

### **Investigation Into Pakistan's Recent Network Failure**

An investigation has been ordered into what caused a major failure of Pakistan's electricity network. A technical fault has been blamed for the nationwide blackout last Sunday. A spokesman for the country's main power utility, WAPDA, has ruled out sabotage. "It is a national blackout and we're trying to find out the fault," said Shafqat Jalil of Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority. "There is no chance of sabotage because had it been so, it would have been reported to us by now," he told media. The fault occurred in the 500 kV transmission line from Tarbela dam, leaving cities including capital Islamabad and Lahore in darkness. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz says the blackout came after a power surge during maintenance of the 500 kV transmission line. The blackout was one of the worst in Pakistan leaving about 75 per cent of the country without electricity.

[Source esaa news]