News Coverage for Website

Daily Media Brief

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Business Recorder

Penalty imposed by CCP: CAT reserves verdict in a case filed by ICAP

The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has reserved its verdict in a case filed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) against a penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) over alleged price-fixing.

The case dates back to 2008, when CCP initiated suo motu proceedings against ICAP for issuing a revised Accounting Technical Release 14 (ATR-14). Approved at ICAP's 197th Council meeting on July 25, 2008, the revised ATR-14 set minimum hourly charge-out rates and fixed minimum audit fees for public sector entities.

CCP found this in violation of Section 4(1) of the Competition Ordinance, 2007, which prohibits anticompetitive agreements. The Commission declared ATR-14 null and void, directed ICAP to withdraw it from the Members' Handbook, and publish a withdrawal notice in two newspapers. A fine of Rs. 1 million was also imposed.

ICAP challenged the decision before CAT. Representing ICAP, senior counsel Dr. Farrukh Nasim argued that the institute is a statutory regulator and has the authority to set minimum fees for audit engagements, especially for government institutions. He urged the tribunal to overturn the penalty.

CCP's counsel countered that ICAP, though a regulatory body, cannot fix prices in a competitive market. The Commission termed such practices as collusive price-fixing—strictly prohibited under all modern competition laws.

The tribunal has reserved its judgment. The outcome is likely to impact how professional bodies operate within competitive sectors going forward.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40361400#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20The%20Competition%20Appellate%20Tribunal,)%20over%20alleged%20price%2Dfixing.

The Nation

CAT reserves verdict in case filed by ICAP against CCP penalty

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OUR STAFF REPORTER **ISLAMABAD**

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Profit by Pakistan Today

Competition tribunal reserves verdict in ICAP minimum audit fee case

The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has reserved judgment in a long-running case involving the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), which is contesting a penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) for allegedly fixing minimum audit fees.

The dispute originates from 2008, when the CCP took suo moto notice of ICAP's issuance of a revised Accounting Technical Release 14 (ATR-14). Approved by ICAP's Council in July 2008, the revised ATR set minimum hourly charge-out rates and minimum audit fees for public sector audits. The CCP viewed this as a violation of Section 4(1) of the Competition Ordinance, 2007, which prohibits agreements that limit or control prices, deeming them anti-competitive.

Declaring ATR-14 null and void, the CCP had directed ICAP to retract the policy from its Members' Handbook, issue a public withdrawal notice, and pay a Rs1 million fine.

ICAP challenged the ruling before CAT, maintaining that it acts as a statutory regulator under the Chartered Accountants Ordinance, 1961, and has legal authority to establish minimum fees to ensure audit quality, especially in government-sector engagements. Representing the institute, senior advocate Dr. Farrukh Nasim argued that such guidance ensures fair compensation for professional services and discourages undercutting that could compromise standards.

In response, CCP's counsel insisted that regulatory status does not grant ICAP the right to coordinate prices in a competitive market. The Commission characterized the ATR-14 guidance as collusive pricing contrary to global competition norms and Pakistan's competition law.

The tribunal's forthcoming ruling is expected to set a precedent regarding the balance between professional self-regulation and competition law compliance, particularly in sectors where regulators also function as industry bodies.

https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/05/06/competition-tribunal-reserves-verdict-in-icap-minimum-audit-fee-case/

Pro Pakistani

Tribunal Reserves Verdict on CCP Penalty Against ICAP in Price Fixing Case

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The Commission termed such practices as collusive price-fixing, strictly prohibited under all modern competition laws. The tribunal has reserved its judgment. The outcome is likely to impact how professional bodies operate within competitive sectors going forward.

https://propakistani.pk/2025/05/06/tribunal-reserves-verdict-on-ccp-penalty-against-icap-in-price-fixing-case/



مسابقتی اپیلٹ ٹربیونل نے انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف چارٹرڈ اکاؤنٹنٹس آف پاکستان کی جانب مسابقتی کمیشن آف پاکستان کی جانب سے: انسٹی ٹیوٹ پر اکاوئنٹس آڈٹ کی کم از کم فیسوں کے تعین پر جرمانے کے فیصلے کے خلاف اپیل پر فیصلہ محفوظ کر لیا۔

