

## January 2018

### **NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 29TH TO FEBRUARY 4TH 2017**

#### **THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED AND KILLED IN QUETTA**

Dawn, 29 January 2018

In the aftermath of eight-year-old Zainab's brutal rape and murder in Kasur, another case of a similar nature has surfaced in the country after an initial medical examination report confirmed on Sunday that a 13-year-old girl was raped before being strangled to death in Quetta.

The grade-6 student, T\* was found unconscious in Killi Ismail area of the Balochistan capital earlier today. Rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the body to Civil Hospital Quetta, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Victim's brother Kamran said that he had left home for 30 minutes and found his sister unconscious when he returned.

"Indications of early report suggests that the girl [age 12 or 13] was raped before being strangled," police surgeon Dr Noor Baloch told reporters.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1620546/1-thirteen-year-old-girl-raped-killed-quetta/>

#### **LAW BEING DRAFTED TO ENSURE WOMEN'S RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP**

Dawn, January 30th, 2018

PESHAWAR: Provincial Commission on the Status of Women held a consultation here on Monday for formulating a comprehensive law to ensure the right of ownership of women in the province.

The participants of the consultative meeting, mostly having legal and academic background, however, pointed out that there were many laws that could help in ensuring every man and woman's right to ownership.

They stressed the need for simplifying procedure and implementation of laws at grassroots level.

The copy of the draft that sought changes to preamble and sections 1,2,3,4,5 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Enforcement of Women Ownership Rights Act, 2012 was circulated among the participants. It says that Islamic Sharia provides equal guarantee for the protection of the property of men and women.

"The Constitution of Pakistan and Section 3 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sharia Act 2003 enjoin upon the government to legislate with the respect to the protection of the said right," adds the draft law.

The draft also talks about stopping a person from violating right of the ownership or possession of a woman. The draft law proposes that this violation should be made punishable with imprisonment of either a term not exceeding five years and fine not exceeding Rs50,000.

The proposed law also says that whenever a person is convicted of an offense under the law, the court shall hand over possession of the property, on account of which the person has been convicted, to the rightful owner.

During their critique, one of the panelists, former head of Judicial Academy Khwaja Wajihuddin called the preamble "a bit self-defeating". He stressed the need for proper definitions.

Fasihuddin, a police officer, said that he himself witnessed the long and complicated process and delays that deprived people of right of ownership in their life time.

Mohammad Nadeem, a legal expert, also shared his views on the occasion.

Neelam Turo, chairperson PCSW, said that the consultative process would continue to come up with a comprehensive draft law that could help women to get their right of ownership.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1386174>

## MANSEHRA TEENAGE GIRL ACCUSES 'KIDNAPPER' OF ASSAULT

Dawn January 31, 2018

MANSEHRA/HARIPUR: A teenage girl here on Tuesday alleged that she was kidnapped from Khushala Dogha in Oghi tehsil some three months ago and assaulted during the captivity.

"I was kidnapped and taken to Rawalpindi where the kidnapper raped me when I refused to marry him," she told a local court.

Recording her statement under Section 164 of Pakistan Penal Code, the girl said that the suspect along with his father and two accomplices kidnapped her from her village and forced her to marry him but she refused which infuriated him and he sexually assaulted her.

The victim family presented her before the court of Senior Civil Judge Zahid Hussain Shah for recording her statement as she managed to come back home.

She said that she told the suspect that she could not marry her as she was already married. "He sexually assaulted me and threatened to kill me if I put up resistance," she alleged.

Oghi police that had already lodged an FIR against the suspects and his accomplices following kidnapping of the girl three months ago, started raids for the arrest of suspects in case.

The suspects got pre-arrest bail from a local court.

In Haripur, the court of judicial magistrate granted to police two-day physical remand of five alleged rapists and blackmailers of a schoolboy. The suspects included a policeman and two sons of a councillor.

A resident of Khalabat Township lodged a criminal case against a constable of Elite Force and his two accomplices for molesting his eighth grader nephew.

The suspects, according to FIR, took the student to a rented room on Dhenda Road where they molested him one after the other and also captured the offense on mobile phone camera. They intimidated the victim to keep mum otherwise they would upload the video clips on the social media.

The victim, according to police, concealed the ordeal out of fear.

However, sons of a local councillor also started blackmailing the victim when the three alleged rapists shared the same video with them.

However, the victim informed his family. Police on Saturday night registered criminal case against the three alleged rapists and two blackmailers.

Police arrested all the five suspects on Monday and produced them before the court of Judicial Magistrate Aftab Khan, who handed them over to investigation staff on two-day physical remand.

According to Haripur DPO Syed Khalid Hamdani, the constable of Elite Force, presently posted in Peshawar, has been suspended. He said that the suspect would be terminated if court convicted him.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1386393>

#### GIRL KIDNAPPED IN HARIPUR

Dawn, January 31st, 2018

HARIPUR: A teenage girl was kidnapped at gunpoint from a CNG station on GT Road here on Tuesday afternoon.

Police quoted a girl from Kehal, Abbottabad, as saying that she and her sister (19) were in a car that stopped for refuelling at the CNG station near Mohallah Tainki, Haripur, when all of a sudden about eight persons, including two women armed with weapons, came and forcibly kidnapped her sister.

The complainant reported to the police that the accused included Ruqayya Bibi, Gudo Bibi, Qaisar Khan, Shazi Khan, Shahbaz Basharat, Muzamil Shah and Husnain Shah.

The police registered a criminal case against the accused person under Section 365-B/34 of the PPC and have started raids for their arrest.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1386395/girl-kidnapped-in-haripur>

#### MAN THROWS ACID ON WIFE, DAUGHTER IN MALAKAND

Business Recorder, 1 February 2018

PESHAWAR: A man in Malakand on Wednesday threw acid on his second wife and his daughter when a heated family dispute took a turn for the worse.

The culprit fled the scene leaving the two women severely burnt. People of the area rushed both women to the Civil Hospital Thana for immediate medical assistance.

The two women were later shifted to Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar after primary care was provided to them.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/02/01/3-page/697273-news.html>

#### ALARMING SITUATION: OVER 40,000 DIE OF BREAST CANCER EVERY YEAR IN PAKISTAN

The Express Tribune, February 2nd, 2018

No longer dependent on family history, breast cancer is fast emerging as a fatal disease among women, claiming as many as 40,000 lives every year in the country.

This was stated by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Health Services Director General Dr Ayub Roze during a breast cancer awareness symposium organised by the Khyber Medical University (KMU) in Peshawar on Thursday, The symposium had been organized in collaboration with the Shifa International Hospital (SIH) in Islamabad, the Public Health Association of K-P and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) and the Khyber Girls Medical College (KGMC) in Hayatabad.

During the symposium, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed between KMU, Shifa International Hospital and the K-PHS to organise mammography tests at SIH at subsidised rates for people of K-P.

Dr Roze, Dr Shabina Raza, K-P Public Health Association President Dr Saima Abid, and SIH's Dr Arif Malik vowed to work together for setting up a cancer registry and population-based breast screening and control system in K-P.

Addressing the symposium at the KGMC Auditorium, Dr Roze said that breast cancer is a menace which the female population was confronting at a large scale across the country.

He sounded the alarm over the spread of breast cancer in the country, adding that every year more than 40,000 women die from this disease.

He hoped that the agreement will help lower the ratio of breast cancer in K-P.

Cancer experts said that every female is basically at risk of breast cancer if she is obese, has a family history, or is over 50-years-of-age and leads a sedentary lifestyle. Moreover, a diet which contains a high amount of fat can increase the risk of cancer since fat triggers estrogen which fuels tumour growth.

According to recent estimates, experts said that 97 per cent of breast cancer cases occur where there is no family history.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1624290/5-alarming-situation-40000-die-breast-cancer-every-year-pakistan/>

#### LAWS PROTECTING WOMEN RIGHTS NEED IMPLEMENTATION: DURRANI

The Express Tribune, February 3rd, 2018.

Many laws have been enacted in the country to safeguard the rights of women, but the authorities have failed to implement these with full force.

“There is lack of implementation of laws protecting women rights in the society,” Balochistan Assembly Speaker Rahila Durani said at a conference held at International Islamic University (IIU).

Among many issues women face, one was child marriage, Durrani said. “A bill is being presented in the assembly to prevent pre-mature marriages,” she told the moot organised by the Iqbal Research Institute (IRI) of IIUI. The conference was organised to evaluate the role of women in countering the ideologies of terrorism and extremism with the help of Paigham-e-Pakistan narrative.

The anti-terrorism and anti-extremism narrative had been presented by IIUI with the signature of hundreds of religious scholars last month.

Speakers at the national seminar resolved that a peaceful dialogue in the light of Islamic education was mandatory for the elimination of terrorism, extremism from the society and women could play a vital role in this regard.

The women speakers including parliamentarians and representatives of Wafaq-ul-Madaris (federation of religious seminaries) also resolved that women could play an important role in building of a society, a press release Friday said.

Council of Islamic Ideology Chairman Dr Qibla Ayaz presented the recommendations at the seminar titled ‘Role of Dukhtaran e Pakistan in Reconciliation and Peace Building in Continuation with Paigham-e-Pakistan’ held at Faisal Masjid Campus.

Participants maintained that the recommendation points would be sent to lawmakers.

In the four panel discussion sessions, speakers said role of media was important for highlighting the issues of women and children and special programmes should be organised in this regard. The resolutions also said national educational curriculum should be prepared according to the modern needs.

IIUI Rector Dr Masoom Yasinzai stressed the need for imparting modern education based on critical thinking and characterization integrated with the blend of Islamic character.

He said there was no place for terrorism in Islam and added that IIUI took the responsibility to provide a narrative to the nation to remain clear about Islam, its teachings and dissemination of message of peace.

He urged for the promotion of the attitude of peaceful co-existence.

IIUI President Dr Yousif al Draiveesh said Islam was the only religion which gives complete rights to women. He called upon the Muslim societies to practice and provide the rights to women guaranteed by Islam.

University was keen for women empowerment and as 14,000 women were getting quality education.

He said the number of female students was more than male students at the university.

Seminar was also joined by Khalid Iqbal Jhagra, IIUI women campus Director Dr Farkhanda Zia, Wifaqul Madaris representatives Asma Baig, Naber Andleeb, Razia Madni, Tayyeba Khanum, Durdana Sidiqui and MNAs Farhana Qamar, Shazia Sobia, Romeena Alam and Huma Chughtai.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1625239/1-laws-protecting-women-rights-need-implementation-durrani/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 22ND TO JANUARY 28TH 2017

GWADAR FACING WATER AND POWER SHORTFALL

Dawn, January 22nd, 2018

Khaleeq Kiani

GWADAR: Emerging from the scratch, the small port city of Gwadar currently facing 50-60 per cent energy and water shortage is expected to soon have the country's largest airport and a dedicated oil city spread over 80,000 acres.

A group of journalists from Islamabad visiting Gwadar was told in a series of briefings that the secluded port city of 216,000 population on the strategic location of the mouth of Straits of Hormuz witnessing more than 70 per cent of the world oil trade at present was facing acute water and power shortfall.

The groundwater is brackish and hence unfit for human consumption and sweet water sources are too far, insufficient and dependant on rainfall. The current water requirement is about 6 million gallons per day (MGD) and water supply is no more than 2.5MGD, leaving a shortfall of almost 4MGD, according to Dr Sajjad H. Baloch, director general of Gwadar Development Authority.

Likewise, the current power demand for Gwadar is estimated at 25-30 megawatt against a peak supply of about 14MW, he said. The port city currently has a small airport, built in the 1970s, capable of handling Fokker and ATR planes.

All this would change gradually as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) makes progress. The pace of physical development — roads, buildings, energy and water projects and surveys — on ground suggest the transformation may be faster than many believe. The things would get going once the Gwadar Master Plan is finally submitted to Pakistan authorities by their Chinese counterparts by Aug 14.

Dr Sajjad explained that the central attraction of the modern Gwadar under CPEC would be Mega Oil City spread over an area of 80,000 acres of land. “We have shared the PC-1 (project concept papers) of the petrochemical complexes and other oil installations to the federal Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources and have allocated the required land”.

Under the master plan, he said a total of 290,000 acres of land would be required for the new city, including 160,000 acres for residential needs.

Responding to questions regarding drinking water availability, Dr Sajjad said currently there was no direct water supply taking place in the area against a requirement of 6MGD. About 2MGD water was being supplied from two small dams through tankers. “We have a deficit of four million gallon per day,” he said, adding the demand would increase to 12MGD by 2020.

Talking about the projects other than CPEC being implemented in Gwadar, he said the federal government was funding the construction of roads and more than 200km of road projects against a total of 324km had already been completed. Two fish harbours are also being funded by the federal government while a public sector technical institute was also under construction besides an underground electricity supply system to be spread over 35kilometers.

A representative of China Airport Construction Group Corporation, Jianxin Liao, and Civil Aviation Authority focal person Shoab Soomro said the soil testing for New International Airport would be completed by early February to enable finalisation of project design that would be available by April 2018.

The airport would be spread over an area of 4,300 acres compared to 3,700 acres of Karachi airport, 2,800 acres of Lahore airport and about 3,600 acres of under completion new Islamabad airport. The airport would be capable to handle large 380 aircraft and more than a million passengers per annum on completion in three years after contract signing through bidding.

Dr Sajjad, responding to a question, said that there were three government housing schemes in Gwadar besides about 100 private schemes. Out of the 100 private schemes, 75 have been suspended for being inactive for long time and would only be allowed to resume work after formal approval of the Gwadar Master plan.

Replying to another question, he said work was in progress for generation of 45MW electricity through generators on interim basis until a 300MW coal-based plant was built by Chinese companies. A memorandum of understanding had also been signed with Iran for the supply of 100MW for which Iran had already completed 80 per cent transmission line.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1384523>

**NEW SC WATER COMMISSION CHIEF FINDS KOTRI, THATTA INSTALLATIONS UNSATISFACTORY**  
Dawn, January 22nd, 2018

**HYDERBAD:** Justice (ret'd) Amir Hani Muslim, newly appointed head of the apex court-mandated commission on water quality in Sindh, visited Dhabeji, Pipri and Gharo water pumping stations in Thatta district and combined effluent treatment plant (CETP) in Kotri on Sunday and expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of the departments concerned.

Justice Hani reached CETP after visiting Dhabeji, Pipri and Gharo water pumping stations as part of his first visit as head of the commission and was displeased over the performance the treatment plant built by industries department at a huge cost to treat effluent which went into Kalri Baghar feeder that fed Keenjhar lake, the main source of water supply for Karachi.

Justice Hani was surprised to know that effluent was not being treated at the plant and was being released directly into the K.B. feeder.

“Justice Hani inspected outfall point of the CETP where effluent enters the feeder. It was in so bad a shape and gave off such foul smell that the judge expressed his utter displeasure before the managing director of the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate Ghulam Mujtaba Joyo,” said a source who accompanied the judge during the visit.

The CETP was built at a huge cost of Rs800 million and the industries department is reported to be demanding more funds to run it. The plant had been built to stop disposal of untreated wastewater of Kotri’s SITE area into KB feeder.

At one point, Justice Hani hinted at recommending the case of the plant to National Accountability Bureau and suspending MD of SITE, however, no such directive had been issued so far, said a source.

MD SITE tried to mislead the judge but deputy commissioner Jamshoro told him that the plant was not functioning earlier and it had been made functional that day. Jamshoro sessions judge also confirmed the DC’s statement and said that when he had visited the plant he did not find it functioning.

Justice Hani was scheduled to visit filter plant of Water and Sanitation Agency off Jamshoro road. He would also visit Phulleli canal which supplied water to Tando Mohammad Khan and other districts after emanating from Kotri Barrage.

THATTA: Earlier, Justice Hani made a whirlwind visit of water supply installations in the district and expressed dissatisfaction on the performance of the apparatus put in place for supplying water to Karachi.

He directed the officers concerned to improve system at Dhabeji pumping station, Gharo filter plant and water testing laboratory, which worked under Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, and ensure supply of clean water to the metropolis.

Accompanied by the petitioner advocate Shahab Osto who had moved the apex court over the issue of supply of contaminated water to Karachi and the rest of Sindh, the justice vowed to rectify the water supply system and said no further negligence would be allowed.

Mr Osto disclosed that vested interests were now usurping resources on the pretext of restoration and rehabilitation schemes. In spite of the fact that highly contaminated water was being supplied to citizens secretary of public health department had recently promoted 35 junior officers instead of taking action against them, he said.

He said that favoritism had reached its peak in public health engineering department where an engineer was holding three charges of Badin, Thatta and Sujawal districts at the same time.

He said the bureaucrats were interested only in minting money and get their palms greased. Many projects worth billions of rupees were lying useless, 17 reverse osmosis plants in Karachi were not functioning, he said.

The judge was accompanied by KWSB managing director Syed Hashim Raza Zaidi, Nafees Shaikh, Syed Jamal Mustafa, Thatta DC Mirza Nasir Baig and other officers concerned during the visit.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1384377>

**WATER COMMISSION REPRIMANDS OFFICERS OVER SHABBY STATE OF WATER SUPPLY,  
SEWERAGE INSTALLATIONS**

Dawn, January 23rd, 2018



HYDERABAD: Retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, new head of the Supreme Court-mandated water commission, on Monday reprimanded officers concerned over dilapidated state of water supply and sewerage installations.

He directed Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) and Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) to protect their water and sewerage facilities from encroachers and asked Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco) to ensure uninterrupted power supply to drinking water facilities.

Justice Muslim had a seven-hour tour of the city during which he inspected storage facilities, Wasa's Darya Khan pumping station as well as northern and western treatment plants, Phulelli canal and 30MGD filtration plant.

The former judge was accompanied during the visit by chairman of Task Force Jamal Mustafa Syed, who is also secretary of irrigation, Sindh chief secretary's focal person Dr Saeed Qureshi, Wasa's managing director Masood Jumani, water technologist Dr Ahsan Siddiqui, Hyderabad deputy commissioner Saleem Rajput, water commission's registrar Ghulam Mustafa Channa, Hyderabad mayor, SSP Pir Mohammad Shah and other officers concerned.

When Wasa MD informed the judge that functioning of water supply facilities, especially 30MGD plant, was disrupted by frequent power outages, he asked a senior officer of Hesco "I want uninterrupted power supply to all water facilities as I am not interested in discussing procedural details".

He asked Wasa MD to follow it up with required documentation. Later, the Hesco officer told the judge that the main filtration plant's power source was being connected with an independent feeder.

Mr Jumani informed the judge that rehabilitation of 30MGD plant would be completed by June and admitted that the plant did not ensure supply to optimum level.

The former judge visited Wasa lagoons in Karan Shoro village where water was stored after being lifted from combined channel of Kotri barrage.

He was told that proposal for a de-silting scheme was submitted but it was turned down by the government. He asked the MD to resubmit the schemes, including the one for rehabilitation of the third lagoon.

Mr Jumani said that rehabilitation of three lagoons would increase retention time of water and would provide a cushion to Wasa during annual closure of barrage which forced the utility to resort to rationing of available supplies.

The judge directed Hyderabad deputy commissioner to ensure security around lagoons and ban fishing in them and asked him to submit to the commission details of the Rs2.6 billion the provincial and federal government departments owed to Wasa.

Justice Hani became visibly upset after witnessing carcasses of animals giving off overpowering stench of decomposing flesh floating in Phuleli canal.

"Will you drink this water?," he asked HMC's municipal commissioner Shahid Ali. The city mayor conceded HMC's failure in solid waste management.

Justice Hani talked to Member Land Utilisation (LU) Aftab Memon over phone regarding landfill site, asking him to appear before him in Karachi and said that allocation of Rs50bn by chief minister for water and sewerage sectors showed government's willingness.

MD Wasa disclosed that there were plans to divert municipal waste going into Phuleli canal to eastern sewerage treatment plant through a drain but it would take two years.



“How many people would have died by then,” Justice Muslim equipped.

At Hala Naka filter plant, MD said that it was providing settled water to people and needed rehabilitation. A group of women protested before the judge and said they were being harassed by civil administration in the name of the apex court.

Hyderabad DC showed a correspondence to Justice Muslim which was addressed to Sindh chief secretary through divisional commissioner, seeking 200 acres land for those who were being displaced from banks of irrigation canals in the light of the water commission’s directives for demolition of encroachments from canal dykes.

“Policy for alternate places and compensation should be uniform. If some people have valid registered properties these properties can be acquired. The matter can be taken up with relevant authorities, he said.

At Darya Khan pumping station, Justice Hani said that municipal waste could be diverted to facultative ponds of Wasa from where farmers could purchase the water for irrigation of their land.

The industrial effluent should, however, be segregated before it fell into Phuleli canal and it could also be diverted to the ponds for usage in horticulture sector.

Even the sludge could be used as organic manure in cultivation, said the judge and asked SITE secretary Imdad Shah as to why in-house treatment plants were not established in factories.

Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) director general said that 155 cases of violation of environmental laws were sent to environmental tribunal to which Justice Hani expressed surprise why out of thousands of industrial units only 155 cases were sent to the tribunal.

“You have not even visited Nooriabad where untreated effluent falls into the K.B. Feeder. I have seen it. Do you know how many people are dying in Thatta due to this effluent,” he asked.

He observed that authorities did not need such huge infrastructure for treating municipal waste and their schemes appeared ill conceived. After a briefing on pilot project of Pak Oasis for effluent, he said “it is known to all and sundry what Pak Oasis has done in the rest of Sindh. I am not satisfied with them.”

HDA director general Badar Jamil Mandhro drew flak from Justice Hani for his absence. He was told by an official that the DG was facing a case in National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

“You (HDA) are converting land. I want Wadhu Wah rehabilitated and all sewerage points closed,” the judge told the DG, who finally joined him after being summoned. “Should HMC take over HDA or should HDA be dissolved?” he asked him.

The judge visited the western sewerage treatment plant in Qasimabad. He scaled over facultative pond’s bank to see encroachment around it by the area people and found a cattle pen set up inside it after breaching the bank.

He told HDA MD that sewage should not be disposed of into the river directly and be diverted to ponds for some sort of treatment. “The pond’s bank be rehabilitated. A representative of municipal committee Qasimabad should be asked to appear before him in Karachi. Not a single inch of the pond’s land should be occupied while the area under encroachment should be got vacated. If you don’t use the ponds then a housing scheme will emerge there soon,” he told the MD.

## ONE YEAR ON, LITTLE IMPROVEMENT SEEN IN HYDERABAD

The Express Tribune, 23, January 2018

On its maiden visit to Hyderabad on January 19, 2017, the judicial commission on water and sanitation came across drinking water, drainage and pollution woes debilitating the citizens' health unheeded.

The commission observed the supply of foul drinking water, dumping of tons of solid waste, offal and carcasses of animals as well as municipal and industrial sewage in the canals and solid waste burning. It found the water filtration plants and sewage treatment plants either dysfunctional or incapacitated and non-existence of landfill sites.

A year down the line, and especially after dozens of hearings conducted by the commission's former head, Justice Iqbal Kalhoro of Sindh High Court, the state of play is much the same. "Improvement?" reacted Dr Ahsan Siddiqi, a water expert who accompanied the commission's new head, Justice (retired) Amir Hani Muslim during a visit to several sites in Hyderabad on Monday, to a question while sharing his observation about the sites after the visit.

"I saw bodies of dead dogs lying in Phuleli Canal – a drinking and irrigation water source for Hyderabad, TM Khan, Badin and Thatta districts – during the visit with Justice Kalhoro last year. Today we saw carcasses of donkeys and cows instead." While talking to The Express Tribune, he described the condition of the Phuleli and other canals as 'the worst' due to unimpeded dumping of solid waste and sewage.

"One can't imagine how bad the things are." For him, the only exception among the 10 places was the 30 million gallons a day main filtration plant, which has partially improved its operations by establishing a laboratory. But even there, one of the three clarifiers, each of which has a 10MGD capacity, was not working.

A government official, who has been attending the commission's hearings and accompanying it on visits in Hyderabad, also echoed Dr Siddiqi's concerns. "Despite repeated orders by the commission, untreated sewage and industrial water is still being released into the canals. The embankments are fraught with garbage, animal offal and waste from the small and home based industries of the city," the official said, requesting anonymity.

According to him, the only combined effluent treatment plant in Kotri Site area was functioning but it was releasing partly untreated water in the KB Feeder Canal, which supplies water from the Indus River to Karachi.

Justice (retired) Muslim, along with officials of various government departments, visited at least 10 locations in Hyderabad including the filtration and sewage plants, canals and the disposal sites of drainage. To its surprise, the commission found fishing activities under way in the four lagoons of the 30MGD filtration plant on Jamshoro Road.

Justice (retired) Muslim directed the managing director of the Water and Sanitation Agency to immediately stop the fishing and ordered the police to establish a post along the lagoons to prevent such activities in the future. Expressing dismay over the performance of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) and reprimanding municipal commissioner Shahid Ali Khan, he gave the HMC one week to lift solid waste and offal from the canals' banks.

The judge also gave a two-week deadline to the HMC for making its slaughterhouse operational and removing illegal meat-cutting activities in settled areas. Justice (retired) Muslim directed the district administration and Qasimabad Municipal Committee to remove squatters from embankment of the Indus River in Sehrish Nagar.

He reportedly tasked Dr Siddiqi with supervising the work of making the northern and southern treatment plants functional and asked the WASA officials to make the Halanaka and Paretabad filtration plants functional. The judge summoned the officials of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board who will have to explain the delay in acquirement

of two landfill sites and in starting their garbage collection and disposal operations in Hyderabad. He told the officials that unlike the previous head of the commission, he will be frequently visiting the sites to monitor compliance of his orders.

He asked the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company to maintain uninterrupted supply of electricity to water filtration plants and pumping stations.

Justice (ret'd) Muslim summoned Aftab Memon, a member of land utilisation, over the phone regarding the approval of two landfill sites and told him to appear before the commission in Karachi.

The judge noted that the number of cases filed in the environmental tribunal by the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency appeared inadequate in view of the widespread violation of environmental laws. He was earlier informed that 155 cases have been sent to the tribunal.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1615427/1-one-year-little-improvement-seen-hyderabad/>

## WATER COMMISSION ORDERS OFFICIALS TO IDENTIFY LANDFILL SITES TO STOP EFFLUENT DISPOSAL INTO CANALS

Dawn, January 25th, 2018

HYDERABAD: Retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, head of the one-man Supreme Court-appointed commission on water quality in Sindh, directed the authorities concerned to identify landfill sites in Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Thatta and other districts of the province within a week — to prevent waste from making its way into canals and freshwater bodies.

Justice Muslim issued the directives during deliberations in Karachi on Tuesday on his visit of various sewerage and water supply facilities of Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) in Hyderabad a day before.

He asked Sindh secretary for local government to sit with Wasa managing director and streamline a working plan for diverting municipal waste to Wasa's ponds behind a private university hospital instead of throwing it into Phuleli, Akram Wah and Pinyari canals.

He said that under this plan all municipal sewage and solid waste being drained out into canals should be collected from Hyderabad. Such a plan would reduce heavy expenses being incurred by the government on treatment plants and save lives of people who were made to drink contaminated water from the highly polluted canals.

He urged competent authority to reserve landfill site in Hyderabad, Jamshoro and Thatta. "The commission expects that the competent authority shall order reservation of identified places (for landfill sites) within a week. Likewise, DCs of other districts may identify landfill sites," he said.

DC Hyderabad has already approached the competent authority through Land Utilisation (LU) department whereas DCs of Jamshoro and Thatta may also identify landfill sites and send requests through LU.

Planning & Development Board (P&DB) chairman Mohammad Wasim, assured the commission that scheme for rehabilitation of Wasa's lagoons would be taken up by the board and a summary would be moved by LG secretary to be approved by the chief minister. Funds would be arranged for its completion within this financial year, he told the commission.

The judge directed secretary for LG to submit a summary to the P&DB and another to the chief minister for approval of this non-Annual Development Programme scheme and provide funds from overall savings.

Other Wasa schemes which were not approved pertained to defective water supply lines which contaminated the water supplied through 30MGD filter plant.

The judge said that Wasa MD would provide work plan for all schemes but would not propose a new scheme for Latifabad filter plant since it could be rehabilitated. The proposed amount of Rs400m be immediately released for the scheme through re-appropriation of funds, he directed.

Justice Muslim asked the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company's chief executive officer to ensure installation of another feeder for uninterrupted electricity supply to Combined Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) in Kotri.

He observed that Sindh government needed to ensure through its secretary of industries that CETP worked round the clock and its daily report was faxed to the commission.

He directed water researcher Dr Ghulam Murtaza Arain, a member of the task force formed by the apex court, to take samples during the commission's surprise visits and submit report.

The commission called for submission of a list of industries working in Sindh without pre-treatment plants and other environment related infrastructure within two days.

It asked director general of Sindh Environmental Protection Agency to furnish details of action taken against the factories responsible for industrial pollution.

The commission also issued notice to chief engineer of public health engineering (PHE) Nafees Ahmed Shaikh to appear in person on Jan 25 along with details of non-functional schemes of PHE and explain why they remained defunct.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1385073/water-commission-orders-officials-to-identify-landfill-sites-to-stop-effluent-disposal-into-canal>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 15TH TO JANUARY 21ST 2018

GROUNDWATER — ONE OF THE MOST NEGLECTED RESOURCES

Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, January 15th,2018

Muhammad Arif Watto

THE sustainability of groundwater resources in Pakistan faces a number of challenges. Unconfined aquifers are subject to massive overexploitation and contamination, mainly because of climate change and a growing population.

As a result, the dependence on groundwater is increasing day by day.

It has been reported that there will be an unprecedented 20 per cent decrease in the surface water flows as compared to the usual scenarios in winters, and this will increase pressure on groundwater reserves.

It is estimated that the groundwater contribution to irrigation water supplies in Pakistan has already increased from just 8pc in 1960 to more than 50pc in 2010. Presently, the country meets more than half of its overall irrigation water requirements and 70pc of its drinking water consumption from groundwater abstractions.

This makes Pakistan the fourth-largest groundwater withdrawing country, with an estimated 65 cubic kilometres of groundwater abstraction per year according to estimates in 2010.

As per 2010 statistics, Pakistan accounts for about 6.6pc of the global groundwater withdrawals and irrigates about 4.6pc of the global groundwater-fed cropland.

Due to excessive pumping, Pakistan's groundwater abstraction rates have exceeded the annual recharge rate of 55 cubic kilometres per year. Consequently, groundwater tables are lowering rapidly in different parts of the country.

Some hydrologists think that there could be a 10-20 metres decline in the groundwater tables in the upper and the lower regions of the Rachna Doab in north-east Pakistan by 2025.

However, Pakistan continues to overexploit groundwater resources to support its low water-productive agriculture and to grow and export water-intensive crops like rice without realising its water footprint.

Pakistan's rice water productivity — at 0.45kg per cubic metre — is 55pc lower than the average water productivity of 1kg per cubic metre for rice in Asian countries.

A recent study found that about 11pc of the global groundwater depletion is owing to international food trade. Pakistan exports about 29pc of the global non-renewable groundwater embedded in agricultural trade, and almost 82pc of this non-renewable groundwater export is embedded in only rice exports.

Besides massive groundwater depletion, Pakistan is amongst the top five countries which account for about 86pc of the global wastewater-fed cropland, including China, Mexico, India and Iran.

Of them, China and India treat 71pc and 22pc of their urban wastewater compared to only 1.2pc in Pakistan.

The untreated urban wastewater is used to irrigate about 2.9 million hectares of land in different parts of the country. On the one hand, the untreated urban waste water is openly being disposed of into freshwater bodies but, on the other, the Punjab Food Authority discarded some 700 acres of vegetables which were being irrigated through untreated wastewater.

The authority should deal with the root cause first. Some canals such as Lower Bari Doab and Balloki-Sulemanki Link Canal now carry untreated wastewater these days which irrigates thousands of acres land downstream. Such instream wastewater flows and irrigation applications, if continue for long, will have serious repercussions on the quality of groundwater underneath and quality of grown food as well.

A recent study has already warned that the health of 50m to 60m Pakistanis who use groundwater are at risk owing to high arsenic contamination.

According to a 2005 World Bank report, poor-quality drinking water and inappropriate sanitation cause of number of diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid, intestinal worms and hepatitis which made Pakistan pay an indirect cost of around Rs114 billion.

This indirect spending is far more than the total funds of Rs38bn allocated for the overall water sector development in the budget 2017-18. The intangible environmental costs have yet to be unaccounted for.

Only because of salinity more than six million hectares of land was reported to be affected in 2004. Of this, 1.4m hectares of land was so severely affected that it was not cultivable. The economic losses due to salinity were estimated to be Rs55bn, or 0.6pc of GDP during that year.

Despite the rapid groundwater depletion and a number of negative economic and environmental consequences of groundwater overdraft, groundwater is still one of the most neglected resources in the country.

Currently, there is no mechanism of groundwater governance either in terms of protecting it from over-drafting or from polluting it. Moreover, there is a lack of comprehensive assessments on groundwater.

Some of the most alarming factors include a lack of public knowledge and awareness and the orthodox narrative about groundwater resource situation and its management.

At least one thing requires immediate action: to limit groundwater extractions and put a stop to polluting groundwater aquifers with wastewater and untreated reuse.

However, the biggest challenge is how such regulations can be enforced in the absence of a national water policy.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1382878>

#### PAKISTAN TO 'SELF-FINANCE' GWADAR'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Express Tribune, January 16th, 2018.

Pakistan decided on Monday to self-finance the Rs5-billion water treatment plant in Gwadar after China remained non-committal to fund the scheme despite its importance to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects.

The federal and provincial government of Balochistan would now equally share the construction cost of the 5-million gallons per day osmosis sea water treatment plant for Gwadar city, according to a revised plan approved by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP).

Amid questions over the exorbitantly high cost, the CDWP also approved the revised project for land acquisition and relocation of utilities for construction of the Karakoram Highway phase-I of CPEC.

The project has been approved at 92% higher cost. Against the original price tag of Rs6.9 billion, the federal government escalated it to Rs13.2 billion. Land has been acquired for construction of the 120-kilometer section.

The government had to clear the 5-million gallons per day water purification plant to meet the Gwadar city's emergent water requirements, although it did not allocate the money for the project in this fiscal year's Public Sector Development Programme.

According to the original plan, China was supposed to commit 90% financing for the project. In 2016, Pakistan had requested the National Development Reforms Commission (NDRC) of China to provide a grant for the project.

China informed Pakistan that the grant may take at least two years for approval and the country could not afford to wait that long, according to officials of the Planning Ministry. They said due to the delay by the Chinese side, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal directed to invite private sector parties for project completion.

But the government of Balochistan was of the view that financial viability and sustainability of the project on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model was questionable as so far, no major industry existed in Gwadar. This led to a decision to self-finance the project, according to officials.

Gwadar's water requirements by 2020 are estimated to go up to 20 million gallons per day, as against the current supply of only 2 million. The new project will take about two years for completion.

Water is planned to be pumped from the sea for purification and onward supply to the residential and industrial areas in Gwadar.

The CDWP also cleared the project for land acquisition for the under-construction KKH-I road project at a revised cost of Rs13.2 billion. At the original cost of Rs6.9 billion, the government had a plan to acquire 1,381.7 acres of land.

According to the revised project, the government would acquire 1,500 acres of land. But the cost increase is significantly higher. The government has already spent roughly Rs8 billion on the project.

“The original rates were based on the baseline survey carried out in each district in February 2015. Now the instant rates are based on actual market price of October 2017,” according to project documents. Land requirements also increased by about one-fifth due to a link road and other allied facilities.

But the transport and communication section at the Planning Ministry said the cost escalation seems fishy. “The cost has increased by 92.1% while land areas increased by 19.5% ... this is a substantial difference,” according to the section’s analysis.

It added that there were contradictions in statements given to justify the increase in cost. The transport section was of the view that the 2015 prices should be taken as ‘firm cost’, as these were based on rates collected by the relevant Commissioner’s Office.

The transport section also found a discrepancy of Rs1.04 billion in the cost estimates given by the National Highway Authority.

In total, the CDWP approved 20 projects worth Rs80.6 billion out of which five projects worth Rs60.9 billion were referred to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) for further proceeding.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1609595/2-pakistan-self-finance-gwadars-water-treatment-plant/>

#### WB TO FUND \$200M WATER PROJECT IN BALOCHISTAN

The Express Tribune, June 30th, 2016.

The World Bank Wednesday approved a \$200 million loan for a water resources management project in Pakistan, raising to \$5.5 billion the amount of net additional loans that the PML-N government has obtained from the Washington-based lender over the last three years.

Separately, the European Union also signed two financing agreements worth €59 million for Pakistan.

The \$200 million credit has been approved to strengthen Balochistan government’s initiative for a community-based water management project for irrigation purposes, according to a handout issued by the lending agency on Wednesday.

This is second loan the WB has approved for Pakistan in the last seven days. On June 23, it had sanctioned a \$1.02 billion package for budget financing and supporting additional borrowings from international capital markets through WB-backed guarantees.

Until June 2013, when the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led government came into power, the WB had sanctioned loans worth \$24.8 billion. These have since risen to \$30.3 billion.

Out of the \$5.5 billion approved in the past three years, the WB has disbursed \$4.2 billion.

Despite the heavy borrowing, the net increase in Pakistan’s debt obligations towards the WB are just \$2 billion since the remaining \$3.5 billion was used to retire past debts.



The WB said that the Balochistan Integrated Water Resources Management & Development Project would support investments in two of the 18 basins in Balochistan – Nari and Porali river basins. These river basins were selected based on an assessment of surface water resources development opportunities.

Balochistan is the least water-secure province in Pakistan and farmers here face the greatest risks from climate change, said Illango Patchamuthu, the World Bank Country Director for Pakistan.

The WB says small and medium holding farmers, having up to 49.4 acres of land, will benefit from the project. This makes up around 42,800 farm households who stand to benefit from the project. The province's hydro-meteorological monitoring and river basin information systems will also be strengthened.

Pakistan and EU on Wednesday also signed financing agreements for Balochistan rural development and community empowerment programme and the international labour and environment standards programme.

Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and Stefano Gatto, Chargé d'Affaires of the EU signed the agreements in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The EU and the government of Balochistan jointly designed the six year programme under which the EU will contribute €45 million to support community-led local development and local governance to partner in reducing the negative impact of economic deprivation, poverty, social inequality, environmental degradation and climate change, according to a statement issued by the EU delegation to Pakistan.

The Programme will also assist the Balochistan government in formulating a policy framework to institutionalise and sustain community-led local development approaches, and to improve public finance management in the province.

Both the sides also signed an agreement to strengthen labour standards worth €12.6 million.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1133189/building-balochistan-wb-fund-200m-water-project/>

## SENATOR DHAMRAH WARNS NAB AGAINST INTERFERING IN IRRIGATION AFFAIRS

Dawn, January 17, 2018

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh information secretary Senator Aajiz Dhamrah on Tuesday warned the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against further interference into the affairs of the irrigation department, and demanded release of water into the Rohri canal within a week. "Otherwise, we will launch a protest movement on a large scale," he said.

He was speaking at a press conference held at the residence of former inspector general of police Ghulam Hyder Jamali in Qasimabad.

Other senior party activists including Aftab Khanzada, Ahsan Abro, Ali Akbar, Ali Hussain Jamote and Zulfiqar Bachani were present.

Senator Dhamrah vowed to raise the burning issue of Sindh on the floor of the upper house of the parliament during its next session, starting on Jan 22. "We could go to the extent of boycotting the [rest of the] session," he added. He criticised NAB for harassing irrigation officials on the pretext of alleged corruption on their part vis-a-vis lining of Rohri canal.

He said NAB was free to investigate corruption cases but closure of the canal since Dec 18 due to the harassment of officers was unjustifiable.

“Rohri canal is spread over 200 miles and irrigates hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural land in nine districts. A total of 2.6 million acres come under the canal’s command area,” he said, and questioned the canal’s abrupt closure without any valid reason. Explaining PPP’s stance on the issue, Senator Dhamrah said that lining of the canal was started under a pilot project and the work in an area Chanesar to Sakrand had been completed.

He said 500-600 cusec water was saved because of the lining which was enough to irrigated over 25,000 acres of barren lands. He argued that up to 1,500 cusec could have been saved had the lining work not been stopped.

“Ever since the decision to start the lining work was taken, NAB was repeatedly asked by the provincial government to keep doing its job or get it done by a third party,” he said, and regretted that instead, NAB resorted to apprehending a grade-17 officer and subjecting other officers to intimidation. NAB also got Rohri canal closed on Dec 18, i.e. much before the scheduled closure for annual cleaning.

The canal closure was causing huge losses to thousands of growers, he said, and demanded release of water as soon as possible.

The senator also condemned arrest of several irrigation officials and registration of cases against them since the start of the lining work.

Ironically, he observed, NAB did not come up with references against them two years on.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1383353>

#### GETTING WATER TO GWADAR

The Express Tribune, January 17th, 2018.

There are a host of reasons why Gwadar is not the ideal location for very large-scale development of anything. Geographically isolated with a negligible population in the hinterland that could provide an expanding workforce, appalling lines of communication across in large part unstable territory and above all else — a chronic water shortage. It was something of a white elephant until the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor hove into view and suddenly it was no longer a character in search of an author. Today it is being integrated as a buckle along the CPEC belt that China is crafting to run from the states of sub-Saharan Africa up into Central Asia. But a lack of water is now a serious impediment and the Chinese, frustrated by the comparatively slow advancement on the Pakistan side is non-committal about the funding to bring water to the thirsty projects.

It is now decided that Pakistan is to self-finance a Rs5 billion water treatment plant in Gwadar, with the federal and provincial governments of Balochistan sharing construction costs of a 5-million-gallons-a-day osmosis sea water plant. This is the minimum needed to support the city’s emerging water needs, but the government did not allocate money for this budget line in the current fiscal.

Once again muddled thinking is to the fore as the complexity of CPEC begins to overwhelm the capacity to deliver by Pakistan, a pressure that can only increase over time. Originally China was to contribute 90 per cent of the costs, but has now said that may take two years to get clearance and Pakistan says it cannot wait that long hence the decision to self-finance — a decision unsupported by an existing budget. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has now directed that the private sector be approached for funding. The Balochistan government has its own views, mainly that the Build-Operate-Transfer model is unsustainable because there is no major industry in Gwadar or its hinterland. There is no escape from the water trap. If the project is to proceed, then Gwadar has to have water and whoever is to provide it is a question hanging in the air. Answer it. Fast.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1610385/6-getting-water-gwadar/>

## K-IV WATER PROJECT DELAYED YET AGAIN

The Express Tribune, 18 January 2018

Karachi's mega water project, K-IV, has been hit by delays. There is hardly any progress on the project even after a lapse of a year-and-a-half and a drastic surge in cost, which has risen to Rs51.9 billion from its original estimate of Rs25 billion.

The provincial government had assured citizens of water-scarce Karachi that the first of the three phases of the K-IV project would be completed by June, 2018. The second and third phases of the project would have water capacities of 260 millions of gallons per day (MGD) and 160MGD.

The work for phase one commenced on June 10, 2015, following an inauguration by former Sindh chief minister, Qaim Ali Shah. The groundbreaking ceremony of the project was held in the presence of incumbent Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and former governor, Dr Ishratul Ibad.

The federal and Sindh governments had agreed to contribute 50% funds each for the project. While the government and project director had been assuring completion of the project by June this year, a progress report about phase I, 260MGD, of K-IV puts the completion date at December next year. However, the report doesn't explain the reasons for the delay in the completion of phase I.

For the past couple of years, the water crisis in the city has taken an ugly turn. Hence, further delay in the project will prove to be troublesome for the citizens.

According to the progress report, the completion date for phase I has been extended till the end of next year, contrary to the claims by ministers and the project director about completion in June this year.

As per the report submitted by the project director on December 26, 2017, physical completion of phase one is only 30%, while the financial progress stands at 27%.

While the delay in the project will add to the miseries of the citizens, the Pakistan Peoples Party itself will face a setback in its vote bank in the upcoming elections over the non-completion of an important project because several political parties will criticise the Sindh government over the issue.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1611247/1-k-iv-water-project-delayed-yet/>

## WATER SHORTAGE IN SINDH: MINISTER, MNAS EXCHANGE HARSH WORDS

Business Recorder, 18 January 2018

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Javed Ali Shah and National Assembly members from Sindh on Wednesday exchanged harsh words on the issue of water availability in the province.

The meeting was convened on the Speaker National Assembly's directives issued after discussion on a calling attention notice of Nawab Yousuf Talpur.

Presently, the country is facing water shortage of 36 per cent due to which Sindh is facing acute shortage especially for being tail end area.

The IRSA officials explained that water shortage estimate for Rabi was 26 per cent but due to less rains, the shortage increased to 36 per cent.

During discussion on water scarcity in the province, Members of National Assembly from Sindh pressurized IRSA officials, saying: “The IRSA should explain highhandedness with Sindh instead of giving briefing.”

The secretary Water Resources was of the view if Sindh has reservations against water distribution mechanism, it can approach Council of Common Interests (CCI). However, Nawab Yousaf Talpur announced to walk out from the meeting against the attitude of IRSA after saying that IRSA should implement Water Accord 1991 in true letter and spirit.

Member National Assembly Shazia Marri and Minister for Water Resources Syed Javed Ali Shah exchanged harsh words. She was of the view that the minister should give honour to the parliamentarians. The minister accused Marri of harassing him by using harsh language, requesting that the meeting should be allowed to proceed.

The chairman IRSA was of the view when sufficient water was available, why this issue was not raised by Sindh, which irritated the MNAs. “We need answers of questions, not briefing,” they added.

Former Chairman IRSA, who represented Punjab, stated that Pakistan will have to build Kalabagh Dam today or tomorrow. On this Nawab Yousaf Talpur said first separate Punjab from Pakistan and then Kalabagh Dam can be built.

The meeting was further informed that KPK and Balochistan are getting water in accordance with Water Accord 1991.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/01/18/3-page/694591-news.html>

#### IRSA’S MEETING OVER WATER DISTRIBUTION REMAIN INCONCLUSIVE

Business Recorder, January 18th, 2018

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Indus River System Authority (IRSA) with members of National Assembly on water distribution and scarcity issue on Wednesday remained inconclusive and representatives of both Sindh and Punjab stick to their stances.

A detailed briefing on the issue of water scarcity was arranged by IRSA on the direction of speaker National Assembly to address grievances of parliamentarians from Sindh. The meeting was presided over by Minister for Water Syed Javed Ali Shah which was also attended by MNAs Nawab Yusuf Talpur, Abdul Sattar Bachani, Shazia Mari and Khalid Magsi.

The differences between Sindh and Punjab over the distribution of water still remained. Members from Sindh stressed the need for distribution of water as per 1991 Water Accord while Punjab wanted to distribute water as per Three-Tier formula of 2003.

Briefing the parliamentarians, IRSA Chairman Sher Zaman informed that earlier 26 per cent water shortage was estimated for the ongoing Rabi season. However, he said another meeting of advisory committee had to convene due to less water availability and currently 36 per cent water shortage was estimated for the ongoing Rabi season. However, officials of Sindh irrigation department were of the views that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were getting water as per the 1991 accord while water was being distributed in Sindh and Punjab as per Three-Tier formula of 2003.

The IRSA officials told the meeting that had the Sindh has any grievance over water distribution; the issue could be raised in Council of Common Interest (CCI) as per the 1991 Water Accord.

Javed Ali Shah said the meeting was convened to address the grievances of the parliamentarians. Member Punjab Rao Irshad Ali said around 139 million acre feet (MAF) average water was available annually in all major rivers. Out of

total some 99.5 MAF was utilized while remaining over 30 MAF remained un-utilized. The country could not make progress till construction of more water reservoirs, he added. Meanwhile, the IRSA released 29,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 30,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1450.12 feet, which was 70.12 feet higher than its dead level of 1,380 feet. —APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/01/18/21-page/694744-news.html>

## GOVT ACCUSED OF PLAYING POLITICS WITH WATER RESOURCES

Ikram Junaidi

Dawn, January 19th, 2018

ISLAMABAD: A former Senate chairman on Thursday accused the government of tampering with the country's fragile water resources by initiating projects "for political point scoring" and not following through.

The remarks came when an official from the Ministry of Water Resources told the Senate Forum for Policy Research (SFPR) that 81 water-related projects – worth Rs36 billion – were included in the current Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

"A number of projects are being undertaken merely for political point-scoring, and have not been completed," Nayyer Hussain Bokhari said after the ministry official conceded that all funds earmarked for these projects had not been released.

"Only those projects that can be completed should be included in the PSDP, and funding for both short-term and long-term projects should be released in advance," he said.

Mr Bokhari said that he would ask Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani to hold a debate on the water issue, adding that the British example should be considered for legislation in Pakistan, referring to laws that mandate the conservation of water from streams and rivers.

In its briefing, the Ministry of Water Resources informed the parliamentary panel that a thousand cubic metres of water per year was currently available to every Pakistani, but this was expected fall to 863 cubic metres in the coming years.

It also revealed that Pakistan had lost \$38 billion to flooding because the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) did not have a modern telemetry system.

The ministry official said that water scarcity was on the rise, warning that the situation would get worse, since the country had no water policy to stop the precious resource from being wasted.

Mr Bokhari, who headed the SFPR panel in the absence of Chairman Rabbani, also directed the Planning Division to share implementable plans so that the forum could play a role in addressing water-related issues.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar suggested that the Planning Division be made independent, while former senator Afrasiab Khattak recommended the construction of small dams across the country.

Senator Mohsin Leghari said the problem was only affecting agriculture at the moment, but with groundwater levels falling continuously, steps needed to be taken to address the issue.

"Currently, 22 million acre feet of water is wasted in Pakistan. Every February, the water drops to the dead level in all the dams. Moreover, 86pc of the country's water is not potable.

“On the other hand, the country does not have the funds to build big dams. Whenever the proposal for a dam is floated, not only does criticism start, but demands for another dam come, due to which funds are wasted,” he said.

The per capital annual water available was approximately 5,200 cubic metres per person 70 years ago, and has fallen to 1,000 cubic metres now that the population of Pakistan is five times as large.

Pakistan spends 93pc of its water on agriculture, of which almost 40pc could be conserved with modern agriculture methods.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1383891>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 8TH TO JANUARY 14TH 2018  
SENSORS BEING INSTALLED TO DETECT WATER THEFT IN PUNJAB  
Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, January 8th, 2018

Amjad Mahmood

THE Punjab irrigation department is modernising its measurement and communication systems by installing sensors to monitor real-time water flow in the channels under its command.

Started with technical and financial assistance of the World Bank in the previous financial year, the project envisages installing sensors to monitor real-time flow on its barrages, canals and distributaries, with the prime target of curbing canal water theft.

The Eastern Sadiqia canal system in Bahawalnagar district has been selected as a pilot project for the purpose. Dr Muhammad Riaz, director of the project management and implementation unit, said the canal system has been selected for the area is notorious for water theft.

About implementing the project piecemeal, he argues that the phased implementation will help test acceptance of the system by farmers, the real beneficiaries of the project.

At least 139 points of the Sadiqia canal — which has two branch canals, 37 distributaries, 53 minors and 14 sub-minors — have been selected for installing the computerised surveillance system.

Of them, sensors on 70 points have been installed and data from 40 of them is being generated while calibration of others has yet to be completed, Dr Riaz said.

The project missed its deadline of September 2017. Irrigation officials say time for installing electronic equipment was not enough.

“Although civil work at 80 per cent selected points has been finished, the Korean contractor hired for providing and installing the new measuring instrument is facing difficulty because we have a canal closure period of just 20 days for accomplishing the task of fixing the monitors,” he said. “The job will be completed during the ongoing closure of canals maximum by March 31, 2018.”

Justifying the introduction of computerised surveillance, the official argued that the earlier monitoring technique has been yielding data once a day, whereas the new system will allow 24-hour monitoring from barrages to tail ends, with as many readings as the high command is desirous of.

Farmers, however, believe that the irrigation department intervention is not going to ensure the availability of water, saying the department is striking the wrong note.

Sarfraz Ahmed Khan, senior vice-president of the Kisan Board Pakistan, said real issues facing farmers are water shortage and unfair distribution of available water resources.

He lamented that the country has capacity to store water for only 30 days, as no new project has been undertaken in this sector since the 1970s, whereas some less-resourceful countries have a 180-day storage capacity.

As far as the distribution of the available irrigation water is concerned, he said that influential landlords wielding political clout, particularly those with landholdings upstream of a distributary, claim the lion's share of the resources at the cost of those living at tail-end areas.

A senior official of the provincial irrigation department said that so far it has been mostly relying on manual or human observation of water flows, while the century-old irrigation system was also marred by corruption among staff members and influence of landlords.

“Corrupt officials used to take bribes and release water illegally into channels, mostly at night time when the supervisory staff was not around,” the official said, requesting not to be named.

“But with the introduction of real-time monitors, the water flow data is automatically communicated to the main server at Lahore round the clock, eliminating any chance of illegal flows,” he said, adding that it will also lead to better and real-time decision-making for improved and efficient management of water resources, and detect intentional or unintentional variations in water supplies.

Mr Khan, who is also a member of the Punjab Agricultural Commission, said the issue has never been raised in the discussions of the commission, “which reflects low priority the policymakers attach to the agriculture sector”.

The irrigation official said the department does get cases registered against water theft, but he agrees that any accused has seldom been penalised.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1381427/sensors-to-detect-water-theft>

## PROTEST HELD AGAINST FEUDALS OCCUPYING LAKES

Dawn, January 9th, 2018

**KARACHI:** The illegal occupation of sweet water lakes by feudal lords could not be removed even after government orders due to which the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) held yet another protest demonstration outside the Karachi Press Club on Monday.

They demanded that the Sindh government ensure the removal of the of the occupiers. Talib Katchhi, general secretary of PFF's Karachi office, said the PFF had been protesting against the occupation of the powerful feudals and landlords for some five years now following which the Sindh Assembly passed the bill for the removal of occupation from 1,209 lakes.

But the feudals, he said, were yet to budge and allow the poor fishermen to earn their livelihood by fishing in these lakes.

It was said that currently around 600 such lakes were under the control of the landlords. The media was informed that only recently the influential feudal, brother of Sindh's minister for livestock and fisheries, had illegally occupied the



historical lake Babli through force and the help of his armed men, and now they had built a dam around it. Through force and power they were snatching the livelihood of the poor.

The protesters also said that the PFF had gone to court over the illegal occupation of the Kun Pura Lake that covers 1,000 acres and is located in union council Ladiyoon of Shahbander Taluka, Sujawal district. The court, too, as a result of their petition had issued a notification against the occupation following which the landlord gave up his control over the lake.

They said they might be poor fisherfolk, but they knew how to demand, fight for and get their rights in a peaceful manner. Therefore, they announced a protest movement in the entire province of Sindh starting on Jan 10 and to continue till their demands would be met.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1381644/protest-held-against-feudals-occupying-lakes>

### PAKISTAN'S WORSENING WATER CRISIS

The Express Tribune, January 8, 2018

Barely 15 days old, Kinza whimpers at an Islamabad hospital where she is suffering from diarrhoea and a blood infection, a tiny victim among thousands afflicted by Pakistan's severely polluted and decreasing water supplies.

Cloaked in a colourful blanket, Kinza moves in slow motion, like a small doll. Her mother, Sartaj, does not understand how her daughter became so ill.

"Each time I give her the bottle, I boil the water," she tells.

But Sartaj and her family drink daily from a stream in their Islamabad neighbourhood – one of several waterways running through the capital that are choked with filth. Boiling the water can only do so much.

They are not alone. More than two-thirds of households drink bacterially contaminated water and, every year, 53,000 Pakistani children die of diarrhoea after drinking it, says UNICEF.

Cases of typhoid, cholera, dysentery and hepatitis are rampant. According to the UN and Pakistani authorities, between 30 and 40 per cent of diseases and deaths nationwide are linked to poor water quality.

And it is costing the developing country billions. In 2012 the World Bank, which has warned that "substantial investments are needed to improve sanitation", estimated that water pollution costs Pakistan \$5.7 billion, or nearly four per cent of GDP.

"Water is the number one problem for the country," says Professor Javed Akram, vice chancellor at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad.

In Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, the situation is even worse than in Islamabad.

The Ravi River which supplies the city's 11 million or so inhabitants with drinking water also serves as a spillway to hundreds of factories upstream.

River fish are eaten by locals, but "some papers show that in the fishbones, some heavy metal contamination (is) found," says Sohail Ali Naqvi, a project officer with the conservation group WWF.

The Ravi is also used to irrigate neighbouring crops, which are themselves rich in pesticides, warns Lahore environmentalist Ahmad Rafay Alam.

The lack of water infrastructure is glaring. In a country where the “environment is not part of the political agenda”, there are “nearly no treatment plants”, warns Imran Khalid, a researcher at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute.

“Those who can afford it buy bottles of water, but what about those who cannot?” he says.

In Karachi, a megacity whose population could be as many as 20 million people, mafias fill the vacuum left by the creaking local network, selling the precious water they bring in by tanker trucks at high prices.

In the face of widespread indignation, Sindh along with Punjab province, together home to more than half of the country’s population, have already announced measures to improve water quality, though their efficacy is yet to be seen.

But Pakistan’s water is not only contaminated – it is becoming scarce.

Official projections show the country, whose population has increased fivefold since 1960 to some 207 million, will run dry by 2025, when they will be facing an “absolute scarcity” of water with less than 500 cubic metres available per person in Pakistan.

That’s just one third the water available in already parched Somalia now, according to the UN.

Pakistan, a country of massive Himalayan glaciers, monsoon rains and floods, has just three major water storage basins, compared with more than a thousand in South Africa or Canada, says Bashir Ahmad of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council.

As such any surplus is quickly lost, said Ahmad, who denounced “a lack of political vision” to counter the nationwide water crisis.

While official statistics show that 90 per cent of the country’s water is used for agriculture, the massive irrigation network, built decades ago by British colonists, has deteriorated.

Much of its use appears to defy common sense. “We are neglecting the northern areas, where there (is) a lot of rainfall, to focus on irrigated areas like Sindh or Punjab,” says Ahmad.

There, in arid areas where temperatures can soar up to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit), Pakistan grows water-intensive crops such as rice and sugar cane.

“The crisis is looming. In all urban areas, the water table is going down day by day,” warns Muhammad Ashraf, chairman of the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources.

Pumps draw deeper and deeper into the water table, where the arsenic content is naturally higher, he warns. An international study in August said some 50 to 60 million Pakistanis are slowly poisoning themselves with arsenic-tainted water.

Yet waste remains the norm. In Islamabad, roads are sprinkled to drive away dust, cars are washed daily, and verdant lawns watered generously.

“We own our houses, but not our streams,” Ashraf sighs. “That’s why we dump our waste in the rivers.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1603308/10-pakistans-worsening-water-crisis/>

## CENTRE FOR WATER STUDIES CONFERS DEGREES UPON 31 STUDENTS

The Express Tribune, 9 January 2018

The United States-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) awarded on Monday degrees to 31 MS students in its first graduation ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony at the USPCAS-W, which is situated at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) in Jamshoro, United States (US) Consul-General in Karachi Grace Shelton said graduates from the centre would serve as water leaders in the country by offering services in tackling water-related issues. “The water leaders will utilise their skills and expertise to solve the water challenges faced by Pakistan,” she said.

Shelton told the ceremony that American people believed in strengthening bilateral relations with their Pakistani counterparts and they strongly supported education and research sectors of the country.

MUET Vice-Chancellor Dr Mohammad Aslam Uqaili said the centre for studies in water was established three years ago after MUET was selected to establish a national water research centre with the financial support of USAID. The centre aimed to offer solutions to Pakistan’s water-related challenges by educating and training future water leaders, Dr Uqaili said.

“The centre lays major focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly the sixth SDG [which is about ensuring] sustainable management of water and sanitation for all,” the MUET VC said, adding that the USPCAS-W was also offering expertise to the provincial government for ensuring the supply of safe and clean drinking water to people.

According to Dr Uqaili, in addition to its academic programme, USPCAS-W focused on applied research in the water sector. He apprised the gathering that the National Water Research Network had been established for conducting research in the water sector and undertaking collaborative activities under the umbrella of the centre.

The first MS batch of the USPCAS-W comprised 40 students, of which 31 availed an exchange programme by spending one semester at the University of Utah, USA.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1603687/1-centre-water-studies-confers-degrees-upon-31-students/>

## NOTICES ISSUED TO KEY OFFICIALS OVER ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN SIDA

Dawn, January 10th, 2018

Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: A division bench of the Sindh High Court’s Hyderabad circuit on Tuesday issued notices for Feb 8 to the additional chief secretary (planning and development), irrigation secretary, Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (Sida) managing director, livestock director general and other respondents on a petition seeking inquiry into funds utilisation by Sida and all its three area water boards (AWBs).

The bench comprised Justice Salahuddin Panhwar and Justice Arshad Hussain Khan.

The petition has been filed by a chairman of the Farmers Organisation (FO) of Kumb minor Nabi Bux Sathio, who is a grower and arguing his case by himself.

He said Sida was formed under the Sindh Water Management Ordinance (SWMO), 2002 due to failure of the Sindh irrigation department. Sida manages three AWBs – Ghotki, Nara Canal and Left Bank – and the AWBs control four main canals of the irrigation network in Sindh.

He said international loans and funds were provided to Sida for a transparent and smooth transfer of water channels to it. By the end of 2014, Sida got third loan of \$138 million to meet objectives of the SWMO 2002 for participatory irrigation system through the elected FOs. The petitioner approached the Sida authorities for streamlining of system of Kumb minor which supplies water to 44 watercourses, but unfortunately then water was available only in 30 watercourses.

He said the growers, whose lands were to be fed by remaining 40 watercourses, faced shortage of water. The minor remained heavily silted while modules of watercourses of influential growers were found tampered with or damaged, and politically powerful growers got 10 times more water than what was sanctioned for them, he added.

He approached the managing director (MD) of Sida for resolving issues of Kumb minor and sought details of irrigation staff posted for its management. He said that in the past two and a half years, he did not get reply.

He requested the executive engineer of Akram Wah to stop illegal withdrawal of water by influential growers so that water could reach the tail-end areas, but in vain. A 'Red Sindhi' cattle farm located on 2,800 acres of land gets water through the minor's 10 watercourses, but farm management does not pay abiyana to FO, according to him.

He regretted that over 90 per cent of posts in Sida were held by retired or serving irrigation officials. Purpose of establishment of Sida was to make it independent and autonomous to run irrigation network. For this it was supposed to recruit competent individuals, but the management of Sida was run by notorious officials and they failed it to deliver, he said.

He claimed that an irrigation department officer, who was involved in an alleged corruption of Rs540 million, was posted as director of the Left Bank AWB. When the officer was posted as executive engineer drainage division, Tando Mohammad Khan, anti-corruption department officials raided his office and seized the record. It was on record that the name of Ghulam Ali Talpur, the director, also featured in the list of officials recommended for removal from service by the Supreme Court's commission on super floods 2010. Due to his negligence, a breach occurred in Ghaliyan embankment near Hala, he sack.

He said that instead of sacking him, he was promoted as superintending engineer and recently posted as director. Even the sitting chief minister expressed displeasure over the performance of Sida, ordered inquiry into misuse of funds and audit of record, he said.

The petitioner informed that 123 water channels including minors, branches and distributaries were located in the Left Bank AWB, but not a single of them was lined. Instead of implementing the SWMO 2002, officers working in Sida and AWBs preferred international exposure visits, luxurious vehicles, renovation of their offices, holding of seminars and workshops and attending so-called international trainings with the result that billions of rupees of public funds were embezzled, he said.

The petitioner also requested to the Sida MD to put an end to execution of mega projects on Phulleli canal as construction of new regulators would not benefit farmers; carrying capacity of canal and raising of banks would help provide water to the tail-end growers. Three mega regulators are being constructed on the canal and rest houses in Tando Mohammad Khan, Matli and Badin.

He said such the rest houses were not needed and according to neutral experts of irrigation system, around Rs3 billion were being spent on mega structures unnecessarily, which was wastage of money. He said had this amount been spent

on lining of canal, it would have saved 30 per cent water lost due to seepage. He said this much was being done to get kickbacks and commission and to exploit the WB's loan.

He prayed the court to direct the chief secretary of Sindh to constitute a joint interrogation team, consisting of officials of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) to conduct inquiry into funds of Sida and its three AWBs as over 90pc funds were loan from the WB to be returned with interest.

He said that respondent additional chief secretary should be asked to explain working of Sida to know how successfully the WB loan was utilised and why SWMO 2002 was not implemented.

He prayed the court to direct the chief secretary to remove the director of Left Bank AWB. The chairman of anti-corruption establishment (ACE) should be directed to submit report about the alleged corruption of Rs540 million by the current director of the Left Bank AWB, he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1381856/notices-issued-to-key-officials-over-alleged-irregularities-in-sida>

## WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Dawn, January 13th, 2018

SUKKUR: Sukkur Mayor Arsalan Islam Shaikh has said that planning in coordination with the Sindh government has been made in a way that no shortage of water will be there in the city in the next 40 years.

At a media briefing on the city's water supply scheme held at the jetty of Bhakkar island of Indus, the mayor said Sukkur's requirement was 11MGD (million gallons per day). "The pipeline laid for the supply has a capacity of 30MGD," he pointed out, and argued that the city could receive water through this pipeline even when 30MGD would be passing through it. "A greater flow may possibly happen after 40 years, he said.

He told reporters that Rs700 million had been spent on this scheme.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1382528>

## PFA BANS SALE OF BOTTLED WATER FROM THREE FIRMS

Dawn, January 14th, 2018

Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on Saturday shut down production and banned the sale of bottled water from three companies for failing laboratory tests to meet food standards.

The PFA teams had collected samples from 14 bottled-water companies from across Lahore and sent them to the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The samples were collected after conducting a survey in the city.

The companies whose samples were collected included Kinley, Aquafina, Sufi, Aqua Safe, Sparkle, Blu Water, Zam Zam, Naimat, Kinz, Springley, Nestle Pure Life, Murree Sparkletts, Pure Drinking Water and Bottle Water. The samples were collected from Allama Iqbal Town, Samanabad, Aziz Bhatti Town and Gulberg.

According to lab test reports available with Dawn, all the companies failed to qualify to the standards of 'mineral water', and could instead be termed 'plain or safe'.

14 firms fail to qualify to standards of 'mineral water'

The reports further revealed that hazardous components and chemicals — microbiological germs — unsafe for human health were found in the samples from Kinley, Aquafina and Springley due to which the PFA teams shut down their production.

The teams informed all the companies to remove their stocks from the market by declaring it unfit for human consumption.

On Saturday, representatives of all water companies approached PFA Director General (DG) Noorul Amin Mengal and appealed to re-test the water samples. The officials also requested the DG to allow them to resume production.

Mr Mengal directed them not to resume production or sell their current batches of bottled water without getting a clearance certificate. He said they had a right to appeal against the laboratory results and samples would again be sent to a government and private laboratory for re-examination.

He further said if the companies qualified the food standard they would be allowed to resume production, but if they failed again their premises would also be sealed. The water companies were also violating another PFA rule of labelling bottles with 'mineral water', but no company had qualified for the same. He said they would take action and direct the companies to remove the label and mention 'plain or safe water' on it.

Mr Mengal added that they had collected samples from water sources of all public and private hospitals as well as Water and Sanitation Agency pumps, and were awaiting their results.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1382803>

#### DEPT ORDERS CLEAN WATER AT HEALTH CENTRES

Dawn, January 14th, 2018

Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The health department has directed health centres across the provinces to ensure the provision of clean and chlorinated water to visitors and staff members to protect them from diseases.

It said the cleaning and chlorination of water sources should be carried out twice a year as part of its standard operating procedures.

A letter issued to the director general (health services), district health officers and medical superintendents of hospitals on Saturday stated that the cleaning of water tanks and wells should be carried out in the first week of January and July every year.

It said the chlorination of water should take place in line with the World Health Organisation's guidelines.

The letter said for the current year, the exercise should begin Jan 15 and last until Jan 22.

According to it, the DG (health) will enlist all health centres with their sources of water and the relevant DHO, MS and heads of the institutions will certify by Jan 8 and July 8 respectively every year that they've carried out the exercise.

The health department's independent monitoring unit has been tasked with checking if the activity has taken place.

The same directives are also meant for the heads of medical colleges, nursing and paramedical and public health schools, residential colonies, hostels and other facilities overseen by the health department to ensure the provision of clean water to students, inhabitants and staff members.

The DG (health) has been asked to collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency or PCSIR to analyse water quality for which budgetary allocations be made from the respective facility or institution.

The DHOs and MS's will send water samples bimonthly to the accredited institutions to test the quality of water provided to the people in facilities under their jurisdiction.

An additional DG will monitor the situation and update the health department within four days of the schedule of the activities regarding the implementation of the directives, said the two-page letter issued by the health secretary.

The letter said it would be responsibility of the DG health to ensure that the source of water supply to the institutions and hospitals are checked and make it sure that the people get clean water, for drinking as well as other purposes.

The public health education department will check the quality of water in the 90 days after its cleaning and this should be a regular feature of each calendar year, it added.

The letter said the health secretary has already instructed to put in place water filtration, preferably solar-powered, in all health facilities so that the availability of uninterrupted supply of clean water is ensured.

In this connection, the DG (health) has been directed to contact the Unicef or any other organisations and submit a proposal within the next fortnight so that a comprehensive programme is devised.

The letter said following proposals, the health department had planned to devise a programme for financial arrangements to bring the exercise regularly.

It added that the department also weighed options to include chlorination and cleaning of water as a regular programme in the annual development programme for the financial year 2019-20.

The department will take review the status of implementation on the directives on Jan 25, the letter said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1382833>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1ST TO JANUARY 7TH 2018

WILL WE BE ABLE TO GO BEYOND THE RHETORIC TO FACE THE WATER CHALLENGES AHEAD?

Mohammad Hussain Khan

Dawn, January 01, 2018

While water and agriculture experts in the country keep highlighting issues that have by now assumed critical proportions, the commitment to addressing them seems to be missing; while a rapid increase in population has increased water demand.

Experts believe 93 to 95 per cent of Pakistan's total surface water/freshwater is utilised in the agriculture sector and, according to a Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) presentation, the country has the lowest productivity per unit of water i.e. 0.13kg/m<sup>3</sup> with India at 0.39kg/m<sup>3</sup> and China 0.82kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The agriculture sector's contribution to GDP remains at 21pc but progressive growers agree that given the quantum of surface water utilised in the farm sector its efficiency leaves a lot to be desired.



Because of these shortcomings Pakistan comes up with lesser per-hectare yields of wheat, cotton, sugarcane and rice according to the Pakistan Ministry of National Food Security and Research 2014-15 statistics.

But policymakers have to go beyond the rhetoric on the integrated water resource management to be ready to face the challenges ahead if they aim to offset the impact of water scarcity.

The country's water challenges could be put into the following categories: inadequate storage, lack of water efficiency leading to a lower per-acre productivity, unchecked groundwater abstraction; lack of rational water pricing, canal inefficiency, and a contiguous but dilapidated irrigation infrastructure.

Under the Falkenmark Water Stress Indicator Pakistan is bracketed with nations under water stress, for our per-capita water availability remains less than 1,700m<sup>3</sup>. If a country's water availability falls below 1,000m<sup>3</sup> it is rated as a water scarce country. Until 2010 Pakistan's water availability was around 1,223m<sup>3</sup>.

Ahmad Zeeshan Bhatti, a researcher at the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), opines that the International Institute of Water (IWMI) says countries that will not be able to meet estimated water demands in 2025, even after accounting for future adaptive capacity, are called "physically water scarce".

Countries with sufficient renewable resources that would have to make a very significant investment in water infrastructure to access them are called "economically water scarce". So as yet "we are economically, not physically scarce", he says.

Pakistan stores 10pc of total surface freshwater with a 30-day carryover capacity (14 million acre-feet) achieved through Mangla and Tarbela dams, says a senior Wapda officer. India remains far ahead with a 170-day capacity.

Irrigation channels' efficiency remains below 40pc for multiple reasons — chiefly sedimentation — though this could be increased to 80pc with lining as per one research.

The desired investment attributes water infrastructure to inter-provincial discord and trust deficit. Small and medium size dams are not built for want of resources in provinces although Sindh has lately completed the rain-fed Darawat dam in Jamshoro.

A senior Wapda officer, who deals with the water sector, believes that things have to go in tandem if sustainable growth is to be achieved. By building mega dams like Diamer-Bhasha and 90 small and medium sized dams, Pakistan can achieve 90-day carryover capacity, "although by 2050 our demand will have further increased" he bemoans.

He adds that due to ownership issues international funding is not feasible for the Diamer-Bhasha dam and that even after its completion it will offer only marginal relief as with its 6.4MAF storage, the impact of sedimentation losses in the existing dams can only be offset so that new achievable storage would remain between 1-2MAF.

"If work starts on Bhasha it will takes nine years to complete. I don't see a new storage being built in Pakistan in the next 5-7 years. Successive governments have preferred short-term projects for political mileage instead of long-term projects", he observes.

"Water availability may not be a serious issue because it is management that actually matter," he says.

Wapda has a list of seven future water projects for storage and run-of-the-river purposes which are at the early stage of submission. These projects include run of the river Dasu, Mohmand (0.67MAF) and Shyok dams (5.5MAF) for storage with the latter's feasibility study to be completed in February this year.

As experts and policymakers lay emphasis on water storage, the issue of the dying Indus delta and sustainable environmental flows post-Kotri barrage has taken a back seat.

Such flows — essential for deltaic region to check sea intrusion — are often described as a wastage of water, notwithstanding the fact that the sea continues to devour fertile agriculture lands in coastal districts of Badin, Thatta and Sujawal along Sindh's 350km long coastline.

Around 3.5 million acres of land has been lost since 1980 with sea water intruding up to the Thatta-Sujawal bridge.

“Germanwatch in its Global Climate Risk Index 2017 has ranked Pakistan seventh in terms of vulnerability. This means we should revisit the 1991 Water Accord in the backdrop of the climate change as it must have impacted flows considerably.

“Likewise, the Indus Water Treaty can be amended to adjust to the requirements of climate change”, points out Dr Imran Saqib Khalid, who heads the environment and climate change unit at the Islamabad-based Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

He says that groundwater abstractions on both sides of the borders remain massive and unchecked. “Satellite data shows that the groundwater aquifer tilts towards India”, he claims and urges policymakers to look at how to ensure quality, quantity and equity in water distribution.

But what Dr Imran Khalid suggests not does seem possible unless Pakistan has its National Water Policy in place. The policy's draft has been submitted to the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

By 2050, says the UN's World Water Development Report 2015, developing countries will have to increase food production by 60pc. It warns that “climate change will exacerbate the risks associated with variations in the distribution and availability of water resources”.

The provinces need to rationalise water pricing in both agriculture and non-agriculture sectors to improve revenue generation and investment in irrigation. Canal water being cheap usually leads to wastages.

It is encouraging to see Sindh working on the draft of the agriculture policy as a component of the World Bank-funded Sindh Agriculture Growth Project (SAGP). The draft policy talks about ‘climate smart agriculture’.

Sindh Abadgar Board Vice President Mahmood Nawaz Shah says water pricing is also necessary for all sectors of the economy given the fact Pakistan is heading towards water scarcity. Pakistan's farm sector gets 95pc of the country's total water resources while in rest of the world hardly 70-75pc of water is diverted to the agriculture sector.

“We need to have more per acre productivity with the same quantum of water coupled with investment in human resource, technology and a high efficiency irrigation system to achieve our objectives”, he says.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1380112/will-we-be-able-to-go-beyond-the-rhetoric-to-face-the-water-challenges-ahead>

MODERN FARMING METHODS HELP SAVE WATER: ICARDA

Business Recorder, January, 1st, 2018

HYDERABAD: The Country Manager of International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) for Pakistan Dr Abdul Majid said that by adopting modern and latest technologies of farming; water, effort, and money can be saved. This he said in the meeting with Agriculture Service Providers (ASPs) of Jamshoro District at US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W), Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Jamshoro.

By quoting an example of latest technology, Dr Majid said that the duplicate of Banana Tree Shredder has been made in Pakistan. Through this machine, he said, the residual of banana trees could be composed as organic fertiliser which is very beneficial for the soil health and can also be used by farmers in their crops.

He said that through ridge sowing of wheat, 30 to 35 percent of water can be saved, 10 to 20 percent of the yield can be increased, and also water logging can be avoided. On the contrary, he said, the most of the farming in Pakistan is on the broadcasting pattern which causes the wastage of water, water logging and consequently the yield decreases. Dr Majid while sharing his observations of his recent visit to Sakrand and other areas of Shaheed Benazirabad and Hyderabad districts, he said that trend of farming two crops like sugarcane and wheat simultaneously in Sindh are appreciating in order to get maximum benefit for having two crops on the limited resources and one time use of water for the both crops.

He appreciated the role of MUET Water Centre for sensitising and helping the farmers of the region for adopting the modern irrigation systems like drip, sprinkler and others systems under the ICARDA project funded by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Agency for International Development (USAID).

In the meeting with ASPs, ICARDA Social Scientist Memoona Khan said that through the collective efforts, they can play the vital role for water saving in their respective areas with all the implementation partners of ICARDA Project on the efficient use of water in dry areas of Pakistan. On the occasion, Professor Dr Abdul Latif Qureshi briefed the ICARDA delegation about the recent project interventions.

The delegation also visited the demonstration site of drip system installed by the students of the Centre under the supervision of Dr Qureshi. "Due to the shortage of water, the situation in Manjhand area of Jamshoro district is worse than Thar," said Raza Muhammad, one of the participants in meeting while sharing his experiences.

Wazir Ali Burfat, one of the ASPs sharing his experiences said that drip irrigation system is one of the best and successful irrigation modern system for vegetables especially for tomatoes and ladyfinger. Engr Miskeen Ali Bhagat, research assistant of the ICARDA project said fruit trees and vegetables can be cultivated in the dry areas through drip irrigation system.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/01/20180101331930/>

## PUNJAB AGRI DEPT TO HELP FARMERS ADOPT DIS

Business Recorder, 1 January 2017

LAHORE: Adopting drip irrigation system (DIS), farmers can save 60 percent electricity and diesel costs augmenting per acre yield by 100 percent. Punjab agriculture will help farmers to follow this system by providing drip irrigation equipment at subsidized rates and providing 60 percent subsidy on installation of drip irrigation system

Agha Jehanzaib, senior officer of Punjab agriculture department said, "There is 40 percent to 50 percent saving of fertilizer if drip irrigation system is used. Currently, the system is used for small scale cultivation e.g 12.5 acre of land. However, other techniques and methods are underway to extend the program for large scale cultivation.

He further said that drip irrigation technology is being provided to farmers by government on subsidized cost with financial assistance from the World Bank. Spokesman of Agriculture Department further says that it is need of time to move towards modern resource conservation technologies such as drip irrigation to cope with the situation of water scarcity in upcoming years.

Government of Punjab is encouraging drip irrigation to overcome scarcity of water. Drip irrigation system is suitable for crop cultivation when irrigation water or rainwater is not enough for conventional farming.

He further said drip irrigation technology, so far, has been adopted by many farmers across Punjab owing to acute shortage of river water and limited rains. Keeping in view its high efficiency in conserving water, increasing per acre yield and reducing cost of cultivation, there is a need to create awareness among farmers about the drip irrigation system.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/01/01/12-page/691246-news.html>

## CM REVIEWS WATER AND SANITATION SCHEMES

The Express Tribune, 2 January 2017

Apparently worried by the deadline given by the apex court regarding the improvement of water and sanitation conditions in Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah held on Monday the fourth meeting on the issue in recent weeks.

As many as 16.57 million people in Sindh are provided drinking water through projects of the public health engineering department, which amounts to 53% population of the province, the meeting was told. The drainage schemes under the department covered 12.51 million people which amounted to 40% of Sindh's population.

The department was a key organisation in terms of provision of drinking water and drainage facilities in the province, the CM remarked.

Public Health Engineering Secretary Tamizuddin Khero said supply of drinking water in the existing schemes of the department was about 340 million gallons per day (MGD), of which supply of 122MGD was from underground sources while 218MGD was supplied from surface water sources.

There was a need of assessing the quantity of underground water in different areas and testing its quality to ascertain whether it could be supplied as drinking water, the CM said.

Urban areas of Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh have dedicated organisations for their water supply and drainage, which do not fall in the domain of the public health engineering department.

Public Health Engineering Minister Fayaz Butt said there was a sweet water zone in the province where 184 water supply schemes, including 13 reverse osmosis plants, were functioning to provide water to urban areas. Urban areas in Ghotki district were being supplied drinking water through two schemes,

Sukkur through four schemes, Khairpur through 22 schemes, Naushero Feroz through 11 schemes, Shaheed Benazirabad, Larkana and Shikarpur through seven schemes each, Jacobabad through four schemes, Kamber-Shahdadkot through nine schemes, Kashmore through three schemes and Dadu through eight schemes, the meeting was told.

The CM pointed out that the quality of underground water in the sweet zone was deteriorating. Measures should be taken to sustain and improve the quality of water in sweet zone, he said.

Sharing details of water supply schemes catering to rural areas, Khero said rural areas of Ghotki received water through 33 schemes, Sukkur through 58 schemes, Khairpur through 119 schemes, Naushero Feroz through 19 schemes, Shaheed Benazirabad through 61 schemes, Larkana through 21 schemes, Shikarpur through 28 schemes, Jacobabad through 68 schemes, Kamber-Shahdadkot through 119 schemes, Kashmore through 50 schemes, Dadu through 147 schemes, Badin through 204 schemes,

Hyderabad through 93 schemes, Jamshoro through 219 schemes, Karachi through 137 schemes, Mirpurkhas through 165 schemes, Matiari through 79 schemes, Sujawal through 54 schemes, Sanghar through 199 schemes, Thatta

through 170 schemes, Umerkot through 148 schemes, Tando Muhammad Khan through 75 schemes, Tando Allahyar through 97 schemes and Tharparkar through 786 schemes.

The CM was told that in the urban areas of the province, six drainage schemes of 8.47MGD were functioning in Ghotki, six schemes of 13.03MGD in Sukkur, 22 schemes of 16.32MGD in Khairpur, 11 schemes of 7MGD in Naushero Feroz, 10 schemes of 10.3MGD in Shaheed Benazirabad, seven schemes of 16.35MGD in Larkana, seven schemes of 6.37MGD in Shikarpur, five schemes of 6.24MGD in Jacobabad, nine schemes of 6.5MGD in Kamber-Shahdadkot, seven schemes of 5.33MGD in Kashmore, eight schemes of 8.07MGD in Dadu,

12 schemes of 9.3MGD in Badin, two schemes of 0.3MGD in Hyderabad, six schemes of 3.02MGD in Jamshoro, six schemes of 10.24MGD in Mirpurkhas, seven schemes of 4.69MGD in Sujawal, 14 schemes of 12.58MGD in Sanghar, five schemes of 4.19MGD in Thatta, eight schemes of 4.14MGD in Umerkot, three schemes of 3.38MGD in Tando Muhammad Khan, six schemes of 4.63MGD in Tando Allahyar and six schemes of 1.62MGD in Tharparkar.

The meeting was also told about 948 drainage schemes for rural areas in the province that drained 91.33MGD of sewage generated by 4.79 million people.

According to the information shared by the department, 30 schemes drain 0.98MGD in rural areas of Badin, 28 schemes drain 1.19MGD in Hyderabad, 15 schemes drain 1.76MGD in Jamshoro, 41 schemes drain 9.44MGD in Karachi, 29 schemes drain 11.68MGD in Mirpurkhas, 42 schemes drain 28.59MGD in Matiari, seven schemes drain 0.23MGD in Sujawal, 43 schemes drain 1.73MGD in Sanghar, nine schemes drain 0.65MGD in Thatta, 15 schemes drain 1.2MGD in Tando Muhammad Khan, one scheme drains 0.02MGD in Tharparkar, 48 schemes drain 2.6MGD in Ghotki, 43 schemes drain 2.25MGD in Sukkur, 168 schemes drain 6.57MGD in Khairpur, 62 schemes drain 4.08MGD in Naushero Feroz, 76 schemes drain 3.59MGD in Shaheed Benazirabad, 86 schemes drain 3.82MGD in Larkana, 72 schemes drain 3.97MGD in Shikarpur, 22 schemes drain 0.85MGD in Jacobabad, 52 schemes drain 2.85MGD in Kamber-Shahdadkot, six schemes drain 0.34MGD in Kashmore and 39 schemes drain 2.22MGD in Dadu.

Appreciating the work of the department, the CM said some of the schemes, however, needed to be rehabilitated. To this, Khero replied that the department had proposed the overhauling of 1,671 schemes.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon, Planning and Development Board Chairperson Mohammad Waseem, Principal Secretary to CM Sohail Rajput and other officers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1598430/1-cm-reviews-water-sanitation-schemes/>

## DESALINATION PLANT IN GWADAR INAUGURATED

Dawn, January 2nd, 2018

GWADAR: A desalination plant installed at the Gwadar port by China Overseas Port Holding Company was inaugurated on Monday by federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo. The plant will supply drinking water to Gwadar.

The newly-installed desalination plant with the capacity of producing 254,000 gallons of clean drinking water had been completed by the Chinese firm in record time.

Senator Bizenjo, who is also president of the National Party, said that 2018 would prove to be a good beginning for the people of Gwadar as they would witness massive development in Balochistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said the functioning of the desalination plant would reduce to some extent the shortage of drinking water in the city.

People of Gwadar had been facing water shortage for the last many months and now they would get clean drinking water, he said.

“The desalination plant is a true reflection of CPEC and Pakistan-China friendship and a gift for the people,” Mr Bizenjo said, adding that it was the result of the visionary thinking of the Gwadar Port Authority and China Overseas Port Holding Company chairmen.

He expressed the hope that the water crisis in Gwadar would be resolved this year. He said that water supply from the Gwadar port would be cheaper than supply from the Mirani dam in Turbat. The minister later took a round of the plant where Chinese officials briefed him on the capacity of the plant.

Earlier, Mr Bizenjo was received at the Gwadar airport by port and local administration officials.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1380179>

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, NOT A DROP TO DRINK

The Express Tribune, January 3, 2018

Naeem Sahoutara / Z Ali

KARACHI/HYDERABAD: The roads in Hyderabad, a city that often resembles an island because it is bordered by the Indus River and three canals, saw a sudden rise in the movement of water tankers during the last few days. This vehicular supply, which indicates a shortage of piped water, was instantly followed by the December 25 annual 16-day canals' closure for maintenance during which supply to water filtration plants is significantly reduced.

On December 22, the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) informed its consumers about the impending situation and requested them to use water sparingly all the while assuring that it had sufficient water in its storage ponds.

But almost all parts of Hyderabad began reporting water shortages by December 26 and residents were left at the mercy of the water tankers, which allegedly operate in connivance with Wasa officials. This perceptible collusion reflects one of several practices which amount to non-compliance with and even defiance of the Supreme Court's (SC) judicial commission on water and sanitation.

Probably for the first time in the country's history, the superior judiciary opted to conduct province-wide inspections to verify whether or not the government could provide basic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation and a healthy environment.

The troubles for the Sindh government started in 2016, when the SC took up a constitutional petition seeking direction for the provincial authorities concerned to ensure provision of potable drinking water, improved sanitation and pollution-free environment to the residents across Sindh.

The plea was filed by Advocate Shahab Usto, who had questioned the performance of the North Sindh Urban Services Corporation set up by the Sindh government to carry out development works in northern parts of the province with a \$500 million loan from the Asian Development Bank.

Widening the scope of the proceedings, the apex court's three-member bench, headed by Justice Amir Hani Muslim, had set up a judicial commission to inspect to development schemes meant to supply clean drinking water, improve worsening sanitation conditions and protect the environment.

The inquiry commission, headed by Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro of the Sindh High Court, was also mandated to investigate the failure of the authorities concerned in providing these facilities to the residents of the province.

Starting proceedings on January 2, 2017, Justice Kalhoro headed a single judge bench that kept the Sindh government's bureaucratic machinery on tenterhooks.

During visits to different cities, Justice Kalhoro found that freshwater sources such as rivers and canals were getting polluted with dumping of toxic and poisonous industrial and domestic waste without treatment. He also found that almost all the water filtration and sewage treatment plants were not functioning as the authorities had failed to rehabilitate them.

It found that almost all the water supply and sanitation schemes initiated by the provincial government were not completed due to corrupt practices, mismanagement and negligence.

It also found that up to 90% of the residents in Karachi were being supplied water not fit for human consumption, as it contained bacteria and even human waste.

After identifying the non-functional filtration, sewage and effluent treatment plants, officials were directed to prepare plans for solid waste and effluent management. The commission identified non-functioning filtration, sewage and effluent treatment plants and officials were directed to prepare plans for solid waste and effluent management. Another startling fact that came to light during the course of the commission's investigations was that 90% of water supplied to Karachi was unfit for human consumption due to the presence of bacterial contamination. These revelations were made in a report on water analysis conducted by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, which was submitted to the commission. It stated, based on laboratory samples collected from across the province, that

The report stated that 118 drinking water samples were collected from all over Karachi – 99 samples were collected from surface water sources such as water supply systems, water filtration plants and water pumping stations of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), 13 from underground water sources, three from reverse osmosis plants and three from mixed water sources.

The report concluded that out of the total 118 samples, 104 or 88.1% were found unsafe for human consumption due to presence of total coliforms beyond the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended value of zero per 100 millilitres of colony forming units (cfu) for safe drinking water. Faecal contamination was detected in 40 samples and the E coli colony count was found to be within the range of one to too numerous to count, exceeding the WHO limit of zero per 100ml cfu for safe drinking water.

“Overall data shows that out of total 118 samples, 107 (90.7%) were found unsafe for human consumption while only 11 samples (9.3%) were found fit for human consumption for analysed parameters under the prescribed standards,” the report concluded. “The main reason for the unsafe results is supply of raw [untreated] water with filtered water, improper chlorination, mixing of sewage water and water supply lines/sources, silting of pumping stations/water storage tanks,” it added.

The report said that a total of 460 water samples were collected from surface and underground water sources and RO plants in Karachi, Thatta, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Tando Mohammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar, Nawabshah, Khairpur, Sukkur, Shikarpur and Larkana districts.

Almost all the 237 water supply schemes in Sindh, an overwhelming number of which were not provided electric supply, have been energised. The provincial government felt compelled to double the water and sanitation budget to Rs11.7 billion for the 2017-18 fiscal year.



However, despite all the year-long judicial orders, the objectives of supplying clean drinking water, addressing the artificial water shortage, stopping pollution of waterways and ending dumping and burning of solid municipal, industrial and hospital waste in the open seem unaccomplished. Some officials and the petitioner, advocate Usto, who spoke to The Express Tribune, attributed this to a lack of punitive action against the officials concerned by the commission.

“The canals’ pollution hasn’t ended so far,” concurred Munir Ahmed Abbassi, regional incharge of the Sindh Environment Protection Agency for Hyderabad division. “The burning of domestic and industrial waste in the populated and urban areas also continues.”

According to him, two of the three industrial zones in his region, Hyderabad and Nooriabad site areas, still remain without an effluent treatment plant and release toxic waste in waterways. Only Kotri site area, where a combined effluent treatment plant was built after the SHC’s 2012 order, began treating industrial sewage over three months ago, he added. Municipal sewage is also released in the canals and the river. The commission had ordered action to stop pollution of the canals in Hyderabad and Jamshoro multiple times but to no avail.

“Only four hospitals in the region have installed incinerators but the others are still disposing of the waste in the open,” he lamented. There are hundreds of hospitals, health centres and blood laboratories in the nine districts of Hyderabad division. This is yet another violation of the commission’s orders.

An official of the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) told The Express Tribune on the basis of anonymity that two landfill sites proposed for Hyderabad around a year ago to the Sindh government still remain unapproved. “A summary was sent to the Sindh land utilisation department for a 200 acre site in Jamshoro and 100 acre site in Ganjo Takkar Mountain in Hyderabad. Approval is still awaited.”

According to the official, SSWMB’s office in Hyderabad remained technically dysfunctional. “We are short of staff and we can only begin working when we get the landfill sites and garbage lifting vehicles.” Until the SSWMB becomes functional, the garbage lifting vehicles of the local bodies in all parts of Sindh will continue dumping and burning solid waste in the vacant plots and pieces of land near residential areas.

Usto, who spearheaded the legal battle for clean water and environment in Sindh last year, agreed that the desired reforms in the system could not be achieved as yet but has his fingers crossed. Talking to The Express Tribune, he seemed dismayed that non-compliance with the commission’s various orders has not entailed punishment of officials concerned.

“But now the Supreme Court has taken ownership of the matter. It has become serious.” Usto, who said he fought powerful mafias across Sindh and sustained multiple pressures in the outgoing year, pinned his hopes on the upcoming hearing of the case in the apex court in last week of January. Before that hearing Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has to submit a timeline of an array of water supply, drainage and other projects which the provincial government will execute immediately.

“Chief justice [Mian Saqib Nisar] said at the recent hearing that he would solve this problem before his retirement. This augurs well,” said Usto. The judicial commission earlier this year submitted two reports in the apex court. The Sindh government did not challenge findings of those reports. “This also sounds promising,” he observed.

The government had earlier approved only five combined effluent treatment projects for the industrial zones in Karachi. But on December 30, a meeting chaired by Shah approved construction of 28 treatment plants at a cost of Rs9.61 billion in industrial areas in 21 districts of Sindh.

The lawyer also saw the suo motu notice by the CJP of water supply in Lahore as another sign that the judiciary wanted to provide justice to the citizens who are being denied their right of pure water and clean environment. Usto counted the increasing awareness over the issue in the country as another accomplishment of his endeavours.

## KOTRI BARRAGE CLOSURE CAUSES WATER SHORTAGE

Dawn, January 03, 2018

Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Annual closure of Kotri barrage (from Dec 26, 2017 to Jan 15, 2018) leads to complaints of water shortage in the city as the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) is supplying water under a rationing system. Wasa, which lifts water from the combined channel of the barrage, is facing a shortage of water. The barrage authorities are checking barrage structure and its various parts that usually remain under water for a year. The authorities have stopped supply to all its four canals, including the Kalri Baghar Feeder (KBF), which feeds Keenjhar lake that supplies water to Karachi.

“We have raised pond level of the lake to 50RL (reduced level) which usually remains between 47RL and 49RL to meet water needs of the provincial capital,” said Kotri Barrage Chief Engineer Qadir Paliyo. He said that all three other canals remained closed in terms of water supply.

Wasa is supplying water from its two lagoons near the barrage for feeding its filtration plants. Storage in the lagoon could meet demands of water for a fortnight. Roughly, 50MGD water is to be supplied in the city from Wasa’s facilities and amidst rationing around 15MGD to 18MGD is obtained from the storage till normal water supplies are ensured.

Wasa also lifts water from downstream where currently flow remains at 1,900 cusecs. Due to rationing, 100pc of water supplies are not ensured in the city. Wasa used to have three lagoons. One of them had developed a breach around a decade ago. Since then it was not rebuilt.

A third lagoon in addition to – southern and northern with a cumulative 400MGD – could have placed cash strapped Wasa in somewhat better position. This third 100MGD lagoon was constructed after two lagoons were de-silted around 15 years ago. Wasa is now planning its reconstruction besides de-silting drive for the two lagoons, but it is badly hit by financial constraints ever since its subsidy was withdrawn in 90s. It has been facing serious financial issues.

Unnecessary and ghost employment had made matter worse for its management, but now to some extent the situation is under control after ghost employees of contractual nature were sacked to improve financial health of Wasa. It only has marginal impact on the utility’s finances. Recovery percentage of water shortage leaves a lot to be desired.

“Per day demand of water supplies has increased due to increase in population. We need to have new storages in addition to these two lagoons to face emergency situations like these annual closures,” he said.

Paliyo was of the view that the closure period would not be extended hopefully. He added that maintenance exercise was continue and so far nothing was detected that required extension in closure period of the barrage.

Complaints about water shortage are received from Qasimabad and old city areas which are supposed to be tail-end areas in terms of water supply.

According to Wasa Managing Director Masood Jumani, complaints are on account of load-management plan of the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1380416/kotri-barrage-closure-causes-water-shortage>

## FPCCI ASKS SINDH CM TO UNVEIL WATER PLAN

Dawn, January 5th, 2018

KARACHI: The delay in unveiling of a water plan for the city is causing unrest among builders and developers, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) said on Thursday.

In a statement, FPCCI President Ghazanfar Bilour urged Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah to share the water plan at the earliest so that investments of more than Rs900 billion and thousands of jobs could be saved.

Construction of highrise buildings in Karachi was banned by the Supreme Court following a report by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB). The SC further directed chief minister Sindh to present a viable water plan for the city so that the ban imposed by the apex court could be revisited.

Mr Bilour said the ban on construction of highrise buildings in the city is not only detrimental for builders and developers but also for more than 70 allied industries which are badly suffering.

The FPCCI chief also appealed to Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to intervene in the matter and help resolve it.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1380804/fpcci-asks-sindh-cm-to-unveil-water-plan>

#### NED VARSITY, KWSB TO TEST WATER SAMPLES

Dawn, January 05, 2018

Karachi: The NED University and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board would carry out a joint study to check quality of water being supplied to Karachi so that efforts could be made to improve the water quality.

This decision was taken at a meeting held between NED university Vice Chancellor Dr Sarosh Lodhi and KWSB chief Hashim Zaidi on Thursday.

The university would set up nine research stations equipped with latest testing machinery, where samples would be collected and tested.

The stations would be set up at various places, including Hub, Keenjhar Lake, NED University, Hyderabad, Kotri, Nooriabad, etc.

Normally the samples would be collected after a 15-day period while during rainy days the samples would be collected after every hour.

The NED will also provide training to KWSB staffers for their capacity building so that they eventually take over and carry out the testing themselves, says a statement.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1380824/ned-varsity-kwsb-to-test-water-samples>

#### NEELUM-JHELMUM POWER PROJECT: WATER FILLING IN WATERWAY TUNNELS BEGINS

The Express Tribune, January 6th, 2018.

The strategically important 969-megawatt Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric power project achieved yet another landmark on its way towards completion as water filling (pressurisation) in its waterway comprising 51.5km-long tunnels commenced on Friday.

Being a critical activity, the water filling is being carried out in a phased manner. In the first phase, water is being filled at the tail end.

Speaking on the occasion, Neelum-Jhelum Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Zareen said the project was fast heading towards completion and most of the work – critical in nature – had been completed successfully.

Construction of the weir (dam), waterway system, installation of electrical and mechanical equipment including turbines, generators and transformers in the power house and switchyard, and dry testing of these equipment had already been completed, Zareen said.

While water filling in the reservoir is under way, overall progress on the project stands at about 97%.

Meanwhile, Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairman Muzammil Hussain, in a statement, congratulated project authorities, consultants and contractors for achieving the milestone.

