E-Newsletter
Energy Transition
PAKISTAN

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Sustainable Development Policy Institute
About SDPI

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan’s Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan’s socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organization to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and program advisory services. SDPI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Mission

To catalyse the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.

Vision

To be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan.

About Newsletter

To keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter for “Energy Transition Pakistan”

It carries reference information’s to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Newspapers Covered:

- Dawn
- The News
- The Express Tribune
- The Nation
- Business Recorder
- Daily Times
- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point
- China Daily
Editor Note:

Clean energy transition is the only answer and solution to secure the sustainable future of Pakistan. There is a dire need to address the use of clean energy timely as it is not only the safest, reliable, and efficient means of energy production but will also harness the abundant indigenous energy resource available in Pakistan. Pakistan’s recent policies and initiatives have strongly advocated the need for Pakistan to transition towards clean energy resources. With ARE policy aiming to achieve 30% power through hydro and 30% share of renewables in the energy mix, Electric Vehicles (EVs) policy targeting to achieve 30% share of EVs by 2030, Paris Agreement goals, and the recent moratorium of coal by Prime Minister in Climate Summit, Pakistan is taking a leap towards a green energy future.

However, the development of clean energy transition in Pakistan cannot be achieved without political leadership and need of research-based scientific evidence to help transform the conventional policy making process in Pakistan.

In this regard, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) runs a “Clean Energy Transition Program”, under which “Network for Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan: Research and Advocacy”, along with the “Renewable Energy Parliamentary Caucus” have been launched and established to mobilise policies into implementation with clear goals and targets. Our work is focused on (but not limited to) building momentum by exploring the missing gaps and links for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) through a holistic approach, especially to explore ways for post-COVID green economic recovery; aligning the wider sustainability agenda with SDG7, sectoral policy reforms, renewable energy investment streams, green financing, private sector engagements, and other windows of opportunities for achieving the goal of clean energy transition in Pakistan.

Subjects Covered

- Energy and power
- Renewable energy
- Sustainability
- Energy investment, innovation, automation
- Oil and gas sector
- Transport
- Industry
- CEPC Energy projects
- Energy finance and economics
- SDPIs Events, visits, publications
### ECC allows another Rs12bn to absorb petroleum price differentials
**Source:** Khaleeq Kiani, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-16

**ISLAMABAD:** As the burden of the price differential needed to be absorbed by the government following the announcement of a petroleum relief package by Prime Minister Imran Khan increases by the day, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet on Tuesday approved another Rs12 billion for oil companies, taking the total expenditure on such products to Rs32bn this month alone. The meeting..... [more >>](#)

### POL prices unchanged
**Source:** News Desk, *The News, International*, 2022-03-16

**ISLAMABAD:** In line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's decision, the Finance Division announced in its fortnightly review that petrol prices would remain unchanged throughout the country. "In line with the decision of the prime minister in the last fortnightly review, the petroleum product prices to remain unchanged despite abnormal price increase in the international market," said a s..... [more >>](#)

### CNG stations to open in Lahore from today
**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The News, International*, 2022-03-16

**LAHORE:** After a gap of over three months, the CNG Stations will resume operations from today (Wednesday). "Good news finally," Ghiyas Paracha, central leader All Pakistan CNG Association, said, adding that all the CNG stations will be functional from March 16 on a regular basis round the clock. The public transport fare will not be increased, he claimed. He said a minimum of Rs84 bil..... [more >>](#)

### Unviable power
**Source:** Simon Nicholas & Haneea Isaad, *The News, International*, 2022-03-16

The city of Gwadar remains unconnected to the national power grid, and its residents suffer regular power cuts. However, a planned coal-fired power plant is not the best answer to the city's problems. It has been reported that the 300 megawatts (MW) Gwadar coal-fired power project will continue with higher priority. This is despite the prime minister's announcement in December 2020 th..... [more >>](#)

### SHC directs ministry to submit agreement on gas export from Sindh
**Source:** Jamal Khurshid, *The News, International*, 2022-03-16

**KARACHI:** The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday directed the Ministry of Petroleum to place any agreement or direction made by the federal government to the Sindh government with regard to loadshedding and exporting 15 percent of gas out of the province. Reports said the direction had come on the petition with regard to lack of provision of welfare funds for the people of the oil and gas explorati..... [more >>](#)

### Saudi Arabia considers accepting yuan instead of dollars for Chinese oil sales
**Source:** News Desk, *The News, International*, 2022-03-16

**DUBAI/RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia is in active talks with Beijing to price some of its oil sales to China in yuan, people familiar with the matter said, a move that would dent the US dollar's dominance of the global petroleum market and mark another shift by the world's top crude exporter toward Asia, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. The talks with China over yuan-priced oil cont..... [more >>](#)
India eyes more cheap Russian oil
NEW DELHI: India may take up a Russian offer to buy crude oil and other commodities at a discount, two Indian officials said, in a sign that Delhi wants to keep its key trading partner on board despite Western attempts to isolate Moscow through sanctions. India has not condemned the invasion of Ukraine and abstained from voting at the United Nations calling out Russia’s aggression. India, wh..... more >>

Oil price rout brings sigh of relief
Source: Salman Siddiqui, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-16
KARACHI: Pakistan’s economic managers heaved a sigh of relief as global crude oil prices returned to below $100 a barrel on hopes of early resolution of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, as the two countries are likely to reach a middle ground during the ongoing talks. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil dropped to $95-96 a barrel on Tuesday, after hitting a 14-year high of arou..... more >>

Exploration of oil, gas; Body formed to fine-tune Model Production Sharing Agreement draft
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-16
ISLAMABAD: Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) has constituted an inter-ministerial committee under the chairmanship of Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar to fine-tune the proposed draft Model Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), official sources told Business Recorder. On March 4, 2022, Petroleum Division presented the draft MPSA and solicited approval along with major changes from the previous..... more >>

Lack of loan insurance cover; Gwadar power project hits a snag
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-16
ISLAMABAD: The government has reportedly failed to convince Chinese government to restart suspended work on 300MW coal-fired power project at Gwadar as M/s Sinosure, Chinese loan insurance company, in unwilling to cover governmental breach risk under the medium and long term buyer credit insurance largely due to delayed payments to CPEC IPPs and delay in opening of revolving account, sources close..... more >>

Disco’s management cautioned
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-16
ISLAMABAD: Chair-man, Board of Directors (BoD) Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco), Salah-ud-Din Rafahi has cautioned the Disco’s management that delay in provision of new electricity connections and other facilities will not be tolerated. Talking to Business Recorder, he said that by implementing customer friendly policies it was possible to create a friendly relations and enviro..... more >>

E&P sector and investment
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-16
The upstream oil and gas sector in Pakistan has been a constant contributor to the total foreign direct investment coming into the country. However, the share of the E&P sector in total FDI has been erratic and declining from an average of 34 percent between FY12-FY15 to 6 percent in FY18 and 13 percent in FY21. While one would like to assume that the country’s reliance on fossil fu..... more >>

