



WORKERS shout slogans during a protest demonstration in Peshawar on Thursday against the proposed privatisation of Wapda. — Online

Employees protest Wapda privatisation plan

Dawn Report

PESHAWAR, June 2: The employees of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) went on strike and staged protest demonstrations in different districts of the province on Thursday against the proposed privatisation of Water and Power Development Authority.

In the provincial capital, Wapda Hydro Electric Central Union observed a sit-in outside Pesco head office at Shami Road and held a protest demonstration on the main road.

Carrying a banner inscribed with their demands, the protesting workers also chanted slogans against the proposed privatisation of Wapda and termed it a conspiracy.

Speaking on the occasion, union chairman Haji Mohammad Iqbal and general secretary Gohar Taj expressed grave concern over the soar-

ing prices of daily use commodities. They said that government had failed to control price hike in the country.

They said that workers would not allow government to privatise Wapda as it was totally against the interests of the employees. They also expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation and said that people were kidnapped for ransom.

They said that Tesco employees had also been kidnapped in a tribal region.

They asked government to stop privatisation of national institutions and take effective steps for overcoming corruption to strengthen economy of the country. "We will continue our protest demonstrations unless our demands are met," they warned.

In Nowshera, the Pesco employees

held two different protest meetings in Nowshera Kalan and Pabbi areas and locked all their offices. Wearing black armbands, the protesters chanted slogan against the government and its anti-labour policies.

They criticised the government's privatisation policy. They threatened to launch agitation if government went ahead with the privatisation of Wapda.

In Bannu, the Wapda Hydro Electric Central Labor Union organised a protest demonstration against the proposed privatisation of Wapda.

Carrying placards and chanting slogans against government, the protesting employees marched on various roads of the city.

They said that privatisation of Wapda would deprive thousands of

employees of their jobs and burden the power consumers in the country. They said that they would seek support of public in their protest movement if government tried to 'sell' the national entity.

In Mansehra, Pesco employees observed complete strike and took out a rally against the proposed privatisation of Wapda.

The protest rally was culminated at the press club after passing through different roads of the city.

Addressing the protesters, Mohammad Arif and Khalid Rasheed said that they would not allow the government to privatise the national asset.

They said that Wapda was earning profit for the country but government wanted to sell it on a throw-away price, which was not acceptable to them.