He reiterated that Wapda was committed to completing the Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric power project as early as possible.

The project is a component of the least-cost energy generation plan being implemented by Wapda. The project is located in Azad Jammu and Kashmir with installed capacity of 969MW.

It has four generating units, each of them having capacity of 242.25MW. The first unit will start electricity generation in March this year followed by second, third and fourth units at an interval of one month each.

The project will provide about five billion units of low-cost and environment-friendly electricity to the national grid every year. Annual benefits of the project are estimated at Rs50 billion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1601860/2-neelum-jhelum-power-project-water-filling-waterway-tunnels-begins/>

## **February 2018**

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 26TH TO MARCH 4TH 2018***

#### ***SARTAJ REJECTS DRAFT WATER POLICY***

Mushtaq Ghumman

Business Recorder, Feb 26th, 2018

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Sartaj Aziz has rejected draft National Water Policy prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources, saying that the policy lacks targets and investment plans, well informed sources in Planning Division told Business Recorder. Among the many challenges which Pakistan faces in the water sector, an important one is the absence of an approved national policy on water.

A study was undertaken, under the National Drainage Program (1997-2003) to provide a basis for the formulation of a National Water Policy. The first draft of the policy was submitted in 2003 which was revised in 2005 and 2008, but could not be finalized or approved due to controversies arising from inter provincial allocation of water.

Recently the Ministry of Water Resources, after further consultations with the provinces prepared another draft of the National Water Policy which was submitted to the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for consideration at its 34 session held in December, 2017 where the following decision was taken: “CCI approved the proposal of Minister for Interior that a committee headed by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, and comprising Minister for Power Division, Federal Secretaries of Water Resources, Planning, Development and Reform, Power Division and Chief Secretaries of all the Provinces, be constituted, for further examination of the Policy”.

The draft National Water Policy 2017 prepared by Ministry of Water Resources provides “guidelines to the provinces to develop their water policies and strategies for sustainable development and management of water resources”. However, the draft lacks any kind of quantification of Pakistan’s water resources, projected demand supply gaps,

futuristic water requirement and distribution, financing needs, and mechanisms and provincial role in water governance in post 18th Constitutional Amendments scenario.

According to Sartaj Aziz, a serious deficiency in the draft policy is the absence of targets and investment plans. In its present form, the policy does not present any estimates of financial requirements for achieving the minimum necessary targets at the Federal and Provincial levels. Draft policy does not consider floods as a concern. Besides; draft highlights several usages of water but ignores the new usage areas like coal mining in Sindh.

Sartaj Aziz further maintained that the modern day management of water resources requires highest level of skill and knowledge in the wake of a hovering water crisis. The current draft of water policy is totally silent about this dimension. In fact, the real challenge is not just listing “what” needs to be done, because that is well known, but “how” to do it and “who” will do it with a clear time line.

Sartaj Aziz further stated that highly varied figures have been quoted about access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The water policy should mention the baseline and set targets as to how much this access will be increased in short and medium term.

He maintained that the draft policy ignores several important areas such as rainfed agriculture, and spate irrigation which accounts for 65% in arid to semi arid landmass of the country. Pakistan has adopted Sustainable Development Goals as national development agenda of Pakistan. SDGs address the basic human right safe water and decent sanitation. The draft policy does not mention these targets.

Sartaj Aziz convener committee on National Water Policy stated that a more detailed draft policy can be prepared in the light of comments and guidance provided by the committee on this outline.

Considering the controversies that blocked the final approval of a National Water Policy in 2005-08, and specially after the passage of the 18th Constitutional amendment, Sartaj Aziz has submitted the following outlines for the policy: (i) National Water Policy should lay down a broad policy framework and set of principles for water security on the basis of which the Provincial Governments can formulate their respective Master Plans and projects for water conservation, water development and water management; (ii) major national targets for the water sector including those for water conservation, water storage, irrigation, water treatment and drinking water. These targets can be firmed up in consultation with the Provincial Governments and reviewed periodically for inclusion in the 12th and 13th Five Year Plans;

(iii) National Water Policy should lay down appropriate pricing mechanism to at least recover the O&M cost so that national water assets could be maintained in future. And attract private equity under PPP-framework through Viability Gap Finance (VGF) arrangements. This will reduce the reliance on national exchequer; (iv) an estimate of the investments required for achieving the proposed national targets, its tentative breakdown between Federal and Provincial PSDP

and identification of more innovative modes of financing, which can attract more private investments in the water sector; and (v) institutional deficiencies for project management and cost effective project implementation in the water sector have to be addressed on a war footing to revive the technical capacity and efficiency of the system that achieved such remarkable progress in this sector between 1950 and 1990.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/02/20180226347290/>

SENATE BODY CONCERNED OVER GWADAR WATER CRISIS

Dawn, 27 February 2018

GWADAR: The chairman of the Senate's Standing Sub-Committee on Planning and Development, Shahzeb Durrani, has called for installation of desalination plants to solve the problem of drinking water shortage in Gwadar and its adjacent areas.

He said this during a meeting held in Gwadar on Monday. The meeting was also attended by Senator Muhammad Mohsin Laghari, Public Health Engineering (PHE) department's Chief Engineer Nawaz Sheikh and other officials, Port Authority Director General Dr Sajjad Baloch and Gwadar's Deputy Commissioner Naeem Bazai.

Mr Bazai informed the meeting about the water crisis and alternate measures to resolve the issue.

Mr Durrani along with some officials also visited the newly-constructed Swad dam, Ankra Kour dam and Karwat desalination plant.

Officials said that the PHE and the local administration were supplying drinking water to Gwadar from Mirani dam through tankers at a cost of Rs240 million per month.

They said construction of Swad dam had been completed and pipelines were being laid to connect it with the water distribution system in Gwadar.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1391947/senate-body-concerned-over-gwadar-water-crisis>

#### WATER IN MANGLA DAM REACHES DEAD STORAGE LEVEL

Business Recorder, 27 February 2018

LAHORE: The country's biggest water reservoir on the river Jhelum, Mangla dam with capacity of 7.4MAF has reached its dead level of 1050ft above the sea level and consequently Punjab Irrigation department has closed almost all its perennial and non-perennial irrigation canals till water availability improves in the river Chenab and Jhelum.

According to available data of running water in the rivers, the inflow in the rivers has dropped to the lowest in past 10 years. Only 7,373 cusecs water is flowing in the river Chenab at Marala and 6100 cusecs in the river Jhelum at Mangla dam.

The water regulatory body, Irsa is releasing only run of the river water in the Mangla zone that commands central and eastern Punjab. Water in the Tarbela dam is also nearing its dead level in about ten days reducing the dam's power generation to the minimum level.

It may be recalled that Irsa advisory committee had warned in November 2017 that the forecast of water availability based on the current flow trend in the rivers was found to be 36 per cent short of average system uses. The winter rains have also been below normal this season.

Meanwhile, the Met Office has said that a shallow westerly wave is affecting upper parts of the country. A fresh westerly wave is likely to effect western parts of the country on Wednesday (evening/night).

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/02/27/13-page/702182-news.html>

#### WATER SCARCITY: MUSLIM COUNTRIES FEARED TO RUN DRY BY 2025

The Express Tribune, 27 February 2018

By the year 2025, Islamic countries are predicted to suffer an acute water shortage which will require intensified efforts for its prevention. Governments are advised to implement satellite technologies adopting all legal, economic, social and cultural aspects for achieving water security.



The issue of water shortage was discussed during the inaugural session of the “4th International Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management” on Monday at a local hotel. The conference was organised by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with SUPARCO, the Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz International Prize Of Water (PSIPW), and the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Science and Technology (ISNET).

Speaking on the occasion, SUPARCO member Imran Iqbal shared findings of an international study, according to which by 2050 the per capita availability of water will reduce by half. This decline in water supply will have severe consequences for the region’s already stressed natural hydrological systems, he said.

“Some areas suffer an acute shortage of water, causing aridity and drought resulting in famine and hunger,” said Iqbal while reading out a statement on behalf of the Executive Director ISNET.

He said that more than 1.4 billion people in the developing countries have no access to clean and safe drinking water whereas, more than 450 million people are facing water shortage.

Federal Minister for Interior, and Planning Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal told the participants that the objective of the conference is to promote the use of space technology applications in water management for benefitting developing countries as water is a lifeline for agriculture and economy in these countries.

The minister said climate change will worsen the situation by increasing water stress. “It is also estimated that over the next 20 to 25 years, cities in developing countries will double and so will their demand for integrated approaches to managing water supply, water quality, sanitation, drainage and flood management,” he said.

Highlighting concern over water management, SUPARCO Chairman Qaiser Anees Khurram said, “Water, being an element for sustaining life on the planet, has in fact itself become a huge sustainability issue. And the increasing stress on freshwater resources by the ever-rising demand and growing pollution worldwide is of serious concern.”

Over a 100 eminent scientists and scholars from various countries including Australia, China, USA and Canada participated in the five-day conference.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1645749/1-water-scarcity-muslim-countries-feared-run-dry-2025/>

## DESALINATION PLANTS ANSWER TO GWADAR WATER CRISIS: SENATOR DURRANI

The Express Tribune, 27 February 2018

Sub Committee of Senate Standing Committee on Planning and Development Chairman Shahzaib Durrani has said that installing desalination plants to utilise seawater is the only permanent solution to water crisis in Gwadar. “A comprehensive planning is needed for resolving water issue on a permanent basis,” said the chairman while addressing a meeting held in the port city on Monday. He was flanked by sub-committee member Senator Mohammad Mohsin Laghari and others.

Gwadar Port Authority Director General Dr Sajjad Baloch, Public Health Engineering Chief Engineer Nawaz Sheikh and Gwadar Deputy Commissioner Naeem Bazai informed the members about the water crisis, solution and alternative measures to resolve the serious issue.

Chairman Durrani and other members visited the newly constructed Swad Dam, Ankra Kour Dam and Karwat Desalination Plant.

The PHE officials said that after water crisis, the PHE and local administration were supplying drinking water to the port city from Mirani Dam through tankers spending around Rs240 million per month.



They said a desalination plant was installed in Karwat area of Gwadar to resolve the water issue but it was not producing enough water. However, they said that the construction of Swad Dam had been completed and work on laying the pipeline was underway to connect it with the water distribution system in Gwadar.

“Around 33km pipeline has been completed,” said the PHE engineer, adding that 75% work of the project had been completed.

He said that Ankra Kour Dam constructed in 1994 had dried up four times due to lack of rains. It was constructed for providing water to the 35,000 population of Gwadar, but after the construction of Gwadar Port it was unable to cater to the required water demand.

Durrani said that a huge amount was spent on the installation of Karwat Desalination Plant, but it failed to produce the desired results. “Around Rs1 billion spent on installation of desalination plant in Karwat went to waste,” he said, adding that due to ill-planning and faulty design the plant had become a dead horse.

Suggesting short as well as long-term planning, he said that Ankra Kour Dam should be redesigned and desalination plant’s water-producing capacity should be increased.

He suggested installing a desalination plant with a production capacity of 50 million gallons per day in Gwadar to meet the water requirement.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1645811/1-desalination-plants-answer-gwadar-water-crisis-senator-durrani/>

## IRSA SLAMMED FOR DEPRIVING SINDH OF ITS DUE SHARE OF WATER

Dawn, February 28th, 2018

Habib Khan Ghori

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Tuesday condemned the attitude of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) for depriving the province of its rightful share of water by ‘illegally’ opening up the Chashma-Jhelum and Taunsa-Panjnad link canals.

The house viewed Irsa’s act as a violation of an agreement reached between provinces and demanded that the federal government take serious notice of it and suspend the water diversion until Sindh gave its consent.

The demand was made in a resolution tabled by the parliamentary party leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Functional, Nand Kumar.

After half-a-dozen endorsement speeches by lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani, who called the house in order at 11.45am, put the resolution to a vote and the house carried it unanimously.

In their hard-hitting speeches, the lawmakers traced the history of depriving Sindh of its due water share, particularly when there was a shortage of water in the Indus.

Islamabad asked to suspend water diversion through two link canals

They recalled that the two link canals were built to divert water only in case of flood, or overflow of river. But, they said, despite a shortage of water flow in the Indus, Sindh was being deprived of its due share of 1,000 cusecs daily which is badly affecting its economy and agriculture.

Mr Kumar, in his brief speech, said that due to water emergency over 1.1 million people from nine districts of Sindh had migrated elsewhere.

PML-F's Mehtab Akbar Rashdi said the Sindh representative in Irsa ought to protest against diverting the water in violation of the water accord and to approach the inter-provincial coordination department for ensuring implementation of the 1999 Water Accord.

Pakistan Peoples Party's Imdad Pitafi said: "We want to see the state strong provided justice [is] done with its federating units."

He said that a strong protest be lodged with the federal government over "deprivation" of the people's water share.

Syed Sardar Ahmad of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement said that the resolutions should be pursued and if not implemented, another resolution be tabled in the house because getting due share of water is the province's right.

PML-N's Sorath Thebo said it was the best resolution and it should be implemented.

Khairunnisa Mughal said whenever the PML-N came into power it created a water crisis to justify the need for building the controversial Kalabagh dam.

Dr Sikander Mandhro of the ruling PPP said under the United Nations charter, water should flow to lower riparian. He said Sindh had also raised the issue in the recent Council of Common Interests meeting in Islamabad.

He also suggested formation of a special committee to pursue the resolutions related to the inter-provincial coordination department for their implementation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1392164/irsa-slammed-for-depriving-sindh-of-its-due-share-of-water>

#### ASSEMBLY MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY PASS RESOLUTION AGAINST IRSA, PUNJAB

The Express Tribune, 28 February 2018

The Sindh Assembly unanimously adopted on Tuesday a resolution against the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) and Punjab for 'stealing' Sindh's water.

The resolution was moved by Pakistan Muslim League – Functional (PML-F) parliamentary leader Nand Kumar Goklani. "Despite Sindhs' protest and severe water crises in the province, Irsa has illegally opened the Chashma-Jhelum Link Canal and Taunsa-Panjnad Canal, violating the inter-provincial agreement [and] depriving Sindh of its rightful water share," read the resolution.

"We condemn the attitude of Irsa and demand the concerned authorities in the federal government to take serious notice of it and suspend the water diversion until Sindh gives consent," the resolution read.

Goklani also referred to a Food and Agriculture Organisation report which had warned that Sindh was facing water scarcity.

"There is a pathetic situation in nine districts of Sindh, including Tharparkar, Badin, Sanghar, Dadu, Thatta, Jamshoro, Umerkot, Khairpur and Mirpurhas, where 3,565 households, 272 villages, 100 union councils, and 33 tehsils are worst affected due to a lack of potable water and sanitation facilities," Goklani said. He added that in some areas of Thatta, water was so scarce that people were not even bathing the bodies of their loved ones during last rites.

The PML-F parliamentary leader accused Irsa of supplying Chashma-Jhelum Link Canal with thousands of cusecs of waters throughout the year, even though the canal was a flood canal and it was supposed to get water only in the flood season.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1646513/1-assembly-members-unanimously-pass-resolution-irsa-punjab/>

## WATER FIGHT

The Express Tribune, March 1st, 2018.

Despite being adjacent to the Arabian Sea and possessing direct access to the Indian Ocean through multiple ports, Pakistan is fractured when it comes to cooperation between provinces over water allocation. This is evidenced in the Sindh Assembly's recent adoption of a resolution against Punjab and the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) on account of thievery of Sindh's water resources.

The theft is allegedly due to Irsa opening the Chashma-Jhelum Link Canal and the Taunsa-Panjad Link Canal during unwarranted periods. Having garnered support from major political players, the concord between parties is peculiarly juxtaposed with the timing of the resolution. It is an election year when parties are afraid to do anything to upset their constituencies and this is a clear-cut case for the Council of Common Interests as it must consider the timing.

Several parties have suddenly awoken from slumber and have become alerted to Sindh's water woes notwithstanding that water scarcity has been a persistent problem for years. Yet, magically, we have resolutions, arguments, and statistics to bolster Sindh legislators' statements. Perhaps the figures offered on the number of households and villages affected should be corroborated by factual reports as the abrupt action by Sindh is suspicious in terms of the timing and lacks credence. There is no doubt about water scarcity in Sindh but we inquire about the intentions of authorities to pursue the issue at this time, as to whether they seek to appease constituencies or to resolve the crux of the matter.

Ordinary citizens of Sindh can only hope for the latter in that their leaders intend to fix water scarcity for the long term. The news of Thatta residents' consternation about bathing deceased loved ones for final rites is perturbing and we acknowledge that there truly is a problem. However, conflict-resolution between the two provinces and Irsa should hold authorities accountable to ensure that they see the resolutions through until water scarcity is eliminated.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1647387/6-water-fight/>

## WATER DISPUTE: PAKISTAN STILL AWAITING WB'S RESPONSE

Business Recorder, 1 March 2018

Mushtaq Ghumman

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Ministry of Water Resources Shamail Ahmad Khawaja said on Wednesday that Pakistan is waiting for final response from a "biased" World Bank on the mechanism to resolve dispute with New Delhi on two hydroelectric projects – Kishanganga 330 MW and Ratle 850 MW.

He disclosed this at a meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Water Resources, headed by Khalid Hussain Magsi . The meeting was attended by almost a dozen members of the committee, many of who did not even participate in the discussion and left the meeting after signing attendance sheet to ensure they get their attendance money.

Secretary Water Resources said that there was a "pause" between Pakistan and India after talks in Washington in September last year under the aegis of World Bank, which brokered the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in 1960.

Insiders claim that there is a bias in the World Bank against Pakistani due to considerable strength of Indians in the Bank's head office.

Shamail Khawaja said that according to the Treaty, first the Water Commissioners of the two countries would try to resolve a dispute on hydropower projects and, if differences remain then a neutral expert is appointed to resolve the dispute. If either of the Commissioners decides that the dispute remains unresolved then it is referred to Court of Arbitration with the cooperation of the World Bank.

He said Pakistan is urging the establishment of Court of Arbitration (CoA) to resolve the dispute whereas India is asking for appointment of Neutral Expert.

He informed the committee that Pakistan had written a letter to President of the World Bank, saying that there is already a prolonged delay on the part of the World Bank with India nearing completion of the Kishanganga hydroelectric project, and requested an active role by the Bank. To this, the World Bank wrote that it is dispatching a high level delegation to Pakistan headed by World Bank South Asia Region Vice President, Annette Dixon. The delegation visited Pakistan in January 2018. An inter-stakeholder meeting finalised the strategy and held detailed deliberations with the World Bank Vice President for South Asia.

According to him, the World Bank's delegation informed the meeting that they have also held deliberations with India and reiterated that in the Bank's view, appointment of Neutral Expert is reasonable instead of constitution of Court of Arbitration.

"Our viewpoint is that some issues with India are of technical nature whereas some are of a judicial nature," he said, adding that 23 issues are declared technical in the Treaty.

Secretary Water Resources said, the World Bank maintained that the first neutral expert should separate the nature of issues falling under the jurisdiction of neutral expert and Court of Arbitration.

However, Pakistan during the talks stressed that its objections on the projects' designs are of technical and judicial nature and should be sorted out by the Court of Arbitration. Pakistan is now waiting for response from the World Bank.

The committee also discussed water issues amongst the provinces. The members of Indus Water System Authority (Irsa), representatives of Provincial Irrigation Departments also attended the meeting. Chairman Irsa briefed the committee about the role of regulator and current the water situation. He said, presently, the country is facing shortage of 36 per cent.

The committee witnessed wide differences between the provinces on the Water Apportionment Accord 1991. Nawab Yousuf Talpur raised his voice against release of water in accordance with the amended Accord. Special Secretary Irrigation Sindh termed amendment in Water Accord a crime on the part of Irsa.

When the committee recommended that if Sindh is aggrieved party, then it should approach Council of Common Interests (CCI), Nawab Yousuf Talpur and Sindh government representative objected arguing that Irsa should approach CCI. The committee was informed that wheat crop in Sindh is being destroyed due to shortage of water. The representatives of Punjab government explained that the situation in southern Punjab is the same.

They said water availability is calculated on the basis of historical use of 103 MAF for Sindh but the province is seeking its share on the supposed availability of 114 MAF which was linked to the construction of new reservoir which has not materialized.

Member Irsa KPK Raqib Khan said the regulator is supply 26,000 cusecs of water to Sindh against its share of 20,000 cusecs.

The representative of Balochistan government accused the Sindh province of stealing its water for the last 27 years.

He said there are seven unauthorized outlets in Sindh territory between RD-102 and RD-116. He proposed that additional discharge of 180 cusecs be provided down-stream through Garang regulator for the losses incurred by the province.

To address the issue of shortages in discharge, he suggested that Sindh should strengthen monitoring mechanism. Irsa should depute two Assistant Engineers at Pat-feeder canal at RD 109 and Kirther canal RD-102.

The Balochistan representative further stated that Balochistan has been given 21 MAF less discharge since the Apportionment Accord 1991, requesting that the province should be compensated by Sindh for utilizing its water share, the price of which has been calculated at Rs 140 billion.

After witnessing hot debate between Irsa, Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan sans conclusion, Chairman standing committee deferred the agenda till the next meeting.

Nawab Yusuf Talpur asked Special Secretary Sindh to “stop stealing” Balochistan water. Chairman Standing Committee Khalid Magsi also urged Sindh government to stop this practice adding that Balochistan’s share is already meager which needs to reach its real destination.

Secretary Water Resources said the four units of 969 MW Neelum Jehlum Hydropower Project will be fully operational by end of May this year.

He said the first unit of NJHP will commence generation during the current month.

He said the political leadership should ink “Water Charter” and get it approved from the Parliament so that every government should focus on agreed water reservoirs.

The Ministry of Water Resources will submit National Water Policy in the next meeting of Council of Common Interests (CCI) which will be duly represented by the Chief Ministers.

Khawaja who is running the affairs of Ministry with just with one Joint Secretary, Mehar Ali Shah, who has also been given additional charge of Pakistan Indus Water Commissioner, sensitized the committee on water reservoirs, saying “Pakistan has done nothing with respect to constructing reservoirs; we are facing critical situation of now or never. Mohmand dam (Munda dam) should be started as early as possible. The CCI has decided to start Diamar Bhasha hydropower projects with our own resources. Wapda must arrange funds from equity. The cost of projects has reached \$ 15 billion (Rs 1600 billion) which could have been completed in just \$ 1 billion when its concept was started 30 years ago”.

“We need at least Rs 120 billion in 2018-19 and Mohmand, if we have to start work on Diamer Bhasha,” he added.

He said the government had allocated Rs 36 billion for 81 hydel projects against demand of 172 billion in 2017-18. The committee was informed that Finance Division is not releasing duly approved funds despite recommendations from Planning and Development Division. He said, with this pace of allocation, the on-going 35 projects will be completed from between 14 years to 32 years at current rate.

He said in 2013-14, the allocation for water sector projects was 10.7 per cent out of total PSDP but this has been slashed since.

Secretary Water Resources revealed that the Ministry has sought Rs 203.7 billion for 2018-19, of which Rs 126 billion has been disbursed.

According to press release, the committee was informed about the latest status of alleged construction of Kishan Ganga and Ratlay Hydel Projects by India. Pakistan has approached the World Bank to resolve the mutual disputes between India and Pakistan with regard to the Indus Water Treaty in the International Court of Arbitration rather than appointing neutral experts as it does not come under the jurisdiction of the later.

The committee also discussed the reservations of some of the provinces over the distribution of water through Water Apportionment Accord 1991. The Committee expressed concern over the absence of Secretaries of Water & Irrigation Department of provinces and decided to discuss the said agenda in the next meeting with directions to ensure presences of all the concerned Secretaries.

The committee was briefly apprised about the budgetary proposals relating to Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the next financial year 2018-19. The Committee endorsed all the budgetary proposals of the Ministry and directed to complete their on-going projects on top priority basis.

MNAs, Ch. Muhammad Tufail, Malik Ihtebar Khan, Lt-Col. Ghulam Rasul Sahi (Retd.), Sardar Mansab Ali Dogar, Rana Muhammad Ishaq, Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur, Nawab Ali Wassan, Junaid Akbar, Salim Rehman, Syed Waseem Hussain, Moulana Gohar Shah, Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Abdul Qahar Khan Wadan and Syed Ghazi Ghulab Jamal attended the meeting, besides officials of the Ministry.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/03/01/23-page/702618-news.html>

#### SENATORS ASK GOVT TO RESOLVE GWADAR WATER WOES

The Express Tribune, 2 March 2018

The Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reforms on Thursday asked the government to outsource Gwadar city water supply project to any reputed international firm.

The committee meeting, chaired by Senator Col (retd) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi, observed that the annual cost of water supply to city residents through tankers was around Rs1 billion.

Mashhadi said, “The tanker mafia, operating in Gwadar city, was looting people by charging exorbitant rates for its service. We cannot leave people of the city at mercy of the tanker mafia.”

A report of the Senate sub-committee was also presented during the meeting.

The committee was also briefed by a senior official of the Ministry of Science and Technology about the serious issue of sea erosion.

He said the government was vigilant and had allocated a reasonable amount to start work on the project, which had various phases like compiling preliminary report and required data.

Senator Kareem Khawaja said, “We need to understand gravity of the issue in the provinces which are facing serious threats of sea intrusion and land erosion.”

He said, “I have been pushing the issue for last many years. I requested the ministry to start work on the project as soon as possible because sea erosion had affected the land in two provinces.”

The chairman termed the issue 'national' and sought attention of the federal government.

"The Sindh government has started work on the sea erosion which is encouraging," he added. Among others, the meeting was attended by senators Mufti Abdul Sattar, Karim Ahmed Khawaja, Saud Majeed and Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani, besides senior officials of the ministries of planning and development and science and technology.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1648831/1-senators-ask-govt-resolve-gwadar-water-woes/>

#### HYDEL POWER: NEELUM-JHELUM SET TO START ELECTRICITY GENERATION

The Express Tribune, March 2nd, 2018.

The strategically important Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project, located in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, is all set to start electricity generation after water filling in the head race tunnel commenced on Tuesday.

The head race tunnel is a component of the 52-kilometer long water way system of the project that has been constructed underground across high mountain areas to divert water from the reservoir to the power house of the project. Subsequent to filling of the head race tunnel, wet commissioning of the first generating unit will be carried out, meaning electricity generation will start from the project by the end of the current month.

Addressing the ceremony, Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairperson Muzammil Hussain lauded the completion of core components of the project including construction of dam, de-sander, water way system including head and tail race tunnels, underground power house, transformers hall, switchyard and transmission line to evacuate electricity generated by the project.

Besides installing electro-mechanical equipment, most of their tests have also been successfully conducted. The first unit will start electricity generation by end-March, followed by the second, third and fourth units at one month intervals respectively, he said.

Hussain expressed satisfaction at Wapda completing its third project of the year, after Golen Gol Hydropower Project in January and Tarbela 4th Extension Hydropower Project in February.

The Neelum-Jhelum project will provide about 5 billion units of low-cost hydel electricity to the national grid every year. Annual benefits of the project have been estimated at Rs50 billion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1648558/2-hydel-power-neelum-jhelum-set-start-electricity-generation/>

#### SATELLITE-BASED DATA: 'SPACE TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP OVERCOME WATER CRISIS'

The Express Tribune, 3 March 2018

The optimum use of space technology can help curb the fast-growing water crisis around the globe, especially in countries like Pakistan that has been ranked 26th among the most water-stressed states.

"Not only the space technology provides cost-efficient methods for water management, it also accurately monitors and predicts the long-term trends of depletion of resources," said Federal Minister for Power Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari on Friday as he spoke on the concluding ceremony of the 4th International Conference on the 'Use of Space Technology for Water Management'.

The issues pertaining to water resource management had become so pressing that World Economic Forum (WEF) had been naming water as one of its top challenges for the last two years, the minister said, adding that multi-sectoral solutions were required to deal with the water-related challenges.



“We need to use water efficiently and it can be carried out through well-defined water property rights, besides reuse of seawater through desalination and building additional water storage facilities,” the minister stated.

Over 100 delegates belonging to more than 29 countries presented the outcomes of their research works during the five-day moot. Speaking on the concluding day, the experts emphasised that the data obtained from the space technology could significantly help in building water reservoirs and protecting the environment by taking necessary measures for water management.

Elaborating on the technical side, the experts also discussed ways to expand the use of space technology in form of satellite-based remotely sensed data, geographic information system (GIS) and subsequent information products for better management of water resources.

“The space technology is best known for its synoptic and wider geographical coverage and system efficiency,” said Suparco Chairman Qaiser Anees Khurram, adding that countries could take informed decisions for water management through the use of satellite-based data.

The moot, held at a local hotel, was jointly organised by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), and Inter-Islamic Network on Space Science and Technology.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1649700/1-satellite-based-data-space-technology-can-help-overcome-water-crisis/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 19TH TO FEBRUARY 25TH 2018

WATER WOES

Business Recorder, 19 February 2018

Pakistan has surpassed Ethiopia in water scarcity. In the next seven years Pakistan will experience water shedding worse than electricity load shedding with water load shedding for up to several hours. If this is not a socio-economic bombshell than nothing else is. Water scarcity and water contamination are the most lethal weapons of mass destruction. Pakistan is being systematically destroyed by these weapons. The tragedy is that these weapons owe their existence due to our lack of vision and failure of government policies.

Pakistan, unlike Australia, which is naturally and geographically water starved, was blessed with abundant water supply. Pakistan started off as a water affluent country in 1947, with per capita availability of renewable water at more than 5,000 cubic meters, is now on the verge of becoming water stressed, with per capita availability down to almost 1,000 cubic meters.

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) delivered an alarming warning- if the government does not take action, the country will run out of water by 2025. This gives us just seven more years of doing something immediately to stop this mass leakage of a resource that is not only needed to live but to earn livelihood in this country. Pakistan is an agri-based economy and 90% of water is used in crop rearing and farming.

Pakistan's GDP is directly and indirectly affected by the availability and quality of water present for drinking, farming, and thus affecting manufacturing, and exporting. The loss is huge if we calculate that 90 percent of Pakistan's water is used for agriculture, with 60 percent of its population directly involved in agriculture and livestock, and 80 percent of exports based on agri-based textiles.

No wonder Pakistan has had the lowest agricultural growth of less than 2.5% in the last 5 years where exports have nose-dived to \$20 billion instead of the 29 billion targeted for 2017-18.

The water situation in Pakistan needs an emergency working on war footing response. Long-term strategies include preservation of water bodies and conservation of water. Medium-term strategies include reviewing water treaties, building water reservoirs to ensure sustainable and equitable water distribution. Short-term strategies include water treatment and stakeholder education to economize and optimize the use of available water for different household, sanitation, and industrial purposes.

Global warming has had a disastrous impact on our glaciers that our melting at an unprecedented rate. Pakistan is the 7th most vulnerable country in the world due to climatic change. Of the 43 lakes in Pakistan, levels of 26 have dropped drastically in the past few years. Deforestation has created an ecological imbalance, giving rise to extreme weathers of heat, flash floods and earthquakes, etc.

The government has given some importance to these matters especially the KP government's billion tree tsunami authenticated by WWF and acknowledged by Bonn Challenge has been followed by Federal government's green initiative programme. However much more needs to be done.

Pakistan dumps water worth \$22 billion into the sea every year mainly because of lack of storage capacity and poor conservation practices. Crop development is also unplanned and suboptimal. Since 90% of water is being consumed in agriculture, the crop production is a contentious issue. Sugarcane production is supposed to be the main culprit that guzzles enormous amount of water.

However, to stop sugar factories and limit their output is almost impossible as all major politicians of all top political parties are owners of multiple sugar mills earning billions in revenue. Also, farmer education on the right use of water for certain crops can improve water conservation. Wheat studies have shown that many times in times of famine and drought the crop actually increased as it is excessively and carelessly used by the growers on wheat which requires careful use of water.

Water shortage is likely to promote tensions not only internally but cross border as well. The Indus Water Treaty that historically has been contentious yet equitable in deciding the ratio of the Himalayan water sharing between Pakistan and India, has recently become a contentious issue. "Water that belongs to India cannot be allowed to go to Pakistan," said Indian Prime Minister Modi last year.

The then Foreign Affairs Advisor, Sartaj Aziz, replied that revocation of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) by India "can be taken as an act of war." This may be just political sparring but can escalate into actual war with shortage of waters on both sides. Pakistan being the lower riparian has always been struggling with this issue. Internally 80% of rural agri-related crimes take place on water distribution issues as the irrigation system is outdated and the feudal power in rural areas asserts its will on diverting water flows to their advantage.

In cities, the main problem is water contamination. Metro cities like Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi are water disasters as 70% drinking water is arsenic and unsafe for consumption. Sewerage pipes and water pipes are all the same with the result that Pakistan has the highest incidence of Hepatitis C in the world.

Gastro infections and skin diseases abound. After electricity and gas, water shortage will spike unrest and protests in future. As elections 2018 approach it is important that political parties create their manifestos with these priorities in mind. They must have a water policy that addresses the emergency of water shortages.

As per a forecast, in seven years Pakistan will run out of water and thus if water security, water availability and water quality are not prime focus in political agendas, the 2018 elected government may find itself literally left high and dry on water issues.

HYDERABAD: The Supreme Court-appointed one-man judicial commission on Monday visited water supply and drainage installations in Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar and Mirpurkhas on Monday. It ordered rehabilitation of oxidation ponds in Tando Allahyar and filtration plants in Mirpurkhas.

Retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, who heads the commission, was accompanying chairman of the SC-appointed task force Jamal Mustafa Syed, public health engineering (PHE) chief engineer Nafees Sheikh, Local Government Secretary Ramzan Awan, Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) head Masood Jumani, the Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) director general and others.

Justice Muslim ordered de-silting of an otherwise abandoned Wadhu Wah (canal) that passes through Qasimabad. He was informed that around 180 sweepers were available with the Qasimabad Municipal Committee. The judge directed that all these sanitary workers be engaged to get Wadhu Wah cleaned.

In Ali Nagar, people informed the judge about broken sewerage line. He asked Mr Jumani to ensure its repair and get the problem resolved.

LG secretary Ramzan Awan informed the commission that a summary had been floated to the chief minister and an early approval was expected. The Wasa MD said that the HDA had been faced with serious financial problems ever since the building control department was created as a separate entity and HDA had been stripped of its authority to recover betterment charges. He said that the authority was given to the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA).

He directed the Wasa MD and SBCA director general to appear before the commission on Feb 24 in Karachi to discuss financial issues of HDA and Wasa.

In Tando Allahyar, the commission visited oxidation ponds for sewage treatment near Naseer canal. It was told that the ponds were not operational.

Justice Muslim said that the municipal or town committee concerned should bear the cost of rehabilitation of the scheme and the PHE should ensure execution.

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas, the judge visited filtration plants near east and west Jamrao canal which were found dysfunctional. He was informed that the municipality concerned lacked technical expertise to run the plants. The officials accompanying the judge stated that around Rs5 million was required for the rehabilitation of each filtration plant. Justice Muslim said cost should be borne by the municipality or town committee concerned.

Justice Amir Hani Muslim also visited various water supply schemes in Satellite Town, Jarwary Shakh and other areas in Mirpurkhas along with Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Memon, chief municipal officer Shafique Ahmed Shah, PHE executive engineer Ahmed Abro and other officials.

During the visit to the Jarwary Shakh, the judge expressed his dissatisfaction over the recent operation for the removal of encroachments from along the water channel's banks and irrigation department's lands. He directed the officials to removal all such encroachments.

He also issued directives regarding preventive measures against disposal of effluent into waterworks to ensure supply of safe drinking water to citizens.

The judge asked the official in charge of Satellite Town water supply scheme to take immediate steps for keeping the reservoir clean. He also told PHE executive engineer Mr Abro to get the fallen parts of the outer wall of the installation reconstructed within the next two days.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1390421/judicial-commission-orders-rehabilitation-of-water-ponds-filtration-plants>

## ADB-FUNDED PROJECT TO IMPROVE BALOCHISTAN'S WATER SITUATION

Amin Ahmed

Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, February 19th, 2018

AN Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded project comprising six schemes is being launched in Balochistan to help bring hundreds of acres of land under irrigation in Karkh valley that will not only increase command area but also ensure sustained water supply.

This is the second project submitted to the ADB for developing water resources in the province.

Under the Balochistan Water Resources Development Project (BWRDP), the Asian bank will also assist the province build earth-filled Sri Toi water storage dam and irrigation project in the northern part of the basin on an isolated tributary of Zhob river.

Work on the Balochistan Water Resources Development Project is scheduled to start in October and will take five years to complete

The proposed Karkh river schemes are located a few kilometres from each other and are therefore being bundled up. These schemes will bring 5,560 acres under cultivation out of which 4,940 acres are already under cultivation, while an additional 620 acres will be added to the command area.

On the other hand, the Kharzan Hatachi infiltration gallery is located on Mula river, about 120km north-east of Khuzdar town via the Ratodero-Gwadar motorway. The schemes will bring 1,680 acres under cultivation, while an additional 260 acres will be added to the existing command area.

The project is aimed at providing more irrigation water to the existing and available command area in Kharzan and Hatachi villages. The subproject will also provide the protection bund along some reaches of command area to preserve them from floodwater. The availability of water round the year will increase productivity and enhance income generation activities in the area.

A technical report prepared for the project and submitted to the ADB says that although Kharzan is already receiving its required irrigation water, there is a conflict on the water use among the villages of Kharzan and Hatachi. Building infiltration galleries for each village will resolve this issue.

Furthermore, as Hatachi is downstream of Kharzan village it receives irrigation water only when the water requirement of Kharzan has been met by Mula river.

The project will ensure water supplies to 1,420 acres existing commands, and also adding 260 acres new command area in Hatachi, flood protection for Kharzan and Hatachi villages with proper distribution of readily available water with little investment and optimum productivity.

The province experiences frequent spells of droughts and occasional but torrential floods. Perennial rivers are rare in the region and life is mostly dependent on run-off farming (called khushkaba) or spate irrigation (flood water harvesting or sailaba).

The proposed Karkh valley development subproject involves general work, the construction of the Jhalaro weir and the rehabilitation of the Chutta weir.

The proposed Mula river interventions involve building infiltration gallery for Kharzan and Hatachi villages, lining canals, rehabilitating the irrigation system, and improving flood protection works — raising existing bunds and protecting new low-lying command areas.

Weirs at the Karkh river were constructed 20 years ago and have been operating over the passage of time. A lack of maintenance has damaged the existing infrastructure and has become useless for irrigation works. The rehabilitation of existing structures with minor additional works and cleaning of weeds is proposed because of its success in the past.

The project is aimed at providing more irrigation water to the existing and available command area in Kharzan and Hatachi villages. The subproject will also provide the protection bund along some reaches of command area to preserve them from floodwater

The project area is considered as poor from an economic perspective and subsistence farming is the economic mainstay. The technical report recommends that the project should be implemented to change the economic conditions, as with the increasing population and scarcity of resources residents are forced to abandon their homes in search of livelihood and grazing grounds for their cattle stock.

In Kharzan and Hatachi, crops are cultivated both during Rabi and Kharif seasons. Rabi crops include wheat, mash bean, onion, tomatoes, while Kharif crops are onion, tomatoes, cucumber, water melon, melon, rice, cotton.

In addition to field crops, farmers have also grown horticulture and fruit crops, including mangoes, date palm and lemon.

Currently, the perennial surface flow is diverted to irrigate the existing command area in Hatachi and Kharzan villages. Due to the presence of considerable surface water, it is also used for livestock, drinking and other domestic purposes. Although perennial flow is used for irrigation, flood water is also available during high flow season.

The BWRDP project is scheduled to complete in five years, starting in October this year and ending in September 2023.

The bidding and award process for core subprojects in the Mula river basin is scheduled in the first three months of the project. The Karkh river development subproject includes the command area development and some rehabilitation works, while Kharzan and Hatachi infiltration gallery subproject includes the construction of two infiltration galleries, one for each village and their irrigation network.

The two core subprojects, to be completed in two years, are the first two to be constructed. Both will start in November this year and end in October 2020 and their watershed development works are scheduled in March 2020 to August 2021.

The technical report of the project has recommended that new structures like the extension of infiltration gallery tunnel, lining of infiltration gallery wells, infiltration gallery tunnel cleaning, lining of covered channel, open channel lining, social structures and time division structures should be constructed for an efficient use of water to increase cropping intensity in the command area of the infiltration gallery.

The provision of permanent infrastructure will improve system efficiency by reducing losses and conveyance times between the source and outlets. These savings will help expand the command area, diversify cropping pattern and increase cropping intensities.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1390295/adb-funded-project-to-improve-balochistans-water-situation>

## WATER COMMISSION DISPLEASED AT DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE INTO SANGHAR CANAL

Dawn, February 22nd, 2018

**SANGHAR:** Expressing his displeasure over release of sewage into Sanghar Minor, the head of one-man Supreme Court-appointed commission on water quality in Sindh directed the officials concerned to immediately stop its disposal into the canal.

Justice Muslim gave the direction during inspection of various drinking water schemes, installations and drainage facilities in Tando Adam, Shahdadpur and Sanghar on Wednesday.

During his visit to Shahdadpur, he inspected the under construction Improvement Extension Urban Water Supply Scheme. He was told that it was to be originally completed in June 2011, but due to some reasons and lack of funds it had been delayed. He expressed dissatisfaction over the inordinate delay in its completion, and directed the chief engineer of the public health department and chairman of planning and development to complete the remaining work in six months and make it functional by December 2018. In Tando Adam, he inspected the urban water supply scheme No. 4 and expressed his strong displeasure over its bad condition. He passed the directions to immediately desilt the reservoirs and told the judicial magistrate to oversee the exercise.

During the visit to the water supply installations in Sanghar, he found illegal occupation, damaged boundary wall, dirt, weeds and co-joined drinking water supply line and sewers.

No responsible official from the municipal committee of Sanghar was present on the occasion for briefing on the state of water reservoirs and drainage. The judge was told that the chairman of the municipal committee was imprisoned and facing a trial in a criminal case. Citizens told the judge that the municipal affairs were being handled by the accounts officer and the office superintendent. He expressed his strong disapproval over this state of affairs and wondered what the use of the elected body was if the affairs were to be managed by two office officials.

He issued directives to immediately remove the grass cultivated by municipal officials, dirt and weeds in and around the reservoirs.

He also directed to separate the sewer pipes from drinking water supply lines and asked the municipal committee vice chairman to get the boundary wall repaired within two days for protection of reservoirs against the undue interference of private persons and stray animals.

He ordered that in the absence of the municipal committee chairman, the vice chairman would use necessary powers to look after the affairs of the water installations and drainage and directed the accounts officer not to stop the funds to this effect. He told the accounts officer to attend the office of the commission in Karachi on Saturday along with the relevant documents to justify as to under what rules the development budget of the municipal committee was being utilised by the committee formed by the chairman who had been in prison.

Justice Muslim also visited the RO plant of Pak Oasis. Company officials told him that the plant had a capacity of 100,000 gallons water treatment daily, but it was not being utilised to its capacity. They suggested that it be upgraded for the optimum utilisation of the public.

The commission head ordered that the upgrade cost be borne by the municipal committee and the technical support be provided by the public health department.

He also inspected the new water supply scheme site. When he asked the officials about the cultivation of crops within the boundary wall of the site, which was also damaged, he was told that due to non-payment of the dues of the lands acquired for the scheme, the landowners had started cultivating the crops.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1390957>

## WORLD BANK 'MODERATELY' SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS ON \$73M WATER PROJECT

The Express Tribune, February 25th, 2018.

A \$73-million foreign-funded project that Pakistan had undertaken to ensure food security through better planning of water resources is facing execution problems due to lax management by the government.

In its latest report on Water Sector Capacity Building and Advisory Services Project, known as WCAP, the World Bank has again termed the progress towards achievement of the project goals as “moderately satisfactory”.

It is not for the first time that the World Bank has given a poor rating to the project. Since 2008, when Pakistan had signed the first loan of \$38 million, the World Bank has conducted 17 reviews of the project. The scheme earned seven poor ratings on account of achievement of goals. The World Bank also graded the project as moderately satisfactory or unsatisfactory 11 times on the scale of overall implementation progress.

However, in its fresh implementation status report, the World Bank changed the overall implementation rating from moderately unsatisfactory to moderately satisfactory after the government appointed a new project director from January this year.

The wastage of foreign loans remains a concern, particularly at a time when the country is heading fast towards a debt trap.

The officials in the Ministry of Water Resources blamed the government's decision to give additional charge of the project to a government servant for poor performance of the scheme. The new project director, Ahmed Kamal, is primarily the Federal Flood Commission chairman. The \$73-million scheme is not his primary responsibility. Before him, Water Ministry Joint Secretary Syed Mehar Ali Shah was the project director for a few months.

The Planning Commission's guidelines, which were issued after getting approval from the National Economic Council, state that the projects having more than Rs3 billion costs should have independent full time project directors.

But it seems that the World Bank also does not have a problem with the government's decision to run the scheme through ad-hoc administrative heads.

“Over the life of this project there have been a number of different project directors, but all have been government officials with other official government responsibilities, and this has not in of itself restricted progress on the project,” said a spokesperson of the World Bank.

The spokesperson said that the project director has always been a part-time role filled by a government official, supported by a full-time technical team leader recruited from the private sector and the recent appointment of a new, well regarded and highly experienced team leader bodes well for accelerating implementation.

Dr Akhtar Bhatti has been hired as the team leader for the project.

In November 2015, the World Bank had approved an additional credit of \$35 million to scale up project activities and consolidate gains made under the initial phase, taking its total cost to \$73 million or Rs8 billion at the current exchange rate.



The capacity-building project has been under implementation since 2008. It was scheduled to be completed by 2014 but was extended further. The project was restructured on March 15, 2012 due to low disbursement ratio, duplication of some and emerging new priorities in the wake of the 2010 floods, according to the World Bank documents.

The component structure remained the same, however, some new activities were added and others were dropped due to lack of progress.

Pakistan's economy is largely dependent on the management and development of the water resources of the Indus River Basin. The country relies on the largest contiguous irrigation system in the world, the Indus Basin Irrigation System to provide basic food security.

However, the water availability in the Indus Basin River is highly seasonal with 85% of annual river flows occurring during June to September period, making storage imperative.

Under the second phase of the project, the government aims at improving the telemetry systems for better monitoring of the waters shares allocated by Indus River System Authority to the provinces, said an official of the water resources ministry. He said that the strategic studies of the Kabul Basin are also planned for better predictability of the water flows from the Kabul River.

The official said that the main reason behind recent poor ratings of the scheme was the slow disbursements of the loan. In order to address the World Bank's concerns, the government has fast tracked the procurement processes, he added.

The official hoped that the World Bank would change the project rating after the next mission, which is expected to visit Islamabad in March.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1643989/2-world-bank-moderately-satisfied-progress-73m-water-project/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 12TH TO FEBRUARY 18TH 2018  
MODERN IRRIGATION SYSTEM NEEDED TO COPE WITH CLIMATIC CHANGES  
Business Recorder, 12 February 2018

SIALKOT: Punjab government has launched a comprehensive programme to introduce new techniques to promote agriculture sector on modern lines and to save the irrigation water from wastage through modern irrigation system to cope with the fast climatic changes.

Sources in Agriculture department told Business Recorder on Sunday that 25 percent canal water, 30 percent water courses and 35 percent water is wasted in agriculture fields from available water resources as a result of which availability of water reduced to 45 million acre feet whereas 65 million acres feet water is needed for crops annually in Punjab.

According to the experts, the agriculture sector is confronting with serious shortage of water for long and it will be more worsen in future. The Agriculture experts urged upon the farmer community that they should adopt modern irrigation technology for avoiding the wastage of irrigation water. The adoption of modern irrigation system will be supportive in saving 40 to 60 percent water as well as help to save 30 to 60 percent the wastage of fertilizer.

Sources said that Punjab government is committed to bringing about revolutionary changes in agriculture sector on top priority basis and many steps had already been taken in this regard. The basic concept of this plan is to promote agriculture sector on modern lines to make it profitable and to enhance productivity. The Punjab government has set aside Rs 4.76 billion for a three year plan for the promotion of per acre yield in the Province.

Drip irrigation system under the programme had been installed on over 11,000 acres of land while solar system for drip sprinkler had also been installed over 1500 acres of land in various parts of the Punjab. Similarly under the government initiatives special steps had also been taken for the promotion of tunnel farming technology and so far tunnel farm technology had been installed over 350 acres of land in Punjab.

The government will provide 80 percent subsidy on installation of Solar system while the government will also provide 50 percent subsidy on the installation of Tunnels (Tunnel farm Technology) and 60 percent subsidy for sprinkler irrigation in the province sources added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/02/12/5-page/699363-news.html>

## 12 BOTTLED WATER BRANDS DECLARED UNSAFE

Dawn, February 12th, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared a dozen mineral and bottled water brands unsafe for human consumption.

According to the monitoring report the council published for the October to December 2017 period, 131 samples of mineral and bottled water were collected from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Peshawar, Multan, Lahore, Bahawalpur, Tandojam, Quetta and Karachi.

A comparison of their findings with the standards set by the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 12 brands – I Pure, Aqua National, SN Pure Drinking Water, Snow Dip, Orion, Abe-Khyber, Orabel Pure Water, Life Water, Athar, Oasis Plus, Heaven H2O and Fino – were unsafe for human consumption due to chemical and microbiological contaminations.

Samples of Aqua National and SN Pure Drinking Water were found to have comparatively high levels of arsenic ranging from 17.5 parts per million to 35.5 parts per billion, whereas the PSQCA's standard for arsenic levels is 10 parts per billion.

According to the PCRWR, high levels of arsenic can cause skin diseases, diabetes, kidney diseases, hypertension, heart disease, birth defects, black foot disease and several kinds of cancer.

Abe-Khyber, Orabel Pure Water, Life Water, Athar, Oasis Plus, Heaven H2O and Fino were found to be unsafe due to microbiological contamination.

The PCRWR said microbiological contamination can cause cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis and typhoid.

Snow Dip and Orion were found to be unsafe due to high levels of sodium – from 60 to 110 parts per million, compared to the PSQCA's standard of 50 parts per million.

Snow Dip was also found to have high levels of potassium, traces of total dissolved solids, which comprise inorganic salts such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, bicarbonates, chlorides and sulphates and small amounts of organic matter.

The PCRWR said citizens were forced to buy bottled water due to the poor quality of drinking water, which had led to the expansion of the bottled water industry.

The government, through the Ministry of Science and Technology, tasked the PCRWR with quarterly monitoring of bottled and mineral water brands, many of which have been found to be selling contaminated water.

## JUDICIAL COMMISSION IRKED BY DELAYS IN REPAIR, REHABILITATION OF WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE SCHEMES

Dawn, February 15th, 2018

Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, head of one-man Supreme Court-appointed commission on water quality in Sindh, on Wednesday directed the officers concerned to expedite the process for restoration of retaining wall along New Phulelli Canal and warned “delays would not be tolerated”.

Justice Muslim, who spent the whole day visiting Hyderabad and Matiari districts before returning to Karachi in the evening, expressed dissatisfaction at the pace of work on improvement of 30MGD plant and called for expediting it.

He saw during a visit to old Phulelli Canal that retaining wall was being erected to stop dumping of garbage and carcasses on the canal’s bank and showed displeasure that solid waste was still being mixed with municipal waste which otherwise could be prevented from going into the canal by fixing a fence at the mouth of sewerage disposal point to separate it from waste water.

Hyderabad Mayor Syed Tayyab Hussain informed the judge that staff had been deputed to ensure no carcass was thrown into the canal. “There is some improvement now,” he observed.

People living near the canal complained to the judge that they were being dispossessed of their property although they had documents. He told them he would take up the issue with the authorities concerned.

Justice Muslim was disappointed to see an entire strip of the canal’s cross section and retaining wall non-existent and the bank buried under a thick layer of solid waste.

He said this must stop and questioned Sida’s managing director Wali Mohammad Naich, who informed him about the scheme for restoration of canal’s bank with retaining wall, road and grill from RD-0 to RD-40 which was under consideration.

The officer though conceded he had not yet submitted the scheme to government and the judge asked him to submit it within seven days and restore the bank near Noorani Basti bridge on a war footing.

Irrigation Secretary Jamal Mustafa Syed promised to collaborate with mayor and deputy commissioner to ensure restoration of the canal bank at RD-26.

The retired judge said that it should be done without wasting further time and directed the functionaries concerned to come up with a short-term plan to resolve the problem.

At another place along the canal Justice Muslim was shocked to find labourers processing husk manually, spreading air pollution. He asked MD Sida why such an activity was going on unnoticed in flagrant violation of standard operating procedures (SOP) of irrigation department.

The MD was asked to ban it and remove entire quantity of husk and gunny bags stuffed with different materials. He said that disposal of waste water of dyeing industry in new Phulelli Canal should also be stopped after meeting formalities.

Chairmen of the union committees of the area complained to the judge that the husk processing had made it difficult for them and their families to lead a healthy life.

They were told to file an application with sessions judge, identifying individuals who processed husk on canal's bank and the judge would take action as per law.

"It will be enough if you are made to stand at this point as punishment," he said angrily addressing Sindh Environmental Protection Agency's deputy director Munir Abbasi for his failure to curb the practice under environmental laws.

Justice Muslim disapproved of the proposed site for solid waste management when deputy commissioner Mohammad Saleem Rajput and mayor explained to him that the 200 acres reserved as landfill site were part of Education City. "Let's drop this site as proposed," said the former judge.

The judge visited modern slaughterhouse of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and then went to Matiari where he found the town's main water supply scheme dysfunctional.

He directed Public Health Engineering chief engineer Nafees Shaikh to restore filter bed at a cost of Rs1.2 million to be borne by town committee. He directed Matiari sessions judge to depute a magistrate who would visit pumping station and water supply schemes of Bhitshah and Hala and submit a report within seven days along with photographs.

Matiari town committee officer Ejaz Ahmed Sheikh was directed to approach the deputy commissioner for retrieving land of water supply scheme that had been occupied by one Sadruddin Memon.

Meanwhile, Wasa employees in Hyderabad complained to the judge that they had not been paid salary for six months. Sindh government's focal person Dr Saeed Qureshi contacted Sindh chief secretary over mobile phone and the judge asked him to ensure release of the salary. CS promised to release it in next two to three days.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1389453>

#### MINISTER TELLS SENATE: NATIONAL WATER POLICY TO BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN 10 DAYS

Business Recorder, 16 February 2018

Zulfiqar Ahmad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Javed Ali Shah on Thursday informed the Senate that National Water Policy will be announced within 10 days, conceding that due to change in hydro-meteorological conditions, river inflows remained stressed since September last year.

During the question-hour, replying to questions asked by senators Rahila Magsi, Farhatullah Babar, Mohsin Leghari and Nauman Wazir Khattak, the minister said that some key amendments are needed to be made in the document, for which 10 more days are sought by the experts.

He explained that relevant quarters in the provinces have been consulted and their input has been incorporated in the draft.

About availability of water and provinces' shares, he said that the Indus River System Authority's advisory committee in its meeting, had noted that during the forthcoming Rabi season, Pakistan might face a shortfall of 20 percent and that the shortages be passed on to Punjab and Sindh while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan shall remain exempted from sharing of shortages.

He said based on prevalent parameters, it is anticipated that the shortages would escalate to 36 per cent, keeping in view prevailing weather conditions, river inflows, dams storage etc. He noted Wapda had prepared a master plan to construct new dams to preserve rainwater in Pakistan.

Replying to a question by Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi, Law and Justice Minister Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk said that from January 2013 to March 2017, as many as 3,035 inquiries were authorized by the National

Accountability Bureau while 1,251 investigations were authorized too regarding irregularities and corruption, etc, in the four provinces and the federal capital.

Moreover, the anti-graft body had filed 948 references and a total of Rs36.278 billion were recovered, whereas 582 cases of corruption were settled through plea bargain.

When asked by Syed Shibli Faraz about cases against politicians, businessmen and government officers in BPS-20 and above, the law minister said that the total number of cases against them as on January 16, 2018, stood at 930, of these 46 were against politicians, 103 against businessmen, 163 against government officers and 616 were against others.

He explained that 2,090 (inquiries) cases were decided, while 322 investigations and 467 references were decided, which brought the total number to 2,879.

In response to a question by Jehanzeb Jamaldini, Javed Shah said the annual average volume of water, which flows into the sea below Kotri Barrage, is about 29.02 millions acre feet (MAF) for the post-Tarbela (1976 onward period).

In a written answer, the minister gave data of the period and noted that escapages below Kotri in 1976-77 were recorded 64.05 MAF in Kharif and 5.03 MAF in Rabi, in 1988, 88.18 MAF in Kharif and 3.65 MAF in Rabi, whereas in 2016-17, it was recorded at 10.49 MAF in Kharif and 0.08 MAF in Rabi.

About illegal use of suction pumps and compressors by consumers, the minister said that these gadgets are not available for this purpose but on receiving such a complaint, an FIR is launched and gas is disconnected.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/02/16/3-page/700116-news.html>

#### IRSA RELEASING 86,000 CUSECS OF WATER FOR RABI CROPS

Business Recorder, 16 February 2018

M Rafique Goraya

LAHORE: The Indus River System Authority is releasing 86,000 cusecs water from the dams and run of the river water in Chenab and Kabul for irrigating the Rabi crops including the nation's staple food, wheat, grams, lentils, mustards, oil seeds, vegetables, fodder for livestock, fruit orchards across the country.

Punjab irrigation engineers told Business Recorder that the water regulatory body is discharging 40,000 cusecs of water from the Tarbela dam on the mighty Indus River, 22,000 cusecs water downstream the Mangla dam on the river Jhelum, 15,400 run of the Kabul river and 8,600 cusecs flowing in the river Chenab at Marala.

They said since there is as much as 36 percent shortage of irrigation water for 2018 winter crops, the provinces are very judiciously using the available water keeping in view needs of command areas of the irrigation canals. They said that the crops in Punjab are at a critical stage of growth and flowering, therefore the water regulators have to be vigilant and avoid wastage of the precious resource.

Meanwhile agriculture experts told this scribe that due to a prolonged dry spell and shortage of water the farmers were a bit worried about the rising temperature in mid-February as wheat is a temperature-sensitive crop and needs cold conditions to flourish

The current spell of moderate light rain has dropped the temperature down and created conducive climate for good quality of grain and yield of all winter crops, he added.

The harvesting of wheat and other crops will start in mid-April.

## NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 5TH TO FEBRUARY 11TH 2018

### PFF PLANS SIT-IN AGAINST OCCUPATION OF WATER BODIES

Dawn, February 6th, 2018

UMERKOT: The Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) on Monday announced that it would hold a sit-in in front of the CM House after its governing body meeting on Feb 10 against failure of the provincial government to comply with the Sindh High Court order to remove encroachments from the dykes of freshwater bodies.

The announcement was made by PFF president Mohammed Ali Shah while observing a token hunger strike along with several other colleagues at a camp pitched on the dyke of Kelankar Lake near Dhoronaro town.

The PFF has organised a series of such events and the hunger strike in Umerkot was the fourth place after Karachi, Hyderabad and Sanghar. It said the next hunger strike camps would be set up in Badin and Thatta until Feb 9.

Mr Shah told local reporters that freshwater bodies were being destroyed by encroachers — who happened to be feudal lords, politicians, senior government officials or other influential figures — as well as stoppage of water flow into canals.

Members of the fishermen community and civil society organisations joined the PFF activists in the token hunger strike to express solidarity with the forum.

Mr Shah said that illegal occupation of around 600 waterways and their dykes could not be ended so far despite the court orders to the respective administrations in this regard.

He acknowledged that challenging such influential figures within their areas of influence was an uphill task for the district administrations. However, he said, the government and the state institutions were supposed to establish their writ.

PFF activists from Umerkot said that around 200 families had already migrated to other areas due to depletion of fish stocks in freshwater bodies destroyed by encroachers and lack of sufficient flows into Kelankar Lake alone. The migration was continuing as the situation had deprived the families of their source of livelihood.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1387495>

### FEDERAL CAPITAL'S WATER CRISIS

The Express Tribune, February 6th, 2018.

Currently water shortage is the major issue in Pakistan and the government is not paying serious attention to this issue. Our policymakers are good at policymaking and they use extraordinary wordings in policy but always forget to provide details of how this policy will be implemented with the available resources. One can see this from the National Drinking Water Policy of Pakistan which says, "Access to safe drinking water is the basic human right of every citizen and it is responsibility of the state to ensure its provision to all citizens."

One can also imagine the seriousness of the government in implementation of the policy by looking at the fact that currently Pakistan's major cities are facing worsening water shortage because of the rapid depletion of ground water. This is mainly caused due to population growth, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, coupled with climate change.

The situation is so worse that even the Asian Development Bank has categorised Pakistan as one of the water-stressed countries in the world, not far from being classified as 'water scarce' with less than 1,000 cubic metres per capita per

year. The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources also issued a grave warning that stated that the country may run dry by 2025 if the government did not take any immediate action. Otherwise, water shortage would have an adverse impact on public health and the economy of the country. For instance, over 80 per cent of the water supplied is considered unsafe and water-borne diseases are resulting in a loss of up to 1.44 per cent of the GDP.

The situation of water shortage is not any different even in Islamabad — the federal capital and the only planned city with a population of more than two million. Islamabad has long been facing a challenge of water shortage every year. The city's population is expected to increase to 4.443 million by 2050 but yet no long-term plan for the provision of water to its residents is visible. As the water aquifer in the capital territory is shallow and scattered, the city's main sources of water are reservoirs built at Simly and Khanpur dams and a few tube wells.

A peak cumulative water production from these sources is 84 million gallons per day (MGD), which drops down to 62MGD in summer before pre-monsoon. Average demand is 176MGD, while water shortage of 106MGD confronts most of the time of the year. Availability of water is mainly hindered due to excessive pumping of groundwater, inadequate water infrastructure and poor storage capacity due to sedimentation of dams.

On the accessibility side, the citizens have no other option than calling for private water tankers to meet their needs, particularly in the summer when the shortage is at its peak. Moreover, affordability of these water tankers is another challenge due to monopoly of pricing by private water tanker associations.

For example, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) charges a monthly bill of Rs300 for an average household. On the other hand, one water tank costs Rs700-Rs1,000 that lasts for 2-3 days depending on the needs and size of a family. Consequently, citizens bear an additional financial pressure on their monthly expenses due to an inadequate water supply.

Islamabad is managed by two key offices, ie, the CDA and the Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad (MCI). Regarding water issues, the debate of jurisdiction and mandate of these two authorities can be circumvented due to the reason that the mayor of MCI is also chairing the CDA.

According to the CDA, underground water level is depleting on a regular basis. In the first month of 2018, the CDA circulated a public notice to prevent waste of water to ensure continued water supply for necessary use till monsoon. The reason for shortage of water is justified owing to low rainfalls in the region. According to the notice, 50% less water is being taken from the Simly Dam (86% water contributor for Islamabad) in order to prolong the usage of water. This is a short-time solution, and for how long will people bear the situation?

Though the public notice indicates little seriousness on the part of the CDA/MCI to ensure the availability of water for the citizens (a short-term adjustment), a comprehensive plan for sustainability is still needed. On January 29th, a sub-committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat directed the CDA to take concrete steps for the provision of clean drinking water to the residents of the capital city.

To solve the issue, the MCI and the CDA should establish a long-term 'Water Master Plan' to ensure sufficient water supply for the projected demand. This initiative may boost the campaign of the ruling party for the upcoming elections. To achieve the objectives, multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity-building of the relevant institutions at the local level is also required. Awareness campaigns aimed at increasing behavioural change should be based on the national water policy. Women are identified to be important change makers in the areas of conservation efforts and therefore, they should be engaged at every level.

Relevant authorities need to revise the water tariff separately for household and commercial use supported by the water metering system, calculating the use of water above the line of per capita requirement. This way, waste of water due to leakage and theft from water supply lines could be avoided. Water metering system is an inclusive tool in the field of potable water management in developed countries. In the federal capital's case, there is a major gap of the



baseline data on water requirement per person per day. To bridge this gap, research organisations and academia could be an effective instrument to gather and validate data for water requirement per capita at the local level. The private sector should also be encouraged to step forward under the umbrella of corporate social responsibility. Subsequently, use of excessive water for car washing, floor washing, gardening and leakage of tap water could be controlled effectively.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1627080/6-federal-capitals-water-crisis/>

## WATER FLOWS IN THREE RIVERS DROP TO THE LOWEST IN 10 YEARS

Business Recorder, 6 February 2018.

M Rafique Goraya

LAHORE: As the drought like conditions have been prevailing in the country for past many months, the water inflows in three rivers Jhelum, Chenab and Kabul have dropped to the lowest at their rim stations in ten years.

Water inflow of river Indus at Tarbela dam is also 1,600 cusecs less than the last year's flow of 18,800 cusecs, forcing IRSA to ask Sindh government to ensure water share of Balochistan immediately otherwise it could create serious law and order situation.

According to Monday's river flows data 3,878 cusecs water is flowing in Mangla dam on river Jhelum against last year's availability of 12,643 cusecs. In the other big river Chenab only 4306 cusecs is entering Marala headworks near Sialkot from India as compared to last year's flow of 9,781 cusecs of water. Another dependable river Kabul is contributing only 6,630 cusecs at Nowshera against its normal supply of 15,000 cusecs of water to the national water availability when the Rabi crops including staple food of the nation wheat are in a critical stage of their growth/maturity.

Punjab Irrigation engineers told Business Recorder that the Indus River System Authority is releasing 50,000 cusecs of water against the iflow of 32,000 in accordance with the water distribution formula among the among the four provinces for irrigating the Rabi crops across the country.

Thus the provinces are facing about 40 percent shortage of irrigation water for the strategic winter crops which are under stress as the Meteorological department has already forecast that moderate drought like conditions may prevail over the southern half of the country due to deficient rainfall and amount of precipitation would be less during the first half as compared to second half of this month.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/02/06/5-page/698197-news.html>

## GROWERS CONTINUE PROTEST

Dawn, February 07, 2018

BADIN: Growers took to the streets in Badin on a call given by the Sindh Abadgar Tanzeem (SAT) while Farmers Organisations Council (FOC) and several other organisations organised a demonstration in Mirpurkhas on Tuesday against an acute shortage of irrigation water and denial of suitable rate to cane growers for their crop.

A large number of growers from different areas of Badin district took part in the rally which started from the bypass linking Tando Bago, Badin city and Khoski and ended outside Badin press club.

Speaking to the participants, SAT chairman Pir Fayyaz Ali Rashdi said the government must realise that the water shortage persisting for months together was ruining cultivable lands of the district while denial of the sugar cane price fixed by the high court was devastating growers. Sindh Chamber of Agriculture president Qabool Mohammed Khatian also joined the rally.

In Mirpurkhas, scores of growers took part in the demonstration organised by the FOC, Sindh Agriculture Research Council (SARC), Tail-end Abadgar Association (TAA), Sindh Abadgar Organisation (SAO) and Sindh Abadgar Hari Ittehad (SAHI) to highlight the same issues.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1387745/growers-continue-protest>

### ROHRI CANAL CLOSURE POSES RISKS

Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, February 5th, 2018

Mohammad Hussain Khan

THE month-long closure of Rohri canal — known as the mini-Indus — earlier than the scheduled time poses problems to Sindh's farm sector, already mired in a slew of crises. Its closure causes unusual shortage of irrigation water.

Though the canal was opened on Jan 26, the closure is going to have negative implications for the wheat crop, which must be at the grain formation stage.

Water supply to the canal was stopped on the orders of the Sindh High Court (SHC) on a request of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The court ordered the closure to allow the bureau to investigate alleged corruption by Sindh irrigation officials in the pilot project of Rohri canal lining.

The lining of canals makes irrigation systems more efficient, as it helps reduce seepage by adding a concrete layer to the edges.

The 350-kilometre-long Rohri canal — which irrigates around 2.6 million acres of agriculture land in nine districts — is considered a lifeline for the province's agriculture sector on the left bank of Indus river. The canal's lining is important as it irrigates farmlands that produce huge quantities of major crops like sugarcane, rice, cotton and wheat.

The canal's lining pilot project was designed to overcome water shortage in the tail-end reaches, avoid wastage, overcome salinity and waterlogging, reclaim around 5,000 acres of land, and save 200 cusecs of water that is sufficient to irrigate 60,000 acres of land.

“An estimate shows that around 200 cusecs of water can be saved as a result of the project that was launched between RD-616 to RD-645. Its second phase was initiated from RD-646 to RD-680 to conserve another 200 cusecs of water. Each phase involved a cost of Rs3bn,” says special irrigation secretary Aslam Ansari.

He says the third phase of lining has also been approved at a cost of Rs6bn, and only after the completion of all three phases will the assessment of water conservation be available.

The Sukkur barrage usually remains closed from Jan 6 to Jan 20 every year for annual maintenance in the barrage and major canals.

The closure of canals like Rohri requires irrigation authorities to reduce barrage's pond level gradually. It means that water flows in other canals are also affected.

From Dec 23 or 24, irrigation authorities started reducing pond level to stop flows for Rohri canal and by Dec 25 flows were completely closed, leaving growers whose lands are located in the canal's command high and dry at a time when their wheat crop would still need one to two cycles of irrigation water.

Tail-end areas linked to Rohri canal's Naseer division will, understandably, be the worst hit and bear the brunt of this shortage in lower Sindh where even drinking water for human consumption and livestock is said to be unavailable.

“Hand-pumps installed in villages can’t cater to water needs of community and livestock,” says Fayyaz Rashdi, a tail-end grower from Rohri canal’s last reaches situated in Khairpur Gamboh subdivision in Badin district. “We have zero cultivation of wheat crop in our areas because we are not getting water flows since November, much before unusual closure of Rohri canal in December,” he says, and adds that this is absolutely owing to internal mismanagement of water distribution by the irrigation department.

The NAB investigation into the lining work pertains to the verification of points whether concrete and other material in the canal’s abovementioned reaches is properly used and in line with desired specifications.

The investigators, says an official, are using ground-penetrating radar and core-cutting equipment from Peshawar University’s geology department whose cost is being borne by the contractor of the lining work, irrigation officials say.

The institutional lack of coordination between provincial and federal government departments seems to have made Sindh’s farm sector scapegoat.

Sindh Abadgar Board’s senior vice president Mahmood Nawaz Shah believes that the irrigation department remained unwilling to pursue the matter because it must have taken a few weeks before NAB ended up in court to seek canal’s closure.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, who also holds the irrigation portfolio, told the media that he would be claiming losses from NAB which are to be incurred by farmers whose lands are fed by Rohri canal due to its prolonged closure.

The Sindh government is, however, now getting additional flows of around 6,000 cusecs from the Indus River System Authority to offset the impact of shortage which was assessed at 36pc in Rabi season in the province.

Even after flows are normalised in the canal they would still take almost a fortnight to reach to the extreme tails of the Rohri canal system regulated by over a dozen regulators.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1387360/rohri-canal-closure-poses-risks>

#### WATER COMMISSION DISSATISFIED WITH QUALITY OF POTABLE WATER IN NAWABSHAH

Dawn, February 8th, 2018

NAWABSHAH: Retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed commission on water quality in Sindh, has expressed dissatisfaction over the quality of water being supplied to the citizens of Nawabshah and warned officials to ensure cleanliness of reservoirs within a fortnight.

He issued this direction during a visit to water supply schemes, including Ultra Water Filtration Plant Scheme Phase IV near Quaid-i-Awam University reservoirs at Rohri Canal and Gujrah Wah, on Wednesday.

He asked officials of the public health department and Nawabshah municipal committee to ensure cleaning of the reservoirs and the area within 15 days.

Justice Muslim also directed for immediate removal of private livestock farms built/established on the government land near Gujrah Wah and ensure construction of boundary walls around the reservoirs of Rohri Canal scheme.

Mr Muslim said he was the chairman of water commission for six months and he would ensure that people got pure and clean drinking water within this period of time.

He asked the officials how they could neglect the conditions and allow the citizens to drink contaminated water.

He also warned the contractor of a private company responsible for the maintenance of water filtration plants to install meters for proper monitoring and ensure implementation on the recommendations of the commission presented in the past.

The zonal head of the private company was also summoned to the office of the water commission in Karachi on Feb 16.

The officials of public health engineering and municipal administration of Nawabshah kept shifting responsibilities during the visit.

Three months ago, Nawabshah Judicial Magistrate Safdar Jatui on the directives of the water commission visited all water supply schemes and submitted his complete report mentioning that the water being supplied was neither pure nor clean.

But no attention was paid and no improvement was made during these three months by the public health engineering department and the municipal administration.

Others who also accompanied the commission head included irrigation department secretary Jamal Mustafa Syed and Shaheed Benazirabad Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Nauman Latki.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1387996/water-commission-dissatisfied-with-quality-of-potable-water-in-nawabshah>

#### SC SUMMONS SHAHBAZ IN CLEAN DRINKING WATER CASE

Dawn, February 11th, 2018

Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Supreme Court on Saturday sought personal appearance of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif to explain his government's position regarding provision of clean drinking water to people and disposal of large quantity of untreated waste water.

An alarming figure of untreated waste water of the city being disposed of in River Ravi was quoted by a court commission before a three-judge bench constituted by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar to summon Shahbaz.

Justice Manzoor Ahmad Malik and Justice Ijazul Ahsan were other two members of the bench, which heard a petition and suo motu notice regarding clean drinking water at Lahore registry.

Chief Secretary Zahid Saeed had no satisfactory answer when Advocate Ayesha Hamid, head of the commission, told the court that 540 million gallons of untreated waste water or sewage was being discharged in the river daily.

“Why not the chief minister should be summoned right now to explain what is happening in his Takht-i-Lahore?” the CJP asked the chief secretary.

Saeed sought time to explain the situation, but Chief Justice Nisar directed him to check if the chief minister was available to appear before the court. He also asked Punjab Advocate General Shakilur Rehman Khan to confirm whether the chief minister was going to appear.

Later, the chief secretary returned to the court and sought time till next hearing for the CM to appear. However, the bench directed the CM to appear on Sunday (today).

CJP Nisar said the court would also ask Shahbaz under what law roads outside his Model Town residence and office had been closed for public.

Meanwhile, the bench expressed concern over a costly contract given to a private company for disposal of infectious waste of public sector hospitals, and sought complete record of the company, which operates incinerators in Kasur.

Advocate Hamid told the bench that hospitals in Punjab had been producing 11,000kg waste per day while the capacity of the government-owned incinerators was 5,000kg per day.

The chief justice directed the government to submit a detailed report within two weeks about performance of the incinerators. He also sought a report about infectious waste produced by all Combined Military Hospitals in Punjab and their mechanism to burn it.

“I do not care about criticism and would visit any hospital whenever deemed necessary,” the CJP said.

**MEDICAL COLLEGES:** The court agreed to a suggestion given by the commission to seek assistance of a chartered accountancy firm to determine whether the fee structure of private medical colleges justified their expenses.

Advocate Hamid said it would be logically not possible if the colleges were asked to charge fee equal to government institutions.

CJP Nisar said the court was fully concerned about the business interests of private medical colleges, but they could not be allowed to make money only.

On being pointed out by a young doctor, the bench directed the chief secretary to submit a reply about non-implementation of service stricture of doctors despite the government’s agreement in 2012.

CJP Nisar expressed surprise on learning that a young doctor earned Rs45,000 a month during house job.

**POULTRY FEED:** The court ordered the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) to carry out random sampling of poultry meat from various parts of the city to determine whether it contained any hazardous elements.

The CJP observed that some doctors had said poultry meat was not good for health due to the feed being given to chicken. He avoided further remarks till reports of the analysis were submitted. He ordered PFA Director General Noorul Amin Mengal to submit sealed reports within two weeks.

The bench also constituted a committee comprising three lawyers and the livestock secretary to find out issues with poultry feed and meat along with their solutions.

**LDA CITY:** The SC took notice of a housing scheme launched by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) under public-private partnership and directed its director general to submit its complete record.

CJP Nisar questioned the legality of the project and the partnership. He directed the LDA chief to submit a detailed report by Feb 24.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1388687/sc-summons-shahbaz-in-clean-drinking-water-case>

## **March 2018**

***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 26TH TO MARCH 31ST 2018***

***FAVOURITISM HINDERING WATER-SUPPLY PROJECTS IN BALOCHISTAN***

An opportunity to address major water shortage in Balochistan, especially in Quetta, has been missed due to negligence of the water management department's officer concerned.

On Monday, the Balochistan Agriculture's water management department wasted the opportunity to sign a tender worth Rs200 million for construction of water-related projects due to the absence of the officer concerned.

According to details, a tender worth Rs200 million was supposed to be inked for construction of a pond, supply pipe, tubewell and drains in various districts of Balochistan but due to the absence of the officer, the tender could not be signed.

Irked by the absence, the contractors, who came from all over the province to sign the tender, instead staged a protest against the officer.

They accused the water management department of committing corruption of Rs260 million while awarding contracts for construction of water-related projects during the last couple of months.

The contractors said, "keeping up with its old tradition of avoiding doing things on merit, the water management department this time also avoided signing the tender."

The protest was led by Zafar Qambrani, who was accompanied by Abdul Salam Lango, Naimatullah and others.

They accused the concerned department of handing over the Rs260 million tenders, after 10 days of payment, "to their blue-eyed boys which is against the law".

"Projects worth billions of rupees are only in government files and cannot be seen anywhere on the ground," they alleged. "Due to lack of check and balance, such officers are minting money."

They also accused the water management department of having intentions to hand over the current tender of Rs200 million to its blue-eyed boys, which they vowed not to let happen.

They demanded of the Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, National Accountability Bureau Director General Irfan Baig and other high-ups to take action against the corrupt officers and their supporters who have caused the national treasury losses of billions of rupees.

The concerned officer was contacted for his comments over the accusation of contractors, but he refused to comment.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1670075/1-favouritism-hindering-water-supply-projects-balochistan/>

## CONSENSUS ELUDES CCI ON NATIONAL WATER POLICY

Dawn, March 28th, 2018

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Common Interests (CCI) on Tuesday turned into a centre of complaints and clarifications on a set of centre-provincial matters, as it failed to approve the country's first national water policy that has been on the CCI agenda for almost a year.

The CCI meeting, which was presided over by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, however, upheld its previous decision to have revalidation of census results of five per cent blocks through an independent and third party consultant notwithstanding the fast-approaching general elections.

The meeting was attended by the chief ministers of all the provinces except Punjab. Instead of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, provincial finance minister Dr Ayesha Ghous Pasha attended the meeting.

While matters pertaining to net hydel profit, water projects and funding for flood protection programmes came under detailed discussion, the meeting ended without any agreement on the National Water Policy (NWP).

Sindh seeks to insert internationally accepted principles of lower riparian rights in national policy

A participant told Dawn after the meeting that the draft NWP consumed major part of the deliberations, as the Sindh government raised a series of objections and amendments to the draft policy which were responded to by the federal secretary for water resources point by point.

However, Punjab expressed its inability to make substantive contribution, citing that the final draft had been circulated at a short notice and sought more time to study the policy and get back with feedback.

All the participants, however, had a general consensus on the need to adopt the NWP with an initial target of increasing storage capacity from existing 14 million acre feet (MAF) by immediately starting the construction of 6.4MAF Diamer-Bhasha Dam which had already been cleared by the CCI back in 2009.

Giving a briefing about the draft NWP, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan was rapidly becoming a water-scarce country and obligations towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) required adoption of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). He said population growth and water demands for various sectors of the economy necessitated urgent measures to enhance storage capacity.

He said the policy empowered the provinces to develop their master plans within a national framework for sustainable development and management of water resources. “The water resource is a national responsibility but irrigation and agriculture, as well as rural and urban water supply, environment and other water related sub-sectors are provincial subjects.”

Sindh sought to insert in the policy the internationally accepted principles of lower riparian rights and wanted guarantee that “any diversions/interruptions of water flow should not adversely affect the lower riparian and shall only be allowed after the explicit consent of the lower riparian.” It also wanted to protect adequate release downstream Kotri for ecology, aqua life and sea intrusion but the language was contested by the water resources secretary.

Sindh also wanted the policy to explicitly state that storages be built where feasible but only after “consensus of all stakeholders including provinces”. The province opposed powers of the national water council — comprising the federal and provincial ministers — to have the authority to “oversee all major water-related projects and activities in the field of irrigation, drainage, flood control & hydro power”.

The meeting was told that draft NWP includes strategic initiatives and was in line with the National Climate Change Policy, 2012.

The chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa protested over short payment on account of net hydel profit share even though the issue was not on the agenda. A federal secretary explained that about Rs149 billion or so had been already paid to Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but Wapda itself had to recover some outstanding dues from key stakeholders. He added that funds were being arranged to clear the backlog.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1397968/consensus-eludes-cci-on-national-water-policy>

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR INDIA TO ATTEND WATER COMMISSION MEETING



LAHORE: A six-member Pakistani delegation left here on Wednesday for New Delhi to attend a meeting of the Permanent Indus Water Commission (PIWC).

Deliberations of the 114th meeting of the body set up under the World Bank-brokered Indus Water Treaty, 1960 — which makes it mandatory for the two parties to meet at least once in a year to discuss issues related to implementation of the treaty — will be held on March 29 and 30. The treaty's calendar year ends on March 31 and its meetings are held alternatively in Pakistan and India every year.

The previous meeting was hosted by Islamabad in March last year.

The treaty on the use of waters of six rivers originating from India-held Kashmir accepts Pakistan's exclusive rights on the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab and of India on the Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers.

Islamabad has been raising objections to various hydroelectric projects New Delhi had been developing on the Jhelum and Chenab.

The Pakistani delegation will be led by acting Indus Water Commissioner and Joint Secretary (water) of the Ministry of Water and Power Syed Mehr Ali Shah with Sheraz Jameel Memon, Osman Ghani, Tahir Hayat, Omar Farooq and Mohammad Tahir as its members.

The Indian side will be represented by Indus Water Commissioner P.K. Saxena, technical experts and a representative of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Sources say the Pakistani team will raise the issues of 1,000MW Pakal Dul, 850MW Ratle and 48MW Kalnai hydroelectric projects India is developing on the Chenab basin, terming them against the treaty. It is also likely to take up the 340MW Kishanganga project India has already commissioned on the Jhelum river's tributary.

The meeting is taking place against the backdrop of continuing tensions between the two countries over a host of issues, including harassment of Pakistani diplomats in India.

Facing acute water shortage, Pakistan has already approached the World Bank to resolve the disputes in the International Court of Arbitration rather than appointing neutral experts as it does not come under the jurisdiction of the latter.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1398235>

## RED TAPE DELAYS KARACHI'S MEGA WATER PROJECT

Naveed Butt

ISLAMABAD: The people of Karachi are facing serious water crisis while mega water supply project K-IV is being delayed continuously and its cost has escalated from Rs25 billion to Rs29 billion.

Sheikh Salahuddin of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) said this while raising the issue of K-IV water supply project in the National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reforms which met with Abdul Majeed Khan Khanankhail in the chair at Parliament Lodges on Thursday.

He said that only 15 percent work has been done on K-IV water supply project and its cost has escalated to Rs29 billion. He said if the project is continuously delayed, its cost would reach Rs40 billion.

Sheikh Salahuddin said that his party members gave vote to Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on the commitment that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government will alleviate the problems of the Karachi people by completing K-IV and other projects. He said that the Prime Minister is not paying any attention to the problem of water crisis in Karachi.

He said that K-IV water supply project would be completed through provision of 50 percent funds each by the Sindh and federal governments. He said that both the governments have provided funds, but the management of the project and responsibility for its completion are in the hands of the Sindh government. He said that he is not satisfied with the performance of Sindh government.

Later, the committee also discussed Special Federal Development Programme, non-implementation of gas schemes by SNGPL/OGRA and delay in construction of Khyber Institute of Child Health and Children Hospital, Peshawar.

The committee was also told that construction cost of Khyber Institute of Child Health and Children Hospital, Peshawar, has increased from Rs2 billion to Rs3.5 billion due to delay in the project.

Committee Chairman Abdul Majeed Khan Khanankhail said that the costs of the projects escalate due to delays. He said that the government should formulate comprehensive policy and procedure for completing the projects timely.

The committee was apprised that due to slow working of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Finance Department and Finance Division of the federal government, the construction of Khyber Institute of Child Health and Children Hospital has been delayed.

The committee was told that secretary health was also invited to attend the meeting and give his input in this regard but he did not attend the meeting. The committee showed its displeasure on the absence of secretary health and directed to serve a show cause notice on him.

The standing committee was told that due to slow working of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, several development schemes have been suspended. The committee directed that all such schemes should be completed with national zeal and on apolitical basis.

MNAs Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar, Syed Muhammad Athar Hussain Shah Gillani, Shaheen Shafiq, Shazia Sohail Mir, Shamas-un-Nisa, Dr Nafisa Shah, Junaid Akbar, Sheikh Salahuddin, Sher Akber Khan and Iftikhar-ud-Din, and Secretary Petroleum and Senior Executive Director (Corporate and Media Affairs) of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) Imran Ghaznavi attended the meeting.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/03/29/48-page/707655-news.html>

## IRSA CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWO DAMS

Dawn, March 30th, 2018

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: As the weather experts reported 50 per cent lower snow cover on the river catchments, the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) called for construction of at least two mega dams simultaneously to cope with water crisis.

This was the crux of an advisory committee meeting of the water regulator presided over by its chairman Sher Zaman Khan and attended by all the Irsa members besides officials of provincial irrigation and agriculture departments, Wapda and Meteorological Department.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, Irsa spokesman Khalid Rana said the meeting also expressed increase in the pace of sedimentation in both Mangla and Tarbela dams owing to silt and unanimously recommended to the government to quickly move towards construction of two dams wherever feasible.

### Water shortage will hurt Kharif crops

Based on working papers of all the stakeholders, the regulator estimated 32pc water shortage during early Kharif season and 10pc during late Kharif. Total availability water availability for entire season was, therefore, estimated at 95.12 million acre feet (MAF) compared to 107 MAF of last year, 107.3 MAF of past 10-year average and 112MAF of post-Tarbela dam average.

The meeting concluded that Kharif crops would be totally dependent on unusually lower river flows and monsoon rainfall in the absence of substantive snow melting. The Punjab government objected to 40pc water losses estimated for Indus zone. Therefore, these were estimated at 35 percent for early Kharif and 20pc for late Kharif for the purpose of provincial water shares and in the meanwhile conduct a study to ascertain actual losses.

The meeting confirmed that Jhelum flows this season would be 40-50pc lower than average and expressed concern over the situation. It decided to review flows in river Jhelum along with revision in operational criteria for Mangla dam by end-April.

After accounting for losses and other factors, total canal withdrawals were estimated at 62.02 MAF. Of this, 30.24MAF was allocated to Punjab, 27.96 MAF to Sindh, 0.82MAF to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 2.99MAF to Balochistan.

The meeting was told that Mangla Dam was unlikely to be filled to its historic conservation level of 1242-feet.

It was also decided that water distribution would be made under the 3-tier formula but was contested by Sindh saying it was against the 1991 water apportionment award. Under the 3-tier formula, Sindh expected its share cut by 5MAF in the wake of lower water availability.

The formula envisaged that in case of Kharif water availability of up to 103MAF, water shares between Punjab and Sindh be set on the basis of historic uses of 1977-82, putting Sindh at a disadvantageous position. In case of water availability between 103 and 114MAF, distribution has to be made in line with shares set in para-2 of the water accord. The water beyond 114MAF is provided to provinces on flooding basis.

The Irsa chairman observed that Sindh would be free to take up the matter with the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in case it was not satisfied with distribution.

The Irsa also allocated 6.5 MAF of flows downstream Kotri. The Met Office told the committee that temperatures during May and April would be unusually higher this year. On the other hand, snow fall in the Northern Areas and catchment areas of river was 50pc lower this year and hence total reliance of crops would have to be made on monsoon rainfall.

The Met Office also warned that in case of lower than normal monsoon rainfall, there could be an alarming situation for the crops.

The meeting desired that Wapda should move a case to further raise the minimum operating level of Mangla from 1,050 feet to 1,060 feet within a fortnight.

Kharif cropping season starts from April-June and lasts until October-December in different parts of the country. Rice, sugarcane, cotton, maize and mash are some of the key crops of the season.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1398410>

#### IRSA BODY CALLS FOR BUILDING TWO MEGA DAMS AS CRISIS DEEPENS

The Express Tribune, March 30th, 2018.

As the water crisis deepens amid growing calls for some urgent measures, the advisory committee of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has recommended that the country should build at least two mega dams to cope with the shortage that poses a serious threat to food and other crops.

The Irsa committee, which met on Thursday, projected 31% water shortage in early Kharif sowing season because of heavy wastage and less inflows into rivers.

Punjab and Sindh – the two major food crop growing provinces and big consumers of water – will face 31% water shortage whereas Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa will be exempt from the impact of water scarcity during the Kharif season.

However, water shortage in late Kharif will come down to 10% for both Punjab and Sindh.

A representative of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) told the committee that sedimentation level in Tarbela and Mangla dams was increasing which would reduce the water storage capacity of the two major reservoirs.

“Wapda will present a case to Irsa for further increasing the minimum operating level of Mangla Dam from 1,050 feet to 1,060 feet in the next 15 days,” he said.

During the meeting, it was emphasised that Pakistan was experiencing a crisis-like situation and more dams should be constructed to stave off the threat. All provinces, including Sindh, endorsed the proposal for building new water reservoirs.

Representatives of the Pakistan Meteorological Department and Wapda revealed that snow coverage was about 50% less in catchment areas in the country.

Some key crops of the Kharif season, which runs from April 1 to September 30, are rice, sugarcane, cotton and maize.

It was anticipated that river inflows would be 95.12 million acre feet (maf) in the Kharif season compared to 107 maf in the previous year. Of this, 22.58 maf would be in early Kharif whereas 72.54 maf would be in late season.

Water losses on the Indus River were estimated at 17.36% during the sowing season.

Total water availability for crop plantations in the season has been estimated at 62.02 maf. Of this, the share of Punjab has been projected at 30.24 maf, Sindh 27.96 maf, Balochistan 2.99 maf and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 0.823 maf.

In early season, 13.764 maf will be available whereas 48.256 maf will be supplied in late Kharif.

Meeting participants also discussed water supply for Rabi crops from October 1, 2017 to March 29, 2018. Total shortage had been anticipated at 33% during the ongoing Rabi sowing season with water availability at 36.17 maf.

Punjab had been expected to face 35% shortage, Sindh 34%, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 26% and Balochistan 7% during the season.

The advisory committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Irsa chairman and attended by representatives of Wapda and all provinces.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1672770/2-urgent-need-irsa-body-calls-building-two-mega-dams-crisis-deepens/>

## PAKISTAN SEEKS INSPECTION OF TWO INDIAN PROJECTS ON CHENAB

Dawn, March 31st, 2018

LAHORE: Pakistan has sought inspection of the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydroelectric projects India is building in the Chenab river basin in held Kashmir.

The demand was made during the second and last day of parleys held between the two countries under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, in New Delhi.

“We’ve demanded inspection of various hydroelectric projects, particularly of 1000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnai sites, on the Chenab river,” a member of the six-man Pakistan delegation taking part in the 114th annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission in the Indian capital told Dawn through WhatsApp messages.

He said the hosts agreed to the demand but sought time for making arrangements for the purpose in line with the World Bank-brokered pact for sharing waters of six rivers between the two countries.

These rivers include the Indus Jhelum and Chenab — whose waters are reserved for Pakistan — and the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej — the rivers reserved for India.

The Pakistani side was led by acting Indus Waters Commissioner Syed Mehr Ali Shah while P.K. Saxena headed the Indian team of experts.

Pakistani officials had earlier visited the Pakal Dul and Kalnai sites in 2014 in one of the 118 visits made by the two sides since the treaty was signed to help remove suspicions and objections on various hydroelectric projects undertaken in the Indus basin.

Pakistan has serious concerns over the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai projects, fearing the reservoirs may be used to create artificial water shortage or flooding downstream and terms the designs a violation of the treaty.

The two-day deliberations took place against the backdrop of continuing tensions between the two neighbours.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1398686>

## NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 19TH TO MARCH 25TH 2018

### 10-FOLD RISE SOUGHT IN ALLOCATION FOR WATER SECTOR PROJECTS

Dawn, March 19th, 2018

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The Water Division has sought an allocation of about Rs204 billion for projects under the 2018-19 Public Sector Development Programme — almost 10 times higher than the Rs22bn earmarked for the current fiscal year.

According to a summary sent to the Planning Commission, the water division has submitted a list of 116 projects with a total estimated cost of Rs2.29 trillion, including Rs1.65trn worth of unapproved project cost.

It said that an amount of about Rs465bn had already been spent on these projects, while an amount of Rs1.8trn shown as throw forward i.e. the estimated funds required to complete these projects. It said the government would need at least Rs203.7bn for progress on these projects during the financial year 2018-19, while another Rs201.4bn would be required during the fiscal year 2019-20.

Likewise, the water division has also estimated a financial requirement of Rs239.5bn for 2020-21 based on assumptions that it will secure almost Rs204bn next year (2018-19) and Rs201bn during 2019-20.

Of the Rs203.7bn sought for the next fiscal year, the water division has reported that an amount of Rs7.3bn is expected to flow from abroad as foreign exchange component, while Rs198.4bn will have to be set aside from domestic resources.

A Planning Commission official told Dawn that the ministries and divisions traditionally pitched higher funding requirements which were debated in detail during ‘priorities committee meetings’ of the ministries of finance and planning and the ministry concerned. He said the meetings were tentatively scheduled for the last week of March where the water division would have to justify its demands for appropriation based on national priorities and the available resource envelope.

The official said the water sector was a top priority area for the next year after last few years’ focused investments in energy and communication sectors, but the government would have to make sure that many ongoing projects in the PSDP got sufficient funds.

He said the projects that were in advanced stages would continue to get top priority in next year’s budget to ensure that these were completed at the earliest and start delivering designed objectives to the people. Giving an example, the official recalled that the ministries and divisions had demanded more than Rs2.8trn under the 2017-18 PSDP, but the federal government finally allocated around Rs1trn and that too might not be possible for the executing agencies to utilise.

The official said the prime minister and his adviser on economic affairs had already decided in principle that no new project would be included in the next year’s PSDP.

However, projects of national importance will have to pass the scrutiny by the top leadership of the provinces and the federal government on merit during meetings of the Annual Plan Coordination Committee comprising federal and provincial development ministers and the National Economic Council headed by the prime minister and comprising provincial chief ministers and the prime minister of Azad Kashmir and the chief executive of Gilgit-Baltistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1396179>

SAVE WATER BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD; The long-awaited National Water Policy prepared in consultation with the provinces recommends development and management of water resources on a war footing without mentioning the controversial Kalabagh dam.

The 41-page draft National Water Policy, which is to be considered by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) on Wednesday (tomorrow) was signed by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Sartaj Aziz, Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Water Resources, Syed Javed Ali Shah, Secretary Water Resources, Shumail Ahmad Khawaja, Secretary Power Division, Yousuf Naseem Khokhar, Secretary Planning, Development and Reforms, Shoaib Siddiqui, Chief Secretary Punjab, Capt. Zahid Hussain (retired), Secretary Irrigation, Sindh, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Aurangzeb Haque and Shahzad Bangish on behalf of Chief Secretary KP.

The National Water Policy recognizes the need for the sector to receive at least 10 percent of Federal PSDP gradually increasing it to 20 percent by 2030. Provincial Governments are urged to also increase expenditure for this sector as total allocation of Rs.145 billion, i.e., 7 percent of the combined federal and provincial development budget for 2017-18, is totally inadequate.

According to the draft policy, Pakistan's river flows are heavily dependent on glacial melt (41%), snowmelt (22%) and rainfall (27%). The Indus River System receives an annual influx of about 134.8 Million Acre Feet (MAF) of water. Pakistan receives snowfall only in the Northern Areas of the country during winter. Rainfall is markedly erratic in magnitude, time of occurrence and aerial distribution. The mean annual precipitation ranges from less than 100 mm in parts of the Lower Indus Plain to over 750 mm near the foothills in the Upper Indus Plain.

The country is mainly dependent on the three western rivers of the Indus (including Kabul, Jhelum and Chenab). Post-Tarbela (1976-2008) flows (Indus at Kalabagh, Jhelum at Mangla and Chenab at Marala) are 137 MAF. The three eastern tributaries of the Indus — Ravi, Sutlej and Beas — were allocated to India for its exclusive use. Currently about 1.4 MAF water flows from India to Pakistan through these eastern rivers, also included in Pakistan's total surface water is 21 MAF from the Kabul River.

Pakistan is extracting 50 MAF from the aquifers and already crossed the sustainable limit of safe yield. This over-mining and pollution of aquifers has resulted in secondary salinization and the presence of fluorides and arsenic in water, which in turn is degrading the quality of agricultural lands.

The Indus Water Treaty led to the construction of multiple hydraulic structures. These enabled Pakistan to enhance water availability at canal head works to about 104.0 MAF. However, this has now started decreasing because of the lack of surface water development since construction of Tarbela dam and the significant loss of on-line storage capacity through sedimentation. Of the 104.0 MAF of annual canal diversion, only 58.3 MAF reaches the farm-gate, with the remaining 46.7 MAF seeping into the ground water.

Ministry of Water Resources argues that water availability can be enhanced through a reduction in water loss, additional water storage through large, medium and small dams, recycling used waters, desalinization of sea water and more efficient water use. An important aim of the National Water Policy is to fix quantifiable targets in each of these sub-sectors with a timeline and estimated resources required over the next twelve years i.e. by 2030.

Main Targets proposed for 2018-2030 can be summarized as follows: (i) reduction of 33 percent in the 46 MAF river flows that are lost in conveyance, through accelerated programme of water course lining specially in saline or semi saline areas; (ii) in order to augment the dwindling irrigation deliveries into the existing canal systems on account of ever decreasing existing storage capacity of Mangla and Tarbela due to sedimentation and to develop new cultivated area on canal irrigated water, the existing water storage capacity of 14 MAF must be increased by immediately starting construction of the Diamer-Basha Dam Project having 6.4 MAF live storage on which consensus of all the federating units has already been achieved in 2009 at CCI level; Mohmand Dam with live capacity of 0.676 MAF and



other countrywide small and medium dams having cumulative live storage capacity of at least 2 MAF, in the next 12 years i.e. up to year 2030;(iii) increase of at least 30 percent in the efficiency of water use by producing “more crop per drop”. This will require use of new technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation and more realistic water pricing policy. The present average rate of water charges per acre is only one fourth of what the farmer pays for tubewell water in the ground water market; and (iv) real-time monitoring of river flows by IRSA must be ensured through inter alia telemetric monitoring to maintain transparent water accounting system and to check the increasing trend of unaccounted-for water in the Indus System of Rivers. This task should be completed before end 2021.