Pakistan Post unable to clear Rs40bn electricity bills
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-17
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has been unable to clear more than Rs40 billion in utility bills it has accumulated on behalf of electricity distribution companies (Discos), including K-Electric, and other public service agencies. The power secretary has called an emergency meeting on Thursday of electricity distribution companies, representatives of the ministries of finance and communications, the Pak..... more >>
UAE mulls building oil reserves
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-17
ISLAMABAD: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has shown interest in building strategic oil reserves in Pakistan – a project which will help cope with shortages if such a problem arises in future. In the past, Pakistan has faced oil shortages several times due to the lack of strategic reserves. Surprisingly, the government banned imports of petroleum products in 2020, at a time when global cru..... more >>

Committee to review oil, gas imports
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-17
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat has set up a three-member sub-committee to review the modalities of oil and gas imports and electricity pricing. The sub-committee will submit its report to the standing committee after due deliberations. Nepra and Ogra on Wednesday gave a detailed briefing to the parliamentary panel, which met under the chairmanship of Senator Rana..... more >>

Senate panel wants private sector to import LNG to address CNG shortage
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
ISLAMABAD: A Senate panel on Thursday warned the government of shortage of high speed diesel (HSD) and suggested complete freedom to the private sector to procure and import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to address the shortage of compressed natural gas (CNG) and avoid circular debt. A meeting of the Standing Committee on Petroleum, presided over by Senator Abdul Qadir, discussed strategy to handle..... more >>

Pak-Russia gas pipeline needed to overcome shortages, says Tarin
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenues Shaukat Tarin on Wednesday said that Pakistan and Russia have broadly agreed to establish the North-South Gas Pipeline Project with an estimated cost of approximately $3 billion. In the wake of an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, Pakistan will have to move forward in a careful manner. This pipeline project has become important for Pakist..... more >>

VNA Speaker for revival of economic activities at Ghazi Barotha project
ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser said the revival of economic activities at the Ghazi Barotha-affected areas is vital for the prosperity of the local region. “The people of villages living in and around the Ghazi Barotha Hydropower (GBH) project are facing issues, and the positive policy initiatives would eliminate such socio-economic challenges.” He expressed these vi..... more >>

SHC restrains education dept, KMC from interfering in Sarfaraz Ahmed academy’s affairs
Karachi: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday restrained the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Karachi Development Authority and Sindh education department from causing any interference or hindrance in the use and possession of a cricket ground and academy in North Nazimabad named after renowned cricketer and former skipper of Pakistani team Sarfaraz Ahmed. The interim order came on a petition..... more >>

British PM meets Saudi crown prince as Ukraine war roils oil prices
RIYADH: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with oil-rich Saudi Arabia’s de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to lobby for higher production on Wednesday after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine sent markets into turmoil. Johnson, one of the few Western leaders to visit Riyadh since the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, said he h..... more >>
Govt to encourage investment in petrochemical sector
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
ISLAMABAD: The government promised on Thursday to soon provide incentives to refineries to encourage investments in the petrochemical sector. Speaking at a petrochemical symposium, Prime Minister’s Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood said Pakistan should not always rely on the textile sector but find new areas for diversification. “Petrochemical and steel sectors are the mother of..... more >>

Big oil sector players ‘left out’ of key meeting
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
ISLAMABAD: Oil marketing companies (OMCs) and refineries have complained that the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) ignored major industry players in a meeting held on Wednesday. In this regard, the Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) has written a letter to Ogra chairman, lodging its protest and showing serious concern over the matter, sources told The Express Tribune. According to the..... more >>

Senate panel asks govt for steps to avert diesel crisis
ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Thursday expressed apprehension that in near future the country would face a severe diesel crisis, and advised the government for taking timely steps to prevent any such crisis. The Committee was informed that 26-day stock was available and stock for the next month is also available. The Chairman Senate Committee lamented the fact that PARCO an..... more >>

Comments sought on GCV in GSAs under NPPMCL
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-17
ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Division has urged Power Division to send its comments on the summary regarding Gross Calorific Value (GCV) in Gas Sales Agreements (GSAs) under National Power Parks Management Company Pvt Limited (NPPMCL), official sources told Business Recorder. Last month, Petroleum Division had sent its summary regarding alteration in gas turbine of plants for tolerance of GCV of gas..... more >>

Govt, ADB discuss energy programme, reforms
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-17
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar held a meeting with Shixin Chen, Vice President (operations) for Asian Development Bank (ADB) and discussed the ADB’s energy programme in Pakistan, government’s energy reforms. Minister lauded ADB’s support in pursuing reforms agenda and various development projects for the country. He expressed satisfaction on the firm com..... more >>

Dasu hydropower project; Minister conditionally approves KP’s pay plan for affected people
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-17
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Ch Moonis Elahi on Wednesday approved Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government’s pay plan for affectees of 4320 MW Dasu Hydropower Project under Enhanced Self-Managed Relocation (ESMR) package subject to handing over possession of land to Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda). He accorded approval while presiding over 18th meeting of the Project Stee..... more >>

Rise in oil, energy prices; Ogra chief, Nepra chairman give briefing to Senate panel
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-17
ISLAMABAD: Chairm-an Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) and chairman Nepra gave a detailed briefing to a parliamentary panel on Wednesday regarding the rise in prices of oil, gas, and electricity, and the consequent inflation. Chairman Committee Rana Maqbool Ahmed said that excess kerosene was imported in the country which caused huge loss to the national exchequer. The chairman com..... more >>
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**Debt recapitalization; NPPMCL proposes amendments in GSA with two RLNG-fired power plants**

ISLAMABAD: National Power Parks Management Company (Private) Limited (NPPMCL) has proposed amendments in Gas Supply Agreement (GSA) with two RLNG-fired power plants to further the privatisation process and ensure financing of Rs 110 billion from banks for debt recapitalisation, sources in Privatisation Commission told Business Recorder. The banks have highlighted the issue of gas supply depositions... [read more]

**KE honours organisations serving Karachi at 2nd KHI Awards**

KARACHI: The Governor House in Karachi was host to a special celebration to honor the organizations which make Karachi a vibrant and thriving city with their social welfare contribution - the closing ceremony of KE’s 2nd KHI Awards, an initiative endorsed by Nepra and launched in collaboration with #IAmKarachi. 40 winners from across 13 diverse categories – from Heritage & Cul... [read more]

**KE approaches Tarin for payment of receivables**

ISLAMABAD: Karachi Electric (KE) has approached Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin for payment of its receivables amounting to Rs 315.2 billion arguing that pending significant accumulation of TDC balance is straining the already stretched position of company’s working capital, impacting on KE’s ability to make payments for power purchases. Of this, the amount of pending claims with F... [read more]

**Determinaton of uniform tariff**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court summoned Additional Director General Tariff, NEPRA, and secretary Ministry of Energy and Power Division today (Thursday) to assist with respect to the process applicable for the determination of uniform tariff. A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice Umar Bandial, on Wednesday heard the K-Electric’s appeal against the Sindh High Court (SHC)’s j... [read more]

