

IMF asks Nepra to take independent decisions

International Monetary Fund (IMF) team on Thursday met with Nepra officials and Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razad Dawood and discussed issues relating to power sector and trade, industry and investment related issues. The IMF delegation led by Harald Finger met with Nepra Chairman Tariq Saddozai and discussed the role of Nepra with respect to performance of the country's power sector, including power generation, transmission and distribution.

The sources said, the Mission urged the regulator to enhance its role and take independent decisions as per international practice. Nepra shared data of determinations with the Mission and stated that the Authority has taken prudent decisions for improvement in the power sector, which needs heavy investment in transmission and distribution system.

According to sources, Nepra informed the Mission about hurdles being created by the government with respect to power sector issues. The delegation also met Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in the evening and sought his views about trade performance, export and import policies, forthcoming five year STPF, National Tariff Policy, and Investment Policy Framework.

The Fund, sources said, sought a clear plan from the Commerce Division to reduce trade deficit. IMF argued in favour of reducing incentives to the export sector. The sources said, Commerce Division adopted a cautious approach with the Fund officials and shared views about the measures taken and those to be taken to slash imports and increase exports. A two-member junior level delegation also met Director General Trade Policy, Muhammad Ashraf and sought information about export enhancement measures.

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN