security retired Colonel Wahid Asghar and Member of the Board of Directors and Chairman Board HR Committee Khalid Rafi, of “causing harassment, intimidation and mental agony”.

The ombudsman’s order said that Alvi had “committed harassment, created a hostile environment and caused mental agony at the workplace to [Khan] and her team”.

Consequently, Alvi was penalised under Section 4(4)(ii)(c) of the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, and ordered removed from his service instantly, along with a penalty of Rs2.5 million, which would be paid to Khan as compensation within 30 days of the order being passed.  
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 02/08/2025)

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### **KE told to shift infrastructure obstructing Red Line by Sept 15**

The Sindh government has directed K-Electric to relocate utility infrastructure obstructing the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Red Line project by September 15, 2025.

It has also instructed the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) to expedite the completion of the 2.7-kilometre K-IV pipeline within the BRT corridor at the earliest.

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon chaired a meeting in Karachi to review progress on the Red Line project.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, TransKarachi CEO Fawad Ghaffar Soomro, as well as engineers, consultants and representatives from KE.

During the meeting, officials gave a detailed briefing on the progress of the BRT project. The forum reviewed the measures taken to remove obstacles hindering the project and discussed the challenges being faced in its execution.

Mr Memon directed that all issues impeding the project be resolved immediately to ensure that the pace of work on the Red Line remains uninterrupted.

He instructed KE officials to complete the relocation of all utilities obstructing the Red Line route by Sept 15. He also directed Water Board authorities to expedite the completion of the K-IV pipeline to prevent further delays.  
(By Dawn Reporter, 14, 06/08/2025)

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### **Death toll rises to 14 as rain and power outages continue**

Torrential monsoon rains on Wednesday continue to exacerbate the suffering of residents, taking the rain-related death toll to 14 with several parts of the city experiencing widespread power outages that lasted for hours.

The Sindh government has announced that all public and private educational institutional in Karachi will remain closed on Thursday (today).

Civic bodies aided by army, Rangers and police personnel, took several hours to drain rainwater from several major thoroughfares, including I.I. Chundrigar Road, the FTC area, University Road, and PAF Museum stretch of Sharea Faisal.

However, another spell of rain with strong winds began again after 8pm in the city, inundating many roads and low-lying areas.

According to the Met department's advisory, strong monsoon currents are penetrating most parts of the province and under their influence widespread rain/thunderstorm are expected in Karachi, Hyderabad and other districts of the province on Thursday (today).

"The next two days are still critical for Karachi and rest of the province. A low pressure gathering steam is expected to reach Gujarat, India, tomorrow and impact Karachi and other parts of Sindh," Met department's focal person Anjum Niaz Zaigham told Dawn.

On Wednesday, most parts of the city received light to moderate showers.

According to data compiled by Met Office, the maximum rain was recorded in Orangi town 37mm followed by PAF Base Faisal 32mm, Jinnah Terminal 18mm, Keamari 13mm, Airport old area 11mm, DHA Phase VII 8mm, Met Office University Road 7.6mm and Korangi 6.8mm.

As Karachi struggles with the rain disaster, eight more people died in rain-related incidents in the city. Hospital, rescue and police officials had reported six deaths on Tuesday — five in house collapse incidents and one due to electrocution.

On Wednesday, officials said that three youths died from electrocution in Shah Faisal Colony and Gizri, while five people, including three children, drowned.

A spokesperson for the Edhi Foundation said that two unidentified children drowned — one in Lyari Nadi and another near Al-Asif Square in Sohrab Goth. They could not be located until late at night.

Separately, a minor boy drowned while swimming in a rainwater-filled ditch off the Northern Bypass, said Gulshan-i-Maymar SHO Abdul Ghaffar Korai.

In another incident, Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told Dawn that the body of an unidentified man, estimated to be in his early 60s, was brought to the hospital. The man had drowned.

Jamshed Quarters SHO Anser Ahmed Butt said that a couple and their child fell into a drain overflowing with rainwater near Guru Mandir. The woman and child were rescued but the man, identified as Abbas, drowned.

The Gizri police said a teenager named Yasir was riding a motorcycle when he came into contact with a live wire near the Saudi Consulate in DHA and died from electrocution.

In Shah Faisal Colony, two young brothers were electrocuted, area SHO Imtiaz Husain Shah told Dawn.

He said one of the brothers received an electric shock from an underground wire. The other brother attempted to rescue him but was also electrocuted. They were identified as Murad Sultan, 21, and Siraj Sultan, 12.

Residents continue to endure prolonged outages

Although a provincial holiday kept most people indoors, it brought little relief as they endured hours-long power outages, adding to their misery.

Parts of several localities including Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Gulistan-i-Jauhar, Nazimabad, Malir, Korangi, Defence Housing Authority, Clifton and PECHS remained without electricity for long hours.

A resident of Gulzar-i-Hijri, Umer Shahid, told Dawn that there had been no power since the first drop of the rain on Tuesday. "We have lodged several complaints to the power utility but to vain," he lamented.