**LNG – highest-ever price**

The LNG fiasco has lasted longer than earlier expected. The Russia Ukraine scenario is still playing out, but LNG supply for the next two or three months is still in limbo. Prices may have softened from the last week highs but remain significantly higher from last month or the previous peak seen in October 2021. The marginal cargoes are all expected to go to Europe at the current spot rates, which... [read more]

**Diversion of LNG to households; Circular debt likely to soar to Rs398bn by 2025: PD**

ISLAMABAD: The Petroleum Division has projected that diversion of LNG to households will further add to the circular debt that will reach Rs398 billion in the year 2025. The circular debt is estimated at Rs104 billion in the current financial year. Due to the government’s policy to subsidise oil and gas sector, the circular debt reached to Rs1.7 trillion (80 percent increase in last thr... [read more]

**LCCI for up-gradation of power transmission and distribution system**

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry has called for an up-to-date power transmission and distribution system to avoid whopping shut-downs in hot summer season. In a statement, the LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said that country has witnessed huge power supply suspensions in past that pushed the country into darkness. He said that various small and large scale power pr... [read more]
Senate panel told; PSO has invited bids for additional diesel supply
Source: Wasim Iqbal, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary panel, on Thursday, was apprised that the Pakistan State Oil (PSO) with 50 percent market share in petroleum products’ sale has invited bids for additional supply of diesel to avert diesel shortage in harvesting season. The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum expressed apprehension that in the near future the country will face a severe diesel crisis and adv..... more >>

SC dismisses KE plea against SHC verdict
Source: Terence J Sigamony, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court dismissed K-Electric’s appeal against the Sindh High Court (SHC)’s judgment to quash the corrigendum for recovery of subsidy from industrial consumers, which was withdrawn through SRO 810(I)/2019. A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice Umar Bandial, on Thursday, heard the K-Electric’s appeal against the SHC’s judgment, wherein, the co..... more >>

PM’s help being sought for recovery; Govts owe Rs111bn to Power Division
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
ISLAMABAD: A cash-strapped Power Division has reportedly decided to seek Prime Minister’s help to recover arrears of Rs 111 billion from Federal and Provincial Governments, well informed sources told Business Recorder. The sources said that regarding Rs 20.364 billion arrears of the federal government, Defence Ministry is on top of the list of defaulting federal ministries with arrea.... more >>

PAEC moves PD to press NTDC to sign PPA with K-2
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has approached Power Division to press National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) for signing of bilateral Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with K-2 based on existing practice of Chashma series Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs). PAEC, Member (Power), Saeed-ur-Rehman, in a letter to Secretary Power Division, has apprised that draft Powe.... more >>

Petrol price: Don’t fret yet
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
Observers in Pakistan have been fretting every single day tracking the global crude oil movement, with emotions ranging from deep despair to a ray of light. Tracking a commodity as volatile as crude oil is sure to give you volatile results. From touching $140/bbl a few days ago, oil has come down to $104/bbl. This now sounds low, but it was not long ago when everyone and their aunt were losing sle..... more >>

Shell Pakistan – profits return
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-18
Shell Pakistan Limited (PSX: SHEL) has seen improving volumetric sales in 2021 which was a key factor in driving the improvement in the company’s earnings for the year. The OMC’s sales in the 7 months of the fiscal year 2022 continues to show the rising trend – a growth of over 16 percent year-on-year in 7MFY22 for the petroleum products sold. Shell Pakistan announced its fi..... more >>

Rs5 reduction in power tariff notified
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-19
ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday allowed the Power Division to notify Rs5 per unit reduction in electricity rates for domestic and commercial consumers announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Feb 28. “The instant decision is being intimated to the federal government for the purpose of notification in the official gazette within 30 days as per the..... more >>
Austrian FM shows interest in partnering with Wapda
LAHORE: Austrian Foreign Minister Mag Alexander Schallenberg showed interest in partnering with Wapda on its mega projects in water and hydropower sectors. He was accompanied by Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolaus Keller and a high-level Austrian business delegation during his visit to Wapda House on Friday to explore ways and means for partnering with Wapda. This was the maiden vis..... more >>

Payment in form of PIBs, Sukuk; CPPA-G likely to negotiate with CPEC IPPs
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-19
ISLAMABAD: Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guaranteed (CPPA-G) is likely to negotiate with CPEC IPPs to accept payment of Rs 50 billion in the form of Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) and Sukuk based on the terms and conditions of currently available offers by the Ministry of Finance, well informed sources told Business Recorder. Sharing the details, sources said the Prime Minister held two ..... more >>

LPG segment demands targeted policy
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-20
LAHORE: Stakeholders from the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sector have urged the government to announce a salvage plan in a bid to rescue the domestic LPG industry that is on the verge of collapse. While chairing an urgent meeting on Saturday, Pakistan LPG Marketers Association (PLPGMA) Chairman Farooq Iftikhar requested the government to devise a balanced industrial policy in order to resolve ..... more >>

PLPGMA demands govt announce ‘salvage plan’ to ‘rescue’ industry
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-20
LAHORE: Pakistan LPG Marketers Association (PLPGMA) has demanded of the government to announce a salvage plan to rescue the domestic LPG industry which is on the verge of collapse and come out with a balance industrial policy to resolve a severe crisis. While presiding an urgent meeting, Chairman PLPGMA Farooq Iftikhar said that inconsistent policies regarding pricing of local versus imported..... more >>

Gwadar power project paralysis
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-20
It is unfortunate that the government has failed to convince the Chinese to restarted work on a 300MW coal-fired power project in Gwadar because without it its energy requirements will not be met and the once sleepy fishing village will not be able to take its trumpeted, and marketed, place as the jewel in the crown of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor). It turns out that M/s Sinosure, a Chin..... more >>

Supplemental charges on LPS; PESCO asks CPPA-G to revise criteria
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-20
ISLAMABAD: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) has urged Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guaranteed (CPPA-G) to revise criteria to determine supplemental charges on Late Payment Surcharges (LPS). In a letter to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) CPPA-G, CEO PESCO Jabbar Khan has intimated that CPPA-G has charged Rs. 98.223 billion to PESCO on account of late payment surcharges, i.e., supplem..... more >>

Government initiates fuel subsidy payment process
KARACHI: Petroleum authorities have activated the process of fuel subsidy payment to oil sector to ensure smooth supply of petrol and diesel at prices frozen by the government for until next budget to calm down inflation-broken public. Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has sought the Price Differential Claims (PDCs) from oil marketing companies (OMCs) and refineries for the period of Marc..... more >>
**Circular debt and power theft**  
The power sector is the Achilles’ heel of our economy. Our capacity to produce power is greater than our need, still we resort to load shedding. Our power prices are the highest in the region but the sector is mired in huge losses. Mismanagement is evident — from transmission to distribution and from billing to the recovery of bills. The government does not take kindly to criticism. I..... [more >>]

**PSO seeks Rs50bn to avert POL crisis**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan State Oil, the state-owned company, is facing an acute financial crunch as its receivables have risen to over Rs460 billion and has sought an amount of Rs50 billion from the government immediately to avert the POL availability crisis in the country. According to a well-placed official source in the Energy Ministry, the Petroleum Division has prepared a summary for the ECC, ask..... [more >>]

