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13 vehicles fined for emissions

STAFF REPORTER

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has fined 13 heavy transport vehicles and issued warnings to 17 others during a fresh vehicular emissions monitoring drive in Islamabad, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

The campaign, launched this week across the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), aims to enforce National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) and tackle winter smog, which is largely exacerbated by vehicular pollution.

Pak-EPA intensifies vehicular emissions monitoring to curb air pollution

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In line with the present government's commitment to tackling air pollution and achieving environmental sustainability, the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Islamabad has launched its on-ground vehicular emissions monitoring campaign across the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The latest drive launched from this week in the capital city aims to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) and address the looming threat of smog and vehicular pollution, which cause urban air quality to deteriorate during the winter months.

About ongoing emissions monitoring drive, Muhammad Saleem Shaikh, Media Spokesperson for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, said the Environmental Monitor-

ing Team of Pak-EPA, in collaboration with the ICT Police, conducted a detailed inspection at Jhangi Syedan, Stop No. 26, Islamabad, to assess exhaust emissions from heavy transport vehicles, including 22-wheeler trailers, trucks, mini-trucks, and loaders.

During the monitoring, the team measured smoke opacity and noise levels in line with NEQS parameters. Out of a total of 50 vehicles inspected, 13 vehicles were fined for non-compliance, 17 were issued warning notices, while 20 vehicles were found compliant with prescribed standards, he spelt out.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Saleem Shaikh said, "This proactive monitoring reflects the government's unwavering commitment to reducing air pollution and protecting public health. Vehicular emissions remain one of the biggest contributors to urban smog, and Pak-EPA's consistent enforcement is a cornerstone of our clean air strategy for the city

and its suburbs."

He added that during the ongoing smog season, strict implementation of environmental standards is essential to protect citizens from health hazards caused by air pollutants such as particulate

The agency urges public to ensure regular vehicle maintenance, use of catalytic converters

matter, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides.

"Our goal is not only enforcement but also public engagement. Cleaner air is a shared responsibility. Every driver, transporter, and citizen must play their role by keeping their vehicles maintained and avoiding harmful practices like open burning," Mr. Shaikh emphasised.

The ministry spokesperson fur-

ther highlighted that the present government, under the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, is prioritising clean air initiatives across major cities, including Islamabad, as part of Pakistan's broader Sustainable Environment and Climate Resilience Agenda.

"We are striving for an environmentally sustainable Pakistan where economic progress and public health go hand in hand. Efforts like vehicular monitoring, promotion of clean fuels, and the transition to electric mobility are all part of the same vision," Mr. Shaikh noted.

Meanwhile, Pak-EPA Islamabad's inspection team, along with civic agencies including the ICT Police, reiterated that cooperation from vehicle owners and transport operators is key to the success of these initiatives. The agency urged the public to ensure regular vehicle maintenance, use of catalytic converters, and compliance with emission standards.

"When authorities educate everyone and support toward environment

The joint meeting of ICT Administration and Traffic Police will intensify high-emission major

The agencies will cancel unmental

"Our transport safer structure for conclusion

The News

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Ombudsman inspection team visits airport

ISLAMABAD: Responding to growing number of complaints of maladministration and negligence against the officials of the FIA, ASF, ANF, Customs etc. posted at the Islamabad Airport, a Federal Ombudsman inspection team visited the airport to look into such complaints and initiate urgent steps for their redressal, says a press release.

Headed by the Advisor, Wafaqi Mohtasib Office, Maj. Gen (r) Haroon Sikandar Pasha a 3-member Inspection Team went round the national and international lounges, luggage area, CIP lounge and the immigration and other counters of the airport to obtain first-hand knowledge of the passengers' problems. It also interacted with the passengers present there, who complained about the indifferent and unhelpful attitude of the personnel posted at the airport.

A large number of passengers, particularly those arriving from abroad complained about late delivery and loss of luggage saying that it was a very common occurrence at the airport. More so, they said that the airport authorities are non-cooperative and insensitive to their complaints.

The team also directed that whenever there is a flight cancellation or change in schedule, the affected passengers must immediately be informed through phone calls or SMS to save them of unnecessary hassle. The Inspection Team further instructed that separate counter be established at the airport for the senior citizens, diplomats and parliamentarians in addition to those using wheel chairs.

The team instructed the airport authorities to increase the Facilitation Counters in proportion to increasing number of flights.

The Inspection Team also reviewed the progress made with regard to the recommendations given during the earlier visits of the Inspection Teams.