The sources said in order to establish and maintain a reliable assessment of water resources in the country, federal and provincial water sector organizations should develop a standardized and uniform mechanism for data collection of various parameters of water resources including but not limited to rivers/canals gauge and discharge, rainfall/snowfall, depth to groundwater table, surface subsurface water quality parameters, river/canal and reservoirs sedimentation.

The policy has recommended upgradation of Provincial Irrigation and Drainage Authorities (PIDAs) into a higher level “Provincial Water Authority” (PWA) with capacity to design and construct small and medium sized dams and also large scale irrigation infrastructure.

Revitalization and restructuring of Wapda, establishment of ground water authority, conservation and efficiency, storage, investment requirement, capacity building of water sector institutions, establishment of National Water Council are some of the key recommendations. The most important instrument of mitigation against the impact of climate change on water resources is storage. If the pattern of rainfall becomes erratic with more than average rain in one year and a drastic reduction in the coming year’s rainfall, the only way to conserve the surplus rainwater in wet years is to store it and release it in dry years, when required.

For storage and new irrigation projects a national master plan must be developed and approved at the CCI level, which must cater for storage, floods, arid areas, irrigation, urban water and tariff rationalization.

The past arguments against new dams like danger of flooding or inflow of saline water have to be re-evaluated in the light of the impacts of climate change. In addition, there are vast possibilities of small and medium size dams, enhancing the life of existing storages and remodeling and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure in the country. Expansion of water storage will also increase the proportion of hydropower in the energy mix, reducing the need for thermal power.

The policy has also recommended that the federal government must play a leading role in facilitating regulations to ensure the efficient and sustainable utilization of ground water, industrial uses, and waste water management. Food security, water security and energy security being inextricably linked, so the regulatory framework must address all the associated issues comprehensively including ground water, waste treatment, open defecation (WASH).

With rapidly growing population, Pakistan is heading towards a situation of water shortage, by corollary a threat of food security. Per capita surface water availability has declined from 5,260 cubic meters per year in 1951 to around 1,000 cubic meters in 2016. This quantity is likely to further drop to about 860 cubic meters by 2025 marking Pakistan’s transition from a “water stressed” to a “water scarce” country (the minimum water requirement to avoid food and health implications of water scarcity is 1,000 cubic meters per capita per year).

According to the Ministry of Water Resources, the impact of climate change in intensification of floods, erratic monsoon rains, and droughts are major concerns for Pakistan. Other likely effects on water resources could include: (i) recession/ boom of the Himalayan, Karakoram and Hindukush glaciers, threatening water inflows into Indus River System; (ii) increased siltation of dams and reservoirs caused by more frequent and intense floods; (iii) shorter duration of snowfall and its prolonged melting bringing drastic changes in mass balances; (iv) increase in the formation of Glacial Lakes Outburst Floods (GLOF); (v) increased intrusion of saline sea water in the Indus delta, adversely affecting coastal agriculture, mangroves and fisheries; (vi) rising temperatures resulting in enhanced heat

and water-stress conditions, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions, leading to reduced agriculture productivity; and (vii) with rise in temperature, as a result of climate change, crops will require more water due to excessive evaporate inspiration, cattle consume more water and human consumption would also increase.

On trans-boundary water sharing, the draft national water policy states that a substantial part of Pakistan's fresh water resources is generated from outside the country. Indus Water Treaty (IWT) provides a mechanism for sharing of water of Indus system of rivers with India.

The policy has proposed that a mechanism be worked out for sharing of trans-boundary aquifers and joint watershed management including sharing of composite real-time flow information especially relating to hydro-meteorological disasters/disaster-like situations endangering Pakistan's important infrastructure, communication network and economy. In this regard, regional mechanisms may be also be looked into for viable solutions to growing vulnerabilities of Pakistan to hydro-metrological disasters owing to trans-border water release and stoppage at critical times.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/03/20/1-page/705810-news.html>

PROVINCES CONCERNED AT PROJECTED WATER SHORTAGES: PREVENTIVE MEASURES URGED  
Business Recorder, Mar 20th, 2018

Naveed Butt

All provinces have expressed concern at the projected acute water shortage in the country and urged the federal government to take preventive measures to address it.

Balochistan Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar while talking to Business Recorder said that Pakistan is going to face an acute water shortage by 2025; and the people of Balochistan are facing difficulties in accessing clean drinking water. He said that water table in Balochistan is falling at a fast pace and if the federal government does not take immediate mitigating measures then the situation would become worse in future.

He said that ground water level in Balochistan was 10 feet to 100 feet earlier but now the level is at 600 feet. Kakar said that Quetta is facing a serious water shortage and its ground water level is at 1500 feet. "The people of Quetta will migrate if this situation continues", he said.

Kakar said, "We have urged the federal government to start multi billion rupee mega water projects to deal with the water situation in Balochistan but have not received any response so far. Balochistan parliamentarians have also asked the federal government to include mega water projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but to no avail."

Kakar said that the government is going to present the country's first National Water Policy in the Council of Common Interests (CCI) today but neither the provinces nor the parliamentarians have been taken on board. He said that PML-N government should discuss National Water Policy in Parliament before placing it in the CCI.

Former senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari said that there is no proper planning on dealing with the water issue and there is massive corruption in the sector to boot with some seeking to profit from water inadequacy in the country which is lamentable.

He said that ground water level has declined not only in Balochistan but across the country; and claimed that there is mega corruption in water projects including in the 200 small water dams in Balochistan. He maintained that the government is not taking the issue seriously.

Punjab Irrigation Research Institute Director Engineer Ghulam Zakir Hassan Sial said that safe drinking water was not available in Punjab and groundwater was depleting at the rate of 2.5 feet every year. He said that if this situation continues, a time will come when there will be no drinking water available in the country.

He said that access to safe drinking water in rural and urban areas is declining every day and the people will face serious water shortage in the not so distant future.

Senior parliamentarian from Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Nawab Muhammad Yusuf Talpur said while talking to Business Reorder that the shortage of water is a very serious issue but the government is not taking any steps to overcome it. The federal government committed to Sindh government to provide funds for water projects for the people of Karachi, who have been facing an acute shortage for awhile, but has yet to fulfil its commitment.

He said that federal government is not implementing 1991 Water Accord and Sindh was getting less water than its share as agreed in the 1991 Water Accord. Sindh is getting water under "Three-Tier Formula" of water distribution which is contrary to the spirit of Water Accord of 1991, he added.

According to Nawab Yousaf Talpur, Chairman Indus River System Authority (Irsa) Syed Mazhar Ali Shah acknowledged during a meeting of subcommittee of National Assembly's Water and Power Committee that Irsa is distributing water between provinces in accordance with 'Three Tier formula' since 2003 instead of Water Accord of 1991.

He said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government should include Diamer-Bhasha Dam hydro power project under CPEC to address the water shortage in the country.

According to Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR)'s report, 'the country touched the "water stress line" in 1990 before crossing the "water inadequacy line" in 2005.

Pakistan wastes water valued at Rs 25 billion every year, according to Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). A recent study by the PCRWR found that 69 per cent of water suppliers do not meet the national standards of water quality, putting millions of lives at risk.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) report noted that Pakistan is already the third most water-stressed country in the world. Its per capita annual water handiness is 1,017 cubic meters dangerously close to inadequacy threshold of 1000 cubic meters.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/03/20180320353143/>

## NO DAM ON INDUS CAN BE BUILT WITHOUT STAKEHOLDERS' CONSENSUS, SAYS CM

Dawn, March 20th, 2018

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that under the National Water Policy (NWP) no new water storage/dam on the Indus River is acceptable until a consensus is developed among all the stakeholders.

He highlighted the need on Monday to amend the relevant laws to establish a National Water Council (NWC) with the prime minister as its chairman to review and coordinate implementation of the NWP and national water sector strategy in the country and periodic updating of the same and recommend legislation, policies and strategies for water resource development and management in the country.

The chief minister stated this while presiding over a preparatory meeting for the Council of Common Interests (CCI) moot scheduled for Tuesday in Islamabad in which the NWP would be discussed.

Irrigation secretary Jamal Shah briefing the CM said the amendment proposed by the Sindh government had been incorporated in the proposed NWP. They are to secure katcha areas and economy thereof; preservation of delta area by providing sufficient supplies regularly and rainwater disposal arrangement in plains where it cannot be disposed of or diverted to the river.

## ADVERTISEMENT

Plans to take up National Water Policy issue at CCI meeting in Islamabad today

He referred to the proposal given by the Sindh chief minister “to implement water apportionment accord 1991 in true letter and spirit and prevent its provision in para-2, from amendments/distortions at any level of forum”.

The distribution as elaborated shall be adjusted proportionately and distributed to the provinces accordingly. The chief minister said he would take up the issue again in the CCI meeting.

The irrigation secretary said the amendment proposed by the CM that “provinces are responsible for routine repair and maintenance of flood protection dykes, flood fighting and drainage. However, in case of a catastrophic situation like the 2010 flood, the federal government would provide supplementary funds” had not been incorporated in the revised draft policy.

The CM said the proposed amendment was necessary and he would again take it up. When he was informed that his amendment “Build large dams for system augmentation with consensus of all federating units” had not been incorporated, the CM said he was writing a letter to the prime minister with a request to formulate a policy under which new storage/dams would not be allowed without consensus, particularly of the lower riparian stakeholders.

He further said that the preface to the NWP should be “This National Water Policy recognises the internationally accepted right of lower riparian on water. Any diversions/intervention in the smooth flow of water would not be allowed until and unless the consensus of all federating units, particularly the lower riparian is achieved.”

Murad Ali Shah said Sindh and Balochistan had already faced serious water issues. The construction of new storages/dams would further cause devastation. “We would not accept the new water policy until and unless our proposed amendment is incorporated in the new policy,” he said.

Another amendment as proposed by the Sindh government that “A National Water Council shall be established with the composition: prime minister chairman, federal water and power minister, federal minister for climate change, federal minister of national food security and research ... chief ministers of provinces, provincial irrigation ministers, private sector’s members from water-related disciplines as members and advisers; chairman Federal Flood Commission would be secretary of the council. Prime Minister of AJK and chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan along with their irrigation or agriculture ministers will be invited to the meeting of NWC as observers.”

The functions of the NWC will be as follows:

- a) Review and coordinate implementation of the National Water Policy and national water sector strategy in the country and periodic updating of the same;
- b) Recommend legislation, policies and strategies for water resources development and management in the country;
- c) National planning and coordination for water resources development and management activities among the organisations concerned at federal as well as provincial government level to achieve objective of NWP;
- d) Create an enabling environment that shall promote broader multi-stakeholders’ participation and integrated water resources management with due consideration for environment and ecology;
- e) Coordinate with the organisation concerned responsible for controlling pollution of water bodies, including rivers, streams, lakes and ground water;

- f) Managing centralised water resources database service; and
- g) Any other functions, which the CCI may assign to the council.

The CM said that these suggestions should be incorporated in the NWP. “I would take up all these issues in the meeting with the objective to safeguard the rights of smaller provinces, particularly the lower riparian,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1396306>

## INTERNATIONAL WATER DAY: EXPERTS SAY GOVT IGNORANT OF WORSENING WATER CONDITION

In Pakistan, water availability per capita is projected to decrease to an alarming level and as predicted by experts, chances are high that after seven years the country will run dry.

Pakistan is fast becoming a water-stressed country with a dearth of reserves, but unfortunately, the past and present governments despite knowing the alarming situation, have remained ignorant and to addressing the water shortage issues on a war footing.

The best example of this is that currently, 50 posts are lying vacant at the newly created Ministry of Water Resources.

According to an official working closely with the water, sector told The Express Tribune that currently there are two posts each for the joint secretary, deputy secretary in addition to four posts for section officers and about support staff 47 posts lying vacant. On the other hand, the new Ministry also lacks a proper and building for its operations.

“It has become difficult to work without professional and required staff,” said the official. Moreover, the departments functioning under this Ministry also lacks some important members to deal with critical issues, he said.

Meanwhile according to the documents available with The Express Tribune, the government instead of increasing budgetary allocation for water sector under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), it has reduced the allocation from Rs57.8 billion in 2013-14 to Rs36.75 billion in 2017-18.

Ironically, in 2013-14 against the demand of Rs177 billion an amount of Rs57.8 billion was allocated for the water sector. In 2014-15 against the demand of Rs154.9 billion, only Rs46.2 billion were provided. Similarly in 2017-18 against the demand of Rs174.6 billion a mere Rs36.75 billion was distributed.

In the meantime the impact of climate change on available water resources in Pakistan is all set to create havoc.

According to the latest report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), under future climate change scenarios, Pakistan is expected to experience increased variability of river flows due to increased variability of precipitation and the melting of glaciers.

It further stated that demand for irrigation water may increase due to higher evaporation rates. Yields of wheat and basmati rice are expected to decline and may drive production northward, subject to water availability.

“Water availability for hydropower generation may decline. Hotter temperatures are likely to increase energy demand due to increased air conditioning requirements. Warmer air and water temperatures may decrease the efficiency of nuclear and thermal power plant generation. Mortality due to extreme heat waves may increase,” reads the report.

The report further reveals that crops grown in both irrigated areas and those under spate farming systems are highly sensitive to the amount of water available and temperature variability.

The study further reveals that the glacier reservoirs will be empty causing a decrease of flows by as much as 30% to 40% over the next 50 years.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1666214/1-international-water-day-experts-say-govt-ignorant-worsening-water-condition/>

## RESIDENTS OF SINDH HAVE NOTHING TO CELEBRATE ON WORLD WATER DAY

Hafeez Tunio

The Express Tribune, March 22, 2018

The world is celebrating World Water Day today (Thursday) under the theme of nature for water, but around 80% of Sindh's population are at risk because they consume contaminated water.

Nothing is spared from the killer water, be it households, educational institutions, government and non-governmental offices or even public hospitals. "Out of 336 potable water samples collected from various areas of Sindh, 251 were found unsafe and only 85 were safe for human consumption," said a report of the judicial commission on water submitted to the Supreme Court. The report stated that fluoride, sulfate, nitrate, iron, sodium, chloride sulfate, colour, odour, potassium and microbiological contamination was found in the water samples.

"If the same situation persists for the next 10 years, then we will have to set up colonies for water victims similar to lepers' colonies we witnessed after Partition," said Shahab Usto, a former bureaucrat whose plea led to the establishment of the commission.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Usto said, "We don't need an enemy, the unsafe water will kill our population if drastic measures are not taken". He added that one cannot escape from air or water, which are essential parts of life. "People in the worst conditions are rushed to hospitals for treatment, but unfortunately the performance of all public hospitals is dull and they have no capacity to deal with patients," he lamented, adding that there is no water, sanitation or even disposal system at public hospitals. "We, through the platform of the judicial commission, have done research and conducted surveys on the availability of filtration and treatment plants, drinking water and sanitation schemes and found that around 2,300 such schemes have been lying dormant for years now. With the efforts of the judicial commission, the provincial government is now compelled to revive a few schemes," he said.

There are multiple sources of drinking water in the province — the Indus River and its tributaries, dug wells, rainwater based dams and ponds, natural freshwater lakes and reservoirs and ground water sources such as subsoil water, hand pumps, tube wells and reverse osmosis plants. Untreated and municipal waste, industrial waste and waste through drainage structure are among other factors that have polluted drinking water in the province.

Diarrhoea, skin conditions, infections, river blindness and trachoma can all be linked to dirty water, alongside poor sanitation and hygiene. According to a report, not only adults but newborn deaths occur in Pakistan due to infections that could have been avoided had the babies been delivered in places with safe, clean water, decent sanitation and good hygiene. "Small children with regular bouts of diarrhoea or intestinal worms are more likely to experience malnutrition and stunting. In areas where groundwater has become saline, hypertension and eclampsia are more common," Dr Zakir Husain Kaimkhani, a medical practitioner, explained.

The water commission, in order to check the quality of drinking water being supplied, collected 84 drinking water samples from Karachi. According to judicial commission officials, 11 samples were collected from District Malir, 11 from Central, 15 from West, 14 from South, 11 from East and 11 from Korangi, while 10 samples were collected from the Dhabeji, Pipri and NEK filtration/treatment plants. "Of 84 drinking water samples, 67 were found unsafe for human consumption due to the presence of total coliforms, which include bacteria found in the soil and among these

samples 30 were found contaminated [with faeces]. High levels of microbiological contamination are [present] in Karachi's water," the report said.

Dr Ghulam Murtaza, a senior researcher at the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, has conducted research on underground water at government hospitals in the province. According to his findings 74% of 116 samples collected from 30 hospitals in the province were unfit for human consumption owing to physiochemical or microbiological contamination. The government hospitals from where he collected the water samples were located in Karachi, Kotri, Tando Allahyar, Latifabad, Qasimabad, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Sukkur, Khairpur, Larkana, Umerkot, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad and Shahdadpur. "The government must take drastic measures to provide ultra-filtration technology to these hospitals to get rid of all kind of viruses and bacteria," he said.

Rivers, canals and barrages in the province have been polluted and filtration plants have not been installed in several cities of Sindh to provide potable water after treatment.

In many cities of the province, people are using underground water and the quality of that water has deteriorated due to a lack of sanitation, caused by, among other things, encroachments on sub-drains, use of pesticide in agriculture and constant inflow of effluent in irrigation canals. However, there is no initiative on the part of the government to build filtration plants in such areas to provide purified water and increase the capacity of water supply.

Nadeem Ahmed, policy manager at WaterAid Pakistan, which works for water rights in developing countries, told The Express Tribune that 90% of people in Pakistan depend on underground water and 60 million of them use arsenic affected water. "There are two types of water — surface and underground. Unfortunately, we are creating manmade disasters by polluting our own resources," he said. "In the 1960s, there were 5,000 cubic metres of water per person in the country. This has now been reduced to 800 cubic metres," he explained, adding that wasting water is also a big issue in Pakistan.

"There is a dire need for timely intervention to save our water bodies from all kinds of pollution and contamination by mobilising the masses and educating our people by incorporating water issues in the syllabus, otherwise water will finish in most of our cities and towns and we will face a drought-like situation like Cape Town, South Africa is suffering from now," Ahmed said. He referred to a hadith of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in which says, "Do not waste water even if you are at a running stream."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1665980/1-residents-sindh-nothing-celebrate-world-water-day/>

‘ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IS A THREAT TO WATER AVAILABILITY’

The Express Tribune, 22 March 2018

To commemorate World Water Day, 2018, environmentalists, including officials of the ministry of climate change, deliberated over 'Nature for Water' at Barrett Hodgson University in Karachi.

The chairperson of the environmental science department, Dr Syed Shahid Ali, talked about the importance of water day in relation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations.

He elaborated that Pakistan is facing an acute shortage of water due to population increase, lack of water storage reservoirs, unjust use of water in agriculture, untreated industrial effluents and domestic sewage in the water bodies. These factors have resulted in a significant threat to human, animal and marine life.

Ministry of Climate Change National Ozone Unit's National Programme Manager Ziaul Islam spoke about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation in Pakistan. He quoted figures given by the World Bank regarding cost of environmental degradation, which reached Rs900 billion in 2009, as compared to earlier estimates of Rs365 billion per year by 2006.



Islam, who was instrumental in the promulgation of the Pakistan Environmental Act in 1997 which attempts to implement some measures of environmental controls, said that due to the 18th Amendment and delegation of powers to the provincial assemblies, environmental protection has become a provincial issue and now the provinces are supposed to make and implement environmental protection laws.

On the issue of water scarcity and Pakistan becoming a water stressed country, he emphasised on the need to build new dams and reservoirs. He contended that dam building was politicised to such a degree that various provincial assemblies passed resolutions against the building of new dams. In his opinion, a technical issue has been politicised and it should now be brought back to the technicians to be sorted out.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1666280/1-environmental-degradation-threat-water-availability/>

## MAJOR CROP LOSSES FEARED AS WATER SHORTAGES DEEPEN

Dawn, March 23rd, 2018

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The current water flows in River Jhelum are at a 42-year low level and will lead to around 40 per cent water shortage in early-Kharif season, posing serious threat to upcoming crops, authorities said on Thursday.

A technical committee of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) comprising technical experts from federal agencies including Wapda, Meteorological Department and representatives from the four provinces calculated total water availability at 95 million acre feet (MAF) for Kharif season compared to 107 MAF last year and post-Tarbela dam average of 112 MAF.

There would be no carryover water storage in Kharif after many years and the entire irrigation would depend purely on river flows, said Director Operations Irsa, Khalid Idrees Rana, who presided over the meeting.

He said the Met Office briefed the meeting about the prevailing weather conditions and predicted above normal temperatures in April and yet below normal snow melting in catchment areas. Based on current data, the Met office forecast normal rainfall in monsoon season but would firm up those projections by end-May.

Entire irrigation system will have to rely solely on river flows in Kharif

The meeting expressed serious concern over Jhelum flows and noted that the situation was unusual in the outgoing Rabi season and was feared to remain so in Kharif.

The meeting decided to take up the matter with Irsa's advisory committee when it meets on March 29 and propose close monitoring for a review by mid-April.

It was anticipated that Mangla dam would not be able to achieve filling to full capacity next season.

On the other hand, the authorities estimated normal flows in Indus, Chenab and Kabul rivers during Kharif.

Irsa, Wapda and Sindh government agreed that water losses in Indus Zone would be 40pc in early Kharif and 20pc in late Kharif.

Representatives from Punjab objected to higher estimates for water losses and demanded that these should not be more than 20pc. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also supported this point of view. It was, therefore, decided to refer

the matter to the advisory committee and proposed a professional study to ascertain actual water losses. Water losses in Chenab Zone were jointly assessed at 5pc.

Mr Rana said the technical committee estimated 30-40pc water shortage for early Kharif i.e. April but a final conclusion would be made by the advisory committee on March 29.

He said the Sindh government pointed out that flows in Jhelum river stood at historically lows and should be investigated. The meeting also asked Wapda to submit a revised rating table for Mangla and Tarbela dams in view of declining storage capacity. Mangla dam's dead-level which has reportedly risen from historic 1,040 feet to 1,050 feet, affecting water storage estimates.

The Wapda authorities agreed that post-Tarbela average water availability stood at 112 MAF in Kharif compared to 95MAF estimated for coming season and promised to firm up and submit revised rating tables for both dams by mid-April.

The meeting was informed that flows in Jhelum river had been abnormal since last year and the Pakistan Indus Water Commission (PIWC) had been requested recently to seek from India an early visit to rivers across the line of control under the auspices of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Mr Rana said the regulator's advisory committee would review water availability situation on March 29 and also determine provincial water shares as per water availability.

River flows in Indus at Tarbela were reported at 17,000 cusecs and the entire quantity was released downstream. Kabul flows at Nowshera were reported at 7,500 cusecs. Inflows at Mangla in Jhelum were recorded at 12,500 cusecs compared to outflows of 13,700 cusecs.

Minimum operating level at Tarbela was reported at 1,386 feet (dead-level) having zero storage. Water level at Mangla was also recorded at 1,050 feet or dead level.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1397003>

#### RIVER FLOWS: KHARIF SOWING SEASON TO FACE HIGHER WATER SHORTAGE

The Express Tribune, March 23rd, 2018.

The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) projected on Thursday higher water shortages that would pose a serious threat to critical Kharif crops which required a steady flow of irrigation water.

Rice, sugarcane, cotton and maize are some of the important crops of the Kharif sowing season that runs from April 1 to September 30.

The projection was made in a meeting of the Irsa technical committee held under the chairmanship of Director (Operations) Khalid Rana and attended by representatives of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) and all provinces.

Committee members were of the view that water inflow into rivers would be around 95 million acre feet (maf) during the Kharif season, down 11.2% compared to inflow of 107 maf last year. Average inflow into rivers is estimated at 112 maf.

The Irsa advisory committee will finalise the figures of water availability on March 29. It was informed during the meeting that water loss on the Indus River was estimated at 40% and Jhelum and Chenab rivers at 5%.

However, a representative of Punjab objected to the high loss estimates and suggested that the loss would be 20%.

Initial analysis put water loss at 30-40% for early Kharif and 5-10% for late Kharif. However, the figures will be finalised after the advisory committee meeting later this month. The Meteorological Department has predicted less rainfall in early Kharif, but normal showers during monsoon.

According to a report prepared by Wapda, water inflow into the Indus River at Tarbela was 17,000 cusecs and outflow was the same 17,000 cusecs. Inflow into the Kabul River at Nowshera was 7,500 cusecs and outflow was also 7,500 cusecs.

Inflow into the Jhelum River at Mangla was estimated at 12,500 cusecs and outflow at 13,700 cusecs whereas inflow into the Chenab River at Marala stood at 7,200 cusecs and outflow at 2,000 cusecs.

Inflow into the Jinnah Barrage was recorded at 32,300 cusecs and outflow at 33,000 cusecs whereas inflow at Chashma was 24,900 cusecs and outflow was 23,000 cusecs.

At Taunsa, the inflow was calculated at 23,200 cusecs and outflow at 21,200 cusecs whereas at Panjnad the inflow was 200 cusecs and outflow was zero.

Inflow into Guddu was 16,000 cusecs and outflow was 13,100 cusecs, at Sukkur the inflow was 13,100 cusecs whereas outflow was 4,300 cusecs. At Kotri, the inflow was recorded at 3,000 cusecs and outflow was zero.

At Tarbela Dam, the water level was calculated at 1,386 feet whereas its maximum conservation level was 1,550 feet and live storage was zero on Thursday. At Mangla Dam, the water level was 1,050 feet, though its maximum conservation level was 1,242 feet and live storage was 0.033 feet.

At Chashma, the water level was 649 feet which was its maximum conservation level whereas live storage was 0.068 feet.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1667099/2-river-flows-kharif-sowing-season-face-higher-water-shortage/>

## WATER SHORTAGES

Dawn, March 24th, 2018

AS the early Kharif season approaches, an alarming picture of water shortage has been presented by a technical committee. Against a project demand of 107MAF, the water available will be 95MAF, one of the largest gaps in recent memory. This shortage raises the prospect of large-scale crop loss, particularly for cotton which is the country's most important Kharif crop.

There will be little water storage as a result, leaving all irrigation requirements to be met through river flows alone. The bulk of the decline in the flows is anticipated to come from the Jhelum river, which could fall to a 42-year low. The committee is correct to recommend that the matter be raised with India through the platform provided by the Indus Waters Treaty, especially considering that all other rivers are projected to be at normal flow.

If it is true that the Jhelum's water flows are declining so fast, then it needs to be ascertained whether or not the hydrological infrastructure built upstream by India is playing a role. Equally, it could well turn out to be a climate-related phenomenon. The Met department expects an early warming of temperatures this summer; this coupled with the fact there was decreased snowfall in winter, will depress river flows.

Beyond simple geopolitics, the projections also highlight the extreme vulnerabilities of our agriculture to variations in river flows. This means all aspects of our water economy need to be carefully considered to mitigate this weakness —

from the extraordinarily high water losses of 40pc, to the low levels of water storage available in the country, and certainly to farm-water utilisation practices.

The agriculture sector is accustomed to water availability of 112MAF in the post-Tarbela period, and sharp shortfalls below this level call for immediate action. The most serious attention must come in the form of a revamped water policy that takes into account not just improvements in the supply of water but also in its utilisation.

This is a matter that must rise above politics, and the water policy under consideration should seek far-reaching reforms that focus on farm practices as well as more effective management of water command areas. Irrigation water is one of the crucial life-giving elements in Pakistan's economy, and it serves as a foundation for our larger economy and food security. Urgent attention to correct its vulnerabilities is required.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1397225>

## MANGLA, TARBELA DAMS HIT DEAD LEVEL AFTER 15 YEARS

Sehrish Wasif

The Express Tribune, March 23, 2018

Pakistan's major water reservoirs are at a dead level after 15 years, according to the Indus River System Authority (IRSA). The experts claim that availability of water in the country is decreasing at an alarming rate with its demand increasing at the same pace.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted that chances are high that rainfall will remain below than normal in April and May and temperatures are likely to increase one to two degree than usual.

According to the PMD website, the current level of water at Mangala Dam is 1,050 feet and its dead level is the same. The inflow of water from the dam, was recorded 12,225 cusecs and outflow at 13,401 cusecs, which has been the lowest ever recorded since 2009. Similarly, Tarbela dam current water level and dead level is 1,386 feet, which is lowest since 2009. The inflow and outflow of water is 16,500 cusecs, which is also lowest since 2009.

IRSA spokesperson told The Express Tribune that both the major water reservoirs of the country, Terbela dam and Mangla dam are at dead level since February 22 this year and will continue to remain like this.

"Pakistan is facing such a situation after 15 years and it is expected that it will be further prolonged till mid of June," he said and added that Pakistan had received below average snowfall in catchment areas this year, therefore it seems like that even snow melting process will also not help much to improve the alarming situation.

The spokesperson said that water shortage has direct impact on agriculture of the country and a slight shortage causes major losses. He added that IRSA has anticipated 40 percent water shortage in the early Kahrif season and the impact of global warming is having an adverse impact on Pakistan

"Unfortunately Pakistan is not ready to deal with the grave impact of climate change despite the situation turning to worse with each passing day. The best option to avoid its negative impact is to have more and more dams," he said.

"It is expected that Pakistan may receive below average showers in April and May and high temperatures than normal. In May water demand will gradually increase with rise in the temperature," Chief Met Office, Dr Ghulam Rasul told The Express Tribune.

He said that glacier melting starts in April but its water flows only in Terbela dam. “Though under the impact of climate change, Pakistan could receive a heavy shower, which could improve water situation in the reservoirs as such ‘unexpected or unusual’ weather events are occurring frequently,” he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1667832/1-mangla-tarbela-dams-hit-dead-level-15-years/>

## GOVT SET TO TAKE PROVINCES ON BOARD OVER WATER POLICY

The Express Tribune, March 24th, 2018.

Zafar Bhutta

With drastic cut in fund allocation in its tenure, the PML-N government is now set to take provinces on board to price water for the production sectors of the economy and form a new water body – the National Water Council (NWC) – to oversee major projects in the country.

At present, agriculture and power sectors, which use water for production, may be priced, if the proposed policy is approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also been insisting the government to price the water stored in dams.

The draft of the new water policy would be tabled before the upcoming CCI to seek the consent of provinces for approval.

The federal government said that water at the delivery point shall be realistically priced according to a general principle for production sectors of the economy, which would affect full recovery cost.

Secondly, for social usage, the concept of affordability would be applied, and for environmental and ecological needs, water supply shall be free of cost.

Whenever the subsidy becomes unavoidable, it should be carefully estimated and the source of its financing should be clearly indicated, provided that the source has adequate resources for subsidy financing.

According to the draft, a major reason of the water crisis is the lack of allocation of funds in the public sector development programme. As a result, there has been no increase in total cropped area in the past two decades.

During the Musharraf regime, funds allocated for the power sector stood at Rs70 billion, which went down to Rs51 billion during the PPP regime in 2012-13.

During the present regime of PML-N, it further dropped to Rs36.7 billion in 2017-18, which amounts to 3.7% of the total federal sector development programme. It was the lowest allocation of funds for the water sector, compared to the last two decades.

The new water policy recommends increasing funds allocation at 10% of the total federal development programme in 2018-19 and 20% by 2030.

The National Water Council (NWC) has been proposed for planning, regulation, development coordination and management.

This council will review and coordinate implementation of the national water policy and national water sector strategy in the country.

A new ground water authority will be established in each province to ensure sustainability and transparency.

An information technology-based monitoring system has been proposed at all diversion points from the rivers and reservoirs, which will be refined and upgraded to guarantee availability of real time data.

It would also help cover those parts of catchments of the rivers that lie in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and outside Pakistan to include tributary rivers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1667873/2-govt-set-take-provinces-board-water-policy/>

#### INADEQUATE PSDP ALLOCATION 'ADDING TO WATER WOES'

Sehrish Wasif.

The Express Tribune, 25 March 2018

ISLAMABAD : A major reason behind the prevailing water crisis in Pakistan is inadequate allocation for water sector in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

As a result of low allocations, there has been virtually no increase in the total cropped area of 55 million acres in the past two decades, government documents available with The Express Tribune reveal.

According to the documents, since the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government took over, there has been a continuous drop in the PSDP allocation for water sector and the share for the sector has remained below 11% of the total size of the PSDP.

The documents reveal that in 2017-18, the federal PSDP allocated only 3.7% (out of the total size of the (PSDP) for water sector which is the lowest in the last two decades, followed by 4% in 2016-17, 4.3% in 2015-16 and 8.5% in 2014-15.

The highest PSDP allocation during the PML-N tenure for the sector was 10.7% in 2013-14 – the time the ruling party had taken over. However, during previous governments, the water sector allocation in the federal PSDP has fluctuated from 6.9% to 18%.

During the last 18 years, the highest allocation in the PSDP for water sector was 18% in 2006-07, followed by 17% in 2005-2006 and 13% in 2009-10.

Talking to The Express Tribune, an official said that in view of the prevailing water crisis in the country, the Ministry of Water Resources had demanded an allocation of Rs203.7 billion in the PSDP for 2018-19.

“Without having ample amount of funding for water sector, it is not possible for the government to address water woes in the country,” the official said, adding that the country’s major source of income, i.e. agriculture “is entirely based on water availability”.

He mentioned numerous important water-related projects that are facing delay mainly because of lack of funding.

“It is about time the government adopted a serious approach and focused, with full commitment, on the issues pertaining to water management and conservation... otherwise time is not too far when Pakistan will turn from a water-stressed country to a water-scarce country,” he said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1668545/1-inadequate-psdp-allocation-adding-water-woes/>

As soon as the weather changed, the residents of Quetta are faced with another troublesome issue. Complaining about gas shortage the whole winter, the residents are now suffering from more pressing concerns like unannounced load shedding and water shortage.

More than 60 per cent of the population of Quetta faces water shortage.

Taking advantage of water shortage in the past, tube wells were constructed at different locations from where tanker owners were selling water to the residents.

Like every year, this year also the owners of water tankers increased their rates making the summer season's load shedding as an excuse. The water tankers that were being sold for Rs700 to Rs1,000 are not being sold for Rs1,500 per tanker.

The owners of water tankers say every year when summer nears, unannounced load shedding suspends water supply to tube wells for which they have to wait the whole day.

Sources said load shedding and increase in water consumption had flared the egos of tube well owners.

According to the people, with the increase in temperature every year, the tanker owners do not supply water for several days just to get the rates of their choice.

They demanded of the Wasa Department to ensure supply of water in Quetta area so that they could get rid of the water tankers.

The residents of Sabzal Road held a protest demonstration outside the Quetta Press Club against shortage of water and unannounced load shedding.

They chanted slogans against non-provision of basic facilities.

They said that for the last many years the residents of Sarpara Stop, Sabzal Road were facing an artificial water shortage, adding that every year before the advent of summer unannounced load shedding wreaked havoc on them.

They demanded of the Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and Qesco high-ups to resolve their issues.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1657347/1-quetta-faces-blackouts-water-shortage/>

## WORLD BANK AGREES TO FINANCE REHABILITATION OF SUKKUR BARRAGE

The Express Tribune, March 14, 2018

The World Bank has, in principal, agreed to finance the rehabilitation of the Sukkur Barrage and has asked the provincial government to submit the project's PC-1.

The decision was taken on Tuesday in a meeting held between Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah and a 14-member World Bank delegation headed by Country Director Patchamuthu Illangovan.



The CM said a feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the Sukkur Barrage had been conducted which was later reviewed by World Bank officials, including its experts in dam design, sedimentation and structures. A public hearing was also held to assess the project's environmental impact, he added.

Sharing details of the assessment's findings, the CM said the barrage structure had been declared safe and rehabilitation works could extend its life indefinitely. He added that results of some additional studies would also be implemented in the rehabilitation work, which would increase the barrage's flood handling capacity to 1.5 million cusecs.

The rehabilitation project would be carried out over a period of four years, the CM said. Under the project, repair of RCC arches, stone arches of head regulators, stone piers, and stone filling above the arches would be carried out, whereas, gate deck flooring, barrage road surface and storm water drainage system would be replaced. The project also includes increasing the height of the existing left pocket divide walls. De-silting of canals would also be carried out under the project.

As per the recommendations of the feasibility report, the electric system of the barrage will be completely replaced, including switchboards, local control panels, feeding from Water and Power Development Authority's grid station, 11-kilovolt transformer and standby generators.

The project would cost around Rs16.26 billion, the CM said. Sharing the cost's distribution, the CM said repair works would cost around Rs1.06 billion and replenishment of scour protection works would be carried out at around Rs571.5 million. Foundation inspection and repairs would cost Rs1.97 million, building works Rs356.3 million, monitoring and control instrumentation Rs238.2 million, gates and mechanical works and procurement Rs3.34 billion, electrical works Rs634.2 million and insurance, client and engineers facilities would cost Rs524.9 million. Additional studies would also be carried out at an estimated cost of Rs682 million and project management and physical contingencies and price escalation is estimated at Rs2.12 billion.

The World Bank country director urged the CM to submit PC-I of the project so that it could be formally approved. Planning and Development Chairperson Mohammad Waseem and Irrigation Secretary Jamal Shah said the PC-I of the project was about to be finalised and it would be submitted within 15 days.

The CM was assisted by Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal, Local Government Minister Jam Khan Shoro, Population Welfare Minister Mumtaz Jakharnai, Principal Secretary to the CM Sohail Rajput, Schools Education Secretary Iqbal Durani, Health Secretary Dr Fazlullah Pechuho, Population Secretary Laiq Ahmed and others.

The Sukkur Barrage was formally called Lloyd Barrage. Built by the British government on the Indus River, the barrage controls one of the largest irrigation systems in the world. It was designed by Sir Arnold Musto KCIE, and constructed under the overall direction of Sir Charlton Harrison, KCIE, as chief engineer. Construction of the barrage commenced in 1923 and it was completed in January, 1932. Some of the barrage's canals are larger than the Suez Canal. Later, two more major barrages were constructed in Sindh, which were Kotri and Guddu barrages. Irrigation in Sindh is largely controlled by these three barrages.

Sukkur Barrage was responsible for bringing large-scale awakening in Sindh as a consequence of economic benefits. A large number of students from rural areas turned up in the cities for education, immediately after the barrage became functional. Considering its significance, the Sukkur Barrage should be preserved. Moreover, efforts should be made to ensure its operation as per irrigation rules since any mismanagement of the barrage will have serious repercussions on the economy of Sindh.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1659219/1-world-bank-agrees-finance-rehabilitation-sukkur-barrage/>

Zulqernain Tahir

LAHORE: Three senior bureaucrats of Punjab on Tuesday appeared before the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in connection with its probe into the affairs of public-sector companies.

“NAB quizzed provincial secretaries Najam Shah (health), Agha Khurram (housing) and Iftikhar Sahu (planning & development) for more than three hours primarily over the affairs of the Punjab Saaf Pani Company,” an official source told Dawn.

He said the three bureaucrats had taken Chief Secretary Zahid Saeed into confidence before leaving for NAB office at Thokar Niaz Baig to record their statements. “The secretaries wanted assurance (from the chief secretary) that NAB would not detain them like it did in the case of some officers in the Ashiana-i-Iqbal housing scam last week,” he said, adding that the secretaries had brought all relevant record along with them before the NAB investigators.

The source said that after the arrest of Ahad Cheema, who is considered close to Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, there is trepidation in the Punjab bureaucracy that first strongly reacted to the NAB action and is now apprehending similar action against any other senior officer in its ongoing investigation in several provincial projects.

“The Punjab government was earlier reluctant to submit the record of the Saaf Pani Company despite repeated requests by NAB but now it is cooperating with it,” said the source. Similarly, he said, the rising temperature between NAB and the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) over the issue of handing over the case record had come down after both agreed to follow SoPs in this regard.

“We have no issue with NAB on handing over the Saaf Pani Company record or investigation any more. The issue has been settled as we told NAB that we do not have the original record of any department/company and under the law it cannot hand over the investigation of any case to any other investigation agency,” ACE Director General retired Brig Muzzafar Ali Ranjha told Dawn.

Earlier, a NAB official had told Dawn that the Punjab government was not submitting the record of the Saaf Pani Company to it because Shahbaz Sharif was accused of violating the PPRA rules in award of contracts. “ACE had lodged an FIR against a former CEO of Saaf Pani Company. Why it had not included the name of the chief minister who approved direct contracting of the project without providing a level playing field to other companies and violated the PPRA rules?” he asked.

NAB four months ago had launched a thorough probe into the affairs of the 56 public-sector companies formed by Shahbaz Sharif administration in Punjab for their alleged involvement in corruption. These companies are accused of certain irregularities, recruitment in violation of procurement rules and merit, nepotism, and non-completion of various projects in time. There has been also lack of performance and regular audit and non-transparent procedure of tendering in these companies which come under direct supervision of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

NAB chairman retired Justice Javed Iqbal had directed the inquiry officials that these companies should not be stopped from working till enough evidence was gathered against them. He also directed that legal course should be followed during the process of investigation.

A case against these companies is also pending with the Lahore High Court. In his contention before the court in this case, a petitioner said: “Just in 2016, the number of companies increased from six to 56. These companies had expenditure of Rs250bn but no audit of these companies was ever carried out except one performance audit by the auditor general of Pakistan.”

## WB AGREES TO FINANCE REHABILITATION OF SUKKUR BARRAGE

Dawn, March 14th, 2018

Habib Khan Ghori

KARACHI: The World Bank has, in principle, agreed to finance the much-awaited rehabilitation of Sukkur Barrage and asked the Sindh government to submit PC-I for its formal approval.

The project would cost Rs16.256 billion. The rehabilitation work to be implemented over a period of four years could extend the life of the barrage indefinitely.

This emerged from the meeting held on Tuesday between Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and World Bank country director Patchamuthu Illangovan and his 14-member team of experts and sector chief. The chief minister was assisted by provincial ministers Sohail Siyal, Jam Khan Shoro, Mumtaz Jakhrani, P&D chairman Mohammad Waseem, principal secretary to CM Sohail Rajput, school education secretary Iqbal Durrani, health secretary Fazal Pechuho, irrigation secretary Jam Shah, population secretary Laiq Ahmed and others.

Project estimated to cost around Rs16.25bn

The chief minister said that the feasibility study for rehabilitation was conducted by consultants and draft feasibility was reviewed by experts while further revision in feasibility study was made by World Bank experts, including experts on dam design, sedimentation and structures.

He said the Consultant's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was also reviewed by International POE in August 2017, after public hearing for the project's environmental impacts. The international POE has also submitted an environmental and social assessment report.

The chief minister said that additional studies had been recommended during the implementation stage, including location study for a new barrage, sediment transport modelling and monitoring study, physical model study in the United Kingdom/Holland for consultant's recommendation for changes in right pocket river training works, enabling an increase in the barrage flood handling capacity to 1.5 million cusecs.

The rehabilitation work includes repair of the barrage and canal regulators structure under which RCC arches of barrage (200 Nos), stone arches of head regulators (165 Nos), stone piers, barrage (128 Nos) and head regulators (110 Nos), stone filling above arches of barrage and head regulators would be made. There would be a complete replacement of gate deck flooring, replacement of barrage road surface and storm-water drainage. It includes raising of height for the existing left pocket divide walls.

Dredging and canal de-silting would be made on the left and right pockets approach and tail channels at downstream of right pocket and de-silting of the Dadu, Rice and NW canals.

Replenishment includes the works of central control and monitoring office and workshops, a mosque and officer's residence and a rest house.

Monitoring and control instrument would have automatic water level recorders, vibrating wire piezometers, reactivation of the existing water level observation wells, acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) for a bathymetric

survey, permanent discharge measurement station using horizontal acoustic Doppler profiler (H-ADCP), at Bukkur gorge (two numbers), CCTV cameras and telecommunication.

This component includes repair and epoxy coating in all gates, increasing gate height by two feet, replacing the existing temporary wooden planks, increasing freeboard for fully opened condition by changes in gate hoisting to work without counterweights, installation of required gate-lifting motors for each gate, replacing the existing system of four trolley mounted motors for operation of all the gates, replacement of all moving components and seals, fabrication of pontoon mounted caisson gates and procurement of dredger, tugboat, motorboats and launch.

The CM said that as per recommendation in the feasibility report complete replacement of all electrical works such as switchboards and local control panels with cabling, dedicated feeding from the Wapda grid station, 11Kv transformer and main controls switchboard and standby generators were included.

P&D chairman Mohammad Waseem and irrigation secretary Jamal Shah said the PC-I of the project was in its final stage and would be submitted within 15 days.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1395038>

## WATER SCARCITY CAN PARALYSE COUNTRY, WARN EXPERTS

Dawn, March 16th, 2018

Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: Experts on water and environmental issues warned on Thursday of potentially disastrous consequences Pakistan faced owing to increasing water scarcity, a problem, they said, which had intensified owing to India's active strategy to control and manage water resources and the fast changing climatic patterns.

They were speaking at a briefing organised by Pakistan Water Partnership in collaboration with Farozan and The Nature magazines at the press club.

Raising the issue, Dr Pervaiz Amir regretted that water had become a highly politicised subject in the country, leaving the country without a water policy for seven decades.

He favoured construction of large dams to address growing agricultural and electricity needs of the country as the storage capacity of Tarbela and Mangla dams had been reduced over the years owing to silting.

"A dam is like a water tank. It's the people who decide how to regulate it. Small dams could only meet minimal localised needs," he said, while rejecting what he described as 'misconceptions' and propaganda on dams' constructions.

Responding to a question, he said work on Bhasha dam was at a standstill for many years whereas Dasu dam was about to be completed but it was only for the purpose of storage.

"India's strategy is to maintain status quo in Pakistan. Around 750MAF water is available to India yearly of which 287MAF is stored in dams. Its storage capacity is 30pc, which they want to increase up to 50pc. In comparison, Pakistan with 140MAF available water has a storage capacity of 7pc," he said.

Elaborating further, Sardar Mohammad Tariq said that India had control over 85pc of water that came from Indian-held Kashmir. Now, it was out to damage Pakistan's water interests more as it planned to finance a dam over Kabul River in Afghanistan.

“There has been a 10MAF reduction in our rivers since 2002. Unfortunately, successive governments didn’t develop a comprehensive long-term plan to meet country’s water needs,” he said, adding that the country lost 111bn cusecs of water in past three floods.

The experts also spoke about high water wastage (owing to poor agricultural practices), which stood at around over 40pc, and suggested growing high-value crops with less water needs.

They also suggested striking off Article 161 of the Constitution under which a province with a power plant would get its royalty.

“A dam can exist or affect people of two provinces. Second, the royalty can be shared per the 1991 Water Accord,” they said.

On Karachi, they said the city needs planning and infrastructure to tackle a heatwave and a tsunami in the face of rising temperature.

“Water shortages in the city can be easily addressed by building at least three desalination plants and plugging water theft. The sea must not be used for dumping sewage and should be nourished so that people could benefit from it,” Dr Amir noted.

Both experts described polythene bags as a major threat to environment and water safety and suggested a complete ban on their usage across Pakistan, particularly Karachi.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1395493/water-scarcity-can-paralyse-country-warn-experts>

#### WATER SUPPLY, DEMAND GAP TO REACH 31% BY YEAR 2025

The Express Tribune, 16 March 2018

The gap between availability of water and its demand is forecast to increase at an alarming rate from four percent in 2011 to 31% by 2025.

Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) Dr Muhammad Ashraf told The Express Tribune that the surge in population with time is resulting in increased demand of water and its availability is low due to the impact of global warming.

“In 1960 water availability per person was 5,600 cubic meter and now it has reduced to 1,000 cubic meter, which itself is shocking,” he said.

Dr Ashraf said that one of the major threats Pakistan faces is the rapid increase in population and urbanization.

“Without controlling population growth, Pakistan can never address water scarcity in the country and even the construction of new water reservoirs would not be of much help,” said Dr Ashraf. The chairman further expressed his concern over water scarcity and its impact on crops.

“Government of Pakistan is working closely with the Australian government to find out ways, opportunities and possibilities to grow all crops with less water,” he said.

The Australian High Commissioner for Pakistan Margaret Adamson assured full support of the Australian Government to Agriculture and Water Resources Management in Pakistan.

She briefed that the Australian Water Program is a 15 million AUD assistance program, comprising a large policy investment.

Earlier while addressing participants of a seminar titled, “Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture under Changing Climate” held to mark the World Water Day, 2018 which is on March 22, Dr Ashraf said, “PCRWR in collaboration with its knowledge partners is taking various initiatives to improve water productivity. Recent example is Irrigation Advisory to 20,000 farmers through text messaging.”

Federal Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology Yasmeen Masood stressed on the need of disseminating new, cost effective and innovative solution to address water scarcity in agriculture.

In a separate discussion held here on Thursday, about the “Advances in Increasing the Salinity Tolerance of Crops, organized by the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), world renowned authority on food security Professor Mark Tester explained how the twin challenges of meeting food requirements of a rapidly growing world population and very limited availability of fresh water are being addressed by the development of crop varieties, which are resistant to saline water.

Prof. Tester’s research group on Salinity at the King Abdul Aziz University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia is actively addressing this serious problem by using the science of Genomics to identify the genes, which enable plants to survive in saline conditions.

These genes are then incorporated within existing plant varieties such as barley, tomatoes, etc. to develop new crop varieties, which can flourish in stressful, saline conditions. An immediate implementation of this technology is that seawater or brackish water, which constitutes 97% of the world’s water resources, can be utilized for agriculture, satisfying the food demands of countries such as Pakistan that have rapidly depleting freshwater resources.

The professor also described other parallel efforts whereby existing saline resistant wild plants are being modified to make them suitable for food consumption. He said that there is an ongoing collaboration in this area with scientists at Pakistan’s National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) and lauded their efforts in developing 254 transgenic wheat varieties using the techniques pioneered by Prof. Tester’s team.

The Coordinator General of COMSTECH Dr Shaukat Hameed Khan stressed the serious threat posed to Pakistan’s agriculture by the depletion of its aquifer system. This is especially relevant because the Indus Basin Water Treaty assumed 75% of cropping intensity whereas it has crossed 156% by 2016.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1661330/1-water-supply-demand-gap-reach-31-year-2025/>

## NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 4TH TO MARCH 10TH 2018

### COAS KICKS OFF CONSTRUCTION OF GWADAR DESALINATION PLANT

Dawn, March 5th, 2018

GWADAR: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday laid the foundation stone of a desalination plant being built with the assistance of the United Arab Emirates and Swiss governments.

The project fulfils a long-awaited demand of the local people as it will provide them 4.4 million gallons water per day with the capacity later to increase to 8.8m gallons per day, said a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations.

The desalination plant will be completed in six to eight months and help end the scarcity of drinking water in the area, reducing hardship of the local people who fetch water from far-flung areas.

The COAS said that Balochistan's progress was Pakistan's progress. The army would extend all support and assist in socio-economic development of the province, he added.

Highlighting the importance of the ongoing projects which are part of the Khushhal Balochistan programme, the army chief said that these would transform the lives of the people of the province.

He said that all measures would be taken in coordination with the civilian government to bring peace and prosperity to Balochistan.

Gen Bajwa emphasised that the potential of Balochistan as regional economic hub would be realised only when the people of the province were best served by the projects.

Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, Commander of Southern Command Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa, the UAE ambassador to Pakistan, the director general of the Frontier Works Organisation and a large number of local people were present on the occasion.

The COAS is also scheduled to attend the closing ceremony of Makran Festival organised in connection with Baloch culture day.

Meanwhile, talking to journalists at 440 Brigade camp, Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa said: "Gwadar's face is changing as development projects are being completed here. We are sure that soon the city will emerge with its new shiny face before the world."

He said that they were aware of local fishermen's concern over their dislocation and illicit fishing by trawlers and the issues would be addressed at different forums.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1393261>

### IRRIGATION REFORM IN INDUS BASIN

Amin Ahmed



WATER theft has increased on channels taken over by local farmer organisations compared with those managed bureaucratically, according to an analysis of the governance reform in the country's vast Indus irrigation system.

The theft was more prevalent along channels where large land holdings are situated upstream, the World Bank research study finds. It describes the devolution of irrigation management in the Indus basin as a "felicitous combination".

The study shows a unique data set on both landownership and influential positions held by every water user in each of the 3,923 watercourses (outlets) along 448 channels throughout Punjab. In addition, it also gives information on about 220,000 individual farmers.

In 2016, the World Bank commissioned a survey of 4,294 outlets on 470 irrigation channels distributed across 24 of the 49 administrative divisions of the Punjab irrigation department.

The study compares changes in water discharge along channels whose management was taken over by locally elected farmer organisations to changes that occurred in channels that remained centrally managed. Water theft increased by more in the former case, leading to a large redistribution of wealth.

Decentralisation also increased water theft more along channels with a greater preponderance of large landowners at the head, which suggests that investment in de facto political power can sometimes more than offset changes in de jure political power brought about by institutional reform.

The authors of the study say that "while our evidence is not favourable to the centralisation effort in the Indus basin inasmuch as it did not deliver on its promise of a more equitable and efficient distribution of canal water, it would be premature to throw out the reform baby with the bathwater".

Successful decentralisation will likely involve directly addressing power asymmetries along the irrigation system, such as by giving tail-enders exclusive control over farmer organisations.

The World Bank research took the advantage of a partial governance reform in the world's largest canal irrigation system — the Indus basin watershed. During the last decade, in an effort encouraged by the World Bank, the management of several large sub-systems in Punjab was transferred from the provincial irrigation department to farmer organisations organised at the channel level.

Assessing how this shift from bureaucratic to local control affected rent-seeking in the form of water theft along a channel, the study notes that in such quota-based systems, users have a strong temptation to bribe local officials to look the other way as they use various means to illicitly enhance their water entitlement. Invariably, such water theft benefits farmers at the head of the channel, where water is first to arrive, at the expense of farmers at the tail.

While decentralisation strips authority of unelected irrigation department bureaucrats, farmer organisations may also be subject to capture by these upstream elites and, hence, may sanction as much (if not more) water theft than the irrigation department functionaries they replace.

Given the locational asymmetry, corruption and theft are concentrated at the head of a channel. However, theft induces rent-seeking by coalitions of gainers (farmers at the head) and losers (farmers at the tail), each with varying degrees of political influence.

Under irrigation department control, lobbying effort is directed "over the head" of the local official involved in the corruption whereas, under decentralised control, it is directed towards farmer organisations.

The centrepiece of the analysis of Pakistan's irrigation reform is an administrative database maintained by the Punjab irrigation department and consisting of readings taken from water discharge gauges installed at the head and tail of each channel of the entire system.

Decentralisation led to an increase in water theft, especially along channels with a greater preponderance of large landowners at the head

The data arguably provides an objective measure of water theft along a channel. Moreover, water discharge data is available over the years from 2006 to 2014, a period encompassing significant devolution of irrigation management to farmer organisations.

In a comparison research paper, the authors study the allocation of canal water in the presence of rent-seeking farmers and corruptible irrigation officials with career concerns. Using data from several hundred distributaries in Punjab that were not subject to irrigation reform, the study found that under bureaucratic control, the extent of water theft is substantially affected by the distribution of political power along a channel, where political influence is relatively concentrated at the head of a channel, water allocations are more favourable towards the head as reflected in both the canal discharge and the land value differential between the head and tail.

In empirical results, the authors find strong evidence of an economically important decrease in the relative allocation of water to the tail of a channel once a farmer organisation becomes operational.

The Indus basin irrigation system, which accounts for 80 per cent of Pakistan's agricultural production, lies mostly in Punjab, wherein it encompasses 37,000 kilometres of canals and irrigates about 8.5 million hectares.

From Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers issue a dense network of main canals, branch canals, distributaries, minors and sub-minors, ultimately feeding 58,000 individual watercourses in Punjab alone.

Formally launched with the passage of the Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority Act of 1997 by the provincial assembly, irrigation management reform in the Indus basin, and specifically the devolution to water user's associations, was strongly encouraged by the World Bank.

Administratively, Punjab's irrigation system is divided into 17 circles. As part of the reform, Area Water Boards were established at the circle level to promote the formation of farmer organisations covering every water channel within the circle. The farmer organisations were themselves tasked with the operations and management of distributaries and their off-taking channels.

In particular, a farmer organisation is responsible for monitoring the rotational system to ensure equitable allocation along the distributary, for mediating and reporting water-related disputes among its irrigators, and for collecting water taxes to fund canal operations and maintenance.

Starting from the universe of 2,902 irrigation channels in Punjab, dropping cases that either had zero discharge at the head throughout the 2006-14 period or in which the overseeing farmer organisation included a larger branch canal (three organisations in all), leaves 2,860 channels. Of these, 1,007 are covered by 394 farmer organisations and 1,853 are not covered by them.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1393155>

**K-IV WATER PROJECT WILL NOT BE OPERATIONAL THIS YEAR, SAYS MINISTER**  
Dawn, March 6th, 2018

KARACHI: The completion of the Karachi Greater Water Project K-IV has been delayed by a year and it is now expected to be ready by the middle of next year, said Local Government Minister Jam Khan Shoro.

He was responding to legislators' queries about the issues relating to the Local Government department during the Sindh Assembly's Question Hour on Monday.

When Muttahida Qaumi Movement's Qamar Rizvi said that only 20 per cent work had been completed on the K-IV project, the minister agreed with him that the pace of work was slow and said the foundation stone of the two-year project was laid on Aug 14, 2016 and it was scheduled to be completed by June 2018 but unfortunately the deadline could not be met.

He added that the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) was implementing the project and it had committed to complete the job by June 2018.

'Real estate firm not the main beneficiary'

"The FWO has employed over 386 pieces of equipment and machinery on the 120-kilometre-long site and over 1,100 workers are working on it under three colonels of the FWO/Pakistan Army," he said.

Responding to Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's Seema Zia, Mr Shoro stated that federal and Sindh governments were equally sharing the cost of the project and so far Sindh had released around Rs5.2 billion while the federal government had given around Rs6.4bn.

"Over Rs7.58bn have been spent on the project so far which is designed to bring 260 million gallons of water to the city daily," he added.

To answer Bilquis Mukhtar, the minister narrated that the federal government had refused to pay around Rs5bn which was the cost of the land required for the project though 50 per cent cost-sharing formula had been agreed upon between them.

"Keeping in view the importance of the project, Sindh is paying for it and has so far released Rs2.5bn. But we have planned to take up the issue with the federal government so that it pays its share," the local government minister added.

He said the federal government also did not agree to provide water for the K-IV which delayed the project.

"Eventually Sindh provided water from its share for an early start of the project."

Responding to a question by PML-N's Aijaz Shirazi that landowners whose lands had been acquired had not yet been paid, Mr Shoro said the Sindh government had made around Rs2.5bn available and the process to pay compensation had been initiated.

"All landowners will be paid soon," he added.

Pakistan Muslim League-F's Nand Kumar and MQM's Mr Rizvi asked if Bahria Town was the main beneficiary as it was reportedly been provided with a direct water connection from the K-IV while rest of Karachi will get only 20 per cent water from it, the minister said nobody was being provided a direct connection.

“K-IV’s water will be provided through three filter plants located at Pipri, Manghopir and near Baqai University. The areas to be benefitted included Landhi, Korangi, Lyari, Central and West districts, North Karachi and adjoining localities etc.”

Responding to MQM’s Mehmood Razzaque, the minister said the Local Government Act 2013 did not allow UC chairmen to give permission for road cutting.

“Such permissions can only be given by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation or district municipal corporations concerned,” he added.

PML-N’s Shafi Jamote asked about installation of treatment plants so that additional water of 260 MGD from K-IV could be treated; Mr Shoro said two treatment plants on Lyari River and one on Malir River were being installed which would release water into the sea after treatment.

To another of his questions that why treated water was not being used for agriculture, the minister said there was no such planning at the moment.

A written answer to a question asked by PTI legislator Khurram Sher Zaman said there was no plan or proposal to hand over administrative control of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board to Pakistan Army.

MQM’ Rehan Zafar, Kamran Akhtar and Rana Ansar, who had asked the questions, were not present in the assembly when their names were called.

The questions asked by them were not pressed by anyone, therefore, they lapsed.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1393453>

## SINDH ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES ACUTE SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER

Dawn, March 6th, 2018

Habib Khan Ghori

KARACHI: Sindh is facing acute shortage of water which has created a drought-like situation in different parts of the province, particularly in the vicinity of Old Jamrao Canal, including Sanghar city.

This was stated by PML-F’s lawmaker Saeed Khan Nizamani during the Sindh Assembly’s session on Monday.

Drawing attention of the house towards the hardships being faced by the residents, he called upon the government to take urgent measures to provide relief to the people.

Health Minister Dr Sikander Mandhro, while agreeing with Mr Nizamani, said Sindh was receiving 65 to 70 per cent less water because of shortage at Tarbela and Mangla dams.

“Persistent cold weather in Northern Areas is not letting the snow melt which would otherwise have filled the dams with water,” he added.

The minister further said the issue was not only discussed earlier in the house but had also been taken up in the National Assembly.

“The drought-like situation is not man-made but a natural phenomenon,” he stated and assured the MPA that the government was ready to provide whatever assistance it could.

Nand Kumar Goklani of the PML-F talked about depriving poor Hindus of financial help on the occasion of Holi and rampant corruption in the province.

Dr Khatu Mal Jeewan, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister, termed the allegations baseless and said not only poor Hindus but other non-Muslims too were handed cheques.

Ameer Haider Shirazi of the PML-N said Kohistani areas of Thatta and Jamshoro districts were facing acute shortage of drinking water and demanded special financial package for them.

Provincial Minister for Welfare and Relief Mumtaz Hussain Jakhrani informed the house that the government was quite aware of the situation and taking necessary steps.

He added that in such situations deputy commissioners concerned could declare an area drought affected.

“The people of Kohistan will not be left unattended,” he assured the house.

MQM’s lawmaker Mehfoozyar Khan tried to speak but Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani did not allow him. As a result, the former walked out of the assembly.

At the beginning of the session, the house offered fatcha for the departed souls of PPP MPA Rubina Qaimkhani’s young son and renowned rights activist, social worker and political leader Jam Saqi.

The speaker congratulated Dr Mandhro on being elected to Senate.

The health minister introduced the Sindh Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018, but deferred its consideration until Wednesday so that the legislators could read it.

The speaker called off the day’s proceedings at around 1.20pm. The assembly will meet again on Tuesday morning.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1393448>

## FIRST NATIONAL WATER POLICY ON THE CARDS

The Express Tribune, March 8th, 2018

Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairman Lieutenant General (Retired) Muzammil Hussain has said that the first-ever national water policy will be announced soon that will help overcome water challenges.

He was talking to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Malik Tahir Javed, Senior Vice President Zeshan Khalil and other officials.

Energy and food security is as essential as the security of borders; the country is preserving only 10% of flowing water despite the fact that water resources are depleting,” he remarked. Hussain revealed that Pakistan stood at the 15th place in the list of water-deprived countries and put the economic worth of water wastage into sea at around \$14.5 billion.

“We have to plan today for our future as the population of Pakistan will cross 300 million by 2050,” he said while emphasising that the government was working on various water and power projects, of which many were near completion.

Speaking on the occasion, the LCCI president said though the government had largely overcome the energy shortfall and electricity load-shedding had gone down considerably, there was a dire need to slash electricity prices in order to provide some relief for the industry. He recalled that some three decades ago the energy mix in Pakistan comprised roughly 70% hydel resources and 30% other resources, but said the proportion had now almost reversed.

“Expensive energy mix is causing more problems for us. High price of energy adversely affects export competitiveness of the country as it takes a major share in the production cost,” he said.

Javaid emphasised that the business community would be much relieved if the per unit price of electricity was brought down because that would make their products more competitive in the international market.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1653989/2-first-national-water-policy-cards/>

#### A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT

The Express Tribune, March 9th, 2018.

The ongoing water crisis has featured in these columns several times in recent months and it now appears that the government has decided to take both note and action. The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) has announced that there is to be a national water policy to address the serious challenges that Pakistan faces. One prediction is that the crisis will peak in 2025 when water shortages become an existential threat, now less than eight years hence.

The announcement was made at a meeting of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and it came with some chilling statistics. Pakistan is preserving just 10 per cent of its flowing water and the country is at the 15th place in the catalogue of most water-deprived countries. The water that is wasted by unrestricted flow into the sea is estimated to be worth \$14.5 billion in economic terms, and with a population that is going to surpass 300 million by 2050 there is an urgency to this announcement that outweighs most other items on the national agenda. This is an item that has to transcend party politics and provincial rivalries. It affects everybody no matter who they vote for. The commitment to a national water policy has to be endorsed by every political party contesting the coming election and their commitment to it stated loud and clear.

The energy shortfall of four years ago has been addressed. It has not gone away but there have been significant improvements. Thirty years ago the energy mix was about 70% hydel-generated with 30% from other sources. Today that figure is nearly reversed, and the expensive energy mix is a significant drag-anchor in regard to export competitiveness because of the high prices of per-unit of electricity. Cheaper hydel-generated electricity would be a universal benefit for the common man as well as industry and our hard-pressed exporters. This is not a problem that is ever going to go away, it can only be managed, not eradicated. Water is a finite resource and how well it is managed is going to determine the future health and prosperity of the nation. We wish this policy good fortune.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1654773/1-a-welcome-development-5/>

#### DRIP IRRIGATION BEING ENCOURAGED IN PUNJAB

LAHORE: The Punjab government is encouraging the drip irrigation to overcome water scarcity in the province.

A spokesman of the provincial agriculture department said drip irrigation system is suitable for crop cultivation when irrigation water or rainwater is not enough for conventional farming.

This technology, so far, has been adopted by many farmers across Punjab owing to acute shortage of river water and limited rains. Keeping in view its high efficiency in conserving water, increasing per acre yield and reducing cost of cultivation, there is a need to create awareness among farmers about the drip irrigation system.

With this technology, the farmers could save 60% electricity and diesel costs augmenting per acre yield by 100 percent. Government is helping farmers adopt this system by providing drip irrigation equipment at subsidized rates and providing 60% subsidy on installation of Drip irrigation system.

There is 40 percent to 50 percent saving of fertilizer if drip irrigation system is used. Currently, the system is used for small scale cultivation e.g., 12.5 acre of land.

However, other techniques and methods are underway to extend the program for large scale cultivation. Drip irrigation technology is being provided to farmers by government on subsidized cost with financial assistance from the World Bank.

Spokesman of the Agriculture Department further said that it is need of time to move towards modern resource conservation technologies such as drip irrigation to cope with the situation of water scarcity in upcoming years.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/03/09/13-page/703909-news.html>

## FEDERAL SECRETARY SUMMONED OVER 'DAMAGE' TO LANDS BY WATER RELEASE FROM JAMSHORO POWER STATION

Dawn, March 10th, 2018

HYDERABAD: The judicial commission formed by the Supreme Court to look into the water quality and drainage system in Sindh on Friday asked the federal energy secretary to appear before it in person and explain discharge of Jamshoro Thermal Power House's "polluted water" into an irrigation canal and its spread in the nearby locality.

The one-man commission headed by retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim passed the order after chief executive officer (CEO) Ghulam Qadir Memon of the power house filed his comments in response to a complaint received by the commission through the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) additional director general against the power house. The commission had directed the Jamshoro deputy commission to submit a report in this regard.

In his report, the DC stated that water discharged from the power house was used for irrigation purpose and fish ponds. Residents [of the nearby locality] had sought water connections from the power house which prima facie indicated its use for agriculture purposes, he stated, adding that an analysis could help ascertain factual position. About an applicant's claims regarding water-logging and effect on soil fertility, the DC said that a vast area was water-logged due to seepage from the power house's outfall.

Officials of the power house attributed it to illegal water connections hooked by some area residents but according to the DC water-logging from the outfall was causing ecological disaster in the area.

The power house is constructing a concrete water channel to facilitate discharge of its water into the Indus, the DC informed the commission, and said the power house should be directed to expedite the work and pay damages to owners of the affected lands if water-logging was proved to have been caused by flows from the power house.



The DC claimed that area residents and farmers had held a protest against the damage after which they were booked under certain sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

“It is unfortunate that prima facie powers are being abused by thermal power administration,” the commission observed.

It directed the federal energy secretary to appear before it on March 20 to explain whether provincial environmental laws applied to them and whether untreated effluent could be released into locality and drained out in irrigation channel.

Justice Muslim also asked the Hyderabad DIG and Jamshoro SSP to appear before the commission along with the FIRs registered against protesting people on the CEO’s complaint.

#### Karachi sewerage project

Umer Abbas Jilani, the managing director of a private firm, Pak Oasis, submitted that he would be furnishing a bank guarantee for the amount he had received from the Sindh government regarding the Karachi sewerage project (S-III) and this would be subject to certification by consultant.

Justice Muslim said the the MD’s undertaking should contain [pledge] that they [the firm] would adhere to the timeline mentioned in the work plans submitted in the commission on Feb 5 and 16.

The judge said that if the contractor failed to follow the timeline, the contract should stand revoked. Government would be free to award it to some other company in conformity with the procedure, rules and risk and cost of the Pak Oasis, he added.

S-III project director was directed to submit on March 26 the statement of comparison between the work executed and quantity indicated in the plan in order to assist the commission in assessing the MD’s commitment.

#### Directives to officials

Secretaries of the local government and public health engineering departments, and managing directors of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) and Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) were given two weeks’ time to place on record the certificates regarding pipes, pumps, motors and other machinery installed over the last two years.

The certificates should spell out specifications needed to be conformed true, specifications given to contractors under the PC-I and work order as well as specified advertisements, the commission said.

The commission ordered issuance of a notice to the director of the Nuclear Institute of Medicine and Radiotherapy (Nimra) asking him to appear before it and explain why he should not be proceeded against for wilful defiance of the orders passed by the commission and the apex court regarding disposal of the hospital’s waste because the orders passed in this regard were not complied with.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1394349>

## **April 2018**

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 23 RD TO APRIL 29TH 2018***

#### ***CM DEVISES PLAN TO OVERCOME SHORTAGE OF WATER IN CITY***

Dawn, April 23rd, 2018

KARACHI: Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Sunday gave emergency water management plan to the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) to meet a shortage of drinking water.

He directed Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon to look after implementation of the plan and provide funds for its execution.

The plan includes directives to the KWSB to provide water to the affected areas of the city and set up 100 more fibre tanks in the West district for storing one million gallons of water.

The chief minister, who was presiding over a high-level meeting at the committee room of the finance department to counter water shortage problems, expressed displeasure over learning from South Deputy Commissioner Asif Jameel that two RO plants in Lyari (at Ahmed Shah area and Civil Line-Shireen Jinnah Colony) had stopped working as their power connection was disconnected.

Mr Shah immediately directed KWSB MD Khalid Shaikh to get the plants operational by Monday (today).

“I want you to clear their bills, make them operational and send the report to me by Monday evening,” he said.

The CM also directed all deputy commissioners to establish more water tanks and inform the water board how much water they required in their respective districts so that the water board could make necessary arrangements for that.

Earlier, Local Government Minister Jam Khan Shoro told the CM that the main sources of water for Karachi were Keenjhar lake (Indus river) and Hub dam from where water was pumped through three main bulk pumping stations located at Dhabeji, Gharo and Hub.

“About 550MGD are supplied from the Indus and 100MGD from the Hub in normal circumstances,” he said and pointed out that population of the city was 17 million.

MD Khalid Shaikh said the present water supply from the Indus was 450MGD and 30MGD from the Hub dam.

The chief minister said he had reports that there was a shortage of water in Orangi Town, Baldia, SITE, Gadap and Nazimabad.

The MD said the areas depended on the Hub dam, whose water level had fallen to 30MGD from 115MGD.

West Deputy Commissioner Tariq Chandio said the water board provided 300MGD of water to West district through tankers which were insufficient.

Mr Shah directed the water board to provide one million gallons of water to West district.

“This water will be provided through tankers and distributed by the deputy commissioner,” he added.

Mr Chandio further said there were only 257 water tanks in the district.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1403249/cm-devises-plan-to-overcome-shortage-of-water-in-city>

**KWSB DIRECTED TO SUPPLY 1MGD WATER TO DISTRICT WEST**

Business Recorder, 23 April 2018

**KARACHI:** Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed Karachi Water Board (KWSB) to provide water to the areas badly affected by water shortage; particularly, one million gallon daily (MGD) Karachi’s District West, where at least 1MGD additional water is required.

CM Murad Ali Shah issued these directives presiding over a high-level meeting at the Committee Room of the Finance department that was held to devise water management plan for the areas facing water shortage, here on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by Sindh Minister for Local Government Jam Khan Shoro, Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon, Principal Secretary to the CM Sohail Rajput, provincial secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Additional IGP Karachi Mushtaq Maher, Commissioner Karachi Aijaz Ali Khan, KWSB's MD Khalid Sheikh and others.

The minister Shoro told the meeting that main sources to provide water to Karachi are Keenjhar (River Indus) and Hub Dam from where water is pumped through three main bulk pumping stations located at Dhabeji Pumping Station, Gharo and Hub. He said normal criterion of water supply from Indus is 550MGD while it is 100 MGD from Hub. He said population of the city is 17 million and maximum water demand is 918 MGD as per 54 gpcd. The industrial demand for water is 126mgd. MD Water Board Khalid Shaikh said present supply from Indus River has come down to 450mgd and 30 MGD from Hub. This shows difference between supply and demand.

The chief minister said he had reports there was water shortage in Orangi Town, Baldia, SITE, Gadap and partially in Nazimabad. At this, the MD water board said these areas depend on Hub Dam where availability of water was reduced to only 30MGD instead of 115 MGD.

Deputy Commissioner South Asif Jameel told the meeting two RO plants, one operating at Lyari-Ahmed Shah area and other one at Civil Line-Shireen Jinnah area. He said these plants had stopped working due to disconnection of their power connection.

On this the Chief Minister expressed displeasure and directed MD water board to get them operational by tomorrow. "I want you to clear their bills and make them operational and send the report by Monday evening," he directed.

Deputy Commissioner West Tariq Chandio said that at present the water board through tankers provide 300MGD water to district West which is insufficient to cater to the need of the area. Murad Shah directed the Board to provide one million gallons water to District West. He said additional water would be provided through tankers and would be distributed by the deputy commissioner.

The DC West said there were only 257 water tanks in the West through which water tankers supply water for public consumption. The Chief Minister issued directives to establish 100 more fibre tanks so that one million gallons water could easily be stored there.

Murad Shah also directed all the deputy commissioners of Karachi's districts to file their demand of required water with KWSB so that the latter could make arrangements, accordingly.

He also directed the deputy commissioners to set up more water tanks in their respective area, if needed, and store water there so that people could take water from there.

Shah directed Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon to oversee implementation of the plan he has given to the KWSB and provide

them required funds, in this regard.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/04/23/5-page/712178-news.html>

CCI UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES NATIONAL WATER POLICY

Dawn, April 25th, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Common Interests (CCI) on Tuesday formally approved the National Water Policy (NWP) with consensus and directed Wapda, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to work out net hydel profit arrears for the two provinces in accordance with the A.G.N. Kazi formula.

A meeting of the CCI presided over by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi also approved the National Water Charter that was signed by the four chief ministers.

The first-ever National Water Policy, which had faced delays for more than a decade, was finally approved on Tuesday after removal of provincial reservations over its language.

The Centre and the provinces agreed under the policy that selection of water reservoirs would be made with consensus in line with the 1991 water apportionment accord and after thorough examination of their impact on sea intrusion, environmental protection and provincial water rights to secure surplus water in the system.

The policy acknowledges the need to adopt the NWP with an initial target of increasing storage capacity from existing 14 million acre feet (MAF) by immediately starting the construction of 6.4 MAF Diamer-Bhasha dam which had already been cleared by the CCI back in 2009.

The meeting was told that Pakistan was rapidly becoming a water-scarce country and obligations towards the Sustainable Development Goals required adoption of an integrated water resource management. Population growth and water demands for various sectors of the economy necessitate urgent measures to enhance storage capacity.

The policy empowers the provinces to develop their master plans within a national framework for sustainable development and management of water resources. It concedes that water resource is a national responsibility, but irrigation, agriculture, water supply, environment and other water-related sub-sectors are provincial subjects.

Briefing the CCI, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Sartaj Aziz said the policy covered all water-related issues, including water uses and allocation of priorities, integrated planning for development and use of water resources, environmental integrity of the basin, impact of climate change, trans-boundary water sharing, irrigated and rain-fed agriculture, drinking water and sanitation, hydropower, industry, ground water, water rights and obligations, sustainable water infrastructure, water-related hazards, quality management, awareness and research, conservation measures, legal framework and capacity building of water sector institutions.

The CCI was told that implementation of the NWP would be undertaken through a national-level body namely National Water Council (NWC) to be headed by the prime minister and comprising the federal ministers for water resources, finance, power and planning, development and reforms and all provincial chief ministers. The NWC will oversee implementation of the NWP and a steering committee, headed by the federal minister for water resources, will monitor the implementation with representatives from federal and provincial governments and the departments concerned.

The policy recognises the need to provide at least 10 per cent of the federal Public Sector Development Programme to the water sector, gradually increasing it to 20pc by 2030. The provinces will also increase expenditure on the water sector as total allocation of Rs145 billion, 7pc of the combined federal and provincial development budget for 2017-18, was inadequate to address the challenges.

Under the policy, water losses currently estimated at 46 MAF a year have to be cut by 33pc by 2030 through canal and watercourse lining. Water efficiency will also be increased by 30pc by 2030 through improved technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation and more realistic water pricing policy.

To establish and maintain a reliable assessment of water resources in the country, federal and provincial water sector organisations would develop a standardised and uniform mechanism for data collection of various parameters of water resources.

The policy also recommends that the federal government play a leading role in facilitating regulations to ensure efficient and sustainable utilisation of ground water, industrial uses and waste water management. As food security, water security and energy security are inextricably linked, the regulatory framework must address all associated issues comprehensively, the policy says.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1403743>

## WORLD BANK URGED TO SCHEDULE TALKS ON WATER DISPUTE WITH INDIA

Dawn, April 26th, 2018

Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Islamabad has asked the World Bank to schedule a meeting with a Pakistani team in Washington later this month for talks on water dispute with India, official sources told Dawn on Wednesday.

Early this month, Pakistan asked the World Bank to address its concerns over India's two hydropower projects — the 330-megawatt Kishanganga and 850MW Ratle plants. Islamabad believes that both plants violate the Indus Water Treaty that distributes water of Indus River and its tributaries between India and Pakistan.

The Kishanganga plant is on the Neelum River and Ratle is on the Chenab and the treaty gives Pakistan exclusive rights over both. The treaty, however, also gives India the right to build hydropower plants over these tributaries if they do not violate specifications included in the agreement.

Pakistan complains that both plants violate specifications and also that India has completed the Kishanganga plant despite a World Bank pause on such constructions, enforced in December 2016.

While confirming to Dawn that it has received Pakistan's complaint, a World Bank spokesperson said earlier this week it's working with both Islamabad and New Delhi for an amicable resolution to the dispute. This week, the bank sent its envoy, Ian Solomon, to India to familiarise itself with the Indian position on this issue. Last week, Pakistan's Adviser on Finance Miftah Ismail met Managing Director of World Bank Kristalina Georgieva in Washington and urged her to help resolve the dispute.

Since the meeting also covered other issues, Pakistan has now asked the bank to schedule an exclusive meeting on the water dispute, in Washington, to enable Pakistani experts to explain Islamabad's views on this issue.

Mr Solomon, who was appointed a World Bank envoy in December 2016 for talks with both India and Pakistan on the water dispute, may also visit Islamabad soon.

Since December 2016, the World Bank has arranged two rounds of talks between India and Pakistan but failed to stop the Indian authorities from continuing to build the plants.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1403972>

## PROTESTS HELD IN SINDH TOWNS AGAINST WATER SHORTAGE

Dawn, April 27th, 2018

MIRPURKHAS: Farmers, peasants, activists of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and members of general public took to the streets in several Sindh towns on Thursday in protest against nagging water shortage in the province.

Jhuddo town of Mirpurkhas district remained completely shut as hundreds of growers and farm workers took out a rally which terminated outside the local offices of irrigation department where the protesters raised slogans over acute shortage of water in the taluka for last three months.

The protesters later marched to chilli market chowk where they staged a sit-in and blocked the main Mirpurkhas-Jhuddo road.

The protesters' leader Javed Ahmed Junejo, chairman of Farmers Organisation Council Sindh, accused irrigation department officials of selling water

to influential landlords at the heads of canals and distributaries after receiving huge bribe, causing never-ending shortage in

tail-end areas, particularly in Jhuddo, Digri, Nabisar and Naukot talukas.

He said the taluka was not getting water for the past three months and farmers could not sow cotton and other crops while mango and banana orchards were getting destroyed for want of water.

Formed nazim of Tharparkar Arbab Anwer and Tail Abadgar Association president Prof Yousuf Rajput said that illegal direct outlets and tampered water modules were the main cause of water shortage.

They demanded the authorities concerned hand over the irrigation system to Rangers, close all tampered modules and remove illegal pumping machines to ensure judicious distribution of water.

They rejected recently announced rotation programme and said they would hold a demonstration and block Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad road on May 2 to force the authorities concerned to restore water supply to tail-end areas.

SUKKUR: Activists of JUI-F took out a rally in Jacobabad in protest against closure of water supply to the city for the past one month despite availability of water in ponds.

The rally started from district office of JUI-F and reached DC Chowk where the participants held a sit-in for some time before moving on to the press club where they staged sit-in again and blocked the road.

JUI-F leaders said that since the underground water in Jacobabad was unfit for consumption, people were compelled to purchase drinking water at exorbitant rates.

The administration of Jacobabad was least concerned about citizens' problems, they said.

They demanded the district administration as well as elected public representatives resolve water shortage, otherwise, they would continue the protest.

MITHI: A large number of farmers and villagers resumed their protest on Thursday against water crisis in their areas for the past many years.

The protesters' leaders told journalists in Kaloji town that the artificial shortage of water in the only water channel of the district Rann Minor had forced several families to migrate to other areas.

They said that people in Kaloi, Satoon Mile and other towns and villages were forced to drink highly contaminated and brackish water of wells, which was causing waterborne diseases.

They said that head of Supreme Court-appointed commission on water quality and drainage in Sindh retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim had directed officials concerned during his recent visit to the area to ensure equitable distribution of water but nobody paid heed to him.

They urged the judge to visit the area again to inspect alarming situation in the canal.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1404040/protests-held-in-sindh-towns-against-water-shortage>

#### PEOPLE BLOCK KKH AGAINST WATER SHORTAGE

Dawn, April 28th, 2018

**BATTAGRAM:** The local people blocked the Karakoram Highway here on Friday against water shortage in the region.

Residents of Kolai, Shabora, Hafizabad and nearby areas took to the streets against the water shortage, and demanded of the local politicians to approve a water supply scheme for their areas, otherwise they won't vote for them in the coming general elections.

The protesters held banners and placards inscribed with messages for politicians to 'give water and take vote'.

The protesters said the elected representatives were unaware about the real problems of the people.

They alleged that a water supply scheme originating from the Battagram district had been approved for Mansehra district, but the locals were facing acute water shortage.

They said women fetched water from distant places, lamenting that the local MNA and MPA did not visit the area after getting votes.

They regretted that they had been demanding a water supply scheme for the last 16 years, but to no avail.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1404327>

#### WHAT'S MISSING? EXPERTS ANALYSE THE NATIONAL WATER POLICY

The Express Tribune: April 29, 2018

Water experts, academia and water rights activists have lauded the newly announced National Water Policy, 2018 and asked the Sindh government to establish a high-level think tank to support the government in protecting Sindh's water interests in the long-term.

During a civil society dialogue, 'Review of the National Water Policy, 2018 – Consensus and Concerns', organised by the Centre for Social Change and alMehran Rural Development Organisation (AMRDO), the speakers resolved that after 20 years, the federal government has recognised some of Sindh's very critical concerns, including implementation of the 1991 accord in letter and spirit, review of environmental flows downstream Kotri and an assessment and regulation of ground water.

The participants appreciated the spirit of the federal and provincial governments to develop a consensus for policy through the highest constitutional forum of the Council of Common Interest.



Water expert Abrar Kazi suggested that since Pakistan is a glacier melt dependent country and water flows are available only for three months, there is no need to speak about new dams but rather a serious need to review the overall water governance paradigm with special focus on conservation of water through small interventions at local levels and an emphasis on crop pattern change, bio-saline agriculture and water re-use practices.

Kazi said that despite its weaknesses, the policy has given an opportunity to Sindh to capitalise on its water share.

Centre for Social Change Executive Director Zulfiqar Halepoto explained the objective of the dialogue and appreciated the policy. He said that trans-boundary issues were supposed to be dealt with by either the foreign office or security agencies, but for the first time water issues with India and Afghanistan were recognised as an agenda of the federal and provincial governments respectively.

Water Sector Improvement Project Representative Umer Karim briefed the participants through a detailed presentation on how water-related institutions have developed a professional portfolio that supported the provincial chief minister in successfully lobbying for Sindh's interests in the new water policy.

Professor Mushtaque Mirani called the policy paper as a representative document, but said there was a need to involve farmers, water experts and academia and other stakeholders to maximise the legitimacy of democratic decisions.

Sindh Abadgar Board representative Syed Nadeem Shah said that the document is missing substantiated data on water flows, ground water extraction and water consumption of municipal, agriculture and industrial sectors, but overall the government has done a tremendous job.

Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority representative Nazeer Essani said with the personal interest and efforts of the CM and irrigation secretary, the federal government has accommodated Sindh's concerns in the final document, such as implementation of the 1991 water accord, water security of riverine areas and delta. He, however, expressed concern on the low representation of Sindh in the national water council.

Dr Ismail Kumbhar from the Sindh Agriculture University in Tando Jam said that the policy's fundamental focus is food security and sustainable agriculture, but unfortunately, both basic commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals are not properly addressed in the document.

There is always space to improve the gaps and reset the given targets, he said, suggesting that as per the new policy's targets, universities should be tasked with doing research on all the 29 priority areas of the document.

Environmentalist Nasir Ali Panhwar said that rural water supply and sanitation has not been adequately covered in the policy. He said that water must be allocated for sea intrusion, adding that Sindh should devise its own water policy by taking guidelines from the National Water Policy.

A number of civil society activists, youth, academia and concerned citizens attended the dialogue.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1698377/1-whats-missing-experts-analyse-national-water-policy/>

## WATER SECTOR BUDGET GETS 56PC BOOST

The Express Tribune, 29 April 2018

For the first time during its five-year tenure, the PML-N government has increased the budget for water sector by 56%.

The water sector allocation has been increased from Rs36.75 billion in the outgoing financial year 2017-18 to Rs64.62 billion for FY2018-19.

The proposed amount is one-tenth of the proposed size of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) authorised by the finance ministry.

During the Musharraf regime, funds allocated for power sector stood at Rs70 billion, which went down to Rs51 billion during the PPP regime in 2012-13.

During the current PML-N regime, it further dropped to Rs36.7 billion in 2017-18, which amounts to 3.7% of the total federal sector development programme. It was the lowest allocation of funds for water sector when compared with allocations over the last two decades.

The new water policy had recommended increasing funds allocation at 10% of the total federal development programme in FY2018-19 and 20% by 2030.

While commenting on this, an official working closely with the Ministry of Water Resources says, “The sudden increase in the proposed amount for water sector by the current government in its five-year tenure is indeed a positive sign.”

According to the official, one of the major reasons behind the prevailing water crisis in Pakistan is inadequate allocation for water sector in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He says that since 2014-15, a significant drop in water sector allocations has been noticed.

“Considering the ongoing water crisis in the country, there is a need to keep the water sector on top in the priority list as in the near future, the country is said to hit by a worst water crisis. Therefore, a major amount should be spent on the projects meant for water conservation,” says the official.

According to Annual Plan 2018-19, out of the proposed total allocation for the next financial year, an amount of Rs33.48 billion which accounts for 52% of the total water sector allocation had been proposed during the next financial year for the construction of large, medium and small dams.

This allocation includes Rs23.68 billion for Diamer-Bhasha dam (dam part) and Rs7.82 billion for small, check and delay action dams all over the country.

During the ongoing financial year, major focus remained on timely completion of ongoing priority projects to achieve the planned targets of Vision 2025 and the 11th five-Year Plan.

In view of this, an amount of Rs36.75 billion was allocated for the water sector development programmes during FY2017-18, out of which more than Rs30 billion had been utilised.

During the next financial year, integrated water resources management approach will be adopted as a planning paradigm to overcome water scarcity and to cope with future challenges.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1698015/1-water-sector-budget-gets-56pc-boost/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 16TH TO APRIL 22ND 2018

WATER SHORTAGE IN SINDH TO END SOON, SAYS NASIR  
Dawn, April 16th, 2018

**KHAIRPUR:** Sindh Minister for Information Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said on Sunday the Sindh government's water project would end by December next year the recurring problem of water shortage caused by prolonged electricity loadshedding in the province.

He said at an oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected office bearers of press club at the press club that Pakistan Peoples Party had served masses to the best of its ability. The government granted agricultural land to poor and needy peasants, including women, without any discrimination, he said.

He said the government was working on issuing health cards to journalists. At present, only Karachi and Hyderabad press clubs received grant on a permanent basis while similar grant for other districts would be approved soon, he said.

The newly elected members of the press club briefed the minister about problems and demands of journalists.

Earlier, the minister said during a visit to the district information office that the budget of South Punjab was being spent on particular areas of Lahore. The condition of the rest of the city was bad, he said.

He said the subsidy for 200 Metro buses in Lahore came to around Rs280 to Rs300 million in which Sharif brothers and their relatives had a share.

He said that PML-N government had taken heavy debts in its last days which was unethical and dismissed criticism of PPP.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1401830/water-shortage-in-sindh-to-end-soon-says-nasir>

#### **NAB ARREST FOUR ACCUSED IN SAAF PANI SCAM**

The Express Tribune, April 18th, 2018.

As part of its investigations into 56 public companies of Punjab government, National Accountability Bureau Lahore (NAB) has arrested four accused of embezzlement in the Punjab Saaf Pani Company (PSPC) on Tuesday.

The arrested accused persons were identified as Nasir Qadir, Dr Zaheerul Din, Muhammad Saleem and Muhammad Masood Akhtar. The accused were involved in corruption of millions of rupees and substantial evidence has been found against them, NAB said.

Accused Nasir Qadir worked as a chief procurement officer in PSPC. Dr Zaheerul Din was appointed as chief technical officer of the project while Saleem Akhtar worked with the company as a procurement and contract specialist. Accused Masood Akhtar, KSB Pumps managing director, has been affiliated with the company as a contractor.

The accused persons in connivance with each other caused loss of millions of rupees to the national exchequer. They installed 116 water filtration plants on exorbitant rates in Bahawalpur and mentioned false estimates of the plants in documents.

NAB said the accused were provided a fair opportunity to present their version in their defence. The accused would be produced before an accountability court for physical remand.

An investigation officer told The Express Tribune NAB had arrested Punjab Power Development Company Limited (PPDCL) Chief Financial Officer Ikram Naveed for his alleged involvement in embezzlement of Rs232 million. The Anti-Corruption Establishment Lahore Region had also indicted him in the case.

PSPC is one among 56 companies formed by the hief minister. Chairperson NAB Justice (retd) Javed Iqbal had ordered an inquiry into complaints of embezzlement in these companies. Besides, the Supreme Court of Pakistan had also taken notice regarding PSPC and provision of clean drinking water. Two weeks ago, during the proceedings before the court, the officers of the Punjab government had conceded that at least Rs4 billion had been spent so far but PSPC had yet to produce a single drop of clean drinking water.

Meanwhile, an accountability court handed over ex-director general of Lahore Development Authority Ahad Khan Cheema and three others on a nine-day remand to NAB for investigations. The defence counsel pleaded that NAB had entered into a blind alley and had nothing substantial to indict the accused. He also alleged that NAB demanded remand of the accused over very minor things. The consul also alleged of harassment of friends and family of the accused persons. The court after hearing arguments handed over the accused persons to NAB on physical remand till April 26.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1688244/1-nab-arrest-four-accused-saaf-pani-scam/>

## RS474BN APPROVED FOR BHASHA DAM

Dawn, April 18th, 2018

Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (EcneC) on Tuesday approved Rs474 billion for the construction of Diamer-Bhasha Dam to help the country tackle two major issues—water shortage and power generation.

The EcneC meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, approved the much-awaited funding for the project. The delay was due to reluctance from international financial institutions and China. The project is expected to complete in five years.

As per proposed plan, the dam will have a 6.4 million acre foot (MAF) live storage capacity and installed power capacity of 4,500 MW. After completion, the project will increase national water storage capacity of Pakistan from 38 days to 45 days and will enhance life span on downstream reservoirs including Tarbela Dam.

Regarding funding, the government will provide fund from the budget and Wapda will arrange commercial financing. A sizable amount will be allocated in the upcoming budget for the construction of the dam.

Past governments in 17 years had performed the ground-breaking ceremony of the project but civil work was not initiated due to lack of funding.

EcneC also approved a rationalised cost of Rs2.998bn for Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project to reduce poverty in the two districts of Balochistan. This project comprises of major initiatives including community development, fisheries development and rural infrastructure improvement.

It also approved evacuation of power from 1,320MW RLNG Power Plant near Trimmu, Jhang at a total rationalised cost of Rs4.231bn.

The Access to Justice Programme was accorded approval at a total rationalised cost of Rs4.711bn. The ongoing project aims at implementing legislative, judicial, police and administrative reforms with construction of required physical infrastructure including office buildings across the country.

The meeting also approved replacement of old and obsolete Signal Gear from Lodhran-Multan-Khanewal-Shahdara Bagh Main Line Section of Pakistan Railways at a total cost of Rs18.346bn. The scope of work of this project also

includes remodelling of Yousafwala Railway station and upgradation of 24 unmanned railway level crossings into manned level crossings.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1402315/rs474bn-approved-for-bhasha-dam>

#### UNICEF TO HELP SET UP WATER QUALITY MONITORING LAB

The Express Tribune, April 17th, 2018.

To cope with natural as well as manmade disasters, the global children's body has accepted a proposal from the provincial government to establish mobile water quality testing facilities in the province.

As a result, the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) will set up laboratories with the latest equipment and power back-up systems.

These laboratories would have the capacity to test for 29 different types of physical and chemical parameters.

It will be a joint effort where the vehicle will be provided by the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Public Health Engineering Department (PHED). The technical and financial support for building the lab-specific canopy, procurement and installation of testing equipment will be supported by the UNICEF.

The lab, officials hoped, will provide quick and efficient means of testing water quality in the province without being bound to collect samples at specific times.

Officials privy to the development added that the labs will have power generation and storage systems built into them so that they can operate without having their power supply interrupted.

PHED is one of the key government departments mandated to ensuring access to clean drinking water in the province. Water Quality surveillance and validation of its quality for drinking and personal hygiene is one of the key obligations of PHED.

UNICEF Chief Field Office Charles Nzuki, UNICEF Pakistan WASH Chief Kitka Goyal, K-P PHED Secretary Nazim Uddin and K-P North Chief Engineer Bahramaned Khan were present on the occasion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1687267/1-unicef-help-set-water-quality-monitoring-lab/>

#### 'PEOPLE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO PROTEST AGAINST SHORTAGES OF WATER, POWER'

Dawn, April 20th, 2018

Habib Khan Ghori

KARACHI: Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has said people have every right to protest against shortages of drinking water and power, and invited all political parties to stage a sit-in outside the Prime Minister House in Islamabad.

He was referring to people who were planning to hold a sit-in outside the Chief Minister House.

During a press conference in his chamber at the Sindh Assembly here on Thursday, Mr Shah alleged that the ruling PML-N had unleashed a policy of 'crushing' Sindh and its people by reducing water, power and transfers of funds.

"This is a political agenda which is affecting not only our day-to-day life but our agro-industrial economy as well," he said.

## Murad invites all parties to stage sit-in outside PM House

Referring to prolonged loadshedding of about 12 to 18 hours in the province, the CM said, “This shows how serious the vendetta of the federal government is against the people of Sindh, because they have been voting for the PPP since 1970s.”

He said he had written two letters to the prime minister and talked to him on telephone at least six times to draw his attention towards the SSGC and K-Electric dispute.

“The PM told me that he will speak to both entities (SSGC and KE). Instead, he deputed Miftah Ismail to settle the dispute,” Mr Shah said and added that when he called Mr Ismail on his mobile phone it was playing a message that he was out of the country.

Giving details of the dispute, the CM said the SSGC claimed that the KE had to pay outstanding dues of Rs29 billion, therefore, it had reduced gas supply from 276mmcf to 90mmcf to the KE.

“As a result, four gas-based power plants of KE have stopped generating electricity. But when the SSGC claim was audited, it was found that the principal amount was Rs13bn while the rest were late payment charges and interest,” he added.

The chief minister said the KE was ready to clear the old amount in instalments with full current payment of gas. The court has also directed the SSGC to supply 276mmcf gas to KE.

“The federal government has 73 per cent share in SSGC and 24pc in KE. This is your [federal government’s] dispute. Why are you penalising Karachi?” the chief minister questioned.

Mr Shah said power outages also affected water supply to Karachi.

Talking about rural areas, the chief minister said 18 hours of loadshedding was being experienced in his home district of Jamshoro, 16 hours in Shaheed Benazirabad and Larkana, 14 hours in Hyderabad and Sukkur, and 12 hours in Mirpurkhas.

Recalling shortfall in transfer of federal funds, the chief minister said the federal government had not given them their due share of Rs94bn.

“This has caused serious problems,” he said and added that was the reason he had curtailed some development expenditures.

Commenting on water shortages during the Rabi season, the CM said IRSA had conveyed to the Sindh government that there would be 20pc shortage of water but the shortage had reached 36pc.

“I don’t know if the shortage is natural or theft of Sindh’s water,” he said.

Replying to a question about the raid conducted on the local government department by NAB, the chief minister said, “This is not right that BPS-17 and 18 officers conduct a raid on the office of local government secretary who belongs to BPS-20, snatch his mobile phone, insult him, take away his files and arrest his personal secretary.

“I asked the chief secretary to speak to the NAB director general. The latter apologised and said all the articles will be returned to the LG secretary,” the CM concluded.

## JUDICIAL COMMISSION ORDERS REMOVAL OF WATER THEFT INSTRUMENTS FROM CANAL

Dawn, April 21st, 2018

DADU: Retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, head of one-man Supreme Court-appointed commission on water quality and drainage in Sindh, on Friday ordered officials of irrigation department and district administration to remove all water-lifting machines and pipes stealing water from Lower Shakh in Khairpur Nathan Shah taluka.

Justice Muslim inspected the canal from Rawat Leghari village to Mado and reprimanded irrigation officials after receiving complaints from growers about unabated theft and sale of water to influential landlords.

A delegation of growers led by Abdul Ghani Qureshi met the judge during his visit of the canal and complained that influential persons and feudal lords were stealing water by raising hindrances at the head of the canal to divert flow of water to their farmland.