**Power utilities seek up to Rs5 tariff raise**  
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-21  
ISLAMABAD: Power utilities have sought permission to raise Rs44 billion additional funds in April by charging Rs3.45 per unit additional fuel cost from the consumers of K-Electric and Rs5 from those of all other distribution companies (Discos). The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has summoned two separate public hearings on March 31 and April 4 to examine if the demands for h..... [more >>]

**Austria shows interest in partnering with WAPDA in mega projects**  
Source: News Desk, *Daily Times*, 2022-03-19  
Austrian Foreign Minister Mr. Mag. Alexender Schallenberg accompanied by Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Nicolaus Keller and a high-level Austrian business delegation today visited WAPDA House to explore ways and means for partnering with WAPDA in construction of its mega projects in water and hydropower sectors. This was the maiden visit of such a high-profile dignitary from a European count..... [more >>]

**Urea plants: uninterrupted gas supply ‘in the pipeline’**  
ISLAMABAD: Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has directed Petroleum Division to put a proposal for uninterrupted gas supply to M/s Fatimafert (Sheikhpura plant) and M/s Agritech Mianwali throughout the year, official sources told Business Recorder. The ECC gave these directions at its recent meeting presided over by the Finance Minister, Senator Shaukat Tarin when allocati..... [more >>]

**KE underscores need for creating ‘working group’ to help conserve energy**  
ISLAMABAD: Karachi Electric (KE) has proposed formulation of a Working Group with critical stakeholders to develop a forward-looking strategy aimed at exploring ways to promote energy conservation on a national level through participation of consumers. As the country approaches the start of the summer season and the month of Ramazan, the power sector, including K-Electric is taking measures t..... [more >>]

**Monthly fuel cost drops 27pc**  
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-22  
KARACHI: The cost of fuel for electricity generation in February went down 27 per cent to Rs8.94 per unit on a month-on-month basis, according to data recently released by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority. The sharp month-on-month decline in the fuel cost was partly because hydel-based generation surged 2.9 times in February, according to Arif Habib Ltd. However, the fuel cost, w..... [more >>]
**Banks offer Rs100bn project financing to NPPMCL**
ISLAMABAD: The National Power Parks Management Company Ltd (NPPMCL) has received an unprecedented response from a syndicate of local banks for project financing in excess of Rs100 billion, the Privatisation Commission (PC) announced on Monday. The syndicate comprises conventional and Islamic banks including HBL, Meezan, NBP, Faysal, Alfalah, Bank of Punjab, Bank Islami, Pak Kuwait Investment Comp.... [more >>]

**IsDB approves $180m for Mohmand Dam**
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-22
ISLAMABAD: The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on Monday signed framework agreements to extend $180 million loans to Pakistan to finance Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project (MDHP). The financing agreements were signed by Secretary Economic Affairs Mian Asad Hayaud Din and Special Adviser to the President IsDB Mohammad Jamal Al-Satti. The signing ceremony was also witnessed by IsDB Presid..... [more >>]

**Govt plans coal conversion to gas, liquid fuels**
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-22
ISLAMABAD: Amid declining domestic gas production and expensive fuel imports, a new policy for conversion of Coal-to-Gas (LTG) and Coal-to-Liquid (CTL) with lucrative tax holidays and duty exemptions is being finalised to be made part of the upcoming federal budget 2022-23. Informed sources said the draft Policy on Coal-to-Liquid and Coal-to-Gas was prepared by Oracle Power and China National Coa..... [more >>]

**PSO's receivables reach record high**
Source: Zafar Bhutta, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-03-22
ISLAMABAD: The receivables of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) have swelled to an all-time high at Rs489 billion as the company’s several clients failed to pay their bills for fuel supplies, say industry players. Though the company has posted the highest-ever after-tax profit of Rs29.1 billion for financial year 2020-21, its financial health is deteriorating because of the continuous circular debt..... [more >>]

**Mohmand Dam Project; $180m accords inked with IsDB**
ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on Monday signed framework agreements amounting to $180 million for Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project (MDHP). Dr Muhammad Al Jasser, president, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on Omar Ayub Khan, Minister for Economic Affairs and discussed the matters of mutual interest. Both sid..... [more >>]

**Joint mining project at Reko Diq; OGDC, PPL issue material notifications on PSX**
KARACHI: The Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDC) and Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) on Monday issued material notifications at PSX for the joint mining project at Reko Diq, located in Chagai District of Balochistan. Both OGDC and PPL along with Government Holding (Private) Limited (GHPL) will represent federal government stake of 25 percent, thus each company contributing an equal stake ..... [more >>]

**TAPI gas project promises regional stability**
Source: Dr Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-03-23
We live in a world of complex mutual interdependence. No country, how high and developed it may be, can boost of complete independence. This interdependence necessitates forging of cordial relations for furtherance of national interests. One of the most important national interests is national security. The definition of national security has evolved from being restricted to mere military power t..... [more >>]
GEPCO seeks non-technical CEO
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-24
LAHORE: The engineers of Gujranwala Electric Power Company (Gepco) are anticipating a bleak career outlook as they fear that they may have to serve a non-technical chief executive officer (CEO) of the distribution company. According to the Gepco Engineers and Officers Association, the board of directors of the distribution company had introduced a unique formula for the recruitment of the company...... more >>

Oil scarcity lifts import premiums
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-23
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is going to face another setback as premiums on oil import have risen sharply due to the shortage of petroleum products, especially diesel, in the global market following the Russia-Ukraine war. According to sources, Pakistan had been paying a premium of 3% to 4.5% on the import of petrol and diesel, but it has gone up suddenly, as petroleum products are becoming scarce. Ove..... more >>

Pakistan in talks with Russia for LNG imports
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-24
ISLAMABAD: As Russia develops the Yamal LNG project facility -- Islamabad and Moscow are in talks to a multi-billion dollar government-to-government import deal. The Yamal LNG Project includes the development of the giant South Tambey (Tambeyskoye) gas field that is located near Sabetta in the Yamal peninsula in Russia. The Russian government has declared the project to be of national interest at..... more >>

WB draws fire for role in Pakistan’s energy sector
KARACHI: The World Bank (WB) on Tuesday came under fire in a moot as experts said the Bank pushed Pakistan’s energy sector into debt and sabotaged the country’s transition into clean energy. Alliance for Climate Justice & Clean Energy (ACJCE), a coalition of think tanks and civil society organisations working on energy transition in Pakistan, organised a webinar where they shed li..... more >>

Water, energy crises linked to misuse of natural resources
LAHORE: Walled City of Lahore Authority Director General Kamran Lashari has said that as a responsible citizen we have to adopt order and discipline in our life to keep environment clean. Smoke emitting vehicles, heaps of solid waste in the public parks and uncleaned washrooms are question mark on our civic sense. He said that scarcity of resources didn’t create so many problems but unnece..... more >>