Another resident of the locality said that the power supply was disconnected his area at 2pm on Tuesday and was restored on 6pm on Wednesday.

Maaz Mohiduddin, a resident of Block-16 Gulistan-i-Jauhar, said that the power was disrupted shortly after the rain hit the city on Tuesday and it was not restored till 10pm on Wednesday.

Azka Rabbani, a resident of PECHS, said that parts of her locality suffered 16 hour power outage.

However, K Electric Chief Executive Officer Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi said in a statement that power had been restored to more than 94 per cent of the city's areas by 6 pm. "There are about 150 affected feeders in the city, but the work of restoring power is ongoing," he added.

Mr Alvi said that the KE field staff were facing severe difficulties in transportation and KE vehicles were facing difficulties in reaching the faulted areas.

Insiders in the power utility said that there had been several localised fault in parts of the city and the repair of underground cables was possible after the accumulated water drained out.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Nasir Hussain Shah contacted the KE administration and expressed serious concern over the prolonged power outages in the city. He emphasised that immediate restoration of electricity must be ensured as the prolonged outages had disrupted water supply in households, causing severe inconvenience to citizens.

(By Tahir Siddiqui, Imtiaz Ali and Faiza Ilyas Dawn, 13, 21/08/2025)

### **SHC asks why K-Electric hasn't adopted prepaid billing system**

The Sindh High Court on Friday questioned why K-Electric had not introduced a prepaid billing system for its consumers to reduce line losses and power theft.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro asked this while hearing a petition filed by the Jamaat-i-Islami against K-Electric and others seeking an end to the loadshedding.

At the outset of the hearing on Friday, the counsel for the power utility argued that as per an order of the apex court, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority should be approached over technical issues of loadshedding.

The bench directed the counsel for the petitioners to come prepared at the next hearing to advance arguments about maintainability of the petition. It also noted that there could be various reasons behind loadshedding, including line losses, but uninterrupted electricity be provided to those consumers who were paying their bills on time and not involved power theft.

The bench further remarked why the KE had not enforced a prepaid card system for its customers and it would take around five years to complete if the work on such a policy started now.

The counsel for the KE claimed that around 70 per cent city's feeders were exempted from loadshedding and efforts were made to curtail power theft after the privatisation of the power utility.

The lawyers for the power utility also said that the suggestion of court regarding the prepaid card policy to be conveyed to the officials concerned.

Jl Karachi chief Monem Zafar and two other leaders had petitioned the SHC and impleaded the power ministry, the KE and Nepra as respondents.

The petitioners contended that the KE, responsible for electricity generation, transmission and distribution in Karachi, had been observing loadshedding for an average duration of 10 to 16 hours daily in various localities of the city even during heatwaves and attributing the measure to power theft-related losses.

The petitioners also asserted that out of the 2,109 feeders in Karachi, 1,500 faced no loadshedding while the others were subjected to outages according to their loss rates.

The petitioners claimed that high-loss areas in Karachi faced up to 7.5 hours of loadshedding when energy demand peaked whereas low-loss areas faced no outages.

The also maintained that the KE had increased the duration of loadshedding in phases with the city now facing two to four hours of outages at night while 40pc of the city was experiencing the worst power outages.

The petitioners asked the court to order the KE to immediately halt the practice of loadshedding and adhere to the Nepra's Performance Standards Rules and the Nepra's Fine Regulations.

The petitioners also sought a directive for the KE to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to eliminate loadshedding besides taking measures to curb power theft and improve infrastructure as soon as possible.  
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 30/08/2025)

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### **Baldia protests for water and power**

Residents of Baldia Town staged a protest on Tuesday against prolonged power outages and severe water shortages, blocking Hub River Road and the Northern Bypass.

According to traffic police, the demonstration brought traffic to a standstill on both routes, causing long queues of vehicles and a massive traffic jam. Protesters chanted slogans against the lack of basic utilities, claiming that water supply had been suspended in several parts of Baldia Town for the past month, severely disrupting daily life. Residents said they were forced to purchase water through expensive tankers, while elected representatives had failed to address their grievances.

Protesters also complained of extended power load-shedding, demanding immediate restoration of water supply and an end to electricity cuts in the area.

A traffic police spokesperson stated that alternative routes were provided to commuters during the blockade. The protest was later called off following successful negotiations between the administration and demonstrators, after which Hub River Road and the Northern Bypass were reopened and traffic flow returned to normal.  
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 18/09/2025)

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### **KE removes over 1,300 illegal connections in Saddar**

The K-Electric (KE) has conducted 38 actions in the Saddar area and removed more than 1,300 illegal connections in a bid to curb electricity theft. According to a press release, these actions have helped save around 1.45 million units of electricity, reducing the overall impact of theft on the area's loss profile.

The KE has organised 56 customer facilitation camps in Saddar to assist residents in clearing pending electricity dues, resolving complaints, and shifting towards legal electricity connections.