They said the powerful landlords had tampered with watercourses and installed water-lifting machines on embankments which had led to shortage of water at the tail end of the canal, rendering hundreds of acres barren.

Residents of the area along the canal did not even have water for drinking purposes, they said.

Angered at the officials concerned, Justice Muslim directed secretary of irrigation Jamal Mustafa Syed to remove all pipes and water-lifting machines from the canal and dismantle all cuts immediately besides making arrangements for de-silting of the channel.

Dadu Deputy Commissioner Raja Shahzaman Khuhro, RBOD-II chief engineer Munawwar Bozdar, K.N. Shah assistant commissioner Abdul Ghaffar Shaikh and DO irrigation Ghulam Hyder Junejo accompanied the judge during his visit to the canal.

Later, Justice Muslim visited Daim Branch and Dhamrah Wah points from where fresh water was released into Main Nara Valley Drain to be fed to Manchhar Lake.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1402871/judicial-commission-orders-removal-of-water-theft-instruments-from-canal>

## SINDH PA LEGISLATOR'S NOVEL IDEA TO SLAM WATER CRISIS

Business Recorder, 21 April 2018

KARACHI: A provincial lawmaker, who defected from MQM to PSP, refused to leave Sindh Assembly hall as a token of protest against acute shortage of potable water in Orangi Town – the city's western outskirts.

Saifuddin Khalid first staged a sit-in, in front of the Speaker's desk with other legislators during the session, to demand adequate water supply to the constituency from where he was elected as MPA. He continued protest staying inside despite adjournment of the session till Monday.

The protesting lawmaker has brought clothes and edible grains to stay in the house until Monday, as assembly stands closed on weekends. "We made huge efforts to persuade him to leave the house but he is resisting our requests," an assembly official told Business Recorder.

"He has considerable arrangement for staying in the house with edible stuff," the official said, adding that "this man has created huge problem for the assembly's staff." He said he is also trying to contact the PSP leaders to seek their help to persuade him to leave the assembly building. Since the MPA is diabetic, it increases staff's concerns about his health. "There is a deep apprehension about his health since he is inside without any cooling and lights as he is



diabetic. We have also called a doctor to the assembly with an ambulance in case of emergency,” he said, adding that there are also about four more PSP lawmakers inside with Saifuddin.

The official said Saifuddin was not attending even telephone calls by Sindh Local Bodies Minister, Jam Khan Shoro and Managing Director, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, who are trying to convince him to meet his demand for 100-water tankers supply to his area. He said defiant legislators also refused to leave the house after PPP, MQM and even some PSP members tried to coax him.

There is just a bit more wait for Dr Sagheer Ahmed – who is a PSP leader to reach the assembly to take him out. He said the speaker, PPP members and ministers are also trying to solve the standoff. However, if the deadlock persists till night, then the security officials would have to make a different arrangement to vacate the hall.

Some security officials are also stationed outside the hall to meet any untoward situation. The official said the MPA was saying ‘take money from me but dispatch water tankers to my area.’ It will be quite impossible for the water board or Sindh government to fulfill his 100-tankers demand at once since the entire city needs water through such transportation around the clock, said the official.

After session, Speaker, Agha Siraj Durrani told newsmen he would never bow down to one’s demands at gunpoint. He said he would exercise his authority as per law and would run the house as per rules. He threatened to send a reference to the Election Commission about the defected legislators to unseat them as members of the assembly, if they continue to create such dramatic crisis for him. He accused Saifuddin Khalid of holding the house hostage.

The lawmakers who defected to the PSP retorted asking Durrani to stop worrying about them because NAB was undertaking an inquiry against him. They turned down his threat of reference. They said the assembly is not the only platform for them as they can also raise their voice for rights at other places as well. They said they were not under any compulsion because of Assembly membership.

Earlier in the house, opposition parties staged a strong noisy protest as treasury members also exchanged squabbling words with the protesting legislators. The opposition members tore copies of the assembly agenda and tossed them up to the speaker desk with chanting ‘give us water’ and ‘NAB will come.’ Saifuddin Khalid in a call-attention-notice told the house his residential area is facing water crisis for last six years.

“I will collect charity to buy water for people of my residential area. I will not go out of the house until the supply of 100 water tankers is ensured to me. I have brought edible grains and clothes to stay in the house. I will buy 100 water tankers for my constituency,” he said. The Minister Jam Khan Shoro called his protest a drama.

The treasury continued legislation amid the screeching protest by opposition. The house adopted four bills into law including: The Sindh Employees Social Security (Amendment) Bill 2018; The Sindh Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill 2018; The Sindh Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill 2018 and The Sindh Employers Old Age Benefit (Amendment) Bill 2018.

Sindh Senior Parliamentary Affairs Minister Nisar Khuhro had tabled the bills. The standoff that lasted for about six hours continued till the filing of this story, as efforts from the government remained futile to break the self-imposed stay inside Assembly.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/04/21/5-page/711814-news.html>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 9TH TO APRIL 15TH 2018

SAAF PANI AFFAIRS NOT SATISFACTORY, ADMIT OFFICIALS BEFORE CJP  
Dawn, April 9th, 2018

Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: Senior officials of the provincial government on Sunday failed to defend working of the Punjab Saaf Pani Company before the Supreme Court, and conceded its affairs had not been satisfactory.

“The story of Saaf Pani Company is not so good,” said the company’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO), retired Capt Muhammad Usman, responding to hard-hitting queries by a two-judge special bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar. Punjab Chief Secretary retired Capt Zahid Saeed also admitted that citizens in different cities had not been provided a single drop of water despite Rs4 billion spent on the project.

Anti Corruption Establishment Director General Muzaffar Ali Ranjha, secretary housing Khurram Ali Agha and other officers were also present in the Courtroom No 1 at the Lahore registry when the bench resumed hearing of a suo motu case regarding functioning of the Saaf Pani Company and huge salaries being given to its employees.

Punjab Advocate General Shakilur Rehman Khan and Prosecutor General Ehtesham Qadir Shah also appeared before the court. The chief justice totally knocked out the company’s CEO by exposing blunders committed in the clean water projects and misuse of public exchequer, especially in hiring services of foreign consultants.

The CJP flatly rejected the presentation given by Mr Usman on the performance of the company.

Justice Nisar also snubbed the chief secretary when he tried to explain reasons behind the closure of the Saaf Pani project at Pattoki. “Let the CEO of the company explain his position as he is drawing a salary much higher than you (chief secretary),” the chief justice told the top officer of the province.

The chief justice further questioned the authority of the chief minister to scrap the Pattoki project despite an approval by the company’s Board of Governors (BoG).

He mentioned that the foreign companies hired by the government for consultancy were leaving the projects while some of them had already quit their job. “Spending huge money on foreign consultants with zero outcome is beyond any logic,” the chief justice regretted.

Addressing the CEO, he said the company’s chief technical officer also established a company namely “Water2000” parallel to the Saaf Pani Company.

Earlier, Mr Usman told the court that CTO Tahir Majeed was the senior most officer at the company after him (CEO) and drawing a monthly salary around Rs800,000. Expressing his ignorance about the private company being run by his subordinate, he vowed to investigate the matter.

The company’s former CEO Waseem Ajmal told the court that the Pattoki’s project was launched with the help of local consultants. However, he claimed, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif was not happy with local experts and remained adamant about hiring the foreign consultants.

He said the chief minister, under the law, had no jurisdiction to interfere in the company’s affairs. Even then, he said, the chief minister had stopped the project of clean drinking water in Pattoki and linked it with his approval. To a court query, Mr Ajmal said the chief minister could only appoint board of directors of the company. He said a provincial minister’s brother, Asim Qadri and wife Uzma Qadri were also among directors of the company. He said the same minister had probably asked for the hiring of foreign consultants. However, he did not name the minister.

Guessing the name of the minister, Chief Justice Nisar asked all those present in the courtroom, “What is the full name of Mr Qadri who often represents Punjab government at press conferences?” At this, some lawyers said, “His name is Zaeem Qadri.”

The former CEO said the chief minister had no knowledge of the project but he only wanted to engage foreign consultants. Whereas, he added, foreign consultancy firms hired for the project appreciated the expertise of local experts on water resources.

Mr Ajmal said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) initiated an inquiry into the company’s projects and the minutes of a meeting held by the chief minister. Chief Justice Nisar observed that the present chief of the company had no experience in water related projects but he had been drawing Rs1.4m monthly salary.

When asked by the court, CEO Usman said a Toyota Fortuner (SUV) was under his official use. “Seems that you accommodated many people when you were DCO in Lahore,” the chief justice said addressing Mr Usman and asked why the chief secretary of the province had not been appointed as CEO of any public company, which carried a huge salary.

The CJP observed that there would be an across the board accountability and huge salaries being drawn by the government servants as heads of these companies would be recovered and returned to the national exchequer.

The chief justice adjourned further hearing till April 14 and summoned prosecutor general of the NAB.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1400409>

#### WATER CHARTER MAY BE SIGNED IN NEXT CCI MEETING

Business Recorder, 12 April 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Federal and Provincial Governments are likely to sign a Water Charter aimed at dealing with current and future water issues with consensus and developing new reservoirs, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

The Water Charter would be signed in the next CCI meeting or a separate ceremony, as deemed appropriate.

The decision was taken at recent meeting of Council of Common Interests (CCI), presided over by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi whereas Chief Ministers of Sindh, KPK and Balochistan represented their provinces while Punjab was represented by Finance Minister Dr Ayesha Ghaus Pasha.

The sources said the CCI was informed that the Council in its meeting held on November 24, 2017, had set up a committee headed by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, comprising of Minister for Power Division, Federal Secretaries of Water Resources, Planning, Development and Reform, Power Division and Chief Secretaries of all the provinces for further examination of the policy.

The National Water Policy recognizes the need for the sector to receive at least 10 percent of Federal PSDP gradually increasing it to 20 percent by 2030. The provincial governments are urged to also increase expenditure for this sector as total allocation of Rs 145 billion, i.e. 7 percent of the combined federal and provincial development budget for 2017-18, is entirely inadequate.

Stressing the need for a National Water Policy, the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Sartaj Aziz informed the CCI that due priority has never been assigned to the formulation of a National Water Policy during the last seven decades, adding that all the South Asian countries had water policies covering their interests in water sector.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah stated that he had convened a meeting of National Water Policy on March 19, 2018 and conveyed the concerns of the Government of Sindh in writing to Planning Commission. However, these points had not been incorporated in the draft of NWP.

Secretary Water Resources, Khawaja Shumail clarified that the draft of NWP was finalised in consultation with the representatives of the provincial governments including Secretary Irrigation Department, Sindh and reservations of the Government of Sindh were duly incorporated in the policy in letter and spirit. He added that all the participants had signed the NWP in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission last month. Sindh Chief Minister, however, expressed reservations over the document and impressed upon the CCI the need for incorporating nine reservations in the policy.

Chief Secretary Punjab, Capt Zahid Saeed (retired) stated that the changes in NWP, proposed by the Sindh Chief Minister in the document, have already been signed by the representative of the Sindh government, and not shared with his government.

The Sindh Chief Minister explained his reservations on different clauses of proposed in NWP one by one which were responded to by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and Secretary Water Resources.

While discussing the composition of National Water Council, the Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal proposed that the National Water Commission may include Federal Minister for Planning, Federal Minister for Finance and Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), two academicians and three experts as members to cater to technical requirements. Similarly, the steering committee may include Federal Secretaries of Planning and Finance as members.

The prime minister expressed his concern over the present precarious water situation in Pakistan. A Water Charter for Pakistan was also deliberated upon in the CCI. The provincial governments, however, sought time to study and finalise their comments. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission assured them that concerns of provinces, if any, will be addressed.

“There is a dire need to develop a national consensus on this critical issue,” the prime minister added.

After detailed discussion, the CCI expressed a consensus on the summary submitted by the Ministry of Water Resources to adopt the National Water Policy, keeping in view the changes in climate patterns and rapidly depleting water resources of the country.

It was decided that the proposed policy will be brought before the next CCI meeting, after incorporating suggestions from the provinces, for final approval.

The meeting also decided that the provincial governments will send amendments to the proposed Water Charter, if any, to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission,

The Water Charter would be signed in the next CCI meeting or during a separate ceremony as deemed appropriate.

When contacted, a senior official told this scribe that National Water Policy is a consensus document duly signed by the provincial representatives, adding that provinces have sought very slight changes in the draft National Policy which have been incorporated and the final draft has been shared with the provinces.

The official maintained that the draft policy which was considered by the CCI on March 27, 2018, was duly signed by the provincial governments. “As we receive the final draft of National Water Policy from provinces it will be sent to the CCI for approval,” he added.

Main targets proposed for 2018-2030 can be summarized as follows: (i) reduction of 33 percent in the 46 MAF river flows that are lost in conveyance, through accelerated programme of water course lining specially in saline or semi saline areas; (ii) in order to augment the dwindling irrigation deliveries into the existing canal systems on account of ever decreasing existing storage capacity of Mangla and Tarbela due to sedimentation and to develop new cultivated area on canal irrigated water, the existing water storage capacity of 14 MAF must be increased by immediately starting construction of the Diamer-Basha Dam Project having 6.4 MAF live storage on which consensus of all the federating units has already been achieved in 2009 at CCI level;

Mohmand Dam with live capacity of 0.676 MAF and other countrywide small and medium dams be built having cumulative live storage capacity of at least 2 MAF, in the next 12 years ie up to year 2030; (iii) increase of at least 30 percent in the efficiency of water use by producing “more crop per drop”. This will require use of new technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation and more realistic water pricing policy. The present average rate of water charges per acre is only one fourth of what the farmer pays for tube-well water in the ground water market; and (iv) real-time monitoring of river flows by IRSA must be ensured through telemetric monitoring to maintain transparent water accounting system and to check the increasing trend of unaccounted-for water in the Indus System of Rivers and this task must be completed before end 2021. —MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/04/12/1-page/710312-news.html>

## NESTLÉ PAKISTAN, PARC TO HIGHLIGHT WATER WASTAGE ISSUES, SOLUTIONS

Business Recorder, 12 April 2018

LAHORE: To commemorate the celebration of World Water Day, Nestlé Pakistan joined hands with Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) to highlight water wastage issues faced in the country due to poor agriculture practices. The event marked the official inauguration of a project to find solutions to avoid water wastage in agricultural practices, focusing on finding innovative answers for efficient and effect water management.

The world over, about 70% of water is used in agriculture. In Pakistan, that percentage stands at 90%, with 50% wastage due to poor irrigation methods. This wastage of water needs to end by means of better practices to save generation from water scarcity. Under this partnership Nestlé Pakistan is enhancing PARC’s technical capacity through installation of drip irrigation systems which is proven way to revive and increase crop production. The delivery line network would cover around six (6) acre crop site. The site will model best practices by using innovative methods and environmental friendly technology, to boost and enhance crop production through minimum use of water. Furthermore, this project will serve as knowledge hub for farmers visiting the research center on drip irrigation can have a substantial impact on crop yield.

Whilst inaugurating the project, the Chief Guest Federal Secretary Minister of National Food Security & Research Fazal Abbas Maken said, “Water scarcity is a huge challenge we face today. However instead of focusing on the negatives, we should focus on the positive and utilize opportunities presented in addressing this challenge. This partnership between PARC and Nestle Pakistan is an excellent example of how two relevant organs (government and private sector) of state can come together and work on something which is beneficial for all.”

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Yusuf Zafar, Chairperson PARC said: “Our partnership with Nestlé Pakistan is an excellent example of the role public-private partnerships can play important role in addressing the water challenge being faced by Pakistan. There is great inefficient water use in agriculture and are hopeful that this collaboration will serve as a knowledge sharing platform on moving towards sustainable agriculture. By adopting innovative techniques such as drip irrigation systems, Furrow-bed, and sprinkler systems the precious and scarce water resource can be saved and used efficiently on farm. Through our collaboration we can showcase to farmers how they can achieve sustainable agricultural production and improve crop yield”.

Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs, Nestlé Pakistan, said, “Water is a shared resource and the best way to protect it is by adopting a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach. Nestlé Pakistan’s Water Plan is part of our

commitment towards Sustainable Development Goal 6, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation reducing use of water chain for all. Pakistan being primarily an agriculture country, there is an even greater need to adopt water efficient practices. Our partnership with PARC is key in helping achieve this and in educating communities on how to use water efficiently particularly in agriculture”.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/04/12/20-page/710258-news.html>

## BALUCHISTAN'S WATER

Dawn, April 13th, 2018

Wajid Ali | Azizullah Kakar

BALUCHISTAN'S water challenge continues to grow. The province has four agro-climatic zones: the coast, desert, plains and upland. The uplands are further divided into three regions based on altitude, where climatic conditions, water availability and cropping systems differ. Rainfall in the province increases with altitude, allowing upland farmers to grow high-value crops.

As per provincial irrigation department data from 2016, upland Baluchistan (ie, Pishin, Loralai, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah and Ziarat) has 114 dams with a total storage capacity of 30,372 acre feet. Studies have found a correlation between this and a high groundwater table in the area, as the dams regenerate groundwater levels in the form of karez and wells. But the rapid rise in population growth in the province has also led to an increase in the demand for water. A plethora of literature confirms that the water table is a significant component of eliminating poverty and sustaining livelihoods.

Baluchistan has been facing groundwater stress for decades as levels continue to decline due to decreasing rainfall, increasing temperatures, prolonged droughts and a growing number of tube wells (from 29,914 in 2001-02 to 42,497 in 2013-14). In the uplands, the main source of irrigation is groundwater. According to the provincial agriculture department, across Baluchistan in 2015-16, 552,435 hectares were cultivated by canals; 434,324 by tube wells; 74,981 by karez, springs and others; and 53,887 by wells.

Groundwater depletion in the province is threatening livelihoods.

Agriculture and livestock predominantly fuel Baluchistan's economy, together accounting for almost 52 per cent of provincial GDP and providing employment to 67pc of its labour force, with 80pc of its population depending directly or indirectly on agriculture. Therefore, livelihoods in Baluchistan rely heavily on agriculture, which in turn depends on the health of its groundwater.

But most of the tube wells that farmers rely on for irrigation are drying, and Baluchistan's Provincial Disaster Management Authority reports severe drought conditions in 29 out of 32 districts. According to the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, 30 out of 32 districts of Baluchistan are food insecure; only Quetta and Jaffarabad are food secure. The declining water levels and drought conditions are adversely affecting the people in the uplands, as the dying karez system forces women to struggle to find new sustainable livelihood activities, while the men leave their drought-affected orchards to work as labourers in urban areas.

The major source of livelihood in Loralai, for example, is pomegranates and vegetables, which are mainly irrigated by dug wells and tube wells. But a 2010 study shows that 95pc of groundwater sources in the district have dried, forcing people to migrate. According to UNDP, the drought has put about 60-70pc of Baluchistan's population at direct or indirect risk. Moderate drought conditions in districts Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Mastung, Kalat and Loralai have a dire socioeconomic impact, which includes but is not limited to lost livelihoods, reduced incomes, high unemployment, forced sale of household assets and land, forced migration, increased crime rates, malnutrition and decreased health conditions.

The ADB finds that water scarcity in Balochistan in the near future will be further stressed by growing populations, rising urbanisation along with increasing agricultural production. As such, the use of groundwater must be reviewed, and an appropriate and rational determination of potential policies forwarded. Efficient and sustainable use of water requires that certain measures be applied in both urban and rural areas. Such steps will help conserve the water table for end users, improve their living standards and boost the region's prosperity.

Tube wells should be reduced in areas where the groundwater has sunk to critical levels. Water conservation techniques such as trickle/drip sprinkle, bubble irrigation, etc should be adopted. Farmers can be convinced via awareness campaigns to rely less on water-intensive crops and more on drought-tolerant crops, together with short duration crops or quick maturing crops. Livelihood needs to be diversified by introducing drought-resistant livestock species and breeds, along with improving rangeland management. The construction of dams in proper areas to store more water may reduce the rate of groundwater depletion.

Additionally, the provincial government needs to adopt better checks and balances by establishing regular groundwater monitoring network. The formation of a committee for water resources management, planning and development is direly needed. Excessive use of water in stressed areas needs to be curtailed through price mechanisms on water and electricity. For end users, awareness must be raised about maintaining the water table through the conservative use of water.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1401324>

#### IRSA INCREASES WATER SHARES OF PUNJAB & SINDH

Business Recorder, 13 April 2018

Mushtaq Ghumman

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) on Thursday increased the water shares of Punjab and Sindh by 4.9 percent and 2.94 percent respectively, keeping in view increase in rivers inflows.

According to Irsa spokesperson, Rana Khalid, the share of Punjab has been increased from 40,800 cusecs to 42,800 cusecs whereas Sindh would now get 35,000 cusecs of water against earlier share of 34,000 cusecs.

After revision in releases, Punjab would face shortage of 41 percent whereas Sindh will bear a shortage of 24 percent, he said, adding that overall shortage is 36 percent.

KPK's share will remain 3,100 cusecs whereas Balochistan is not getting its share due to annual canal closure. Total releases were 77,900 cusecs.

The spokesperson further stated that as per Punjab's demand and share, Chashma-Jhelum Link Canal is opened with discharge of 3000 cusecs despite strong objection by Member Irsa Sindh. Trimmu-Punjad (TP) is already taking discharge of 1954 cusecs. Punjab is getting 12,000 cusecs from Indus and 30,800 from Jhelum canal.

He said supplies from Tarbela have increased from 18,000 cusecs to 23,000 cusecs, which will increase hydel generation which is on the lower side due to reduced releases.

On Thursday, inflows stood at 111,500 cusecs whereas outflows were 82400 cusecs. Storage stood at 0.269 MAF.

On March 29, Irsa projected 31 percent water shortage in early Kharif sowing season posing a serious threat for Kharif crops due to higher losses and less water inflows into rivers. Punjab and Sindh would face 31 percent water shortage whereas Balochistan and KPK have been exempted from water shortage during Kharif crop season.



<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/04/13/13-page/710437-news.html>

## IRSA INCREASES PUNJAB, SINDH WATER SHARE

The Express Tribune, April 13, 2018

ISLAMABAD :

The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) increased on Thursday water shares of Punjab and Sindh by 4.9 per cent and 2.94 per cent, respectively, in the wake of increased river inflows.

According to Irsa spokesperson, Rana Khalid, Punjab's share was increased from 40,800 cusecs to 42,800 cusecs while Sindh would now get 35,000 cusecs of water against the earlier figure of 34,000 cusecs.

After revision in water releases, Punjab would still face a shortage of 41 per cent while Sindh will bear a shortage of 24 per cent, he said, adding that the cumulative shortage stood at 36 per cent.

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's share will remain at 3,100 cusecs while Balochistan is not getting its share because of annual canal closure. Total releases of water were recorded at 77,900 cusecs.

The spokesperson also stated that in accordance with Punjab's demand and share, Chashma-Jhelum Link Canal was opened with a discharge of 3,000 cusecs despite strong objections by the Member, Irsa, Sindh.

The discharge at Trimmu-Punjad (TP) is already 1,954 cusecs. Punjab is getting 12,000 cusecs from Indus and 30,800 from Jhelum Canal.

He said that supplies from Tarbela had increased from 18,000 cusecs to 23,000 cusecs, increasing hydel generation which was affected by reduced releases.

On Thursday, river inflows stood at 111,500 cusecs while outflows were 82,400 cusecs. Storage stood at 0.269 MAF.

On March 29, Irsa projected 31 per cent water shortage in early Kharif sowing season, posing a serious threat to Kharif crops because of higher losses and lower river water inflows.

Unlike Punjab and Sindh, Balochistan and KPK have been exempted from water shortages during the Kharif crop season.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1684276/1-irsa-increases-punjab-sindh-water-share/>

## SINDH GOVT ACCUSED OF DESTROYING WASA'S WATER FILTRATION PLANTS

Dawn, April 14th, 2018

HYDERABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan Bahadurabad faction's deputy convener Kanwar Naveed Jamil on Friday accused the Sindh government of destroying water filtration plants managed by the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa). He also alleged that people of Hyderabad were being discriminated against by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government.

He was speaking at a news conference at the local press club after leading a protest demonstration organised by his faction outside the club. Other leaders including Salahuddin, Iqbal Muqadam and Naveed Abbasi were also present.

He said that federal government had significantly increased quantum of taxes from 2010 onwards which had automatically increased share of provinces. Likewise, provincial taxes had increased by 10 times and until two to three years back, Rs125 billion annually were collected under provincial taxes of which 90 per cent was received from Karachi alone, he said. Still, he added, the Sindh government was not willing to spend a matching amount in social and development sectors of Karachi and Hyderabad.

He added that today people of Hyderabad were crying for clean drinking water. He said that it was only after setting up of the Supreme Court-appointed judicial commission that some relief was being provided to people of Hyderabad. He said that Unit No. 4 Latifabad filtration plant which was equipped with modern technology to treat unsafe water had been completely destroyed.

He said that this plant had worked between 2009 and 2011 but when it was handed over to Wasa after 2011 it became non-functional. He said that even machinery had been stolen from the plant.

He claimed that the Sindh government was denying ownership to different institutions.

Kanwar Naveed said that Hyderabad did not get a single bucket of water from Phulelli Canal but in order to save the freshwater body from contamination through discharge of sewage and municipal waste into it, he being the district nazim during 2005-10 had launched a waste water treatment plant at Darya Khan pumping station but it was still incomplete.

Similarly, he added, the treatment plants at Qasimabad and behind Isra University also remained incomplete. He claimed that conditions in Larkana and Nawabshah districts were no different.

He complained that even federal government did not work for the welfare of the people of Hyderabad and despite its commitment for establishment of a federal university in Hyderabad, it was not able to perform even the ground-breaking ceremony of the project.

He also criticised the provincial government for shifting incubators to Larkana from the tonga stand hospital of Hyderabad depriving the city's population of this facility. He pointed out that the trauma centre remained non-functional to date and its equipment was no more there now. The children hospital scheme approved by the Arbab Ghulam Rahim government had been withdrawn, he noted.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1401426/sindh-govt-accused-of-destroying-wasas-water-filtration-plants>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1ST TO APRIL 8TH 2018

WATER SHARING AND SHORTAGES

Dawn, April 2nd, 2018

THE latest meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission between Pakistan and India has just concluded in Delhi with a renewed request from Islamabad for a visit to various sites of the Indus basin in held Kashmir. The sites include, as per media reports, the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects on the Jhelum and Chenab rivers respectively, as well as the newer Pakal Dul and Lower Dalnai hydropower projects also on the Chenab.

The number of these run-of-the-river hydropower projects that India is building on the rivers whose waters belong to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty is increasing, and given the severe shortages that are now occurring with growing frequency in these rivers, the treaty's provisions for dispute resolution concerning the use of these waters is being tested. In the days to come, and in future meetings of the PIC, it is imperative that both countries talk to each other in good faith, make all requests for inspections on firm grounds instead of mere suspicions, and also make all arrangements for on-site visits.

Water diplomacy between both countries must not be allowed to become entangled in the territorial and boundary disputes that otherwise mar their ties.

For the government of Pakistan, it is also crucial to monitor the severe shortages of water in the Jhelum river, and as far as possible, keep a close eye on downstream flows from Mangla. How the diminished stock of water is being used, and how its allocations are being impacted due to reduced stream flows is as important an issue for Pakistan's future as is the question of how the flows are being impacted by the hydropower works being build on the Indian side of the river.

At the end of the day, both countries are facing a common challenge when it comes to their water economy: climate change. No amount of acrimony and point-scoring over water projects will help either of them to manage the highly erratic river flows, snow and rainfall patterns of the future.

The leadership of the water bureaucracy in both countries needs to play the lead role in sensitising their fellow citizens and political leaderships about the importance of keeping a cooperative path going forward. The Indus Waters Treaty has well withstood the test of time, and its provisions are working down to the present day in providing a platform to settle post-modern water conflicts.

But climate change is a different ball game, and more than the treaty, the spirit of cooperation built between the water bureaucrats on both sides is what will carry the two countries through the coming storms.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1399076>

#### SC ASKS FOR STEPS TAKEN TO BUILD MORE WATER RESERVOIRS

Dawn, April 3rd, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday sought from the federal government a comprehensive reply highlighting steps taken to build additional water reservoirs like the Kalabagh dam in the light of the famous 1991 water accord and its subsequent follow-up by the Council of Common Interests in 1998.

“There is no denying the fact that more dams should be built but in our country there is a discord between the provinces about the construction of dams,” regretted Justice Umar Ata Bandial, a member of a three-judge SC bench headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar.

The bench had taken up a petition filed by Barrister Zafarullah Khan of the Watan Party seeking a court directive for the construction of the Kalabagh dam.

Petitioner suggests naming Kalabagh dam after Benazir Bhutto

Justice Bandial stressed the need for apprising people of the importance and significance of the dam, but regretted that one of the chairmen of the Water and Power Development Authority had been fired from his job mainly because he had taken the initiative for early construction of the Kalabagh dam.

The chief justice warned that scarcity of water would become acute in future if “we failed to take corrective measures now”.

“Please build the dam and call it Benazir Bhutto dam instead of Kalabagh dam,” the petitioner pleaded. Mr Zafarullah pointed out that the government wanted to build the Diamer-Basha dam but unfortunately no one was willing to sponsor the project which cost \$18-20 billion and might increase further with the passage of time.

The petition regretted that instead of saving water in a reservoir, 35.5 million acre feet of water was being drained to the sea annually. Had the Kalabagh dam been built, 6.5MAF of water would have been stored annually in the reservoir and the chances of floods and destruction minimised, it said, adding that water could also be saved for Rabi crops, particularly in winter when there was an acute shortage of water.

The petition regretted that Pakistan was storing only 10 per cent of annual flows of its rivers against the world average of 40pc. It said the water disputes between the provinces could be resolved because it was a need of everybody, adding that the scarcity of water would force people to drink contaminated water that was injurious to health. Bottled water was no substitute for the ordinary people to save them from dehydration, it added.

The petition said no specific reasons had been stated in the resolutions adopted by the provincial assemblies of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that the construction of Kalabagh dam was a threat to the federation.

The petitioner requested the Supreme Court to order the holding of a referendum on the issue of construction of the Kalabagh dam. Mr Zafarullah also highlighted options like water trading, cost sharing arrangement and water sharing to resolve the lingering disputes between the provinces.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1399263>

#### PAKISTAN SHOULD BECOME PART OF TAJIKISTAN'S WATER INITIATIVE

The Express Tribune, April 2nd, 2018.

There is not an iota of doubt that water is life and has always been a critical global issue. It is feared that water could be a cause for wars among different countries in future.

Nations must engage in water diplomacy and extensively focus on sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for achieving social, economic and environmental goals.

Besides being a potential source of conflict between nations, water scarcity may pose a threat to the integrity of a federation. In Pakistan, provinces regularly accuse each other of water theft due to its acute shortage.

According to some reports, nearly 750 million people do not have access to clean drinking water around the world whereas 2.5 billion lack access to basic sanitation. About 1.3 billion people do not have access to electricity.

Water disasters cause \$60 billion in economic losses annually and drought and desertification threaten livelihoods of more than 1.2 billion people across the world. Global climate change and demographic situation will undoubtedly have a significant impact on these issues. According to estimates given by experts, world's population will increase to more than 9 billion by 2050, resulting in an increase in water demand.

It is feared that due to the impact of climate change, more than 50% of the world's population will face water scarcity.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 21, 2016 entitled "International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028", sponsored by 177 member states of the world body.

Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon also launched an initiative during the seventh World Water Forum in South Korea. This initiative focused mainly on sustainable development and integrated management of water resources.

Implementation of the initiative will lead to improvement in the welfare of population, social development, environmental protection, broad universal access to electricity, prevention of water-related natural disasters and many other priorities.

Tajikistan and the UN are organising a high-level international conference on the “International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” from June 20 to 22 in Dushanbe.

Talking to The Express Tribune, Tajikistan Ambassador Sherali S Jononov said the main goal of the conference was to promote efforts aimed at meeting international commitments to water and water-related issues. These commitments also include the development goals contained in the UN Millennium Declaration, particularly cutting by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Jononov said conference participants would engage in comprehensive discussion in order to play a crucial role in implementation of the international decade and make its results evident for the wider international community.

Pakistan is currently working on the Central Asia-South Asia (Casa) 1,000 electricity import project. Under this arrangement, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan will export 1,300 megawatts to Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is a pilot project that will open the energy market of Pakistan to other countries like Russia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

Tajikistan, rich in hydroelectric power resources, has 4% of the world’s and 53% of Central Asia’s hydel energy resources. At present, the hydroelectric power potential of the country stands at 527 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually, of which only 4-5% is utilised. In addition to power projects, Tajikistan is working on sustainable development and integrated management of water resources.

A high-level Pakistan delegation will participate in the Tajikistan conference that will come up with practical recommendations for achieving the sustainable development goals and targets related to water resources.

The present government in Pakistan is close to announcing the National Water Policy that will focus primarily on effective use of water not only for crops, but for drinking as well.

A draft of the water policy was tabled in a recent meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for approval, but consensus could not be reached. The paper will again be put before the CCI after incorporating proposals of the provinces.

According to experts, Pakistan should take serious measures and become part of the water initiative launched by Tajikistan. Pakistan is experiencing acute water shortages. Recent figures suggest Rabi crops faced 35% water shortage because of a lack of major dams and strategy to ensure effective use of water.

New dams will not only help meet needs of the agriculture sector, but will also generate cheap electricity to meet the fast growing power demand. Shortage of water casts a negative impact on the planation of some key crops, which are necessary to ensure food security and feed many industrial units.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1675050/2-pakistan-become-part-tajikistans-water-initiative/>

#### WATER RESERVOIRS NEED OF THE HOUR: WAPDA

The Express Tribune, 3 April 2018

Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Additional Chief Engineer (Dams) Shahid Hamid has said that development of new water and hydropower projects is the need of the hour to meet the ever-increasing demand of water and energy.

“Per capita water availability in the country has decreased due to rapid growth in population and depleting water storage capacity of the reservoirs because of the natural phenomenon of sedimentation,” said the Wapda engineer while briefing a delegation of Command and Staff College, Quetta on water and hydropower sectors at the Wapda House on Monday.

Hamid said, "Pakistan has the capability to store only 10 per cent of its flow of rivers annually against the world average of 40 per cent."

He said, "Wapda is committed to optimum development of water and hydropower resources in the country and is working on a comprehensive strategy."

He emphasised that the Indus Cascade was Pakistan's most precious asset which would help add a big quantum of cheap hydel generation and storage of water.

"An additional area of 20MAF land can be brought under irrigation owing to construction of new reservoirs," said Hamid, apprising the delegation that Diamer Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Kurram Tangi Dam (Stage-1) and Naulong Dam were ready for construction.

"These dams have a total storage capacity of more than 8MAF and will produce about 5,000MW cheap hydel electricity after their completion," he said.

He further briefed the participants that Wapda had recently inaugurated Golen Gol Hydropower Project in January and Tarbela 4th Extension Hydropower Project in February this year.

He informed the delegation that the third hydropower project of Wapda – Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project – was scheduled to be inaugurated in the middle of the current month.

All these three hydropower projects would add 2,487MW low cost hydel electricity to the national grid.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1675897/1-water-reservoirs-need-hour-wapda/>

PAKISTAN APPROACHES WORLD BANK AFTER INDIA BUILDS KISHANGANGA ON NEELUM  
Dawn, April 5th, 2018

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Having confirmed that India has completed the controversial Kishanganga hydropower project, Pakistan has asked the World Bank to recognise its responsibility under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 to address its concerns over two disputed projects.

A government official told Dawn that power division of the energy ministry sent a fresh communiqué early this week to the bank's vice president urging the international organisation to "recognise its responsibility" and play its role to ensure that India abided by the provisions of the 1960 treaty while building the projects.

The official said there was no doubt that India had completed the 330MW Kishanganga project during the period the World Bank "paused" the process for constitution of a Court of Arbitration (COA) as requested by Pakistan in early 2016. The Pakistani request was countered by India by calling for a neutral expert.

Pakistan had called for resolution of disputes over Kishanganga project on the Neelum river and 850MW Ratle hydropower project on the Chenab.

The official said the letter had reached the bank's head office in Washington and had been delivered to its vice president concerned as confirmed by Pakistan's director to the bank.

When asked what the government expected now that India had completed the Kishanganga project, the official said the authorities could not just sit back and had to take the matter to its logical conclusion.

Islamabad had received reports in August of 2017 that New Delhi had completed the Kishanganga project as per the design that had been objected to by the former.

The new letter was sent to the World Bank after a Pakistani delegation of the Indus Waters Commission was not allowed to visit various controversial projects in India, including Kishanganga and Ratle schemes.

In December 2016, the bank had announced that it had “paused” the process for either appointing a COA or a neutral expert and started mediation between the two countries on how to advance and develop consensus in the light of the treaty on the mechanism for resolution of faulty designs of the two projects.

Since then the bank has arranged two rounds of talks between the two sides but the Indians kept on building the project. On completion of the scheme, Pakistan proposed some modifications to partially address its concerns over the Kishanganga project’s design for water storage without affecting its power generation capacity, but in vain.

The last round of bank-facilitated and secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan were held in Washington in September that ended in disappointment for the latter. In view of the inability of the parties to agree on whether a COA or a neutral expert is the way forward, the World Bank is reported to have called another round of discussions to minimise the differences but failed to bring New Delhi to the negotiating table.

Pakistan had raised a number of objections over the design of the two projects at the level of Permanent Indus Waters Commission almost eight years ago followed by secretary-level talks and then requests for arbitration through the World Bank.

Under the treaty, in case the parties fail to resolve disputes through bilateral means the aggrieved party has the option to invoke the jurisdiction of the International Court of Arbitration or the neutral expert under the auspices of the World Bank. The jurisdiction of the court could be invoked either jointly by the two parties or by any party as envisaged under Article IX (5), (b) or (c) of the treaty for constitution of a seven-member arbitration panel.

Pakistan’s experience with both the international forums — neutral expert and CoA — has not been satisfactory for varying reasons and outcomes, partially due to domestic weaknesses including delayed decision-making.

Pakistan first challenged the Baglihar hydroelectric project before the neutral expert and then the Kishanganga and Wuller Barrage projects before the CoA.

Islamabad has been under criticism at home for losing its rights through legal battles instead of building diplomatic pressure in world capitals to stop India from carrying out “water aggression”. Pakistan felt its water rights were being violated by India on two rivers, the Chenab and Jhelum, through faulty designs of Ratle and Kishanganga projects, respectively.

An official said the government had originally decided to take up the matter at the international forums provided for in the 1960 treaty back in December 2015 but the process was delayed for unknown reasons.

Pakistan believed that Kishanganga’s pondage should be a maximum of one million cubic metres instead of 7.5 million cubic metres, intake should be up to four metres and spillways should be raised to nine metres.

About the Ratle project, Pakistan had four objections. Freeboard should be one metre instead of two metres, pondage should be a maximum of eight million cubic metres instead of 24 million, intake level should be at 8.8 metres and spillways at the height of 20 metres.



It believes the Indian design of Ratle project would reduce Chenab flows by 40 per cent at Head Marala and cause considerable irrigation loss to crops. The Ratle dam is believed to be three times larger than the Baglihar dam.

Under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, the waters of the eastern rivers — the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — had been allocated to India and that of the western rivers — the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — to Pakistan except for certain non-consumptive uses.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1399675>

## DIAMER-BASHA DAM PLAN RATIONALIZED TO RS 474 BILLION

Business Recorder, 5 April 2018

Naveed Butt

Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms has rationalized cost of Diamer-Basha Dam at Rs 474 billion with a PSDP share of Rs 232 billion, including a Foreign Exchange Component (FEC) of Rs 154 billion, it is learnt. Sources said that the cost of Diamer-Basha Dam was rationalized from Rs 649 billion to Rs 474 billion.

The cost of PC-I of Diamer-Basha Dam was Rs 370 billion which was rationalized at Rs 232 billion. The cost of the Dam from WAPDA equity was Rs 116 billion which was rationalized at Rs 98 billion and commercial financing was rationalized from Rs 163 billion to Rs 144 billion. The project with a huge reservoir will add to the storage capacity of water in the country. The sources said that PC-I of Dam Part, amounting to Rs 649 billion was received in Planning Commission Water Resources Section, analyzed and rationalized to Rs 474 billion by deleting the Land Acquisition component which had already been dealt with in a separate PC-I.

The sources said the project is economically viable with Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) of 15.66 percent. They said that commercial financing will be utilized in the last stage of the project of IDC. The National Water Policy recognizes the need for the sector to receive at least 10 percent of federal PSDP gradually increasing it to 20 percent by 2030.

The sources said that Finance Ministry has not yet approved allocation of 10 percent of federal PSDP for water sector as the meetings of priorities committee are ongoing and final approvals for next financial year have yet to be finalized. According to sources, Diamer Basha Dam and other hydro power projects are likely to become part of the National Water Policy.

They said that Ministry of Water had proposed Rs 203 billion for water sector but Finance Ministry gave the ceiling of Rs 59 billion. They said that Finance Ministry asked the Ministry of Water to prioritize its projects within Rs 59 billion.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/04/20180405357733/>

## MAN HELD FOR TRYING TO STEAL WATER FOR INDUSTRIES

Dawn, April 08, 2018

Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Federal B Industrial Area police on Saturday arrested a contractor for allegedly illegally laying a pipeline to supply water to industrial units at high rates.

The police said the held suspect was part of the 'mafia' that punctured the main line of the KWSB to provide illegal water connections to certain industries.

"Today some of the industries through contractors tried to lay an illegal water distribution network through pipes in FB Industrial Area, Block-22, behind a wall adjacent to the Al Noor graveyard," said Karachi West Zone DIG Amir Farooqi.

The officer added that after a close study, it was found that these factories were trying to make a network of pipes on the pretext of supplying subsoil water to one another.

"What they actually do is that the contractor punctures one of the main lines of the KWSB and supplies water to the factories at high rates," said Mr Farooqi.

He said that this practice was going on in the SITE industrial area also under "full knowledge of the KWSB and presumably with the connivance of its people".

The officer pointed out that initially the superintending engineer of the KWSB was reluctant to lodge an FIR, but after he was reminded that it was being monitored by the Supreme Court-appointed water commission, the KWSB XEN agreed to lodge an FIR.

The FB Industrial Area police registered the FIR (53/2018) on a complaint of KWSB XEN Masood Ahmed Khuhro under Section 14-A of the KWSB Act and Sections 430 (Mischief by injury to works of irrigation or by wrongfully diverting water), 427 (Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) and 349 (criminal force and assault) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The police arrested the contractor, Fazal Kareem, and took the pipes into custody.

DIG Farooqi told Dawn that the arrested suspect was laying a water pipeline without permission from the KWSB. He deposited the road cutting fee to the DMC and they gave him permission for road cutting without checking if he had the KWSB permission.

The DIG alleged that laying, operating and supplying water was done by that mafia/contractor.

"Industrialists just buy water from them," said Amir Farooqi, adding that the same water could be supplied by the KWSB in a legal manner if they took interest in it.

"It can't be run without their connivance," said the senior police officer.

The KWSB XEN in his application before the police said that he visited the area with his staff and found eight-inch diameter pipes which were to be used for commercial purpose to supply water to the factories.

The area SHO also visited the locality and took the pipes into police custody as investigation and legal action could be taken against the suspects.

A suspected robber was killed and a police constable wounded during an alleged encounter near the Mosamiat roundabout on main University Road on Saturday evening.

Malir SSP Adeel Hussain Chandio said that the condition of the wounded policeman, identified as Raheem, was out of danger.

**May 2018**

***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 21st TO MAY 27TH 2018***

***Pakistan, World Bank resume talks to settle water dispute with India***

Anwar Iqbal Updated May 22, 2018

WASHINGTON: Pakistan engaged the World Bank on Monday for arbitration in settling its water dispute with India, which opened a run-of-the-river hydroelectric scheme earlier this week for harnessing the flow of the Neelum River.

The World Bank and the four-member Pakistani delegation, which arrived in Washington on Sunday for the talks, are refusing to disclose the details of the talks on an issue which can have disastrous consequences for Pakistan, if not handled aptly.

“The meetings are scheduled for today and tomorrow,” said a World Bank spokesperson Elena Karaban. “We can update you later as needed,” said she when asked for comments. The Pakistani delegation, which is led by Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf Ali, avoided the media as well.

The talks would cover four key points: the height of the dam built on the Kishanganga River, its capacity to hold water, Pakistan’s demand for setting up a court of arbitration to settle the dispute and India’s counter-demand for an international expert.

The document that would determine the outcome of Pakistan’s efforts to protect its rivers, however, is the Dec 20, 2013, decision of The Hague Court of Arbitration.

Islamabad has raised serious concerns over Kishanganga power plant opened by Modi recently

The document, known as Final Award of the Court of Arbitration, tries to resolve the Kishanganga dispute under the guidelines of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which defines how India and Pakistan should share the waters of the Indus and its tributaries.

In the final award, which is binding upon the parties and is without appeal, the Court of Arbitration unanimously decided the question of the minimum flow that was left unresolved in the partial award announced in February 2013.

The final award determined that India shall release a minimum flow of 9 cumec (cubic metre per second) into the Kishanganga/Neelum River below the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project (KHEP) at all times. However, the Court also decided that either India or Pakistan may seek reconsideration of this decision through the Permanent Indus Commission and the mechanisms of the Indus Waters Treaty after a period of seven years from the first diversion of water from the Kishanganga/Neelum River.

Pakistan instituted arbitral proceedings against India in 2010, requesting that a court of arbitration determine the permissibility of the KHEP under the treaty.

The KHEP generates power by diverting water from a dam site on the Kishanganga/Neelum River to the Bonar Nallah, which, like Neelum, is another tributary of the Jhelum. India has built a system of tunnels, with the water powering turbines having a capacity of 330 megawatts.

Pakistan challenged the permissibility of the planned diversion because of the effect that this would have on its Neelum-Jhelum Hydro-Electric Project (NJHEP), currently under construction downstream of the KHEP.

In June and August 2013, both India and Pakistan provided data on the flow in the river at various locations along the Kishanganga/Neelum.

#### India ahead

The court noted that India had “coupled intent with action” in the planning and construction of the KHEP before Pakistan achieved the same with the NJHEP and that the KHEP had acquired priority in right as a result.

The Court also recalled that in the Partial Award it had nevertheless found that Pakistan’s downstream agricultural and hydro-electric uses remain relevant on an ongoing basis throughout the operation of India’s hydro-electric plant.

#### India, Pakistan hydrological data

Both India and Pakistan presented extensive evidence to indicate the level and patterns of flow in the Kishanganga/Neelum River. The court examined the anticipated effects of the KHEP on downstream agriculture and hydro-electric uses by Pakistan and on the environment.

The court noted that, although Pakistan had described plans to increase the use of lift irrigation in the Neelum Valley, “it had been unable to provide a quantitative estimate of the likely scale of such development”.

In the absence of concrete evidence, the court “found it unable to take account of agricultural uses,” but noted that “the minimum flow ultimately adopted would ensure adequate water for development in the valley”.

With respect to Pakistani hydro-electric uses, and in particular the NJHEP, the Court noted that “the diversion of water by the KHEP would have a direct effect and would somewhat reduce the downstream generation of hydro-electric power under almost any minimum flow regime”.

The court observed that “Pakistan had provided ... a holistic assessment of the interaction of a range of environmental indicators and attempted to capture the complexity of interactions within the river ecosystem”.

In contrast, India “submitted a simpler assessment, drawing its conclusions from more limited data regarding the habitat for fish species”.

While noting that there’s no single “correct” approach to environmental assessments, the court expressed the view that “Pakistan’s in- depth assessment, while not perfect was more appropriate for a project of the magnitude of the KHEP”. The court acknowledged, however, that Pakistan’s approach in these proceedings “does not match its own historical practices”.

The court had provisionally concluded that taking exclusive account of environmental considerations would suggest an environmental flow of 12 cumec. The Court noted that below this level, the lowest flows recorded at the Line of Control increasingly become the norm during parts of the winter dry season.

#### The minimum flow determination

The court decided that, on the basis of the evidence currently available to it, India should have access to at least half of the average flow at the KHEP site during the driest months of the year.

The court concluded that although customary international law requires the provision of a minimum flow, “the Indus Waters Treaty limits the use of customary law”.

Examining the hydrological data, the Court concluded that “a flow of 9 cumec at the KHEP would be sufficient to maintain the natural flows throughout the dry months of December, January, and February, even in the driest winter of the 34-year flow data record presented by the parties”.

Although the court considered this approach to be somewhat severe in environmental terms, it concluded that such an approach “represents an appropriate balance between the needs of the environment and India’s right to power generation”.

Reviewing the effects of a 9 cumec minimum flow, the court noted that such a flow would accord India 51.9 per cent of the flow at the KHEP dam site during the month of January and a higher proportion in other months.

Published in Dawn, May 22nd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1409212/pakistan-world-bank-resume-talks-to-settle-water-dispute-with-india>

Protests against water shortage held in various districts

Dawn Report May 23, 2018

HYDERABAD: In parts of Sindh, protests were staged on Tuesday against the alleged artificial water shortage, excessive power loadshedding and other civic problems.

In Hyderabad, activists of the Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT) staged a protest sit-in at Wadhu Wah against artificial water shortage in various parts of Hyderabad city.

QAT chief Ayaz Latif Palijo led the protest along with Dr Aziz Talpur, Dr Gulzar Jumani and others. The protesters raised slogans against the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) and Sindh government.

Mr Palijo told reporters that the Supreme Court was not taking notice of the situation while the provincial and federal governments remained least concerned about the plight of people of Hyderabad. He called for supply of drinking water for the residents of Qasimabad and other parts of the city. He said the residents of Hadi Nagar were told that since they did not vote for the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in 2013, they would not get water.

He maintained that the transformer in Sheedi Nagar had been removed and there was no electricity for the past several days, adding that the Mohammad Bux Shoro village had not been getting electric supply for two days. The Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) had blocked water supply to Qasimabad at the instance of PPP ministers and consumers were obliged to buy water from tankers, he said.

He said HDA and Wasa officers say that they are asked by ministers not to supply water unless they are directed. He said basic facilities were being denied to people to make them visit houses of ministers.

He said that on one hand the federal government was committing “robbery” of the water of Sindh while on the other available water was being mismanaged by the ministers as they were using water as a tool against opponents.

In Khairpur, citizens of various colonies staged a demonstration on the old National Highway on Tuesday in protest against shortage of drinking water amid loadshedding of electricity and Sui gas during Ramazan.

Speaking on the occasion, the protesting citizens said there had been crisis of electricity and that of Sui gas also. They said they had protested several times against the problems, but the officials concerned did not pay any attention.

They demanded that the problem be resolved at the earliest so that they could spend Ramazan in a better way.

The residents of Mithi, Kaloi, Diplo and a number of villages have complained about the worst water crisis for the past several months.

They said water was not available in Rann Minor, the only water channel of the district.

The residents of Mithi town, the headquarters of Thar, have not been provided with canal water for the past many months due to inefficiency of the officials of municipality and irrigation, who have not been providing the water in the ponds near Naukot town.

Rights activists and leaders of various political parties, including Fakeer Arshad Kumbhar of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), advocate Shahnawaz Higorjo of the Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT), talking to Dawn on Tuesday alleged that on one hand the only irrigation channel had not been provided with the water even for drinking while on the other, the concerned officials were involved in selling water to the tanker mafia.

They deplored that the people living in the entire desert district were crying for potable water at a time when the desert continued to swelter at 45 to 47 degrees Celsius.

The residents of Kaloi and Diplo towns lamented that the government functionaries had failed to provide them with canal water for the past many years.

The shortage of water was continuing despite the fact that retired Justice Ameer Hani Muslim, who heads the water commission, during a visit to the ponds and Rann Minor some two months ago had directed the irrigation department and chairman of the Mithi Municipal Committee, Dr Manoj Kumar Malani, to provide the canal water to local people through pipeline.

Published in Dawn, May 23rd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1409455/protests-against-water-shortage-held-in-various-districts>

Growers protest water shortage

Dawn Report May 24, 2018

**MIRPURKHAS:** A large number of growers and peasants blocked Naukot-Mithi road by parking tractor-trolleys and closing gate of railway crossing on Wednesday in protest against irrigation department's stopping supply of water to their area for the past six months.

The protesters told journalists that no functionary of the irrigation department or any political personality of the area was ready to listen to their grievances.

They said that because of mismanagement by irrigation department officers water was not reaching tail-end areas of distributaries and minors of Nara Canal in Naukot subdivision. It had created acute shortage of drinking water, forcing people to fetch brackish water from hand pumps and wells and from private filter plants, they said.

They said that their cattle were dying without water and agriculture lands had turned barren.

They urged director general of Rangers Sindh, chief minister, irrigation minister and engineer of Jamrao and Mithrao canals to stop water theft and ensure removal of illegally installed pumping machines on both banks of the Nara Canal near Khairpur.

They demanded action against corrupt officers of irrigation department and supply of water to their area and warned they would be compelled to launch a massive protest campaign against the irrigation department if they did not get water.

SUKKUR: Farmers and peasants of Sagiyoon town in Khairpur district arrived in Sukkur on Wednesday and staged a sit-in outside the office of chief engineer of Sukkur Barrage against the irrigation department's failure to carry out de-silting of Kharl minor for the past 18 months.

The protesters led by Noor Ahmed Lak, Ali Mohammad, Sharif and others said that water was not reaching the tail-end because of heavy silt deposits, rendering more than 25,000 acres land barren.

They said that they could not sow any crop because of acute shortage of water in the minor and accused corrupt officers of irrigation department of having usurped the funds meant for de-silting of the minor.

They demanded Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah should take notice of the situation and take action against corrupt officials.

Published in Dawn, May 24th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1409533/growers-protest-water-shortage>

Indian lobby at World Bank frustrates Pakistan

By Shahabaz Rana

Published: May 24, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the World Bank have failed to reach an agreement on a way forward to address the former's concerns over violation of the Indus Waters Treaty by India, as a strong Indian lobby in Washington again frustrated the latest push to stop New Delhi from violating the treaty.

"An agreement on the way forward was not reached at the conclusion of the meetings" between the Pakistani delegation and the World Bank officials, announced the Washington-based lender on Wednesday.

It added that several procedural options for resolving the disagreement over the interpretation of the Indus Basin Treaty's provisions were discussed by both the parties.

Pakistan to discuss India's violation of Indus Water Treaty with WB president

"While an agreement on the way forward was not reached at the conclusion of the meetings, the World Bank will continue to work with both the countries to resolve the issues in an amicable manner and in line with the treaty provisions," stated the World Bank.

But a Pakistani official who attended the meetings claimed that the World Bank has assured to bring resolution to the longstanding dispute. He added that Pakistan lodged the protest in the strongest possible words.

Senior World Bank officials met on May 21-22 with a delegation from the government of Pakistan at their request to discuss the issues regarding the Indus Waters Treaty and opportunities within the treaty to seek an amicable resolution.



Pakistani delegation, led by Attorney General of Pakistan Ashtar Ausaf Ali, met with Kristalina Georgieva, World Bank Chief Executive Officer, and the regional management for South Asia.

The delegation of the Government of Pakistan also shared with the bank their concerns about the recent inauguration of the Kishanganga hydroelectric plant.

The Pakistani delegation had rushed to Washington after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 330-megawatt Kishanganga hydroelectric power plant in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK).

The Kishanganga project has the potential to disrupt flows, which will also adversely affect the recently constructed 969MW Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project.

Pakistan has maintained that the dam violates the World Bank-mediated treaty on the sharing of the Indus River and its tributaries upon which 80% of its irrigated agriculture depends.

The disagreement serves a serious blow to Pakistan that remains unable to penetrate in the World Bank, which is under heavy influence of the Indian lobby working in Washington. The South Asian department of the World Bank is also under the influence of the Indian lobby.

Over the years, successive governments kept a blind eye over a growing Indian influence in international financial institutions. The governments have been sending retired and serving bureaucrats from the Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) Group to fill technical posts in these important global bodies, which affected the country's position.

A retired PAS officer is currently executive director in the Asian Development Bank in Manila. A former National Highway Authority chairman is now Pakistan's executive director in the World Bank.

The post of senior adviser to the IMF executive director is vacant for last over one year due to tussle over appointment of a blue-eyed PAS officer in Washington.

To the disappointment of Islamabad, the World Bank also stated that "as a signatory to the Treaty, the World Bank's role is limited and procedural".

In particular, the role in relation to 'differences' and 'disputes' is limited to the designation of people to fulfill certain roles when requested by either or both parties, it added.

ECNEC approves Neelum-Jhelum project at Rs507b cost

The World Bank underlined that the Indus Waters Treaty was a profoundly important international agreement that provided an essential cooperative framework for India and Pakistan to address current and future challenges of effective water management to meet human needs and achieve development goals.

"The World Bank remains committed to act in good faith and with complete impartiality and transparency in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Treaty, while continuing to assist the countries," according to the handout.

In 2016, Pakistan had filed a complaint with World Bank, saying India had contravened the Washington-based lender-mandated pause placed in 2016 by completion of the Kishanganga Dam.

The Hague-based International Court of Arbitration had ruled in favour of India and allowed New Delhi in 2013 to go ahead with the construction of the Kishanganga hydro power project.

The Kishanganga project was started in 2007 but on May 17, 2010, Pakistan moved for international arbitration against India under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1717624/1-indian-lobby-world-bank-frustrates-pakistan/>

WB will continue to work with Pakistan, India

ISLAMABAD: Senior World Bank officials met on May 21-22 with a delegation from the government of Pakistan at their request to discuss issues regarding the Indus Waters Treaty and opportunities within the treaty to seek an amicable resolution.

The delegation of the government of Pakistan also shared with the bank their concerns about the recent inauguration of the Kishenganga hydroelectric plant, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

Several procedural options for resolving the disagreement over the interpretation of the Treaty's provisions were discussed. While an agreement on the way forward was not reached at the conclusion of the meetings, the World Bank will continue to work with both countries to resolve the issues in an amicable manner and in line with the treaty provisions.

The Indus Waters Treaty is a profoundly important international agreement that provides an essential cooperative framework for India and Pakistan to address current and future challenges of effective water management to meet human needs and achieve development goals.

As a signatory to the Treaty, the World Bank's role is limited and procedural. In particular, the role in relation to "differences" and "disputes" is limited to the designation of people to fulfill certain roles when requested by either or both parties.

The World Bank remains committed to act in good faith and with complete impartiality and transparency in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Treaty, while continuing to assist the countries. —PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/05/24/22-page/718652-news.html>

Tarbela, Mangla set to reach dead level

By Sehrish Wasif

Published: May 26, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Two major water reservoirs of the country are likely to reach the dead level within next 24-48 hours, says Indus River System Authority (Irsa) spokesman Khalid Rana on Friday.

It is going to be the third time in the period of just two months that the two major dams of the country will reach a historical dead level, he added.

While talking to The Express Tribune Rana revealed currently the water situation in the country is quite 'disturbing' and worsening with each passing day. He said normally in the month of May the water situation in these two dams is not this much alarming, but this year so far it continues to be like this.

Pakistan ranks third among countries facing water shortage

He laments that the rising temperature and insufficient rainfall are worsening the water situation in the country.

“Current water situation in the country is abnormal and if there will be no ‘good’ rains in the next few months then it will have devastating impact on agriculture and economy,” said Rana.

The water crisis is already having an adverse impact on cotton crop and will have the same on rice and sugarcane too, he maintained.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department on May 25th, the inflow of water in Tarbela Dam was recorded 38,500 cusecs and outflow was 45,000 cusecs which is lowest since 2009.

Meanwhile till the filing of the story the current water level in Tarbela dam was 1,389.35 feet against its dead level of 1,386 feet.

In Mangla Dam the inflow was recorded 32,551 cusecs and outflow 38,188 cusecs whereas the current water level was 1,090.55 feet against its dead level 1,050 feet.

Due to poor water situation in dams, there is 50-60 percent water shortage in canals.

Indian lobby at World Bank frustrates Pakistan

Rana further said this year snow melting process in the catchment areas is also too slow and not helping much in improving water level in the reservoirs. “We are hoping that this year Pakistan have good monsoon showers, otherwise there is no hope that the water level in the two major dams will improve,” he said.

Meanwhile when contacted PMD spokesman Khalid Mahmood said currently there are no chances of ‘good’ rainfall in the country over the next 10 to 15 days.

However, pre-monsoon is likely to begin in the country after the mid of June which may bring few showers, added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1719307/1-tarbela-mangla-set-reach-dead-level/>

Indian water terrorism: Delhi stops water of Chenab River

MR

Monitoring Report

May 27, 2018

ISLAMABAD: India, while committing water terrorism, has stopped flow of water of the Chenab River to Pakistan.

The flow of water from Head Punjnad turned zero. There is danger of reduction of water for Punjab and Sindh.

According to the sources, India had started storing water in Baglihar Dam and due to this Chenab River is facing reduction of 30,000 cusec water. The flow of water at Head Marala in Chenab River remained only 20,000 cusec. The flow of water was over 50,000 cusec in Chenab River during May 2017. If this situation persists, there will be a risk of reduction of water for Punjab and Sindh.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/321867-indian-water-terrorism-delhi-stops-water-of-chenab-river>

## PAKISTAN HAS GONE FROM WATER SURPLUS TO WATER-STRESSED

The Express Tribune, May 14th, 2018.

### ISLAMABAD:

Pakistan is a country facing depleting water resources mainly due to climate change and poor water resource management.

Failure to estimate the actual water demand will hamper effective water management and overall socio-economic stability in Pakistan. Moreover, water resources (Indus River System) have potential to generate 59,000 megawatts of hydro energy in Pakistan.

The country has gone from being water-surplus to water-stressed and soon it is going to have water scarcity. The per-capita water availability has reduced from approximately 5,000 cubic meters per year to around 1,000 cubic meters per year.

Of the 10% of water used in industries and for domestic use, the same pattern of wastage of water continues. Pakistan is expected to experience increased variability of river flows due to increased variability of precipitation and the melting of glaciers.

Demand for irrigation water may increase due to higher evaporation rates. Yields of wheat and basmati rice are expected to decline and may drive production northward, subject to water availability.

Water availability for hydropower generation may decline. Hotter temperatures are likely to increase energy demand due to increased air conditioning requirements.

Warmer air and water temperatures may decrease the efficiency of nuclear and thermal power plant generation. Mortality due to extreme heat waves may increase. Urban drainage systems may be further stressed by high rainfall and flash floods. Sea level rise and storm surges may adversely affect coastal infrastructure and livelihoods.

Furthermore, water also affects the health and well-being status of the population as poor quality of water is causing water-borne diseases, such as Diarrhea (23% under-5 children suffered from Diarrhea in 2013), etc. Around 70% of the rural population doesn't have access to the safe drinking water, which means they are vulnerable to water-borne diseases.

In this regard, the government's response towards these indicators is not very substantial. The country's leaders are too distracted by extremism and political instability to focus on pressing environmental issues.

Response is defined as preparedness, but in Pakistan the extreme weather events are increasing; the super floods of 2010 affected around 20 million people in the country, and in 2011 five years of rainfall fell in just four weeks in Sindh. In 2012, there were more floods.

In Pakistan, climate change is a current reality with devastating consequences. The last few years of continuous flooding in the country has had a long-term impact on farmers' ability to produce food. Instead of coming up with strong response and preparation to these events, the government is busy with their own issues of accountability.

According to the UNDP Pakistan, communities are working together to reduce the risk of flash floods in Northern Pakistan, particularly the floods caused by glacial lakes. These glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) occur when the ice walls containing the reservoir fail, sending entire lakes down to inhabited areas below. Similarly, local communities improved livelihoods by repairing water channels in Sindh. They also mentioned that women earn income by repairing houses post floods.

In Pakistan, climate change in the form of heavy floods—due to Himalayan glacier melting—, droughts, and changing rain patterns—1500 mm in upper part of Pakistan—are adversely affecting the water resources that require effective planning and sufficient resource allocations to manage draining water resources. Pakistan had to face a loss of \$9.6 billion in 2010 due to the climate change (CC) and the floods during 2010-2014 resulted in economic loss of \$18 billion.

In the wake of the deteriorating condition of water availability, there is growing need to allocate more fiscal resources by both federal and provincial governments. Out of total Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) expenditures (FY2016-17), around 2.4% portion was spent on water supply and sanitation, including federal and provincial PRSP expenditures.

Comparing provincial PRSP expenditures on water supply and sanitation, Sindh has 18% reduction in the water budget in FY2016-17 compared to FY2015-16. Moreover, utilisation of allocated budget for water projects is not satisfactory as around 24% under-utilisation of budget in Punjab was reported in FY2016-17 and delayed release of funds is one of the major reasons of this under-utilisation.

Delay in the Diamer-Bhasha dam due to the unavailability of financial resources is another example of the inappropriate allocations for water related projects.

Awareness must be necessary in order to minimise deceptive and unsustainable activities, such as the use of stony water for washing cars or irrigation of lawns and gardens. Each of us must understand that less water usage means less wastewater production. Water supply agencies should install meters to charge consumers based on ‘pay as you use’. In such interventions, departments like WASA and CDA can play a major role. There is also a need to increase the percentage of budget allocation-to-GDP for the improvement of water and sanitation in the country.

If immediate action is not taken to address these issues, the amount and quality of the remaining water will have a negative impact on health, education and economic sectors.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must ensure, before discharging it to the mainstreams, and to improve the drainage network, ensuring higher sanitary coverage, ensuring household waste disposal, commercial and industrial units.

The writer is a researcher at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1709380/2-pakistan-gone-water-surplus-water-stressed/>

## WATER SHORTAGE CAUSES UNREST IN SEVERAL TOWNS

Dawn, May 15th, 2018

MITHI: Members of traders’ organisations, general public and local leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party have expressed resentment over acute shortage of water in the province.

In Mithi, PPP leaders Senator Gayanchand, Dost Ali Rahimoon, Dr Manoj Kumar Malani, NandlalMalhi, Chandar Sharma, Mohammad Loond and others said at a gathering of party workers that water crisis in Sindh was man-made.

It had been created by the government of Punjab in connivance with federal government by stealing water from Sindh’s share and thus causing the worst water crisis in the province, they said.

They said that thousands of people would participate in historic sit-in against the federal government in Hyderabad on May 16 to be held in protest against water shortage.

They condemned a recent statement of disqualified prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif in which he had attacked the integrity of the country and called for lodging a case on charge of treason against all those involved in the conspiracy against the country.

They claimed that the party opponents had failed to find candidates to field against PPP in general election from Tharparkar district.

**SANGHAR:** Traders and shopkeepers observed a complete shutter-down strike in the city in response to a call for protest by the town's chamber of commerce against acute water shortage.

All shops and business centres remained shuttered throughout the day as traders held a demonstration outside the press club where their leaders made speeches, holding irrigation department, municipal committee and district administration responsible for the nagging water crisis.

Malik Sher Mohammad, Hassan Askari and others said that water shortage had been created deliberately. The deputy commissioner of Sanghar had failed to honour his word to provide water to citizens, they said.

They said that citizens were suffering due to incompetence of municipal committee authorities, irrigation department and district administration who had failed to supply water to a population of 250,000 despite having ample resources.

They said that they would continue the protest till the city residents were supplied adequate water.

Sanghar has been facing acute shortage of drinking water for the past three months, forcing the residents to use unhygienic underground water, which was saline in most cases, or purchase water at exorbitant prices.

**KHAIRPUR:** The shortage of drinking water has become serious in the town, especially in the areas of OstaGahi, Ghareebabad, Dabbar, Panj Hatti, Babu Shah Mohammadi Colony, Shaheedabad and Butro where people are forced to buy a gallon of water for Rs20 to 30.

As mercury shot to 43 to 46 degrees centigrade, the demand for water has naturally gone up by many times hence rise in water bill.

The affected residents told reporters that a water supply scheme had been built near Khaki Shah bridge to provide clean drinking water to citizens through tube-well but its system had been broken down for some time.

They demanded the authorities concerned take effective measures to provide drinking water to the town.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1407655>

#### **KHUHRO BLAMES PUNJAB FOR SINDH'S WATER WOES**

Dawn, May 14th, 2018

**HYDERABAD:** Senior Sindh Minister for Food and Parliamentary Affairs Nisar Ahmed Khuhro has put blame of acute water shortage in the province on Punjab's diverting Sindh's water through Chashma and Taunsa link canals and announced holding a sit-in at Hatri bypass on Wednesday to protest against the injustice.

Why had it been allowed to run the canals and take water without prior permission of Sindh and why the province was not being supplied water from Mangla dam which was reportedly storing water at a time when Sindh direly needed it for summer crops, said MrKhuhro at a press conference at the residence of a party leader in Civil Lines here on Sunday.

He demanded that Sindh should be supplied water from Mangla and Tarbella dams. Sindh had fought its case successfully against moves for Kalabagh Dam by holding protests and sit-ins in past and the party would again stage powerful protests to force the government to ensure Sindh received its due share in water.

He said that Sindh Assembly had passed a resolution against diversion of the province's share in water, calling for release of its share in line with 1991 Water Accord.

Regrettably, the resolution was not respected and the link canals continued to take Sindh's water. When PPP led the federal government it had kept the link canals closed, he said.

He said that unfortunately for Sindh there were no rains in the catchment area of Tarbela dam but storing water in Mangla dam when Sindh direly needed it was incomprehensible. At present, Nara Canal was getting 9,000 cusec water against its designed discharge capacity of 16,000 cusec, he said.

He said that it was the responsibility of Council of Common Interests (CCI), as it was the right forum, to resolve the issue but the government was not convening its meetings. The CCI did not even take up the issue of National Finance Commission, prompting three chief ministers to boycott its meeting, he said.

He blamed the federal government for prolonged power outages in Sindh and said the Centre had been making false claims about ending loadshedding. Disqualified premier Nawaz Sharif had once again claimed that electricity crisis had been controlled while in reality Sindh was experiencing 16-hour a day loadshedding, he said.

About voices for new provinces, MrKhuhro said that Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui was not talking about new province because he knew how people of Sindh would react to such talk of division of Sindh. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had mentioned Liaquat Ali Khan in the backdrop of quota system, he said.

He said that Nawaz Sharif might be seeing 'aliens' in his dreams because the 'aliens' were no more with him.

Earlier, Khuhro chaired a meeting of the party's Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad division chapters. The party's provincial information secretary AajizDhamrah, divisional president Ali Nawaz Shah Rizvi, MNAs Nawab Yusuf Talpur, ShaguftaJumani, Aftab Shah Jilani and others were present at the press conference.

**BADIN:** At a gather here on Sunday, district PPP leaders accused both the prime minister and Punjab chief minister of ongoing water crisis in Sindh and demanded the province should be released its due share in water immediately.

The party leaders Gul Mohammad Jakhrani, Syed Ali Bux aka Pappu Shah, Bibi Yasmin Shah, MNA Sardar Kamal Khan Chang, MPA Mir Allah BuxTalpur, Haji SainBux Jamali and others said at a large public gathering in the grounds of a higher secondary school in TandoBago town on Sunday that the federal government was also involved in Punjab's theft of water.

They said that they would block all roads leading to Punjab by staging a sit-in at Hatri bypass in Hyderabad on May 16 and then they would go to Islamabad to stage a demonstration outside the parliament house and Supreme Court of Pakistan to register their protest against the federal government.

They said the party leaders were united and ready to inflict humiliating defeat on former PPP leader Dr Zulfikar Ali Mirza and other opponents in Badin and other parts of the province. They asked Dr Mirza to stop using foul language against party leaders.

They assured the participants in the public gathering that nobody would be allowed to steal Sindh's water.



## WATER SHORTAGES DISRUPT SOWING, BUT TRACTOR SALES REMAIN BRISK

Dawn, May 16th, 2018

Aamir Shafaat Khan

KARACHI: Alarming shortage of irrigation water this year has so far not affected the production and sales of tractors, with assemblers continuing their normal operations on back of brisk advance booking orders and robust sales.

“Water shortage is a big concern, however, its direct impact on our company’s production and sales is not measurable at this stage because there are many other variables which contribute towards our business performance,” CEO Al Ghazi Tractors Limited (AGTL), Shahid Hussain told Dawn on Monday.

There are reports of late sowing of crops, including cotton, due to water shortage. AGTL has planned major investment which include new assembly line for making advance range of models in the next two years, he said.

“We are making investments every year on balancing and modernisation. The current undertaking is on building up a state-of-the-art lab in the next two years at cost of Rs350 million,” he said. The new assembly line would boost production capacity to 30,000 units from 24,000 units last year besides creating direct jobs for 30-40 persons, Mr Shahid said.

To improve product quality at both incoming and assembly stages, a sophisticated lab is being set up at the plant to ensure receiving of quality components, he said.

Due to devaluation of the rupee against the dollar, AGTL had increased prices by two to three per cent in January 2018 while it is trying to absorb full impact of losing rupee value, he said. Mr Shahid said the tractor industry was hopeful that the 5pc GST would be abolished in Budget 2018-19 but this did not happen.

On arrival of imported tractors, he said, “These cannot compete with the price of locally produced tractors.”

AGTL provided 1,200-1,300 tractors under Sindh government’s tractor subsidy scheme last year. The company had produced 24,091 tractors in 2017 compared with 16,005 units in 2016. Tractors are also being exported to Afghanistan and some African countries

A leading Lahore-based tractor assembler said, “There is no immediate negative impact on our sales and production so far owing to shortage of irrigation water.” He claimed that the company has been witnessing record booking of farm machinery and this year would mark highest ever sales. “We have advance booking of two to three months,” he claimed.

He said water shortage may be overcome in coming months with start of monsoon season and melting of ice.

Tractors are also being used in various China-Pakistan Economic Corridor infrastructure projects and in construction activities for haulage of various materials.

A leading tractor vendor and former Chairman Paapam Tariq Nazir told Dawn from Lahore that tractor assemblers have so far not intimated any cut in production of tractors and are procuring parts normally in view of better production and sales prospects this year as compared to last year.

According to BIPL Securities, tractors continued to post a growth of 27pc year-on-year (YoY) and 5pc month-on-month in April 18 amounting to 7,979 units on the back of improving farm economics, taking the 10MFY18 volumes to 60,239 units, up by 34pcYoY.

AGTL had renewed its Industrial Collaboration Agreement with CNHI to assemble and sell New Holland CNHI tractors. With the intention to contribute towards farmer community and for better crop yield, the company has brought in first of its kind New Holland Brand Combine Harvester into Pakistan for trial to contribute towards farmer community and better crop yield.

The company would explore in collaboration with CNH Industrial Italia the possibility of sale of imported New Holland Brand combine harvesters, balers and 95HP tractors.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1407982>

REMARKABLE DROP IN KEENJHAR LEVEL SIGNALS LOOMING WATER CRISIS IN THATTA, KARACHI  
Dawn, May 16th, 2018

THATTA: The water level in the Keenjhar Lake that feeds Karachi and Thatta district has dropped much below the operational level of RL-56 signalling a possible suspension of supply to both the metropolis and Thatta.

The tail-end areas of Thatta district have already been experiencing a drought-like situation since the water level started descending from the RL-56 level. The other parts of Thatta as well as Karachi might start getting much lesser than usual supply in the days to come as a further drop has been recorded on Tuesday.

Sources in the local irrigation office said that water level in Keenjhar had come down to as low as 46-RL. They pointed out that outward flows from Thatta to Karachi would only be possible if the level remained at RL-56 and above.

The decline to RL-46 was hampering normal supplies, they added.

Thatta district has been facing a water shortage for seven months although the water level in Keenjhar had not dropped to this level. The district has more than 700,000 acres of agricultural land in the command area of the KB Feeder-lower and the shortage over such a long period had already caused heavy losses to growers.

HYDERABAD: Tail-end growers of Rohri Canal held a sit-in outside the office of the Rohri Canal superintending engineer in the Saddar area here on Tuesday to demand flow of adequate water into the irrigation channel.

The protest was organised under the aegis of the Tail Abadgar Action Committee. It was led by Attaullah Shah, Qazi Faizullah, Qazi Noor Mohammad and others.

Growers of the tail-end areas of Rohri Canal own their lands in Badin district which is fed by Khairpur Gamboh subdivision's system of Naseer Canal. They have been holding such sit-ins off and on outside the SE's office for a long time complaining that steps were not being taken to ensure water supply up to their lands from the Rohri Canal system despite an improved situation of flows.

They also claim that their share of water was stolen on the way and, as such, they could not sow crops in summer season.

A strong contingent of police arrived there to disperse the sit-in participants as the protest resulted in a massive traffic gridlock in the Cantonment area for several hours.

Police got all shops in the area closed in preparation of action against the protesters but the plan was dropped.

Deputy Commissioner Anis Dasti and SSP Pir Mohammad Shah held talks with the growers' leaders, who ended the sit-in in the evening.

Earlier, leaders of the protesting growers held talks with the superintending engineer MukhtiarAbro, who tried to convince them to end their protest but the protesters did not agree to end their sit-in.

The DC and SSP joined the meeting and after a long session, the DC told the growers' leaders that a rotation system for water distribution in the Naseer division would be prepared by the irrigation department to address the issue. The protesters then ended their protest on the assurance.

Qazi Faizullah told Dawn that the rotation plan would be prepared by executive engineer Zaheer Memon who had just taken over the charge. SE Abro endorsed the statement. About the growers' demand for deployment of Rangers to check water theft, the SE said some correspondence in this regard was made by the irrigation department.

Water supply to Mithi within three days ordered

MITHI: Tharparkar District and Sessions Judge Mushtaq Ahmed Kalwar took notice of a crisis-like situation in Mithi due to unavailability of water in many areas. He visited the water reservoir near Naukot town on numerous complaints made to him by the local bar association, civil society organisations and a number of Mithi residents.

They informed the judge that the town and its surrounding areas and villages had been facing an acute shortage of water due to "inefficiency of the Mithi municipality and local irrigation officials". During his visit, the judge warned irrigation officials to mend their ways and ensure adequate water supply to the town within the next three days.

Judge Kalwar also directed Judicial Magistrate Abdul QadirKhosro to visit the reservoir and make sure that water was released into it from Rann minor.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1407881>

## THE WORSENING WATER CRISIS

Dawn, May 17th, 2018

THE almost drought-like situation in many parts of the country at the start of the Kharif sowing season is cause for serious alarm.

There is a tendency to treat such conditions with an air of resignation, as if we are totally helpless before the vagaries of nature; in fact, some people, in view of the scarce water available for our agrarian needs, start talking, reflexively, about building the Kalabagh dam.

Given that we are likely to face similar situations in the future, with weather patterns becoming more erratic, it is vital to move beyond these simple positions. Pakistan's food security, as well as its industrial base, is largely built on the irrigation system bequeathed to us by the Americans, working through the World Bank in the wake of the Indus Waters Treaty.

This country is, at its roots, a hydraulic society, and water, especially for irrigation, is its most important natural endowment, upon which is based our entire social structure.

When looking at water issues faced by the country, quantity is only one dimension of the challenge. The real area of concern, for which urgent solutions are required, is utilisation.

According to the Indus River System Authority, the body tasked with managing the allocation of the country's irrigation water, somewhere between 9 MAF to 10 MAF of water is usually released during the Kharif crop sowing season. This year, the amount that has been released is 5.8 MAF, a near disastrous shortfall due to diminished inflows in the dams. But the real story is that of this amount, nearly 1 MAF has been lost, ie it was released but never reached the command heads further downstream.

Some losses are normal, due to seepage and evaporation, but Irsa says the figure is unusually high this year. This loss is south of Taunsa Barrage.

Reports of widespread black marketing of water, which is pumped out illegally using pumps and then poured into tankers which are sold to farmers at a steep price, are widespread across Sindh.

Tail-end farmers on the Nara canal, which feeds large parts of Mirpurkhas Division, for example, claim they have counted more than 800 pumps operating upstream while their watercourses are parched.

Can this sort of theft be possible without the connivance of the provincial irrigation department?

On top of this, there is the matter of poor water practices on farms, where large landowners still use antiquated flood-irrigation techniques, resulting in much wastage, instead of investing in modern irrigation technologies to conserve and make judicious use of a scarce resource.

Until these problems — theft and waste — are adequately addressed, it would be futile to talk of Pakistan's water crisis in terms of quantity alone.

Drought is indeed a natural phenomenon that humans can do little to reverse. But how we adapt to it is in our control.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1408186/the-worsening-water-crisis>

## SINDH'S OPPOSITION, TREASURY BENCHES ENGAGE IN HEATED DEBATE OVER WATER SHORTAGES

Dawn, May 17th, 2018

Hasan Mansoor

**KARACHI:** The treasury and opposition benches in the Sindh Assembly on Wednesday engaged in a heated debate over the availability of water as some of them feared the worsening situation could lead to "water riots".

The debate on the annual budget presented by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for the next financial year entered its third day with Speaker Siraj Durrani in the chair.

Some 11 members, six of them belonging to the opposition benches, spoke on the merits and demerits of the financial plan put together by the government.

As the day's session resumed two hours later than its scheduled time, the number of members in attendance was pathetically poor, which annoyed the opposition benches. They complained to the chair that no ministers and senior bureaucrats were there to listen to them and jot down their suggestions.

Speaker Durrani pacified them and got them to end their protest by saying all speeches in the house were duly being noted down and would be taken care of by the government.

The members spoke over various issues Sindh was facing, however, everyone offered views on the problems pertaining to water.

The treasury benches generally complained about the federal government's "iniquitous" behaviour towards Sindh, a lower riparian province, vis-a-vis share in water, while the opposition members were discontented with the system that "failed" to effectively supply the available water.

"Water mafias continue to steal our water and sell it to us and they are being patronised by the persons from among us," said Irum Farooque of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement who has left the party and assumes independent standing in the house.

She said work on the desalination plant in the metropolis should be accelerated and completed in the soonest possible time.

"We are lucky to have the sea beside our city and other districts of Sindh and this project could help us a great deal in meeting our drinking water needs."

She feared "water riots" could break out if the issue was not resolved and the federal authorities did not ensure just share to Sindh and its effective supply to farms and houses. She said Sindh was facing more than 70 per cent water shortage warranting the provincial authorities to go for building "our own reservoirs".

"We should not solely depend on Punjab, there are other ways too to ease the pain."

She was unhappy over the "dead" Manchhar Lake, which lately forced 700 families of fishermen to migrate.

She asked the federal government why the Green Line bus project it funded had hit delays, which had made the lives of people miserable and also exacerbated the city's transport woes.

She asked the provincial government to rely on its own resources more instead of looking for help from Islamabad.

She added there was no mention of the Karachi Circular Railway project in the budget documents.

She said abolishing the quota system was necessary to end widespread suspicions among communities.

Awais Shah of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party blamed the federal authorities for continued sea intrusion because no water was flowing to deltaic regions of the River Indus.

He said water was not available for both irrigation and drinking purposes because of heavy shortfall caused by the federal authorities.

He said the worst water shortfalls Sindh had ever suffered had forced the provincial government to protest against the federal authorities in Hyderabad.

He asked the opposition benches to join the Sindh government for the cause of Sindh.

"The federation does not supply us adequate water, power and gas. We demand nothing, but at least give us the right to live by allowing water coming our way."

He said sea intrusion had consumed a whole taluka in the southernmost part of Sindh; the level of subsoil water had gone "miles deep" and all this was "part of a pre-planned scheme".

He criticised Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif for “remembering” Sindh after five years when general elections were close. He also slated ex-premier Nawaz Sharif for “speaking against the army”.

PML-N’s SorathThebo confronted him with her mike off asking him to focus on the budget discussion.

He said all schemes in Sukkur initiated by the PPP government were progressing as per schedule and denied the claims about delays made earlier by some opposition members.

Shaharyar Maher of the Pakistan Muslim League-Functional said the government’s claim that tube-wells were being shifted to solar energy was nowhere in sight.

He said the irrigation system was as flawed as before while Sindh’s agriculture, which contributed 35pc of the national crops, was not being adequately taken care of.

He claimed the Benazir Income Support Programme had turned poor people into beggars.

MQM’s Rana Ansar said 44pc of children in Hyderabad were out of school while a good number of schools in the district were closed or abandoned.

She said none of the 12 colleges promised by the government to be established in Hyderabad was built. Besides, four libraries in Shahdadpur were closed down. She said billions of rupees spent on education had given zero result.

She said schemes and equipment of healthcare facilities had been transferred to other districts by the government.

Ms Ansar said there were 17 animals in Ranibagh and all of them were goats showing the zoo had been turned into a stable.

PPP’s Shehnaz Ansari said only those schools which had been established by the previous government to use as autaqas had been closed. She appreciated the government’s scheme to open English-medium schools in 15 districts.

MQM’s Bilqees Mukhtar, who has defected to Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP), said lawmakers should have been consulted before preparing the annual budget.

She said Sindh had immense resources, yet, there was no planning and good governance.

Mohammad Dilawar of the MQM, who has also defected to the PSP, said the government should effectively utilise the water which was available to the province. He said the figures vis-a-vis requirement of water to Sindh were flawed.

He said slashing 8.5 million people of Karachi in the census had, in fact, harmed Sindh.

PPP’s Mahesh Malani said the government’s policies had positively impacted the life of Thar. He said healthcare system had been “revolutionised”.

PPP’s SairaShahliani said the budget had focused on development sector.

Adviser to the chief minister on social welfare said quota system was meant to help the marginalised, which should continue until the whole population came at par in terms of living standards.

MQM’s Shaikh Abdullah, who has defected to the PSP, said continuous delays in Green Line project had created hardships for the people of Surjani Town.

Farmers demand water emergency in Sindh

## RECORDER REPORT

HYDERABAD: Farmers, growers, civil society, women leaders and social activists and change makers have rejected the new agriculture policy by the Sindh Government which has excluded small growers in decision making and not addressed their issues properly. The policy has also ignored womenfolk and peasants.

The main and unanimous demand from the conference held at local hotel was declaration of water emergency in Sindh province due to acute and serious water shortage faced by the Sindh province.

Growers termed corruption, mismanagement, nepotism, political influence of ruling party feudal, inefficiency and lack of proper dedicated ministry for irrigation main causes of the shortage of water.

All growers at the conference were of the view that political monopoly of one party has destroyed the agriculture department and irrigation system in the province. Therefore, the main slogan of growers was vote for water in 2018 election came on the forum.

Poverty in Sindh was attributed to wrong policies of Sindh government & inefficiency of irrigation and agriculture department. Disaster management has also not performed and caused more losses to the agriculture.

While talking to participants, Suleman G Abro, CEO SAWFCO, said agriculture policy has not been made in consultation with stakeholders and gaps and flaws existed in it. He urged that the lack of coordination mechanism between government line departments were suggested that Agriculture policy needed to be revisited and water, food and biodiversity should be given priority.

ZahidaDetho, EDO SRPO, while speaking in the seminar highlighted the issue of water scarcity that had worsened the situation in rural Sindh where the situation was forcing the poor to migrate to urban areas in order to survive. She emphasized the need for giving space to the women who were facing problems being denied to play their due roles to improve the situation that was impossible until the women's participation was not recognized. She highlighted the gender gap that needed to be bridged.

Prof Dr M Ismail Kumbhar of Sindh Agri University Tanjam said that an efficient & prosperous Agri sector needs proper attention. In his presentation the Professor highlighted the agri policy gaps and said that agri policy addressed the crops and livestock sector however fisheries, forestry, and agri mechanization have been ignored. He said that poor data, lack of research, integration of agriculture, proper accountability and regularity are main problems in export of Agriculture products. Fishing & Livestock Sectors are not being covered in the policy.

Nabi BuxSathio, representative of Sindh Chamber of Agriculture highlighted worsening crop situation of Sindh. He said that Agri policy is not fulfilling the needs of farmers and \$1.5 million have been wasted

Ali Palh, President Sindh Agriculture Research Council (SARC), said that growers always approach to courts for wheat Bardana, sugarcane and water supply or come on roads for protests which identify lack of will of Sindh government.



Idrees Rajput said Sindh Government has not gone into CCI for resolving inter-provincial disputes of distribution. Rajput said the government irrigation department lacks its capacity to resolve the issue and lacks commitment.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/05/17/3-page/717197-news.html>

India, not Punjab, blocking Sindh's water, says Rana Mashhood

The Newspaper's Staff Correspondent Updated May 19, 2018

HYDERABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Punjab Education Minister Rana Mashhood has said that all "big names" (electables) and all those forces which wanted to get rid of "looters" in Sindh are in touch with the PML-N.

He stated this while addressing party workers and later answering questions of reporters at the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) here on Friday. PML-N Sindh leader Shah Mohammad Shah and others were also present.

He said the meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) was twice held where Sindh was invited and briefed about water shortage scenario.

He blamed India for blocking the waters of Pakistan.

He said there was water scarcity in the Indus River system, adding that media was free to show and prove it. The PML-N government had been involved in other trivial issues, otherwise it would have expressed its view more clearly, he said.

Answering a question, he said elections would be held on time as they could not be delayed on any ground and would be held on July 31.

He lauded the commitment of Shirazis of Thatta who remained part of the PML-N despite injustices of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government. It was their loyalty that inspired others and many were joining the PML-N, he added.

He said that though Nawaz Sharif's statement on Mumbai attacks was reported out of context, even then Mr Sharif called for formation of a national commission considering the fact that similar statements were given by former spy chief Shuja Pasha, Imran Khan, Rehman Malik, Yousuf Raza Gilani and Asif Zardari.

He claimed that the federal government released funds for the Indus highway and it was incompetence of the Sindh government that it failed to utilise the money.

He said that more projects were announced for Sindh and after the 2018 elections, the PML-N would serve Sindh more by coming up with development works to redress its grievances.

He claimed that in the next few days, several "big names" (electables) would be joining the PML-N, but his party still depended on the support of the people of Sindh.

About loadshedding, he said Wapda had worked out a formula for loadshedding across Pakistan according to which power outages were given effect in the areas hit by massive power theft.

He said the Sindh government topped the list of “power thieves”.

He said the PML-N government was initially trapped in dharnas and lockdowns while political orphans kept giving different dates for the ouster of the PML-N government. But the government completed its term.

He said the PML-N would field candidates in every constituency of Sindh because people were fully aware of political situation there.

He said the people of Sindh appreciated the performance of Shahbaz Sharif and he would serve Sindh more than Punjab if elected to power. He said the slogan of “vote ko izzat do” would echo in Pakistan.

He said PML-N’s programme in Benazirabad on May 28 (Yaum-i-Takbeer) would open eyes of everyone. He said the party would hold public meetings in every district of Sindh.

He said the opponents should honour the Constitution and law while opposing the PML-N. He said Nawaz Sharif had made Pakistan a nuclear state, but still he was being branded as traitor.

He said the 2018 elections would be the year of Shahbaz Sharif as prime minister.

Published in Dawn, May 19th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1408514>

Modi opens controversial power station in held Kashmir

Agencies Updated May 20, 2018

paramilitary soldiers are seen through barbed wire in Srinagar on Saturday.—AP

**SRINAGAR:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated on Saturday a hydroelectric power plant in India-held Jammu and Kashmir, amid protests from Pakistan.

The 330-megawatt Kishanganga hydropower station is one of the projects that India has fast-tracked in the disputed Himalayan region amid frosty ties between the two countries.

“This region cannot only become self-sufficient in power but also produce for other regions of the country,” Modi said in Srinagar. “Keeping that in mind we have been working on various projects here in the past four years.”

Pakistan has opposed some of these projects, saying they violate a World Bank-mediated treaty on the sharing of waters from the Indus and its tributaries upon which 80 per cent of its irrigated agriculture depends.

Explainer: What is the Kishanganga dispute?

“Pakistan is seriously concerned about the inauguration [of the Kishanganga plant],” its foreign ministry said in a statement on Friday. Modi, who was on a daylong visit to the region, also flagged off the construction of the 14-kilometre-long Zojila tunnel, which would provide all-weather connectivity between the cities of Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.

The government said it would be the longest road tunnel in India and Asia’s longest two-way tunnel, to be constructed at a cost of \$1 billion.

India-held Kashmir, meanwhile, came to a virtual standstill as groups opposed to Indian control over the region called for a shutdown to protest Modi's visit.

Shops shut and streets in Srinagar were empty except for police and paramilitary patrols as authorities imposed maximum security for the one-day visit.

Authorities cut mobile internet services in the disputed region and ordered a curfew in parts of Srinagar.

They closed schools, colleges and universities for the day to stop any student protest. The main venue for Modi's visit to Srinagar, the Dal Lake tourist attraction, was declared out of bounds for the public.

Published in Dawn, May 20th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1408771>

PCRWR study: Manchar Lake water 'unfit for drinking'

By Sehrish Wasif

Published: May 19, 2018

The report states that due to lack of management, decades of draining untreated agricultural and industrial effluent has converted the fresh water reservoir into a pool of toxins, contaminating the water and destroying the natural aquatic flora and fauna as well as migratory birds. PHOTO: AFP

ISLAMABAD: The quality of water in one of Pakistan's biggest natural lakes known as Manchar is found highly contaminated and unfit for drinking, according to Environmental Assessment of Manchar Lake 2017.

The study was conducted by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) in collaboration with US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology in Jamshoro to evaluate the current water quality status of the lake and its impact on ecosystem.

The report calls for an urgent need for taking measures to impose ban on throwing wastewater into the lake and for monitoring it on regular and long-term basis.

Manchar is a beautiful shallow lake located in district Jamshoro, Sindh. It is famous for its flora and fauna and is a major resource in an arid region. The lake's degradation started with the construction of Main Nara Valley (MNV) drain in 1921, after which the lake got contaminated.

A copy of the report available with The Express Tribune reveals that quality of water in the lake is highly contaminated due to the disposal of municipal waste.

"The presence of Total Coliform and E.Coli reflects disposal of municipal waste into the lake," says the report, adding that no serious issue of heavy metals was found in the water of the lake, but only mercury (Hg) was found in higher than the threshold.

It warns about the presence of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the water which can cause death and illness, including disturbance of the endocrine, reproductive and immune systems, neuro behavioral disorders and even cancer.

The report states that due to lack of management, decades of draining untreated agricultural and industrial effluent has converted the fresh water reservoir into a pool of toxins, contaminating the water and destroying the natural aquatic flora and fauna as well as migratory birds.

Tales from the emerald water of Gwadar

“The lake was once harbor for Siberian migratory birds, but now the numbers have fallen from 25,000 birds counted in 1988 to just 2,800 birds counted in 2002,” says the report.

Earlier, the PCRWR carried out a study on Manchar Lake in 1996-97 and after examining the water samples collected on monthly basis, it concluded that its water was safe and fit for drinking.

However, from January 1997, the contamination increased, chemical parameters were high, whereas coliforms were also present in water samples making it unfit for drinking.

According to an official privy to this report, one of the most beautiful lakes has lost its charm and purpose mainly due to the ignorance of the government and concerned departments. The official says if the lake is maintained properly, it can contribute a lot to boosting up tourism industry.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1714360/1-pcrwr-study-manchar-lake-water-unfit-drinking/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 7TH TO MAY 13TH 2018

MOU SIGNED WITH CHINESE FIRM ON WATER FOR GWADAR

Dawn, May 7th, 2018

QUETTA: The government of Balochistan has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a Chinese company to provide clean drinking water to the residents of Gwadar.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Chief Executive of China's Overseas Holding Company Zhang Baozang signed the MoU at a ceremony here on Sunday. Provincial Minister for Environment Prince Ahmed Ali, MPA Hamid Achakzai, Chief Secretary Aurangzeb Haq Mir and other officials were present.

“The Chinese company will provide 300,000 gallons of water on daily basis at a cost of only 80 paisas for a gallon and with it the acute scarcity of water in Gwadar will end soon.” CM Bizenjo said.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor provides us an opportunity to develop our deprived province and we should get benefits from multi-billion dollars Pak-China trade,” he said.

The CM said the province had been ignored by the federal government in the past but he was optimistic that now the centre would soon start work on the already announced development projects in Balochistan.

He said the provincial government was taking measures to provide better facilities of education and health and clean drinking water to people.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1406133>

## NO WORLD BANK HEARING LIKELY BEFORE KISHANGANGA INAUGURATION

Dawn, May 7th, 2018

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has apparently missed the opportunity to involve the World Bank in the Kishanganga dam dispute before it becomes operational.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the disputed project in the next few days and the World Bank has not yet responded to Islamabad's request for a meeting.

Pakistan wants to send a high-level delegation, headed by Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf Ali, to Washington to share its concerns with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim about the dam.

The bank has accepted the Pakistani proposal but bank officials say that they are still trying to find an appropriate slot for the meeting because of their chief's busy schedule. Pakistan had hoped for a meeting in late April, when Mr Ali was in New York for a UN meeting, but it did not happen.

The 1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT) recognises the World Bank as an arbitrator in water disputes between India and Pakistan as the bank played a key role in concluding this agreement.

The power division of Pakistan's energy ministry sent a fresh communiqué to the World Bank in early April, urging it to ensure that India abided by the treaty that gave Pakistan control over the water of the Chenab and the Jhelum rivers.

The control over the water flowing in three eastern rivers — Beas, Ravi and Sutlej — was given to India. India may also use the waters of the western rivers in “non-consumptive” ways. India interprets this as a permission to build “run of the river” hydel projects that do not change the course of the river and do not deplete the water level downstream.

Pakistan argues that the Kishanganga and Ratle projects in the India-held Kashmir would do both — change the course of the river and deplete the water level.

In 2010, Pakistan took the matter to the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, which stayed the project for three years.

But in 2013, the court ruled that the Kishanganga was “a run-of-river plant within the meaning of the Indus Waters Treaty and that India may accordingly divert water from the Kishanganga (Neelum River) for power generation.

The court, however, also ruled that India was under an obligation to “construct and operate” the Kishanganga dam in such a way that it “maintains a minimum flow of water in the Kishanganga/Neelum River.”

The minimum flow was fixed at 9cumecs, a unit of flow equal to one cubic meter of water per second.

India declared that it was lowering the height of the dam from the planned 98m to 37m and resumed construction at full swing.

Pakistan, however, collected evidence to prove that India was violating the treaty as well as the court's verdict in August 2016, Pakistan asked the World Bank to appoint a court of arbitration to review the designs of the Kishanganga and Ratle projects. India rejected the suggestion, saying that Pakistan's objections were technical in nature, the matter should be decided by a neutral expert.

Pakistan disagreed, arguing that a decision by a technical expert was non-binding and India would be under no obligation to implement the expert's recommendation.

The World Bank set in motion both processes but paused them when India and Pakistan refused to withdraw their proposals. After the pause, the bank held several rounds of talks, the last of which took place in September 2017, but failed to resolve the dispute.

After India announced last month that it was commissioning all three units at Kishanganga, Pakistan wrote to the World Bank, demanding that it ensure that India abided by the Treaty.