Cost of power generation up 78 percent in July-Feb
KARACHI: The cost of power generation in the country shot up by a massive 78 percent during the first eight months (July-February) of this fiscal year over the same period of FY2021, mainly owing to high fuel prices, latest data showed on Wednesday. However, the cost of power generation decreased by almost 27 percent in the month of February 2022 compared to January. On the other hand, the power..... more >>

More Lesco consumers get notices for ‘illegal’ structures
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-25
LAHORE: The Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) has issued notices to 841 more people for ‘illegally’ constructing houses and buildings for various uses under the high voltage power transmission and distribution lines emanating from the grid stations. Earlier to this, the company had issued notices to 650 people in Lahore and other districts -- Kasur, Sheikhpura and Nankana Sahib ..... more >>
Refineries seek Rs23b in tax refunds
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-25
ISLAMABAD: Cash-strapped oil refineries have sought the Petroleum Division’s help for the release of Rs23 billion worth of refunds stuck with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). In a letter to Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) Secretary Ali Raza Bhutta, the Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) underlined that refineries were already facing problems in securing funds, as banks were r..... more >>

PESCO chief spells out reasons behind ‘poor’ show
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-25
ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Abdul Jabbar Khan has said that large scale electricity theft, non-payment culture, life threats, road blockages by defaulters and hook users, Jirgas favouring defaulters and political interference due to voters’ pressure are the main issues affecting the performance of the company. PESCO is a domestic ori..... more >>

Lesco energizes 50 new feeders
LAHORE: The Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) has energized 50 new feeders to overcome the issues of low voltage and tripping during the month of Ramazan, said Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ch Muhammad Amin. According to him, 2307 kilometer long transmission line has been repaired at 132KV system while patrolling of 1091 kilometer transmission line has been carried out by the field staff..... more >>

Power fuel cost remains concerning
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-25
February 2022 grid power generation was up by 11 percent year-on-year to 8 billion units on gross basis. On a 12-month moving basis, the growth also closes in at 11 percent to 11.1 billion units generated in a month. Some view this as phenomenal, but one must not lose sight of the fact that the growth is only coming back to what had become a norm before August 2018. Nonetheless, it is a good sign ..... more >>

Gas shortage despite reduction in demand
Source: Khalid Hasnain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-26
LAHORE: Several parts of Lahore continue facing the shortage of gas despite its dwindling demand in the wake of rising mercury as there is either no gas or gas with extremely low pressure after 9pm on a daily basis. “Facing such issues since November last, we expected the problem will be over with the start of summer,” Ikram, of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) Housing Society, sa..... more >>

Senators inquire about KAPCO contract
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-26
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Power on Friday inquired about the permission given for the extension of contract to Kot Addu Power Company (Kapco) till October 2022. The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Saifullah Abro, questioned in what capacity the extension was granted to Kapco and why the transactions were not blocked on the expiry of its time period. The committe..... more >>

ECC changes formula to determine HSD price
Source: Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-26
ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet on Friday approved a proposal to change the formula for determining end-consumer price of high speed diesel, with a view to protecting the oil marketing companies from sustaining a Rs7 per litre loss but the decision would put an additional burden of Rs1.3 billion a month to be borne by the government. Finance Minister Shaukat Ta..... more >>
Peace pipeline
A few days back, the Iranian ambassador in New Delhi delivered a very important statement in which he said: “Iran is ready to meet India’s energy needs by launching trade in Indian and Iranian local currencies for export of oil and gas.” According to H H Ali Chegeni, Tehran is also willing to work closely with India to revive and find alternative routes for the stalled Iran-Paki.... more >>

Imran to counter no-trust vote amid economic challenges
LAHORE: The eminent British newspaper “Financial Times” has viewed that Prime Minister Imran Khan is due to face a no-confidence vote in the parliament at a time when crippling inflation is battering his country’s economy hard. The 133-year old newspaper, with a healthy circulation of 111,898 (print) and 740,000 (digital) in September 2021, states: “During Khan’s fou..... more >>

Senate panel questions payment of Rs57bn to KEPCO
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Power Friday questioned payment of Rs57 billion made to the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) and extension of its contract to October, 2022. The Senate Standing Committee on Power met here Friday with Senator Saifullah Abro in the chair and discussed grant of extension to KEPCO up to October, 2022. KEPCO is one of the major Korean companies with..... more >>

Singapore-based Guvnor backs out from 4 LNG term deliveries
ISLAMABAD: Singapore-based Guvnor has decided not to honour its contract to deliver four LNG term cargoes to Pakistan, which would force the dollar-starved country to purchase costly LNG from the spot market to fulfill its energy needs. The cargoes were to be delivered in the remaining four months’ tenure of Guvnor’s five-year term agreement ending July 2022. “This is a giganti..... more >>

US, EU create task force to wean Europe off Russian gas
Brussels: The US and EU announced a task force on Friday aimed at reducing Europe’s reliance on Russian fossil fuels in the face of Moscow’s war on Ukraine. The initiative being unveiled by President Joe Biden and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen will see the US work with partners to strive to supply Europe with an extra 15 billion cubic metres of liquefied natural gas this year, a state..... more >>

Sindh to move against WACOG bill
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-27
ISLAMABAD: The federal government is going to face a blow on LNG pricing as the government of Sindh has decided to become a party in a case on weighted average cost bill that has been challenged in the Sindh High Court. Recently, a private party challenged the weighted average cost of gas (Wacog) bill in the Sindh High Court. The government of Sindh has decided to become a party in the case to..... more >>

Abolition of customs duty on crude oil, HSD imports likely
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-28
ISLAMABAD: Amid rising oil prices, the government is expected to abolish customs duty on crude oil and high-speed diesel (HSD) imports to contain inflationary pressures. Informed government sources told Dawn that the finance and petroleum ministries, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra), the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), oil refineries and oil marketing companies were examining the proposa..... more >>
Risks of volatile oil market
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-28
Prime Minister Imran Khan’s relief package on petroleum products and electricity has come at the most difficult moment. Amid volatile international supplies and prices, its financing is getting tough, the budgetary hole is widening and suppliers are struggling to secure diesel when harvest is at its peak, not only in Pakistan but across many countries — from Vietnam to India and from Ind..... more >>

COP26: the oil and gas predicament
ISLAMABAD: If COP26 could not do much against oil and gas, the recent high prices have done the deserved or undeserved damage to the future of oil and gas. Renewable lobby has always considered low oil and gas prices to be a bad news, as it makes renewable uncompetitive and the drive to phase out fossil fuels goes into the back burner. Renewables like solar and wind power cost have come down ind..... more >>

Gas crisis to hit country in summer too
ISLAMABAD: After the Singapore based LNG trading company GUNVOR backed out of delivery of four LNG cargoes that were to be delivered in the remaining four months, in April, May and two in June of its five-year contract ending in July 2022, and the decision of Pakistan LNG Limited not to procure spot LNG cargo for April at the price of $34.677 per MMBTU offered by Vitol Bahrain in the bids opened o..... more >>