مسابقتی کمیشن سے جاری پریس ریلیز کے مطابق مسابقتی کمیشن نے انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف چارٹرڈ اکاؤنٹنٹس آف پاکستان (آئی کیپ) کی کونسل کی جانب سے سرکاری اداروں کے آڈٹ کے لئے فی گھنٹہ کے حساب سے نرخ اور کم از کم فیس مقرر کرنے پر نوٹس لیتے ہوئے کارروائی کی تھی۔مسابقتی کمیشن نے آئی کیپ کے اس عمل کو "کمپیٹیشن ایکٹ کی خلاف ورزی قرار دیا۔ کمیشن نے آئی کیپ کو کم از کم فیس کے نوٹیفیکیشن کو ممبرز بینڈ بُک سے ختم کرنے اور اس کی وضاحت کے لئے دو قومی اخبارات میں نوٹس شائع کرنے کا حکم دیا۔

کمیشن نے آئی کیپ پر دو لاکھ روپے کا جرمانہ بھی عائد کیا۔آئی کیپ نے کمیشن کا فیصلہ اپیلٹ ٹربیونل میں چیلنج کیا۔ ٹربیونل میں آئی کیپ کے وکیل ڈاکٹر فرخ نسیم نے مؤقف اختیار کیا کہ آئی کیپ ایک ریگولیٹری ادارہ ہے اور اسے سرکاری اداروں کے آڈٹ کے لئے کم از کم فیس مقرر کرنے کا اختیار حاصل ہے۔

انہوں نے جرمانہ ختم کرنے کی استدعا کی دوسری جانب مسابقتی کمیشن کے وکیل نے مؤقف اختیار کیا کہ آئی کیپ اگرچہ ایک ریگولیٹری ادارہ ہے لیکن اسے کمپٹیشن ایکٹ کے خلاف مارکیٹ میں قیمتیں مقرر کرنے کا اختیار حاصل نہیں۔ کمیشن نے اس عمل کو "ملی بھگت کے تحت قیمتوں کا تعین قرار دیا، جو کمپٹیشن قوانین کی خلاف ورزی ہے ٹربیونل نے دونوں فریقین کے دلائل سننے کے بعد فیصلہ محفوظ کر لیا۔

https://urdu.app.com.pk/urdu/%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%AA%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D9%BE%DB%8C%D9%84%D9%B9-

%D9%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8%DB%8C%D9%88%D9%86%D9%84-%DA%A9%D8%A7-

%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%B9%DB%8C%D9%B9%DB%8C%D9%88%D9%B9-%D8%A2%D9%81/



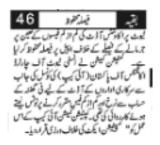
میلیشن الپیلٹ ٹریونل نے فیس فکسنگ کیس پر فیصلہ محفوظ کر لیا اسلام آباد (ارشاد انساری ہے) میلیشن اپیلٹ ٹریونل نے اُسٹی ٹیوٹ آف چارٹرڈ اکاونٹنٹس آف پاکتان کی جانب میلیشن کمیشن آف پاکتان کی جانب سے اُسٹی ٹیوٹ پراکاؤنٹس آؤٹ کی کم از کم فیسوں کے تعین پر چر مانے کے فیطے کے خلاف ایل پر فیصلہ محفوظ کر لیا ہے۔ کمٹیشن میشن نے اُسٹی ٹیوٹ آف چارٹرڈ اکاونٹنٹس آف پاکتان کی کونسل (باقی صفحہ 5 نمبر 15)

((15) فيصليحفوظ

کی جانب سے سرکاری اداروں کے آڈٹ کے لیے فی گھنٹہ کے حماب سے نرخ، کم از کم فیس مقرر کرنے پر کوش کے لیے فی کوش کی لیٹ کارروائی کی تھی، کمیٹشن کمیشن آئی کیپ کے طلاف ورزی قرار دیاہے، کمیشن نے آئی کیپ پر 2 لاکھ جرمانہ عاکم کیا، آئی کیپ نے کا کھ جرمانہ عاکم دیا، جرمانہ تھی کے دیا، جرمانہ تھی کر نے فیصلہ لہیلٹ ٹر بیوٹل میں چیلئے کر دیا، جرمانہ تھی کرنے کی استدعائی۔



السلیٹیوٹ آف جارٹرڈ فیس فکسنگ کیس پر فیصلہ محفوظ کم انسٹیٹیوٹ آف جارٹرڈ فیس فکسنگ کیس پر فیصلہ محفوظ کم از کم انساز کا فیصل کے طاف ایک پر فیصلہ محفوظ کرایا گیا اسلام آباد (بار فارشوں) ویکن انساز کا کہ کا کم کا کا کا کم کا کا کم کا کا کم کا کا کم کا کا کم کا کا کا کا کا کم کا کا کا کم کا کا کا کا کم کا کا کا کا





مينيفن لهيلث ثربيونل ا كاوئلنث

سيدس الهيلات بريون الاولات في المستحد المام الموالات المستحد المستحدد الم

المنته ا