“The World Bank continues to work with both countries to resolve the most recent disagreement in an amicable manner and to safeguard the Treaty,” a bank spokesperson told Dawn when asked how the bank planned to resolve this dispute now.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1406131>

#### REHABILITATION OF LOWER CHENAB CANAL SYSTEM

Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, May 7th, 2018

THE complete rehabilitation of the irrigation network in the Lower Chenab Canal system has contributed to the cropping intensity besides increasing farmers' income in the region.

The rehabilitation, with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), has helped save 14 per cent water, thus ensuring that farmers in the tail-end areas of the canal system also get adequate water.

Rana Muhammad Asif, the chief engineer of the Lower Chenab Canal Rehabilitation project, says the irrigation network in Faisalabad spreading over seven districts has been rehabilitated while the discharge capacity of up to 50 cusecs were lined.

Faisalabad, the second largest city of Punjab, is irrigated by the lower Chenab river. The city produces cotton, wheat, sugar cane, maize, vegetables and fruits.

“Japan is glad to see the irrigation system in and near Faisalabad rehabilitated,” says Shinichi Honda, the head of economic and development section of the Japanese Embassy in Islamabad. The Japanese government has been assisting the irrigation department for many years, mainly through Jica loan projects, he says.

The lower Chenab canal emerges from Khanki headworks on Chenab river. It is located in Gujranwala district and was constructed during 1892-98, and is supplying irrigation water to 3.031 million acres of culturable command area through a network of branch canal system. In the Faisalabad canal division, a total of 56 tails have been improved.

Details provided by the project management team showed raising and strengthening of canal banks of up to 156km, and construction of 13 falls or cross regulators, 21 head regulators, 37 cattle bath stations and 11 VR bridges.

Under the second phase of the project, diversion channels, head regulators, escape channels and new bridges were constructed, hydraulic structures were remodelled and reconstructed, and 169 distributaries were lined.

Jica has completed the National Drainage Programme and the Lower Chenab Canal System Rehabilitation project with a Japanese soft loan of \$218.13 million, while the Punjab Irrigation System Improvement project costing \$106.31 million was progressing at a faster pace, and will be completed within the next two years. Of the total approved amount, around 26 billion Japanese yen have been utilised by the irrigation department.

Jica representative Ken Okumura says that his organisation was fully aware of the needs of Pakistan not only in irrigation but other sectors too, and would like to consider providing more financial assistance to projects in Pakistan.

Jica Senior Programme Officer Amir Abbas Bokhari explains that in addition to the loans for rehabilitation and improvement of the canal infrastructure, the agency has also extended technical cooperation for the capacity-building of farmer organisations and officials of the Punjab irrigation department in order to support the initiative of the irrigation department to introduce reforms in irrigation services and encourage farmers' participation in irrigation water management system.

About the under-implementation of the Punjab Irrigation System Improvement project, the chief engineer says that the project will help reduce seepage losses in the saline area and to improve conveyance efficiency, reliability and durability of the system. It will provide irrigation water to the beneficiaries in a more sustainable and equitable manner, and help reduce the system maintenance cost.

The project aims to provide adequate and reliable irrigation supplies to the culturable lands of area, aiming at enhanced agricultural productivity, sustainable development with focus on holistic management and broad-based reforms.

According to details, the project envisages lining and rehabilitation and upgradation of channels covering three selected sub project areas failing in the commands of Eastern Sadiqia Canal (Bahawalpur zone district Bahawalnagar and Bahawalpur), Dera Ghazi Khan Canal (Faisalabad zone-district Hafizabad, Faisalabad, Jhang, Chinniot and Toba Tek Singh).

Explaining the criteria for the selection of channels under the project, Chief Engineer Rana Asif says that the areas have been selected in the brackish groundwater where existing seepage losses vary from 8pc to 14pc.

There has been a great demand from the local people for lining and rehabilitation of the channels due to shortage of water particularly in the tail reaches, he says.

The Punjab irrigation department has estimated incremental financial benefits of Rs2.88 billion on the entire project implementation. The direct economic benefits achieved to the society in the form of increased agricultural production due to the investment in irrigation infrastructure and institutional reforms to the tune of Rs3.004bn per annum on the entire project implementation.

Speaking on behalf of the farming community, Malik Shamsheer Ahmed, who served twice as chairman of area water board, says that the provision of water to farmers at tail-end areas was a serious issue, but now tail-end farmers get adequate water for irrigation.

In the absence of canal water, farmers around tail-end canal areas were using underground water. With the provision of canal water, the trend of the usage of underground water has come to an end, and, according Mr Ahmed, the quality of canal water is healthy for agricultural crops.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1406014>

#### POTOHAR NEEDS MORE MICRO DAMS, EXPERTS

The Express Tribune, May 7th, 2018.

#### RAWALPINDI:

With rains in the region growing more and more erratic, agriculture experts have suggested that the Potohar region requires hundreds of mini-dams to arrest the loss of 3.5 million acre feet of water per year and the large-scale soil erosion that comes with it.



Apart from storing water for agriculture, the mini-dams can also help mitigate floods, conserve soil and eventually help arrest rural-urban migration ratios.

A team of experts have pointed out that due to rainfall patterns in the region, there is a need to harvest and store water to irrigate crops during the months of April to June and October to December.

The runoff available in the Potohar plateau is 3.5 million acre feet (MAF), of which 0.1 MAF is utilised by small dams, mini-dams and ponds.

The remaining 3.4 MAF flows down the Indus and Jhelum rivers.

Talking to APP, Soil Conservation Department Director Malik Ghulam Akbar said that 80 per cent subsidy was provided to farmers of the area to build micro-dams.

These water reservoirs and soil erosion controlling structures helped make 32,190 acres of land in the region cultivable, he said.

He further added that the construction of the mini-dams and ponds has also impacted the environment positively with the underground water table rising up, fish and cattle farming businesses flourishing in the region creating greater employment opportunities for the people.

Moreover, fishing was also introduced in the region which has become an additional source of income for farmers. The Punjab government has built 102 mini dams in Potohar Region during last two years with 174 water ponds, 39 water storage tanks, 81 gabion spur and 29 earthen bunds.

Meanwhile, Rawalpindi Water Management Director Engr Muhammad Iqbal said that the Potohar region was facing a severe shortage of water and that there is a need to institute an efficient irrigation system in the area.

For this purpose, he explained, the Punjab government was providing 60 per cent subsidy on drip and sprinkler irrigation system.

The drip irrigation system, he said, had an efficiency of 90 to 95 per cent efficiency, much higher than a sprinkler irrigation system which has an efficiency of 60 to 70 per cent when compared to traditional irrigation systems.

By deploying the drip system, over 4,443 acres have been irrigated, while 1,090 acres land was covered through sprinkler irrigation system over the past two years.

Moreover, to help provide affordable power for these systems, he said that the water management department was providing 80 per cent subsidy to farmers for installation of solar panels to serve as an alternative source of energy.

The technology is economical, effective and environment friendly, he added.

He further informed that the department is striving to promote tunnel farming in the region and the Punjab government is providing 50 per cent funding to the farmers for installing tunnels to produce off-season vegetables and fruits. At the moment, over 100 acres of land is under tunnel farming in the Potohar region and off season-quality products are being produced.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1703983/1-potohar-needs-micro-dams-experts/>

KARACHI: Sindh Water Commission on Monday rejected applications seeking holding of Sunday Bachat Bazaars on the banks of Malir River in Karachi and ruled that banks of the river can't be encroached upon under the laws applicable to Nadis and Nullahs.

One-man judicial commission headed by former Justice Amir Hani Muslim heard the applications seeking modification of commission's order issued in February this year. The applicants sought commission's permission for holding of Sunday Bazaars on banks of River Malir. They submitted before the commission that erection of temporary stalls for holding market on Sunday Bazaars should be granted with the assurance that these stalls would be removed on the same evening when Bazaar would be held.

They also submitted that no garbage, waste, goods or materials would be left behind on the site of bazaar with the assurance of giving suitable guarantees as well as construction or excavation activity would be carried out.

The Commission was informed that approval of Sunday Bazaar in Malir River was accorded by former Deputy Commissioner Korangi, which was withdrawn on the intervention of the commission. The Commission observed that permission of any nature can't be given for the multifarious reasons. It said that statement of applicants can't be accepted as activity of any nature within Nadi or Nullah will interrupt and obstruct flows in nadis and nullahs.

The Commission was of the view that entire nullahs of Karachi have been encroached and obstructed in a manner that initially temporary permission was accorded, which transformed into permanent structures. The nullahs of Karachi due to encroachment could not be cleaned and in rainy season, the residents of Karachi suffer as the water can't be drained through these nullahs.

The Commission dismissed the petition on the grounds that apart river bed, no bank of river Malir can't be allowed to be used for setting up of Sunday Bachat Bazaars.

Secretary Education Sindh Iqbal Durrani assured the house a list would be furnished with the commission about provision of water and proper sanitation facilities at schools within three days.

About Combined Effluent Plant at Kotri, commission observed that for spot inspection of this plant, the commission would visit site at Kotri on Tuesday (today) by directing relevant officials to be present during the visit.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/05/08/7-page/715591-news.html>

**EIGHT BRANDS OF BOTTLED WATER DECLARED UNSAFE**  
Dawn, May 9th, 2018

Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) on Tuesday declared another eight brands of bottled water unsafe for human consumption.

The PCRWR quarterly reviews quality of bottled/mineral water brands and publicise results.

According to the monitoring report for the quarter from January to March, 110 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Multan, Lahore, Bahawalpur, Tandojam, Quetta and Karachi.

Comparison of analytical findings with permissible limits of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) revealed that eight brands –Edlen Premium, Aqua Fine, Pure Aqua, Livon, Zam, Aqua Gold, Pure 18, and Aab-e-Noor –were found to be unsafe due to both chemical and microbiological contamination.

Out of those unsafe brands, Aqua Fine has high levels of arsenic with 20 parts per billion (ppb) against 10 ppb permissible under the PSQCA water quality standard.

PCRWR warned that the excessive level of arsenic could cause various types of skin diseases, diabetes, kidney diseases, hypertension, heart diseases, birth defects, black foot diseases and multiple types of cancers, etc.

The four brands, Zam, Aqua Gold, Pure 18 and Aab-i-Noor, were found to be unsafe due to microbiological contamination which may cause cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis, typhoid, etc.

Similarly, Edlen Premium, Pure Aqua and Livon were found unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium ranging from 57-60 parts per million (ppm) against 50 ppm permissible under the PSQCA water quality standard.

Last week at a conference on the importance of water conservation, Director Regional Bureau for Science in Asia and the Pacific, Dr Shabaz Khan also cautioned against excessive consumption of bottled water terming it unsafe for human consumption.

PCRWR said that the poor quality of potable water had forced a large section of citizens to buy bottled water, which resulted in mushroom growth of bottled water industry in the last few years.

However, many of the mineral/bottled water companies have been found selling contaminated water.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1406459>

## WITH DRY SPELL LOOMING, ALARM IN ISLAMABAD OVER WATER SHORTAGE

Dawn, May 9th, 2018

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Perturbed over prevailing 37 per cent water shortage, senators and irrigation authorities had a bigger shock on Tuesday to know about a looming dry season spanning at least two months that could put a question mark to next year's agricultural and resultant economic output targets.

Members of Special Senate Committee on Water Scarcity led by PPP's Maula Bux Chandio, irrigation authorities and members of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) had gathered to examine if Sindh was not getting its water share and how to address miseries of the farmers, particularly those at the tail.

Chairman and members of Irsa told the Senate panel that the regulator could hardly do anything in the given circumstances and regulatory framework to minimise water shortage in Sindh as both the major provinces — Sindh and Punjab — were facing an equal shortage of about 37pc at present.

Any solution to Sindh's problems, they said, could come from political leadership, possibly with the engagement of chief ministers of the two provinces. It, however, should be kept in mind that even if Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif agreed to spare some water out of its reduced share, it would be at the cost of agricultural loss to Punjab.

Situation now requires high level attention for a solution, Irsa officials tell senators

Syed Mazhar Ali Shah from Sindh also confirmed that both provinces were facing equal water shortage. He said there was no water available at the moment in the system that could be transferred to Sindh and even if an attempt is made, it would take 15-20 days to reach tail-end farmers particularly downstream of Kotri when sowing period would already be over. He, however, emphasised that it should be ensured that whenever river flows improve, these should be released for Sindh instead of opening of link canals or storage in reservoirs.

Pakistan Meteorological Department's Director General Dr Ghulam Rasool told the meeting that prospects of rainfall in May and June were not encouraging. "The two months would be drier and warmer than normal," he said, adding "mostly dry season would prevail" during this period and monsoon was anticipated in the first week of July.

"Pakistan is going to suffer a lot in terms of water," a top weather pundit said, adding the previous predictions of climate change implications were getting right and usual monsoon season of June-September had come to an end in August last year.

Members of the water regulator, provincial irrigation authorities and weather experts on repeated questions from senators emphasised that the only solution to the country's water problems was the construction of at least two dams simultaneously to conserve about 29 million acre feet going down the sea in floods and also to recoup about 30pc existing storage capacity already lost to silting.

Senator Sassui Palijo of PPP said the people in Thatta, Badin and other areas in downstream Kotri were not even getting drinking water and it had become difficult for her to visit constituency.

An official said the water shortage currently stood at 37pc at rim station but the alarming situation and declining river inflows could increase them, ranging from 50-55pc in case weather forecasts turn correct.

The committee asked to have more consultations among the provincial members to see what could be done to ensure that water is released for distribution to Sindh as soon as it is available. It asked members from both provinces to use every possible platform to take the matter of water scarcity and efficient water management with their respective governments.

Members of the committee agreed that while the panel will finalise its own recommendations on the matter which has adversely affected sowing of Kharif crops, Irsa should also raise the issue at appropriate forums. The committee also decided to hear Water and Power Development Authority in the next meeting.

Ms Palijo reiterated the demand to immediately close down two link canals, where discharges had been drastically reduced, and stop filling of Mangla dam to facilitate sowing of Kharif crops in Sindh province. The committee, led by Chandio, was constituted on an adjournment motion of Palijo to look into 'emergency-like situation' in Sindh due to water shortage.

Senators from Sindh said acute water shortage, if remained, would cause irreparable loss of sugarcane, cotton and chilli crops. They were told by Irsa that contrary to common belief, Chashma-Jhelum and Taunsa-Punjad Link were not flood canals but part of the Indus Basin Development Programme of 1960 involving construction of two dams, five barrages and seven canals of which only two canals had been completed.

The senators were told that no specific reservoir or barrage belonged to any province under the water apportionment accord of 1991 and the water resources were a common pool out of which provinces had settled shares. The provinces had the right to make adjustments within their shares and from any source without affecting others.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1406498/with-dry-spell-looming-alarm-in-capital-over-water-shortage>

## GROWERS FEAR LOW YIELD, INFERIOR QUALITY OF MANGOES AND OTHER FRUITS DUE TO WATER CRISIS

Dawn, May 9th, 2018

Qamaruddin Shaikh

**MIRPURKHAS:** Like many other crops, the mango crop in Sindh has been badly affected due to unavailability of water in Mirpurkhas and most other parts of Sindh over the last four months.

Growers, especially those of tail-end areas, have been protesting against scant or no supply of water to their areas through Nara Canal for several months but without any positive response from the authorities concerned.

Small growers, tillers and farmers working on Government Fruit Farms, Umer Bughio farm, Asad Junejo farm, Nawazabad farm, Nusratabad farm, Haji Mohammed Ali Dars farm, Khair Mohammed Bhurgari farm, Mir Haji Hayat Talpur farm, Mir Anwer Talpur farm, Kachelo farm, Mir Haji Zafarullah Talpur farm, Anwer Gondal farm, Allah Bachayo Rajar farm, Ajay Kumar farm, Mir Raheel farm and other orchards in Mirpurkhas district have feared an all-time low production of mangoes of exclusive varieties this season.

They disclosed that the state of the crops showed the district's exclusive varieties, including Sindhri, was smaller in size and inferior in taste than what it was famous for. Similar was the position of banana and other fruits, they added.

Mirpurkhas hosts the annual Mango and Summer Fruit Festival during peak mango season under provincial government's auspices to put on display all those fruits and their varieties which are in great demand locally and internationally. The event attracts exporters and importers of fruits in a big number.

However, growers' warning of a low and inferior quality yield this year serves to predict a heavy loss to both growers and the national and provincial exchequers in terms of revenues through exports and local sales.

Leaders of various organisations of growers as well as other stakeholders of the agriculture sector blame the provincial government for the situation arguing that it failed to ensure adequate irrigation water supply to hundreds of thousands of acres over the last four months.

It also did not take prompt and appropriate action against corrupt and lethargic irrigation officials, who were supposed to regulate water distribution, they commonly allege, while addressing the series of protest demonstrations held over the past few months almost every day in different parts of the province.

Abadgars of Mirpurkhas believe that flows into Nara Canal had drastically been reduced as against Rohri Canal.

Speaking to reporters at a recent demonstration in Mirpurkhas city, office-bearers of the Farmers Organisation Council (FOC), Sindh Agriculture Board (SAB) and other organisations observed that water shortage in the province this year had now assumed an alarming proportion as a drought-like situation prevailed in many areas, including Mirpurkhas, Badin, Khairpur and Sanghar districts.

The irrigation department insists that a flow of 9,000 cusecs in Nara Canal head is maintained to avoid a water shortage across its command area. However, growers of tail-end as well as most other areas fed by the canal keep complaining of a shortage. Besides alleging corruption, theft and unfair practices on the part of influential landowners, they accuse irrigation officials of being lethargic and responsible for mismanaged water distribution.

Not only mangoes and banana crops, sugar cane, wheat, chillies, vegetables and several other crops had been badly affected by these factors, the FOC and SAB leaders told reporters at a recent gathering at Mirpurkhas Press Club.

The 53rd Mango and Summer Fruits Festival is planned to be held from June 8 to 10 at the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Exhibition Hall in Mirpurkhas but growers regularly participating in the show seem not as enthusiastic as they always appear to be amid fear of a low yield and inferior quality.

Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Memon reviewed the arrangements for the event at a recent meeting of the organising body and formed various committees to make it a success

Chairman of the organising committee Umer Bughio, Sindh Agriculture Research Institute director Mohammed Khan Baloch and district administration officials told the DC that 200 mango and other fruits' varieties would be exhibited at this biggest festival of its kind in the country. The meeting, however, noted with concern the apprehensions being expressed by growers.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1406417>

#### EXPERTS SAY NATIONAL WATER POLICY DOCUMENT BE REVISITED TO ADDRESS LACUNAE

Dawn, May 11th, 2018

HYDERABAD: A critical review of the recently-approved National Water Policy (NWP) was held at a consultative meeting of experts at the US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) of the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro, on Thursday.

A visiting delegation of the University of Utah, USA, also participated in the discussion.

The participants stressed the need for evolving a coherent framework to implement the policy and improve it in future. They welcomed it as the first good attempt by the government to have an NWP and observed that there was always room for improvement.

Presiding over the event, Dr Tariq Banuri of the University of Utah presented salient features of the policy and appreciated the initiative aimed at addressing all related issues effectively. In his critical view, he described NWP as “a fragmented policy with so many duplications in terms of objectives, principles, etc”.

If the six targets on the subject set under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could be implemented, all 28 actions proposed in the NWP could easily be ensured, he said.

Dr Banuri was of the view that the policy had “gaps” vis-a-vis proper attention on and due priorities for environment.

There were many challenges and targets that ought to have been mentioned and dealt with by the policymakers when they were at work.

According to him, the target of only safe drinking water — 80 per cent for the urban population and 60pc for the rural population — till 2025 has been set probably because this is easily achievable.

The targets for food security, water efficiency and other issues had not been set, he said.

Dr Aslam Chaudhry associated with the same university stressed the need for further elaborating specific measures to translate NWP into action. For strengthening linkages between research and policy implementation, an assessment should be done first with regard to the current status of research on various policy objectives and then more analyses be undertaken to identify the target areas, he said.

Another expert from the university, Dr Steve Burian, offered his institution's technical assistance to the USPCAS-W faculty and other national researchers for implementing the research agenda.

Sindh government's Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP) coordinator Dr Fateh Mari said that creating a workable structure by doing careful mapping of policy objectives with the issues outlined in the NWP document would help advance implementation of the policy.

He said that Sindh's water policy was currently being prepared as consultations among different stakeholders were under way.

Other experts who participated in the consultation and shared their ideas included USPCAS-W project director Dr Bakhshal Lashari, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)'s Centre for Water Informatics & Technology (WIT) director Dr Abubakr Mohammad, policy adviser Dr Mohammad Naveed Iftikhar, Prof Mushtaq Mirani and Engineer Ehsan Laghari.

They discussed and identified several critical areas for further studies.

They noted various gaps and identified research needs to support policy implementation.

The principal recommendations put forth by the experts included removal of inconsistencies in the NWP document, mapping of policy objectives with critical issues required to be addressed, clustering of policy measures and actions in line with the SDG targets for water, mainstreaming of the cross-cutting issues, defining obligations of federal and provincial governments and setting targets and milestones.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1406902>

## VILLAGERS' LIVES MISERABLE AS TOXIC WATER CAUSES DEFORMITIES

Dawn, May 12th, 2018

**KOT ASSADULLAH:** Basharat Ali was 15 when his legs began to falter, a condition doctors have blamed on polluted water in a region infamous for the deformities that afflict many of its people.

Too weak to carry his own schoolbag, he was taken to hospital, where doctors said water laden with toxic levels of arsenic, fluoride, minerals and various metals was to blame.

"It was a big blow to me as I had to quit my studies to get treatment," Ali told AFP on the rooftop of his house in Kasur, some 45km from Lahore.

From there Ali's view takes in some of the plastic, chemical, pharmaceutical and wire manufacturing factories nearby. They are widely blamed for contaminating the water local residents have to drink.

According to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 90 per cent of factories in and around the city dump their waste untreated in open pits or discharge untreated water in streams.

Local media first reported on the problems in Ali's village well over a decade ago, prompting teams from Lahore's government hospital and water officials to make several visits.

New wells have been dug since, but they only provide more water polluted with arsenic.

Meanwhile, Ali and other residents of the area have paid a heavy price with activists saying 200 other children have suffered bone and dental deformities since 2000.



“Now these children are grown men and women, but they remain hidden in their houses. They are not getting any marriage proposals because people say that their bones are deformed,” he says.

Ali, now 32, remains frail, his teeth yellowed and decaying. His body is permanently disabled, with one leg shorter than the other, and has difficulty walking.

His village, Kot Assadullah, and neighbouring Kalalanwala, to which it is joined, now have a reputation. “People from other villages can recognise us and say you are from Kalalanwala,” said 26-year-old Muhammad Mukhtiar, who tends a shop in the village.

AFP found men, women and children carrying cans and bottles in a queue at a solar-powered water filtration plant paid for by a charity.

A government-funded filtered water plant is also currently under construction, but residents say neither will be enough.

What’s in the water?

Punjab officials declined repeated requests for comment.

Chemicals and toxins including arsenic have been found in the village’s drinking water and are causing the deformities, said Dr Khalid Jamil Akhtar, a private clinician who has been visiting the area for the provincial government.

Arsenic, he said, could cause vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach problems, while also affecting the liver, lungs, kidneys and eventually the entire gastrointestinal tract.

Polluted water could also result in neuropathy — a nerve dysfunction that can lead to deformity-causing numbness or weakness in the limbs.

Dr Akhtar said most of the patients he saw were suffering from neuropathy, primarily caused by “contaminated water, by the toxins of the factories in the area” — though he added that some cases could be caused by genetics.

Arsenic — typically found in groundwater contaminated by untreated industrial, municipal and agricultural waste — in particular is a source of increased concern.

A study conducted by Swiss expert Joel Podgorski using 1,200 groundwater samples throughout the country said that up to 60 million people were at risk of arsenic poisoning.

The study, published last year, identified high concentrations of arsenic along the Indus River and its tributaries, with “hot spots” around the populated areas of Lahore and Hyderabad.

The Pakistan Council of Research in Water (PCRWR) disputes the findings, arguing that the sample size was too small, but agrees there is an arsenic problem.

“We have done tests on up to 60,000 samples from Lahore to lower Sindh under a study being carried out since 1999 and have found arsenic at many places,” said Lubna Bukhari, head of water quality for the PCRWR.

The council also says that water monitoring projects carried out since 2012 show that between 69 and 85 per cent of total water is contaminated or otherwise unfit for human consumption.

“We even found arsenic in bottled water,” said Bukhari.

The problem is given extra urgency by looming water scarcity crisis, with the country on track to become the most water-stressed country in the region by 2040, according to the UN.

But there is no national strategy for cleaning up what water there is and much less for conserving it, with environmental matters left in the hands of provincial authorities.

Twenty years have already passed since deformities started appearing in Kalalanwala, and little change has taken place.

There, a 25-year-old labourer named Naveed said his legs became deformed when he was three years old.

“I don’t have any hope as we are poor and nobody listens to us,” Naveed said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1407156>

#### GROWERS HOLD PROTEST AGAINST ‘WATER THEFT’

Dawn, May 12th, 2018

HYDERABAD: Several hundred growers belonging to Hyderabad rural taluka held a demonstration outside the Circuit House here on Friday and raised slogans against the irrigation department, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawmakers from Sindh and feudal lords for “stealing water” from their irrigation channel.

They alleged that such people were responsible for theft in Hyderabad branch, which had gone dry six months ago and no water was flowing into it.

They drew the attention of National Accountability Bureau Karachi Director General Mohammad Altaf Bawany, who was hearing public complaints inside the Circuit House at that time, and urged him to look into these people’s involvement in corrupt practices.

They also urged Hyderabad Commissioner Saeed Ahmed Mangnejo to take action against water thieves and ensure flow of water into the branch immediately.

The protesters were led by Raees Wali Mohammad Leghari, Imam Bukhsh, Fawad Hussain, Manzoor Hussain and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Hyderabad division president Khawand Bukhsh Jahejo.

Speaking to the media, they said that growers had already suffered a collective loss of around Rs20 billion on account of damage or destruction of 200,000 acres of farmlands and crops.

They said that Hyderabad branch and its sub-branches including Tando Saeed Khan, Rahuki and Husri were lying almost dry while an acute shortage of drinking water had been persisting in the district for months.

They claimed that influential landowners and certain PPP lawmakers in connivance with irrigation officials had installed direct outlets to steal water by diverting flows from the Hyderabad branch to their own lands. They demanded deployment of Rangers to check the theft.

Khawand Bux Jahejo said that he met the NAB DG and commissioner who assured him that water flow into the branch would resume on Saturday (today).

The growers’ leaders also held a press conference to apprise the media of their issues.

Mirpurkhas: Growers participating in a sit-in near toll plaza along Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad Road since Thursday morning called off their protest after successful negotiations with the Mirpurkhas commissioner.

The protest was organised by the Farmer Organisations Council (FOC).

Javed Ahmed Junejo, Prof Yousuf Rajput and other FOC leaders who held negotiations with Commissioner Shafique Ahmed Mahesar told the protesters at around 3am that they had been assured that water theft in the specified areas would be stopped through drastic actions within a week.

They said the commissioner also pledged legal action against the thieves.

Committees comprising the assistant commissioners and DSPs concerned and growers' representatives have been formed to supervise the actions and unhindered flow of water up to the tail-end areas, according to the FOC negotiators.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1407134>

#### SINDH'S WATER SHORTFALL STANDS AT 55PC: MURAD RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Friday said the province was not receiving full supply of water as it is witnessing a shortfall of 55 percent.

Addressing a post-budget news conference at the CM House, Murad said PPP is the only party that had strengthened after the 2013 general elections in Sindh while other parties have lost their cadres to different parties during five years.

“It is only in Sindh province that PPP had increased its lawmakers after coming into power and is ending its tenure on higher number of lawmakers that were elected at the time of general elections in 2013,” he said, adding that the success in the province would help achieve success nationwide.

He said PML-N and PTI are losing their candidates and all three provinces other than Sindh are witnessing loyalty issue before elections. “Balochistan government has been overturned; PTI-led KPK government expelled its 20 members from the party. PML-N lawmakers are also switching loyalties in Punjab,” he added.

He said the provincial assembly would be dissolved on May 28 and there would be two months time for the interim government to hold elections.

“We have presented the annual budget but would take authorization from the assembly for three-month expenditure till September 30,” he said, adding that although interim government could formulate budget for four months but when there are elected members there is no need for it.

He said the development projects could be hit by lack of funds transfer from the federal government as still they are short of Rs 203 billion as per the initial estimates of federal transfers to the province.

“The federal government initially agreed to transfer Rs 627 billion to the province which was later revised to Rs 589 billion 20 days ago,” he said, adding that they received only Rs 423 billion which shows a deficit of Rs 203 billion as per initial estimates and Rs 175 billion as per revised estimates.

The year 2016-17 also witnessed similar situation when the federal government initially estimated funds transfer of Rs 493 billion and later revised it to Rs 480 billion, he said, adding that the final amount which the province received stood at Rs 459 billion and was received in February 2018.

Shedding light on road infrastructure in the province, the chief minister said they had spent Rs 27 billion for completing 41 major road infrastructure projects and 146 small road projects. "Out of 41 major road projects 39 have been completed and only two of them are near completion and facing delays due to some technical reasons," he said.

Among the major roads completed in the province are Karachi-Jhimpir Road via Hyderabad and Thatta, Saeedabad to Rohri Canal Road, Tando Allah Yar to Tando Adam Road, Sanghar to Khipro Road and Naushero Feroz to Nawabshah Road.

He said the provincial government has completed 714 uplift projects in the province during last fiscal year which is a record as the year before they completed over 500 uplift projects.

"Our main focus is to complete projects rather than lingering on projects by announcing small amounts for more projects," he said.

Speaking about the shortage of water in the province, the chief minister said that the province is witnessing a shortfall of 55 percent.

He said projects of lining canals have yielded positive results and now there are most applications for this purpose from different parts of the province. "We allocated Rs 15 billion for this purpose in last budget and also focused on it in this budget," he added.

Speaking about health issues, the chief minister said that health facilities in the province have improved under PPHI.

Elaborating on the NICVD projects, the chief minister said that NICVD in Karachi conducts most primary angioplasty in the world under one roof and that too free of cost.

"We are establishing similar units in other parts of the province and had so far established six units, the chief minister said, adding that six child emergency centres have also been established in Karachi and so far 1.8 million children received treatment in these centres. We are expanding this program of children emergency centres to other parts of the province also," he said.

Citing a report, he said the child survival rate in the province had increased from 15 percent in 2013 to 94 percent today due to hectic efforts.

On education, the chief minister said that the annual budget of Higher Education Commission (HEC) was Rs 6.5 billion while Sindh had only received Rs 200 million.

He said the Sindh government has established 14 universities, 43 degree colleges and 2 cadet colleges.

Discussing mega projects for Karachi, the chief minister said the provincial government has so far launched Rs 10 billion schemes under which many roads, underpasses, bridges and other infrastructure are being built in the city.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/05/12/19-page/716334-news.html>

ISLAMABAD: Applauding the unanimous approval of Pakistan's first National Water Policy by all the four provinces, the energy experts participating in a roundtable advised to expedite the process of policy's implementation by relying on country's own resources instead of wasting time in seeking help from other countries and international institutions.

The recommendation was made in a roundtable session titled 'Pakistan's National Water Policy: An Appraisal,' which was organised here by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

The session was chaired by Mirza Hamid Hasan, former secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, and chairman IPS Committee on Energy, Water and Climate Change; and addressed by Ashfaq Mehmood, former secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, Syed Akhter Ali, former member energy, Planning Commission of Pakistan, DG-IPS Khalid Rahman, Ambassador (retd) Tajammul Altaf and others.

Mehmood, while commending the policy's approval despite delay, said the worldview is now moving from construction of larger dams to building of smaller ones and the same approach could be well-suited to Pakistan as well, especially when the larger dams have a tendency of attracting controversies.

Urging to tackle the issue of water scarcity through scientific means, the speaker advised to devise a mechanism to make rainwater and muddy water usable after cleansing. The speaker also suggested limiting the cultivation of certain crops – such as sugar and rice – which need a lot of water for their growth, and replacing them with the ones which require lesser amount of water.

Awareness raising over water issues is another area pointed out by Mehmood that sought attention. He termed it a need of the hour to train people in using water with much care, even stressing that the topic should even be taught to children at schools in a bid to create its understanding from the elementary level.

Hasan viewed although the importance of water for any country needs no exposition, yet it is unfortunate that the policy over the issue took so long in formulation due to the disagreements among policymakers. It is, however, heartening to finally see the consensus over the matter which can be seen as a historical happening for Pakistan.

The roundtable session, which was participated by policy practitioners, former bureaucrats and water and energy experts, saw many other viable recommendations put on board as well including the efficient utilization of water coming from the Kabul River and the striking of an agreement similar to the Indus Water Treaty with China and Iran as well.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/05/13/3-page/716646-news.html>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 30TH TO MAY 6TH 2018

SHC ASKS IRRIGATION DEPT TO COMPLY WITH ITS ORDER IN LETTER AND SPIRIT

Dawn, May 1st, 2018

HYDERABAD: A division bench of Sindh High Court Hyderabad circuit comprising Justice Azizur Rehman and Justice Fahim Ahmed Siddiqui on Monday directed Sindh irrigation authorities to submit a list of direct outlets (DOs) in accordance with the schedule as provided under section 5 of the Sindh Irrigation Act, 1879 along with authority letters of their sanction.

The order was passed on three identical petitions filed by tail-end growers seeking cancellation of DOs on main Rohri Canal. The bench noted that pursuant upon its March 6, 2018 order, only details of direct outlets of Naseer branch

system of Naseer division Hyderabad (Rohri Canal system) were provided to court. The list was also not provided. It said that the order be complied with in letter and spirit within six weeks.

Advocate Jhematmal Jethanand represents 33 growers of the area in the three separate constitutional petitions. The petitioners have cited the chief engineer of Sukkur barrage, superintending engineer of Rohri Canal, executive engineer of Naseer division and assistant executive engineer of Khairpur Gamboh subdivision as respondents.

The petitioners submitted that their lands were located in the command area of channels/minors that emanated from the Naseer branch (Rohri Canal system). The regulatory mechanism of Rohri Canal is defined for an equal distribution of water to every acre under its command. Also, Rohri Canal water is the only source of drinking water for hundreds of villages/towns of many districts.

They submitted that under the Sindh Irrigation Act, Rules and Manual, there was no provision of grant of direct outlet on main Rohri Canal or Naseer branch. They said that a total ban was imposed on sanction of new outlets vide June 20, 1988 notification.

They informed the court that in 1999, the Sindh government realised that DOs affected equitable distribution of water and, therefore, an ordinance was promulgated cancelling 107 DOs. However, all DOs were not cancelled. Later, they said, the ordinance was declared illegal.

The petitioners submitted that despite that, the respondent functionaries continued to sanction DOs on Rohri Canal. They said there was no provision of rotation of channels/minors because the system was perennial hence supply of water could not be stopped. They said channels of Naseer division were closed for 15 days in a month and rotation was being executed by closing distributaries and minors alternatively every week. Some of them are closed for two weeks to stop supply to their land, according to them.

They said that no rotation was effected in Rohri Canal upstream, Nusrat, Dad and most irrigation divisions of Hala. Rotation was given effect only in tail's channels of Hala division, they said, adding that all channels of Naseer division fell prey to the "pick and choose policy" which was unconstitutional, discriminatory and mala fide.

They prayed to the court to declare the respondent functionaries' acts of granting DOs and shifting of watercourses as unlawful. They also urged that all sanctioned DOs be declared illegal.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1404962>

## WATER POLICY

Dawn, May 2nd, 2018

THE approval of a new national water policy in the closing days of the current government is a tribute to the capacities of democracy. Water is the lifeblood of Pakistan, and since the building of the world's largest irrigation system, along with a huge storage infrastructure, in the 1960s and 1970s, the sharing and utilisation of water across sectors and among provinces has been one of the thorniest issues in our politics. The policy itself has been under discussion, on and off, for over a decade, and the final signatures of the four chief ministers and the prime minister last week can be seen as a milestone, much like the water-sharing accord of 1991.

But now comes the hard part. The policy calls for increasing the share of resources from federal and provincial development programmes to be dedicated to the water infrastructure. At the federal level, this means accelerating work on the Diamer Bhasha dam, and at the provincial level it means public works to plug leaks through lining the water courses. The latter ought to be the biggest priority. Losses of water are estimated at 46 MAF annually, whereas the Diamer Bhasha dam will add 6.4 MAF of storage capacity. If the policy succeeds in reducing losses by a third, as

is the stated goal, the amount of water it would free up would be double the capacity of the Diamer Bhasha dam, at presumably less than half the cost.

Far too often, Pakistan's water woes during climate change are presented as shortage in the supply of water, whereas the real challenge is in the improved utilisation of the existing supply. This involves some investment in physical infrastructure, but also large-scale changes in farm-water management techniques and the sound measurement of water flows through the system, to give a few examples.

This requires a crucial reform: water pricing — the only way to sensitise farmers to the prevailing scarcity of water, and to urge greater efficiency in the use of this resource. And yet, this is one area where the policy minces its words. It wants to link water pricing with the “users’ ability to pay”, which is going to be next to impossible for the state to assess. Until a realistic water-pricing regime is brought into play, mobilising investment and changing utilisation patterns in agriculture will prove to be a losing battle.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1405139>

### IN THAR LONG DELAYED AQUA FIRM AREAS BEING CLEARED

Eleven-year-old Kewal Bheel of Bijhuto is panting. The four-kilometre journey from his village to Phingariyo in Tharparkar has left the boy exhausted. “I come to fetch potable water twice a day, every day,” Bheel says as he goads six donkeys laden with containers bearing water. Siblings in school, a mother busy with household chores and father at work, the boy walks 16 kilometres every day to collect clean drinking water for his family. It becomes harder as the mercury rises.

I struggle in summer, he says. But, Bheel is happy. The installation of water filtration plants in Mithi, Tharparkar's largest city, has made life better. Earlier, people walked tens of kilometres to collect potable water daily. Now, distances are shorter. Pratap Mengwaro has been teaching at a Sojhani Goth school, two kilometres from Bheel's village, for over a decade. A filtration plant has been installed in front of the school. Mengwaro is a relieved man. He no longer frets about children having access to potable water. The teacher says health standards in the area have drastically improved following the installation of the plant.

Bheel and Mengwaro are but exceptions. Scores of Tharparkar residents have no option but to consume water unfit for human consumption. Niaz Ahmed of village Majeed Jai Wind says clean drinking water is only available at Vijoto Stop or Rabo Vikya Goth, both kilometres away. Stored rainwater is another source. As many lack the means to travel this far, they consume water with total dissolved solids (TDS) content running in the thousands, Ahmed says. The man says this leaves scores with myriad illnesses. Many expectant women give birth on their way to collect potable water, Ahmed adds.

In the aftermath of Tharparkar crisis grabbing headlines in 2014, the Sindh government started installing filtration plants to remedy high TDS content in water. The largest of its kind was installed in Mithi by the Sindh Coal Authority in 2015. The hybrid plant operated by Pak Oasis Industries can treat two million gallons of water daily using solar energy or electricity. Pak Oasis Installations Manager Muhammad Irshad says Mithi consumes one million gallons daily. He says water is also provided to Islamkot, another Tharparkar city 45 kilometres from Mithi. Irshad says Pak Oasis, operating 650 plants across the latter city, has also installed water tanks every five kilometres between the two cities for citizens' benefit. Irshad says the plant has been set up at a cost of Rs5 billion.

He says 16 bores have been drilled to extract high TDS water. Untreated water is stored in a massive tank before being processed. It is passed through cartridges before being filtered by 0.001 micron-sized membranes. Forget dissolved solids, the process does not even spare germs, Irshad adds. The official says the plant employs state-of-the-art technology to deliver clean drinking water at less than half a rupee per gallon. ‘Moreover, nearly 1,500 are employed across plants operated by the company. Cartridges need to be replaced every week. Machinery has to be maintained. All this has a price,’ Irshad shares before revealing that many Tharparkar plants earlier looked set to shut down with the Sindh government not having cleared arrears in years. The Sindh government owes Pak Oasis Rs400 million, he claims.



Irshad says a shut down notice had been served to the Sindh government later. Pak Oasis virtually operated for free. Operations were set to cease had arrears not been cleared, Irshad says. He says the government ordered district authorities to take control of the filtration plants following the presentation of the shut down notice. However, officials refused saying they lacked capacity to run the plants. In a December, 2016 letter to the Tharparkar DC, the Mithi AC said he had personally conducted a survey of all reverse osmosis plants and held a meeting with all stakeholders.

“Keeping in view the intricacies of maintenance and repair, it was observed that a surplus of various mechanical instruments had to be maintained. Hence, procurement would present another challenge for local government entities,” the official wrote. “A striking observation worth sharing is that interactions with local government representatives revealed they were totally confused...It is probably because they are well aware of their limits when it comes to human resource management and technical expertise,” the letter goes on to read. Presenting recommendations the AC wrote, “Being typically associated with this business Pak Oasis Limited can manage the facilities with much ease compared to nascent local government entities. It has an established set up encompassing human resources, technical expertise, procurement and maintenance. The only requirement is a lateral check and third party audit system to ensure accountability.”

A January, 2018 letter by the now-defunct Special Initiative Department (SID) to the chief secretary on funds allocation to maintain and streamline operations across Sindh filtration plants installed by various departments also brought government attention to the issue. “The contractor M/s Pak Oasis Industries responsible for the operations and maintenance of reverse osmosis plants of Special Initiative Department (SID), health department and the SCA has already served a notice of shutdown of these plants in case of non-payment of operations and maintenance due cost,” the document reads.

Mithi MPA Ramesh Kumar told The Express Tribune earlier in March that control of filtration plants was being transferred to the health department. He said this was being done in line with recent Supreme Court orders on the SID. “It will take a few months. Company arrears will be cleared then. I will personally look into the matter.” What seemed to be a situation mired in uncertainty till recently appears salvaged with in-part payment of dues commencing. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has approved the payments. The health department is devising a schedule. The company will receive Rs200 million in April. Regular payments will enable Pak Oasis to effectively deliver, Chief Operating Officer Irshad Hussain says. He also thanked the Sindh Water Commission and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for intervening in the matter. The PPP chairman ordered the issue to be quickly resolved. Bilawal recently toured the area to inspect coal power plants.

The PPP chairman had also visited selected filtration plants over his Tharparkar tour, Information Minister Nasir Hussain Shah says. The minister adds payments remained stalled due to two issues. There were reports of some filtration plants not functioning. The firm has been directed to remedy this. Also, the issue was sub judice. Control of filtration plants had to be transferred to the health department in line with court directives, he adds.

<http://newslab.tribune.com.pk/water-woes-in-thar-long-delayed-aqua-firm-arrears-being-cleared/>

## PML-N LAWMAKER CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF KALABAGH DAM

Dawn, May 3rd, 2018

Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: A ruling Pakistan Muslim League-N lawmaker sparked a new controversy on Wednesday when he touched on two delicate subjects in his speech in the Senate.

While taking part in the budget discussion, retired Lt Gen Abdul Qayyum not only called for the construction of dozens of dams, including the Kalabagh dam, on the Indus river, but also proposed to bring back the subject of education devolved to the provinces through the 18th Amendment.

Gen Qayyum pointed out that there were 3,200 dams in India and 22,000 in China.

He claimed that the education sector had deteriorated after it was devolved to the provinces and stressed that the 18th Amendment was not the final word. He pointed out that 103 articles of the Constitution — one-third of the total — had been amended through the 18th Amendment. “If the

1973 Constitution can be so significantly amended, why the 18th Amendment cannot be improved upon,” he remarked.

PPP member opposes proposal, saying three provincial assemblies have already rejected the idea

He said prosperous nations achieved their glory due to education with focus on science and technology. “Education, including technical education, therefore, deserves to be prioritised in Pakistan,” he remarked.

He said disparity in the education sector among the provinces might create a feeling of deprivation, harming national unity and national security. “So it is essential that we put education on the concurrent list for better coordination at least for next 10 years.”

Sassui Palijo of the Pakistan Peoples Party rejected Gen Qayyum’s proposal and said three provincial assemblies had rejected the idea of constructing the Kalabagh dam. “It is an insult of the three legislatures to talk about the project after unanimous resolutions,” she remarked.

While talking to Dawn, former Senate chairman Raza Rabbani noted that education had always been a provincial subject but it had been usurped by the federal government.

“The 18th Amendment has only given effect to a historical position,” he remarked.

Mr Rabbani said since the speech had been made on the floor of the Senate, he would respond to it on the floor of the house in detail in the next two days.

Earlier, Gen Qayyum said the budget was an important financial fact-sheet which highlighted estimated receipts and expected expenditure for the next financial year. There were very few countries in the world which had surplus budgets.

The strongest world economies, including the US, China and Japan, had deficit budgets, he added.

He said loans were not something bad, but these must be prudently utilised for development.

Gen Qayyum said the PPP government had increased external debts by more than 100 per cent, but it did not add even one megawatt of electricity and constructed no major motorway, airport or seaport.

On the contrary, he said, during five years of the PML-N government debts soared by less than 100pc, but 12,230 megawatts of electricity were added to the national grid.

He said an increase in gross domestic products, remittances, foreign direct investment, foreign exchange reserves, stock exchange index and tax collection showed that it was a budget for the poor and not for the rich.

He said agriculture research deserved more allocation of funds than mere Rs5bn.

“The government must review this aspect because in an agrarian society agriculture and industrial sectors are mutually supportive”.

He said pensioners who were war veterans and families of the martyrs deserved attention and stressed that mere 10pc increase in pension was not adequate.

The opposition staged a walkout in protest against absence of Finance Minister Miftah Ismail from the house.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1405322>

## BARBS FLY AS WATER EMERGENCY INTENSIFIES

Dawn, May 4th, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) on Thursday expressed its inability to oblige a demand from Sindh's parliamentarians to immediately close down two link canals and stop filling Mangla dam to facilitate sowing of Kharif crops in the province.

The water regulator told the Senate Special Committee on Water Scarcity that the matter needed to be taken up with Punjab where the water shortage was higher than Sindh.

The committee, led by Senator Moula Bux Chandio of PPP, was constituted on an adjournment motion of Senator Sassui Palijo to look into the 'emergency-like situation' in Sindh due to water shortage. Ms Palijo, who was in the capital, could not make it to the meeting.

Lawmakers from Sindh raise alarm; situation as bad in Punjab, says Irsa, widespread crop damage, cotton sowing disrupted

Senior senators from Sindh, particularly Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah and Mr Chandio, said there was acute water shortage in the province and a delay in an urgent resolution of the problem would cause irreparable loss of sugarcane, cotton and chili crops. They protested over the transfer of water from Indus zone to Jhelum-Chenab zone through Chashma-Jhelum and Taunsa-Punjab link canals and at the same time filling of Mangla dam.

Chandio and Shah repeatedly called for immediate closure of the two canals as well as the filling of Mangla dam for at least 2-3 weeks to enable farmers in Sindh, particularly at the tail-end, to complete sowing. They said the two canals were flood canals and could only be operated in case of surplus water but not when scarce Indus waters were being shifted into Jhelum-Chenab.

They said the non-implementation of agreements, water accord and understandings on water issues had led to confrontational politics on Kalabagh Dam, otherwise there was no reason for opposition by Sindh and other provinces over the dam. Chandio stressed that no province had any problem with any water project or energy sector agreement as long as contracts and understandings are not breached.

Shah said the Kalabagh Dam became controversial because two canals were made part of its design while consensus was achieved on Diamer-Bhasha dam because it did not contain any canal.

Federal Flood Commission Chairman Ahmed Kamal, who assumed this charge a day earlier on rotation being the federal member, said total water discharges in Indus system currently stood at 64,000 cusec, including 40,000 cusec from Tarbela dam and 24,000 cusec from Chashma barrage.

Of these 64,000 cusec, 45,000 cusec were going to Sindh compared to 15,000 cusec to Punjab while the remaining flows were going to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Kamal said the senators should take up the matter with Punjab government for some adjustment to facilitate sowing in Sindh. Irsa was bound to give water to all provinces including Punjab as per their requirements and could not cut down on the largest province's share, he added.

He said Irsa was required to achieve up to 70-75 per cent filling of Mangla dam by the end of June to meet watering requirements in late Kharif. So far, 38pc shortage had been applied to Punjab versus 37pc to Sindh.

Shah claimed the so called three-tier formula on distribution of water among the provinces was illegal as per explanations of the law ministry and severely compromised the interests of the lower riparians.

He said the water shortage in Sindh was very serious and the provincial government was under tremendous pressure, hence it was necessary for the water regulator to provide some interim relief through additional releases for farmers in the province.

Senator Sabir Shah of PML-N from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa agreed that the water shortage was a serious problem in Sindh at present and relief should be given to avoid crop losses to farmers. He said the committee should also look beyond the current crisis and examine if it would emerge again and what could be the consequences, adding that the focus should be on creation of additional resources and proposing a way forward to counter blockade of river flows by India.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1405483>

#### VIOLATION CAUSES OPPOSITION TO KALABAGH DAM: SINDH SENATORS

ISLAMABAD: The representatives of Sindh in Upper House of Parliament said on Thursday that the principal reason for the opposition to Kalabagh dam by the smaller provinces is disrespect of Water Accord 1991, though Punjab was not named.

These views were expressed at a meeting of Senate Special Committee on Water Scarcity headed by Senator Moulana Bux Chandio. The committee was constituted to determine a solution for water shortage for Kharif crops in Sindh as the sowing season will end after two weeks.

“Punjab should give its share to Sindh for the time being and adjust it later so that crops are cultivated in Sindh as the province is facing drought like situation due to severe shortage of water,” said Sindh representatives.

Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah, who signed the Water Accord 1991 as Chief Minister Sindh, was very vocal against alleged violation of the Accord due to (i) Mangla reservoir and (ii) opening of two canals i.e. Chashma Jhelum (CJ) link canal and Trimmu Panjnad (TP) link canal which, according to him, were meant to release water in case of floods. He said Sindh already faces substantial loss in Kharif season due to shortage of water.

Senator Peer Sabir Shah supported the recommendation of Senators from Sindh for Punjab to provide “temporary relief” by giving its share of water to Sindh but also emphasized the need to construct other water reservoirs to deal with the crisis.

Chief Engineering Advisor Federal Flood Commission, Ahmad Kamal who took charge as Chairman IRSA on May 2, 2018 as representatives federal government informed the committee that according to initial estimates by Indian metrological department based in Pune (India) and China which forecast weather for six months, monsoon rains in Punjab and KP are expected to be more or less normal whereas in Sindh and Balochistan rains would be below normal, adding that actual forecast will be available in June.

He said, in winter 2017-18 snowfall remained 23 per cent less than in the previous year which implies that water flows will be lower. He said there is continuous decline in water availability and there are ups and downs in temperature due to disturbances in the west. Reservoirs are not being filled due to variance in temperatures, he added.

On May 3, 2018 inflows at Indus were recorded at 373,000 cusecs against last year's figure of 518,000 cusecs and historic average of 530,000 cusecs. Inflows at Kabul were 249,000 cusecs on May 3, 2018 against 272,000 cusecs last year and historic average of 472,000 cusecs. On Jhelum inflows were 328,000 cusecs against 532,000 cusecs and on Chenab 231,000 cusecs as compared to 269,000 cusecs. This shows 25.7 per cent reduction in inflows from last year and 37 per cent on historic basis.

Senator Syed Muzaffar Shah said that the committee had sought IRSA views on two of three issues and had not sought any justification, adding that Sindh is a lower riparian and is facing acute shortage of water during Kharif crop cultivation season, while IRSA is filling Mangla reservoir and releasing water in CJ and TP links canals. He said 62,500 cusecs of water is being released in two flood canals.

“There is shortage in the system and lower sowing in Sindh is earlier compared to Punjab. Sindh is drying and its sowing period is about to end in 20-25 days and IRSA is filling Mangla reservoir,” he said, proposing closure of CJ link and TP canal as well as stopping to fill Mangla reservoir. He said cotton, sugarcane and chilies were not sown due to shortage of water in Sindh.

Senator Moula Bux Chandio said that he was aware of the reasons for the water crisis including betrayal of a neighbour (Punjab) as well as poor weather but added that he wanted to focus on mismanagement on the part of IRSA. Which must propose a solution to the current crisis – be it in South Punjab or Sindh, as politicians are facing severe pressure from the general public.

Chairman IRSA said total available water outflows were 64,000 cusecs on Thursday of which 47,000 cusecs is being provided to Sindh, followed by 15,000 cusecs to Punjab and 4,000 cusecs to KP which is line with the agreed shares of provinces.

He said Mangla reservoir must be 70-80 per cent full by June 30 each year as in the remaining months it is uncertain whether it can be filled and whatever benefits are projected from Mangla project would then not be reaped.

He argued that if Punjab consents to defer its water requirements for some time then it is possible to release more water to Sindh which can be adjusted later on.

However, Syed Muzafar Shah challenged Chairman IRSA by stating that he cannot release water in flood canals, adding that in accordance with the Water Accord flood canals cannot be opened if lower riparian is facing water shortage.

“We want Chairman Irsa to intervene and deal with this situation because if the required water is not supplied cotton crop, sugarcane etc will not be sowed and then Sindh will be declared drought hit province,” he added.

Chairman Irsa said he understood the views of committee members and would submit its recommendations to deal with the crisis so that harmony in provinces is not affected on this issue as the Accord is the only document on which there is an agreement between the provinces. He said, shortage in Punjab and Sindh was 38 per cent and 37 per cent respectively. Both Balochistan and KP are exempted from shortages.

Muzafar Shah said that the reason for opposition to Kalabagh dam was due to non implementation of the agreement, arguing that the agreement was CJ canal will not be opened until surplus water is available.

“The PC-1 of Kalabagh dam shows canals on both sides of the dam and the objection of political forces and civil society is that when flood canals are opened in violation of the agreement then whatever water is being given to Sindh will be stopped. That is our primary objection to Kalabagh dam,” he added.

Muzafar Shah maintained that provinces are supporting Diamer Basha Dam because no canal construction is envisaged.

Senator Moula Bux Chandio said that he is not against any project but added “What we want is that whatever commitment is made, should be honoured but no one is ready to make a commitment”.

“We are not against any specific project of water or energy but commitments were dishonoured in the past which is why we agreed on Diamer Bhasha dam. Everyone has the right to live according to his/her own will,” Chandio argued.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/05/04/3-page/714828-news.html>

## WATER SHORTAGES

Dawn, May 5th, 2018

REPORTS of severe water shortages afflicting large areas of Sindh and southern Punjab are on the increase, and large-scale damage to key crops, particularly cotton, paint a troubling picture. From Badin to Mirpurkhas to Nawabshah and all the way to Rahim Yar Khan, farmers are reporting that the sowing season for cotton has been badly disrupted because the water that is so essential at the time of sowing did not arrive at the scheduled time. Large sugarcane fields stand burnt, and vegetable output has suffered hugely. Demands from farmers and residents of agrarian towns have shifted away from water for irrigation. Now they are reduced to demanding drinking water since the shortages have parched more than just arable land.

Some lawmakers from Sindh have asked that the Indus River System Authority cut flows into two key link canals, arguing that these are to be used only in times of flood and not to make up for water shortages upstream. Irsa has responded that the situation in Punjab is just as bad, even though the sowing season for cotton has not begun there, while the wheat crop is ready for harvest. Thus far, the dispute at the national level has not gone beyond the confines of some testy exchanges between a few senators and key people in the water bureaucracy.

Those exchanges demonstrate that the matter is unlikely to find resolution at that level. It is difficult to see what the government can actually do about the problem, given that it has been created by low inflows into the dams. But if it is true that there are significant withdrawals being made through the link canals for lands in Punjab, then the question of fairness in allocations must take centre stage. In Sindh too, the shortages have driven a politicised allocation, particularly from the Kotri Barrage, as well as illegal pumping of water by those closer to the canal head, leading to bitter complaints from the tail enders.

The episode cries out for high-level attention. The Sindh government needs to wake up to its responsibility to ensure equitable sharing of the scarce quantities of water in its own areas, while the federal government must wake up to its obligations to ensure that interprovincial allocations are being done as per the spirit of the 1991 water-sharing accord. The shortages are a fact, but the acrimony they are giving rise to can be better handled.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1405764/water-shortages>

## ‘GOVT HAS ALLOCATED RS100B FOR DIAMER-BASHA, DASU DAMS’

The Express Tribune, May 5th, 2018.

State Minister for Finance Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan on Friday informed the Senate that an amount of Rs100 billion has been allocated in the budget 2018-19 for Diamer-Basha and Dasu dams.

Responding to a query raised by Opposition Leader Sherry Rehman, he said the country is wasting huge amounts of water due to non-construction of reservoirs.

“We have allocated Rs100 billion for the Diamer-Basha and Dasu dams and it is up to the next government to decide about their construction,” he added.

He suggested inviting experts from universities and other departments to advise on how to handle the shortage of water.

He said that members of the water caucus should come up with an open mind to give their recommendations. Earlier, Rehman demanded setting up parliamentarians’ water caucus to discuss recommendations to address the issue.

She said all four provinces have come to an understanding and signed the country’s first water policy.

The new policy is essential for better management of Pakistan’s water resources and to ensure that future generations are not deprived due to global warming and climate change, she added.

According to the policy, administrative bodies will be established at the provincial as well as federal levels to effectively manage water supplies better, she said, adding this includes the national water council and provincial water authorities for the purpose.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1702646/2-govt-allocated-rs100b-diamer-basha-dasu-dams/>

RESERVOIRS: CCI DECIDES TO CONSERVE SURPLUS ANNUAL FLOWS

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Common Interests (CCI) has decided to conserve only the surplus annual flows in the reservoirs to augment the storage capacity, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

The presentation on National Water Policy had already been made by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in the 36th meeting of the CCI. Therefore, the discussion took place only on the reservations conveyed by the Government of Sindh. Some of these had already been incorporated in the Policy.

The following amendments were incorporated in the National Water Policy during the meeting:-

Recommendation (1) – clause 10.7: The Water Apportionment Accord of 1991 is currently an accepted document and IRSA is mandated to implement the Accord. It is reiterated that IRSA has to implement the Accord in letter and spirit as per provincial share stipulated in para 2 of the Accord. (For clarity the words “para 2 of” are added in the last sentence.

Clarified unanimous consensus – clause 10.7: The Water Appointment Accord of 1991 is currently an accepted document and IRSA is mandated to implement the Accord. It is reiterated that IRSA has to implement the Accord in letter and spirit as per provincial share stipulated in the Accord.

However, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission clarified that it is understood that para 2 is part of the Accord; therefore, there is no need to insert these words in the policy. Chief Minister, Sindh was satisfied with his clarification.

Recommendation (2) – clause 17.5: Provinces are responsible for routine repair and maintenance of flood protection dykes, flood fighting and drainage. However, in case of major catastrophe like the 2010 floods, the federal government will provide supplementary funds, in addition to the 50% which the federal government has already agreed to provide under normal flooding.” (the last sentence in bold italic is added for clarity).

Clarified unanimous consensus – clause 17.5 : Provinces are responsible for routine repair and maintenance of flood protection dykes, flood fighting and drainage. However, in case of major catastrophe like the 2010 floods, the federal government will provide supplementary funds, in addition to the 50% which the federal government has already agreed to provide under NFPP-IV.



The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission clarified that clause 17.5 of the policy is acceptable to all and there was no need to insert the sentence proposed by the Government of Sindh.

Recommendation (3) – clause 20.5.2 “Based on new realities of seawater and to conserve aquatic ecosystem, required environmental flows will be reassessed and assured so as to address the issues on long term basis”. The words in bold italic are added for clarity).

Clarified unanimous consensus – clause 20.5.2 “Based on new realities of seawater intrusion and to conserve aquatic ecosystem, required environmental flows will be reassessed and assured so as to address the issues on long term basis”.

The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission further stated that the words “... and to conserve aquatic ecosystem” have already been added to the said clause.

Recommendation (4) clause 28.4(ii) “in order to augment the dwindling irrigation deliveries into the existing canal systems on account of ever decreasing existing storage capacity of Mangla and Tarbela due to sedimentation and to develop new cultivated area on canal irrigated water, the existing water storage capacity of 14 MAF shall be increased by immediately starting construction of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project having 6.4 MAF live storage on which consensus of all the federating units has already been achieved in 2009 at CCI level. The existing water storage capacity will be increased by not more than 10 MAF including Diamer-Basha Dam”. (The words bold italic are added for clarity).

Clarified unanimous consensus- clause 28.4(ii) “in order to augment the dwindling irrigation deliveries into the existing canal systems on account of ever decreasing existing storage capacity of Mangla and Tarbela due to sedimentation and to develop new cultivated area on canal irrigated water, the existing water storage capacity of 14 MAF shall be increased by immediately starting construction of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project having 6.4 MAF live storage on which consensus of all the federating units has already been achieved in 2009 at CCI level. The existing water storage capacity will be increased by up to 10 MAF including Diamer-Basha Dam”. (The words bold italic are added for clarity).

The sources said, Chief Minister, Sindh, Murad Ali Shah also proposed that the words “not more than” may be added in the above clause i.e. 28.4(ii) of the Policy, whereupon Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission clarified that the words “at least” have been inserted instead of the words “not more than” in the said clause. However, it was decided that the words “up to” be inserted instead of “not more than” in the said clause.

As regards inclusion of irrigation Ministers in the National Water Council, it was agreed that since the concerned ministers for provincial irrigation departments could always accompany the Chief Ministers in the meetings, if so required, their inclusion in the composition of the National Water Policy may not be appropriate so as to keep the council small.

The water charter was approved by expanding its scope with respect to water treatment from urban to rural areas as well. The view of the Government of Sindh that Pakistan needs to conserve water flows to augment the storage capacity while keeping in view conservation of aquatic ecosystem was also included. Being a single basin country, it was agreed that only the surplus annual flows would be conserved in the reservoirs.

As regards the title “Urban Water Management” of the clause 13 of the National Water Policy, it was agreed to include the word “Rural” in the said clause which will become “Urban/ Rural Water Management”.

In addition, the composition of National Water Council will include Chief Ministers plus one additional member each to be nominated by the Chief Ministers of the respective provinces (clause 29.5.1 of the National Water Policy).

## June 2018

### *NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JUN 18th TO JUN 24th 2018*

#### *Irsa releases 45,000 cusecs of water from Indus River*

M RAFIQUE GORAYA | JUN 20TH, 2018 | LAHORE

As the water inflow in the Punjab river has decreased and Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has cut outflow from the Mangla dam on the river Jhelum to the level of 10,000 cusecs, the national water regulatory body has increased discharges in the canals emanating from Jinnah, Chashma and Taunsa barrages on the mighty Indus River to the tune of 45,000 cusecs to provide critically needed irrigation water to south Punjab for sowing and growing its Kharif cash crops including cotton, rice, sugarcane, maize, vegetables, fodder for livestock and fruit orchards etc.

Punjab canal regulators told Business Recorder on Tuesday that the province was getting about 95,000 cusecs water from Mangla and Indus zones. It was drawing 41,000 cusecs run of the river water of Chenab, 10,000 cusecs from Mangla dam to meet irrigation water needs of central and western Punjab.

Irsa is putting in 8,000 cusecs water in greater Thal canal, 10,000 cusecs in Chashma – Jhelum canal, 12,000 cusecs in Taunsa-Punjad link canal and 16,000 cusecs in Muzaffargarh and D G Khan canals.

Meanwhile, the pre-monsoon flood warning centre has started functioning in Lahore. In its first report it said that the river Kabul at Nowshera is in low Flood level & all the other major rivers are flowing in their state of normal flow.

In its weather forecast for today (Wednesday) the Met Office said that mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country. However, isolated rain-thundershower is expected in Malakand, Hazara, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, D I Khan, Bannu division, Islamabad, Fata, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/06/20180620383073/>

Protesters seek end to water shortage, threaten boycott of polls and polio drive  
Dawn Report June 21, 2018

THATTA: Abadgars, socio-political activists and members of civil society were among a crowd of protesters in the coastal town of Ghorabari who unanimously pledged on Wednesday to boycott the general elections and polio campaign if their legitimate demands were not accepted.

Led by abadgar leaders Haji Ghulam Haider Chandio, Haq Nawaz Rind, Malik Hasan Chandio, Mohammad Khan Baloch and Pathan Shoro, the demonstrators blocked Var Ghulumullah via Ghorabari Thatta link road by staging a sit-in there, suspending vehicular traffic for over two hours.

Holding sickles, spades and bunches of dead paddy seedlings, the demonstrators contended that for the past eight months, the abadgars of the tail-end coastal talukas had been deprived of their legitimate share of water.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik Hasan Chandio, Haq Nawaz Rind and Pathan Shoro said the Thatta coastal belt had already been shrinking in terms of earning livelihood due to the domination of outsiders in the fishing sector, but now they were being deprived of their major source of income, agriculture.

Haji Ghulam Haider Chandio and Malik Hasan Chandio disclosed that the irrigation officials had allegedly erected a cemented block in the Khati Wah Shakh (water distributary).

They said main objective of this was obstruction in water flow and to conveniently stream irrigation water towards big farmhouses of the influential persons of the area with the result that local population could not avail water for their domestic purposes.

The demonstrators pledged that none of them would cast their vote in the forthcoming elections and cooperate in the polio campaign if the obstruction in Khati Wah Shakh was not removed and water was not allowed to flow towards their lands.

Later a delegation of abadgars held a meeting with the Thatta deputy commissioner and on his assurance for acceptance of their demands, they dispersed peacefully.

**BADIN:** The Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum Badin staged a protest demonstration in front of the Seerani Press Club against acute water shortage in Seerani and the tail-end areas of Badin district.

Talking to journalists, their representatives said acute water shortage had caused them irreparable losses and thousands of inhabitants were deprived of potable water while their animals were dying of thirst.

They said water shortage had destroyed crops and damaged agricultural economy.

They lauded the initiatives of the caretaker government in connection with security of canals by deployment of Rangers.

Published in Dawn, June 21st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1415142/protesters-seek-end-to-water-shortage-threaten-boycott-of-polls-and-polio-drive>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JUN 11th TO JUN 17th 2018

US official seeks report on Karachi's drinking water system

**KARACHI:** Head of New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Communicable Disease, Robert Fitzhenry asked Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, Mohammad Ali Jinnah University, Karachi Prof Dr Kamran Azim to provide a copy of his research report on Matagenomic Characterization of Bacterial Communities in drinking water supply system of Mega City Karachi for study.

It is mentioned here that this research report has already published in an International Research Journal recently, said a statement on Monday.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/06/12/3-page/722046-news.html>

Growers, peasants stage sit-in against water shortage

The Newspaper's Correspondent June 14, 2018

**BADIN:** A large number of farmers and growers staged a sit-in on Pangrio-Jhuddo road for over three hours in Malkani Sharif town, 50 kilometres from here, on Wednesday in protest against nagging water crisis in the water channels of Khairpur Gumbo irrigation subdivision.

The town's traders and shopkeepers announced observing a shutdown on Thursday to express solidarity with the protesting farmers.

Sindh Abadgar Association's office-bearers Haji Ali Bux Malkani, Lutuf Ali Malkani, Malik Tarique Mehmood Arain and others said at the sit-in and later told journalists that their share of water was being stolen by influential landlords in connivance with irrigation officials through illegal direct outlets.

They said that famine-like conditions were developed in the area due to worst water crisis.

They said that they were being deprived of water despite orders of Supreme Court, which had directed irrigation department officials in 2013 to ensure equitable distribution of water.

They lamented that the Rabi crops were withering away due to acute shortage of water while they were still waiting for water to prepare their land for Kharif crops.

Published in Dawn, June 14th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1413983/growers-peasants-stage-sit-in-against-water-shortage>

Karak farmers complain of water shortage

The Newspaper's Correspondent June 16, 2018

KARAK: The local farmers have complained that they've no water to irrigate the standing maize crops due to the damaged spillways and faulty regulating valve of Changhoz dam.

They told reporters here on Friday that the supply of water to their fields in Latamber, Kamali Banda, Changhoz and dozens of adjacent areas had come to a halt due to the waste of water from the dam, which had damaged spillways and faulty regulating valve.

Yasinullah said heavy rains had damaged spillways of the dam lately but the relevant authorities had yet to repair them to prevent waste of water.

The farmers also said the regulating valve, which was repaired by the contractor recently, was damaged again and thus, causing water to go to waste.

They claimed that a large number of fish had died in the past after the dam dried up.

The farmers claimed that the crops were badly damaged in the last season with farmers suffering huge losses.

They added that they're struggling to irrigate the standing crops of maize and others on their land as the water channels had no water for them in the current season.

The farmers demanded early repair of the spillways and regulating valve of Changhoz dam to prevent further loss of water and thus, restoring water supply to them.

They warned that if the relevant authorities didn't take necessary corrective measures for resolving the issue, then the people of the area would be left with no option but to take to the streets against it.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1414391/karak-farmers-complain-of-water-shortage>

#### NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JUN 4th TO JUN 10th 2018

Shutdown in Badin towns over water shortage, violation of rotation plan

Muhammad Hashim Khan Bhurgari June 04, 2018

BADIN: Members of farmers' organisations, peasants, and general public observed a shutdown strike and took out rallies in Khoski, Pangrio and Tando Bago towns of the district on Sunday in protest against acute water shortage and violation of canal rotation programme.

The protesters accused Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (Sida) chairman and director and local leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party of directing share of water for their areas to their farmlands.

All shops and business centres remained shuttered in Khoski where a sizable number of villagers arrived from nearby areas to join the farmers' protest.

They staged sit-in on Thar Coal road after marching through the town's thoroughfares early in the morning and continued till late in the night.

The protesters' leaders Abdullah Sindhi, Tariq Ghumman, Akhtar Jatt and others said that they would continue the protest till the irrigation officials released water into their outlets.

They said that as per announcement by the officials concerned they were to be supplied their share of water on June 1 but when water arrived at last its flow was diverted to the farmlands of influential persons.

They said the district was already facing agricultural disaster because of acute shortage of water while irregularities and unfair distribution of water under the very nose of chairman of Sida had further deepened the crisis.

They said that influential landlords were violating with the help of the irrigation officials the rotation plan announced by the department due to shortage of water, bringing cultivation process in their areas to a halt.

They alleged that as per rotation plan, water was to be released into the channels of Shadi Large subdivision by June 2 but the irrigation authorities and Sida diverted their share to Golarchi canals, the area of Sida chairman.

In Tando Bago, enraged protesters took out a rally and held a demonstration on Tando Bago-Jhudo road for two hours to express anger against the irrigation department and Sida officials.

The protesters' leaders Haji Panah Mallah, Pir Abid Ali Rashdi, Saleem Samoon and others told journalists that the water meant for their areas was being stolen by the irrigation department officials on the directives of Sida chairman Mohammad Nawaz Chandio and director Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur.

They alleged that PPP leaders including Mr Chandio were directly involved in stealing water from the waterways of Shadi sub-division. The nagging water crisis had turned their land barren and dealt a blow to local economy, forcing people to migrate to other areas in search of water, they said.

They accused irrigation officials of selling their share of water to big landowners and directing water of Shadi subdivision to Golarchi, the area of Sida chairman, at the expense of their farmland.

A complete strike was observed in Pangrio town where shops remained shuttered for half a day in protest against acute shortage of water in all canals of Shadi subdivision.

The leaders of Shahri Ittihad Pangrio and growers led by Ismail Mirani, Akbar Makhdoom and others marched on the town's roads and observed a sit-in outside the Pangrio Press Club.

They condemned the irrigation officials for allegedly shifting water of Shadi subdivision to Golarchi and demanded immediate supply of water. An impartial enquiry be launched into irregularities by irrigation officials, they said.

They alleged that water of their share was being stolen by local PPP leaders in connivance with irrigation officials and demanded immediate removal of corrupt officials.

Published in Dawn, June 4th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1411803/shutdown-in-badin-towns-over-water-shortage-violation-of-rotation-plan>

Firm threatens to close all RO plants in Thar from Thursday  
Hanif Samoon Updated June 05, 2018

MITHI: Tharis apprehend a man-made water crisis looming large on the desert region despite having been assured by the provincial government, whose second five-year term has just ended, of great relief upon completion of 660 schemes approved for the region. While the government not only failed to ensure adequate flows in the water channel meant for the district, it also could not manage most of the reverse osmosis (RO) plants installed at selected points to provide relief to the local population.

Tharis mostly depend on subsoil water which is not available in the entire region and causes specific diseases to the residents of the areas where it is available. The region is a rain-dependent territory chronically facing droughts or a drought-like situation.

The provincial government, through a private firm, got a large number of RO plants installed in Thar on a public-private partnership basis.

However, the firm claims that it had not been released the agreed upon monthly funds for 11 months by the government. It has threatened to shut down all these RO plants on June 7 if the outstanding dues are not cleared before the date.

Tharis fear man-made water crisis amid extremely hot weather conditions

Recently, on a similar warning, the top PPP leadership had asked the Sindh government to arrange for the funds and clear the dues but it seems that no action had been taken in this regard until the government completed its term at the end of the last month. The firms now expects the caretaker set up to release the funds.

The Thar population benefiting from a small number of RO plants that are functional apprehends a crisis like situation in the persisting extremely hot weather conditions in the district like most others.

A survey of 660 water schemes conducted by several teams under the supervision of the assistant commissioners of the seven talukas of Tharparkar reveals that the population of these talukas, like those of other areas, have been left with no other option but to get water from the solar-powered RO plants because 37 water supply schemes are lying non-functional while all but one, in Mithi, reservoirs do not get any water.

According to the survey report, there were 79 water supply schemes were supposed to be provided water from Rann Minor half of them were lying non-functional.

The survey was conducted on a directive of Tharparkar Deputy Commissioner Dr Abdul Hafeez Siyal in compliance with a relevant order of the Supreme Court-appointed judicial commission on water quality and drainage system in Sindh.

The survey teams found 116 RO plants out of order due to tampering by the villagers.

There are 513 RO plants in Thar being run under the special initiative department while the Sindh Coal Authority (SCA) has been assigned the task of operating and maintaining 60 RO plants.

The Thar DC submitted the survey report with the judicial commission a few days back. A spokesman for the private contractor firm that has undertaken installation of a total of 700 RO plants told this reporter that it had been doing its job efficiently but no payment had been made to it by the department concerned for the last 11 months. "We have written several letters to concerned department ... but the matter is yet to be resolved," he said, adding that now the company was faced with a serious financial crisis and unable to afford continuing with the contract any more after June 7 unless the dues were cleared by the department.

Published in Dawn, June 5th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1412008/firm-threatens-to-close-all-ro-plants-in-thar-from-thursday>

World Bank wants Pakistan to accept 'neutral expert' in dam dispute

Nasir Iqbal Updated June 05, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has asked Pakistan to stand down from pursuing its stand of referring the Kishanganga dam dispute to the International Court of Arbitration (ICA) and instead accept India's offer of appointing a "neutral expert".

In a fresh communication last week, World Bank president Jim Yong Kim advised the government to withdraw from its stand of taking the matter to the ICA for which the bank had on Nov 10, 2016 even picked a US chief justice, the rector of Imperial College, London, and the WB president for appointing chairman of the court to resolve the dispute over the dam.

Pakistan considers the construction of the Kishanganga dam in India-held Kashmir over the waters flowing into the western rivers a violation of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 since it will not only alter the course of the river but also deplete the water level of the rivers that flow into Pakistan. Thus the dispute should be referred to the international court of arbitration.

On the other hand, India describes the issue as differences between it and Pakistan over the design of the dam and, therefore, it should be addressed by some neutral experts.

A source privy to the development told Dawn that Pakistan believed that acceding to India's proposal of referring the dispute to neutral experts or withdrawing from its stand would mean closing the doors of arbitration and surrendering its right of raising disputes before international courts. "It will become a precedent and every time a dispute emerges between Pakistan and India, the latter will always opt for dispute resolution through neutral experts," he said.

CJP Nisar says water will now be biggest priority of apex court



In Dec 12, 2016, the WB president had informed Pakistan through a letter to then finance minister Ishaq Dar that he had decided to “pause” the process of appointing the ICA chairman as well as the neutral expert.

At this, Mr Dar had lodged a strong protest with the World Bank telling it point-blank that Pakistan would not recognise the pause. He had asked the bank to play its due role in the matter.

Pakistan believes that on the one hand the World Bank has tied its hands from raising the dispute at the ICA, and on the other, it has not blocked the Indian effort to complete the construction of the dam.

The World Bank did not even heed to Pakistan’s concern when provided with satellite images during a number meetings with the bank that India was constructing the dam. The bank even denied Pakistan the opportunity to stay the construction of the dam.

In February last year, the World Bank further extended its pause until the secretary-level talks between the two countries bore some fruits. Subsequently, four rounds of talks were held in February, April, July and September in Washington in which the bank was willing to appoint an international court to determine which forum under the treaty was proper — arbitration or neutral experts. But India did not accept it, the source said.

The World Bank even declined Pakistan’s forceful plea on May 22, 2018, asking it to express concern by stating that it had “noted the inauguration of the Kishanganga Dam by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi”, the source added.

The 1960 treaty recognises the World Bank as an arbitrator in water disputes between India and Pakistan as the bank played a key role in concluding this agreement which allows India to have control over the water flowing into three eastern rivers — Beas, Ravi and Sutlej — also permitting India that it may use the water of western rivers — Chenab, Jhelum and Indus — but it cannot divert the same.

India considers this as a permission to build “run-of-the-river” hydel projects that neither change the course of the river nor deplete the water level downstream.

#### SC hearing on water scarcity

On Monday, a three-judge Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar directed the federal government to furnish a comprehensive report on reduced flow of the Neelum river because of the construction of the Kishanganga dam.

The court had taken up a petition filed by Barrister Zafarullah Khan of the Watan Party seeking its directive for construction of dams, including the Kalabagh dam, to ameliorate the worsening water scarcity in the country.

The petitioner informed the court that for the past 48 years not a single dam had been built when 20 per cent of development in the country depended on the availability of water.

At this, the chief justice in a loud and clear message said that from now on the biggest priority of the court would be water and the court would hear matters relating to the scarcity of water and lack of initiative to build dams on Saturday in Karachi, on Sunday in Lahore and later in Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta.

The court is taking the issue of water scarcity very seriously and, while referring to the building of dams by India, regretted that the water level in the Neelum and Jhelum rivers had reduced considerably.

“We will be failing in our duty if we do nothing for posterity,” the chief justice observed. He regretted that not a single political party had ever mentioned the water crisis in their respective manifestos.

In his petition, Barrister Zafarullah highlighted that nobody was willing to sponsor loan to Pakistan to build Diamer-Basha dam that might cost \$18-20 billion.

The petition regretted that instead of saving water in reservoirs, 35.5 million acre feet (MAF) of water was being drained to the sea annually. It said had Kalabagh dam been built, it would have saved 6.5MAF water annually in its reservoir which would be filled during the rainy season.

Published in Dawn, June 5th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1412082/world-bank-wants-pakistan-to-accept-neutral-expert-in-dam-dispute>

Melting snow: Isra starts releasing water to provinces

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN | JUN 5TH, 2018 | ISLAMABAD

With an unprecedented rise in temperatures in Skardu in June and substantial increasing inflows due to melting snow, the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) on Monday started release of water to the provinces in accordance with indents.

According to Irsa spokesperson Rana Khalid who is also Director Operations, Skardu temperature touched 32 degree Celsius which is a record in the first week of June due to which river inflows have increased by 122 percent to 240,000 cusecs from 108,000 cusecs on May 26, 2018. Major increase is being witnessed in river Indus and Kabul. However, inflows are 20 percent less than the corresponding week last year which were at 300,400 cusecs.

“Keeping in view increasing inflows, Irsa has revised the shares of provinces as per their indents. Punjab’s share has been raised by 34 percent to 93,300 cusecs from 69,400 cusecs, whereas share of Sindh has been increased by 41.66 percent to 85,000 cusecs from 60,000 cusecs. The share of Balochistan has been increased by 75 percent to 14000 cusecs from 8000 cusecs. KP will get 3100 cusecs for CRBC.

According to Irsa spokesperson, the record temperature is dangerous since glaciers are melting at a rapid pace which can lead to flash flooding, adding that “we have sufficient space in dams to cater to flooding.”

He further stated that Irsa has started storing water in reservoirs after meeting all indents of provinces and storage has increased from 0.207 MAF to 0.373 MAF during the last four days.

Sindh government has time and again taken up its water issues due to which crops’ sowing is delayed and drinking water shortages becoming acute as well. However, when Sindh-based politicians were apprised that Pakistan is now a water scarce country, they suggested out of box solution. The situation in South Punjab is not different from Sindh.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/06/20180605377411/>

Growers hold protests in several towns over water crisis

Qamaruddin Shaikh June 06, 2018

MIRPURKHAS: Growers in large numbers held protest demonstrations in Ubaoro taluka of Ghotki district, Jhuddo town of Mirpurkhas district, Thatta-Ghorabari road in Thatta district and several other places on Tuesday against unavailability of drinking and irrigation water in their areas for months.

They held the irrigation department responsible for alleged inaction, mismanagement and inefficiency leading to a crisis-like situation across the province. They alleged that massive corruption on the part of elected representatives,

bureaucrats and lower-grade officials over the past 10 years had destroyed the agriculture sector and economically devastated the farming community.

In Jhuddo, several hundred peasants held a sit-in on a section of the arterial road leading to Mirpurkhas, Nabisar and Noakot blocking the thoroughfare for the whole day. The sit-in was continuing till the last reports came in late in the evening.

The protesters also placed burning tyres and junk at several places along the road to keep the road impassable and to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to their grievances.

The protest was organised by Baggi Minor Abadgar Association (BMAA) in protest against the department's failure to flow water into the irrigation channel for more than five months. Speaking to protesters and local reporters under the tent pitched in the middle of the road to hold the sit-in, Ayub Khosa of the BMAA said that not a drop of water was supplied to the Baggi minor-fed areas since January.

He said that more than 60,000 acres of land had been rendered barren and around 150,000 people of the area deprived of even drinking water due to the inefficiency of irrigation officials and their local subordinates. He said corruption had plagued the irrigation department, like all other departments, alleging that officials and lower-grade staff kept diverting small growers' share in water to the lands of influential figures over the years.

Small growers, particularly those having their lands in the tail-end areas of Mirpurkhas division, were not getting no water at all, he said. "It's a crisis situation for all of us," he said, and condemned the authorities concerned for paying no heed to their frantic calls in this regard and ignoring their protest demonstrations over the period.

The protesters urged the caretaker chief minister, the judiciary and other relevant authorities to take immediate notice of the situation and order judicious water distribution through the Buggi minor, which also fed several water supply scheme of Jhuddo town.

Separately, the Sindh Hari Mazddoor Jiddojehad (SHMJ) also organised a demonstration outside the Mirpurkhas Press Club on Tuesday against unavailability of irrigation and drinking water in the areas fed through the Nara Canal.

Growers and labourers took part in the protest, which was led by tail-end growers including Kanji Rano Bheel, Mir Mohammed Nohri, Mahesh Bheel and Yaseen Hingoro.

They said the water crisis in Sindh had deepened to the extent that the entire province should be declared a 'calamity-hit' area. The demand was inscribed on the banners and placards held by the protesters.

Speaking to the protesters, Mr Bheel said that small growers, particularly of the tail-end areas, were starving due to the unavailability of water in their areas. "On the one hand, they are unable to cultivate any crop and, on the other, they have to arrange for drinking water for their households and cattle heads on payment from suppliers," he said, adding that the situation had financially devastated the farming community.

"Sindh should be declared a calamity-hit area and due relief be provided to growers by waiving off the taxes/interest/charges pertaining to their agricultural income and loans," he said, arguing that no farming activity was possible without water.

Mr Bheel also pointed out that subsoil water was available in certain parts of the Nara Canal-fed areas and tubewells could be sunk their to fetch it but there was no electricity available in those areas to avail such an option.

The SHMJ leaders present at the demonstration also complained of water theft by influential figures which, according to them, contributed to a famine-like situation prevailing in the area.

They demanded deployment of Rangers personnel along the irrigation channels to curb water theft and ensure free flow of water up to the tail-end areas.

‘Five main regulators crumbling’

Growers from Thatta and Sujawal districts held a three-hour sit-in on Tuesday at the Thatta-Ghorabari section of the National Highway against a drastic decline in water supply to their lands and for the rehabilitation of five crumbling regulators in the area, Ghulam Hussain Khuwaja in Thatta adds.

The protest was led by UC chairman Hyder Shoro, Sattar Mirankhor, Nasrullah Khan and Gul Hassan Shoro, who demanded immediate repair and rehabilitation of the regulators enabling growers to start sowing their paddy seedlings in the Rabi season.

They condemned the irrigation authorities for their indifferent attitude towards the dilapidation of the regulators despite release of millions of rupees every year for their maintenance.

“The five main regulators are now in a condition that they may collapse any time,” they warned while speaking to the protesters, who were wearing black armbands, at Baghar Mori.

They identified the crumbling regulators as the RD-22, RD-77 and RD 120 of Baghar Mori in the Kalri Baghar division and RD-0 and RD-17 of Jam branch in Mirpur Sakro subdivision.

Explaining their apprehensions, they said that the collapse of the regulators could also cause bring down the adjacent bridges leading to a permanent obstruction in streaming of water towards their lands.

They said that the iron gates of these regulators had already stopped functioning depriving a large number of growers of their share in water.

In the case of their collapse, flow of the vehicular traffic to the nearby localities would also be badly affected, they added.

Published in Dawn, June 6th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1412226/growers-hold-protests-in-several-towns-over-water-crisis>

Call to make Indus waters treaty part of foreign policy  
Khaleeq Kiani Updated June 07, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan must change its cropping patterns, water usage habits and planning mechanisms, and develop multiple storages and make the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty part of an aggressive foreign policy if it intends to avoid a disastrous future.

This was the crux of a detailed briefing by retired Lt Gen Muzammil Hussain to a Senate body on Wednesday. The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) chairman also criticised the resettlement plan for the Diamer-Bhasha dam prepared by the government led by Gen Pervez Musharraf in 2006, and said that it was causing problems to this day.

Stressing the importance of the Kalabagh dam, the Wapda chief proposed to give its operations and management to Sindh given the province's genuine concerns that it would dry out. He said the country should now graduate from decades-old planning processes, time-consuming approval processes and execution of projects through innovative financing solutions for major development projects.

Lamenting that Pakistan had become hostage to a group of five international consulting firms, Mr Hussain said a professional organisation like the National Engineering Services of Pakistan (Nespak) had been reduced to a parking place with more than 921 incompetent and unqualified inductions made on political grounds.

Wapda chairman says resettlement plan for Diamer-Bhasha dam made by Musharraf-led government in 2006 is causing problems to this day

He said the capacity and the quality of local companies and consultants had to be enhanced to meet the growing future needs of agriculture, irrigation and energy.

In his remarks, he observed that 60 per cent of the country's population was directly engaged in agriculture and livestock and despite being named in the 15 most water scarce countries — with a per capita availability of about 903 cubic metres — Pakistan had one of the most water intensive agricultural sectors in the world. He said the country had the fourth highest rate of water use internationally. The chairman said that 90pc of the country's water was used in agriculture and the matter must be taken up in the Council of Common Interests to figure out a way to reduce water usage for irrigation and domestic use.

He said Pakistan had a total of 155 dams compared to the 5,102 in India. Pakistan can only store water for 30 days compared to the 170 days' capacity of India. Pakistan needs to narrow the gap between the growing population and its needs and the number and capacity of water reservoirs. There is need to reduce the cultivation of sugarcane and other water intensive crops.

The Wapda chief said the population is set to grow by 50 per cent to 312 million by 2050, which would push demand for water considerably. Therefore, the country is destined for disaster unless it changes its planning, practices and governance methods quickly.

For this, he said parliamentarians and political leaders must play a major role. He said about 12 million acre feet (MAF) of water could easily be conserved through efficient use, another 11MAF could be saved by provinces through better managing the demand. A further 12MAF could be saved through lining of canals, and 35MAF could be made available through construction of dams.

He said Wapda was working on adding one MAF storage by 2023 through small dams while about 9MAF storage would become available by 2030 on the completion of the Diamer-Bhasha, Mohmand, Kurrum Tangi and Chiniot dams. Plans were also underway for the development of Kalabagh, Shyok, Dudhial, Akhori, Skardu and Rohtas dams to provide additional storage of another 25MAF by 2050.

The three-phased development plan would need a cumulative financing of Rs5 trillion in more than three decades. With public sector financing of 30pc, the remaining funds could be arranged through public-private partnerships and commercial arrangements, he said.

Responding to questions from senators, the Wapda chairman said Sindh had some genuine concerns over the Kalabagh Dam, which is otherwise technically a sound project, and on which construction could begin in a day — realizing enormous benefits.

He said maximum river flows were available over three months and more than 25MAF water went down the sea excluding the 8.6MAF allocated for downstream Kotri for environmental needs. This meant water downstream kotri could be maintained round the year with the Kalabagh dam instead of just for a few weeks.

Responding to another question, he said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) objections over the Kalabagh dam were not valid because the dam's objectionable height had been reduced by 10 feet while now under construction Mohmand dam would completely alleviate any dangers of flooding in the Peshawar and Nowshera valleys. He said it was for the political leadership to create a consensus on the project.

Mr Muzammil said they were facing problems over the Bhasha dam due to KP and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) not cooperating and despite a land acquisition worth Rs80 billion, authorities have been unable to start the project. The land owners were also creating problems, as he added that about a dozen people have lost their lives due to firing on land on the boundaries of KP and GB.

Talking about the Indus Cascade, he termed it the most precious asset of the country. He said that the Indus enters Pakistan at an altitude of 8430 feet and gives us a drop of 7030 feet till Kalabagh at an altitude of 1400 feet giving us multiple sites along the stretch for building reservoirs and run-of-the-river projects.

He said due to the contentions between Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Board (PEDO) and the federally-run, Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO), Chitral was not getting the required power supply, getting only seven megawatts of electricity from a plant of 36 megawatts.

Published in Dawn, June 7th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1412565/call-to-make-indus-waters-treaty-part-of-foreign-policy>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MAY 28th TO JUN 3rd 2018

CCI forms body to look into water shortage complaints

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated May 28, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Amid drought-like conditions in the country, the Council of Common Interests (CCI) on Sunday constituted a committee headed by the attorney general to examine whether the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) is providing irrigation water to the provinces in accordance with the 1991 water apportionment accord.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the CCI presided over by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and attended by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, provincial chief secretaries and senior officials.

The Sindh chief minister complained that his province was not being given its due water share set in the 1991 water accord and because of this it was facing a drought-like condition and its farmers were suffering a lot.

Committee will examine whether Irsa is providing irrigation water to provinces in accordance with 1991 accord  
Water resources division's joint secretary Mehr Ali Shah made detailed presentation on availability of water in the country and its distribution among the provinces as per the 1991 accord.

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The Balochistan government complained that its water share approved by Irsa was not being released by Sindh through inter-provincial canals.

Murad Ali Shah highlighted the history of water distribution, the water accord and changes made in the distribution mechanism through ministerial meetings that affectively changed the provincial shares set in the accord to the severe detriment of lower riparian provinces.

Punjab's representatives regretted that the entire nation was suffering from the consequence of not building a dam over the past five decades while water availability had been coming down and provincial irrigation requirements going up. As a result, they said, all stakeholders were getting low water supplies, particularly this season when rainfall was lower than normal and river flows remained subdued.

The Sindh chief minister argued that the accord did not mention that the provinces would not be given their water shares in case no dam was built. The accord also did not allow introduction of a so-called three-tier water distribution system that compromised Sindh's interests in violation of para-2 of the accord that committed higher share, he said.

The stakeholders reminded each other of various legal opinions on allocation of shares on the basis of para-2, para-14 or three-tier distribution mechanism.

Since the issues were of legal and technical nature, the meeting decided to constitute a committee under the attorney general and comprising one representative each from the provinces to look into them and submit its recommendations at the next meeting.

Irsa reported that the country was facing about 51 per cent water shortage at rim stations which ultimately increased to 65-70pc at the canal head after calculating conveyance losses.

Published in Dawn, May 28th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1410437/cci-forms-body-to-look-into-water-shortage-complaints>

Kharif & Rabi seasons: Irsa depicts worrisome picture of water Availability

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN MAY 28TH, 2018 ISLAMABAD

The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) on Sunday depicted an extremely worrisome picture of water availability both in Kharif and Rabi seasons if the current weather conditions persist as storage has declined to 0.22 MAF as compared to 3.6 MAF last year, posting a dip of about 94 per cent.

According to Irsa spokesperson, Punjab and Sindh are facing 51 per cent shortage at rim stations whereas at canal head after conveyance losses shortfall would be 65-70 per cent. "There is a big gap in storage and inflows," the spokesperson added.

On Sunday, river inflows were recorded at 112,900 cusecs against 375,100 cusecs same day last year, showing a decrease of about 70 per cent in inflows. The river outflows were 119,300 cusecs. Irsa released 57,500 cusecs to Punjab followed by 55000 cusecs to Sindh, 8000 cusecs to Balochistan and 3100 cusecs to KP, totalling to 123,600 cusecs (average shortage 49 per cent).

The Irsa member from Balochistan lodged a strong protest with Irsa regarding water shortage in canals. He claimed that the shortage in Sindh canals is 63 per cent while they are passing a shortage of 75-80 per cent to Balochistan though Irsa is releasing full supply to the province.

According to him, Chamshma Jehlum(CJ) link canal is closed whereas 1177 cusecs is being released in Taunsa Panjand (TP). On Sunday, Skardu temperature rose to 25 degree Celsius from 22 degree Celsius. He said with the increase in temperature 'we are hopeful river inflows will increase slightly but it will take about 72 hours to impact on Tarbela inflows.'



“Now exceptional monsoon or exceptional temperature in catchments would ensure filling of dams to full capacity otherwise the situation may worsen not only in Kharif but also in Rabi,” he continued.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/05/20180528375095/>

Water shortage prompts Karachi’s residents to take to the streets

By Our Correspondents Published: June 1, 2018

KARACHI: From Korangi till Orangi Town—two areas flung in two different corners of the city—the entire city of Karachi is deprived of water.

Muhammad Mustafa, a resident of Korangi, said this to the charged up crowd at a sit-in organised on Thursday by Jamaat-e-Islami in front of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) office to protest against the water shortage in the city.

“Where does the water of the city go?” asked Mustafa. “Water tankers are available round the clock. From where do these water tankers get water?” He accused the Sindh government of minting money through the water shortage.

A protester from Orangi Town claimed that in Orangi Town’s Sector 16, people only get water once in a while. “It has been two-and-a-half months and our taps are still dry,” he said.

Water and power woes: Abbasi to fix all that ails Karachi

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have sold the water of this city to real estate developers, he claimed. “They have literally done that,” he asserted.

The protesters were holding placards with slogans of ‘Karachi ko paani do [Give Karachi water]’, ‘Water theft is not acceptable’ and ‘Incompetent water board is not acceptable’.

The residents of Karachi have been facing a water and power crisis for a long time. However, their miseries have been exacerbated during Ramazan because of the scorching heat. Not only are areas such as Orangi Town, New Karachi, North Karachi, Lyari, Shah Faisal Colony, North Nazimabad, Baldia Town, Keamari and Agra Taj Colony not receiving enough water, posh areas under the administrative control of the Cantonment Board Clifton and Defence Housing Authority are also affected by water shortage.

Addressing the protesters, JI Karachi Amir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said despite the intense heat and Ramazan, the people of Karachi came out to protest against the KWSB and Sindh government. “People of Karachi want their right to water,” he said, adding that the government was unwilling to provide water to the people of Karachi even during Ramazan and the heatwave.

Protests against load-shedding continue

Rehman accused both the MQM and PPP of being responsible for the miseries of the residents of Karachi. The K-IV project, which was supposed to start in 2006, was initiated in 2016 and is still at a standstill, he said.

The JI Karachi Amir also accused Pak Sarzameen Party Chairperson Mustafa Kamal of deliberately delaying the K-IV project when he was the mayor of the city and a part of the MQM. Being directly responsible for the water crisis in the city, MQM representatives better not talk about Karachi’s water woes, he said.

Meanwhile, the KWSB issued a statement in which it said that the water board was trying its best to ensure regular water supply to the city.

Residents of North Karachi and Landhi also resorted to protests on Thursday on the water shortage and blocked thoroughfares near Do Minute Chowrangi and Babar Market respectively.

The demonstrations staged at both locations disrupted traffic flow, resulting in severe traffic jams on the surrounding roads. The protesters said while they were already suffering loadshedding by K-Electric (K-E), the KWSB's inability to supply water added to their miseries.

Unabated load-shedding drives JI onto the streets of Karachi

The demonstrators claimed that water was not being provided to their areas for the last couple of days.

Residents of Baldia Town also staged a sit-in on the Northern Bypass against prolonged load-shedding in their area. They chanted slogans and blocked the road for traffic.

The angry protesters claimed that due to severe power cuts, they were unable to obtain water. They decried that they were eating sehri and iftar without power on a daily basis. They appealed to the federal government to take notice of K-E's apathy to their woes.

Unannounced load-shedding of up to 10 hours a day was taking place in Baldia Town, the protesters said. They also claimed that there were no kundas in Baldia Town No 4 and all residents paid their electricity bills on time.

Upon receiving the complaints of a severe traffic jam, police authorities reached the Northern Bypass and conveyed assurances from K-E to the protesters that their issue will be resolved, upon which the protesters ended their demonstration.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1724526/1-water-shortage-prompts-karachis-residents-take-streets/>

## July 2018

### *NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 23RD TO JULY 29TH 2018*

#### *Water storage in major reservoirs improves*

Khaleeq Kiani Updated July 27, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Water storage in major reservoirs has continued to post healthy growth, building almost one million acres feet (MAF) within the past two days.

The total storage in two reservoirs was reported at 4.905MAF on Thursday morning, up from 3.91MAF on Tuesday, showing an improvement of almost 26pc. This was, however, still on the very lower side when compared to about 11MAF of the same period last year.

The overall inflows were although declining yet significantly higher than discharges to the provinces for irrigation requirements and conserving about 230,000 cusecs per day in reservoirs.

According to the Indus River System Authority (Irsa), total river flows at rim stations were recorded at 486,600 cusecs on Thursday morning compared to total outflows of 258,800 cusecs.

All main rivers — including the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers — were flowing normal, except for the Kabul river, which flowed in low flood in Warsak-Nowshera Reach.

The conservation level at Tarbela and Mangla was reported 1495.27 feet and 1141.50 feet, respectively, that was about 55 feet and 100 feet below their respective maximum conservation levels of 1,550 feet and 1,242 feet. The total storage at 4.905MAF stood at about 36 per cent of the existing combined live storage capacity of 13.681MAF.

Irsa reported inflows of 271,300 cusecs in Indus at Tarbela against outflows of 80,000 cusecs while Kabul flows were reported at 72,600 cusecs at Nowshera. The inflows in Jhelum at Mangla were 47,500 cusecs against outflows of 10,000 cusecs while flows in Chenab at Marala were recorded at 96,200 cusecs compared to 63,000 cusecs outflows.