Import of edible oil; 10pc tax relief approved by govt
Source: Zaheer Abbasi /Sohail Sarfraz, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-26
ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to approve 10 percent tax relief on the import of edible oil for the next two months (April-May 2022) with the objective to mitigate the impact of high international palm oil prices in the domestic market. A meeting on the issue of palm oil prices in the international market and their impact on the local market presided over by Finance Minister Shaukat..... more >>

Senate body on power calls off scheduled meeting
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-26
ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Power Friday called off its scheduled meeting due to absence of Power Division officials including Secretary Asif Hyder Shah. Presided over by Senator Saifullah Abro, the Committee discussed the matter pertaining to permission given for extension of Kot Addu Power Company (KAPCO) contract up to October, 2022. The committee chairman inquired as to why no..... more >>

Oil prices soar on Saudi, Russian supply fears
Source: Monitoring Desk, Daily Times, 2022-03-22
Oil prices soared Monday as a weekend attack on Saudi facilities and EU discussions on banning Russian crude raised concerns over global supplies. Top producer Saudi Arabia warned that Yemeni rebel attacks on the kingdom’s oil facilities pose a “direct threat” to global supplies, the comments helping Brent North Sea crude surge 6.1 percent to $114.55 per barrel with WTI rising 5...... more >>

Centre doesn’t need Sindh’s permission to export its gas to other provinces, SHC told
Source: Ishaq Tanoli, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-29
KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Monday directed the petroleum secretary to explain as to how the federal government was taking natural gas from Sindh without its consent to supply it to other provinces. Petroleum Secretary Ali Raza Bhutta submitted before the SHC that the federal government did not need any permission from province of Sindh to take its natural gas. He made this comment after th..... more >>
Ogra takes up issues relating to PDC, IFEM with stakeholders
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-29
ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) conducted its meeting at Karachi with leading Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and OCAC representatives which was chaired by Masroor Khan, Chairman, Ogra Zainul Abideen Qureshi, Member (Oil)- Ogra and senior executive directors and other key officers. All the issues including current scenario relating to the PDC, IFEM matters, industry rese..... more >>

Modified draft of KE's Arbitration Agreement raises eyebrows
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-29
ISLAMABAD: The Attorney General (AG) Office has raised eyebrows at the modified draft of Arbitration Agreement (AA) sent by Karachi Electric (KE), saying the revised draft does not address the AG Office’s earlier concerns as noted in its April 2021 letter, well-informed sources in Privatisation Commission told Business Recorder. On February 15, 2022, KE furnished a muddled draft of AA a..... more >>

MPCL commences production at Sachal gas processing complex
ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) announced the commencement of first gas from the Tipu compartment of “Goru B” reservoir. Initially, approximately 20 mmscfd of pipeline quality gas will be supplied to Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) after processing at MPCL’s newly constructed Sachal Gas Processing Complex (SGPC) via a newly-built 25 Km long cross ..... more >>

Oil price: All eyes on Opec+ again
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-29
The volatility in international crude oil market continues unabated. Every week is an event, sending markets into frenzy. The latest to the list is the rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and Yemeni rebels, which led to one of Aramco’s storage facilities shot at and on fire. The fire may well have been put out, but the smoke is very much there to counter any hopes of cooling off anytime soo..... more >>

The future of electric vehicles [Part I]
Electric vehicles (EV) are thought to be an essential player in reducing oil demand. The former Danish minister for climate, energy and utilities, Dan Jorgensen, declared, "There is no future for oil and gas in a 1.5-degree world." The International Energy Agency (IEA) Net Zero Emissions Scenario (NZE) predicts that use of fossil fuel should fall by 75 percent by 2050 to achieve net-z..... more >>

A long summer ahead
Pakistan’s list of sectors that are the unquestioned avatars of mismanagement is long; however, the one that stands out as the worst of the worst is energy and for obvious reasons. Pakistan is likely heading towards another gas crisis and that too in the summer season, which has arrived earlier this year as climate change cuts the spring season short. In this situation, a shortage of power a..... more >>

Govt probes mega energy projects
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-30
ISLAMABAD: After failing to comply with recommendations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) while completing the multibillion-rupee Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project, the government has started probing mega projects like Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand dams in order to check compliance with environmental studies. Earlier, the executing agencies of Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project violated the ..... more >>
Power load-shedding may stay in Ramazan
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-30
ISLAMABAD: The country may face load shedding in Ramzan (likely to commence from April 3, 2022) due to shortage of furnace oil and RLNG, well informed sources told Business Recorder. “RLNG-fired plants, which are most efficient plants, are being supplied 460 MMCFD RLNG against demand of over 700 MMFCD while furnace oil position is also unsatisfactory,” the sources added. M/s Gunvo.....  more >>

Guddu power plant ‘mishap’; Govt likely to send case of GE to FIA
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-30
ISLAMABAD: Federal Government on Monday hinted at sending the case of M/s General Electric (GE), OEM in respect of 747 MW Guddu Combined Cycle Thermal Power to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), as the company is reluctant to accept responsibility of damage to the plant in February last year. This was disclosed by Secretary Power Syed Asif Hyder Shah at a meeting of Senate Standing Committee.....  more >>

BHC declares SSGC’s ‘other charges’ as null, void
Source: Saleem Shahid, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-31
QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday declared as null and void the ‘other charges’ being received by the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) from its consumers. A BHC bench comprising Chief Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Rozi Khan Barech observed that the ‘other charges’ are in conflict with Articles 4, 5 and 13 of the Constitution. The court passed .....  more >>

Country faces power outages amid 3,000MW shortage
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-31
LAHORE: Homes nationwide power outages on Wednesday amid a power shortage of over 3,000 megawatts in the country. Sources in the National Transmission and Despatch Company said K-2 and K-3 nuclear power plants near Jamshoro — with a generation capacity of 1,200 MW each — were suspended due to a fault in the plants, resulting in a power shortage of 2,400 MW in the country. A source sa.....  more >>

Cabinet committee approves draft of Sikh Marriage Amendment Act
LAHORE: A number of important decisions were taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Business chaired by Punjab Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Basharat Raja, here Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Minister for Higher Education Raja Yasir Humayun and administrative secretaries concerned. The Cabinet Committee approved the delegation of power for granting paro.....  more >>

Rising energy costs curtail spending power: survey
Source: Amin Ahmed, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-31
ISLAMABAD: There is strong global support across all countries and demographic groups for the energy transition to move away from fossil fuels despite rising energy prices. A global survey of over 22,500 adults in 30 countries, conducted by Ipsos, a multinational market research group for the World Economic Forum (WEF), found that, on average, more than half of consumers expect rising energy.....  more >>

Businessmen irked over diversion of gas Say Sindh has first right to use gas from Ghotki field
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-31
KARACHI: Businessmen have expressed agitation over diversion of Sindh’s gas to the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited’s (SNGPL) network and termed it unjust move. In a joint statement on Wednesday, several chambers and businessmen lobbies of Karachi said that it was against Article 158 of Pakistan’s constitution and called it imprudent action at a time when industries of Karachi.....  more >>
**Rs4.99 per unit tariff increase sought for Feb**