Of the 100 feeders in Saddar, 88 are exempted from loadshedding. However, some areas with a higher incidence of theft and outstanding dues include Bizerta Lines, Hijrat Colony, Railway Colony and Sultanabad are facing loadshedding issue, it added. (By Dawn Reporter, 13, 20/09/2025)

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### KE tariff cut impact

The government's recent move to force a sharp tariff cut on K-Electric offers immediate relief to consumers but risks severe long-term consequences for Karachi's power supply. The decision also exposes the fundamental flaws in privatisation of essential utilities. On the surface, slashing KE's tariff is a populist win, reducing bills and the government's subsidy burden. However, this short-term gain ignores the financial reality of the power utility. KE has declared the new tariff unsustainable, while critics say it has rendered the company technically insolvent due to the loss of about Rs80 billion in revenue.

The long-term backlash could be severe. The company's previously approved grid upgrade plan, which envisioned an outlay of \$2 billion over the next seven years, has collapsed. Without predictable revenue, KE cannot finance a long-term maintenance and modernisation plan that has become essential to keep the lights on across Karachi. Meanwhile, KE's Gulf owners were already threatening multibillion-dollar litigation before the tariff eroded any possibility of short-term profitability. One of the major issues that has led to the disputes with KE is the manner of privatisation. Pakistan privatised ownership without creating a deregulated, competitive market, handing a for-profit private company a monopoly and expecting it to act in the interest of consumers rather than shareholders.

Strongarming a monopoly into acting competitively was never a realistic expectation. At this point, the most efficient way to get KE to clean up its act, while also avoiding tipping the boat further, is to force competition on it by allowing private companies to directly sell power to consumers via the KE network, which would give consumers cheaper options while also allowing KE to collect an agreed amount for use of its network, which should then be reinvested in grid upgrades. (By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 29/10/2025)

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### Decision to slash KE's base tariff reflects collective wisdom, says Nepra

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday evaded a direct comment on its recent decision of reducing the K-Electric's multiyear tariff by about Rs7 per unit.

During a public hearing on Central Power Purchasing Agency's request for negative fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for electricity consumed in September, a questioner wondered if the regulator had used collective wisdom in reducing KE's base tariff by almost 20 per cent that would cut government subsidies by about Rs7 per unit and how these calculations were made in May and then in October.

Nepra's Member (Legal) Amina Ahmed, who presided over the public hearing, said the signatures on the Nepra's determination meant collective wisdom was involved and detailed explanations for revisions in various tariff parameters had been detailed in the judgement. She said the regulator did not calculate a subsidy element as it was not Nepra's job.

Earlier, CPPA's Chief Executive Officer Rehan Akhtar told the public hearing that the actual fuel cost in September was lower than already charged to consumers and hence a refund of 37-paisa per unit was required for consumers across the country.

He said the consumers had already paid a positive FCA of eight-paisa per unit in October that now stood expired. Therefore, net relief to consumers would work out at 45-paisa per unit upon regulatory approval.

He told the hearing that consumption in September 2025 was around 24pc higher than same month of last year owing to prolonged summer, but was 5pc lower than August and 3pc lower than the estimates made for reference September tariff.

Industrial consumption, he said, had also dropped due to macroeconomic factors, higher electricity costs and solarisation.

He explained that hydropower generation was better than estimated but forced outages at few thermal and nuclear power plants and lower availability of local gas at Uch, Balochistan and LNG entailed induction of expensive sources. Otherwise, FCA would have been larger, he said.

(By Khaleeq Kiani Dawn, 13, 30/10/2025)

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### Sindh High Court restrains Nepra from taking 'coercive action' against KE

The Sindh High Court has restrained the federal government and National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) from taking coercive action against K-Electric regarding reduction in its multi-year tariff.

Last month, Nepra had reduced the average multi-year tariff of KE from Rs39.97/kWh, set by the regulator in May of this year, to Rs32.37/kWh. A two-judge bench headed by Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro issued notices to the ministry of energy, Nepra and others for Nov 19.

The KE filed a set of petitions challenging Nepra's recent decisions for reviewing and slashing the utility's multiyear tariff by about Rs7 per unit.

The petitioner's counsel argued that the KE was aggrieved by the decisions made by Nepra on Oct 20 on review applications filed by some individuals who were not even party in original proceedings before the authority.

The counsel argued that the regulatory authority had dismissed all review applications filed by individuals against its earlier order, but revised the tariff after taking suo motu notice of its earlier order and fixed the same at Rs32.37.

The lawyers said if the federal government notified the tariff in question, the KE would suffer colossal losses and would have to close its operation for a considerable time.

The counsel said that while taking the suo moto notice, Nepra did not put the petitioner on notice. Later, the KE filed an appeal against the impugned decision before the appellate tribunal of the regulatory authority, which at present was not functional.

After a preliminary hearing, the bench in its order stated, "Contentions raised require consideration, let notice be issued to the respondents as well as additional attorney general for 19.11.2025, meanwhile no coercive action shall be taken against petitioner in terms of impugned decision till next date of hearing."

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 06/11/2025)