Meanwhile, the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) has reported that monsoon low over northwestern Madhya Pradesh and adjoining southern Uttar Pradesh had moved northwards and centered over southern Uttar Pradesh while seasonal low lied over northwestern Balochistan.

It said the trough of westerly wave over Kashmir and adjoining areas has now moved away eastwards and a fresh trough of westerly wave lied over northeastern Afghanistan.

Moderate moist currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal were penetrating into upper parts of the country up to 5,000 feet.

Based on these indicators, the FFD predicted scattered wind thunderstorm and rain with isolated moderate to heavy falls and one or two very heavy falls over Punjab's Sargodha, Lahore, Gujranwala and Faisalabad divisions in next 24 hours.

Published in Dawn, July 27th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1423177/water-storage-in-major-reservoirs-improves>

#### NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 16TH TO JULY 22ND 2018

Sindh govt approves Rs1,455m water testing labs

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter July 19, 2018

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to establish 23 water testing laboratories costing Rs1,455 million at the district headquarter level while allocating Rs1,575m for provision and installation of a solar system for rural water supply and drainage schemes in Sindh.

This was stated by Sindh caretaker Minister for Public Health Engineering and rural development Mushtaq Ahmed Shah while presiding over a meeting in his office on Wednesday.

The meeting was also informed that Rs666.134m had been earmarked for the rehabilitation of filter plants for urban and rural water supply schemes and Rs 1,053.695m for monitoring, evaluation and co-ordination unit.

Reviewing the development schemes, the minister asked the officers to speed up the pace of uplift work to complete them in the stipulated time for public benefit.

#### Communication network

The government has also decided to augment communication network connectivity in the far-flung areas during the general election 2018 to ensure safe, secure and peaceful environment. This was decided in a meeting held here on Wednesday, presided over by the Sindh home secretary in his office.

During a visit to polling stations in the far-flung areas of the province, the chief secretary had observed that signals connectivity/network availability was either very poor or unavailable in those areas. This might pose a great deal of problems to the polling staff while communicating with the law enforcement agencies, the district administration and the returning officers/district returning officers.

Keeping in view the importance of optimum network connectivity for general elections, the following decisions were unanimously taken in the meeting. All telecom operators will make sure that there is enhanced vigilance through the Network Management Centre (NOC) so that areas without network connectivity are immediately identified for rectification. The PTA will form coordination/monitoring cells at divisional levels whose contact numbers would be shared with the district administration for redressal of issues on immediate and timely basis.

They will also make sure that there is uninterrupted supply of electricity to all towers by making adequate availability of alternative source of electricity.

The existing network will be augmented for maximum coverage.

Published in Dawn, July 19th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1420990/sindh-govt-approves-rs1455m-water-testing-labs>

\$2bn to be sought from AIIB, Swiss banks for building dams

Khaleeq Kiani Updated July 21, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is seeking up to \$2 billion from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Swiss banks and may impose a special surcharge on electricity consumption to meet funding needs of Diamer-Bhasha and Munda dams.

Speaking to media after the second meeting of Implementation Committee of the Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dams (ICBMD) appointed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Water and Power Development Authority of Pakistan (Wapda) chairman Wapda Lt Gen Muzammil Hussain said the fund raising campaign had received a welcome response from the public that has so far donated Rs260 million.

He said the country was facing difficult water situation and all measures were being taken to start work on water reservoirs and implement water policy. He said a financing structure had been presented to the chief justice of Pakistan.

He said an amount of \$1.5-2bn was required from external resources and the authorities were in touch with AIIB and Swiss banks to arrange these funds. He said the sub-committee on financing of dams would make recommendation about the possibility of imposing a nominal surcharge on electricity consumption to meet any local funding shortfall on the pattern of Neelum-Jhelum Surcharge.

Special surcharge on power consumers under consideration

Mr Hussain, who is also head of the committee, said the public had played a crucial role in the completion of Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower project which was now contributing 736MW to the national grid and would soon reach its optimum capacity of 969MW.

He deplored that international lenders had declined to finance Diamer-Bhasha project after 12 years of engagement. Responding to a question, he said issues of refinancing, payments for resettlements and disputes among different local tribes were delaying construction of DBD.

He said that the sub-committee on finances would give recommendation whether to impose surcharge or not on the consumers to raise funding for these dams. He said that land for DBD belonged to Pakistan and therefore not disputed. Mr Hussain said the implementation committee was committed to accomplishing the task assigned to it by the Supreme Court for early commencement and timely completion of Diamer- Bhasha and Mohmand dam projects and was actively weighing various options for the purpose.

He said it was a matter of satisfaction that sub-committees constituted during the first meeting of ICDBMD on July 12 had moved swiftly for identifying the issues and were coming up with the solutions.

Sub-committees also presented their reports.

He said a sub-committee briefed the meeting about the current status of the land acquisition and resettlement of both the projects and the impediments in the way to completion of this process and suggested ways and means to speed up the process for completion of land acquisition and resettlement with defined timelines.

Another sub-committee submit its analyses regarding procurement strategies and processes and proposed measures for their timely completion by identifying the issues and defining the redressal mechanism with timelines.

The meeting was informed by a sub-committee on projects' financing about the measures required to achieve financial close of these projects in time, identified gaps in arranging the requisite financing and suggested timelines to ensure financial close at the earliest.

Yet a fourth sub-committee on security shared with the participants the security measures needed for timely completion of the projects and how to provide legal advice, logistic support and ancillary services to the implementation committee.

Based on these recommendations, the implementation committee would finalise the report that would also be shared with the apex court to speed the project implementation.

The meeting was attended by the members of the committee including Additional Secretary Budget of Finance Division, Joint Secretary Water of Ministry of Water Resources, Joint Secretary Prime Minister's Office, Senior Chief Water Planning Division, Additional Chief Secretary Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Senior Member Board of Revenue Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The co-opted members including Additional Secretary External Finance and joint secretaries of Economic Affairs, Interior and Secretary Implementation and Coordination Gilgit Baltistan also attended.

Published in Dawn, July 21st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1421494/2bn-to-be-sought-from-aiib-swiss-banks-for-building-dams>

IRSA restarts filling Tarbela, Mangla dams

M RAFIQUE GORAYA | JUL 21ST, 2018 | LAHORE

The Indus River System has restarted filling the country's only two dams Tarbela on the river Indus and Mangla on the river Jhelum as water inflows in the four live rivers Indus, Chenab, Jhelum and Kabul have reached 4,00,000 cusecs.

Punjab irrigation engineers told Business Recorder that the country was facing up to 50 percent shortage of water for sowing and growing Kharif crops including rice, cotton, sugarcane, maize, fodder for livestock and vegetables in the

months of April, May and June. Therefore the water regulatory body gave preference to the sowing of cash crops instead of retaining any quantity of water in the reservoirs.

They said that after recent monsoon rains in the upper catchments areas of the rivers, more than 2,00,000 cusecs water is running in the river Indus at Tarbela , 88,000 cusecs water in the river Chenab 65,500 cusecs in the river Kabul at Nowshera and 32,825 cusecs water in the river Jhelum at Mangla.

They said IRSA is far behind its annual schedule of filling the dams in the third week of July and it might not be possible to store about 1`3.5 MAF water in the dams for the sowing of winter crops including staple food wheat crop this year.

They said that presently IRSA is meeting all the irrigation water demands of the four provinces that are running their wide canal network to its full capacity and now there is zero percent shortage of water for Kharif crops in the country.

Punjab Irrigation department is making full use of precious running water in the river Chenab and diverting 42,000 cusecs water through mega Marala Ravi Link canal and Qadirabad Balloki link canal towards command areas of river Ravi and the river Sutlej that have been given to India under the Indus Basin Treaty.

Meanwhile Meteorological department has said that Monsoon activity is likely to increase from 22nd July-2018 which may cause isolated heavy fall with one or two very heavy falls over the upper catchments of rivers Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej along with Lahore, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Faisalabad & Rawalpindi Divisions. Scattered thunderstorm/rain with moderate to heavy falls is also expected over the upper catchments of river Jhelum along with Sahiwal and DG Khan Divisions.

Flood Warning Centre said that Rain-thundershower is expected at isolated places in Malakand, Hazara, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Zhob, and Kalat divisions, Islamabad, FATA, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan today. River Kabul at Nowshera is in Low Flood level. All the other major Rivers are flowing in the state of their normal flows. Flows in the Nullahs of Rivers Ravi and Chenab are likely to increase from 23rd July-2018.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/07/20180721392652/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 9TH TO JULY 15TH 2018

Work on two key dams to start this fiscal year: govt

By Sardar Sikander

Published: July 10, 2018

ISLAMABAD .: In the wake of the apex court's order for immediate construction of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams, the government on Monday said construction work on these two dams would start in the ongoing fiscal year.

“Construction work on Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams will be started in fiscal year 2018-19,” said a press release issued after a briefing given to caretaker Prime Minister Nasirul Mulk by the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Muzammil Hussain.

“Diamer-Bhasha Dam Project has a gross water storage capacity of 8.1 million acre feet (MAF) and power generation capacity of 4,500 megawatts (MW). Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project will store 1.2 MAF water and generate 800MW electricity,” said the statement from Prime Minister's Office.

Tarbela Dam touches dead level in July

The 1,410MW Tarbela 5th Extension, the 2160MW-Stage II of Dasu, the 7100MW-Bunji and the Stage II of multipurpose Kurram Tangi Dam are among the ready-for-construction projects.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Supreme Court directed the federal government to immediately start construction of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams.

“The need for water reservoirs is not only expedient but also essential for the survival of the people and economy of Pakistan. All those present in the court, including officials of various departments and experts on the subject, are unanimous in this regard.

“They are also unanimous on the point that according to the decision of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) the Diamer-Bhasha dam and pursuant to the approval of the ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council) both (this and) and Mohmand Dam must be built on an urgent basis by the federal government.

Armed forces to make donations for construction of Diamer-Bhasha, Mohmand dams

“In this regard, there is no dispute or discord of any nature amongst the provinces”, a four-member SC bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar, stated in its order.

On the CJP’s order and under his supervision, a bank account ‘Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dam Fund-2018’ was set up at the State Bank of Pakistan to collect donations for the construction of the dams.

The CJP also personally donated one million rupees in the said account. The funding status of this account shows that it had over \$1.3 million or Rs13,26,672 million by July 5. The Senate Chairman and Acting President Sadiq Sanjrani also announced on Monday to personally donate Rs1.5 million.

In addition, the armed forces also announced donations for the two dams. “Pakistan Armed Forces contributing to Diamir-Bhasha and Mohmand Dam Fund. Officers of Pak Army, Navy and Air Force will contribute their two-day pay while soldiers one-day pay to the announced fund for this national cause,” said the Inter Services Public Relations chief Major General Asif Ghafoor in a Twitter message.

Why construction of Bhasha Dam was blocked, asks Shujaat

Briefing to PM

In his briefing, Wapda chairman said the authority had completed four mega projects from August 2017 onwards to irrigate 72,000 acres of ‘virgin land’ in Dera Bugti, Balochistan and to add 2,487MW of hydel electricity to the national grid.

These projects included Phase 1 of Kachhi Canal, Golen Gol, Tarbela 4th Extension and Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project. Stage 1 of Kurram Tangi Dam Project will be completed in 2020, while the 2,160MW, Stage 1 of Dasu Hydropower Project is scheduled to start electricity generation by 2023.

The 1410MW Tarbela 5th Extension, the 2,160MW-Stage II of Dasu, the 7,100MW-Bunji and the Stage II of multipurpose Kurram Tangi Dam are among the ready-for-construction projects.

Recently, on account of rapid rise in the temperature, power outages have increased manifolds, apparently undermining the former Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government’s claims of not only ending the load-shedding but also producing surplus electricity of up to 3,000 MW.



Last month, Secretary Water Resources Shamail Ahmed Khawaja briefed PM Mulk that the availability of water in the country was gradually improving with the rising temperature and the melting of glacial snow, and the hydel generation was likely to improve in the coming days.

However, frequent power outages are still persistent across the country.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1753901/1-work-two-key-dams-start-fiscal-year-govt/>

#### NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 2ND TO JULY 8TH 2018

Water shortage intensifies, crops at risk

Khaleeq Kiani Updated July 03, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The country's water shortage has worsened, prompting Indus River System Authority (Irsa) to cut provincial water shares by 14 per cent as storages at the two major reservoirs — Mangla and Tarbela —dropped to historic lows.

“Total storage stood at 0.89 million acre feet (MAF) compared to storage of 6.81 MAF the same day last year,” said Khalid Idrees Rana, spokesman to the Indus River System Authority. Pakistan total storage capacity is 13.681 MAF

“Tarbela (dam) is at very alarming stage”, he said explaining that its storage stood at 0.128 MAF on Monday – almost half compared to a historic low of 0.254 MAF.

The situation at Mangla — the country's largest reservoir by capacity — was no better. “Mangla is also at very critical stage today,” he said, adding the storage at this dam was recorded at 0.718 MAF on Monday compared to historically low level of 0.914 MAF.

Storage around one tenth of what it was last year

Total river flows also dropped to 259,000 cusec on Monday compared to 396,000 cusec recorded on the same day last year.

In view of the grim evolving situation, the cut to provincial shares was increased to 14pc from 9pc on June 25 when total storage stood at 1.63 MAF.

The provincial shares were further cut owing to reduced flows in rivers after temperatures in the catchment areas of Skardu fell to an unprecedented 18-19 degree Celsius.

As a result, Punjab is currently being provided 109,000 cusec while Sindh share was set at 145,000 cusec. The share of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was set at 14,000 cusec and 3,100 cusec respectively.

River Chenab that had seen upsurge in flows after recent heavy rains in Jammu also witnessed flows dropping to 72,600 cusec on Monday after attaining a peak of 109,000 cusec.

Inflows in river Indus were recorded at 108,600 cusecs on Monday against outflows of 141,200 cusecs while Kabul flows at Nowshera were reported at 47,000 cusecs. Inflows in Jhelum at Mangla were recorded at 30,600 cusecs against outflows of 11,700 cusecs.

Live storage capacity at Tarbela was recorded at 128,000 acre feet while its water conservation level stood at 1,398.28 feet against its minimum operating level of 1,386 feet maximum conservation level 1,550 feet.

Live storage at Mangla was recorded at 718,000 acre feet and conservation level at 1,117.05 feet against its minimum operating level of 1,050 feet and maximum 1,242 feet.

Total inflows at rim station were reported at 258,000 cusec against outflows of 272,500 cusec.

The provinces have already faced over 60pc water shortages in early Kharif season, affecting crops sowing across the country, particularly Sindh and Balochistan.

Kharif cropping season starts from April-June and lasts until October-December in different parts of the country. Rice, sugarcane, cotton, maize and mash are some of the key crops of the season.

Published in Dawn, July 3rd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1417595/water-shortage-intensifies-crops-at-risk>

Inflows improve: Irsa switches over to 'zero shortage'

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN | JUL 4TH, 2018 | ISLAMABAD

The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) Tuesday decided to switch to 'zero shortage' with immediate effect owing to improved inflows in rivers. IRSA spokesperson Rana Khalid said that the Authority reviewed water availability situation at a meeting and observed that river inflows increased by about 23,100 cusecs from Monday, which are expected to further improve in the wake of present rain spell. However, there is no improvement in storage.

He said the share of Punjab has been increased to 125,900 cusecs from 115,000 cusecs whereas Sindh would get 160,000 cusecs from 145,000 cusecs. The share of Balochistan has been increased to 16,000 cusecs from 14,000 cusecs. However, the share of KP would remain the same, ie, 3100 cusecs. "Irsa is trying to meet the full provinces' shares and may store surplus waters subject to availability," he added.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/07/20180704387316/>

SC seeks immediate construction of two dams

Nasir Iqbal July 05, 2018

ISLAMABAD: After an extended hearing on Wednesday, the Supreme Court held that water resources were crucial for survival and directed the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to build two dams — Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand.

The court also ordered the federal government, the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) and the executive authority to take effective measures in the light of decisions taken by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to develop the 4,500MW capacity Diamer Bhasha Dam and the 700MW capacity Mohmand Dam, said a short order, the detailed reasons of which will be issued later.

The court also sought a report with detailed timelines and milestones which is to be submitted by the relevant authorities within three weeks. Separately, the court constituted an implementation committee to oversee the execution of the works.

The committee will be led the Wapda chairperson, and will comprise experts and officials of the federal and KP governments.

CJP donates Rs1m, asking people to donate for Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand dams

A four-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, appealed to the people to contribute generously in foreign and local currency for the construction of the dams. The donations will be deposited in a special public account dedicated solely for the construction of dams. Taking the lead, the chief justice announced that he would donate Rs1 million for the construction of dams.

The Supreme Court, on a suo motu, had taken up a report by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) regarding acute water scarcity in Pakistan, as well as a petition by Barrister Zafarullah Khan of the Watan Party seeking directions for the construction of the Kalabagh dam.

The need for water reservoirs is not only expedient but also sine qua non for the survival of the people and economy of Pakistan, the court said, adding that the two dams must be built on an urgent basis by the federal government, and in this regard, there was no dispute among the provinces.

The right to life is a fundamental right and without water there can be no existence of life, the short order said. Therefore, under provisions of Article 184(3) of the Constitution read with Article 9, as guardians of fundamental rights of the people of Pakistan, the Supreme Court has the jurisdiction to issue necessary directions to the government for the practical enforcement of the right to life.

Under Article 78, any funds deposited in a public account of the federation can be dedicated for a specified project or purpose. The court issued directions to set up an account, for the time being under the name of the Supreme Court registrar, in which the people of Pakistan would donate money to be spent on constructing dams. The order made it clear that those funds will not be diverted or utilised for any purpose other than the construction of the dams.

The court said that no authority or department, save the tax authorities, could ask questions about the source of funds deposited in the account. However, utilisation of the funds would be subject to audit as per directions of the court. The chief justice observed that the nation was starving to contribute their share for the constructions of the dams.

Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan said the issue of water was not about improving quality of life anymore, but had become a matter of survival.

Pakistan Commission for Indus Waters Syed Mohammad Mehr Ali told the Supreme Court that Pakistan's water storage capacity was at 13.7 million acres feet (MAF). Annually, the country wastes nearly 19 MAF of water. Ideally, we should have been building a dam after every ten years, he said, adding that the country is fortunate that Rs22bn has been earmarked for it in the public sector development programme (PSDP) for the current financial year.

Finance Secretary Arif Ahmed Khan emphasised the need to impose a water pricing regime, and added that as an input for agriculture, water cost Rs170 per acre whereas fertilisers and other inputs cost Rs1,900.

The Wapda chairperson explained that the government had already approved Rs244bn for the construction of Bhasha Dam in the next 10 years as well as Rs140bn for the Mohmand Dam, while Wapda has been asked to generate Rs450bn from its own resources.

He assured the court that there was uninterrupted supply of funds and that Wapda will make sure the two dams are built.

Former Wapda chairman Shamsul Mulk termed Kalabagh Dam his baby and said when the Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960, the world viewed Pakistan as an emerging Asian tiger. Mr Mulk insisted that Kalabagh Dam alone could solve many problems of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Published in Dawn, July 5th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1418059/sc-seeks-immediate-construction-of-two-dams>

Over 80pc water supplied through private tankers unfit for consumption: Wasa

A Reporter Updated July 08, 2018

RAWALPINDI: More than 80pc of water supplied by private tanker services in the garrison city is unfit for human consumption, a laboratory report from the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) has found.

The report was presented to Commissioner retired Capt Saif Anjum during a meeting at his offices on Saturday.

It was conducted by Wasa in light of Supreme Court directions to streamline illegal water hydrants and private tankers.

Wasa's water quality laboratory testing found that 53 illegal water hydrants were supplying water through private tanker services that is not fit for human consumption.

Saturday's meeting to review arrangements to streamline private water tankers and hydrants was chaired by the divisional commissioner and attended by Wasa Managing Director Raja Shaukat Mehmood and senior officials from the Rawalpindi and Chaklala cantonment boards.

The agency directed to monitor price, quality of water supplied by tankers

The cantonment boards have not conduct tests of water supplied by private tankers and had no details on water hydrants in the area even though more than 70pc of cantonment residents rely on private tankers for their water supply.

A senior district administration official told Dawn that most of NA-59 and parts of NA-60, around Jhelum Road and Airport Road, were acquiring water from private tankers.

He said water quality tests had found that water hydrants were supplying water that was not fit for human consumption.

The district administration has decided to streamline matters by imposing a fee of private tanker services and legalising hydrants, as well as supplying water after it has been chlorinated.

The commissioner asked the civic organisations to ensure that water supplied to citizens is clean, and directed Wasa to monitor the price of water being supplied by tankers and ensure its cleanliness as soon as possible.

He added that the water crisis was a serious issue and should be handled through proper management so that every citizen has access to water as they require.

When contacted, Wasa Managing Director Raja Shaukat Mehmood said the water quality report had been presented in the meeting, adding that water needed to be cleaned before it is supplied.

He said there were no private water tankers in the city areas, but water is being supplied to adjoining areas in PP-6.

Mr Mehmood said Wasa had begun work to improve the quality of the water and ensure its price as per the government's directives.

#### Water shortage at Adiala jail

The district administration on Saturday took notice of the shortage of water in Central Jail Adiala and asked the public health engineering department to take action immediately.

The prison is facing a shortage of 11,000 gallons of water daily, due to the installation of illegal water hydrants along the area around the jail.

The meeting was held at the deputy commissioner's office, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Dr Umer Jehangir and attended by Adiala jail superintendent Saeed Gondal and senior district administration officials.

Dr Jehangir told Dawn that the prison has been facing a water shortage due to illegal water hydrants, and action would be taken in this regard.

He said the district council and public health engineering department have been asked to install a tubewell and make arrangements to end the water shortage facing inmates.

Mr Gondal told the meeting that the inmates were facing a water shortage because of the decrease in groundwater. He said the jail administration was attempting to conserve water but arrangements were needed to ensure inmates receive water without any problems.

Published in Dawn, July 8th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1418605/over-80pc-water-supplied-through-private-tankers-unfit-for-consumption-wasa>

#### Tarbela makes history hitting dead level in peak monsoon season

Kalbe Ali Updated July 08, 2018

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in its history Tarbela dam will hit dead level during the height of the monsoon season, due to low rainfall and diminished snow melt – Indus River System Authority (IRSA) said on Saturday.

Irsa is bracing for Tarbela dam to reach its dead level of 1,386 feet on Sunday as current water level at Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1,387.82 feet that is merely above the dead level. July and August are always months of peak inflows in the dam situated on the main stem of the Indus River.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) says such events are visible signs of climate change, which has also resulted in disrupting traditional weather patterns.

“Traditionally May and June are the driest months of the year but the cloudless sky and high heat led to melting of glaciers and snow in Western Himalayas,” the official said adding, “As the temperature rose to 30 degrees Celsius and above in Gilgit-Baltistan mainly around Skardu area snow melting results in inflow of water in Tarbela – but it did not happen this year.”

The official added that rainfall in almost all of GB area had been low during winter months of 2017-18 which added to reduced water storage in Tarbela dam.

The figures released by IRSA show that inflow of River Indus at Tarbela was 133,100 cubic feet per second (cusec) and outflows were 145,200 cusecs, due to kharif demand for cotton crops, sugar cane and paddy sowing.

As a result the irrigation requirements of Punjab and Sindh will be suffer from a shortfall in the next 3-4 days.

However, Irsa spokesman Khalid Rana said that the authority has increased outflows from Mangla dam from 25,000 cusec to 45,000 cusec.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1,123.70 feet, which was 83.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 46,500 cusec and 30,800 cusec respectively. Other rivers have recorded comfortable inflow, with inflows in Chenab at Marala at 43,400 cusecs and outflows at 13,500 cusecs.

Currently the only river at low flood level was Kabul at Nowshera with inflow of 49,800 cusec and the outflows too was 49,800 cusec.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded at 183,100, 183,300 and 35,100 cusec respectively.

The met office has predicted that a weather system carrying good rainfall will approach next week by Tuesday and Wednesday that is likely to bring increase inflows in all major rivers.

However the official added that there was a need for an extended study to determine the new timings for cropping patterns and even water usage by the agriculture sector.

Mainly in view of changing weather conditions the met office has established a National Agromet Centre (NAMC) to relate meteorological services to the agriculture sector of the country, as well as promote awareness related to water and weather status to the farming community.

The recent advisory released by the NAMC is about crop management practices related to the irrigation practices. It has advised that the cotton and sugarcane farmers should take adoptive measure accordingly and the irrigation should apply according to weather conditions and crop requirement.

The advisory is aimed to conserve water by suggesting that irrigation water should be used only when required.

Meanwhile, in Karachi, caretaker Minister for Agriculture of Sindh Khair Mohammad Junejo has said there is an acute shortage of water in Sindh and the water level in the Tarbela dam is at the dead level surface.

The harvesting season of cotton crop is in progress and water present in the canals would exhaust within 10-15 days which would badly hit the cotton crop thereby affecting its production, he said while addressing the curtain-raising ceremony of Pakistan Horticulture Vision (PHV-2030) organised in the Federation House on Saturday. Federation of Pakistan Chambers and Commerce Industry (FPCCI) Vice-President Waheed Ahmed warned the food security of the country is now at risk.

The agriculture sector is confronted with serious issues of global warming, climatic changes, water shortage, lack of research and development and unawareness to the latest trends in the sector, he said.

Published in Dawn, July 8th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1418687/tarbela-makes-history-hitting-dead-level-in-peak-monsoon-season>

Acute water shortage persists in Karachi

KARACHI: Perpetual drought and severe water shortage has increased the miseries of people living in several areas of Karachi. Water shortage has helped creating a strong mafia of tanker operators who are minting money by supplying water.

Water tankers in Karachi are high in demand, catering to thousands of people, hundreds of industrial units, hotels, service stations, and commercial ventures. It is observed that in Karachi, in addition, there are hundreds of tank-mounted vans and donkey carts supplying millions of gallons of water across the city to domestic users, industrial units, hotels and other businesses where water is required in abundance.

Many areas of Defense, Lyari, Gulistan-e-Johar, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Landhi, Sohrab Goth, Bhitaiabad, Burns Road, Ibrahim Hyderi, Maripur and slum localities have been facing water shortage since long time but the relevant authorities are seen disinterested to initiate more water provision projects.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/07/08/3-page/726524-news.html>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JUNE 25TH TO JULY 1ST 2018

Just over 10 days water reserve left

By APP

Published: June 30, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Capital Administration and Development on Friday discussed the alarming situation of non-availability of water in different areas of Islamabad.

The committee was shocked to know that Islamabad only has water reserves for 10 or 15 more days if it did not rain in the next few days.

The matter of construction of high rise flats on an area designated for park in the residential society by Pakistan Housing Authority near Kurri Road was also discussed.

Losing ground: CDA, ICT still at loggerheads over capital's boundaries

Member Planning CDA told the meeting that on receiving complaints about the construction, CDA had rejected PHA's request for NOC against their layout plan and had served them notices that their construction was illegal

The Senate Standing Committee on CADD also sought complete details of the lease agreement with a restaurant complex at Pir Sohawa prior to its next meeting and asked for any and all information of previous litigation in this regard.

Senate body in a meeting also sought amount of tax collected, number and details of bidders, amount of rent and law regarding constructing the restaurant and continuously expanding it in the area that was declared national park.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Senator Ashok Kumar at the Parliament House and was attended among others by senators Nighat Mirza, Saadia Abbasi, Kalsoom Parveen, CADD secretary, CDA member finance, member planning, and member engineering among others.

The committee was given briefing by director of Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation that the process for auction of the building in Pir Sohawa was initiated in 2005 and out of eight bidders, the land and building was given on a lease



for 15 years to the company with the highest bid and with technical soundness in 2006 with the agreement to end in 2021.

Removing encroachment: CDA told to devise comprehensive plan

The committee chairman, however, observed that in order to believe that this bidder came with the best price, the committee needs to see details of all bids submitted at that time.

The members of the committee were informed that the company running the restaurant complex at Pir Sohawa gives a monthly rent of Rs260,000 and sought details of the lease agreement.

CDA member finance said that Public Accounts Committee which had directed that after completion of the agreement in 2021, it is not to be renewed to the same party again but the process should be initiated again from the start.

Published in The Express Tribune, June 30th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1746163/1-just-10-days-water-reserve-left/>

## August 2018

***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 27TH TO SEPTEMBER 2TH 2018***

***WATER TALKS WITH DELHI TO RESUME ON 29TH IN LAHORE***

Khaleeq Kiani Updated August 27, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will reiterate its serious objection over two controversial water storage and hydropower projects being built by India during two-day Pakistan-India Permanent Indus Commission talks scheduled for Aug 29-30 in Lahore.

A government official told Dawn that Indian Water Commissioner P. K Saxena, along with a delegation, was expected to reach Lahore on Tuesday to begin two-day discussions with his Pakistani counterpart Syed Mehr Ali Shah the next day.

The official said Pakistan would raise its concerns over 1000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnai hydroelectric projects on River Chenab despite Islamabad's serious objections over their designs. Pakistan has been raising reservations over the designs of the two projects and would like India to either modify the designs to make them compliant to 1960 Indus Waters Treaty or put the projects on hold until Delhi satisfies Islamabad.

Islamabad will reiterate objections to two disputed dam-cum-power projects being built by India

The official said that the two sides would also finalise the schedule of future meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission and visits of the teams of the Indus commissioners. He said that the water commissioners of Pakistan and India were required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works, but Pakistan had been facing a lot of problems in timely meetings and visits.

The two-day session is also expected to discuss ways and means for timely and smooth sharing of hydrological data on shared rivers.

Both projects — Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai — are on two different tributaries of Chenab river.

India had promised in March last year to modify the designs of two projects and address Pakistan's concerns but in vain.

Instead Prime Minister Modi laid foundation stone of 1000mw Pakal Dul project in May this year to kickstart the project, without addressing Islamabad's reservations. According to Indian media reports, the project's completion is targeted within 66 months with a commitment to provide 12 per cent free of cost electricity to the occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

A former water sector official said that it was typical Indian style to build controversial projects in violation of the 1960 treaty as was evident from all previous controversial projects like Baglihar and Kishanganga. During execution of these projects, New Delhi engaged Islamabad in technicalities, but kept civil and side works moving for years until reaching the fait accompli stage, when challenged at international forums.

Pakistan has objections to pondage and freeboard of Lower Kalnai and pondage, filling criteria and spillway of Pakal Dul hydropower projects on Marusadar River – a right bank tributary of the Chenab.

Pakal Dul is a storage-cum-power project and can have gross storage of about 108,000 acre feet of water. The project design envisages its filling every monsoon season between mid-June and end-August.

Pakistan is of the opinion that the tunnel spillway of Pakal Dul should be raised closer to the dead storage level because its placement 40 metres below the dead storage level could allow drawdown flushing not permitted to India under the 1960 water treaty.

Pakal Dul dam-cum-hydropower project is three times larger than Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project that, Pakistan believes, has been built in violation of the treaty. Islamabad is seeking international arbitration without success at the level of intransigent World Bank administration.

On the 48MW Lower Kalnai project, Pakistan has raised objections to its freeboard, pondage and intake and is of the view that the depth of bridge girder and provision of freeboard should be close to one metre and considers two-metre freeboard as 'excessive'.

Pakistan has also challenged the discharge series of River Lower Kalnai at Dunadi for winter months and estimated permissible pondage of 0.38 cubic megametres compared to Indian design pondage of 2.74 cubic megametres.

The Lower Kalnai project is on a left bank tributary of Chenab and can have gross storage of about 1,508 acre feet of water.

Under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty 1960, waters of the eastern rivers — Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — had been allocated to India and the western rivers — the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — to Pakistan, except for certain non-consumptive uses for India.

Published in Dawn, August 27th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1429204/water-talks-with-delhi-to-resume-on-29th-in-lahore>

## GROWERS PROTEST SHORTAGE OF WATER

The Newspaper's Correspondent August 27, 2018

**SUKKUR:** A large number of growers took out a rally in Khanpur Mahar town in Ghotki district on Sunday in protest against shortage of water in Gaji Minor.

The protesters' leaders Habibullah, Miandad, Khan Mohammad Pitafi and others said in their speeches at press club where the rally terminated that persistent shortage of water in Gaji Minor lower had led to destruction of their land and standing cotton crop, inflicting heavy financial losses on growers and peasants.

They alleged that officials of irrigation department including director of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority had diverted water to the lands of influential landlords by closing gates of Kandair Shakh (canal). As a result, water was not reaching Gaji Minor lower, they said.

They demanded the authorities concerned release water into Gaji Minor to save them from financial losses.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1429183/growers-protest-shortage-of-water>

#### 101 MINI DAMS BUILT IN POTOHAR REGION IN LAST TWO YEARS: OFFICIAL RECORDER REPORT | AUG 27TH, 2018 | RAWALPINDI

The Directorate of Soil Conservation Punjab Rawalpindi Region under 'Punjab Kissan Package' and its normal programme constructed 102 mini dams in Potohar Region during last two years with 201 water ponds, 39 water storage tanks, 148 gabion spur and 28 earthen embankments.

Talking to this agency, Director Soil Conservation Department Malik Ghulam Akbar informed that total 1504 structures including 337 Gully Plugging, 353 Water Disposal Outlets and 298 Retaining Walls were constructed in the region during last two financial years, 2016-17 and 2017-18. Nearly 80 per cent subsidy was given to the farmers for the construction of all these schemes, he added.

Due to the water reservoirs and soil erosion controlling structures nearly 32,190 acres land was made cultivable in the region, he informed.

"The construction of the mini dams and water ponds has also developed positive environmental effects.

The underground water table is rising up with more employment opportunities for the people. Fish and cattle farming businesses are now flourishing in the region. The mini dams and water ponds are used to divert water for irrigation and other purposes he said adding, the water accumulated in mini dams can be utilized for vegetable and fruit cultivation. Fish farming was also introduced in the region which has become an additional source of income for the farmers. All interventions of soil and water conservation are benefiting the farmers of the region," he added.

He said that the department also managed to plant saplings on 334.50 acres land.

To a question he said that earlier, the department had constructed over 1200 mini dams in the region. A mini dam is constructed on 40 acre land.

He said that revolutionary steps were taken for development of agriculture in the region.

Ghulam Akbar said that the major problems of Potohar region are soil erosion and water runoff as most of the rain water is being wasted which is not only a big loss but also causes soil erosion at large scale.

To cope with the situation, various steps were taken under 'Kissan Package'," he added.

Meanwhile, Director Water Management Rawalpindi told this agency that Potohar region is facing severe shortage of water and the situation necessitated efficient irrigation system like drip and sprinkler systems, adding, the department was providing 60 per cent subsidy on drip and sprinkler irrigation system.

Drip irrigation system has 90 to 95 per cent efficiency and sprinkler irrigation system saves 60 to 70 per cent water as compared to traditional irrigation system, he added.

Drip system has helped irrigate over 4,443 acres while 1,090 acres land was covered through sprinkler irrigation system installed during last two years.

Water management department was also providing 80 per cent subsidy to the farmers for installation of solar system which is an alternative source of energy.

It is economical, effective and environment friendly technology, he added.

He further said, the department was striving to promote tunnel farming in the region and 50 per cent subsidy was being provided to the farmers for installing tunnels to produce off season vegetables and fruits.

At present, over 100 acre land is under tunnel farming in Potohar region and off season quality products are being produced.

Agriculture Department Punjab had taken revolutionary steps for promoting Agriculture in Potohar region which has a different environment and soil from other areas of the province, he said.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/08/20180827402302/>

## PAKISTAN, INDIA TO BEGIN TALKS ON WATER DISPUTES TODAY

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter August 29, 2018

LAHORE: A nine-member delegation led by the Indian water commissioner arrived here on Tuesday for talks with their Pakistani counterparts on water disputes on the platform of the Pakistan-India Permanent Indus Commission.

Pakistan Water Commissioner Syed Mohammad Mehar Ali Shah welcomed the delegation, headed by Indian Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena, at the Wagah border.

The two-day deliberations on water disputes will begin on Wednesday (today). The talks will be held at the offices of the National Engineering Services of Pakistan (Nespak) in Lahore.

The Indian team was earlier supposed to arrive here for talks in July but the visit was rescheduled in view of the July 25 general elections.

The water commissioners of the neighbouring countries are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river headworks.

A government official said they would raise their concerns over the construction of 1,000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnai hydroelectric projects on the River Chenab by New Delhi, ignoring Islamabad's objections to their designs.

Pakistan says India has violated the Indus Waters Treaty by starting building reservoirs at a time when the country is reeling from a severe water crisis. Islamabad has been sharing its concerns over the designs of the Pakul Dul and Lower Kalnai projects and wants New Delhi to either modify the designs to make them compliant with the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty or put the projects on hold until it satisfies its neighbour. Both projects are being built on different tributaries of the River Chenab.

Earlier in March 2017, India had pledged that it would modify the designs but it never kept its promises. However, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the Pakal Dul project in May this year. The controversial project is scheduled to be completed in five years.

According to the government official, India has been using this typical strategy to keep Pakistan engaged in talks while continuing to work on disputed water projects. By the time Islamabad moves international forum against controversial projects, India tries to complete them.

Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari earlier told the Senate that firm and strong decisions would be taken regarding the water issue and there would be no concession on the matter during talks with India.

Both sides will also finalise a schedule of future meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission and visits of the teams of the Indus commissioners, as the two-day session is also expected to find ways and means of timely and smooth sharing of hydrological data on shared rivers.

Published in Dawn, August 29th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1429631/pakistan-india-to-begin-talks-on-water-disputes-today>

#### PAKISTAN TO GO FOR ARBITRATION IF INDIA IGNORES CONCERNS

Khalid Hasnain Updated August 30, 2018

LAHORE: Pakistan on Wednesday urged India to entertain the objections it has raised over the construction of the 1,000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnal hydropower projects on the River Chenab.

It conveyed in categorical terms to the visiting Indian team that Islamabad would approach the international forums defined in the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in case New Delhi failed to accept the requests as narrated in the detailed objections.

“We have categorically made it clear that we will have no option but to use international forums — appointment of neutral experts, taking the case to international court of arbitration, etc — in case India failed to address our concerns that are absolutely genuine and can be resolved amicably,” one of the officials of the Pakistani side told Dawn after conclusion of the first round of the two-day dialogue which began here between the Pakistan-India delegations headed by the commissioners for Indus waters of the two countries.

Islamabad’s objections to transgressions in construction of power projects on Chenab river conveyed during water talks

The nine-member team led by Indian commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena had arrived on Tuesday for talks with their Pakistani counterparts on water disputes on the platform of the Pakistan-India Permanent Commission for Indus Waters.

In the first round of talks, Pakistan’s commissioner Syed Mohammad Mehr Ali Shah raised the objections, possible solutions to the problem, India’s previous replies, feedback, etc. He told the Indian side that the objections raised were based on facts and must be resolved under the provisions of the IWT.

“We once again presented our stance effectively on technical and logical grounds and they (India) had no logic to reject it. Finally the Indian delegation sought to discuss the issues in detail in the second round of the talks scheduled to be held on Thursday (today),” the official privy to the meeting claimed.

“The Indian side assured the Pakistani side of taking up the issues in the next meeting of the commission to be held in India,” he added.

According to another official, Pakistani authorities asked the Indians to reduce the height of the Pakal Dul’s reservoir up to five metres. “The authorities also urged India to maintain 40-metre height above sea level while making spillways’ gates of the Pakal Dul project besides clarifying the pattern and mechanism for the water storage and releases. Similarly Pakistan raised some technical concerns over design of the the Lower Kalnal hydropower project, requesting India to address them at the earliest,” he said.

On the other hand, the country’s former commissioner for Indus waters Syed Jamat Ali Shah termed the talks a futile exercise to resolve such issues under the IWT. “We had raised objections over the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnal projects in 2012. Later these were discussed once in a meeting held in 2014 and now it is 2018. You can judge well India’s ‘interest and seriousness’ to address our concerns,” he deplored while talking to Dawn.

He criticised India for paying meagre attention to Pakistan’s concerns. “It is 2018. And they have already started construction work on these projects,” he claimed.

Mr Shah also blamed the Pakistani government for not convincing the international forums of its genuine concerns due to lack of lobbying. “It is a dire need of the hour for Pakistan to not see the water-related issues within the ambit of the Treaty alone, as it must start talks with India at a very high level seriously. We must convey to them clearly that we will not allow you to use water of the rivers that are ours under the Treaty,” he said.

Mr Shah urged the government to immediately set up a high-level committee comprising water experts having capacity for lobbying at the international level.

Published in Dawn, August 30th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1429875/pakistan-to-go-for-arbitration-if-india-ignores-concerns>

## OVER 2,400 WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN SINDH NON-FUNCTIONAL

The Newspaper’s Staff Reporter Updated August 30, 2018

KARACHI: Expressing his resolve to provide clean drinking water to the people of Sindh, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has ordered the authorities to make functional all water supply schemes and reverse osmosis (RO) plants within a month.

He also directed the health department to complete the upgrade of 13 taluka hospitals to district headquarters hospital (DHQs) by December.

The chief minister issued these directives while chairing two separate meetings pertaining to public health engineering and health departments at the CM House on Wednesday.

CM orders authorities to make all water supply schemes functional in a month

The public health engineering department (PHED) is responsible for establishing, operating and maintaining water supply and drainage schemes.

818 water filtration plants non-functional

The CM was briefed that there were 2,109 water filtration plants, including 1,620 RO plants, and 818 of them were non-functional.

Mr Shah said that the plants not functioning for want of electricity should be converted to solar energy. He asked the chief secretary to get all required funds released from the finance department to make all such schemes functional.

He was informed that there was total 5,091 water supply and drainage schemes and 2,494 of them were non-functional and 244 of them had been abandoned.

He said that it was also decided to contract out operation and maintenance (O&M) of all RO plants through competitive process and directed the finance department to provide necessary funds for the purpose.

“I want you to monitor and evaluate O&M through district oversight committees (DOCs) to be notified by the chief secretary,” he said.

The CM was informed that all the RO plants would be installed with RO meters and sensors within a month and that the terms of reference of the DOCs, including a fortnightly report relating to the operation and maintenance of the scheme and plants, should be sent to the PHED secretary.

Chief Secretary retired Major Azam Suleman informed the chief minister that in light of a Supreme Court order all water supply and drainage schemes had been transferred to the PHED.

Appointment of 5,307 doctors, paramedics ordered

The CM directed the health department to complete upgrade of 13 taluka headquarters hospital (THQs) to DHQs by December.

He also sanctioned a “hard area allowance” to doctors serving in remote areas.

Mr Shah said that some positive results had been achieved from the health emergency he had declared during his previous tenure.

“We have to continue our efforts in a more energetic and effective way for improving health services, capacity building of doctors and improving medical education system,” he said.

Briefing the CM, Health Secretary Dr Usman Chachar said that there was a sanctioned strength of 67,876 doctors and paramedics in the health department against which 62,569 were working and there was a shortage of 5,307 doctors and paramedical staff. The vacant positions include 2,929 doctors of general cadres; 492 doctors of specialist cadre; 129 dentists; 10 pharmacists; nine drug administrators; 210 nurses; 1,214 paramedics and 1,295 lady health workers (LHW).

The CM asked the health department to fill vacant positions so that under-construction health facilities could be made functional.

17 THQs being upgraded

The meeting was informed that under special initiatives of the CM 17 THQs were being upgraded to the level of DHQs. The hospitals are located in Tando Mohammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Jamshoro, Khairpur, Badin, Shikarpur, Mithi, Thatta, Dadu, Naushahro Feroze, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Mirpur Mathelo, Matiari, Qambar-Shahdadkot, Umerkot and Kashmore.

It was also pointed out that there were 206 primary health facilities in Sindh, which include 138 rural health centres, 810 basic health units, 883 dispensaries, 89 mother care health centres, two homeopathic dispensaries, eight urban health centres, 44 unani shifa khana, 42 maternity homes.



The CM was told that out of 2,016 health facilities, 1,032 were being run by Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI), 821 by the health department and 163 on public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

Out of 109 secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities, 95 are being run by the health department while 14 were operating under the PPP mode.

The Sindh government has five medical universities, eight medical colleges, four dental colleges, 21 nursing schools, five public health schools, 16 community midwifery schools, two nursing colleges, four paramedical institutes, one physiotherapy school, two health technician schools and seven institutes.

The health secretary said that 12 programmes/projects were in progress in health sector, including expanded programme on immunisation, LHWs programme, maternal neonatal child health programme, TB control programme, prevention and control of hepatitis, prevention and control of blindness, malaria control, nutrition support, enhanced HIV/AIDS control, dengue control and prevention, accelerated action and diabetic control programmes.

The chief minister directed the health department to update him on a weekly basis.

Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho assured the CM that she would also be monitoring the progress of these programmes.

Published in Dawn, August 30th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1429776/over-2400-water-supply-and-drainage-projects-in-sindh-non-functional>

#### THARIS CONTINUE PROTEST AGAINST WATER SHORTAGE

A Correspondent August 30, 2018

MITHI: Residents of different villages of Thar, which were irrigated by the arid region's only water channel, Rann Minor, gathered in Kaloi town on Wednesday to register protest against water shortage for the past many years and urged the government to include their villages in the drought-hit areas of Thar and launch relief operation.

The protesters' leaders Mohammad Ramazan, Ghulam Ali Loond, Noor Hassan Khoso and others told journalists that despite continuous protests and subsequent assurances by high-ups of Sindh government, no water had been released into the water channel, creating drought-like conditions in their area like most of Thar region, which had already been declared drought-hit in the wake of insufficient and erratic rains this year.

“On the one hand the high-ups are working on different plans to provide relief to Tharis while on the other the canal-irrigated areas of five dehs have not been provided water even for drinking purposes, which has created a man-made disaster in their area,” they said.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1429757/tharis-continue-protest-against-water-shortage>

#### ADB TO FINANCE KARACHI WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE SCHEMES

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter August 31, 2018

KARACHI: The Asian Development Bank has agreed to offer the Sindh government technical and financial support for installation of desalination plants, water supply and drainage schemes to provide drinking water to the people of Karachi and similar water supply and drainage schemes being planned for other districts of Sindh.

This offer was made to Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah by an ADP delegation led by its director general, Central West Asian Department (CWRD), Werner Liepach, in a recent meeting.

The other members of the delegation include Rie Hiraoka, director Social Sector (CWRD), Xiaohong Yang, country director, Pakistan, Mian Shaukat Shafi and others.

The chief minister told the delegation that he assigned top priorities to education, health, water and sanitation, urban transport and improvement of road network.

“The overall improvement of social sectors is need of the hour,” he said.

Murad Ali Shah said that his government conceived a plan to install desalination plant to provide drinking water to the people of Karachi.

Similar water supply and drainage schemes were being planned for other districts of the province.

The Asian Bank DG assured the chief minister of technical and financial support in this connection.

It was agreed that the provincial government through planning and development department would provide details of the proposed desalination plants, water and drainage schemes to the ADP.

#### Red Line BRT project

Regarding financial support to the Sindh government for procurement of busses to its Red Line BRT project, which would start from Model Colony to Numaish, the ADB DG assigned the task to his team members in the country to collect all relevant documents from the provincial government so that it could be moved for approval.

#### Road schemes

Participating in the discussion, P&D chairman Mohammad Waseem said that under the ADB sponsored Sindh Provincial Road Improvement Project (SPRIP) of \$227.5 million six roads of 328 kilometres had been constructed and their work had almost been completed.

They are in Badin, T. M. Khan, Matiari, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Jacobabad, Kandhkot-Kashmore and Larkana.

The chief minister said in the construction of these six roads, the provincial government had saved Rs38.92 million.

The provincial government worked out a plan to construct three other important roads having cumulative length of 82km, he added.

They are: a road from Sehwan railway crossing at N-55 to Dadu via Tilti up to Dadu-Moro road. It would be around 32km.

A 22km road from Chambar to Tando Allahyar and 28 road from Jehan Khan (N-65) to Fezu Laro (N-55) via Chak Town of Sukkur-Shirkarpur area.

The bank official agreed to take up the package of three roads.

The ADB team was also told that another 20 roads of 847km had been approved by the chief minister. Their total cost comes at Rs41,200 million.

The Provincial Development Working Party and the federal government's Central Development Working Party had approved them.

## Education

The Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project is \$150 million project in which the provincial government share comes to \$15 million.

It has three components, access to quality secondary education, teaching and learning capacity and improvement in education system, the meeting participants were told.

The chairman of P&D said that the project had been approved by the CDWP and had been sent to Executive Committee of National Economic Council for approval.

The ADB DG said the bank would support the project.

From the provincial government P&D chairman Mohammad Waseem, principal secretary to the CM Sohail Rajput and secretaries of different departments attended the meeting.

Published in Dawn, August 31st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1430037/adb-to-finance-karachi-water-supply-drainage-schemes>

## WATER TALKS: PAK-INDIA NEGOTIATIONS END WITH NO CONCRETE HEADWAY BEING MADE

By Imran Adnan Published: August 30, 2018

LAHORE: The two-day water talks between Pakistan and India ended without any concrete headway being made in Lahore on Thursday.

Islamabad was unable to convince New Delhi to abandon or modify water sector projects design that are being constructed on River Chenab by the Modi-led Indian government.

Officials of the Indian Indus Water Commission insisted during the meetings that the engineering design of Pakal Dul Dam that is being built on the Chenab river's tributary, has been prepared in line with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty.

The Indian side made clear that it is not necessary to modify the design on Pakistan's behest.

New Delhi also claimed that there is no evidence in Pakistan's case as under the aforementioned treaty India can store water in Western rivers.

Similarly, when it came to Islamabad's concerns over the Lower Kalnai Hydropower Project, the Indian delegation asserted that they would follow through with the initiative.

Sources say that the Pakistan's Indus Water Commissioner Mehar Ali Shah who spearheaded Islamabad's stance, failed to convince his Indian counterpart that the design of both reservoirs was not in line with the treaty's provisions.

It is also believed that Pakistani officials were not fully prepared, resulting in Islamabad failing to underscore its stance.

During the talks Pakistan raised its objections on India's under-construction projects on the Chenab River.

One of the key projects from Pakistan's point of view has been Pakal Dul Dam being built, which has been a bone of contention for several years without any headway being made.

Another official privy to the details, told The Express Tribune that the Pakal Dul Dam is of great importance to Islamabad.

The under-construction dam will be the first water storage infrastructure project by India on western rivers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1791735/1-water-talks-pak-india-negotiations-end-no-concrete-headway-made/>

## INDUS WATER BREAKTHROUGH

Editorial Updated September 01, 2018

After many years, a small but significant breakthrough seems to have been made in the talks between the Pakistani and Indian water commissioners.

The talks had been largely stalled since 2014 so the latest agreement by the Indian side to permit an inspection of two of the facilities being built on the Chenab river is a step forward. Even in the latest round of the Permanent Indus Commission talks, the first day seemed to lead to a cul-de-sac. It was only at the end of the second day that news of the breakthrough emerged.

It would have been better for both sides had they jointly briefed the media, or if that were not possible, issued a joint press release. Ending the talks without any public word is counterproductive as it creates an impression that runs contrary to the positive news emerging of an agreement for inspections. Now that it seems a deal has been struck for inspection, the next step is for Pakistan to make the most of the opportunity.

At issue are two hydropower projects that India is building on its side of the Chenab river whose waters belong to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty. The same treaty, however, gives India the right to build hydroelectric projects on the river provided that it does not divert water for agricultural purposes. One other project on the same river, the so-called Baglihar dam, had already been the subject of a bitter feud between the two countries around a decade ago when the matter was sent to a neutral expert for settlement. The results of that exercise were mixed, with both sides claiming victory once the neutral expert's verdict came in.

The two projects this time round are the Pakal Dul dam and the Lower Kalnai hydroelectric project. The former is a large project totalling some 1,000MW, while the latter is smaller at about 48MW. But both of them involve the diversion of waters from tributaries that feed the Chenab, much like their cousin built on the Neelum river, the Kishenganga Dam.

This is a different design configuration that involves the diversion of water from one tributary to another to take advantage of the water head, but the same water is returned to the river at a different spot further downstream. As such, its technical evaluation becomes more difficult, and the Indian side should honour its agreement in full by allowing the Pakistani delegation to visit the entire area where the project is spread out.

Both sides should make an effort to ensure that resorting to arbitration is avoided. Almost every Indian project on the Chenab and Neelum is landing up at the altar of the World Bank, portending an unhealthy trend with regard to both countries that appear unable to resolve their mutual differences.

Published in Dawn, September 1st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1430263/indus-water-breakthrough>

## IRRIGATION SYSTEM NEEDS CHANGES: WB TEAM LEADER

The Newspaper's Staff Correspondent September 01, 2018

HYDERABAD: Sindh's irrigation and water distribution systems need changes as both sectors are being managed under old methodologies.

This was stated by World Bank's task team leader Toru Konishi at a meeting of the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (Sida) here on Friday. He said the World Bank (WB) was coordinating with the Sindh government for reformation of the irrigation system.

The meeting was attended by Sida managing director Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project director, World Bank's advisers, former Sindh secretary irrigation and Food and Agriculture Organisation representatives.

Published in Dawn, September 1st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1430162/irrigation-system-needs-changes-wb-team-leader>

## RIVER INDUS FLOW TO INCREASE BY 10%, POSE SERIOUS THREATS IN FUTURE: STUDY

By Suhail Yusuf Published: August 31, 2018

KARACHI: Pakistan will see a 10 per cent increase in mean water flow in River Indus for the period 2046 – 2075, according to a new baseline study and predictions of most authentic climate models.

A team of experts from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) conducted a comprehensive baseline survey of the period 1976–2005 of all 54 rivers of South Asia and used this data in the climate models considered more accurate thus far.

As a result, the future predictions of a wetter South Asia are in consonant with the baseline study of the past. Global warming and climatic change – with more rainfall and enhanced temperatures – are responsible for the projected increase in water flow.

According to the research, flow of Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers will increase by 10 to 30 per cent annual runoff according to the paper published earlier this month in the Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies. The mean runoff will increase from 2046 to 2075.

The Ganges – Brahmaputra and Deccan plateau will see a 15 per cent spike in water flow, while 20 per cent increase is projected in Narmada – Tapti basin and Sri Lanka.

The imminent increase in water flow of the rivers demands urgent need for a common platform for the South Asian countries to tackle the issue.

### Challenges for Pakistan

An increase in River Indus flow even by a small percentage could pose serious challenges for Pakistan. The country's experts have already warned that rainy period is decreasing in lower parts of the country and increasing in upper areas. Melting of glaciers, heat and evaporation will also lead to increase in flow of River Indus in the future.

Pakistan's renowned climatologist and main author of the country's first climate change policy, Dr Qamaruz Zaman Chaudhry says the study indicates increased flow of South Asian rivers, which is in consonant with previously held views of the experts.

“These projections demand scaling up of climate resilient integrated water resource management practices in the South Asia region, one of the most climate vulnerable region globally,” added Chaudhry.

Pakistan’s hugely populous districts are directly located in the possible flood regions and increased river flow will be a problem for these areas.

“Developing resilience in agriculture to regular climate shocks is one of the biggest challenges facing our region, as climate change will increase irregular rainfall patterns and increase incidence of floods and droughts,” Chaudhry said.

Scientists used different tools, satellite imagery and field work to collect the best data sets. Then the data was used in Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 5 (CMIP5) frame work with some downscaling for the South Asian region.

The CMIP was designed by hundreds of leading experts to predict future aspects of climate change. The first CMIP was devised in 1995 and still updating with more modifications. However, CSIRO experts also use other hydrological models too.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1792369/1-river-indus-flow-increase-10-pose-serious-threats-future-study>

#### PROGRESS REPORT: ‘OVER 80% CITIZENS’ COMPLAINTS RESOLVED’

By Z Ali Published: September 2, 2018

KARACHI: The Supreme Court (SC)-mandated Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation submitted its fourth interim report to the apex court during a hearing at the Karachi registry on Saturday.

The report outlined orders for improvement in the water supply, drainage and sewage treatment services and its implementation.

The commission started working under its head, Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim, from January 20, 2018. From January 20 to August 29, a total of 68 hearings and meetings have been conducted. The commission paid 55 visits to the water supply, drainage and other sites in all districts of Sindh from January 21 to August 11.

During the last two months, the commission has received 170 complaints from the citizens. Of these, 140 stand resolved.

#### Targets

In the third interim report, a target of initiating 92 new water supply and drainage schemes in rural and semi-urban Sindh was set. Against the target, 66 have been completed so far while the remaining 26 will be finished by September end. The Sindh government’s annual development plan (ADP) set a total of 220 new schemes this year under the commission’s directives.

A target of rehabilitating 80 water supply and drainage projects in rural and semi urban Sindh was set for early completion among 547 existing schemes. The rehabilitation of 62 schemes has been done while 18 others will be completed by September. These facilities were rendered ineffective due to inappropriate and insufficient maintenance. Another 391 schemes are in the process of tendering while the PC-I is being prepared for the other 276 projects.

The commission had earlier found only 954 water supply and sewage schemes out of around 2,500 functioning in the province. Alum dosing, coagulation and chlorination which are essential components of water filtration were found missing altogether. Therefore, the commission upgraded the existing projects with coagulation and chlorination processes and made inclusion of these components in future projects mandatory.

## Sewage treatment

The commission noticed the basic design flaws in the sewage treatment projects. The standard soil compaction of the levees of oxidation ponds was not in practice and the design did not allow the ponds to complete the process of dredging. The lack of dredging led to reduction of the ponds' capacity while also weakening the embankments. Most plants were also seen to be lacking the capacity to store the sewage for a period of seven days to complete oxidation.

The commission traced 550 locations in the province from where untreated municipal and industrial sewage is being released in freshwater bodies, including the Indus River, canals and distributaries. On its orders, the provincial government has approved the PC-I of treatment facilities initially for 10 districts of Sindh. The physical work will commence from the second week of October.

Some 17 water testing laboratories will be established in Sindh by the end of 2018. Contracts have been awarded for four districts so far while the work orders will be issued for the five other districts by mid-September. The public health engineering department will be responsible for the laboratories.

As many as 17 water filtration plants are also being rehabilitated with a completion deadline of June, 2019.

## Combined effluent treatment plants

The commission has gotten approved the establishment of five combined effluent treatment plants (CEPT) in Karachi. The Sindh government will pay 67% of the total cost estimated at Rs11.8 billion while the federal government will bear the remaining 33%. The construction will commence from the third week of November, 2018. No CEPT has ever been built in Karachi before.

A sixth CEPT will be built in Nooriabad industrial zone in Jamshoro district. At present, untreated water is being released from the zone in the seasonal canal which ends up in Thatta district's Keenjhar lake, from where water is supplied to Karachi.

The first CEPT was built for Kotri industrial area in Jamshoro district on the Sindh High Court's orders at a cost of almost Rs1 billion. The aim was to end contamination of KB Feeder canal which supplies water to Karachi besides Jamshoro and Thatta districts.

But the plant has failed to produce the desired result. The commission formed two teams, one of which comprised NED university's engineers to assess the plant. After both the teams pointed out design and execution deficiencies, the commission ordered the Sindh government to prepare PC-1 for the rehab which has to be complied by September 15.

## Incinerators

On the commission's intervention, 11 existing incinerators in public hospitals of as many districts have so far been repaired and made functional. Eight more being incinerators, which are used to burn hospital waste without contributing to environmental pollution, are being imported from the UK.

The new ones will be delivered for the hospitals in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Benazirabad by mid-October. Tendering process for seven more incinerators the district headquarter hospitals of as many districts is underway.

Among the five friction heat sterilisation units, two have been installed at government hospital Lyari and Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital in Karachi. The remaining three will be installed by September 15 in Jinnah Postgraduate Medical



## PHED

The commission took up the task of strengthening the public health engineering department and recruitment of its manpower. Around 211 sub-engineers have been appointed while the Sindh Public Service Commission has been asked to expedite the appointment of BS-17 engineers. The commission in its previous reports held PHED's deficient manpower as one of the reasons for the dysfunctional projects.

## SEPA

On the commission's initiative, the provincial government has released Rs98 million for the establishment of 10 district level offices of the agency. The funds for nine more district offices have been earmarked for the ongoing fiscal year. Hitherto, the agency's offices were limited to the divisional headquarters in Sindh.

The environmental regulator's functioning has also activated due to the commission, with the agency filing 152 cases against violators in the environmental tribunal and 384 before the judicial magistrates. A sum of Rs19.5 million in penalties has also been imposed on the violators.

## Karachi

Karachi is set to receive 165 MGD additional supply of water by the end of 2019 through two new schemes one of which, 65 MGD plant at Pipri, will become operational by December 2018. The second one, a 100 MGD plant at Dhabeji will begin supply from December 2019.

Some 30 imported chlorination plants for water filtration have been installed. For the areas specially in district West hit by acute shortage of water, 156 Awami Tanks are providing free water to communities.

"Greater Karachi Sewerage Plan S-III is the hallmark of all activities," the report underlined. "It's a comprehensive plan aiming at treatment of sewerage water ... to ensure that not a single drop of untreated sewage is discharged into the sea."

The plant will contribute to the protection of environment besides being a new source of grey water which can be utilised for supply to agriculture and industries. The S-III consists of five components including STP-I, STP-II, STP-III, STP-IV and STP-V with a combined designed treatment capacity of over 520 MGD.

However, the 51 MGD STP-I is working at 45% capacity and 180 MGD STP-III is treating 77 MGD sewage. The rehabilitation of both the plants, which cover Lyari basin, is underway and is set to conclude by December 2019.

The tendering process for STP-II and STP-IV, which will be merged with increased capacity of 180 MGD, is under way. After construction in three years' time, they will treat sewage from Malir basin, Mehmoodabad and some phases of Defence Housing Authority.

On the commission's intervention, the KPT will build a 100 MGD treatment plant at Mai Kolachi road for cantonment and DHA areas besides Pitcher nala, Kalri nala and Nehre-Khayam.

The report stated that the commission has expedited the K-IV project, whose progress stands at 38% presently.

The commission stopped DHA from releasing sewage into the sea especially around the Sea View beach. The DHA has been directed to construct a treatment plant near the Sea View beach, link the Sea View's sewage with phase STP VIII and stop restaurants from polluting the sea.

A massive anti-encroachment drive has been started in 25 nullahs [storm drains] while action on the remaining 13 will start later.

The commission noted that following its orders, the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board has doubled its garbage disposal from 5,268 tons per day in December 2017, to 10,000 tons by August 2018. The SSWMB is operating in four of the six districts of Karachi. The local councils of district Central and Korangi have also agreed to transfer the solid waste collection function to the board.

To maintain attendance of the staff, 80 bio-metric systems have been installed in districts East and South. The board has also established coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority, Karachi Port Trust and the cantonment boards.

“Approximately 39,172 tons of offal [of sacrificial animals] was collected and buried in the landfill sites,” the report noted.

Under directives of the commission, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board formed regulations for supply of underground water to industries. The board will issue licenses to the suppliers of subsoil water but they will be restricted to use the piped supply and totally avoid the use of water tankers.

In industrial zones, 366 units have been directed to build in-house treatment plants and 110 units the septic tanks. Moreover, the tender is being floated for the installation of 421 water meters at all the 156 water distribution pumping stations of the KWSB. “Dissemination of real-time information regarding working hours of 156 pumping stations through the website has been put in place by the board but it needs improvement.”

## Hyderabad

On the commission's orders, three out of five filtration plants including one 30 MGDy and two 8 MGD plants have been rehabilitated while work on the fourth is expected to be completed by December. For the fifth plant in Latifabad, the provincial government will submit its plan to the commission in 20 days.

The city's eastern and southern sewage treatment plants which were funded by the federal government during Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf's regime remain incomplete and abandoned. The commission has tasked the planning and development board to examine the schemes and make them functional but no completion deadline has been given.

The tendering process is underway for northern and western sewage treatment plants. The construction is likely to kick off from November 2018.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 2nd, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1793211/1-progress-report-80-citizens-complaints-resolved/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 20TH TO AUGUST 26TH 2018

RAINS INCREASE WATER LEVEL AT HUB DAM

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter August 20, 2018

KARACHI: Some rains in the catchment area of the Hub Dam last month had resulted in accumulation of some water in the reservoir which could be supplied to the metropolis for a couple of months, it is learnt.

Responding to Dawn queries on Sunday, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board spokesperson Rizwan Haider said about one foot of water had been left in the reservoir last month but

with some rains in the Kirthar mountain range and other catchment areas of the dam its water level had risen by around five feet.

He said around 20 million gallons of water was being supplied to the metropolis from the dam and around one foot of water had been supplied to the city from the dam during the last couple of weeks.

The official added the city would continue to receive around 20MGDs from the dam for around couple of months after which the water in the dam would touch the dead level.

He said the water level had almost touched the dead level before the rainfall owing to which heavy duty motors / pumps had to be installed so that water could be supplied to the city.

“As the water level increased in the reservoir because of rains the motors and pumps were removed,” he said.

He hoped there would be more rains in the catchment areas so that the city would get its normal supply of 100 MGDs.

Published in Dawn, August 20th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1428155/rains-increase-water-level-at-hub-dam>

## CJP TO JET OFF TO EUROPE ON DAM MISSION

By Our Correspondent

Published: August 20, 2018

LAHORE: Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar has accepted an invitation from the World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis to visit the United Kingdom and European countries to speak to the overseas Pakistanis to generate awareness on the crucial issue of water scarcity and building new dams for which funds could be raised through the expatriates.

The top judge was speaking to the Executive Director of World Congress of Overseas Pakistanis Arif Anis after delivering the landmark judgement on Friday through which the Supreme Court permitted Pakistanis residing abroad to cast vote in the upcoming by-polls.

“Many congratulations to overseas Pakistanis today,” said Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar, noting that it would be the first time that expat Pakistanis will be voting in a local election through I-voting mechanism.

The judgement was issued by a three-judge bench headed by the CJP himself which was hearing petitions at the apex court’s Lahore registry. Dr Farhat Siddiqui, along with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan and others through solicitor Muhammad Dawood Ghazanvi, sought voting rights for overseas Pakistanis.

The petitioners had asked the top court to order authorities to give them right to vote so they could participate in elections and choose their leaders. They had also asked the court to order the ECP to implement its 2014 judgment in which arrangements for overseas Pakistanis had been ordered for their fundamental right as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Anis, who was representing the overseas Pakistanis, thanked chief justice Nisar on behalf of the expatriates for their right to vote. He informed the CJP of the efforts of overseas Pakistanis for collection of funds for construction of dams

in the country and requested him to visit the UK, Europe and the US. He said that hundreds of millions of dollars could be contributed by the overseas Pakistanis to the funds for construction of dams as the expatriates were worried about the alarming water scarcity situation in Pakistan.

The CJP thankfully accepted the invitation mentioning that he had been earlier invited by many overseas Pakistanis residing in different countries for donations for construction of dams, but it was not possible for him to visit all the countries.

However, he said, he would visit overseas Pakistanis along with the governor of State Bank of Pakistan and the Wapda chairman on a seven days trip to sensitise the overseas Pakistanis about the water crisis in the country. A seven days trip to the UK and Europe is most likely to be scheduled in October.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1784827/1-cjp-jet-off-europe-dam-mission/>

## LET'S HAVE BHASHA DAM SURCHARGE TO FUND CONSTRUCTION WORK

By SYED AKHTAR ALI

Published: August 20, 2018

ISLAMABAD: A 10-paisa Neelum-Jhelum surcharge was imposed on electricity bills which brought Rs50-65 billion for the government in a span of eight years.

I wonder why a similar charge cannot be imposed for the construction of Bhasha dam. After all, Bhasha is much more important which will provide both water storage and electricity. We are increasingly getting short of water.

We will examine implications of the proposed surcharge for Bhasha dam and also examine Neelum-Jhelum project-related issues.

Neelum-Jhelum project has been constructed at a cost of Rs500 billion – twice the normal cost – in eight to ten years. Due to construction delays and bottlenecks, a long construction time has added soft costs like Interest during construction, currency exchange rate losses, etc.

In addition to these, relending charges have also contributed to the enhancement of construction costs. What happens is that the Ministry of Finance borrows at extremely low rates like 0.5% to 2% and gives the money to projects such as Neelum-Jhelum at an exorbitant rate of 15%.

In return, it undertakes to pay and assumes currency exchange losses. Such costs, on average, amount to 5% per year.

It is advisable that the government does assume the foreign exchange risk and relend with a small surcharge. Wapda has requested this and the Planning Commission has been advising this. It is expected that Nepra may object to the proposal and may not allow it. If the relending charges system is removed, public-sector energy projects would be saved of such unnecessary load.

There are issues of contract terms and its execution both for contractors and consultants which may be too complicated for a layman to understand.

### Project study

Planning Commission and Ecnec had given conditional approval to the project subject to the results of a third-party validation study to be done by a credible consulting team. The study was supposed not only to point out the problems,

but also to make recommendations for improvement in contract design and execution and other project implementation issues.

The study has not been awarded yet due to an interdepartmental football game. It is high time that such a study is commissioned and conducted, and Nepra should also release its determination subject to the finding of the study.

Neelum-Jhelum surcharge, as mentioned earlier, helped collect around Rs50-65 billion at a rate of 10 paisa – later increased to 15 paisa – per unit on electricity bills. Wapda is treating it as a grant while no decision to that effect has been made by the competent authority.

Surcharge was supposed to be a public assistance for cash flow. It was not a voluntary donation as is being done under court orders for Bhasha dam.

As I have argued in a public hearing, I would propose Neelum-Jhelum surcharge as equity share of the consumers. I am sure if somebody files a case, the judiciary will award the same for very good reason of justice and fairness.

I propose the same for Bhasha dam. It will be emphasising the obvious that Bhasha dam is very essential for the country's increasing water requirements. Enough discussion has taken place on it and there is a Supreme Court decision on it.

#### IFIs reluctant

Fortunately, Bhasha dam is ready for construction. Land acquisition has almost been completed. However, the problem is that international financial institutions (IFIs) like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are treating the Bhasha dam site to be in disputed territory and requires the government of Pakistan to obtain NOC from India, which Islamabad finds it unacceptable.

Thus, financing from conventional sources is not possible. How about CPEC? Some people argue that CPEC in the very beginning should have included Bhasha dam along with other plum business opportunities that have been agreed upon.

Unfortunately, Chinese have not behaved in relation to the Bhasha dam project as one would have expected. They have proposed impossible conditions like awarding a concession for almost the whole Indus cascade and even selling off Ghazi Barotha project to them, the argument being to synchronise the operations and optimising electricity production.

It is a sensitive issue. Indus water originates from somewhere in China. It may be too risky to put all of our eggs in one basket. The government of Pakistan has declined the offer and rightly so.

#### Self-financing

Thus, the only option remains is of self-financing. Wapda has proposed a reasonable project and financing plan. It has divided the project into two parts – one of water storage dam and the other of power production.

Water storage component costing Rs625 billion will have to be financed by Wapda through its own resources and government's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

Although donations may not bring any significant amount comparable to the task ahead, the surcharge approach may be able to do that. If 10 to 20 paisa is collected as Bhasha dam construction surcharge on electricity tariff on an expected 200 billion kilowatt-hours, Rs20 to Rs40 billion can be collected per year, totalling anywhere between Rs200 and Rs400 billion in the next 10 years.

However, as proposed earlier, it should not be extortion. Consumers should be made shareholders in the project. This would yield a return of 17% per annum to the consumers on their surcharge payment. Adequate accounting may have to be done though.

Additionally, some funding may come through the Islamic Development Bank and other lenders in Islamic countries. EPC contractors may bring suppliers credit, etc. And, if determination and consistency is shown, others may join in.

Let the new government come in the saddle, I am sure, it will give the project first priority as almost all the political parties have given support for the project in their manifestos and people would gladly accept the surcharge as it will earn them income as well as give them water to consume.

The writer is former member energy of the Planning Commission

Published in The Express Tribune, August 20th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1784869/2-lets-bhasha-dam-surcharge-fund-construction-work/>

## TARBELA FINALLY HITS MAXIMUM LEVEL

Khaleeq Kiani Updated August 21, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Tarbela dam has hit its maximum storage level of 1,550-feet on Monday exactly 42 days after it had touched dead level on July 8. The dam has a storage capacity of 6.047 million acre feet (MAF).

However, the total storage in the country's reservoirs was still 30 per cent lower than last year mainly because of low storage in Mangla dam, the country's largest reservoir by storage capacity.

So far, the main reservoirs have gained 65.60pc of the combined live storage of 13.681 MAF leaving about 34.40pc capacity still to be filled.

The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) on Monday reported that total storage in three major reservoirs – Mangla and Tarbela dams and Chashma barrage – stood at 8.975 MAF compared to 12.87MAF on the same date last year. The total storage capacity is about 13.681 MAF.

Country's overall water storage still 30pc lower than last year

An official said it was unlikely that reservoirs could achieve full storage capacity because water level in Mangla dam was still 71 feet lower than its maximum conservation level of 1242 feet and enough river flows were not expected to fill the dam to capacity.

He said the total inflows at rim stations were recorded at 374,200 cusec on Monday and the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) was releasing about 311,200 cusec, which meant about 63,000 cusec water was being conserved in reservoirs at present.

The Water & Power Development Authority (Wapda) separately reported that river Indus was flowing 224,800 cusec at Tarbela against its discharge of about 181,000 cusec. Kabul at Nowshera was flowing 45,800 cusecs while Jhelum flows at Mangla were reported at a meagre 29,300 cusec and hence only 10,000 cusec were being released downstream.

Flows in Chenab at Marala were reported at 74,300 cusec compared to outflows of 42,600 cusec.

It may be noted that Tarbela dam has a minimum operating (dead) level of 1386 feet and was currently at its 1550 feet maximum conservation level. Mangla's minimum operating level is 1050 feet and its current storage stood at 1170.75 feet. Mangla dam's maximum conservation level is 1242 feet. Its live storage at present is 2.701 MAF.

Chashma barrage has a minimum operating level of 638.15 feet and its present conservation level of 648 feet against . Live storage of Chashma currently stood at 0.227 MAF.

It was reported that rivers Indus and Kabul continued to flow in low flood at Guddu and Warsak respectively while all other rivers were flowing normal.

According to Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) a fresh monsoon low had developed over Northwestern Bay of Bengal (India) while Monday's trough of Westerly Wave had now moved away Eastwards, whereas seasonal low still persist over Northwestern Balochistan.

Published in Dawn, August 21st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1428314/tarbela-finally-hits-maximum-level>

#### DRIP IRRIGATION BEING ENCOURAGED IN PUNJAB: OFFICIAL RECORDER REPORT | AUG 26TH, 2018 | LAHORE

Malik Muhammad Akram Director General Agriculture (Water Management) has said that Government of Punjab in collaboration with World Bank is encouraging drip irrigation under on-going Punjab Irrigated-Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (PIPIP) to overcome scarcity of water.

Under this project, Agriculture Department is installing drip & sprinkler irrigation on subsidy basis in the fields of farmers. Drip irrigation system is suitable for crop cultivation when irrigation water or rainwater is not enough for conventional farming. This technology, so far, has been adopted by many farmers across Punjab owing to acute shortage of river water and limited rains.

DG in a statement issued here on Saturday, he further disclosed that keeping in view its high efficiency in conserving water, increasing per acre yield and reducing cost of cultivation, there is a need to create awareness among farmers about the drip irrigation system. With this technology, the farmers could save 60 percent electricity and diesel costs augmenting per acre yield by 100 percent. The provincial government is helping farmers adopt this system by providing drip irrigation equipment at subsidized rates and providing 60 percent subsidy on installation of Drip irrigation system. There is 40 percent to 50 percent saving of fertilizer if drip irrigation system is used. Currently, the system is used for small scale cultivation e.g., 12.5 acre of land. However, other techniques and methods are underway to extend the program for large scale cultivation. Drip irrigation technology is being provided to farmers by government on subsidized cost with financial assistance from the World Bank.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/08/20180826401895/>

#### WATER SHORTAGE DAMAGING CROPS: BIJARANI

Our Correspondent

August 26, 2018

SUKKUR: The Minister of Mines and Mineral, Mir Shabbir Ali Bijarani, visited the Sukkur Barrage here on Saturday, where Chief Engineer Sukkur Barrage briefed him about the discharge, water capacity and the barrage structure.



Later, talking to media, Bijarani said the Sukkur Barrage has completed its age of effective function and needs replacement for which the paper work has already begun.

The minister said due to overall water shortage there is 30 percent shortage of irrigation water which has damaged seasonal crops including paddy. He said he has given directions to ensure fair and transparent distribution of water.

Meanwhile, two people were killed in a road accident near Lakhra. According to police, both the labourers were killed and another was injured when their motorcycles collided with each other. The victims hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were identified as Noorullah and Ramzan Pathan while the injured was identified as Ajmal. The police shifted the bodies to the Indus Mines Hospital, Lakhra.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/359676-water-shortage-damaging-crops-bijarani>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 13TH TO AUGUST 19TH 2018  
RAINS IMPROVE RIVER FLOWS, WATER LEVEL IN MAJOR RESERVOIRS  
The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated August 15, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Recent rains have improved river flows, which have subsequently enhanced storage in major reservoirs of the country, and are likely to cause high to very high flood in the River Chenab at some major headworks, including Marala, Khanki and Qadirabad.

“According to latest hydrological conditions River Chenab at Marala, Khanki and Qadirabad is likely to attain high flood level in next 36 hours,” says a forecast issued by the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) of the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

An official of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) endorsed that the Marala, Khanki and Qadirabad might attain “very high flood (VHF)” level.

The designed capacity at these stations is about 1.1 million cusecs. When these stations attain 400,000-cusec level, the situation is described as VHF in terms of danger classification.

Showers expected in parts of Punjab today; wet spell to continue till tomorrow

Meanwhile, the Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has advised the Punjab irrigation department and all other concerned organisations dealing with flood management to ensure required precautionary measures as per their contingency plans to prevent loss of precious human lives, besides damage to private and public property.

The wet spell is likely to continue up to 16th of this month, the FFC said.

It reported the River Chenab flowing at medium-flood level in Khanki-Qadirabad reach and low-flood level at Marala on Tuesday morning. It said the River Kabul was also flowing in low flood in Warsak-Nowshera reach. All other main rivers i.e. Indus, Jhelum, Ravi and Sutlej are currently flowing normal.

The two major reservoirs — Tarbela and Mangla — had achieved water levels 10.77 feet and 77.10 feet below their respective maximum conservation levels of 1,550 feet and 1,242 feet. The total combined live storage of the three reservoirs — Mangla, Tarbela and Chashma — was reported at 7.897 million acre feet (MAF), which is 57.72 per cent of the total storage capacity of 13.681MAF.

The total amount of water stored is, however, much lower than that of the same period last year when it stood at 12.88 MAF, or 38.66pc higher.

The FFC said Monday's trough of westerly wave over northern parts of Pakistan lied over Kashmir on Tuesday and seasonal low also lied over north-western Balochistan and its trough extending north-eastwards. Also, moderate moist

currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are penetrating into upper parts of the country and a monsoon low has developed over north-western Bay of Bengal.

Under the influence of the current weather system, the FFD has predicted scattered thunderstorm and rain with isolated heavy falls over the upper catchments of Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers and over Lahore, Rawalpindi and Gujranwala divisions of Punjab on Wednesday.

Scattered thunderstorm and rain with isolated moderate falls may also occur over the upper catchments of Indus and Jhelum rivers and over Sargodha, Faisalabad and Sahiwal divisions over the next 24 hours.

The FFC said the high-flood level could also be witnessed in local nullahs and tributaries of Ravi and Chenab rivers over the next 24 hours while water level in River Sutlej was likely to increase.

Irsa said water level in the major reservoirs was continuously improving as total flows at rim stations were recorded at 564,500 cusecs on Tuesday against total outflows of 461,600 cusecs, leaving about 102,900 cusecs for conservation.

Published in Dawn, August 15th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1427056/rains-improve-river-flows-water-level-in-major-reservoirs>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 6TH TO AUGUST 12TH 2018

SINDH USURPING BALOCHISTAN'S WATER SHARE, SAY FARMERS

Ali Jan Mangi Updated August 06, 2018

DERA MURAD JAMALI: Nasirabad division is facing acute shortage of water in Pat Feeder, Khirtar and other canals as Sindh is not releasing water as per quota of Balochistan from the Indus River, badly affecting Kharif crops in the area.

The farmers of Nasirabad, Jaffarabad and Subatpur districts are unable to start the sowing of rice and other crops due to the shortage of water in the canals and their distributaries.

“We cannot prepare hundreds of thousands of acres of land for rice and other Kharif crops in the three districts due to unavailability of water,” Abdul Khaliq Khan Jamali, a leader of the Zamindar Association, told Dawn on Sunday.

He said that instead of releasing Balochistan's quota of water in Pat Feeder, Khirtar and two other canals, the Sindh irrigation department was diverting it to canals in Sindh from the distribution system.

Farmers in Nasirabad division could not start sowing of rice, other crops due to shortage of water

Officials of the Balochistan irrigation department complained that Sindh was not cooperating with them in this regard.

“Despite an increase in water discharge in Sukkur and Gudu barrages, the Sindh irrigation department is depriving Balochistan of its due water share in the Indus,” he regretted.

Balochistan canal system's chief engineer Abdul Sattar Lakhti said that during the Kharif season the province's water quota in Pat Feeder canal from Gudu Barrage was 6,700 cusec, but the Sindh irrigation authorities were releasing only 5,434 cusec. He said the same was the case with Khertar canal which was getting 1,675 cusec of water instead of 2,410 cusec from Sukkur Barrage.

Mr Lakhti recalled that it had been decided at a meeting of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) — also attended by Sindh irrigation officials — that the water shortage in rivers would not affect supply to Balochistan. He regretted that despite the decision, the Sindh irrigation department was not releasing water in Balochistan's canals from Sukkur and Gudu barrages, causing huge losses to the growers of Nasirabad division.

The Zamindar Association asked the Balochistan government and Irsa to take notice of the situation and resolve the water crisis in Nasirabad division without further delay.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1425241/sindh-usurping-balochistans-water-share-say-farmers>

## RAWAL DAM SPILLWAYS OPENED AFTER A YEAR AS TWIN CITIES RECEIVE HEAVY RAIN

Aamir Yasin | Kalbe Ali August 08, 2018

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: With a number of urban areas already inundated after a night of rainfall, more spells are expected in the central and northern parts of the country.

Thundershowers late at night between Monday and Tuesday led to the heaviest rainfall – 244 millimetres – in the month of August so far, increasing the level of water in Nullah Leh to dangerous levels and causing the spillways of Rawal Dam to be opened after a year.

“The floodgates were opened at around noon on Tuesday and continued to let water out until around 6pm,” an official from the Punjab Irrigation Department posted at Rawal Dam said.

More rainfall expected, several localities in Rawalpindi inundated

The water level in Rawal Lake was 1,746.6ft on Monday, but after overnight’s spell and 90mm of rainfall in Murree, the level rose to 1,750ft by 11am on Tuesday.

The lake’s capacity is 1,752ft, but holding water beyond 1,750ft can be dangerous for the embankments, the official explained, adding: “Besides, there is an advisory of more rain as well”.

The Met Office has said that strong monsoon currents are continuously penetrating upper parts of the country from the east while a cool westerly wave is also affecting the region. This combination of warm moist monsoon winds and a cool wave from the west has led to predictions of more rainfall in Kashmir, central and north Punjab and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The news of greater rainfall is positive for the Punjab Irrigation Department, but for residents of Rawalpindi, where several low-lying areas have already been flooded, the situation is a difficult one.

The twin cities received heavy rainfall for a span of around four hours.

A Met Office official said Rawalpindi received 244mm in August.

The last time the city received so much rain was in 1997, when it received 200mm on Aug 27.

“The heaviest rainfall, a record of 591mm, in Rawalpindi occurred in July 2001,” the official added.

The Chaklala area received 244mm, Shamsabad received 211mm, Zero Point received 169mm and other parts of the capital received around 120mm, all of which led to heavy flow into Nullah Leh.

Nullah Leh rose to 15ft under the Gawalmandi Bridge and 17ft at Katarian Bridge.

Pre-alert flood warnings have been issued by the district administration advising people living around Nullah Leh to move to safer locations.

Urban flooding in Rawalpindi

Traffic lights stopped working in many parts of the city and cantonment areas, leading to chaotic traffic on Tuesday.

The sewerage system in downtown Rawalpindi and in the area near Leh Nullah was also choked; by morning, streets were flooded and water had entered residential and commercial buildings. Water also entered the basement of the Holy Family Hospital.

Electricity was suspended in the early hours in low-lying areas to prevent short circuits.

The worst-affected were Mohallah Imambargah, Raja Bazaar, Arya Mohallah, Jamia Masjid Road, Mochi Bazaar, Urdu Bazaar, Sabzi Mandi, Mukha Singh Estate and parts of both cantonment boards.

Rainwater accumulated on the Committee Chowk Underpass and the road was closed to traffic. The Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) installed machines there and on other roads to drain the water.

Wasa is on high alert, as are the district administration, Rescue 1122 and two units of the army's 111 Brigade, in case of any emergency.

Wasa was busy all day clearing blockages in main sewerage lines and opening drains to keep water flowing smoothly.

"There is no hurdle blocking the flow of water in Nullah Leh," Wasa Managing Director Raja Shaukat Mehmood said. He added that water had started to recede in the city.

Urban residents were not the only ones impacted by the downpour; 11 people, including a child, were trapped on the bed of Soan River at Gorakhpur near Adiala jail.

They were living near a tubewell on the riverbank and were trapped when water in the river rose during the night. They had to climb an electricity pole and residents of a nearby village called Rescue 1122 Tuesday morning.

District Emergency Officer Dr Abdur Rehman told Dawn 11 people were rescued from Soan River and shifted to a safer location.

Published in Dawn, August 8th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1425612/rawal-dam-spillways-opened-after-a-year-as-twin-cities-receive-heavy-rain>

## CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS TO BEGIN IN 2019, APEX COURT TOLD

Ikram Junaidi Updated August 08, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar, who has been taking a great deal of interest in the construction of dams, was informed on Tuesday that work on their construction would start after his retirement.

The CJP's retirement is due in January 2019.

Retired lieutenant general Muzammil Hussain, chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), was briefing a four-member bench of the Supreme Court on the work of the Implementation Committee of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dams (ICBMD) that he heads.

Wapda chairman briefs four-member bench on Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams

Giving a detailed presentation about the ICBMD's proceedings, the Wapda chairman apprised the bench that legal framework and terms of reference of the committee had already been drafted. Besides, he said, seven sub-committees had been set up to identify impediments as well as the ways and means to remove those hurdles effectively.

Examine: Mega dams cannot be built through crowdfunding

The bench, which was headed by the CJP and also comprising Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar, was informed that the ICBMD had succeeded in identifying issues related to land acquisition, project financing, procurement, security and coordination. The committee had also developed a set of recommendations to handle those issues so that the July 4 decision of the apex court for the construction of the dams could be implemented in letter and spirit.

The bench was also briefed about a timeline set by the ICBMD to accomplish the tasks leading towards early commencement of work on the construction of Diamer-Basha and Mohmand dams. At the briefing, the Wapda chairman highlighted the need for concerted efforts by all stakeholders.

The bench was informed that in view of the procurement, the time frame determined by the ICBMD, work on the construction of Mohmand dam project was expected to commence in the early 2019, whereas all-out efforts were being made to start the construction of Diamer-Basha dam project next year.

Published in Dawn, August 8th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1425657/construction-of-dams-to-begin-in-2019-apex-court-told>

‘ONLY 53% TO GET SAFE DRINKING WATER TILL 2030’

APP

April 21, 2018

Islamabad: Only 53 per cent of people would be able to get safe drinking water till 2030 if the pace of improvement of water resources remained same lacking far behind the set goal of reaching 100 per cent population under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

The pace of improvement should be three-times more than the present one which required sustainable investment in infrastructure and human resources, said a report of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR).

The report titled Water Quality Status of Major Cities of Pakistan 2015-16, issued recently revealed that most of the samples 57 per cent monitored were found microbiologically contaminated.

The other contaminations included arsenic six per cent, turbidity eight per cent, chloride 15 per cent, nitrate six percent TDS 11 per cent, hardness six per cent and iron 10 per cent.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/307134-only-53-to-get-safe-drinking-water-till-2030>

SMALL FARMERS HOLD MARCH AGAINST SHORTAGE OF WATER

Dawn Report August 11, 2018

DADU: Small farmers and peasants staged a march here on Friday in protest against artificial shortage of water in canals in the district, demanding action against irrigation department officers for selling the already scarce water to influential landlords.

The march started from the office of Sindh Peoples Hari Committee and terminated in a demonstration outside the press club.

The district president of the hari committee Abdul Mutallib Panhwar, Nadeem Panhwar, Mohammad Aslam Leghari and others, who led the protesters, said that influential landlords were stealing water in connivance with irrigation officials by tampering with watercourses fed by Rice Canal, Dadu Canal, Johi Canal and their waterways.

They said that sugar cane crop standing on 15,000 acres in Piaro, Phulji Station and Sita areas would suffer massive damage because of water shortage. Over 25,000 acres were feared to turn barren in Dadu and Johi talukas if water shortage persisted, they cautioned.

They warned if small farmers were not released their complete share in water they would launch a protest drive in the district. Most waterways fed by Johi Canal had almost dried up, they said.

They said that large scale irregularities were being committed in the irrigation department due to negligence of provincial secretary of irrigation and chief engineer of Sukkur Barrage.

They appealed to Chief Justice of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff, National Accountability Bureau chairman and director general of Federal Investigation Agency to take action against artificial shortage of water in the district and sale of water to influential landlords.

#### SPC rally for judicious water distribution

HYDERABAD: Activists of the Sindh Progressive Committee (SPC), comprising various political parties, staged a demonstration outside the local press club on Friday against injudicious distribution of water in Sindh.

The protest was led by Awami Workers Party (AWP) Sindh president Bakhshal Thalho, Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP) Sindh general secretary Comrade Iqbal, Khalid Junejo of the Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM) and Adil Chandio of Awami Jamhoori Party (AJP).

Speaking to the participants, they described water shortage and destruction of the Indus as a matter of life and death for Sindh. They said that water shortage had seriously damaged crops of paddy, cotton and sugar cane. They said that Qambar-Shahdadkot, Umerkot, Badin and other district were facing a severe and growers were not able to sow crops in these areas.

They said that on the one hand, such a serious shortage of water was being faced while, on the other, the authorities concerned were bent upon building dams over the Indus.

They rejected Caretaker Information Minister Ali Zafar's recent statement at his press conference that flows downstream Kotri barrage was wastage of water.

They said that the minister must know that lower riparian had the first right of use under international laws while the Indus river itself had certain rights.

They said that due to non-release of water downstream Kotri barrage, sea intrusion had devoured millions of acres of land in Badin and Thatta districts. They demanded release of 10MAF (million acre foot) downstream Kotri barrage as per the relevant agreements and added that water be also provided to tail-end growers.

Published in Dawn, August 11th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1426199/small-farmers-hold-march-against-shortage-of-water>

HYDERABAD: Express its serious concern over persisting water shortage in the province, the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture (SCA) has urged the caretaker government to put an end to it and ensure equitable distribution of water.

Chairing a meeting here on Sunday, Kabool Mohammad Khatian urged the caretaker Sindh government to control prices of fertilizer and diesel. He said outstanding dues of sugar cane growers be cleared immediately.

The meeting demanded that the support price of paddy crop be fixed at Rs1,500 per 40kg.

The SCA pointed out that currently all canals were drawing water at Sukkur and Kotri barrages and still growers were crying against shortage of irrigation water. It said that artificial water shortage had been created in different canals of the barrages and growers were facing difficult conditions.

The meeting said crops that had been somehow sown were drying, which would destroy the farm sector because growers would face serious economic problems. It alleged that irrigation officials were demanding money in lieu of provision of irrigation water and this created a serious situation for tail-end growers.

It demanded of the Sindh caretaker government to take notice of artificial water shortage and provide it to growers in the tail-end reaches. It said that prices of diesel and fertilizer had increased that were having negative implications on the farm sector. It said the government should control it.

The meeting was informed by growers that sugar cane producers were not getting their dues from millers with the result that they were obtaining inputs on credit. The growers said they were not getting adequate price for paddy crop. It called for payment of liabilities of sugar cane growers and support price of paddy at Rs1,500 per 40kg.

Published in Dawn, July 30th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1423675/sca-demands-end-to-water-shortage>

## September 2018

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 24TH TO SEPTEMBER 30TH 2018***

#### ***CCI AGREES TO RESOLVE SINDH, BALOCHISTAN WATER CRISIS***

Syed Irfan Raza Updated September 25, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan speaks to the chief ministers of Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sardar Usman Buzdar, Mehmood Khan and Jam Kamal Khan, respectively, before the Council of Common Interests meeting on Monday.—APP

ISLAMABAD: In the first meeting of the reconstituted Council of Common Interests (CCI) on Monday, the Centre decided to resolve the water crisis in Sindh (with special emphasis on Karachi) and Balochistan, besides ensuring better education facilities across the country.

The CCI agreed to overcome the water scarcity in Karachi city and referred an application of the Sindh government regarding provision of 650MGD additional water for the country's commercial hub to the National Water Council (NWC).

The NWC will make its recommendations keeping in view the present water supply situation in the country and a formula of water distribution among the provinces. The NWC will present its report before the CCI and will also advise how water wastage could be prevented and which steps should be taken for better utilisation of water, according to the media cell of the Prime Minister Office.



While presiding over the CCI meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan assured the chief ministers that the federal government would take all the provinces on board to solve their problems. PM Khan said: “A comprehensive and transparent monitoring system for better water distribution among the provinces should be enforced to provide accurate and timely information to the provinces, because lack of right information cause misunderstandings.”

PM Imran Khan in a group photo with CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, CM Punjab Usman Buzdar, CM KP Mehmood Khan and CM Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan at PM Office. — APP

The CCI also reviewed energy problems of Balochistan and enhancement of its absorption capacity, short water supplies in Pat Feeder and Khirthar canals and agreed upon implementation of Kazi Committee Methodology (KCM) for calculation of net hydel profit. The meeting decided that the chief ministers of Sindh and Balochistan would sit together and settle the issue of Pat Feeder and Khirthar canals.

#### Food, education

The CCI also formed a task force and a special committee to implement the decisions of all regulatory bodies of the central government and maintain uniform standard of food items and their quality in the country.

The council also highlighted the need for coordination between the Centre and the provinces to ensure improvement in standard of education and implement uniform education system across the country. In this connection, the High Education Commission (HEC) was directed to give recommendations to the CCI within a month.

For special focus on standard of education and health facilities in Balochistan, the CCI asked the HEC to review all possible steps in collaboration with the provincial government while PM Khan announced that the Shaukat Khanam Memorial Hospital would extend its services to the province.

At the meeting, the Centre and the provinces endorsed a proposal for a countrywide cleanliness drive, which would be launched by the prime minister on Oct 7.

The CCI formed a task force to review the situation evolved due to the devolution of administrative and financial powers of Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) and Employee’s Old-Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) to the provinces.

While reviewing two summaries of the petroleum division of the Ministry of Energy on Amendment of Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Policy, 2012, and Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the CCI referred both summaries to the Economic Coordination Committee.

Earlier this month, the government had reconstituted the CCI giving better representation to Sindh. However, the ruling alliance at the Centre has an overwhelming majority in the council, as Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah is the only member belonging to the opposition.

The eight-member council is headed by the prime minister with four provincial chief ministers and federal ministers for IPC, industries and production and finance as its members. The new CCI has four members from Sindh. The previous council under former premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had four members from Punjab, whereas his predecessor Nawaz Sharif had the CCI with two members each from all the four provinces.

Asad Umar being the finance minister and Dr Fehmida Mirza holding the portfolio of the interprovincial coordination are also members of the CCI.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1434780/cci-agr>

## CHENAB IN LOW FLOOD

The Newspaper's Correspondent Updated September 25, 2018

SIALKOT: The River Chenab was in low flood on Monday as the water level soared up to 103,802 cusecs at Head Marala in the wake of a spell of rainfall in the Sialkot region and in the catchment areas in neighbouring Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Tahir Wattoo told reporters the situation was totally under control in Sialkot. He said the district administration had already issued a high-alert flood warning to the residents along the banks of rivers Chenab and Tavi near Head Marala and Chaprar-Sialkot, besides, putting departments on alert as well.

He added that the water level was receding in the River Tavi where the downstream level was 11,000 cusecs.

In Pasrur, 23 villages were disconnected from the district after three bridges on the flooded Nullah Dek were swept away near village Ooncha Pahaarang-Pasrur. The water flow in the nullah was 20,000 cusecs on Saturday morning and 11,000 in the evening, whereas the total capacity of the channel is 25,000 cusecs.

The administration could not repair the bridges because of the fast flow of the water.

The administration has established four flood emergency relief centers in Marala, Chaprar, Chahoor and Pasrur for providing emergency relief to the affected people.

Published in Dawn, September 25th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1434812/chenab-in-low-flood>

## MOVE TO BRING WAPDA UNDER PM'S DIRECT CONTROL TO OVERCOME RED TAPE

Khaleeq Kiani Updated September 25, 2018

ISLAMABAD: With 50 per cent water shortage estimated for the Rabi season beginning on Oct 1, a parliamentary panel was informed about a move to bring the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) under the direct control of the prime minister to overcome bureaucratic red tape.

At a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources led by Shamim Afridi, senators from Balochistan expressed dissatisfaction over the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord and demanded a fresh accord and monetary compensation for utilisation of its water share by other provinces since 1991.

The committee expressed concern over the fund-raising drive for Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams, saying the Kalabagh dam was unnecessarily being dragged into the debate even though it was a controversial project and divided the nation.

Indus River System Authority (Irsa) vice chairman Raqib Khan said the technical committee of Irsa would meet on Tuesday (today) to finalise projections for water availability for the Rabi season, but preliminary estimates indicated the water shortage could be up to 50pc.

Senator Muzaffar Shah from Sindh said it was a very serious matter that farmers faced more than 35pc shortage in the outgoing Kharif season and the upcoming Rabi season would witness an even worse situation. Mr Shah, who was a signatory to the 1991 Water Accord as chief minister of Sindh, expressed concern that a study to quantify water

requirements downstream Kotri for environmental protection had not yet been completed even after 27 years. He said the study was promised in the 1991 accord and it was wrongly given an impression that huge water quantities were going down the sea.

He was, however, reminded by Mr Khan that the study had been completed in 2005 and its findings were being implemented. The report could be provided to the senior senator, he said and reported that total water storage in reservoirs currently stood at 7.860 million acres feet against last year's 10.04 MAF on this date and 11.38MAF of last 10-year average.