Source: APP, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-03-31

ISLAMABAD: The Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guarantee (CPPA-G) has sought an increase of Rs4.99 per unit in power tariff for February under the monthly fuel cost adjustment mechanism. According to a petition submitted to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday, the CPPA-G said that the actual fuel cost came in at Rs8.935 per unit against the reference charges of ..... more >>

**Shell opens integrated retail outlet on M9 Motorway**


KARACHI: Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) inaugurated its 2nd “Integrated Retail Outlet” (IRO) in Karachi, located strategically on M9 Motorway that connects the largest port city to the rest of the country. The new retail site, “SPL Oasis” brings in the destination concept of retailing in Pakistan, established on a motorway, offering a wide range of facilities to customer..... more >>

**Get ready for 8-hour loadshedding from today**


Islamabad : The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco) has issued 8-hours loadshedding schedule in the whole region including the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The concerned department will manage the day-to-day loadshedding schedule and consumers may face over 8-hour power blackout day and night from today (Thursday). The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco) was observing load..... more >>

**Solar panels installed in Attock hospital**

Source: *The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-18

TAXILA: Solar panels were installed in Asfandyar Shaheed District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, the biggest health facility of district Attock. The installation of a 1.6 kilowatts solar energy system with over 365 solar panels was completed with an allocation of Rs1.3 million. Required funds for execution of this project were provided by Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Pakistan Baait Maal S..... more >>

**‘Punjab saving billions through solar projects’**

Source: *Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-03-19

LAHORE: Punjab Energy Minister Dr Akhtar Malik has said under the Punjab Ujala programme, so far more than 15,000 public schools and colleges across the province have been converted to solar energy. He expressed these views during a meeting with the former president of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Mian Kashif Ashfaq. Board member of Quaid-i-Azam Thermal Power Company Mian Wasim Akhtar was also p..... more >>

**Renewable energy sector needs attention: analyst**

Source: *Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2022-03-21

KARACHI: For the socioeconomic development of Pakistan there is no disagreement that we have to accept obvious challenges of encouraging sustainable development in the field of renewable energy inclusive of solar and wind energy projects. This will create an impact of marching towards indigenous energy production, which is a ‘Charter of Energy’, said Ateeq ur Rehman, economic &..... more >>

**Lucky completes commissioning of 660MW power plant**

Source: *Kazim Alam, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-03-22

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Ltd said on Monday its wholly owned subsidiary, Lucky Electric Power Company, has successfully completed the commissioning of a 660-megawatt power plant at Bin Qasim. A regulatory filing said the
lignite coal-based supercritical power plant was synchronised with the national grid towards the end of 2021. Its extensive testing and relevant inspections since then led to its co..... more >>

Dadu prison: Rs4.5m solar panel project initiated
KARACHI: In order to provide a comfortable environment to prisoners, a solar panel project has been initiated at the District Prison & Correctional Facility Dadu with estimated cost of Rs 4.5 million. The solarization of District Prison Dadu project has been initiated and under the first phase of 5 KVA solar panel installation with batteries has been completed on the roof of the one of..... more >>

AGH, Zonergy Solar ink MoU
Source: Muhammad Shafa, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-25
KARACHI: Altamash Hospital has joined hands with Zonergy Solar Development Pakistan, one of the leading Chinese-supported companies in the country, to solarise its health facilities and some residential quarters located in posh DHA and Clifton neighbourhoods of the metropolis. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the installation of a cumulative 351.75 KV power was signed between Altama..... more >>

Partnership to boost green energy
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-26
KARACHI: China and Pakistan’s partnership in renewables will be helpful in rapidly shifting of the latter towards green energy and Islamabad has massive potential to benefit from technology and expertise of Beijing, Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian. Speaking at a memorandum of understanding signing ceremony at a hospital in Karachi on Friday, he said that a huge number of Chines..... more >>

WASA plans to switch offices to solar power
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-26
RAWALPINDI: The Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi has decided to shift its offices to solar power to do away with exorbitant electricity costs. The waste disposable agency has sent a total of 22 new schemes, under the annual development programme for the new financial year, to the Punjab government for the provision of funds totalling Rs7.38 billion. These development schemes will s..... more >>

Denmark keen to help transform Pakistan’s energy sector
Islamabad : Ambassador of Denmark Lis Rosenholm has expressed a keen interest in the green transition in Pakistan and the exchange of knowledge with Pakistan about renewable energy. She made these marks in an exclusive talk with ‘The News’ here. Highly appreciating the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Initiative under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the ambassador of Denmark said tha..... more >>

Solar net-metering connections being provided on priority: Nepra
Source: Khalid Hasnain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-27
LAHORE: For quick disposal of solar net metering connection-related applications, we have allowed the respective power distribution companies (Discos) to approve applications seeking connection up to 25 kilowatts, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) Chairman Tausif H. Farooqi said on Saturday. Speaking to the media at the10th Solar Pakistan Exhibition at the Lahore Expo Centre, M..... more >>
Nepra allowed solar projects despite opposition: Chairman
LAHORE: Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) Tauseef H Farooqi has said that Nepra has allowed promotion of solar projects despite strong opposition. He was talking to media during his visit to the Solar Expo at Expo Centre Lahore on Saturday. The three-day exhibition will have more than 100 exhibiting companies with a number of versatile technologies on display. ..... more >>

‘Energy crisis demands Pakistan to go solar’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-03-28
KARACHI: Worsening energy crisis and rising prices of fossil fuels demand that Pakistan should go solar on war footing basis, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor on Sunday. Commenting on serious problems our economy is facing due to ballooning oil import bill, he said the government and private sector should turn to solar energy replacing costly electricity, oil and gas. He..... more >>

Three-day ‘Solar Pakistan exhibition’ gets under way at Expo Centre
LAHORE: Chairman PM Task Force on Housing Zaigham Rizvi, Chairman NEPRA Tausif H. Farooqi, Chief Executive Officer Alternative Energy Development Board Shah Jahan Mirza and CEO FAKT International Salim Khan Tanoli on Saturday inaugurated the three-day Solar Pakistan along with the of Electricity Pakistan exhibitions at the Expo Centre. Under the auspices of the FAKT Exhibition, it is the 10th..... more >>
SDPI Articles

**Transformation in geo-political environment**
Transformation has always been a permanent feature of international politics. Given the globalisation, a change in any part of the world quickly reverberates throughout the world. Just as societies and economies were emerging from the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, war and dislocation have raised their heads. The inextricable nature of geo-politics and geo-economics makes international politics..... more >>

**A crisis explained**
At the onset of the pandemic, the experts warned about three challenges facing humanity: Covid-19, food crisis, and a global recession. While Covid-19 inflicted unprecedented losses, fortunately the world escaped a global recession and food crisis. However, that escape seemed short-lived. Once again, experts are warning of a food crisis and a global recession, but this time the crises will not be..... more >>

**Pakistan’s climate action: a fact sheet**
Pakistan’s actions concerning climate change have been marked by weak political commitment, reluctance to recognize that the multi-faceted effects of climate change warrant efforts by multiple segments of the government and society and, above all, inadequate institutional arrangements. Despite our federal policy measures, coordination and coherence on climate-related initiatives between the..... more >>

**Economy and the political uncertainty**
Economic activity declines when there is uncertainty. A climate of uncertainty negatively affects consumers, businesses, investors, financial markets and most importantly, economic policymakers. They are compelled to make short-term policies in a shortened horizon that are suboptimal. Like most developing countries, Pakistan faces great uncertainty. One may argue that these uncertainties..... more >>

**Retrograding Industrial Sectors in Pakistan: Causes and Remedies**
Source: Muhammad Abeer Farooq-Amir Mustafa, Pakistan & Gulf Economist, 2022-03-28
China-Pakistan industrial cooperation intended to develop Pakistan as a major manufacturing hub in the region, and establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) would generate tremendous investment opportunities for local manufacturers and attract huge manpower. The shifting of industries from China to Pakistan would lead to export advancement, technologies transfers, import substitution, employment..... more >>

**CONDUCTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN PAKISTAN**
Source: Sadia Satti, Pakistan Observer, 2022-03-17
..... more >>

**Digital Financial Services in Pakistan: Opportunities, Challenges and Suggestions**
Source: Rabia Manzoor, Asif Javed, Vaqar Ahmed, Abdul Rauf, IQRA University, 2022-03-29
Research Article6 Journal of Finance & Economics Research-Volume 6, Issue 2201 By Rabia Manzoor, Asif Javed, Vaqar Ahmed, Abdul Rauf 10.20547/jfer2106201 Keywords: Digital finance, financial inclusion, financial services digital trade. This study examines how the financial services accessed and delivered through digitalization in Pakistan. Digital infrastructure refers to Internet, mo..... more >>
Experts demand end to toxic mercury lighting
Islamabad: In developing countries, the import and export of mercury-based fluorescent lighting are still going on despite the fact that the developed world has shifted to clean lighting to save itself from the poison of mercury. This was stated by experts at an awareness-raising campaign jointly launched by Sustainable Development Policy Institute and other partners including Clean Lighting Coal. More >>

Pakistan To Save $6.5 Billion In Electricity Bills Between 2020-50 After Shifting Over LEDs
Source: Faizan Hashmi, Urdu Point, 2022-03-16
ISLAMABAD, (Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 15th Mar, 2022 ) :The experts at an awareness raising session to phase out mercury use on Tuesday said Pakistan could save upto $6.5billion in lieu off electricity bills between 2020-50 after shifting over eco-friendly LED lights as in the developing countries, the import and export of mercury based florescent lighting was still going on despite the fact that. More >>

Call for considering social implications of economic policies
Dr Vaqar Ahmed, joint executive director of the Social Development Policy Institute (SDPI), has said any economic policies should not be devised in isolation but social implications should be taken in its utmost consideration for promoting the welfare of the public at large. He was speaking at a dissemination meeting of a research on ‘Social Footprint of Monetary Policy in Pakistan’, More >>

Meeting of research on ‘Social Footprint of Monetary Policy’ held
KARACHI: The Department of Economics in collaboration with the Social Development Policy Institute (SDPT) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a dissemination meeting of research on “Social Footprint of Monetary Policy in Pakistan”, at University of Karachi. Dr Niels Hegewisch, Country Director FES, while addressing in his opening remarks said that monetary policy is rarely de. More >>

Monetary Policy Should Set Inflation Target of 5% Per Annum: Economist
Source: ProPK Staff, ProPakistani.com, 2022-03-30
Pakistan needs a central bank and monetary policy which, while delivering its formal mandate of price stability, is considerate of the pressing challenges currently faced by the country, including extreme poverty, widespread joblessness, precarious employment, and burgeoning inequality, said renowned economist, Dr. Sajid Amin. Speaking at the seminar, “Social footprint of monetary policy in More >>

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Source: Ashraf Wani & Shams-ur-Rehman, APP, 2022-03-21
ISLAMABAD, Mar 20 (APP): Amid the current swaying political situation at home and challenges faced at external front, one thing that is certainly encouraging is the growth of economy as demonstrated by positive progress of various economic indicators, owing to prudent policies introduced by the incumbent government. The indicators, including large-scale manufacturing (LSM), agricultural productio. More >>
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Source: From the Newspaper, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-03-21
Forgoing the resume for jobs When Health Data Research UK, a public-health research nonprofit, sought to improve the industry’s track record of recruiting Black women by starting a new internship program, it removed a key aspect of the screening process: the résumé. Instead of looking at the educational or professional experience to choose finalists from the 159 applicants for..... more >>

Amid swaying situation, economy sticks to growth path
Source: Ashraf Wani & Shams-ur-Rehman, APP, 2022-03-27
ISLAMABAD, Mar 27 (APP): Amid the current swaying political situation at home and challenges faced at external front, one thing that is certainly encouraging is the growth of economy as demonstrated by positive progress of various economic indicators, owing to prudent policies introduced by the incumbent government. The indicators, including large-scale manufacturing (LSM), agricultural produc..... more >>

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ACCA Pakistan Holds ‘Pakistan Leadership Conversation 2022’ to Discuss Key Drivers for Sustainable Growth
Source: Sponsored, ProPakistani.com, 2022-03-17
ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) Pakistan, in collaboration with SEED Ventures, successfully hosted the inaugural Islamabad chapter of its flagship conferences Pakistan Leadership Conversation (PLC 2022). Shaukat Tarin, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, was the Chief Guest and shared his thoughts on rethinking public financial management and how the government lea..... more >>

Webinar News

Speakers favour evidence-based data in trade to depoliticise economy
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2022-03-21
Speakers at a webinar has said that politicizing economy is fatal for the country at a time when it is undergoing a serious political situation, therefore, the evidence-based data must be prioritized in trade and commerce to depoliticize economy. They were speaking at a webinar about ‘Strengthening Evidence-informed Decision-making in Pakistan’s Trade Sector’, organized by Susta..... more >>

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Speakers for prioritizing evidence-based data in trade to depoliticize economy
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-03-21
ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a webinar has said that politicizing economy is fatal for the country at a time when it is undergoing a serious political situation, therefore, the evidence-based data must be prioritized in trade and commerce to depoliticize economy. They were speaking at a webinar about ‘Strengthening Evidence-informed Decision-making in Pakistan’s Trade Sector’, organiz..... more >>
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Source: DNA, Daily Islamabad Post, 2022-03-21

ISLAMABAD, MAR 20 /DNA/ – Politicizing economy is fatal for Pakistan at a time when the country is undergoing a very serious political situation, therefore, we must prioritize the evidence-based data in trade and commerce to depoliticize our economy, said experts at a webinar on 'Strengthening Evidence-informed Decision-making in Pakistan’s Trade Sector', organized by Sustain..... more >>

Need stressed to prioritize evidence-based data in trade to depoliticize economy

Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2022-03-20

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Experts stress need to prioritize evidence-based data in trade to depoliticize economy during SDPI webinar

Source: SABAH, SABAH, 2022-03-20

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