The committee directed to provide minutes of the Irsa's technical and advisory committee to the senate panel so that farmers could be advised accordingly about the crop sowing. During the current Kharif season, Punjab faced 20pc shortage, Sindh 17pc, Balochistan 44pc and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 33pc. The total water shortage for Kharif crops was 21pc, the panel was told.

Senator Usman Kakar from Balochistan alleged that the water accord was not based on actual data and his province had serious reservations over its implementation as well. He said the year water accord was signed had 105MAF water in the system and allocations were made for 114MAF based on premise that a dam would be constructed soon.

Senator Jehanzeb Jamaldini said the water accord and all water projects were focused towards the canal irrigation system without taking into account the water problems of arid zones across the country while thousands of people in Balochistan had been forced to migrate due to water shortage.

Senator Sabir Shah said the current process of constructing Diamer-Bhasha dam should continue and money under head of donation should be maintained in a separate account. He said focus on Diamer-Bhasha dam was being diverted for petty credit.

The Wapda chairman said he had proposed to the prime minister to bring Wapda under his supervision and made answerable to the people of Pakistan through parliament. He said President Ayub Khan used to call Wapda chairman in the morning and project director of Tarbela dam in the evening every day.

He said Kachhi canal was completed in 2008, but its 72,000 cusecs of water could never be delivered to intended barren land because the Balochistan government neither developed irrigation infrastructure nor allowed Wapda to link the Kachhi canal with Kirthar and Pat-Feeder. As a result, only 10,000 cusecs of water could be delivered and in the process Kachhi canal also suffered damage.

The committee's chairman said that the discussion on building Kalabagh dam was going on to generate controversy and this issue should be stopped now. He said that Diamer-Bhasha dam would not be built if the issue of Kalabagh dam was not stopped.

Published in Dawn, September 25th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1434777/move-to-bring-wapda-under-pms-direct-control-to-overcome-red-tape>

#### NET HYDEL PROFIT: AGREEMENT REACHED ON KAZI FORMULA IMPLEMENTATION RECORDER REPORT SEP 25TH, 2018 ISLAMABAD

The federal and provincial governments have agreed on implementation of AGN Kazi formula for net hydel profits, sated the Prime Minister Office on Monday; however, it did not explain how much it will cost to the electricity consumers. The agreement was reached between the federal government and provinces during a meeting of the CCI presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan and attended by the chief ministers of four provinces.

There were reports that agreement on implementation of AGN Kazi formula will cost the electricity consumers.

The CCI meeting directed the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to develop a strategy in consultation with the federal and provincial governments to improve the standard of education institutions and higher education, promote uniformity and submit recommendations within one month. The meeting stressed for giving greater attention to the needs of education in Balochistan.

The Prime Minister also directed to expand Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital services to the province of Balochistan to provide health facilities, especially timely diagnosis and treatment of cancer cases, to the people.

The meeting forwarded the request of the Sindh government for additional water to the National Water Council and directed it to submit recommendations to the CCI while keeping in view the current water availability and water distribution formula among the provinces. The National Water Council was also directed to suggest proposals to prevent the wastage of water.

The CCI also directed the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms to review the electricity distribution and transmission projects in Balochistan. The meeting decided that in the light of Planning Commission's recommendations, work will be initiated on the projects of immediate needs. The CCI also asked the chief ministers of Sindh and Balochistan to bilaterally resolve the issue of less water availability in Pat Feeder and Kirthar Canal.

The Prime Minister stated that a transparent distribution and monitoring system among the provinces should be developed so that provinces are able to get timely and accurate information about water availability. He said that inaccurate information leads to misunderstanding among the provinces.

The CCI also constituted a committee to look into the administrative and legal issues for transfer of EOBI and WWF. The committee headed by minister for inter-provincial co-ordination was directed to submit its recommendations to the CCI in one month.

The CCI decided to refer amendments proposed by the Sindh government on the Petroleum Policy 2012 to the Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet. The ECC in its next meeting, which will also be attended by the provincial representatives, will review the proposed amendments and prepare recommendations.

The federal and provincial governments also agreed to provide responsibility to the Pakistan Standard and Quality Authority to ensure one-window operation to the concerned companies for achieving uniformity in standard and quality. A committee was constituted to review the legal and administrative measures in this regard.

A task force was also established to ensure effective enforcement of regulatory authorities and the government's writ in the provinces.

The meeting decided to start a cleanliness campaign across the country and the Prime Minister will formally launch Pakistan Cleanliness Movement on October 7, 2018. The Prime Minister said that provinces will be provided full co-operation in all matters, adding the federal government will make the CCI an effective platform to resolve the provincial issues for a strong federation.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/09/20180925410075/>

**RABI CROPS: IRSA TO FINALISE ESTIMATED AVAILABILITY OF WATER, SENATE BODY TOLD  
RECORDER REPORT SEP 25TH, 2018 ISLAMABAD**

Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources was informed that Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has convened a meeting of technical committee to finalize estimated availability of water for Rabi crops. Acute water shortage for

Rabi crops is on the cards as the officials of Irsa informed the committee that water shortage may reach about 50 percent for upcoming Rabi crops. The committee directed to provide minutes of the Irsa's advisory committee.

Senators Sassui Palijo and Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah had filed petitions regarding the alarming situation of water in Sindh and irresponsible behavior of the Irsa regarding queries raised in the Senate sitting held on April 11, 2018.

The committee met here with Senator Shamim Afridi in the chair on Monday. The committee discussed in length the distribution and shortage of water in Sindh.

The committee was informed that the Irsa is anticipating water availability now for Rabi crops 2018-19 at 45 percent. During the current Kharif season, Punjab faced 20 percent shortage, Sindh 17 percent, Balochistan 44 percent and KPK 33 percent. The total water shortage for Kharif crops was 21 percent.

The committee member Muzaffar Hussain asked the IRSA officials about share of water to Sindh province during March, April and May, adding why Chashma, Jhelum and Thal Link canals were opened despite acute water shortage. He remarked that the canals should have been opened with consent of Sindh province.

The committee members said that the Irsa was involved in unjust water distribution among the provinces. They regretted that no study had been conducted during the last 28 years about how much water falls in the sea. They said that thousands of acres of land had been destroyed in Thatta and Badin areas due to sea encroachment. They demanded to hold the people responsible involved in this negligence.

Member Irsa KP Raqeeb Khan said that IRSA is distributing water justly and honestly among the provinces. He said that the study of sea encroachment was completed in 2005. They observed that Rabi season is going to start and nobody knows how much water would be available for Rabi crops. They were of the view that water shortage would have disastrous impact on Rabi crops. The IRSA authorities replied that it is natural system of water inflows and water cannot be produced.

Senator Sabir Shah said that the current process of constructing Diamer-Bhasha Dam should continue and money under the head of donation should be maintained in separate account. He said that they would not allow any conspiracy to succeed against Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

The chairman Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) said that development in water sector had been made during time of dictator Ayub Khan and demanded that WAPDA should be relieved of bureaucrats. He proposed to the Prime Minister to implement his demand that bureaucrats are not partners in development.

The chairman committee said that discussion on building Kalabagh Dam was going on to generate controversy and this issue should be stopped now. He said that Diamer-Bhasha Dam would not be built if talk on Kalabagh Dam is not stopped.

Senator Usman Kakar said that unfair water distribution agreement among provinces was made which was not based on justice, adding that the agreement should have been made on fair water distribution mechanism. He demanded that a new water distribution agreement should be framed among provinces for fair distribution of water.

He said that other provinces are using water allocated to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and no new barrage has been given to KPK. He said that even Balochistan is not getting its 5 percent allocated share of water. He said that water in Balochistan had dried and people from this province are migrating to other areas due to water shortage. He said that water shortage has destroyed the agriculture sector and pleaded the Chief Justice to take notice of this issue.

## CROPS AT RISK AS MORE THAN 50% WATER SHORTAGE FEARED

By Zafar Bhutta

Published: September 25, 2018

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan is expected to face acute water shortage in the upcoming Rabi sowing season as the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has informed a parliamentary panel that water supply will dip to less than 50% for crop cultivation.

Irsa officials told the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources, chaired by Senator Shamim Afridi, on Monday that a meeting of Irsa's advisory committee had been called to examine the availability of water for Rabi crops.

Irsa member from Sindh anticipated that water shortage would touch 50% during the upcoming sowing season, which would begin on October 1. The officials put the expected water availability for the Rabi season 2018-19 at 45%. In the current Kharif sowing season, total water shortage has been recorded at 21%.

Province-wise breakdown shows Punjab has faced 20% shortage, Sindh 17%, Balochistan 44% and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 33%.

Members of the standing committee asked Irsa officials about the volume of water provided to Sindh in the months of March, April and May. They also asked why Chashma, Jhelum and Thal link canals were running despite the acute water shortage.

These canals were opened without Sindh's consent and the farmers had to suffer a heavy loss due to water scarcity, they said.

They alleged that Irsa was itself involved in unjust distribution of water among provinces and regretted that no study had been undertaken over the past 28 years on the quantity of water going into the sea. The committee members pointed out that thousands of acres of land had been destroyed in Thatta and Badin due to sea encroachment and demanded that the people behind the negligence should be held responsible.

They were of the view that the Rabi season was about to begin and nobody knew the quantity of water available for crop plantations. They expressed fear that water shortage would have disastrous impact on the crops.

Responding to that, Irsa authorities pointed out that Pakistan had a natural system for water inflow and more water could not be produced.

Senator Usman Kakar stated that an unfair water distribution agreement had been reached with provinces. "It should have been based on a fair water distribution mechanism; a new agreement should be designed for the provinces," he said.

He accused other provinces of consuming the water allocated to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and said no new barrage had been constructed in the province.

"Even Balochistan is not getting its 5% allocated share of water; water in the province has dried up and people are migrating to other areas due to the shortage," Kakar said.

He lamented that the agriculture sector had been destroyed by the dearth of water and asked the chief justice of Pakistan to take notice of the matter. Senator Sabir Shah emphasised that the process of constructing Diamer-Bhasha dam should continue and money donated for the reservoir should be saved in a separate account.

The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) chairman recalled that development in the water sector had been made during the tenure of Ayub Khan and demanded that Wapda should be relieved of bureaucratic dominance. "Bureaucrats are not partners in the development," he remarked.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 25th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1810618/2-crops-risk-50-water-shortage-feared/>

### 35-40PC WATER SHORTFALL CALCULATED FOR RABI SEASON MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has projected up to 40 per cent shortage of water in cropping season of Rabi 2018-19, starting from October 1, 2018.

These alarming shortfall figures were calculated at a meeting of Irsa Advisory Committee held on Tuesday in Islamabad.

"About 35-40 per cent shortfall is anticipated. However, final figures will be given by the Advisory Committee in its meeting scheduled for October 1, 2018 in Islamabad. Chairman Irsa, Sher Zaman Khan will preside over the meeting.

Irsa has invited Chief Engineering Advisor/ Chairman Federal Flood Commission (CFFC), Water and Power members Wapda, Secretaries of Irrigation Departments and Agriculture Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan for their input in the meeting.

The committee will accord approval of anticipated availability criteria for Rabi season 2018-19 after consultation with the provinces," Irsa spokesperson Khalid Idrees Rana stated.

Sindh government has already raised the issue of water scarcity in the province due to which some of the districts have been declared drought-hit areas, and will raise objections to the opening of Chashma Jehlum (CJ) and Trimmu Panjnad (TP) link canals like the past.

There are apprehensions that Irsa was involved in unjust water distribution among the provinces and Sindh is invariably hit as other two provinces i.e. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are exempted from shortage according to the Water Accord 1991.

"Water situation is critical, however, any western wave may bring rainfall in December 2018 or January 2019 which may reduce the shortfall," said Irsa spokesperson.

During the current Kharif season, Punjab faced 20pc shortage, Sindh 17pc, Balochistan 44pc and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 33pc. The total water shortage for Kharif crops was 21pc.

During the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources led by Shamim Afridi, senators from Balochistan expressed dissatisfaction over the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord and demanded a fresh accord and monetary compensation for utilisation of its water share by other provinces since 1991.

According to Sindh, it has incurred 31 per cent agricultural losses due to water scarcity in the province. A former Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah maintained that there is a need to address certain issues that were essential in the context of water scarcity in Pakistan.

On Tuesday, inflows in Indus River at Tarbela were recorded at 59,700 cusecs against outflows of 12,000 cusecs. Inflows in Kabul River at Nowshera were 10,200 cusecs and outflows at 10200 cusecs. Inflows in Jhelum River at



Mangla were 9100 cusecs while outflows were at 150,000 cusecs while inflows at Chenab at Marala was 55600 cusecs against outflows of 42,000 cusecs.

Inflows at Jinnah barrage were 148,100 cusecs and outflows 141,100 cusecs whereas Chashma inflows were 143,200 cusecs and outflows 139,000 cusecs. Inflows at Taunsa were 139,600 cusecs and outflows 116,600 cusecs and at Panjnad 10,200 cusecs against zero outflows. Inflows at Guddu were 118,600 cusecs and outflows 91,100 cusecs whereas at Sukkar inflows were 84,500 cusecs and outflows at 32,400; Kotri inflows were 33,800 cusecs and outflows nil.

Tarbela's minimum operating level is 1,386 feet whereas present level is 1511.58 feet, maximum conservation level 1,550 feet, live storage today 3.978 million acre feet (MAF).

Mangla's minimum operating level 1050 feet while present level is at 1169.15 feet, maximum conservation level 1242 feet, live storage today 2.623 MAF.

Chashma's minimum operating level is 638.15 feet whereas present level is at 644.40 feet, maximum conservation level 649 feet, live storage today 0.110 MAF.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/09/26/13-page/740891-news.html>

#### PM WANTS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR URBAN WATER SCHEMES

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated September 27, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday directed the Ministry of Water Resources and Planning Division to coordinate with provincial governments and formulate a comprehensive plan for undertaking urban water schemes for all major cities on a priority basis to overcome water scarcity.

Presiding over a meeting on the overall water situation in the country, Mr Khan also directed that the water supply scheme for Rawalpindi and Islamabad should be started immediately by the Punjab and federal governments.

Minister for Finance Asad Umar, Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar, Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan, Adviser to the PM Malik Amin Aslam Khan, secretaries of water resources, economic affairs division, food security and research, the chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) and other senior officers also attended the briefing.

The prime minister was briefed in detail about the overall situation regarding the availability of water in the country, situation of storage of water and the issues being faced towards ensuring water security for a growing population of the country.

He was informed that the current water storage capacity of around 13.7 million acres feet was far below the international standards and needed to be enhanced on a priority basis. He was also informed that there was an urgent need to check unregulated extraction of groundwater which has resulted into fast depletion of aquifers.

Prime Minister Imran Khan directed that a comprehensive plan along with a legislative framework should be worked out for ensuring maximum utilisation of the surface water and reversing the existing trend of unabated pumping of groundwater.

He was also briefed about the progress on various development projects and construction of small, medium and large dams.

Discussing the obstacles in the construction of the Dasu Dam, the prime minister directed that the issue of acquisition of land and settlement with the land owners of the dam should be resolved on a priority basis in consultation with the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and taking into account legitimate demands of the owners.

Mr Khan emphasised that the Land Acquisition Act, 1984, needed to be revisited in order to make it more relevant with the present time.

He underscored the need for an integrated planning and enhanced coordination between relevant departments i.e. Wapda, the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Energy, Planning Division and other stakeholders while planning and execution of major projects of national importance.

The prime minister also directed that a comprehensive plan should be formulated to promote off-grid solutions, including harnessing of solar and wind potential of the country.

Published in Dawn, September 27th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1435248/pm-wants-comprehensive-plan-for-urban-water-schemes>

## CONSTRUCTION OF WATER RESERVOIRS ON INDUS OPPOSED

Habib Khan Ghori September 27, 2018

KARACHI: A gathering of political and nationalist parties, intellectuals, writers and civil society organisations of Sindh on Wednesday vehemently opposed the construction of any dam, barrage or link canal on the Indus River.

Sindh United Party (SUP) president Syed Jalal Mehmood Shah chaired the meeting which was held at the secretariat of his party — Haider Manzil.

Mr Shah, who was elected convener of the committee, told the media after the meeting that they have formed Sindh Action Committee (SAC) to launch a joint struggle against construction of any dam on the Indus.

As a first step, a three-day hunger-strike camp would be organised outside the Karachi Press Club on Sept 28, 29 and 30 under the banner of Awami Tehreek.

He further said the Sindh Progressive Committee would hold an all-parties conference in Hyderabad on Sunday while Jeay Sindh Mahaz (Riaz) will stage a sit-in on Oct 7. The Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (Bashir Qureshi group) will organise a protest in Larkana on Oct 11.

After that, a meeting of all chiefs of the parties associated with the SAC would be held to chalk out the next phase of struggle.

Mr Shah said that the participants of the meeting were of the view that the chief justice of Pakistan should not let a dam be built on the Indus.

“At least 10 million acre feet of water [should] be released downstream Kotri Barrage to save the Sindh delta land and the federal government should create a special fund to revive Indus delta and provide relief to the affected citizens.

“Thal canal, Taunsa, Panjnad and Chashma-Jhelum link canal be closed permanently,” he maintained The SUP president added that Burmese, Bengalis, Afghans and people of other origins be issued alien registration cards and be restricted to camps.

“Such aliens are against national unity and they directly affect jobs and resources in Sindh, and create law and order problems.

“The government should take measures for their repatriation and the people coming from other provinces be issued work permits,” he said.

The meeting also observed that the federal government which came to power through “rigged polls” should not benefit only one province by depriving others.

He said a dam cost \$14 billion while collection of such a huge amount through donations was almost impossible.

When his attention was drawn towards the use of Article 6 of the Constitution against the opponents of dams, Jalal Mehmood Shah said no one was afraid of going to jail in Sindh to protect its interest.

In reply to a question, Yusuf Masti Khan of the Awami Workers Party said that according to a UN report prepared by international hydrological experts, small dams should be encouraged instead of big ones.

Others who were present in the meeting were: Sanaan Qureshi (JSQM), Amanullah Shaikh (AJP), Riaz Chandio (JSM), Dr Mir Alam Marri (JSQM-Arisar), Maulana Azizullah Bohio (Sindh Sagar Party), Sobh Qamar Bhatti (JSQAP), Sartaj Chandio (Awami Tehreek), Ali Nawaz Butt (JSM), Fatah Channa (JST), Nawaz Khan Zounr (JS Liberal Front), Hashim Khosa (JSM), Khuda Dino Shah (social worker), Noor Ahmad Memon (Sindh Writers Thinkers Forum), Gul Hasan Kalmati (writer), Usman Baloch, Dr Niaz Kalani, Roshan Burro and Ejaz Samito.

Published in Dawn, September 27th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1435156/construction-of-water-reservoirs-on-indus-opposed>

## PM INTERVENES TO SAVE \$4.3B DASU DAM PROJECT

By Danish Hussain

Published: September 27, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to resolve the lingering issue of land acquisition for the Dasu hydroelectric dam at the earliest.

This intervention was made after the World Bank warned about possible delays and cost escalation in the \$4.3 billion project.

Deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif had performed the groundbreaking ceremony of the 2,160 megawatt project in June 2014. However, the authorities concerned have failed to complete land acquisition in this regard.

The World Bank had already approved a loan of \$588.4 million for the project. It warned Pakistan that further delays in land acquisition would result in the cost of the project to escalate significantly and asked the government to intervene in the matter to save the project from being completely derailed.

During a meeting on issues related to the ministry of water resources, the prime minister was briefed about the bottlenecks encountered in the construction of the project, specifically disputes over land acquisition and settlement of displaced people affected from the project.

“Issues must be resolved on a priority basis in consultation with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government after taking into account legitimate demands of the affectees,” the prime minister directed officials of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda).

The prime minister also emphasised that the Land Acquisition Act of 1984 should be revisited to make it more relevant with the current needs.

Among those who attended the meeting included ministers for finance, planning, and power and senior officers of ministries of water resources, economic affairs division, food security and research and the chairman of WAPDA.

A statement issued after the meeting stated that during the meeting, the PM also directed the ministry of water resources and the Planning Division to coordinate with provincial governments and formulate a comprehensive plan for initiating urban water schemes in all major cities on a priority basis to avoid further depletion of underground water table.

According to a government minister, who attended the meeting, the PM was informed that Pakistan’s underground water table was at lowest in the entire South Asian region.

The Prime Minister was also briefed about the overall situation regarding the domestic water availability, national storage capacity and issues faced in ensuring water security for the country’s growing population.

The PM ordered the authorities concerned to devise a plan along with a legislative framework for ensuring maximum utilisation of surface water and reversing the trend of unabated pumping of groundwater.

Khan also urged the Punjab and federal governments to immediately work out a water supply scheme for Rawalpindi and Islamabad respectively.

Participants of the meeting were informed that the country’s current water storage capacity was around 13.7 million acre-foot (MAF), far below international standards and it needed to be enhanced urgently. They were also informed that there was an urgent need to check unregulated extraction of ground water which was resulting in fast depletion of aquifers.

Following the briefing, the prime minister underscored the need for an integrated planning and coordination between relevant government departments and other stakeholders while planning and execution of major projects of national importance.

The Prime Minister also called for devising a comprehensive plan for promoting off-grid solutions, including harnessing of solar and wind potential of the country.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1812427/1-pm-interven-s-save-4-3b-dasu-dam-project/>

## LAWYERS WARN AGAINST CONSTRUCTION OF KALABAGH DAM

By Our Correspondent

Published: September 28, 2018

HYDERABAD: Senior lawyers at the Hyderabad District Bar Association (HDBA) on Thursday objected to the construction of Kalabagh Dam and naturalisation of foreigners in Sindh. The association passed a resolution against the two propositions while warning of political and legal opposition.

“The Indus River belongs to Sindh,” contended Advocate Shabbir Shar, member of Pakistan Bar Council. “Without permission of Sindhis no dam can be built on the Indus.” He objected to proposals to construct Kalabagh dam.

Shar maintained that Sindh had already been suffering from a shortage of water due to the reduced flow in the river. He added that the sea is continuously eating up thousands of acres of land in coastal districts as the river water discharge below Kotri Barrage in Jamshoro remained dismally low.

“Thatta, Sujawal and Badin districts have lost precious land to the sea and thousands of people have been deprived of their livelihoods,” Shar said, adding that the redundancy has forced the dwellers of three districts to migrate to other places for their survival.

Shar also warned of the implications of giving nationality to alien citizens.

“The state is engaged in dangerous conspiracies against Sindh,” alleged former Advocate General Sindh, Muhammad Yousuf Laghari. He argued that by controlling Sindh’s water resources the upper riparian province wanted to make Sindh’s economy its hostage.

Laghari said that the construction of Kalabagh Dam would violate international laws and the resolutions passed against the dam by the provincial assemblies of Sindh, K-P and Balochistan. “But we won’t let this happen,” he claimed.

Laghari also said that since independence, Sindh had been saddled with the burden of accommodating refugees. He believed that a conspiracy was still on the table to turn native Sindhis into a minority in their own motherland. “The undeclared operation against Sindh’s political workers, the enforced disappearances and the killings are part of this design,” he maintained.

Another former advocate general Sindh, Nisar Durrani, said that the state was foisting its inimical decisions on Sindh. “Indus is lifeline for Sindh. We don’t accept any dam on it,” he said.

Commenting on the proposed naturalisation, Durrani said that Sindh has been turned into an international orphanage. He said, “The government should rather take up the task of repatriating the foreigners to their countries of origin.” He vowed that the legal community would stand as a bulwark against any design considered harmful for the people of the province.

President of HDBA Advocate Imdad Unar said that no law barred the people of Sindh from expressing their opinion in favour of or against any project. The lawyers announced that a committee comprising senior lawyers will be formed to lead the protests and movements against the two proposals. Lawyers at the event expressed their views and a token protest also took place.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 28th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1813213/1-lawyers-warn-construction-kalabagh-dam/>

#### ‘MEGA VISION, STRONG WILL NEEDED TO TACKLE WATER CHALLENGES’ RECORDER REPORT

HYDERABAD: Renowned hydrologist and water expert Dr Hassan Abbas said that a mega vision and strong will was needed to tackle the water challenges of Pakistan.

While speaking in the graduate seminar on Pakistan’s Water Challenges: Need for Integrated Water Resources Management, held at US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCAS-W) Mehran University of

Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro on Friday organised by the Center in collaboration with Center for Social Change (CSC), he said that one of the biggest challenges the country was facing is water pollution instead of water scarcity.

He said that water resources were not diminished as perceived by all and sundry but the naturally abundant water resources were being diverted which ultimately affect the lower riparian region.

Talking about the Indus Delta, he said that the balance between the sea and the delta was only possible with the natural flow of water. He said that 24 acres of land in delta were being affected and 8 acres were completely inundated due to sea intrusion on a daily basis.

Dr Abbas quoting the existing irrigation system said that the irrigation canals were purposively made to provide water for agriculture but due to flood irrigation system in Pakistan, these canals cause land degradation due to water logging and salinity, while the irrigation drains have to prevent the water logging and salinity but cause pollution and nuisance in the landscape due to increase of water logging and salinity at tail ends.

While discussing the economic benefits and losses by the construction of dams on foreign loans, Dr Abbas said that dams have temporary benefits in power generation and agriculture production, but due to dams the country was to bear the permanent loss of riverine economy and environment.

Talking on the needs for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), he said that fundamental principles of contemporary IWRM has to go with the flow which is free flow means water for all. "Water belongs to no one but to the river where it flows; and as it flows," he added. He also shared the comparative analysis of Sava River of Europe with Indus River of the subcontinent, also showed the existing situation of both and said that how the former is more sustained, preserved and ultimately benefits the respective communities due to its natural flow and navigation.

While sharing the unified vision for IWRM in Pakistan, Dr Abbas said that there was a need to develop strict guidelines and implementation procedures to avoid and control all types of pollution into water resources. His emphasis was on an adaptation of efficient irrigation practices of the 21st century and to get rid of outdated flood irrigation and do away with colonial legacies.

He also suggested developing riverine well fields for clean, fresh and sustainable water supply for both agriculture and domestic purposes. He also recommended that the businesses on the intrinsic value of water, i.e. developing water-front real estates, ecotourism, water sports, etc. and to invoke the grand economic engine of inland navigation.

Sharing the way forward, he said that Sindh being in the lower riparian region could provide leadership for effective and efficient water governance and IWRM in the country. In this connection, he stressed and illustrated on efficient irrigation in Rohri canal command, inland navigation up to Kotri, urban canal for aquifer recharge and intrinsic value projects in Karachi. He said that it was rightly said that water is heavier than oil and through the efficient water management the water economy of Pakistan can earn more money than that of the oil economy of the Middle East.

On this occasion, Dr Rasool Bux Mahar, Deputy Director USPCAS-W MUET welcomed the participants and introduced the speaker with the audience and also Executive Director Zulfiqar Halepoto CSC spoke on the public space for debate on water issues of Pakistan. In the seminar, MUET Dean Civil and Architecture Prof Dr Khan Mohammad Brohi, Prof Mushtaq Mirani, Engr Zarif Khero, Prof Dr Altaf Siyal, Dr Kamran Ansari, former General Manager WAPDA Engr Abdul Jabbar Memon, civil society activists, water experts, faculty and students of USPCAS-W MUET attended the seminar.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/09/29/3-page/741415-news.html>

HYDERABAD: Sindh's nationalist, national and religious parties have strongly reacted to Chief Justice of Pakistan's assertion he will launch work on Kalabagh dam after having built Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand dams and warned Sindh's people will never accept the controversial reservoir project.

In Hyderabad, Qaumi Awami Tehreek president Ayaz Latif Palijo said in a statement issued here that Kalabagh dam was a death warrant for the province hence it would never be accepted. No court, parliament or administrative authority had a right to destroy Sindh, he said.

He reiterated that people of Sindh through peaceful political struggle and prudent activism would not allow anyone to resurrect this project. Sindh had not accepted retired Gen Musharraf's emergency-plus nor did they let Gen Zia succeed, he said.

He termed the Kalabagh dam project anti-Sindh and anti-Pakistan and said that before thinking about the construction of any dam or canal one must take into account the water theft on a massive scale over the past 150 years.

Mr Palijo said that if Pakistan's parliamentary and judicial institutions wanted to serve justice to Sindh and Pakistan they should order closure of Chashma-Jhelum, Taunsa-Panjanad and Greater Thal canals and hold Indus River System Authority and Wapda accountable for the theft of Sindh's share of water.

He said the controversial dam had been rejected by three assemblies and millions had protested against it. Courts should avoid taking decisions against freedom of speech as it was in conflict with law of the land and Constitution. People of Sindh had always stood for justice, he said.

Jeay Sindh Mahaz's chief organiser Hashim Khoso and central leader Abdul Khaliq Junejo said in a joint statement that their party rejected the CJP's statement. It was a judge's responsibility to hear the two parties before delivering justice but when the judge himself became party in a case it would only lead to murder of justice, they said.

They reminded the CJP that the Sindh assembly that had passed resolution for Pakistan had rejected the dam project besides two other assemblies. They were ready to be punished for opposing the anti-Sindh project, he said.

Sindh National Party senior vice president Ramzan Buledi and others said in a joint statement that the CJP's controversial decisions were creating resentment among Sindhi people who could not be subdued through coercion or intimidation.

They said the controversial dam would never be accepted as Sindh had already suffered a great deal because of it. No one would be allowed to render Sindh's land barren by building dams on Indus, they said.

Local leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Hyderabad chapter Ahsan Abro said in a statement that dams were inevitable for the country but they could not be built without consensus.

He criticised the CJP's warning of action against dams' opponents under Article 6 and said that Diamer Bhasha dam was dream of PPP chairperson Benazir Bhutto and its foundation stone was also laid during a PPP government. PML-N government acquired land and allocations were also made for the dam.

The CJP had taken a good initiative to raise funds for dams which was supported by prime minister but they must remember that a dam could not be built with donations only, he said.



Jamaat-i-Islami Hyderabad chapter emir Hafiz Tahir Majeed said that projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and water reservoirs were necessary but only depending on donations for working on them would not be wise.

SUKKUR: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl leader Maulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro expressed reservations over construction of new dams and warned Kalabagh dam project was not acceptable to Sindhi people at any cost.

It was sad to hear the CJP, warning dam opponents with imposition of Article 6, said the Maulana while talking to a delegation of party leaders, according to a press release issued by JUI-F Jacobabad chapter on Sunday.

The Maulana said that he was surprised at the statement of such a high-profile personality who knew well about law and Constitution. Sea had swallowed in hundreds of thousands of acres in Thatta, Sujawal and Badin districts because no water was released downstream Kotri barrage, he said.

He cautioned that if Kalabagh dam was constructed on Indus it would be a conspiracy against Sindh and no one would accept it at any cost. There should be huge quantum of water available for big dams to get filled which was unavailable at the moment. Therefore, the government needed to construct small dams to store extra water after providing water to delta and tail-end areas, he said.

He said that Sindh was not getting water as per its quota in accordance with the water accord of 1991. Chashma-Jhelum link canal which was a flood canal had been turned into a perennial canal in violation of the accord.

He said that as per law of the land and Sharia Sindh which was located at the tail-end of the river had the right of water and it would not allow construction of new dams under any pressure.

BADIN: JSM chairman Riaz Ali Chandio has said that people of Sindh have rejected the construction of dam on Sindh's waters and announced holding a rally on Oct 7.

He told reporters at Awan-i-Sahafat that it was not CJP's job he should let the prime minister and political monitors to carry out their responsibilities.

He said the CJP should pay heed to cases of human rights violation and take action against those who violated the country's Constitution by illegally building Greater Thal Canal. Action should be taken against those who had time and again created shortage of water, he said.

He said that people of Sindh were already facing shortage of water mostly in Badin, Sujawal and Thatta districts and were forced to migrate to other areas for livelihood.

He advised the CJP not to take advantage of his esteemed position and desist from talking on sensitive issues. The CJP had better resign from the post then campaign for the construction of dam, he said.

He said that he would meet PPP chairman and legislators and heads of other major political parties Pir Pagaro and others and ask them to join the struggle against the controversial dam and save Sindh.

Published in Dawn, September 17th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1433303/cjps-statement-on-kalabagh-dam-draws-sharp-criticism>

SC WANTS RATIONALISATION OF GROUNDWATER PURCHASE PRICE

Wajih Ahmad Sheikh September 17, 2018

LAHORE: The Supreme Court on Sunday directed Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan and other lawyers representing bottled water companies to sit together and come up with a workable plan to rationalise purchasing price of groundwater.

Earlier, chief executive officers of different bottled water companies appeared before a two-judge bench at the SC's Lahore registry seized with a suo motu case against extraction of groundwater by these companies.

Heading the bench, Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar regretted that the water selling companies had been using groundwater almost free for years. "Now time has come to pay back to this country," he told Barrister Ahsan, the counsel for Nestle mineral water company.

CJP orders forensic audit of mineral water company and appoints an expert to complete the task in 15 days

The chief justice observed that the court wanted to regulate groundwater extraction by every industry like it did in the case of the cement industry.

Justice Ijazul Ahsan, a member of the bench, pointed out that the purchasing price of groundwater being paid by the companies in Pakistan was the lowest in the world.

Mr Ahsan argued that the companies selling bottled water were different from other industries as they extracted groundwater and purified it before selling it to people. However, he said, other industries released polluted water after using the groundwater.

Justice Ahsan noted that Nestle earned an average profit of Rs6 billion from bottled water business, but it was not willing to pay a rational price for extracting groundwater.

However, the counsel insisted that the amount quoted by the bench was not profit but sale of the company.

Chief Justice Nisar told Mr Ahsan that the court would order the government to also waive the existing price of water (0.4 paisa per liter) as a charity if his client/company was not able to pay a rational price. He directed Nestle to deposit a bank surety of Rs1 billion when Barrister Ahsan sought one-month time for deliberations with the stakeholders and government authorities to rationalise the water price.

"It is better to ask them to take their all investment back to Switzerland," the counsel responded to the chief justice's offer.

Chief Justice Nisar asked the counsel not to exploit the situation by saying that foreign investors would be discouraged in the country following judicial proceedings. "One cannot escape regulations being a foreign investor," he said.

The chief justice regretted that the conduct of the companies showed they did not want to contribute to the country's economy. He observed that the water was a precious natural source, but would become rare for future generations if not preserved and regulated.

The chief justice ordered a forensic audit of Nestle and appointed Kaukab Jamal Zubairi, an expert in auditing, ignoring reservations of Barrister Ahsan on the expert.

The counsel insisted that the task should be given to one of top four chartered accountancy firms, saying a recent audit report on Pakistan Kidney & Liver Transplant Institute conducted by Mr Zubairi had grave factual errors.

However, the chief justice rejected the request and directed Mr Zubairi to complete the audit within 15 days. He also instructed his staff to randomly purchase bottles of known mineral water companies for their analysis.

Before concluding the proceedings, the chief justice reminded the lawyers that Bahria Town and other housing societies would soon be taken to task for using groundwater free of cost and selling it to their residents. He advised Mr Ahsan to come well prepared at the next hearing of a separate case wherein he held brief of Bahria Town.

Published in Dawn, September 17th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1433422/sc-wants-rationalisation-of-groundwater-purchase-price>

## WATER SHORTAGE EXPECTED DURING WINTERS

Jamal Shahid September 17, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Less rain during the next three months can lead to water shortage throughout the winters, the Met Office said on Sunday.

There will be early snowfall in October and November, the Met Office said, and that there has been some snowfall in Kohistan already. Though there will be less snow in December and January, more snow is expected in February and March, the Met Office predicted.

“However, we are not expecting a good winter in terms of water availability. Even if there is some [snowfall], water will still not be available till the snow melts during the next summers. We might be looking at a water crisis. The Met Office has already issued a drought alert,” Met Department Director General Ghulam Rasul said.

He said concerned offices are not taking the drought alert seriously.

The alert was sent to some 200 concerned departments across the country, including the ministries of food security, water resources, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and provincial departments, most likely to be affected by the drought.

Met Office says it has already issued drought alerts, rabbi crops likely to be adversely affected

“However, no one has approached the met department about the extreme weather alert that can [affect] both Sindh and Balochistan,” he said.

Mr Rasul said: “We are expecting minimal [rains] in the next three months. Mangla Dam is half full which means we have enough water for 15 or 20 days at the most.”

He warned that the expected water shortage will likely affect rabbi sowing between October and December. The production of wheat, a major rabbi crop, will also be affected.

The temperature is expected to remain hot and humid in September, he added.

Asked why smartphone weather applications show inaccurate forecasts, the DG Met Office explained that the source of their data is unreliable.

“Weather applications are updated by random, freelance weather setups that mostly use cheap instruments and the techniques followed to process data are also questionable. The Pakistan Met Department does not share its weather data with freelance, random weather offices except with World Weather Information Service, which is the global website that presents official weather observations,” Mr Rasul said.

However, the Met Office is developing an indigenous weather application which should be launched in the next six months, depending on government funding.

He advised people to subscribe to the Met Office's messaging service for daily weather updates twice a day.

According to the official, short range weather forecast ranging from a few hours to three days is 89pc to 90pc accurate. The medium range forecast between three days to seven days is 72pc to 73pc accurate. And the long range predictions of up to three months are as accurate as they are around the world, up to 67pc exact.

"However, the Met Office keeps updating long range weather forecast every month to incorporate changes in weather," the official said.

Published in Dawn, September 17th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1433317/water-shortage-expected-during-winters>

#### WAPDA, CHINESE FIRM TO REFURBISH MANGLA WITH RS1.68BN

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated September 18, 2018

LAHORE: A Chinese company has been awarded Rs1.68 billion for Mangla Refurbishment Project (Package-9) by Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) on Monday.

A contract was signed between the two companies. Wapda is implementing Mangla Refurbishment Project with an approved PC-I cost of Rs52.224bn. The project, on its completion, will enhance generation capacity of the existing Mangla Hydel Power Station from 1,000 megawatt (MW) to 1,310MW, thus registering an increase of 310MW.

The refurbishment works have been divided into 11 different packages. Prior to signing of Package-9, which includes up-gradation of Mangla power station's switchyard, as many as five other packages of the project have already been awarded and the works are in progress on them.

"The contract signing ceremony was held at the Wapda House. Wapda's General Manager (Hydel) Development, Engineer Muhammad Arshad Chaudhry and China's CMAC Engineering Company's Business Manager, Ms Liang Xiaofang signed the agreement on behalf of their organisations," says a press release.

The project will be implemented in various phases, wherein the generating units will be refurbished by closing down one tunnel (two generating units) at a time. Refurbishment of the first two units will be completed in 2019, while refurbishment of all 10 generating units is likely to be accomplished by 2024.

"USAID is providing \$150 million as grant, while AFD is providing 90m euros as loan for the project, while the remaining amount is being arranged by Wapda through loans and its own resources," the release said.

Published in Dawn, September 18th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1433622/wapda-chinese-firm-to-refurbish-mangla-with-rs168bn>

#### PROTESTS AGAINST KALABAGH DAM PLAN CONTINUE

Dawn Report Updated September 19, 2018

HYDERABAD: More rallies and demonstrations were held in different parts of Sindh on Tuesday to oppose construction of Kalabagh dam as leaders of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party, nationalist outfits and civil society organisations continued to criticise moves to revive the "dead issue".

Known activists Punhal Sario, Jami Chandio, Mohammed Ali Shah, Mushtaq Mirani, Mukhtiar Abbasi, Zulfiqar Halepoto, Noor Ahmed Katiar, Apa Nazeer Qureshi and others led a rally of civil society organisations who gathered outside the local press club and raised slogans against the dam.

The activists vowed to resist construction of any new dam over the Indus.

They called for upholding democratic values and respecting aspirations of the masses. If Constitution and law were trampled over, it would be difficult for the country to survive, they said.

They were of the view that a decision on such issues should only be taken by the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

The activists contested the Supreme Court chief justice's view that Article 6 (high treason) of the Constitution could be invoked against those opposing [Bhasha] dam, and argued that any citizen whose fundamental rights were jeopardised could raise his voice.

Meanwhile, the Qaumi Awami Tehreek (QAT) has finalised its plan to hold a series of protests and observe hunger strike across Sindh from Sept 23 to 26 against the Kalabagh dam plan and the PM's proposal to issue CNICs to immigrants in Karachi, according to a QAT statement issued here on Tuesday.

#### Protests in Umerkot

The Umerkot Bar Association on Tuesday opposed construction of any new dam over the Indus river.

Members of the association held a demonstration and passed a resolution which called for an end to all moves towards construction of new dams over Indus.

Reading out the resolution, its president Poonjo Bheel, said that all such moves which could cause a harm to the lives of Sindh's people and undermine the economy of the province in the shape of dams must be stopped.

The resolution said that such unacceptable decisions should not be thrust upon the people of Sindh.

#### BADIN

A group of lawyers boycotted proceedings of courts in Badin district on Tuesday and held a rally against proposed construction of Kalabagh dam.

Speaking to the participants on the premises of Badin district and sessions court, their leaders Ameer Azad Panwher, Noor Mohammed Soomro, Aftab Mallah and others said it was a matter of concern that the chief justice of Pakistan was advocating a dam project which was already rejected by three provincial assemblies.

They said the three smaller provinces were right in believing that Kalabagh dam would aggravate the already acute water shortage in their areas.

The coastal districts of Thatta, Sujawal and Badin would turn barren, they added.

The lawyers also criticised Prime Minister Imran Khan's proposal about giving nationality to Pakistan-born children of Afghan and Bengali immigrants. They vowed to intensify their protest if nationality was offered to illegal immigrants.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1433708/protests-against-kalabagh-dam-plan-continue>

## DAM ISSUE: THATTA, MIRPURKHAS, JAMSHORO JOIN IN PROTEST OVER KALABAGH DAM By Our Correspondent

Published: September 20, 2018

HYDERABAD:As the backlash to the proposal to construct Kalabagh Dam continues, the legal fraternity held protests and passed resolutions against the dam in Thatta, Mirpurkhas and Jamshoro districts on Wednesday.

We don't approve [construction of] Kalabagh Dam. We don't approve all dams, said the lawyers of Mirpurkhas district bar association chanted in their protest.

The bar's general secretary, Advocate Shakat Rahimo, said hundreds of thousands of acres of cultivable land has dried up in Sindh because the province's water share is being stolen by Punjab. He said the lawyers have demanded that the call for construction of Kalabagh Dam be withdrawn.

"We condemn the campaign being started for construction of the dam," he said. The bar also passed a resolution in this regard. "This bar resolves that any decision for a dam on Indus river will be against the three federating units, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," reads the resolution passed by Jamshoro district bar association.

"The people of Sindh feel insecure as being affectees of dams and canals [built] by the upper riparian Punjab," said one of the protesters. The lawyers contended that the province has suffered a lot as the crop output has decreased and poverty has been rising while the agricultural economy has been ruined and the Indus delta may vanish due to sea intrusion.

In Thatta district, the lawyers took out a protest rally expressing disapproval and objection to both the dam and naturalisation of Bengalis and Afghanis. "Prime Minister Imran Khan revealed his anti-Sindh objectives during his visit to Karachi," said Syed Aijaz Hussain Shah, the bar's president.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1807618/1-dam-issue-thatta-mirpurkhas-jamshoro-join-protest-kalabagh-dam/>

## WORLD BANK WARNS PAKISTAN OF RISE IN DASU PROJECT COST By Shahbaz Rana

Published: September 20, 2018

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan struggles to generate resources to build dams, the World Bank has warned that the cost of \$4.3-billion Dasu hydroelectric power project may increase and it can face delays due to the country's inability to resolve disputes over land acquisition.

World Bank Country Director to Pakistan Patchamuthu Illango met Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar on Wednesday, seeking intervention of his office in order to prevent the 2,160-megawatt clean energy project from complete derailment.

Usual bureaucratic inefficiencies and procedural hurdles are at the heart of the problem, according to people engaged in the construction of the project.

The Washington-based lender approved a loan of \$588.4 million for the construction of the run-of-the-river project in June 2014. It has also extended a partial credit guarantee of \$460 million to pave the way for arranging commercial loans to meet the remaining financing requirements.

Owing to slow physical progress, the World Bank released only \$176 million or nearly 30% of its loan component by April this year, according to a project progress report of the lender.

The bank cautioned Pakistani authorities that civil works may not be completed by the June 2021 deadline, sources told The Express Tribune.

The project, which is critical for improving the country's energy mix, faces problems despite the top priority accorded to construction of hydroelectric power schemes by the government and the judiciary.

The military has also recently contributed over Rs1 billion to the Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dam Fund.

However, it seems that no one will be penalised for creating hurdles in the way of completing the foreign-funded Dasu project.

Due to the poor pace of work, the World Bank has kept progress rating of the first phase of the project unchanged at 'moderately satisfactory' for the last two years. The project, however, has enjoyed 'satisfactory' rating in terms of expanding the hydroelectric power supply in Pakistan.

The latest progress report of the international lender also mentioned that "further expansion of main works is currently being limited by delays in land acquisition for the construction area".

The June 2018 report added that acquisition of land close to the dam's site area over the next six months was crucial to not cause cost overrun and delay in project implementation.

The office of Deputy Commissioner Upper Kohistan and Project Management Unit of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) are handling land acquisition for the project.

Despite taking services of the provincial Land Revenue Department, the people concerned have failed to finish paperwork for land acquisition from the locals.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council had approved land acquisition rates in mid-2015.

The last PML-N government gave preference to the Dasu hydroelectric power project over the Diamer-Bhasha dam. Despite that, Wapda could not take appropriate measures to put the project on fast track.

Last progress review report showed that work on transmission lines of the scheme has been finalised by only 35%. Main civil work is focused on finalising temporary work areas such as camps, batching plant and construction of a bridge across the Indus River.

It is a "high-risk high-reward" project aimed at providing low-cost, non-carbon renewable energy.

The World Bank has now described the overall risk in completion of the project as high.

Illango is said to have raised the issue of delay in approval of project documents by the Planning Commission. Sponsoring ministries and project approval authorities take up to two years in just giving necessary approvals, which also affect business operations of the lender, officials said.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 20th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1807453/1-world-bank-warns-pakistan-rise-dasu-project-cost/>



## PUNJAB TO HAVE NO WATER FOR NON-PERENNIAL CANALS

By Our Correspondent

Published: September 20, 2018

The Rabi crop requirement of Punjab stands at 18.2 million acre feet (maf) of water against availability of around 10 maf. PHOTO: FILE

LAHORE: There will be no water for all non-perennial canals in Punjab during wheat cultivation in the upcoming Rabi season due to severe paucity of river water.

About 45% water shortage is expected, which may leave Punjab with no option but to stop running non-perennial canals from mid-October, agriculture experts warn.

Normally, two watering phases are ensured through non-perennial canals in the normal Rabi season, one each at sowing and maturity stage. In mild shortages, one watering is made possible for the sowing season.

However, this year, due to the grim water situation and persistent drought, it is least likely that any non-perennial canal will be run during the Rabi season, starting from October 1.

According to the Punjab Irrigation Department, among the canal system, there are perennial and non-perennial channels in the province.

Perennial canals mostly feed the areas where the groundwater is brackish while non-perennial canals largely irrigate sweet water zones. The non-perennial channels usually run from April 15 to October 15 every year.

According to official figures, non-perennial canals feed about one-third of the total irrigated area in the province.

The vast land under the non-perennial canal command area would be solely dependent on tube wells, leading to a high cost of production. Only rains can supplement some of the water needs of these areas, a major chunk of which falls in southern Punjab.

It is emphasised by the agriculture department that one watering at sowing time should be provided to the non-perennial canal areas in the hope that subsequent rains could help maintain moisture in ensuing period. Sowing of crop at maximum area is the first step towards achieving good wheat crop, said an official. However, the irrigation department is not in favour of the proposal given unprecedented shortage of over 45% in Rabi 2018-19.

The Rabi crop requirement of Punjab stands at 18.2 million acre feet (maf) of water against availability of around 10 maf. The water requirement of non-perennial canals hovers around 2MAF. According to an estimate, about 50% of the wheat area in Punjab is irrigated through perennial canals and another 32% through non-perennial.

It may be noted that the technical committee meeting of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) is scheduled to be held on September 25 with the mandate to review the water situation and finalise its recommendation regarding availability and demand for the upcoming Rabi season. The final decision about the anticipated water shortage for Kharif and share of respective provinces will be taken in the Irsa's advisory committee meeting likely to be held on October 1.

Usually the advisory committee's meeting takes place by the end of September but since weekend falls on September 29 and 30, therefore the meeting is scheduled for Monday October 1, said the source. As per Water Accord 1991,

water regulation body allocates water to federating units twice a year, once for Kharif season and the other for Rabi season. Rabi season starts from October 1 while Kharif starts from April 1.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 20th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1807444/2-punjab-no-water-non-perennial-canal/>

ONLY 38PC WORK ON K-IV WATER SUPPLY PROJECT COMPLETED, SAYS JUDICIAL BODY REPORT  
Ishaq Tanoli Updated September 21, 2018

KARACHI: Only 38 per cent of the work on the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, better known as the K-IV project, has been completed, said a report of the one-man commission on water and sanitation in Sindh.

In its progress report recently placed before the Supreme Court, the commission, headed by retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, stated that although acquisition of encroached land had been progressed considerably, a 5.7-kilometre-long portion was yet to be handed over to the project executing agency.

It further said that on the intervention of the commission, the mega project of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board had been put on a faster track with inclusion of ancillary works, power plant and augmentation project.

The SSWMB will soon extend its operation to Central and Korangi districts

The commission had also expressed annoyance over the failure of the authorities concerned in providing any substantial material about the 22 realignments in the K-IV and warned that it might refer the matter to the National Accountability Bureau after an application was filed against realignments.

A resident of Usman Allah Rakhio Goth in Gadap Town had filed an application before the commission submitted that the alignment, approved in 2016 was the only straight and shortest possible time/money-saving route, but realignments of the project was based on mala fide intentions to achieve ulterior motive and to give benefit to the Bahria Town Karachi.

Later, the applicant approached the Sindh High Court and obtained a stay order.

Garbage collection capacity increased

The report further said that the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) had almost doubled its daily garbage disposal from 5,238 tonnes in Dec 2017 to 10,000 tonnes daily in August.

The board was presently operating in four districts of Karachi, whereas the councils of remaining two districts — Korangi and Central — had also agreed to transfer the function of solid waste collection to the SSWMB, it added.

The report stated that contractors had increased their workforce by inducting more than 500 workers and procurement for increasing mechanical capacity was also underway while a biometric system of attendance had also been introduced in South and East districts.

Sepa offices to be set up in 10 more districts

The progress report stated that the operations of the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) had been augmented to districts other than the provincial metropolis and an amount of Rs98 million had been released for the establishment of 10 district offices.

The finance department also allocated funds in the current financial years for nine more district offices of Sepa, it added.

Three such offices had been established in Ghotki, Naushahro Feroze and Kashmore districts while work on the remaining offices would be initiated during the current fiscal year, it added.

The environmental protection laws are being implemented through Sepa and the violators have been taken to task as 152 cases sent to the environmental protection tribunal while 384 complaints were filed in courts of judicial magistrates. Around 239 complaints were filed in Karachi, 80 in Hyderabad, 40 in Sukkur, 18 in Mirpurkhas and seven complaints in Larkana.

The commission also examined the issue related to the sewerage treatment plants in Hyderabad.

It found that two federal government-funded treatment plants (eastern and southern treatment plant & northern and western treatment plant) had almost been left abandoned due to thin funding as well as certain issues in execution of the schemes.

The commission assigned these projects to the planning and development board, which will resolve the issue and get the schemes revived either through the federal funding or provincial government's.

However, the tendering process for the northern and western plants was underway and the physical execution would commence in November, the report said.

#### 17 water testing labs established

The progress report said that 17 water testing laboratories would be established in different districts of the province to enable the public health engineering department to ensure constant vigilance and monitoring of the quality of water.

After the due process of tendering, award letters had been issued for establishment of laboratories in Dadu, Jacobabad, Khairpur and Shikarpur districts while work orders would be issued soon for such laboratories to be set up in Matiari, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar and Tharparkar.

The appropriate places for establishment of laboratories had been identified and the laboratories would be made functional by the end of next year, it added.

#### Water, sanitation schemes

Established in January, the Supreme Court-mandated commission headed by retired Justice Muslim in its report further said that it could not find a single properly functioning scheme of water and sanitation in the whole province during its visits and thus the scope of rehabilitation of schemes was far greater.

It added said that earlier reports of the provincial government said that out of around 2,500 such scheme, 954 were non-functional.

However, the commission disagreed with this statistic and it held an independent view based on the empirical material collected through extensive visits all over the province and said that the number of existing non-functional schemes were too high than previously considered.

It stated that 66 new schemes of water supply and drainage in rural and semi-urban areas of the province had been completed against the target of 92 schemes, adding that 26 schemes were at an advance stage and would be completed by this month.

These were the Annual Development Programme (ADP) schemes and at some places, the schemes were being delayed for certain administrative and logistic reasons, it added.

The report further said that against the target of rehabilitating 80 existing water and sewerage schemes, 62 had been completely rehabilitated and 18 others to be completed by the end of this month.

The tendering process of another 391 new schemes of water and drainage had been completed and successful bidders would soon award contracts.

There were more than 550 points in 10 districts where untreated municipal and industrial waste outfalls into the irrigation system, the report said.

After an elaborate feasibility report, preparation of PC-1, designs and estimates for treating such waste in Larkana, Sukkur, Khairpur, Kashmore, Kambar, Dadu, Badin, Sujawal, Matiari and Naushahro Feroze had been completed and work would commence by the second week of the next month.

Published in Dawn, September 21st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1434121/only-38pc-work-on-k-iv-water-supply-project-completed-says-judicial-body-report>

CM TO SEEK 1,200 CUSECS ADDITIONAL WATER FOR CITY AT CCI MEETING TOMORROW

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated September 23, 2018

KARACHI: Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Saturday repeated his stance that the teeming provincial capital needed 1,200 cusecs additional water for the K-IV project and vowed to persuade a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI), scheduled to be held in Islamabad on Monday, to approve the Sindh government's request.

Mr Shah said this while presiding over a meeting at the CM House to review the agenda of the CCI meeting and his government's plans to place before the forum.

The meeting was attended by Energy Minister Imtiaz Shaikh, CM's Adviser on Law and Information Murtaza Wahab, principal secretary to CM Sohail Rajput, law secretary Raheem Soomro and other senior officials.

CM Shah said Karachi, where people from across the country resided, was facing an acute water shortage. He said the current domestic consumption which currently stood at 12.75 gallons per capita per day was anticipated to drop further in coming years mainly because of a high population growth.

He added that keeping in view the present demand and future strategy the KWSB had worked out an additional demand of 1,200 to 2,400 cusecs.

Mr Shah had earlier said the irrigation department had approached the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) twice to allocate 1,200 cusecs additional drinking water for Karachi in addition to the provision of the Water Accord 1991.

The meeting was told that according to Irsa, any additional requirement of water supply to Karachi had to be met by Sindh out of its existing allocated share as no water outside the accord was available for further distribution.

Irsa has already stated that no extra water is available for distribution

The chief minister said that before the water accord of 1991, 1,200 cusecs of water was sanctioned for Karachi on Aug 10, 1988 by the president. He added that 1,200 cusecs water had been included in the allocation of Sindh mentioned at Para-2 of the Water Accord 1991, but an additional requirement of 1,200 cusecs water for the city had not been included in the share of the province.

#### Law and order

At an earlier meeting, Murad Ali Shah said well-coordinated efforts of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) made Ashura proceedings peaceful and appreciated the performance of police, Rangers and intelligence agencies.

Among others, the meeting was attended by CM's Adviser Murtaza Wahab and Sindh IGP Kaleem Imam.

Mr Shah said his efforts to make police more professional and public-friendly would continue by offering training programmes.

"The capacity building of Karachi police is in progress and now time has come to change police uniform," he said, adding: "I am of the opinion that T-shirt may also be allowed to policemen so that they can perform their duty in sweltering weather comfortably." The IGP Sindh said he would provide different samples of proposed uniforms to the chief minister for his guidance and approval.

Mr Shah said he had visited three divisions — Karachi, Sukkur and Larkana — to take an aerial view of Ashura processions and witnessed security arrangements.

"There was proper deployment of police and Rangers at majalis and mourning processions," he said, adding that district administrations also worked hard in providing facilities on the routes of processions and at majalis.

"I am also thankful to all ulema for their support and cooperation in keeping the Ashura proceedings peaceful," he said.

A provincial government spokesperson said that on Ashura, Chief Minister Shah wearing black shalwar kameez visited Saddar in Karachi to witness security arrangements made for the mourners. He walked from Empress Market to M.A. Jinnah Road and received the procession there and led it up to Empress Market. He also met procession organisers. Later, he flew to Sukkur to review security arrangements made in sensitive districts.

The chief minister with provincial minister Nasir Shah, and Murtaza Wahab took an aerial view of processions taken out in Shikarpur, Khanpur, Jacobabad, Rohri, Khairpur and Kotdiji.

In the evening Mr Shah returned to Karachi and took an aerial view of the main procession, which was culminating.

#### Parks, drains, Green Line

During his aerial visit, said the spokesperson, Mr Shah witnessed that some parks were in extremely bad shape, which included Jheel Park, Hill Park, parks in Nazimabad, North Nazimabad etc.

"He vowed to rehabilitate these parks by involving relevant local bodies and local communities," said the spokesperson, quoting Mr Shah as saying: "Karachi needs more parks and massive tree plantation and we all — local bodies, civil society and NGOs — have to work collectively."

Mr Shah also noticed that various storm-water drains were still filled with filth and garbage. He decided to talk to the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and district municipal corporations to clean them completely.

The chief minister also took an aerial view of the BRT Green Line project infrastructure. “It is at the completion stage except a portion from Numaish towards M.A. Jinnah Road,” said the spokesperson.

Published in Dawn, September 23rd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1434342/cm-to-see-1200-cusecs-additional-water-for-city-at-cci-meeting-tomorrow>

## VILLAGERS BLOCK ROAD TO PROTEST WATER SHORTAGE

The News, September 23, 2018

**BISHAM:** The dwellers of Donai, Chechlo, and Karwara villages on Saturday took out a protest rally against Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation (Pedo) and the provincial government for constructing Karora dam on Khan Khawar that caused serious water shortage in the areas.

Carrying banners inscribed with slogans against the Pedo and government, the protesters had blocked the Bisham-Swat highway for nearly two hours.

Addressing the protesters, PTI activist Nisar Khan, Islam Zada, Muhammad Ali and others said that the provincial government had constructed 11.80 megawatts Khan Khawar Hydropower project, which caused serious water shortage in the Raniyal union council.

They said that water of Khan Khwar had been diverted through the head-race tunnel at Kuz Kana that caused water shortage in the areas.

They asked the government to arrange separate water schemes for the residents of Donai area as they were being forced to fetch water from far-flung areas.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/371976-villagers-block-road-to-protest-water-shortage>

## NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 10TH TO SEPTEMBER 16TH 2018

### PAKISTAN EMBASSY LAUNCHES DAMS FUNDRAISING DRIVE IN US

Anwar Iqbal Updated September 10, 2018

**WASHINGTON:** The Pakistan Embassy in the United States sent out an appeal this weekend, urging the Pakistani-American community to donate generously to a fund set up by the government to build Diamer-Basha and Mohmand dams.

But experts continue to debate the concept of building dams with public donations. The government hopes to raise a sizable portion of the fund from the Pakistani-American community, which is considered the most affluent among the Pakistanis living abroad.

“Imran Khan has got ample supporters and fundraisers within the Pakistani-American community. Still, I doubt there’s a critical mass of Pakistanis overseas with the financial capacity (much less the will) to participate in this campaign,” says Michael Kugelman, a Pakistan expert at the Woodrow Wilson Centre for Scholars in Washington, describing the appeal as “an ambitious ask”.

“Khan knows the diaspora better than anyone,” tweeted Xulqi Moon, pointing out that Imran Khan has travelled across the world, collecting funds. He has decades of experience of donations and charity collection and he will achieve his target, the supporter wrote.

The Pakistani embassy in Washington, however, did not get involved in the debate about whether it's possible to build dams with donations.

Instead, it sent out a letter to influential Pakistanis in the United States, encouraging them to participate in the campaign.

The letter said that Pakistan had opened a special account at the National Bank of Pakistan in New York and asked Pakistanis to send their donations to NBP account #55302141, through routing #026004721 and swift code NBPUS33. The letter reminds donors also to mention their dates and places of birth in bank to bank information field of wire transfer instructions.

Mr Kugelman pointed out that one thing was left unsaid in the appeal to overseas Pakistanis to donate \$1,000 each: "The diaspora isn't quite as affluent as some think. Many won't be in position to donate."

Mr Kugelman, however, appreciated the government's focus on the issue. "Credit is due to the Pakistan government for rightly identifying water as one of the country's biggest challenges," he said. "But instead of trying to crowd fund via the diaspora to build a new dam, how about focusing on repairing existing infrastructure, e.g. Tarbela? Less costly, less complicated."

He advised the government not to discount "the demand-side aspects of water management" either.

He also referred to an estimate by a Pakistani water professional, Simi Kamal, that Diamer-Basha Dam could potentially generate 8 MAF of water, but simply repairing existing canal systems would free up more.

Johnny Bashir, a PTI supporter in Springfield, Virginia, said the government knew it could not raise \$12 billion to build Basha dam from donations. But it wanted to raise as much as it could while working on other options as well. "So, Relax and do your part. If you don't want to help, chill and let others do what they think is right for Pakistan."

"Simple math: One Billion Dollars = 1,000 x 1,000,000 (one thousand million dollars). Total overseas Pakistani = 7.5 million. Expected cost = 12 Billion Dollars.," wrote Khurram Shahzad, a Washington-based IT specialist.

"I am optimistic, but numbers don't match-up."

Published in Dawn, September 10th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1432011/pakistan-embassy-launches-dams-fundraising-drive-in-us>

## SINDH CM RAISES QUESTIONS OVER BHASHA DAM

Habib Khan Ghori Updated September 12, 2018

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Tuesday that he was not against the construction of the Bhasha dam but had "some reservations" about its "location and availability of water in the system" in such a quantity that the dam could be filled.

He was talking to media at the mausoleum of the Quaid-i-Azam where he had come along with Governor Imran Ismail and members of his cabinet to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation on his 70th death anniversary. After laying a wreath and offering Fateha, the chief minister had an interaction with media personnel.

On a question about the Bhasha dam, he said it (the dam site) lay in the seismic area and the quantity of water required to fill the dam was not available in the (Indus) system.



Says quantity of water needed to fill the reservoir is not available in Indus system; cautions about sea intrusion if 25MAF water is not released downstream Kotri

Elaborating on the water position in the Indus system, he said that last year instead of 10 million acre feet (MAF) only 7.5MAF water was released downstream Kotri.

“As a matter of fact, 25MAF water is required [downstream Kotri], otherwise the sea would keep encroaching further upon nearby villages (in the coastal area of Thatta district),” he said. “The history of last 10 years’ water releases downstream Kotri shows that for six years it was less than 10MAF and then it went down further by two to four MAF.”

Mr Shah said that the record of water releases downstream Kotri from 1922 to this date was available with the provincial government (of Sindh). “If anybody wants to verify the figures they are most welcome,” he added.

“Availability of water in the system is a big issue.”

He recalled that “before the construction of the Tarbela dam, 70MAF water was released downstream Kotri at an average and our [Indus] delta was thriving”.

“The Indus delta, which provides habitat to hundreds of different species of marine and wildlife, has been recognised as one of the largest deltas of Asia covering an area of around 14,600 square kilometres,” the chief minister said. “We have to protect it by releasing river water into it, otherwise all nearby villages and cities will vanish into the sea,” he said.

Mr Shah said that the Bhasha dam project was originally initiated by the Pakistan Peoples Party (government), but objections were raised on its technical issues. Therefore, he insisted, “the centre needs to take the federating units on board” over such controversial projects.

The chief minister said that his government and party’s policy on construction of dams was very clear as the Sindh government was constructing 34 small dams and work on them had almost been completed while work on 16 other (small) dams was to begin soon.

#### 18th Amendment

In reply to another question, Mr Shah warned against any attempt to roll back the 18th Amendment saying that the amendment “provides provincial autonomy which has strengthened parliamentary form of government in the country”. “Any attempt to roll it [18th Amendment back will be strongly resisted,” the chief minister warned.

“The 18th Constitutional Amendment was passed by the National Assembly in 2010 and a parliamentary committee comprising over 27 members from all parliamentary parties had drafted it with collective wisdom and [after] extensive discussion with all stake holders” he recalled.

“I am sure the federal government would not disturb it [18th Amendment], but if any such attempt is made, it will meet a strong resistance,” the CM said.

Published in Dawn, September 12th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1432385/sindh-cm-raises-questions-over-bhasha-dam>

**BUILDING THREE DAMS COULD END HUNGER FROM COUNTRY, SAYS KHURSHEED SHAH**

The Newspaper’s Correspondent September 12, 2018

SUKKUR: Senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader MNA Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah has said that nobody would remain hungry if three dams were constructed in the country.

“We want continuity of democracy in the country, but the system of threats [dhons dhamki] and monarchy is not acceptable,” he said in a programme titled ‘Meet the Press’ at the Sukkur Press Club on Tuesday.

He said if Prime Minister Imran Khan continued with his ‘U-turn’ policy its results would be very dangerous.

The last general elections were fair up to 6pm after which things changed, he said, adding that he remained silent in the interest of the country.

Mr Shah said that the regular session of the assembly was to be held on Sept 14 during which important matters and problems would be debated.

He said prices of different items had been increased up to a dangerous level while taxes were also being increased which would directly affect the people.

He said that despite having reservations about the elections, the PPP preferred to go to parliament, it being a supreme institution, and to strengthen the parliamentary system in the country.

He said that the PPP had asked Imran Khan to constitute a parliamentary committee to decide matters concerning the elections and that he (Mr Khan) had also asked for that but nothing was done so far.

The present government would be allowed to work and they would not create any hindrance, he added.

“We had given time to the past government and also would give time to the present government. We want continuity of democracy in the country but the system like kingdom and of dhons-dhamki is not acceptable.”

He said if Imran Khan carried out work on his slogans with commitment, it would be welcomed.

He said a big investment was required for giving jobs during the five-year tenure of the government while investment of \$5,000 billion was required for the housing plan.

He said that politics was being done in the name of dams.

He said that 20 per cent of the country’s budget was the expense of one dam and the said dams might be constructed by stoppage of all projects.

He said that if three dams were constructed, nobody would remain hungry in the country and country would also develop.

A strong opposition was in front of the government, he said adding that there was a difference of only 28 votes between the government and the opposition.

He said there would be dangerous results if friendly countries like China, Iran and Malaysia were lost due to adopting the policy of ‘U-turn’.

Mr Shah said the PPP during the period of its government had decided that the chairmen of standing committees would be nominated as per parties’ position in the National Assembly and the PPP had nominated 14 chairmen of standing committees from the opposition side which continued during the government of the PML-N.

If the present government did not continue with it, it would be a negative development.

Published in Dawn, September 12th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1432335/building-three-dams-could-end-hunger-from-country-says-khursheed-shah>

## CRITICS OF DAMS INITIATIVE WILL BE TAKEN TO TASK, WARNS CJP

Nasir Iqbal September 13, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar on Wednesday cautioned the detractors of the Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams initiative that the Supreme Court will take them to task.

This was an SC warning to those who were criticising the building of the two crucial dams, CJP Nisar observed while hearing a case pertaining to the Dadhocha dam construction in Rawalpindi.

Apparently, the observation came in the backdrop of criticism by Pakistan Peoples Party stalwart Syed Khursheed Shah who was quoted as saying that the issue of dams' construction had been politicised so much that those who wanted to develop reservoirs should form their own political party.

Says fund's name won't be allowed to be changed

The CJP observed that those criticising or opposing the dams were pursuing the agenda of someone else, who wished to see no dams in the country. The dams' construction was a matter of fundamental rights of citizens, as they were being built for future generations of the country, he said.

There would be no compromise on this issue, the chief justice cautioned, adding the court would not let the agenda of those who did not wish to see dams in the country succeed. "We will build dams under all circumstances," said CJP Nisar.

Those who wanted to do politics, the CJP warned, should try it somewhere else.

While hearing another case regarding agro-farms in Islamabad, the CJP observed that the SC was the initiator of the fund for Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams' construction and guarantor of the entire scheme. He added that therefore no one else could capitalize on the name of the fund, which would not be allowed to be changed.

The CJP also recalled how a group of schoolchildren had donated Rs500,000 for the dams. A group of 100 students from the Army Burn Hall College for Boys, Abbottabad, had presented the cheque to the CJP during their visit to the Supreme Court Museum as part of their study tour, according to an announcement.

Referring to the Dadhocha dam's construction, the apex court asked the Punjab government to come up with an alternative recommendation if it had objections to the DHA-Bahria joint venture or the suggestions given by the irrigation department.

The court also asked the Punjab government when the dam would be completed and how much expense would be incurred on its construction.

The irrigation secretary informed the court that the provincial government had allocated funds for the acquisition of land for the dam.

During the proceedings, the CJP also warned that it would not allow anyone to take kickbacks. The commission mafia should fear God, he said, observing that the dam project was under strain because of this commission mafia.

According to a study, the dam if built at the proposed site will have a storage capacity for supply of 35 million gallons per day water to the residents of Rawalpindi.

The feasibility study for the Dadhocha dam was approved during 2013-14 after which the irrigation department hired consultants for the purpose.

In 2002, a pre-feasibility study of site No 1 was carried out by the Small Dams Organisation which remained under the active consideration for the construction of the dam, a report stated, adding that a notification under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 was issued on Nov 3, 2010 to secure the area required for the proposed project. The area is part of Kahuta, Kallar Syedan and Rawalpindi tehsils of Rawalpindi district.

Published in Dawn, September 13th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1432624/critics-of-dams-initiative-will-be-taken-to-task-warns-cjp>

‘MINI DAMS WILL BE BUILT IN SOUTH PUNJAB’

By Our Correspondent

Published: September 13, 2018

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said mini dams will be constructed in south Punjab to prevent floods and hill torrents.

He expressed these views during a meeting with National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) Chief Executive Officer Lt-Gen (retd) Nadeem Ahmed on Wednesday.

Lauding the role and response of NDRMF in dealing with emergency situations, Buzdar said planning preventive measures for coping with natural disasters was necessary.

“Punjab government will fully cooperate with NDRMF in coping with floods and other natural calamities,” he said. “We are here to work and will do our duties efficiently.”

Lt-Gen (retd) Ahmed congratulated Buzdar on holding the portfolio of chief minister and said NDRMF was working in 50 districts including southern Punjab for eradicating natural calamities. He said NDRMF would also cooperate with the Punjab government in order to deal with natural calamities. “Timely initiatives help in dealing with any emergency situation,” he said.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 13th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1801760/1-mini-dams-will-built-south-punjab/>

SECOND UNIT OF TARBELA 4TH EXTENSION RESUMES POWER GENERATION

Khalid Hasnain Updated September 15, 2018

LAHORE: The second unit of Tarbela 4th Extension Hydropower Project resumed its operation on Friday after engineers removed the fault with its draft tube gates.

Last week, the first unit of the project was put back into power generation after the engineers lifted the draft tube gates that were stuck when silt was piled up because of unprecedented slide of water levels to the dead level and issues with valves on the penstock.

According to an official, the project is required to undergo testing for another 570 days of defect liability period (DLP) with total responsibility of the contractor for its repair, maintenance and replacement. “Tarbela produces more than 3,400MW energy through its 14 units commissioned on its first three tunnels. The project of three units of 470MW each was planned in 2012-13 on 4th tunnel called Tarbela 4th Extension to add 1,410MW to the national grid. A coordinated construction schedule was planned to make full use of flood season of 2018. The first unit was inaugurated on March 10, 2018,” explained a source.

He said that taking full consideration of hydrological data of the last 10 years, the wet commissioning of the first unit was carried out between Feb 20 and March 10. Wet commissioning is about uninterrupted tests, including mechanical speed, balancing of generator and load rejections. Fortunately, there were sufficient water levels and during wet commissioning, the unit remained at different loads till maximum load of 303MW as per water head.

Unprecedented changes in hydrological behaviour, climate change and huge deposits of silt in Tarbela led to lower water levels. Later, the unit was completely flushed, cleaned and shut down on March 11. However, sequel to water levels raise in June, the unit restarted and ran optimally without any trouble, producing 173 million units till July 5.

The official said that following another unprecedented slide of water below the dead level, the unit was again shut down.

He said the movement of pivot of silt delta and a crack in one of the valves (purely a technical issue) led to jamming of draft tube gates. The project is now under testing and the defect liability period. Valves have been replaced. Both the stuck gates had been raised without compromising technical regimes, he added.

A press release issued by a spokesperson for Wapda says that first and second units are adding 300MW and 470MW to the national grid.

“The third unit of the project is also complete and expected to start power generation by the end of this month,” it adds.

Published in Dawn, September 15th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1433040/second-unit-of-tarbela-4th-extension-resumes-power-generation>

## CJP WANTS DATA ON EXTRACTION OF WATER BY BUSINESS VENTURES

Nasir Iqbal September 15, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The exploitation of water resources allegedly by different mineral water companies caught the attention on Friday of Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar who sought complete information and data on extraction of water by these business ventures.

Taking up the matter on a suo motu basis, the chief justice ordered Additional Attorney General Nayyar Abbas Rizvi, advocate generals for the provinces and officials of the departments concerned to attend the proceedings at the Supreme Court’s Lahore registry on Saturday with complete information.

The issue cropped up during the hearing of a case related to drying up of the Katas Raj pond due to consumption of a huge amount of water by nearby cement factories that are sucking water through drill bores, severely reducing subsoil water level.

The chief justice noted that water had become a very precious commodity, but bottled water companies were selling their produce at exorbitant prices by extracting water from subsoil free of cost. He said the Supreme Court would take

all possible steps to preserve water in the country, adding that he would personally visit Katas Raj on his way to Lahore to witness himself the state of the pond.

Says Supreme Court will take all steps to preserve water

Later, the chief justice paid a visit to Katas Raj and issued instructions on the spot.

The apex court had taken the suo motu notice in November last year on reports that water level in the pond of Shri Katas Raj temple — considered to be the second most sacred shrine in the Hindu religion — was fast depleting.

The temple is in the salt range which is rich in mineral deposits but plays host to four cement plants. The origin of the site dates back to 600AD. The complex of the temple is built around the water pond which, according to Hindu mythology, finds its origin from Katak Shah (raining eyes in the Sanskrit language). The Hindu community believes that the famous pond at the Katas Raj temple was formed by the tears of Shiva who wept uncontrollably over the loss of his wife Sati.

One of the four cement factories is situated merely two kilometres from the Katas Raj temple. Since there is no other major source of water, the industries in the area mainly rely on subsoil water for their operational requirements.

During the proceedings, AAG Abbasi requested the court to consider examining the quality of water being supplied by mineral water companies to also determine whether it was fit for human consumption or not.

The chief justice also summoned complete details of two cement factories situated near the new international airport at Fateh Jang and at Taxila.

The court was informed that the Punjab government had worked out a formula for usage of subsoil water by the cement factories near Katas Raj in Chakwal.

The court, however, observed that after a few weeks the cement factories would not be able to use the subsoil water and, therefore, they should arrange some alternative arrangements.

The court said that if the water was not conserved properly, it might become more expensive than gold, oil and gas one day. “Water should not be used so excessively,” the court said, adding that nations always conserved their water resources.

The chief justice regretted that the total cess on water in Punjab was Rs2 billion, but the provincial government managed to recover less than Rs1bn.

Justice Umar Atta Bandial observed that the irrigation system in Pakistan was very old and a large quantity of water was wasted due to sewerage and leakage.

Published in Dawn, September 15th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1433045/cjp-wants-data-on-extraction-of-water-by-business-ventures>

SC SUMMONS CEOS OF MINERAL WATER COMPANIES ON SUNDAY

PARVEZ JABRI SEP 15TH, 2018

LAHORE: The Supreme Court (SC) Saturday summoned chief executive officers (CEOs) of all the major mineral water companies on Sunday (Sept 16) in a suo motu notice regarding alleged exploitation of groundwater resources without any charges and its fitness for human consumption.

The court also sought reports from the CEOs regarding tariff paid and the money earned by the companies during the past five years.

The bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar and Justice Ijazul Ahsan passed the order while hearing the matter at the Supreme Court Lahore Registry.

At the outset of the proceedings, a law officer on behalf of the Federal Government submitted a report regarding mineral water companies, operating in the country.

He informed the court that 82 such units were operating in Karachi, 16 in Sukkur, 15 in Hyderabad, 12 in Islamabad and eight in Lahore. He also explained their methods for extracting groundwater.

The CJP observed that the court was concerned whether the tariff / charges were being paid for it or not. Whether the water sold in the market had minerals or not, he added.

“Now the bottled water is being used in every home and it is our duty to ensure compliance of fundamental rights,” he added.

Aitzaz Ahsan, representing Nestle Pakistan, submitted that charges were being paid for extracting the groundwater.

To which, the Managing Director of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) submitted that the present tariff was 0.2 paisa per litre whereas the WASA governing body had recommended to enhance the tariff to 0.75 paisa per litre.

At this, Aitzaz Ahsan submitted that the groundwater was property of the land owner, as per a Supreme Court judgement. However, the CJP noted that the permission was limited to extent of personal use, and not for commercial purposes. New decisions could also be made, he observed.

The chief justice further remarked that mineral water companies should sit with the government and decide an appropriate rate for extracting water. The companies would not be allowed to increase the price of water, Justice Ijaz observed.

The chief justice remarked that water had become more expensive than gold now. People had developed the habit of drinking mineral water and money was being made through the use of natural resource. “We will not allow theft of water under any circumstances,” he added.

Subsequently, the bench summoned the CEOs of all the major mineral water companies – including Nestle, Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Gourmet – to appear before it at 11am on Sunday.

During the proceedings, the CJP hinted that Article 6 of the Constitution could possibly be used against those who would try to impede the construction of dams in future. He had started reviewing Article 6, he added.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2018/09/15/440474/sc-summons-ceos-of-mineral-water-companies-on-sunday/>

## HEC PROPOSES TASK FORCE TO FORMULATE WATER POLICY IN BALOCHISTAN

By APP

Published: September 16, 2018

QUETTA: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has decided to propose a taskforce to address the challenge of water scarcity in Balochistan.



This was stated by HEC Chairperson Dr Tariq Banuri while chairing a meeting at the Commission's Secretariat on Saturday on the academia's role in addressing water crisis in Balochistan, says a press release.

The meeting discussed the prevailing water scarcity, challenges and future opportunities regarding ground water recharge, water reservoirs, water usage efficiency, clean drinking water and water resource management. The meeting decided that a final decision will be taken in consultation with Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan.

On the occasion, Dr Banuri expressed deep concern over the prevailing water crisis in Balochistan and assured support from the academia. He said the Balochistan CM placed high priority on addressing the issue. He added that the HEC and universities needed to come forward to present a joint plan of action for resolving the issue.

It was decided in the meeting that the HEC would advise the Balochistan government to set up a taskforce, assisted by a technical committee, to help resolve the issue. "The taskforce will be a joint body that will help formulate water policy and execute it while the technical committee will undertake research, collect data, assess and determine research gap, and identify areas that need attention," Dr Banuri explained.

Participants of the meeting agreed that the taskforce would comprise vice chancellors and representatives of the Centres of Excellence and Advanced Studies in water. They suggested that the taskforce must develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) based on modalities and feasibility of the plan while the technical committee must undertake research and identify the areas needing attention.

The meeting participants also emphasised the need for capacity building of organisations and centres working on water resource management. They expressed concerns that of the 42,000 tube wells in Balochistan, only 450 were registered. During the course of meeting, representatives of various universities and Centres of Excellence in Water also highlighted their efforts for water management.

They pointed out that the surface water in Balochistan had reached an end, while the ground water was rapidly depleting. "Balochistan largely depends upon ground water and its depletion is highly alarming," one of the representatives observed.

They also discussed the outcomes of delay-action dams concept as well as the prospects of leakage dams and other measures, including irrigation and capacity building of centres on water. Issues pertaining to droughts, disaster management, flash floods, agricultural water management, farming methods, climate change assessment, meteorology, ground water modelling and urbanisation also came under consideration.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1804549/1-hec-proposes-task-force-formulate-water-policy-balochistan/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 3TH TO SEPTEMBER 9TH 2018

INDIA AGREES TO ALLOW PAKISTAN TO INSPECT KISHANGANGA PROJECT

Khalid Hasnain Updated September 04, 2018

LAHORE: India has agreed to allow Pakistan to inspect the projects in the Jhelum basin, including Kishanganga hydroelectric project, in the near future and Islamabad will allow New Delhi to carry out inspection of the Kotri barrage over the Indus under Article VIII (4) (c) of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), it has been learnt.

According to the minutes of the 115th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission held between the two countries from Aug 29 to 30 in Lahore, "Pakistan also urged India to arrange for the Special Tour of Inspection of the projects

in Jhelum basin including Kishanganga HEP which is pending since 2014, on which ICIW (India's Commissioner for Indus Waters) gave his assurance to arrange the same promptly.”

During the meeting, the Pakistani and Indian authorities were unanimous about strengthening the role of the Permanent Indus Commission. Islamabad also highlighted the need and asked New Delhi to share the information about potential projects at the planning stage for examination. “In this way any objections (if raised by Pakistan) can be addressed in the design at the early stage of planning instead of debating with India at belated stage when practically incorporating the requisite changes becomes a challenge.”

Decision also reached in recent water talks to let Indian team visit Kotri barrage on Indus

In order to converge on the objections raised by Pakistan, both sides reiterated their stance and endeavoured to resolve the issues. In this regard both sides agreed to exchange the detailed basis of adopting various design parameters for both 48MW Lower Kalnai and 1000MW Pakal Dul HEPs at the Chenab River. “During the meeting both the sides agreed to conduct the General Tours of Inspection which could not be conducted since 2014.

“In this regard first PCIW (Pakistani Commissioner for Indus Waters) will visit the Chenab basin in the last week of September 2018 followed by the tour of ICIW to the Kotri barrage in the Lower Indus, according to Article VIII (4) (c),” the document reveals.

In the meeting, which was held under Article VIII (5) of the IWT, both sides also agreed to arrange the next meeting of the commission soon after the tour of inspection on both sides to discuss and endeavour to address Pakistan's objections on Lower Kalnai and Pakal Dul.

Pakistan has already approached the World Bank and sought referring the case to International Court of Arbitration (ICA). However, India, on the other hand, wants the dispute decided by the neutral experts. In June, this year, World Bank had reportedly asked Pakistan to accept India's demand of a 'neutral expert' and stand down from pursuing its stand of referring the dispute to the ICA. Pakistan had also raised concerns over the inauguration of the Kishanganga hydropower plant by India during talks with the World Bank in Washington.

“Since the talks between the two countries have been restored, Pakistani team may inspect the Kishanganga project on the eve of the next meeting of the permanent commission for the Indus waters in India or before this,” a senior official told Dawn on Monday.

In reply to a question, he said India had no objection on the Kotri barrage in the lower Indus. “Their (Indian experts) visit to Pakistan will be after ending our experts' inspection of the Lower Kalnai and Pakal Dul projects scheduled by end of this month,” the official said. “The Indian experts' visit / inspection of the Kotri barrage is sort of routine one, as they have no objection or concerns in this regard. It is a part of the compilation and exchange of the data by the two countries related to rivers' flow, water storage, releases, etc,” he added.

Published in Dawn, September 4th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1430855/india-agrees-to-allow-pakistan-to-inspect-kishanganga-project>

**ADB APPROVES \$100M LOAN TO ADDRESS WATER SHORTAGES**

By APP Published: September 4, 2018

**ISLAMABAD:** The Board of Directors of Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million loan to address chronic water shortages and increase earnings on farms in Balochistan.

The Balochistan Water Resources Development Sector Project will focus on improving irrigation infrastructure and water resource management in the Zhob and Mula river basins, said a press release of ADB on Monday.

Agriculture accounts for almost two-thirds of Balochistan's economic output and employs 60 per cent of the province's 13 million population, but frequent drought and poor water management have put the industry, and those who rely on it, at risk. Poverty rates in the province are almost double the national average.

"Agriculture is the backbone of Balochistan's economy," said ADB Principal Water Resources Specialist Yaozhou Zhou. "This project will build irrigation channels and dams, and introduce efficient water usage systems and practices, to help farmers increase food production and make more money."

Among the infrastructure that will be upgraded or built for the project is a dam able to hold 36 million cubic metres of water; 276 kilometres of irrigation channels and drainage canals; and facilities that will make it easier for people, especially women, to access water for domestic use. In total, about 16,592 hectares (ha) of land will be added or improved for irrigation.

The project will protect watersheds through extensive land and water conservation efforts, including planting trees and other measures on 4,145 ha of barren land to combat soil erosion.

Part of the project's outputs are the pilot testing of technologies like solar-powered drip irrigation systems on 130 ha of agricultural land, improving crop yields and water usage on 160 fruit and vegetable farms, and demonstrating high-value agriculture development. The project will also establish a water resources information system that will use high-level technology such as satellite and remote sensing to do river basin modelling and identify degraded land for rehabilitation.

The ADB will also administer grants from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) and the High-Level Technology Fund (HLT Fund) worth \$3 million and \$2 million, respectively, for the project. JFPR, established in May 2000, provides grants for ADB projects supporting poverty reduction and social development efforts, while the HLT Fund, established in April 2017, earmarks grant financing to promote technology and innovative solutions in ADB projects.

separate \$2 million technical assistance from JFPR will help Balochistan's provincial government improve its institutional capacity to address the risks and potential impact of climate change in the agriculture sector, as well as build a climate-resilient and sustainable water resources management mechanism in the province.

The ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members, 48 from the region. In 2017, ADB operations totalled \$32.2 billion, including \$11.9 billion in co-financing.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1794664/1-adb-approves-100m-loan-address-water-shortages/>

## PUNJAB GOVT'S RESPONSE SOUGHT ON DADUCHA DAM

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated September 07, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought the Punjab government's response regarding the construction of Daducha Dam through a public-private partnership.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar, while hearing the case regarding the dam's construction, said delays in this project would not be tolerated.

The project has already been delayed, he said, and construction of this and other dams should be ensured.

The chief justice remarked that those who created hurdles in starting this project should also be held responsible.

The secretary of the Punjab Irrigation Department told the SC that the project has been taken over by the department and after the dam is constructed water will be supplied to Rawalpindi residents through the Water and Sanitation Agency.

The chief justice said the project was approved in 2015 but the dam has not been constructed yet. The Rs6 billion dam project was first proposed by the Rawalpindi Development Authority and Small Dams Organisation in 2001 in the Daducha village.

In 2006, the Defence Housing Authority bought 18,000 kanals where the dam was to be built and launched a housing scheme as a joint venture with Bahria Town. But on Aug 4, 2015, the SC on suo motu directed the Punjab govt to construct the dam at the original site.

The govt froze the sale and purchase of land in the area soon after the court's directives. The provincial government also allocated funds for the construction of the dam in its 2017-18 development plan, but work has not been started.

Published in Dawn, September 7th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1431381/punjab-govts-response-sought-on-daducha-dam>

#### WB TEAM MEETS AGRICULTURE MINISTER, STRESSES NEED FOR WATER REFORMS

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter September 07, 2018

KARACHI: A delegation of the World Bank (WB) called on Agriculture Minister Ismail Rahu at the latter's office on Thursday.

Officials at the ministry said the delegation included Hans Jansen, Wajid Rana and Daud Khan while Dr Fateh Marri, coordinator for Water Sector Improvement Project, also attended the meeting.

While briefly touching on the ongoing WB activities aimed at improving farm productivity and income for farmers in the province, the delegation also discussed possible new opportunities for collaboration.

The officials said it was mentioned in Sindh, there was a rapidly expanding demand for water for domestic and industrial use, along with a pressing need to allocate increased amounts for sanitation and waste disposal in both rural and urban areas, as well as for environmental purposes.

Meeting these growing demands for water, they agreed, required that a coherent package of comprehensive reforms and investment in both irrigation and agriculture sectors was needed to deal with the increasing demand for water.

The WB team, said the officials, expressed its willingness and full commitment to assist the Sindh government in formulating and implementing such a comprehensive package.

Mr Rahu welcomed support from the World Bank and agreed to continue discussions for a new project which would benefit rural and small farmers and promote economic growth.

Published in Dawn, September 7th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1431328/wb-team-meets-agriculture-minister-stresses-need-for-water-reforms>

Published: September 7, 2018

The village Sodo Sarwari is situated a few miles from Sukkur. The village gets surface water from the nearby canal and then rudimentarily processes it for drinking. The canal becomes dry for a couple of months each year and the residents would be left to face colossal trouble in accessing water. Confronted with this challenge, the residents approached the relevant provincial department to bore through the rock at the canal bank to extract water during dry months, but the department could not approve finances for it.

The residents collected Rs250,000 in 2015 from the villagers for the boring of a tube well. The cost to bore a hole in the ground was borne by the local community and pumps were provided by the government department. One comes across many initiatives of the like in Sindh province, where through collective action, citizens meet their own needs when faced with poor governance. However, the overall environment in the province is still not conducive to encourage partnerships and self-governance.

Sukkur is surrounded by water from three sides, yet the majority of residents do not have access to a smooth supply of clean drinking water. A local government official in Sukkur recited a verse of Shah Latif Bhattai which can be interpreted as: A fool may die of thirst even if he is by the river bank. We observed almost the same situation in Sukkur and later in Hyderabad; citizens are suffering due to lack of access to clean drinking water despite being situated at the bank of the River Indus. We were informed about diseases and childhood stunting that citizens were suffering due to lack of access to clean drinking water. We consider that poor governance of the water sector is mainly responsible for suboptimal outcomes instead of lack of public investment. Almost all of the water schemes in the province are not completed on time and many of them would become dysfunctional soon due to misuse of operations and maintenance expenditures.

On the other hand, the schemes and initiatives where communities were closely involved and contributing were performing much better. The village of Tando Soomro, situated near Hyderabad, is the perfect example of how the members of a community can join hands and beautifully execute for themselves the role that local governments fail to play. Through collective action, residents of the village have been raising approximately Rs10 million every year from local, voluntary contributions for investing in water and sanitation, education, security and other such services. The key behind the success of this model village is simple: accountability. Budget allocations and expenditures are revealed on a public forum; decisions are taken collectively and a bottom-up approach is adopted; each household's contribution is defined according to the income of its members and those who fail to contribute are publicly pointed out. We think such actions need to be investigated in-depth by researchers so that other villages and towns may learn how to undertake collective action.

While public-private partnerships (PPPs) have emerged in many sectors across Sindh, the departments involved in the drinking water sector have been rather lethargic in this regard. However, an example of how PPPs can be successful is a recent initiative by The Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Hyderabad to outsource bill distribution/recovery to a private company. The agency has been able to almost double its bill recovery. In the absence of accountability and monitoring systems, WASA officials were not even able to keep track of whether employed bill distributors were doing their job. By involving a third party and offering a mutually beneficial income-sharing model, WASA, Hyderabad has improved outcomes. There is a need to promote public-private partnerships to generate investment and managerial efficiency of pumping stations, filtration plants, and operations and maintenance of distribution networks. Nonetheless, the extremely low pricing of drinking water is indeed one of the biggest obstacles in the way of sustainability of water schemes and improving water conservation. In Hyderabad, the charges for piped water supply are Rs170 a month, while the municipal department in Sukkur charges a meagre Rs360 a year, and even these amounts go unpaid.

During our visit to Sindh last week for our research on the drinking water sector in Sindh, we had meetings with the Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Hyderabad and Sukkur. They showed keen interest in developing partnerships with local water authorities to improve the situation of drinking water in Sindh. However, they shared that the water authorities do not disclose their plans and investments publicly and this absence of transparency leads to corruption and mismanagement.

One of the senior officials in the Sindh government said that concepts like participation, partnerships and collective action are imported from the West and cannot prevail in a country like Pakistan. He appeared ignorant of how rural (and in a few cases, urban) communities within Sindh have collectively learned to meet their own needs. This antagonistic attitude reflects the concerns of citizens regarding participation in the water sector; there is willingness from local communities to engage in improving service delivery, but there is a lack of interest from the public sector, be it provincial or local. Institutions like the National School of Public Policy and other civil services training institutions should further deepen the spirit of inclusive governance among the participants of their courses.

During our visit, we were informed of the contribution of the Supreme Court Commission on Water led by Honourable Justice Retired Amir Hani Muslim. The commission has streamlined many projects and schemes. However, these may prove to be adhoc arrangements in the long run as institutional architecture in the water sector has not been paid much attention. Some of these issues relate to transparency, accountability, partnerships, water pricing, monitoring, capacity of water authorities and independent impact evaluations.

The PPP government under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari faces tremendous public pressure for lack of access to clean drinking water in Sindh. It is time that they came out of traditional and bureaucratic approaches for service delivery. They need to promote partnerships, engagement with startups and youth, and improve transparency and accountability. The National Water Policy 2018 provides an excellent framework for achieving such objectives. But there is a need to carry out institutional, administrative and legal changes in the provincial governance system to implement the water policy.

During our interactions with community organisations, citizens and other stakeholders in Sindh, we shared the model of Changa Pani, (Clean Water) developed by a social entrepreneur and activist Nazir Ahmad Wattoo. After some localities in Faisalabad and Lahore, the model is now being implemented in Bhalwal and many other cities in Punjab have also been showing keen interest in this community-government partnership model for providing access to clean drinking water.

We hope that more voices for transparency and citizen engagement will yield optimal outcomes in the drinking water sector in Sindh.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 7th, 2018

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1797086/6-access-potable-water-sindh/>

## **October 2018**

***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 22TH TO OCTOBER 28TH 2018***

***CJP, JUDGES AND WATER EXPERTS VISIT MANGLA DAM***

**RECORDER REPORT OCT 22ND, 2018 LAHORE**

The Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar accompanied by other judges of the apex court, and a delegation comprising foreign and local water experts who attended the International Symposium 'Creating Water-Secure Pakistan', visited Mangla Dam – the largest water reservoir in Pakistan on Sunday.

Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) chairman Lieutenant-General Muzammil Hussain (ret'd) and other senior officers briefed them that Mangla Dam has been phenomenally contributing towards economic



development and social uplift of Pakistan for the last 51 years by providing water for irrigated agriculture, mitigating floods and generating low-cost hydel electricity. Since its commissioning in 1967, Mangla Dam had made more than 251 million acre feet (MAF) of storage releases for irrigation purpose and contributed about 233 billion units of electricity to the National Grid.

The delegates were apprised that Mangla Dam, the first-ever multi-purpose mega project in Pakistan was completed in 1967 with live water storage capacity of 5.88 MAF, which reduced to 4.6 MAF till 2004 due to natural phenomenon of sedimentation.

Subsequently, Mangla Dam Raising Project was initiated in 2004 with a view to maximizing the water potential of River Jhelum. The project was substantially completed in December 2009, increasing the water storage capacity of Mangla Reservoir to 7.4 MAF from 4.6 MAF with an addition of 2.88 MAF. Resultantly, Mangla Dam surpassed the water storage capacity of Tarbela Dam and became the largest water reservoir in the country. WAPDA chairman briefed that the consultants of Mangla Dam in their design of the project way back in 1960, had envisaged the life of the Mangla reservoir from 100 to 115 years. However effective watershed techniques adopted by WAPDA and completion of Mangla Dam Raising Project have increased the life of Mangla reservoir to 269 years.

Mangla reservoir produces about 500 metric ton of fish every year. WAPDA handed over fishing rights in the reservoir to Azad Jammu and Kashmir government since 2003 as one of the confidence building measures, the delegates were further informed.

Giving an account of Mangla Hydel power Station, the delegation was briefed that installation of the first four generating units, having generation capacity of 100 megawatt (MW) each, was completed in 1967. Unit No. 5 and 6 were installed in 1974, while Unit No 7 and 8 in 1981. Mangla Hydel Power Station attained its maximum generation capacity of 1000 MW in 1994 with addition of Unit No 9 and 10. In view of the aging factor of the generating equipment and availability of additional water due to the raised Mangla Dam, WAPDA is executing Mangla Refurbishment Project. On completion of the project in a phased manner, the generation capacity of Mangla Hydel Power Station will increase to 1310 MW

Sources said as Pakistan was facing water crisis, the purpose of the visit was to stress that it is imperative for Pakistan to invest in supply augmentation (dams and reservoirs) and ensure better utilization of its groundwater, adopting appropriate water technologies (water recycling, desalinization, and water harvesting) and manage consumption and use of water (controlling water demand and pricing) and do all of this under the principles of mutual trust and benefit sharing. The Supreme Court in a judgment on Constitution Petition No. 57 of 2016 has already directed the Federal and Provincial Governments, WAPDA and all the Executive Authorities in Pakistan to take all necessary steps for the commencement of construction and early completion of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dams.

The water experts have demanded that institutional capacity of WAPDA being the main water stakeholder should also be strengthened for the urgent development of dams and reservoirs on the model of the Indus Basin Replacement Works.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/10/20181022417736/>

CM INAUGURATES DESALINATION PLANT IN GWADAR

By Mohammad Zafar

Published: October 22, 2018

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan has said the provincial government has taken major steps for providing drinking water to people in the province.



Kamal said this while inaugurating a new desalination plant in Gwadar on Sunday. He termed the plant a gift to the residents of the port city.

He said the 'flawed' policies of the previous regimes had delayed the development projects which harmed the national exchequer.

He added that the government had started development projects in Gwadar, Pasni and Jiwani on an urgent basis.

Kamal said the government had been working on a mechanism to provide relief to the people of Balochistan.

With regard to the educational development, the CM said all resources were being used to improve the educational institutes in Gwadar. "Educational institutes are imperative for the future of the port city," he added.

The desalination plant was constructed under the supervision of the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) in Sarbandar village of Gwadar. The plant would provide 200,000 gallons of water daily.

Commander Southern Command Lieutenant General Asim Saleem Bajwa, provincial ministers and government officials were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 22nd, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1831078/1-cm-inaugurates-desalination-plant-gwadar/>

## \$3.78B DASU DAM LOAN MAY GET LAPSED, WARNS WORLD BANK

By Zafar Bhutta

Published: October 22, 2018

The World Bank has expressed serious concerns over years of delay in the construction work on run-of-river Dasu Hydropower Stage-I project warning that the \$3.787 billion loan it approved for the project in June 2014 could get lapsed. The project was set to complete in June 2021. PHOTO: EXPRESS/FILE

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has expressed serious concerns over years of delay in the construction work on run-of-river Dasu Hydropower Stage-I project warning that the \$3.787 billion loan it approved for the project in June 2014 could get lapsed. The project was set to complete in June 2021.

"It was claimed [by previous government] that they had completed land acquisition for Dasu dam, but currently we have only seven per cent [or 740 acres] of land in hand as we require 12,000 acres," said Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda while addressing a press conference on Monday.

"The nation has to bear its [the delay's] fallouts and we have to resolve the issue," he added.

He said a meeting of the steering committee with the World Bank had been pending for the last many months. "Today after visiting the bank and discussing the issues, we held the committee meeting and cleared the NOC [no objection certificate] of the bank," he added.

The minister said the government had made a plan to work on the project on a war footing and was working for land acquisition, adding that all possibilities would be exploited to curtail the losses.

“We are incurring a Rs300 million loss per day on this project. The previous government always took steps that deprived the province [of Khyber Pakhtunkwa] of the benefits [of the project], received kickbacks and got the project delayed,” he alleged.

He said it was also an indirect impact of this delay that the country had to import the liquefied natural gas (LNG) of \$1.4 billion, causing a loss of Rs112 billion per year to the economy. “These are indirect losses other than those of Rs300 million. We are working on strengthening our system,” he said.

Vawda said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had decided to complete the Dasu project on priority and would try to complete it by 2022-23, “as we are already two years behind the schedule”.

“On November 6, we are calling a meeting in Peshawar and would resolve the Dasu dam issue. We need rectification for the losses we are facing in the water sector,” he added.

Regarding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with India, the minister said Pakistan was planning to address all the issue pertaining to the treaty in a very aggressive manner and hoped to resolve the issues soon.

Talking with reference to Darawat Dam in Sindh’s Jamshoro district, he said it was completed at a cost of Rs11 billion. The feasibility was for construction on 25,000 acres of land but the dams was actually made on just 10,000 acres.

#### Water crisis in Karachi

Talking with regard to water crisis in Sindh and its capital, Vawda claimed that he had got demolished all illegal water hydrants in Sindh, whose government now says it is not the federal government’s domain.

“The Karachi Water & Sewerage Board (KSWB) is involved in water theft. Landlords and politicians are also involved in water theft and they want to back out as I am exposing them,” he added.

He said people in Karachi were compelled to purchase water. “Does this water come from the sky? It means that water is there, but is not being provided to the citizens,” he added.

“We have written a letter to the KSWB for a meeting to resolve the issues, but the MD has no time to meet us, because he is getting Rs5 million per day as bribe,” Vawda alleged. He, however, appreciated Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani for his support in controlling the illegal hydrants.

“They are trying to blackmail me and now they have started saying that I am dual-nationality holder. I am ready to present my three generations for accountability,” he said.

He said people were exploiting provincial resources on the pretext of the 18th amendment. “There are many good clauses in the amendment but it is not a divine book. It should be open for debate and discussion to be [made] beneficial for Pakistan and its provinces.

There is need of readjustment,” he said. He said no constitutional amendment or law could stop him from doing a right thing.

According to Vawda, the province gives Rs1 million to the federal government as fee while Rs880 million are overdue against the province under the head of electricity charges and others.

#### Closure of telemetry system

The minister said the previous government closed the telemetry system through verbal orders.

“To date, all these equipment are closed, which is an eye-opener for Pakistanis. Now, nobody is able to know how much water a province is extracting from the system,” he said.

“Despite having no money, I am ready to install telemetry system by generating funds. For this, we have proposed a task force and will take the chief minister and law-enforcement agencies on board,” he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1831723/1-3-78b-dasu-dam-loan-may-get-lapsed-warns-world-bank/>

## IRSA CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWO DAMS

Khaleeq Kiani March 30, 2018

ISLAMABAD: As the weather experts reported 50 per cent lower snow cover on the river catchments, the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) called for construction of at least two mega dams simultaneously to cope with water crisis.

This was the crux of an advisory committee meeting of the water regulator presided over by its chairman Sher Zaman Khan and attended by all the Irsa members besides officials of provincial irrigation and agriculture departments, Wapda and Meteorological Department.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, Irsa spokesman Khalid Rana said the meeting also expressed increase in the pace of sedimentation in both Mangla and Tarbela dams owing to silt and unanimously recommended to the government to quickly move towards construction of two dams wherever feasible.

### Water shortage will hurt Kharif crops

Based on working papers of all the stakeholders, the regulator estimated 32pc water shortage during early Kharif season and 10pc during late Kharif. Total availability water availability for entire season was, therefore, estimated at 95.12 million acre feet (MAF) compared to 107 MAF of last year, 107.3 MAF of past 10-year average and 112MAF of post-Tarbela dam average.

The meeting concluded that Kharif crops would be totally dependent on unusually lower river flows and monsoon rainfall in the absence of substantive snow melting. The Punjab government objected to 40pc water losses estimated for Indus zone. Therefore, these were estimated at 35 percent for early Kharif and 20pc for late Kharif for the purpose of provincial water shares and in the meanwhile conduct a study to ascertain actual losses.

The meeting confirmed that Jhelum flows this season would be 40-50pc lower than average and expressed concern over the situation. It decided to review flows in river Jhelum along with revision in operational criteria for Mangla dam by end-April.

After accounting for losses and other factors, total canal withdrawals were estimated at 62.02 MAF. Of this, 30.24MAF was allocated to Punjab, 27.96 MAF to Sindh, 0.82MAF to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 2.99MAF to Balochistan.

The meeting was told that Mangla Dam was unlikely to be filled to its historic conservation level of 1242-feet.

It was also decided that water distribution would be made under the 3-tier formula but was contested by Sindh saying it was against the 1991 water apportionment award. Under the 3-tier formula, Sindh expected its share cut by 5MAF in the wake of lower water availability.

The formula envisaged that in case of Kharif water availability of up to 103MAF, water shares between Punjab and Sindh be set on the basis of historic uses of 1977-82, putting Sindh at a disadvantageous position. In case of water availability between 103 and 114MAF, distribution has to be made in line with shares set in para-2 of the water accord. The water beyond 114MAF is provided to provinces on flooding basis.

The Irsa chairman observed that Sindh would be free to take up the matter with the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in case it was not satisfied with distribution.

The Irsa also allocated 6.5 MAF of flows downstream Kotri. The Met Office told the committee that temperatures during May and April would be unusually higher this year. On the other hand, snow fall in the Northern Areas and catchment areas of river was 50pc lower this year and hence total reliance of crops would have to be made on monsoon rainfall.

The Met Office also warned that in case of lower than normal monsoon rainfall, there could be an alarming situation for the crops.

The meeting desired that Wapda should move a case to further raise the minimum operating level of Mangla from 1,050 feet to 1,060 feet within a fortnight.

Kharif cropping season starts from April-June and lasts until October-December in different parts of the country. Rice, sugarcane, cotton, maize and mash are some of the key crops of the season.

Published in Dawn, March 30th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1398410/irsa-calls-for-construction-of-two-dams>

#### WATER SITUATION WORSENING IN BALOCHISTAN, SAYS ALYANI

Saleem Shahid Updated October 24, 2018

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Jam Kamal Khan Alyani has said that if the water crisis in his province is not addressed timely the situation will be more serious within the next five to 10 years.

Speaking at a consultative workshop on 'Balochistan Water Resources' here on Tuesday, he said: "We need to utilise our resources with utmost care and caution and every individual would have to play a role in this connection."

The workshop was organised by the European Union (EU) in collaboration with the Balochistan Rural Support Programme.

The chief minister said the water crisis had gripped the entire country, but it was more serious in Balochistan owing to wrong planning, shortage of dams in the country and low precipitation.

"We have declared a water emergency in the province soon after formation of our government," he said.

Calls for utilising resources 'with utmost care and caution'

Mr Alyani said agriculture and livestock were very crucial sectors for the economy of the province with which a large portion of the country's population was linked. "Water crisis has also caused serious impact on both sectors," he said.

Because of the water crisis people had to migrate from rural to urban areas, he said, adding that migrations always caused demographic changes and created a number of issues.

The chief minister said the Quetta city was once rich with water resources, but unfortunately now people were compelled to buy tankers because water channels in the city's surroundings and other areas had dried. "Now we need to devise a proper strategy and planning to get rid of the water crisis and ensure better future for coming generations," he added.

He thanked the EU for helping Balochistan and said his government was making efforts to introduce new techniques in the agriculture sector so that less water was consumed and more production was achieved.

The chief minister said there would be serious repercussions if pumping of ground water was not stopped promptly. "We have resources and now we need better planning," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, EU's representative Milko van Gool said that the EU had a multi-annual cooperation programme with the government of Pakistan.

Under the programme, the EU was providing a technical assistance grant of 40 million euros dedicated to the Revival of Balochistan Water Resources Programme, he added.

He said at a request of the government of Pakistan, the EU launched an identification mission (completed in July 2018) followed by a formulation mission, which is currently ongoing.

EU consultants Shammy Puri and Rieks Bosch provided presentations on the background to the current status of land, water resources and related pressures.

Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering Noor Mohammad Dumar said ground water resources were depleting and rural population was receiving water through tankers. The situation demanded adoption of new methodologies for the revival of ground water resources, he added.

Published in Dawn, October 24th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1441002/water-situation-worsening-in-balochistan-says-alyani>

## ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR DASU PROJECT BECOMES DIFFICULT

Khalid Hasnain Updated October 24, 2018

LAHORE: Acquisition of hundreds of acres in Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Dasu hydropower project's main civil works has become complicated after the people, who had received compensation for surrendering their land to the government for the Diamer-Bhasha dam, started investing in the Dasu area in an attempt to claim hefty amounts in compensation, sources said on Tuesday.

The situation pushed Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), which had started civil works last year at the available land in Dasu Town, to ask the federal government to acquire the land on an urgent basis, failing which the project's cost and completion time would continue to escalate.

"Sigloo, Kass and Sheikhabad are the areas where we urgently need over 500 acres for launching main civil works of the Dasu project. But the residents/owners are creating a do-or-die-like situation whenever they are contacted for acquiring of their land.

Recent investments in Sigloo, Kass and Sheikhabad complicate prices, land category issues

"Another factor, which is making the situation more and more tough, is that some of those who received compensation against their land for Bhasha dam also started investment in these areas [Sigloo, Kass and Sheikhabad] by constructing

buildings and other infrastructure in a bid to get handsome payment from the government in lieu of Dasu dam project,” an official source told Dawn.

According to a senior Wapda official, Prime Minister Imran Khan had been requested in a recent meeting to personally look into the issue and ensure acquisition of land for the project at the earliest. The locals demand that the government change the category of their land and rates of compensation.

“And it is up to the government what final decision it takes,” the official said.

He said the PM had assured Wapda officials weeks ago that the government would soon resolve the issue.

According to a source, Wapda actually needs a total of 9,875 acres for the entire project. Of this, it requires around 2,000 acres for civil works and a colony, while the remaining 7,888 acres are needed for the reservoir and other purposes.

#### Official rates, land categories

The source said the land had been categorised as urban, semi-urban, rural, barren, cultivated, residential, commercial and their rates had been fixed accordingly. The executive committee of the national economic council (Ecneec) had approved compensation rates for the land in different categories some three years back.

“On Nov 14, 2015, Ecneec had approved compensation rates for acquiring the land for Dasu project by dividing the land into various categories such as urban, semi-urban, rural, barren, cultivated, residential, commercial etc.

However, locals not only rejected the rates but also the nature/categorisation of the land the government had done,” the source explained.

“Now they are demanding compensation more than that [had been] decided by Ecneec in 2015.”

The project being constructed along the River Indus, seven kilometres upstream of Dasu Town, is vital not only for KP but also for the entire country, as it will trigger a new era of socio-economic development in remote areas of the province and stabilise economy by providing low-cost hydel power.

The source said the area where the priority land existed was sort of semi-tribal, having no land/ revenue record. While mountains were usually considered state owned, here such areas [mountains] were owned by individuals, they explained.

#### Land acquisition law

Due to various such issues, the government has not even managed to start a survey of the land it required for the project despite enforcement of Section 4 of Land Acquisition Act, which empowers the government to notify the area/land required for various projects in public interest — about seven years before.

An official said whenever revenue teams visited the areas for survey purposes, the residents offered severe resistance. The official added the government must resolve this issue on a top priority basis rather than waiting to see the situation getting out of control.

Published in Dawn, October 24th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1440968/acquisition-of-land-for-dasu-project-becomes-difficult>

SC SUMMONS CHIEF SECRETARIES IN MINERAL WATER CASE

APP October 25, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday summoned chief secretaries of the four provinces in a case pertaining to water consumption by mineral water companies.

A three-judge SC bench, headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, also rejected a report submitted by the advocate general for Punjab on taxes imposed on bottled water companies.

The advocate general, while submitting the report, said the Punjab government had divided the use of water in some categories: mineral water companies extracting water from areas facing water scarcity would have to pay 75 paisa per litre, whereas in areas where there was no shortage of water, the companies were required to pay 15 paisa per litre.

Mineral water companies were themselves willing to pay 50-75 paisa, so what the government was adding to it, Justice Nisar wondered.

The chief justice noted that Nestle company sold billions of rupees' bottled water by acquiring a six acre land in Sheikhpura, but the government was imposing a tax of just 75 paisa per litre on them.

The bench ordered a forensic audit of all mineral water companies with a report to be submitted on a weekly basis to the court.

Published in Dawn, October 25th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1441192/sc-summons-chief-secretaries-in-mineral-water-case>

## CHAGAI HIT BY SEVERE DROUGHT

By Our Correspondent

Published: October 25, 2018

QUETTA: More than 7,000 families have been affected by the severe drought in Chagai district.

In a letter sent to the provincial government on Wednesday, Chagai Deputy Commissioner Qaseem Khan demanded immediate relief for the drought-affected families.

According to officials, Home Minister Saleem Khosa informed Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan about the alarming situation in Chagai.

Director Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Attaullah Mengal said that on the directives of the provincial government, food items have been distributed among 3,000 families in Chagai.

The provincial government has called the Chagai deputy commissioner to take briefing regarding the relief operations. Back in 2002 also, Chagai had witnessed a worst drought which led to the migration of thousands of families to other districts.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1833504/1-chagai-hit-severe-drought/>

NATIONAL WATER POLICY: CM DEMANDS 1200 CUSECS OF WATER FOR KARACHI  
MOHAMMAD BILAL TAHIR OCT 25TH, 2018 KARACHI



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has urged the federal government to allocate 1200 cusecs of water for Karachi in the new National Water Policy. Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah presided over a preparatory for national water policy meeting to be held under the chairmanship of prime minister in Islamabad on Thursday.

“Karachi is mini-Pakistan and people from all over the country live here, therefore, every province should share in the allocation for Karachi,” he said. The meeting was attended by Taimur Talpur, principal secretary to CM Sajid Jamal Abro, secretary irrigation Jamal Shah and other concerned officers.

In the National water policy meeting the matter which would be discussed include National Water Policy and Pakistan water Chapter, Ground Water Regulatory Framework add Transboundary water Issues. The chief minister was told that the federal government was interested to hand over Reni Canal to Sindh government for further management. Murad Shah said Reni Canal was 10 year old and it needed some repair works. Therefore, Wapda should be asked to undertake the required works before hand over.

Shah directed secretary irrigation to conduct the survey of canal’s required rehabilitation works and recommend the same to Wapda. It may be noted that Reni Canal is 46 km long emanating from Guddu Barrage and terminated at Nara canal. It has a capacity of 5155 cusecs and constructed for irrigating 400,000 acres land.

The chief minister was also told that the federal government was keen to hand over Darwar Dam to Sindh government. Darwar Dam is located in Jamshoro district and has the capacity of 89,177 Acre feet rain water. CM also directed Secretary Irrigation to conduct survey of the dam and report him.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/10/20181025418548/>

#### LAHORE’S WATER TABLE GO DOWN 1M EACH YEAR: WASA SAFDAR RASHEED

LAHORE: The under-ground water level in Lahore is reducing one meter annually, so consumers should avoid wasting clean water to save coming generation from acute water shortage.

“WASA is in talks with the Punjab irrigation department for acquiring 100 cusecs water from the BRB Canal to cater the growing water need in the provincial capital by 2020,” said Deputy Managing Director Water and Sanitation Agency Lahore Muhammad Naveed Mazhar while talking to reporters at the Lahore Expo Centre after inaugurating two-day third ‘Pak and Water Energy Expo’ on Wednesday.

He said the agency in association with other stakeholders is working on alternate sources of water and taking steps to arrest the trend of declining underwater level. Mazhar said the agency has finalized PC-1 to acquire 100 cusecs water from the irrigation department to inject it in water distribution system and this quantity will reach up to 1,000 cusecs by 2035.

To a question, Mazhar said the agency has 750,000 water consumers but there are only 40,000 water meters installed in the city. “We are trying to import more meters and float tenders. The objective is to conserve water.”

He said different steps are being taken to contain lavish use of water by controlling car wash and gardening by water. The DMD said that WASA had not increased its tariff since 2004 and now the government may reconsider it.

Director Prime Event Kamran Abbasi, speaking on the occasion, said more than 55 local and international companies are participating in the Expo. The exhibitors include from sectors including water technologies, waste water solutions, power generation, transmission & distribution, renewable energy, sustainability & green engineering, automation and instrumentation.

Meanwhile, a good number of industry representatives and people from public and private sectors visited different stalls of power generation, beverage industries, builders and contractors, chemical plants, distillery/brewery units, dairies and milk producers, educational establishments, engineering organizations, environmental consultants, environmental protection agency, fertilizer manufacturers, food processing units, government bodies, hotels & clubs, industrial estate authority, leather industries, mineral water producers and bottle manufactures, mineral water labels, municipal corporations/KWSB, NGOs for water, OEMs, petrochemical plants, pharmaceutical manufacturers, power plants, public works department, pulp and paper industry, real estate developers, refineries, research and technical institutes, Sindh irrigation department, sugar industries, textile industries, water consultants and water resource authorities.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/10/25/16-page/745842-news.html>

## PM URGES ROADMAP FOR NATIONAL WATER POLICY

By APP

Published: October 26, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday emphasized on following an integrated approach for conservation, storage, management and efficient utilization of available water resources.

The premier expressed these views while chairing first meeting of the National Water Council (NWC) at the PM Office.

Pointing out that no significant attention was paid to water-related issues in the past, he underscored the need for chalking out a comprehensive road map in consultation with provinces and other stakeholders for implementing the National Water Policy (NWP).

He highlighted the issue of water scarcity to meet growing demands of the country's increasing population. PM Imran observed that NWC would serve as an effective platform to discuss and develop consensus among stakeholders on issues pertaining to water resource management.

Water Resources Secretary Shamail Ahmad Khawaja briefed the meeting about the contours of NWP and the strategic priorities set in the policy.

He also apprised the meeting about the existing water availability and planned future investments especially towards enhancement of the storage capacity.

The secretary further presented various proposals regarding the implementation of National Water Policy. WAPDA Chairman informed about progress on various water storage and power generation projects.

PM Imran said proposals should be analyzed by the steering committee under the water resources minister. The steering committee would submit its recommendations within two weeks.

Finance Minister Asad Umar, Planning and Development Minister Khusro Bakhtiar, Power Minister Omar Ayub, Water Resources Minister Faisal Vawda, National Food Security Minister Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan, Advisor to PM Malik Amin Aslam, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister KP Mahmood Khan, Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Hafiz Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Prime Minister AJK Raja M Farooq Haider Khan, provincial ministers, federal secretaries, chief secretaries and senior officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Deli China and JW SEZ Group have joined hands for establishing a \$200 million modern glass manufacturing complex in Pakistan for the production of premium, export-quality glass products.

In this regard, the groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's Office where prominent businessmen, government officials and a Chinese delegation were present.

Commenting on the initiative, Prime Minister Imran Khan said initiatives like 'Make in Pakistan' were immensely important for the economic development of the country.

"We need to promote such initiatives and the government will fully support such projects which are aimed at producing jobs and boosting the economy," he said. "This investment is an indication of foreign investors' confidence in the market of Pakistan."

The two sides have established Deli-JW Glassware Company Limited for the project. Pak-China Investment Company is facilitating Chinese investment in Pakistan and is also assisting in financing the project.

The project will utilise natural resources in Pakistan and use latest technology to convert into glassware, float glass and other kinds of glass products.

The project will be set up in the Industrial City M-3, Faisalabad whereas the unit for the processing of key raw material will be set up in Risalpur, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

The main glass manufacturing complex will comprise glassware manufacturing units, float glass units and other value-added glass products. The groundbreaking for phase-I of the project was held on Thursday and it will start production by the end of 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1834169/1-pm-urges-roadmap-national-water-policy/>

## WATER SCARCITY HITS CROPS, ORCHARDS IN PESHAWAR

The News October 28, 2018

**PESHAWAR:** Hundreds of thousands of orchards and agricultural lands are fast becoming barren in the plains of Peshawar division after being hit by severe water scarcity due to indifferent attitude of those at the helm of affairs.

The farmers and landowners belonging to various villages, including Haryana, Nasapa, Nahaqi, Shakarpura, Daman-e-Afghani staged a protest rally on Charsadda Road to press the authorities concerned to take steps for coping with the water shortage that has caused huge losses to the dwellers of these areas.

The protestors threatened to besiege the office of irrigation minister and his secretary if steps were not taken to ensure timely supply of irrigation water in the areas where the standing crops of wheat, sugarcane, maize and orchards of pears, apricots, and persimmon (Japanese fruit) have badly been affected.

Abdul Mateen, Town-II council member, told The News on the occasion that they had been facing severe shortage of irrigation water for the last several years, due to which many moderate land-owning families have lost their sustenance.

He said these families had started selling out their lands in these areas where unplanned housing schemes had been launched, which posed serious threat to the government planning and local populations.

The town member added that they were pooling their resources to arrange water for their crops on their own for years now. However, it has now become impossible for them to make irrigation water available for their crops anymore.

He informed that they had held meetings with the relevant authorities including the secretary irrigation and apprised them of the situation, but so far nothing was done in this regard.

Abdul Mateen said the farmers have decided to hold sit-ins in front of provincial assembly, Peshawar Press Club and secretary irrigation office if the irrigation water supply issue was not resolved at the earliest.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/386620-water-scarcity-hits-crops-orchards-in-peshawar>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 15TH TO OCTOBER 21TH 2018

THE DIAMER-BHASHA CHALLENGE

Afzal Ali Shigri October 15, 2018

THE situation is alarming; without adequate water storage, Pakistan will face a serious water emergency by 2025. Dismayed by the nation's water crisis and inaction by the executive, the Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) autonomously launched a campaign to collect funds for the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam along the Indus River. Dams not only store water during periods of rain and snow melt for off-season use, but also help to control frequent floods in the Indus basin. As climate change has made such floods more unpredictable and destructive, storage dams and an efficient irrigation system are vital mechanisms for containing and preventing flood damage. But following the construction of major dams at Tarbela and Mangla, further dam projects have been overlooked.

While Pakistanis have already begun to suffer due to the perpetual shortage of drinking and irrigation water, the only large water storage facility planned at Kalabagh was stalled due to the objections of the political leaders in the three provinces. In this unfortunate squabbling over its location, the key issue of water shortage due to lack of storage was sidelined. None were ready to propose constructing a water storage dam on other sites to address the needs of a burgeoning population. Lacklustre attempts by successive governments to initiate work on the Diamer-Bhasha dam amounted solely to the acquisition of land for the project. No concrete steps were taken to prioritise its execution in the face of a looming crisis repeatedly identified by the experts. Thus, collectively, our political leadership failed to focus on an issue linked so closely to the survival of Pakistan.

Sadly, even this genuine effort by the judiciary to address an important matter has been subjected to much criticism on flimsy grounds. It is argued that planning a dam of this magnitude and raising funds are to be done by the experts, and that its scale as well as the its technical components require expert input. Unfortunately, the political leadership has failed to deliver in this regard, choosing instead to continually frustrate resource allocation for the project by using the annual development plans for the sake of political mileage or to pacify vested interests.

If the government is genuinely interested in this project, it must take some concrete steps.

When such intricate and technically complex projects are deprioritised, one cannot expect any meaningful results. Diamer-Bhasha is a case where a lack of political will led to a failure to address the common man's problems. Simply put, our political leadership was unlikely to see much value in constructing a dam that would require ten years to complete, as whichever party was in power at the point of the project's completion would claim credit for it.

Granted, the capital outlay is so massive that donations alone cannot suffice to fund the dam, but the dam campaign has created awareness among the masses as to the urgent need to launch this project. This, in turn, has forced the present government to join hands with the CJP and own the campaign. Regrettably, despite this apparent interest, no concrete action appears to have ensued. The two vital steps are reaching financial closure, and addressing local political problems that are frustrating the project's implementation.

CPEC is about transportation and energy. Located on the Karakoram Highway, the artery of this undertaking, the Diamer-Bhasha dam fits neatly into the understanding developed with the Chinese. However, this project does not

appear to be prioritised by donors as many donor agencies are reluctant to provide funds due to geopolitical considerations. Even in the much-trumpeted investment by Saudi Arabia, the funds do not seem to have been allocated for the dam. Meanwhile, local political problems have been completely ignored, and the federal government does not even consider it an issue.

Diamer, where the dam's major infrastructure will be located, is part of Gilgit-Baltistan — a region that is defined as disputed by the government of Pakistan. Even the conditions set by the UN resolution for self-rule have not been fully met in the arrangements for local governance. There is a demand by the people of the region to integrate GB with Pakistan and grant them all its attendant constitutional rights. The people of GB liberated this area and joined Pakistan unconditionally but, to their dismay, they found that the Kashmiri leadership had bartered their status away without any consultation with the local leadership. If the PTI government is genuinely interested in this project, it must take the following concrete steps. Otherwise, its apparent support for the project equates to a meaningless political statement.

a) This dam should top the list of priority projects in the CPEC package. Saudi Arabia should also be requested to participate in the funding of this project.

b) As it is at present in a state of constitutional and legal limbo, the status of GB should be immediately determined by creating a legal linkage between this region and the state of Pakistan. A vague and uncertain stance imperils the confidence of prospective donors/investors.

c) The last government had established a committee, headed by then foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz, to look into the various aspects of GB's status. It recommended the conditional merger of GB with Pakistan subject to the final outcome of the plebiscite under the UN. This is a good starting point for integrating GB with Pakistan, and to cement its claim on the region as an undisputed part of Pakistan. Let India opt to call it 'disputed'. Other ancillary and important issues, such as the rights of the people according to constitutional provisions, land ownership, taxation and a fair guaranteed share in CPEC, must all be addressed.

Only these concrete steps by the present government will establish the authenticity of their commitment. Otherwise, as before, it will simply lead to the exit via the familiar U-turn.

The writer, a former IGP Sindh, belongs to Gilgit-Baltistan.

Published in Dawn, October 15th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1439157/the-diamer-bhasha-challenge>

## CPP RALLY AGAINST PROPOSED DAMS

By Our Staff Correspondent | 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

**HYDERABAD:** Activists of the Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP) held a demonstration outside the local press club on Sunday against construction of dams over river Indus.

Leading the protest, CPP secretary Sindh chapter Comrade Iqbal said Tarbela and Mangla dams were built in 1967 and 1975, respectively, and due to silt deposits in Mangla dam, it had lost 15pc of its storage capacity.

Tarbela dam over river Indus was 43 years old and it had also lost 37.5pc of its storage capacity, he said, adding that it indicated that river Indus had huge sedimentation load.

If Bhasha dam was built at a cost of Rs16 billion, it would be hit by the same silt deposits problem and would lose its capacity within a few years, he said.

He said Indus river basin was losing flows and even 90MAF water was not available, why huge amount was being wasted.

He wondered why not subsoil water was being conserved in Sindh where soil's absorbing capacity was low. He said that this option would need 10pc of what was needed for Bhasha and Kalabagh dams.

He said the Water Apportionment Accord 1991 was never implemented and 10MAF water flows were not released downstream Kotri barrage.

He said the government and establishment raised the dam issue through the chief justice of Pakistan thinking that it would succeed in its plans but it was sadly mistaken.

He said that when the Indus Basin Treaty was signed in the 60s, federal government did not seek opinion of Sindh.

Even under the treaty, India was bound down to release 33MAF water but Pakistan had not pressed that point.

He added that China was building a dam at the starting point of river Indus to divert its flow but the Pakistan government was silent over it.

[https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=15\\_10\\_2018\\_117\\_003](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=15_10_2018_117_003)

#### SINDH'S WATER SHORTAGE ISSUE RAISED WITH IRSA, CCI: CM RECORDER REPORT OCT 15TH, 2018 HYDERABAD

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said the provincial government has raised the issue of water shortage in province with Indus River System Authority and on the platform of Council of Common Interests (CCI). Talking to the media in Bubak village in Jamshoro district on Sunday, the CM said his government had expressed its strong reservations against alleged theft of water from Sindh's share. "We are not only raising our voice but are also preparing a strategy to deal with this issue," he told.

Commenting on the drought situation in Tharparkar district, Shah said the provincial government was providing 50 kilogram of subsidized wheat to each family in that district as food aid. The CM said the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Sindh Government installed hundreds of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in Tharparkar to provide drinking water to the people. However, he deplored, the caretaker government in Sindh did not pay salaries to the staff of those RO plants owing to which many were closed.

"The people who had seen Tharparkar 10 years ago, if they go there today they will see a lot of development in the desert region," he asserted. The CM said the PPP's government built roads and established health facilities which were earlier available only in the large cities. Shah said Tharparkar lacked road and phone communication networks which the PPP's government provided to the citizens in that district.

Responding to a question over Anti Corruption Establishment's inquiry against Sindh University's Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Fateh Muhammad Burfat, the CM said his government wanted accountability of all institutions. He added that any government official found involved in corruption would be brought to the book. The CM later visited his constituency where he went to residences of the local people and party workers to offer condolences.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/10/20181015415269/>

#### WB TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID FOR KP'S THREE HYDEL PROJECTS RECORDER REPORT



PESHAWAR: World Bank has agreed to extend financial support in energy sector to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by constructing three hydropower projects in Upper Dir and Swat districts.

The development will not only bring a heavy investment to KP, but also prove as prime source of creating new job opportunities in the province. These power projects will also add billions of revenue annually to provincial exchequer.

In this context, a high level meeting was held between World Bank energy specialist Dr Rikard Liden and senior energy specialist Mohammad Saqib under the chairmanship of CM KP advisor on energy Himayat ullah Khan.

The meeting was also attended by secretary energy Mohammad Salim Khan, PESCO Chief Amjad Ali Khan, CEO PEDO Engr Zainullah Shah, Secretary SMBR Qaiser Khan, GM Hydel Bahadur Shah and Director PESCO Habib Khan Marwat.

The meeting was informed that the WB will provide \$200 million financial support for three projects i.e. 22 MW Patrak Shringal hydropower project, 47 MW Barikot HPP and 88 MW Gabral Kalam HPP. These projects will totally generate 157MW electricity and will be completed by 2025.

The team leader of WB mission Dr Rikard Liden stated that the bank is engaged in various activities on social development in Pakistan. He expressed his hope for active support of district administration of Kohistan and provincial government for removing obstacles while implementing its Dasu HPP.

Adviser to CM on Energy, Himayat ullah Khan and Secretary Energy Salim Khan have expressed their pleasure over extending of financial support by the WB for implementing power projects in KP and stressed for building up provincial owned transmission & distribution system.

He further assured the WB mission of having full support of district Kohistan administration and provincial government.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/10/15/3-page/744117-news.html>

## SINDH, PUNJAB EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY OVER CANALS' STATUS AMID LOOMING WATER CRISIS

Mohammad Hussain Khan Updated October 16, 2018

HYDERABAD: Senate's standing committee on water resources will recommend to the Council of Common Interests (CCI)-led committee on water issue to determine status of link canals branching off from the Indus and ascertain whether consent of lower riparian (Sindh) is mandatory to operate these canals, besides redefining criteria of Mangla Dam operation.

"We have recommended to the standing committee on water resources to forward the points to the CCI committee, formed by prime minister," Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah told Dawn. "There are other points [in the set of recommendations] as well, he said.

An Umerkot-based former Sindh chief minister, Mr Shah had signed the Water Apportionment Accord of 1991 as the provincial law minister. The accord is a guiding document to regulate interprovincial water distribution but Sindh has serious reservations over its interpretation by members of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) from Punjab.

The top water regulator, according to Sindh, allows operation of link canals — Chashma-Jhelum, Taunsa, Panjnad and Thal — unilaterally at the cost of Sindh's water share.



The prime minister had recently formed a committee, led by incumbent Attorney General Anwar Mansoor Khan, to look into water issue after the Sindh chief minister raised it in the CCI. But the terms of reference of the committee are yet to be drafted.

“AG Khan just told me on board a flight that he had not yet received any communication about the committee,” said Senator Shah. “That’s why I, as the mover and water resources committee member, have proposed that the committee should recommend the points relating to Sindh’s grievances to the CCI committee, to be headed by Mr Khan for making them part of its ToRs”, he added.

Irsa chairman Sher Zaman, who is from Balochistan, and its member from Punjab, Rao Irshad, in their very recent presentation to the Senate committee on national food security (headed by Senator Shah) and later in water resources committee reportedly contended that it was Sindh’s insistence that the link canals were flood canals and if Sindh had any such grievance it could move the CCI.

Sindh claims that during early Kharif sowing season, Mangla Dam is filled by Irsa when Sindh’s lower region needs water for sowing of summer crops which is denied. Irsa unilaterally allows operation of link canals despite Sindh’s objection. Punjab maintains that these canals are operated to draw its share of water in the Indus and divert it to the Mangla zone.

A former Sindh irrigation secretary, Idris Rajput, says that in fact, Sindh has to come up with a working paper in the CCI to prove that link canals are not operated honestly. “To me, they are neither perennial nor flood canals. If Punjab draws its share from the Indus honestly for diverting water to its areas, this can’t be opposed. We must ensure that this share is drawn as per the allocation,” said Mr Rajput. He termed these canals “need-based channels” and said they, therefore, could be operated intermittently as and when there was a need. “Sindh has the right to question Irsa’s decision in CCI.”

Senator Muzaffar Shah argues that CCI is the proper forum which had approved Water Accord so it must look into the points being raised in Senate’s standing committees. “Telemetry system at barrages to see whether flows are as per gauges remains defective. Mangla Dam should not be filled when there is a shortage in the Indus basin system. These points should necessarily be addressed by the committee headed by Mr Mansoor Khan,” he stressed.

Balochistan feels that Sindh is not judiciously sharing water with it while Sindh feels that when water flows in the Indus River system are inadequate, a shortage is bound to take place for Balochistan. It is in this backdrop that the Irsa member from Balochistan, who is currently its chairman, is taking on Sindh in the current water distribution issue.

Senator Sassui Palijo, who had also raised the point on water issue besides Senator Shah in the upper house, believes that Irsa is not a neutral body. “They [Irsa] have different interpretation of the Water Accord,” she said. She said that Irsa representatives were told that Sindh had peculiar kind of issues when it came to water distribution. “Our [Sindh’s] subsoil water is brackish. We don’t get 10MAF downstream Kotri to push back intruding Arabian Sea that is devouring our lands in the coastal districts of Badin and Thatta,” said Palijo, who hails from Thatta. “Punjab’s groundwater is sweet and they use it easily,” she noted.

She alleges that Irsa violates the accord at will.

Published in Dawn, October 16th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1439220/sindh-punjab-embroiled-in-controversy-over-canals-status-amid-looming-water-crisis>

VAWDA THREATENS TO CUT SINDH’S WATER SHARE IF THEFT NOT CURBED

By Z.Ali

Published: October 16, 2018

HYDERABAD: The federal minister for water resources, Faisal Vawda, has tacitly threatened to cut Sindh's share from the Indus river, if the Sindh government fails to stop water theft from the Hub canal in Karachi. "I am giving two weeks to the Sindh government to stop the theft," Vawda warned, while talking to the media during a visit to Darawat dam – a rain-fed water reservoir – in Jamshoro district on Monday.

"We will have to do arm-twisting of Sindh government if they fail to take action." When asked to elaborate the term 'arm-twisting', he briefly explained that, "when electricity bill is not paid the connection is cut off but we won't cut the water supply but the tap can be slowed".

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader accused Pakistan Peoples Party's Sindh government of doing injustice with the citizens of Karachi in the distribution of water. "If I tightened valves of water, there will be a hue and cry."

According to him, the tanker mafia in connivance with the provincial government stole water worth billions of rupees from Hub, creating a shortage for the citizens while compelling others to buy expensive water. "The water board [Karachi Water and Sewerage Board] is criminally involved in this theft."

He said he would take up the issue with the Karachi Corps Commander, Sindh Rangers Director General, Sindh Police IG and Karachi police chief and would also write to the Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Responding to a query, the minister said the center desired to provide more water to Sindh but stressed that water theft in the irrigation system should be curbed. He said the politically-affiliated feudal lords have been stealing water from the share of the tail-end poor farmers in Sindh.

Darawat dam

Vawda came down hard on the provincial government, accusing it of making the dam redundant by failing to complete its part of work of developing the command area. "The federal government has spent around Rs11 billion to construct the dam but Sindh government is not investing Rs1.25b to build the water courses and carry out land leveling in the command area." He added that the province is also dilly-dallying taking over operation of the dam.

According to the minister, three options are under consideration of the federal authorities, including supplying its water to Karachi or keeping the project in federal hands by spending the remaining Rs1.25b. Turning it into an amusement facility is also an option, he added.

The dam was built to store water of the natural rain-fed Nai Baran river to use it for drinking and agricultural purpose in the arid mountainous region which is part of Khirthar mountain range. Its command area includes 25,000 acres of land, of which the minister claimed around half of land is disputed.

Its storage capacity is 121,000-acre feet, but it attained the maximum storage of around 52,000 acre feet a few years ago during which over 3,000 acres crop was cultivated for the first and only time.

The project was completed in August 2014, though the former president and PPP's co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari inaugurated it prior to the May, 2013, general elections. From 2014 to August, 2017, the Chinese contractor, Sino Hydro, managed the dam. According to the agreement, Sindh was supposed to take over from the Chinese company but the provincial government balked, according to the minister. The dam was, therefore, handed over to the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda).

A Wapda official said they have written to the province to take control over the dam but the latter cites a lack of capacity to operate it. “We have proposed that Wapda will train their staff and the province can take over the affairs in around six months.”

#### Nai Gaj dam

The minister said that they are going to refer the Rs2 billion fake bank guarantee scandal, which was submitted by the dam’s contractor, to the National Accountability Bureau. “This can be done in a matter of days,” he said, referring to involving NAB in the scam’s investigation.

The alleged fraud surfaced a few weeks ago when Wapda informed the federal secretary about the issue. The latter, in response, sent a 10-point questionnaire to Wapda to provide further details. An official, who did not want to be identified, said the contract of the existing contractor will be cancelled and a new tender for the remaining work of the dam will be advertised.

The dam was earlier scheduled to be completed by May 2015. But the delay entailed the cost overruns with the revised PC-1, raising the cost at Rs46 billion, up from Rs26 billion. “The revised PC-1 is pending approval of the planning commission, facing yet another delay,” said an official.

#### K-IV project

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, a few days ago, blamed the centre for not releasing funds for K-IV project, which will supply an additional 250 million gallons per day water from Indus river to Karachi. However, Vawda said the center is awaiting submission of PC-1 of the project by the province for approval of the funds.

“The K-IV project was cited among the unapproved projects in the last federal budget. The new government’s budget slashed it from the list along with all other unapproved projects,” said an official.

According to him, the centre is most likely to provide funds for the project in the ongoing fiscal year, provided that the province submitted the PC-1 and it received approval from the authority. Sindh government is the executing agency of the project while the federal government is a co-sponsor.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 16th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1826554/1-vawda-threatens-cut-sindhs-water-share-theft-not-curbed/>

#### MISTRUST OVER DAMS MUST END, SAYS ALVI

The Newspaper’s Staff Reporter Updated October 20, 2018

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Friday highlighted the need for ending mistrust among the provinces to end resistance to the construction of major water reservoirs and suggested introduction of satellite telemetry system to measure and monitor amount of water released to the provinces.

“We need to build trust among the provinces,” said President Alvi while also calling for a careful study of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 between India and Pakistan to safeguard the country’s water rights in a timely manner.

The president was speaking at a three-day international symposium on “Creating a water-secure Pakistan”, which was organised by the Supreme Court in conjunction with the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan at the Supreme Court building.

He said Pakistan's water storage capacity was limited to only 30 days which was reducing further with time due to sedimentation. In case new water reservoirs were not built, the irrigation supply would drop substantially to the level that the country had in the 1960s when there were no reservoirs and the population was not as large, he added.

This would lead to serious water conflicts which could be addressed only by taking timely action and therefore there was a need for building large water reservoirs, Dr Alvi said.

About two million drought-hit and impoverished residents of Tharparkar and Cholistan amplified the human side of this problem, President Alvi said. Due to poor water management, thousands of children in the drought-hit areas lost their lives, he added. The situation in Tharparkar was an example of how bleak the things could become in other parts of the country if adequate water management measures were not immediately adopted, he said.

The president called for adopting world's best water management practices including building of water reservoirs and dams, planning for water conservation, water audit techniques, water pricing, enhancing the irrigation efficiency and water productivity, water reuse and recycling methods, satellite telemetry system for equitable distribution, adoption of drip and sprinkler irrigation techniques.

According to him, another cause for concern is power generation that serves as a lifeline to the industrial sector. The gap between demand and supply of power was widening, he said, adding that energy shortfall was seriously hampering the industrial growth, causing drop in foreign reserves and GDP growth. He explained that the power sector was plagued with the issue of a circular debt. Reliance on thermal power generation rather than hydel means of power production was one reason for the current state of affairs, he argued.

According to the 2015 state of industry report of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), Pakistan has the potential of generating 40,000 megawatts of hydro power. Thus the need of the hour was to shift to efficient and cost-effective means of power generation, the president said.

Earlier, Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar in an open and frank manner conceded to what he called criminal negligence during the past 40 years that the aspect crucial to the nation's survival was not attended to properly. Being an agrarian economy, the chief justice observed, water was highly important for Pakistan particularly when it relied upon the single source of the Indus River and its tributaries to cater to almost all of its water requirements.

However, the chief justice said, "We do not want our posterity to live a miserable life." He added that the people were not going to die but live by building dams.

According to the World Resources Institute, Pakistan will rank 23rd out of the top 33 most water-stressed countries by 2040. The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources says Pakistan may run dry by 2025 if present conditions continue to prevail.

Pakistan had touched the 'water stress line' in 1990 and crossed the 'water scarcity line' in 2005, yet relatively little had been done to improve the situation, the chief justice said.

The compounding evidence of the urgency of the situation is the recent report of an inter-governmental panel on climate change, which has been hailed by the scientific community as the final call to action. If the global temperature by the year 2100 increases by merely two degrees Celsius, the country can face resource shortages, famines, droughts, natural disasters, extreme weather conditions, increased spread of diseases, damage to delicate ecosystems, and an increased rate of glacial melting.

Pakistan is particularly precariously placed in this context, with icy mountains to the north, deserts to the south west, floodplains in the north east and an expansive coastline to the south. There was increasing risk of flooding and droughts if the river system was not effectively managed, the chief justice said.

Therefore, Justice Nisar said, it was pertinent that Pakistan immediately begin to adopt measures to solve the problems that contributed to water scarcity. He said the right to water was part of the fundamental right to life and thus must be guaranteed to the citizens of Pakistan. "As the custodians of the constitution, the judiciary must ensure that such right is enforced, particularly considering the grim and precarious situation that Pakistan is in at the moment," he observed.

Recognising the importance of water for the preservation of life, he said, the Supreme Court had recently passed a judgement that highlighted risks posed by water scarcity and its security. He explained that the SC also directed the executive to take all the necessary steps to commence the construction of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams.

The chief justice also highlighted the need for comprehensive water policies to regulate extraction of groundwater. Due to unreliable canal supplies groundwater was relied upon for irrigation, he said, adding that this drained aquifers and caused an increase in cost of extraction, shortage, depletion of lake and stream water flow.

Earlier, Wapda chairman retired Lt Gen Muzzamil Hussain gave a briefing on Pakistan's water conditions.

Published in Dawn, October 20th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1440180/mistrust-over-dams-must-end-says-alvi>

#### WATER & ENERGY EXPO TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 24 RECORDER REPORT OCT 21ST, 2018 LAHORE

The 3rd Pak Water & Energy Expo 2018, the largest and most extensive global water trade event showcasing in Pakistan is being held on October 24-25, 2018 here at Lahore Expo Centre. The purpose of organizing Pak Water Expo is not only to gather all the related business professionals and industries including sellers and potential buyers to show them the current development and new trends in the Water industry around the world.

It is also aimed to provide a forum for exchanging new ideas and discussions with the aim to propose solutions of various water related problems in Pakistan, he further said. Exhibitors will include from sectors water technologies, waste water solutions, power generation, transmission & distribution, renewable energy, sustainability & green engineering, automation and instrumentation.

The exhibitors will have a comprehensive range of products and services, and the latest state-of-the-art technologies of the entire water value chain. It is a platform where top government officials, industry leaders, water experts, practitioners and enterprises will converge to establish business and networking opportunities.

A conference dedicated to discuss water woes in the country, its challenges and long term solutions will also be part of this expo in which officials and experts from government organizations, private sectors will deliver their lectures. This will bring academia from different sectors to join hands on this important topic.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/10/20181021417673/>

#### 1960 TREATY: GOVT 'MUST REVISIT' STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT WATER ACCORD By Hasnaat Malik

Published: October 21, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's strategy for implementation of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with New Delhi should be reconsidered and revisited to bolster its case in view of the water crisis facing the country, insist the participants of an international conference on Saturday.

“The international water law should be taken advantage of by consistently putting forward Pakistan’s perspective before various international forums, and Pakistan’s strategy regarding implementation of the IWT should be reconsidered and revisited to bolster its case,” said a declaration issued after a two-day international symposium on ‘Creating A Water-Secure Pakistan’.

The event, held at the Supreme Court premises, was attended by various national and international experts on water. After holding five sessions on different issues, a 20-point declaration was issued.

“They [governments] did not fulfill their responsibility; therefore, we had to step in (by creating a fund for construction of new dams and taking other initiatives).

“The people who did not take any measures in the last 40 years for construction of new water reservoirs should be held accountable for their criminal negligence,” he added.

The chief justice also questioned if he had encroached on other institution’s affairs by visiting hospitals and demanding health facilities to the needy persons.

#### The declaration

The declaration demanded that the government must introduce water accounting based on modernised water data collection methods to assess, amongst other things, the water availability per capita, in order to build trust amongst the provinces regarding water apportionment, particularly considering the requirements of the Indus Delta and lower riparian areas in Pakistan,

It recommended that Pakistan should immediately set up a powerful ‘Task Force on Water’. Likewise, agricultural income tax be levied and recovered across the board, throughout Pakistan through an effective legal framework.

“The potential of Pakistan’s part of the Indus Basin has to be realised through priority actions that need to be taken on an immediate basis. Maintaining the integrity of the Indus Basin is a serious and important responsibility of the federation as well as the provinces, including all other administrative units and above all, the people of Pakistan.”

The declaration said it is imperative for Pakistan to invest in supply augmentation (dams and reservoirs) and ensure better utilisation of its groundwater, adopting appropriate water technologies (water recycling, desalinisation, and water harvesting) and manage consumption and use of water (controlling water demand and pricing) and do all of this under the principles of mutual trust and benefit sharing.

“Effective salinity and sedimentation management techniques must be adopted to protect Pakistan’s agricultural land and the storage capacity of dams and reservoirs respectively.

“Numerous small and large dams and reservoirs must be constructed on a priority basis. Fast-track feasibilities and action is required on the part of the Executive.

“Innovative solutions regarding storage facilities for low gradient plains (flat areas, coastal areas, hard rock, barani areas and desert areas) must be adopted,” it added.

It said the Indus Basin irrigation network has to be extended which would bring several million acres of land under irrigation, and design water allocation right down to the district level.

Various traditional and non-traditional financing methods including direct investment, corporate finance, portfolio investment, bonds, upfront tariff, crowd funding and public private partnership arrangements, must be employed to meet the huge financial requirements for construction of dams.

Likewise, it is resolved that various measures for conservation of water need to be taken which include saving and better management of storage of groundwater to prevent its unrestricted extraction.

“It is also proposed that measures need to be introduced for flood risk reduction through flood plains and hill-torrent management, groundwater recharge, wetlands restoration and community based natural resource management.

“Other measures to control wastage, encourage productivity and ensure sustainability of scarce resources need to be considered. An appropriate legal framework should be available to strengthen institutional arrangements for proper environmental hazard tackling.”

The declaration said it is no longer feasible to allow unfettered access to the valuable resource of water with no incentives to check usage. Therefore, it is essential that a fair water pricing model is formulated and implemented by the competent regulatory institutions.

“The Indus Basin, one of the largest contiguous irrigation systems in the world, is at risk of reduced flows, climate change, population explosion, outdated agricultural practices, financial crunch and other challenges, which need to be addressed immediately.

“Pakistan’s rain-fed areas, deserts, mountain catchments, and coastlines also face challenges relating to water availability and water uses. The recently articulated national water policy is a step towards remedying these issues which should be implemented by the executive,” it said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1830534/1-1960-treaty-govt-must-revisit-strategy-implement-water-accord/>

## DAMS NEED OF THE HOUR: KHOSO

By News Desk

Published: October 21, 2018

Balochistan Home Minister Mir Saleem Khoso has said dams are the need of the hour for the province.

Addressing the media, he said the province was facing water crisis because the previous regimes did not address the water shortage. He added that the provincial government was focused on saving Balochistan from drought.

The minister urged the people to avoid wastage of water in their daily use. He said that a drought-like situation had emerged in various parts of the country due to less rainfall. He warned that the future generations would face water crisis if the shortage of water was not addressed on an immediate basis.

Khosa lauded the dam fund initiative taken by Chief Justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar’s and the federal government. He urged the people to donate to the fund for the construction of dams.

He described the water conference arranged by the Supreme Court as an effective step to overcome the water crisis. The entire nation supported the initiative, he said.

With regard to the development projects in the province, the minister said the government had been taking every step to provide relief to the people.



He said that Levies were being provided with the latest equipment to maintain law and order. He lauded the role of Levies in maintaining the law and order in Balochistan.

Khoso said the government was taking strict steps to protect people and their properties.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1830520/1-dams-need-hour-khoso/>

## INDIA REJECTS PAKISTAN DEMAND FOR CHENAB DAMS' INSPECTION

By News Desk

Published: October 20, 2018

India has refused to permit Pakistan from inspecting controversial water projects being built on the Chenab, Express News reported on Saturday.

Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Mehr Ali Shah had telephoned his Indian counterpart PK Saxena on this account. Shah reminded him of talks held in Lahore two months ago where both sides had spoken about Pakistani experts inspecting the projects.

Saxena rejected the Pakistan demand, according to Express News. Shah had earlier written to his Indian counterpart in this regard too. In the letter, he emphasised Pakistan's right to inspect water projects being built on the river in accordance with the Indus Waters Treaty.

Pakistan had also sought pertinent data. This too India refused to provide.

A Pakistani team was expected to visit India this month to inspect the water projects. India cancelled the planned visit at the last moment.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1830216/1-india-rejects-pakistan-demand-chenab-dams-inspection/>

## NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 8TH TO OCTOBER 14TH 2018

### WATER SCARCITY TO HIT RABI CROPS NEXT

Ahmad Fraz Khan Updated October 08, 2018

THE severe water shortage cycle, which began early this year, continues: the country faced up to 50 per cent shortage early Kharif. According to calculations by the Indus River System Authority (Irsa), there are fears of a 38pc deficit for the Rabi season — compromising Pakistan's entire crop cycle.

A little data for context: Irsa has calculated that against a 10-year average of 22.86 million acre feet (MAF), it will receive 18.19MAF in the next six months. During Rabi (Oct-March), the minimum shortage would be 33pc and maximum 43pc, averaging at 38pc.

As far as the water storage position is concerned, the country has started the season with the second lowest storage ever: 5.89MAF, which is only second to 5.43MAF in 2004.

However, in the first four days of the season, around 400,000MAF had already been lost as storage dipped to 5.5MAF last Thursday due to a dip in river flows.

While this scenario looks bad enough, farmers fear worse: "These are, at best, conservative estimates — kept low to make them look politically less explosive," says Abad Khan of the central Punjab region. One can safely add around four to five per cent to these figures given the history of Irsa calculations.

Irsa officials themselves had been talking about a 45pc shortage a few days ago which they have now scaled down to 38pc.

Since, these are “likely figures”, they always contain a margin of error, which more often than not turns out to be on the negative side, he fears.

The Punjab Irrigation Department, as per its officials, has prepared a plan to deal with the situation and shared it with the Agriculture Department. According to it, the department will concentrate on only crucial watering — sowing, growing and maturity — periods and absorbing the deficit in between.

Of the three mentioned, the last watering, however, will largely depend on early next year rains, if they do come; otherwise, it will be a risky proposition. The metrological department has already warned of no, or negligible, rains for the rest of the year, which Irsa claims to have factored in its calculations.

As far as impact on the cropping cycle is concerned, the farmers, as always, fear more for the wheat crop — which is by far the biggest one for the season, spread over 20m acres across the country.

Agriculture officials, however, are not very worried as they think that they have enough water in the kitty to at least ensure sowing. “The country has 5.5MAF of water right now, which is more than sufficient to secure sowing of wheat,” says an extension officer of the Punjab Agriculture Department. However, cotton and sugarcane will face issues of varying levels, he concedes.

‘Since underground water in these areas is brackish and canal water almost missing, the sugar cane crop may see trouble,’ says Abad Khan, a grower based in the central Punjab region

Farmers from the central Punjab region, the rice growing belt, also feel safe. “All hybrid varieties and early basmati have already been harvested,” says Hamid Malhi, president of the Basmati Growers Association (BGA). Only two varieties (PS-II and Super) are in the field and need one more watering.

Historically, farmers do not get canal water for the last irrigation despite an increase in area under the crop (according to the Punjab Agriculture Department the area increased 4.5m acres to 4.7m acres this year). The department normally closes all canals around early October and farmers are left to tubewells for the last watering.

In the next fortnight, both these varieties will also be harvested so rice may not suffer much this year. However, if the (water shortage) trend continues, the crop’s long-term prospects will be greatly compromised, he warns.

The real trouble may come for another water guzzling crop — sugarcane — especially in core areas of south Punjab and along the river beds. “Since underground water in these areas is brackish and canal water almost missing, the crop may see trouble,” says Mr Khan, himself a cane grower.

The situation may worsen if frost arrives early next year. Official efforts have brought down sugarcane area by almost 10pc (according to official figures, the crop has been sown on 1.8m acres against 2.1m acres last year) but the total area under cultivation is still substantial with a massive water requirement that farmers will have to meet.

The country meanwhile has enough stocks to see it through for another year. The loss may not be felt at a national level, but individual trouble will be massive, he states.

Cotton may face some trouble in areas where a farmer may choose to continue growing the crop instead of planting wheat. Again, since cotton mainly lies in the brackish south zone, farmers may be forced to terminate the crop because of water issues.

“A major part of this area is fed from an arm of the Mangla Dam, where the crisis is particularly severe,” says Naeem Hotiana, a farmer from the Pakpattan area. The dam could not be filled this year and is standing at almost 30 feet below the level where it was last year on the corresponding day. Farmers understand the problem and may go for termination of the crop at a huge financial cost and opt for wheat, where water will at least be available for sowing, claims Naeem.

Published in Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, October 8th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1437532/water-scarcity-to-hit-rabi-crops-next>

#### CONSTRUCTION OF DIAMER-BHASHA, MOHMAND DAMS TO BEGIN IN 2019

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated October 09, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Construction work on two major dams — Mohmand and Diamer-Bhasha — is all set to begin in the first and second quarters of 2019 with a total approved cost of about Rs883 billion.

Mohammad Faisal Vawda, the newly appointed Minister for Water Resources, was given a briefing by Muzammil Hussain, the chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), about the building of the dams. The retired lieutenant general assured the minister that everything was on course and that construction is going to commence in 2019.

An official said construction work on the Rs309bn Mohmand dam would start in the first quarter of 2019. He added that the process of hiring consultants was in the final stages, who would evaluate the bids for the project and also monitor implementation.

The official said the authorities had invited consultancy firms to submit proposals for the Rs478bn Diamer-Bhasha dam. He added that several companies had submitted applications for the pre-qualification process and their offers were being evaluated to be included in the bidding stage.

Wapda chairman briefs minister the work will cost Rs883bn

The authorities have already divided the Diamer-Bhasha dam into two components — the main dam and other sub-structures. The first stage of the multi-purpose project will begin latest by June 2019, and will be followed by the electro-mechanical phase power house some time later, which is estimated to cost Rs751bn.

The meeting was informed that the fund created by the chief justice of Pakistan, which was later joined by the prime minister, had seen a total donation inflow of Rs4.6bn. Already, Rs23.8bn for the Diamer-Bhasha dam and Rs2bn for the Mohmand dam had been allocated in the Public Sector Development Programme 2018-19.

The Wapda chairman also explained the various factors that were causing the water crisis in the country. He said that building new dams and adopting water conservation strategies were critical for the future.

The minister was also briefed on recently completed Wapda projects and the status of other ongoing water and hydropower projects, including Dasu and Keyal Khwar hydropower plant and Kurram Tangi and Nai Gaj dams.

The briefing also touched on the ready-for-construction projects, which include Kachhi Canal Phase-II and III, Kurram Tangi dam, Tarbela's 5th extension and Harpo and Bunji hydropower plants.

The minister assured the Wapda team that the government was fully committed to constructing hydropower projects to improve water availability for domestic, industrial and agricultural sectors, while at the same time add low-cost hydel electricity to the national grid.

Published in Dawn, October 9th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1437767/construction-of-diamer-bhasha-mohmand-dams-to-begin-in-2019>

## SINDH CM ORDERS IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF CLOSED RO PLANTS

By Our Correspondent

Published: October 9, 2018

**KARACHI:** After consistently refuting the criticism by the opposition and civil society organisations over the installation of substandard Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in Thar, the Sindh government finally accepted the failure of these plants and ordered their immediate restoration.

The opposition and civil society organisations have been criticising the provincial government for long for installing substandard RO plants, the majority of which had become non-functional soon after their installation. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, expressing his annoyance over the closure of 110 RO plants in Thar for want of funds, directed the finance department to release Rs336.7 million immediately and make the RO plants operational by today (Tuesday).

He issued these directives on Monday while presiding over a meeting to review the issue of RO plants at the CM House. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Saeed Ghani, Imtiaz Shaikh, CM Advisor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Mumtaz Ali Shah, Planning and Development Chairman Mohammad Waseem, Principal Secretary Sajid Jamal Abro, Public Health Engineering Department Secretary Jamal Shah, officers of Sindh Coal Authority and senior officials of Pak Oasis – the contractors of the RO plants.

According to officials, the meeting was informed that there were 600 RO plants in Thar, of which 110 had been made non-functional due to lack of funds. “Why were funds not released?” CM asked the chief secretary. Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah said that the approval of the budget was the main reason behind the delay in releasing the funds. “The provincial assembly has passed budget at the end of last month and now the budget was being disbursed among the concerned departments,” he said and added “the funds for RO plants would be released to the contractor within next three days. The CM ordered him to release Rs336.7m to the contractor immediately and also directed the contractor to make the RO plants functional and start providing water to the people of Thar from Tuesday.

The CM, talking to the contractor, said that they were working with Sindh government from last many years but just over release of funds they chose to close the RO plants. On this, the contractor told the CM that due to non-availability of funds they could not pay salaries to their employees since June 2018, therefore the employees had stopped working. At this, the CM said that the people of Thar have already suffered a lot due to drought and the only facility of sweet water made available to them by the government was also stopped. The provincial ministers, Syed Sardar Shah, Imtiaz Shaikh and CM Advisor Murtaza Wahab, who visited Thar last Sunday informed the CM that the closure of RO plants was a big issue and must be resolved immediately.

The CM was informed that there were 2,646 RO plants installed in different districts of the province, of which 2,261 were operational.

Excess payment to contractor

It was pointed out in the meeting that around Rs4 billion excess payment had been made to the contractor. At this, the contractor brushed aside the impression of over payment and said their dues were still outstanding against the government.

The contractor said that they had taken contracts of all three phases of RO plants installation and solarisation of some RO plants for Rs13.6b against which they had received Rs10.5b and Rs3b were outstanding against the government.

The CM directed the chief secretary to constitute a committee comprising representatives from the Sindh Coal Authority, Public Health Engineering and finance departments and reconcile all the expenditures and payments. "This reconciliation must be made within three days," he said. In case the issue of excess payment is not resolved, then well reputed auditors would be hired to audit all the payments made so far.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 9th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1821242/1-sindh-cm-orders-immediate-restoration-closed-ro-plants/>

### KALABAGH DAM WILL NOT BE BUILT, SAYS FEDERAL MINISTER

The Newspaper's Correspondent October 10, 2018

SUKKUR: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Ali Mohammad Mahar has said Kalabagh dam will not be constructed, but Bhasha and other dams will be built.

He said the government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) was taking necessary steps for the welfare and development of people. After his induction as federal minister, Mr Mahar arrived in Sukkur from Karachi for the first time. He reached his native town Khangarh in a big procession. People accorded him a warm welcome at Sukkur Airport, Pano Akil, Ghotki and Khanpur Mahar city.

On arrival, Mr Mahar first met his elder brother and Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) leader MPA Sardar Ali Gohar Khan Mahar.

Talking to reporters at his residence in Khangarh of Ghotki district on Tuesday, he said he had been made a federal minister with the prayers of his mother and support of people. He was thankful to Imran Khan for trust in him.

Mr Mahar, who also served as former Sindh chief minister, said better decisions would be made during the five-year term of the PTI government for the development and prosperity of the country and its people.

He said action was required to be taken against corrupt people sitting on top positions; the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf had started it and no one would scot-free.

The federal minister for narcotics control said that in the past, he had served the people of Sindh and now again with their support, he was representing them in the centre to solve public problems on a large scale.

Ali Mahar said that PTI chief want to develop Pakistan and its people on the pattern of welfare state and his minister would make sure that his policies were implemented.

Published in Dawn, October 10th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1437921/kalabagh-dam-will-not-be-built-says-federal-minister>

### RABI CROPS MAY FACE 40PC WATER SHORTAGE

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter October 11, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research was informed on Wednesday that water shortage for the upcoming rabi crop season is expected to be around 40 per cent due to below average rainfall during the recent monsoon season.

Briefing the committee on current water situation in mega water reservoirs, Indus River System Authority (Irsa) Chairman Sher Zaman Khan said the situation is expected to improve a little with shortage reducing towards the end of year when a good amount of rainfall is anticipated.

Khan said a final analysis of Mangla and Tarbela dams will be given after meetings of advisory and technical committees of Irsa.

Committee Chairman Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah asked Khan about the availability of water situation during rabi season so that farmers could be advised accordingly to adjust their cultivation area.

Cotton Commissioner Khalid Abdullah said that against the target of 14 million cotton bales, estimated production stood at 10.5m bales — a shortfall of 3.5m.

Major loss was witnessed in Sindh with a shortfall of 31pc as against 5pc in Punjab whose relatively better performance was attributed to the use of underground water for cotton.

Published in Dawn, October 11th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1438299/rabi-crops-may-face-40pc-water-shortage>

## DIAMER BHASHA DAM AFFECTEES SEEK RESETTLEMENT

By Our Correspondent | 10/12/2018 12:00:00 AM

GILGIT: The people affected by Diamer Bhasha Dam project staged a protest here on Thursday and demanded of the government to make immediate arrangements for their resettlement.

The protesters alleged that officials of Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) were creating misunderstandings between the government and the affected people.

Holding placards inscribed their demands, the protesters gathered outside Gilgit Press Club and chanted slogans against Wapda and government.

Later addressing a press conference, Diamer Bhasha Dam affected people committee president Ataulah said that federal government had promised in 2010 to set up three model villages in Diamer to resettle the affected people. He said that Rs1 billion had been approved for the model villages. He said that Wada was tasked to establish the model villages.

Ataulah said that Wapda completed nearly 70 per cent work of one model village but then stopped work. He said that it created uncertainty among the affected people.

Dilbar Khan, another representative of the affected people, said it was a conspiracy against the dam project. He said that Wapda officials were responsible for it.

Mr Khan said that the attitude of Wapda chief in Diamer was also insulting. He said so far 90 per cent payment was made to owners of the land, acquired for the dam project. However, he said that the issue of resettlement of the affected people was ignored.

The affected people said that they were concerned about their future. They said that both the Gilgit-Baltistan and federal governments were not serious to resolve the issue.

They demanded of the government to fulfil its commitment with them and set up three model villages for their resettlement in Diamer.

[https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=12\\_10\\_2018\\_007\\_001](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=12_10_2018_007_001)

## NATIONAL WATER COUNCIL TO MULL OVER STRATEGY TO END INTER-PROVINCIAL RIFTS

Khaleeq Kiani Updated October 13, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to call the first meeting of the National Water Council led by Prime Minister Imran Khan in the last week of this month to set water sector targets for the country and resolve inter-provincial disputes.

The country's first-ever National Water Policy approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in April this year required the creation of a National Water Council to address the country's water issues, including development of reservoirs.

Headed by the prime minister, the council also includes the four chief ministers and the federal ministers for water resources, finance, power and planning and development. The group will also include five private sector water experts. The prime minister of Azad Kashmir and the chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan are required to attend the council meetings as well.

Matters relating to implementation of water policy will be discussed in council's first meeting later this month

Informed sources said that a host of water sector issues and future challenges will be discussed, including the allocation of 1,200 cusec water for Karachi.

The sources added that when Sindh's case for the 1,200 cusec water supply to Karachi came up before the CCI meeting, most of the members of the CCI — particularly the representatives of the other three provinces — opposed the proposal.

Reportedly, the chief minister told the CCI that Sindh had agreed to share the federal capital's water needs in the past under the agreement that Karachi's requirements would also be met jointly by other provinces.

This was challenged by a representative of the Punjab government who said there was nothing on record to support that claim. On the contrary, Punjab said its request for 200 cusec water supply to Rawalpindi was rejected by Sindh and other provinces and Punjab had to reallocate water — out of its own share accord — to Rawalpindi. It was also reported that it had been decided that all provinces should meet water needs of their cities out of their respective water shares and argued that if water needs of Karachi are to be met by all the provinces, then the requirement of all other cities across the country should also be dealt with similarly.

It was argued that Sindh should have foreseen the future needs of Karachi and, therefore, agreed to give some of its share to Rawalpindi, when it required water, but the Sindh leadership at the time failed to do so. It was also explained by a participant that it appeared that the move to seek water shares for Karachi from other provinces would open a Pandora's box of similar claims.

Both Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also opposed the suggestion of giving out of their share to Karachi. Instead, it was explained that the water accord of 1991 had taken care of Karachi's needs and that is how Sindh's share was apportioned in the first place.



With all these discussions having taken place, Minister for Provincial Coordination Dr Fehmida Mirza proposed that the matter be referred to the National Water Council.

The source said the meeting will also discuss matters relating to the implementation of the national water policy since its approval, and consider developing a strategy to address water sector issues and challenges as well as debate inter-provincial disputes over water.

The council will also set targets for implementing the national water policy, besides considering a complaint by Balochistan against Sindh for not releasing its due water share. The meeting will also seek input from the provinces to examine if they have allocated enough funds for water projects as promised under the national water charter.

The water policy had given an undertaking that the selection of future water reservoirs would be made with a consensus among all stakeholders — in line with the 1991 water apportionment accord — and after a thorough examination of the impacts on sea intrusion, environmental protection and provincial water rights.

The policy set an initial target of increasing storage capacity of the existing 14 million acre feet (MAF) by immediately starting construction work on the 6.4 MAF Diamer-Bhasha dam, which had already been cleared by the CCI in 2009.

The policy empowered the provinces to develop their master plans within a national framework for sustainable development and management of water resources. It conceded that water resource is a national responsibility, but irrigation, agriculture, water supply, environment and other water-related sub-sectors are provincial subjects.

The policy recognises the need to provide at least 10 per cent of the federal Public Sector Development Programme to the water sector — gradually increasing it to 20pc by 2030. The provinces will also increase expenditure on the water sector as the total allocation of Rs145 billion — 7pc of the combined federal and provincial development budget for 2017-18 — was inadequate to address the many challenges.

Under the policy, water losses — currently estimated at 46 MAF per year — must be cut by 33pc by 2030 through canal and watercourse lining. Water efficiency will also be increased by 30pc by 2030 through improved technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation as well as a realistic water pricing policy.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1438695/national-water-council-to-mull-over-strategy-to-end-inter-provincial-rifts>

#### FIVE DAMS PROPOSED FOR BALOCHISTAN: PHE OFFICIAL RECORDER REPORT OCT 14TH, 2018 ISLAMABAD

A senior official of Planning and Design PHE Department Balochistan Saturday said that five dams have been proposed in Balochistan to counter water scarcity and steps will be taken under the plan to end water crisis in the province by 2030.

Addressing a conference organised by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) for developing strong linkages between duty-bearers and community institutions in Balochistan, Chief Engineer, Planning and Design PHE Department, Javed Ahmad addressed on the challenge of water scarcity and the water-poverty nexus.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Ahmad discussed the mitigation measures being taken by the government of Balochistan to opt for workable solutions to resolve the issue with a vision to resolve the water crisis by 2030 in Balochistan. He said that there are currently five dams proposed in Balochistan for countering water scarcity. He also

mentioned that water from existing resources is being channelled to improve the supply of water in the province in order to counter groundwater depletion. He thanked PPAF for its efforts in empowering local communities.

The objective of the conference was to empower Local Support Organisations (LSOs) to strengthen socio-economic development through PPAF's Tabeer-o-Tameer Fund initiative. The project supports the development of community driven institutions through consistent financial and technical support, in order to facilitate initiatives for sustainable development in Balochistan.

The LSO conference was attended by the government officials from Balochistan including Secretary Environment Saboor Kakar, Secretary Education Noor Ul Haq, Director General Research & Agriculture Balochistan, Dr Javed Tareen, and Chief Engineer, Planning and Design PHE Department, Javed Ahmad.

Tahir Malik, General Manger – Institution, PPAF, Innovation and Integration, welcomed the participants and shared the progressive role of community institutions in the development of society. He highlighted the opportunities that the PPAF's Tabeer-o-Tameer Fund is offering to help strengthen local communities at the grassroots level.

The LSO representatives shared the progress and development plan with the provincial administration for sustainable development in their respective areas.

Addressing the conference, Secretary Education Balochistan Noor-ul-Haq said that there is only one formula for development and alleviation of poverty i.e. the provision of education. No nation can develop and escape the vicious cycle of poverty without education. He discussed the role of the government of Balochistan in improving the literacy rate in the province with an estimated budget of more than Rs60 billion allocated for education. He stressed the need for each teacher to leave no stone unturned in shaping the hearts and minds of students to help secure the future of the province.

Secretary Environment Saboor Kakar thanked the PPAF for proposing solutions for problems affecting local communities, and expressed his commitment to work with LSOs to formulate plans that can better address issues of local communities.

Dr Javed Tareen, Director General, Research & Agriculture Balochistan, in his address stressed on the need for exploring the agricultural potential in Balochistan to uplift the state of the provincial economy.

In her closing remarks, Chairperson PPAF Roshan Khursheed Bharucha emphasized the need for local communities to step forward and take charge of their destiny by sheer will, hard work, and ensuring inclusion of women in the process of development. She ensured PPAF's continued support for local communities to alleviate poverty in Balochistan.

The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is the apex institution for community-driven development in Pakistan. The PPAF works as private sector organisation in support of public policy, by providing an array of financial and non-financial services to the poorest and the most marginalised communities across Pakistan.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/10/20181014415136/>

**MOST HYDERABAD'S WATER SAMPLES UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION: STUDY**

By Our Correspondent

Published: October 14, 2018

HYDERABAD: A study conducted by the researchers of US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water (USPCASW) and Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has found alarming presence of

antibiotic resistant bacteria (ARB) in water in Hyderabad. The findings were shared at a seminar held in USPCASW at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro, on Saturday.

“... the presence of ARB is found in the groundwater, surface water and wastewater in Hyderabad and its surroundings,” said USPCASW Deputy Director and principle investigator of the study Dr Rasool Bux Mahar. He identified the industrial waste, agricultural runoff and the waste of humans and animals as sources of the ARB.

“Bacterial isolates identified in the study’s findings pose a potential threat to the people living in Hyderabad,” he highlighted. According to Dr Mahar, the water distribution network in Hyderabad, being operated by the Water and Sanitation Agency, brimmed with technical flaws, deteriorating the water quality and also providing ripe conditions for the bacterial growth.

The Heterotrophic Plate Count, a method of measuring colony formation of bacteria in drinking water, found pseudomonas, shigella, vibrio and e-coli bacteria in the water samples. The ARBs reduce the efficacy of antibiotic medicines, making treatment of life-threatening illnesses difficult, if not impossible. Dr Mahar also illustrated the disinfection processes of ARB including the chlorine, ultraviolet and silver nano particles.

PCSIR senior scientific officer and co-investigator of study Dr Zulfiqar Ali Mirani informed that a total of 501 isolates of escherichia coli, pseudomonas aeruginosa, staphylococcus aureus, klebsiella pneumoniae, proteusp., shigella, vibrio and enterococci were identified in the study. The research, he added, screened them against commonly prescribed antibiotics.

“The microbiological analysis showed that the majority of water samples were not fit for human consumption,” he concluded. Dr Mirani said that water used for drinking, cooking and washing should be free from coliform and fecal coliform bacteria.

The study, he told, found 70% of water samples, taken from the Water and Sanitation Agency’s system, and 87% of river, canal and groundwater samples are unfit for drinking, cooking and washing purposes. “Majority of reverse osmosis (RO) plants’ water samples were also not fit due to high bacterial load.”

Isra University Prof Dr Hussain Bux Kolachi, while sharing his research over typhoid, told the seminar that antibiotic resistant strains of Salmonella Typhi are showing a rapid increase. “We are running out of the treatment options, which makes [preventive] vaccination against typhoid even more imperative,” he underscored.

“Typhoid infection prevention is more crucial than treatment,” he added. He cited World Health Organization’s figures according to which up to 33 million cases typhoid resistant cases are reported globally, claiming between 500,000 to 600,000 lives due to typhoid fever annually.

University of Utah, USA, Prof Dr Jeff Ulman said that the revealed study paved the way for the global health networks to tackle such health issues. He suggested that lifestyle changes are indispensable as a preventive measure.

The seminar recommended that the communities, government and relevant authorities should be sensitised about the health issues through awareness campaigns. The people should be discouraged from self-medication and excessive use of antibiotics. It also suggested disposal of hospital waste and treatment of wastewater before it is released in the fresh waterways. The recommendations also emphasised on removing the technical flaws in the water distribution network.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 14th, 2018

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1825247/1-water-samples-unfit-human-consumption-study/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1TH TO OCTOBER 7TH 2018

KARACHI: Works and Services Minister Nasir Hussain Shah said on Sunday that the Pakistan Peoples Party was not against any dam, except the Kalbagh dam.

Talking to the media in the Sindh Assembly, he said they would not allow the Kalbagh dam to build at any cost as it was against Sindh's interests.

In the past, he said, three provincial assemblies had passed resolutions against the controversial project and as such no question now to open a close chapter. In reply to a question, he said that the PPP even today was facing challenges.

Regarding the Green Line project, the minister said that the as the infrastructure work on the federal-funded project was still in progress, there was so far no requirement of brining a bus fleet. "Contrary to other provinces, we have saved subsidy by not acquiring the buses before time."

However, he added that 600 modern buses would be run on Karachi's roads within next few months.

When his attention was drawn towards transfer of over Rs2 billion in the bank account of an ordinary citizen, the minister said that the provincial government would certainly investigate from where this money came into his account.

Besides, he said, the Federal Investigation Agency ought to carry out a thorough investigation of the account, which even contained no address of the account holder but had billion of rupees.

He said those who were disqualified were carrying out government functions as most capable persons.

Published in Dawn, October 1st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1435998/ppp-wont-allow-kalabagh-dam-at-any-cost-minister>

## WATER CONSERVATION BODY CONSTITUTED

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter October 02, 2018

LAHORE: The Punjab government has constituted a Provincial Water Conservation Committee, convened by the chief secretary, to oversee measures being taken for water conservation, besides preparing recommendations to overcome water shortage in the province.

The Punjab housing department secretary will act as secretary to the committee, while the administrative secretaries of irrigation, local government, industries, cooperatives, mines and minerals and environment departments will be its members.

The committee held its maiden meeting presided over by Chief Secretary Akbar Durrani at the Punjab Civil Secretariat on Monday and discussed matters related to checking wastage of clean water at car service stations and regulating use of underground water by housing societies.

The body constituted different sub-committees to prepare proposals for taking measures, including making rainwater usable, saving water at mosques, shrines and other religious places, determining the water tariff and installation of water treatment plants at industrial units.

On the occasion, the chief secretary said all resources would be utilised to conserve water in the province.

He said a huge quantity of clean water was being wasted due to its irrational use, adding that there was a need to enhance awareness among the people regarding water conservation.

He ordered that a campaign be launched to enhance awareness about the issue and that the authorities concerned should ensure installation of recycling plants at service stations to save water, besides stopping issuance of NOCs for new service stations.

Published in Dawn, October 2nd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1436278/water-conservation-body-constituted>

## LOW RAINFALL CAUSES WATER SHORTAGE

By Sehrish Wasif

Published: October 2, 2018

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan is facing more water scarcity issues as compared to the previous year due to below average rainfall during monsoon season this year.

In its latest seasonal forecast, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) cautioned the authorities concerned to use the water reserves judiciously to meet the requirement for Rabi sowing.

PMD Spokesperson Khalid Malik told The Express Tribune that the country received 31 per cent below average rainfall this year as compared to 23 per cent below average showers in 2017. "This year, the below average rainfall during monsoon did not help much to improve the water levels in main reservoirs of the country and underground water," he added.

"Mostly October and November are transitional periods of weather, therefore, in Pakistan, October and November go dry or there are few spells of light rainfall," said Malik, adding that chances are the winter season may start by the third week of October.

On the contrary, the Met office had twice issued drought alert in the southern parts of the country due to scarcity of rainfall.

"It is too early to predict as to when the ongoing drought in the southern parts of the county will come to an end," he maintained.

According to PMD monthly monsoon update, the country in September recorded 35 per cent below normal rainfall in all the provinces except Balochistan where it remained above normal.

In August, the country received 51 per cent below normal rainfall in all the provinces. In July, rainfall recorded in the country was 12 per cent. However, it remained above normal in Punjab, K-P, Gilgit-Baltistan, below normal in Sindh and Balochistan and close to normal in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The latest season forecast suggests near normal rainfall in the country with two or three spells of light to moderate rainfall during October. In the meantime, due to rapidly falling temperatures, the snow and glacier melt contribution to Tarbela reservoir will become minimal.

The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) said the water level in Tarbela Dam had reached its dead level for the very first time in the month of July. Moreover, Mangla and Tarbela Dam reached dead level for the first time in March for the first time in 15 years.

The current water level in Mangla Dam is 1,166.50 acres feet against its maximum conservation level of 1,242 feet and dead level of 1,050 acres feet. In Tarbela Dam, the current water level is 1,497 acres feet against its maximum conservation level of 1,550 feet and dead level of 1,386 feet.

“This year, Tarbela Dam had reached its dead level twice in May and unprecedentedly in July, however, Mangla Dam reached its dead level in late February, improved a bit in April but is still at its lowest now,” IRSA Spokesperson Rana Khalid told The Express Tribune.

Therefore, considering the severe water crisis, Irsa will carry forward 5.8 million acre feet (MAF) water storage from Kharif to Rabi crop season, which is the second lowest in history after 5.4 MAF in 2004.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1816703/1-country-faces-water-scarcity-ahead-rabi-sowing/>

## MINISTER SAYS REDUCED WATER SHARE ‘CONSPIRACY’ TO TURN SINDH INTO BARREN LAND

The Newspaper’s Staff Reporter October 03, 2018

KARACHI: A minister in the Sindh government on Tuesday said that denying water by the federal authorities to Sindh under the 1991 water accord was a ‘conspiracy’ to turn the province into a barren ground.

“We reject the federation’s decision to provide less water to Sindh than its share. It is a conspiracy to leave this amazingly fertile land barren,” said Agriculture Minister Ismail Rahu while speaking to reporters in his office.

Giving his reaction on supplying less water than its share to Sindh by the federal government, Mr Rahu said that such grave water shortages would cause irreparable losses to the economy of Sindh as well as the country in face of destruction of crops.

“One can easily guess about the performance of the government led by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) by seeing that Sindh is being given lesser quantity of water than its share while on the other hand Punjab is being gifted greater than what it should get,” said Minister Rahu.

He said sea would eat up more coastal lands if lesser water was released downstream Kotri Barrage.

“The ruling party in the Centre is victimising the people of Sindh for opposing the Kalabagh dam and not voting for them in the general elections. Does the federation want to see the land mass of Sindh being eaten away by the sea?” he asked.

The minister said the Sindh government would raise the water issue again before the Council of Common Interests.

“We’ll not allow the federation to rob Sindh of its rights. The Sindh government will raise the issue vis-à-vis denying the due share of water to the province at all forums.”

He said the province was already enduring heavy losses in the shape of ruined crops because of unavailability of water to growers and such a decision by the Centre would do greater injustice to the most productive province of the country.

Published in Dawn, October 3rd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1436418/minister-says-reduced-water-share-conspiracy-to-turn-sindh-into-barren-land>

## EXPERTS WARN INDUS BASIN MAY BECOME ‘CLOSING BASIN’ IF MORE DAMS BUILT

Mohammad Hussain Khan Updated October 05, 2018



HYDERABAD: Speakers at a programme warned that the Indus basin was fast approaching a stage where it would be considered a 'closing basin' if one or more dams were built; it was therefore need of the hour to adopt holistic approach to the developing problem and formulate a better strategy for water conservation, storage and efficient irrigation practices.

They were speaking at a consultation on 'Combating environmental pollution, equitable water management in Sindh' organised by Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) at a local hotel here on Thursday.

Sindh Secretary for Irrigation Jamal Mustafa Syed said: "We are reaching a stage at a fast pace where Indus basin will be considered as 'closing basin' if one or two more dams are built. Signs are quite evident to this effect". Acute water shortage and persisting water crisis were some of its visible symptoms, he said.

About groundwater abstraction, he said if there was 50MAF of groundwater Punjab extracted 35MAF and the rest was used by the three provinces. "It is not storages alone that will ensure survival. We need to adopt holistic approach and formulate a better strategy encompassing water conservation, storages and better irrigation practices in order to be able to face water challenges," he said.

He said that sea intrusion was a fact which was chiefly caused by fast declining accumulation of sediment. The sedimentation was recorded at 8mm per year which used to increase soil surface and block sea intrusion; it had now dropped to as low as 1mm a year while the level of sea intrusion was 1.1m a year. "So we are already sinking and our delta is a sinking delta due to lower levels of sedimentation," he said.

Mr Shah attributed drop in sedimentation load to inadequate flows downstream Kotri Barrage and said that of 40.2 MAF water in the first 10 dailies (days) of April under the Water Apportionment Accord 1991 Sindh was supplied 13.2 MAF that indicated 67pc shortage. 14.9 MAF was provided to Sindh in the second 10 dailies of April, he said.

Umer Karim, a consultant, emphasised the need for ensuring equity in the usage of groundwater resources. Punjab had recharged its groundwater aquifer through Salinity Control and Reclamation Project. It was high time equity in groundwater at national level was ensured and reflected in '91 water accord, he said.

Ali Palh advocate pointed out gaps in Sindh Environmental Protection Act, 2014, and said that environmental tribunals should be headed by competent and qualified members of judiciary. Initial environmental examination and environmental impact assessment were not usually done by authorities concerned and they were carried out only when a project became controversial, he said.

He said that all direct outlets should have been dismantled in line with apex court's order. No big landowner was booked for water theft and small farmers received water only for three months, he said.

Environment expert Afia Salam said that there was no mapping for silt and groundwater while debate revolved only around release of 10MAF downstream Kotri. "We need to look at the benefits of sharing but there is an element of mistrust in Kalabagh dam debate involving link canals," she said.

Irrigation officer Zarif Khoro said that Sindh government considered Bhasha as a replacement dam as it would increase life of Tarbela which had accrued sedimentation. If groundwater was abstracted fully it would take centuries to recharge it, he said. SHRC head Majida Rizvi, MPA Kulsoom Chandio and Amar Sindhu also spoke at the programme.

Published in Dawn, October 5th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1436834/experts-warn-indus-basin-may-become-closing-basin-if-more-dams-built>



Published: October 5, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Encroachment on around 613 kanals of land along the banks of the Korang River are the primary contributors to pollution in the water body, and further downriver, in the Rawal Lake.

This was observed by the Supreme Court (SC) in its 'conclusive' order in which it has directed the government to immediately clear all encroachment falling on the right-of-way of the Korang River.

The apex court had taken suo motu notice of encroachment along the Korang River last year after it received complaints of the large-scale encroachment of the Botanical Gardens in the capital along with unplanned, unauthorised construction in Bani Gala and Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) area around Rawal Lake. One complaint even came from Prime Minister Imran Khan.

A three-judge bench of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, on Thursday released the detailed judgment in the case relating to encroachment along the Korang River.

Other aspects of the case, including unplanned construction in Bani Gala, are still pending with a hearing scheduled for October 5.

The court said that three separate reports by the additional attorney general (AAG), the federal ombudsman, and the Survey of Pakistan were consistent in their findings that land along the Korang River was encroached.

The first report prepared by a committee headed by the AAG had highlighted the areas where banks of the river had been encroached upon. The report was based on the revenue record of the capital starting from 1956 onwards.

The report, though, was challenged by locals who claimed that neither had they encroached upon the land nor had they been heard by the committee. The apex court then directed the federal ombudsman to verify the committee's report after hearing all the affected parties.

The ombudsman's teams made multiple trips to the site, consulted all the relevant federal and Punjab departments and heard the affected parties.

The final report by the ombudsman's office endorsed the findings of the AAG's report, stating that illegal construction had taken place within the right-of-way of the river, particularly in the Mohra Noor Village.

Such construction, it held, not only obstructed the flow of the river but found that locals were also dumping their raw sewage into the river which in turn was polluting the Rawal Lake downriver. The ombudsman's report called for immediate measures to halt encroachment and the contamination of the river, for which it proposed instalment of a water treatment plant to purify the river's water before it falls into the lake.

Locals, though, challenged the accuracy of the ombudsman's report before the court, after which the court directed the Survey of Pakistan to carry out a detailed survey of the 21 kilometre-stretch of the river before it emptied into the Rawal Lake.

The survey found that 613.49 kanals of land had been encroached upon along the entire upstream length of the river, from Rawal Lake to Mouza Salketar in Rawalpindi.

"As per satellite images available with the Survey of Pakistan and archives of Google Earth images, these encroachment have been made mostly after 2004," the court observed in its judgment.

The affected parties contended that the revenue authorities had allegedly tampered with the original record by changing khasra numbers.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 5th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1818564/1-final-orders-korang-river-getting-polluted/>

## November 2018

### *NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 19TH TO NOVEMBER 25TH 2018*

#### *PUNJAB TO PLUG LOSSES WITH 'MASTER WATER PLAN'*

Amjad Mahmood Updated November 19, 2018

WITH a Pakistan's population growing at a rate of around 2.6 per cent and projected to reach 300 million by 2050, Punjab — the most populous federating unit of the country — may soon face serious water availability and quality challenges.

To meet the challenges the steps taken so far have focused only on the supply side, ignoring population control measures and changing attitudes of the people towards efficient use and conservation of water.

The replacement cost of the province's irrigation system is more than \$25 billion. Ironically, utilisation-wise it is also one of the most inefficient systems as 50pc of the water that flows down its canals is lost before it reaches agricultural fields in their respective command areas.

In other words, out of the 104 million acre feet (MAF) of water Punjab receives as its share, only around 55MAF reach farmers, with those at the head of a distributary getting a greater share than the tail-enders.

'Right now, when the farmer is unable to pay the rational cost of canal water and the government itself is deficient in financial resources, expecting us to introduce and promote efficient watering systems is like living in a fool's paradise,' says Mr Leghari

Dr Erum Khalid Sattar, who teaches Water Rights and Resources at Elisabeth Haub School of Law, is critical of the inefficient use of water.

Stressing on more crops for each drop of water, she tells participants of a seminar here that with just 10MAF water from the Colorado river, which encompasses seven US and two Mexican states, an economy worth \$1.5 trillion has been built while Punjab, with 104MAF is generating only a fraction of that amount.

Admitting water sector inefficiencies, provincial authorities say they are engaged in preparing a 'Master Water Plan', backed by legal cover, which encompasses regulation of abstraction of water and disposal of waste water in both urban and rural areas.

Neither of the two tasks will be allowed, either by an individual or an entity, without them getting registered with the authority concerned and obtaining a duration-specific licence coupled with certain other conditions.

The draft document reveals that various sub-sectors like domestic, agricultural, industrial and ecological, will be allocated a certain share of the commodity, while a regulatory authority will be formed to oversee performance of the entities engaged with the supply of water and/or disposal of sewage. Appointment of undertakers for water and sewage services has also been suggested.

The plan proposes setting up a Water Resources Commission under the Irrigation Department, Water Services Regulatory Authority under the Housing and Public Health Department (HPHD) and undertakers under the joint control of respective local government and HPHD.

Punjab Irrigation Minister Mohsin Leghari says the plan will also deal with the supply side as workable suggestions for harvesting rainwater and hill torrents from the Sulaiman Ranges will also be made part of it.

However, the strategy lacks any proposal for rationalising water charges or abiana, which have been fixed at a flat rate since 2003-04. There are also no steps for changing the farming pattern to promote crops that need less water and introducing efficient irrigation systems.

A 2012 study by the Planning Commission says that with the existing abiana rate (Rs85 per acre for Kharif and Rs50 per acre for Rabi crops) Punjab recovers only 20pc of the operation and maintenance cost of the irrigation system. The government has had to pay for the rest to keep the canal system functional.

Minister Leghari admits that water pricing needs to be rationalised at least to the extent that it can meet the full cost of maintenance. He admits that while higher prices will influence water use behaviour, owing to the fear of political backlash the issue will not be raised, at least for the time being.

The draft Master Plan also overlooks the large-scale promotion of high-efficiency irrigation systems like drip irrigation and sprinklers for want of funds.

Mr Leghari candidly admits that the government will get a “breathing space” only next year as during the ongoing financial year they’ve just enough funds to meet infrastructure and other project needs of projects initiated by the previous government.

“You know that high-efficiency irrigation, such as the the drip system, involves huge investment. Right now, when our farmer is not able, or at least ready, to pay the rational cost of canal water and the government itself is deficient in financial resources, expecting us to introduce and promote efficient watering systems is like living in a fool’s paradise.”

Zoning of crops will, however, be done with the cooperation of the agriculture department with some incentives so that farmers may be attracted towards high-value but drought-tolerant crops and shunned away from sowing certain crops that are planted over and above the national need, he adds.

Published in Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, November 19th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1446388/punjab-to-plug-losses-with-master-water-plan>

## EQUITABLE WATER DISTRIBUTION, NEED FOR DAMS DISCUSSED

Shazia Hasan November 19, 2018

KARACHI: “Water is life. Humans, animals and plants cannot function without water. But we don’t treat our water sources very well. We take from them and we dump all our waste in them as well,” said Mohammad Ali Shah, chairman of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF).

“The total volume of water on Earth is about 1,400 million cubic kilometres of which only 2.5 per cent or about 35 million cubic km, is fresh water,” said Mr Shah during his eye-opening talk on ‘Equitable distribution of Indus River Water: are dams necessary?’ at Irtiqa Institute of Social Sciences here on Saturday.

He said that most fresh water occurred in the form of permanent ice or snow locked up in Antarctica and Greenland or in deep ground water aquifers.

So the principal sources of water for human use are lakes, rivers, soil moisture and relatively shallow groundwater basins. The usable portion of the sources is only about 200,000 cubic km of water, which is even less than 1pc of all

fresh water. Fresh water is renewable only through snow and rainfall at the rate of about 40 to 50,000 cubic km per year.

Mr Shah also pointed out that of the thousands of big as well as small rivers in the world there were only 292 rivers that were bigger than 1,000 cubic km. "Of these 292, there are only 21 rivers left which are allowed to reach oceans. The rest have been made captive by building dams on them," he said.

Explaining further he said that just like living beings, rivers, too, had an anatomy. "Like us it is a living entity and has organs. Up and down, right and left tributaries, headwaters, channels, river banks, floodplains, meanders, mouth or delta, wetlands and flow are the anatomy of a river," he said. "So if you mess with any of the river's organs like for instance you close its mouth or delta, you have a dying river," he said.

"Rivers are what arteries are for humans and other animals. The land depends on rivers. When imprisoned behind dams there will be no downstream free flow of river water or meanders on the land, which keep flowing at a normal speed and prevent excess flooding while the earth and plantation on its sides act like sponges taking in the nutrients and silt being carried with the water," he said.

"Since water is a living entity, we see it as a commodity. But it is not a commodity to be bought, sold and traded for profit and should not be treated as such," he said, coming to the politics of water.

"Physics teaches us that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. The diverting of waters from its natural route will also have repercussions. Controlling rivers through dams there will be a reduction in the river water level and the temperature of the earth will also be altered not to mention the holding back of silt, debris and nutrients, a decrease in oxygen levels in the reservoir waters and the dam turbines hurting the fish and the ecosystem," he said.

"The number of large dams worldwide has climbed from just over 5,000 in 1950 to 57,000 today," informed Mr Shah. "The many rivers including the Indus river are so dammed, diverted or over-tapped that little or no fresh water reaches its final destination," he said.

"A recent study conducted by the PFF points out that the ecological degradation process of the Indus delta began with the development of mega irrigation infrastructures on the Indus during the pre-Partition era," he said.

"This process began in the 1890s, when the British developed the Punjab irrigation system, followed by the development of the Sukkur Barrage in 1955," he added.

"Mega water projects, unsustainable water practices and utilisation and injudicious policies of institutions responsible for water management while not considering the environment has negatively impacted on the Indus delta and the riverine people.

"The deltaic ecosystem and its people have been brought to the verge of complete destruction as the water, which once delivered silt to the estuarine fishery nurseries, fed lakes and supported agriculture in the region have been greatly diminished or ended completely," he pointed out.

"As the fresh flow of water flows in the delta has decreased, the channels, creeks and lakes have been inundated by seawater and groundwater aquifers have turned saline. The consequences of this on the local communities are devastating.

"Wells and other potable water sources have become undrinkable, forcing communities to purchase their drinking water from outside. Farms have been abandoned as the crops dried up and salt poisoned the soil. The once small-scale though thriving coastal fisheries have all but collapsed as the mangrove stands are disappearing," he said.

“Yes, countries and provinces located upstream or downstream of rivers may be at an advantage or disadvantage but global freshwater is a shared legacy, a public trust, and therefore, a collective responsibility,” he concluded.

Published in Dawn, November 19th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1446463/equitable-water-distribution-need-for-dams-discussed>

#### SC SUMMONS OWNERS OF 11 MINERAL WATER COMPANIES ON NOV 20

Rana Bilal November 19, 2018

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the owners of 11 mineral water companies to present themselves in court on November 20 (tomorrow).

Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar, while hearing a suo motu case against bottled water companies at the Lahore Registry today, warned that the failure of the owners of the companies to present themselves in court will result in their names being put on the Exit Control List.

The CJP reprimanded Advocate Aitzaz Ahsan for suggesting that the case be heard after the top judge returns from a scheduled trip to the United Kingdom. Ahsan had proposed the court set Nov 30 as the date for the next hearing.

The CJP responded: “Do you want me to compromise and leave for my visit to the UK? Are those people [company owners] who are selling dirty water entitled to forgiveness?”

According to a report on the quality of bottled water, each company uses 90 million litres of water a day. There is no certified method to assess the quality of water, it said, adding that only Qarshi has a certified laboratory.

The report — which found that groundwater contains fluoride and arsenic — also highlighted that none of the other companies are aware of what is in the water that they extract from the ground.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1446565/sc-summons-owners-of-11-mineral-water-companies-on-nov-20>

#### SC WRAPS UP KATAS RAJ CASE, DIRECTS CEMENT COMPANY TO DEPOSIT RS100M IN DAM FUND

By News Desk

Published: November 19, 2018

The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday wrapped up the Katas Raj suo motu and ordered a cement company to deposit Rs100 million in the apex court-formed dam fund.

The Katas Raj temple complex is considered sacred by the Hindu community and cement companies in the area were held responsible for drilling boreholes and utilising groundwater, which eventually led to a drop in sub-ground level water and drying up of the pond present at the temple site.

The bench, headed by Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, ordered DG Khan Cement to deposit Rs80 million for using water and Rs20 million for misleading the court.

Resuming the hearing at the apex court’s Lahore registry, the court also prohibited the cement companies – DG Khan Cement and Bestway Cement – from extracting groundwater and admonished a DG Khan Cement for stating that the water being used was stored rainwater.

On November 15, the top court formed an inspection committee to probe the veracity of claims by the cement factories.

Once an ‘unfathomable’ pond, always on the verge of overflowing, it had steadily shrunk and visits showed that the pond was all but a small puddle.

Locals blamed the cement plants, which, they said, drilled a number of water-bores in the vicinity of the temple, to draw water for their industrial production.

Dedicated to Hindu god Shiva, the Katas Raj temple complex is situated near Choa Saidan Shah in the Chakwal district of Punjab. The site originally housed a cluster of seven ancient temples, along with a Buddhist stupa and the home of a warrior — built between 6th and 13th century.

Legend has it the pond was formed by the tears shed by Shiva over the death of his wife Sati. Hindu pilgrims from around the world visit the Katas Raj temples during the Maha Shivratri festival and bathe in the ‘sacred pond’ to seek forgiveness. Some believe the water holds healing powers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1850422/1-sc-wraps-katas-raj-case-directs-cement-company-deposit-rs100m-dam-fund/>

## WATER ISSUE: SINDH ACTION COMMITTEE PROTESTS AGAINST DAMS ON INDUS

By Our Correspondent

Published: November 20, 2018

KARACHI / HYDERABAD: The Sindh Action Committee, which is organising a series of protests against the construction of dams on river Indus, took out a rally in Mirpurkhas on Monday. The committee’s convener Syed Jalal Mehmood Shah while addressing the rally bemoaned that while Sindh is being turned dry, a campaign sponsored with millions of rupees’ advertisements has been promoting the dams.

“They are giving an impression that without building dams the future generations will have no water to drink,” said Shah, who also heads the Sindh United Party. He warned that the people of Sindh will not accept the dams on Indus River.

He argued that 70% of Sindh’s economy is dependent on agriculture and a large part of that economy already stands destroyed due to water shortage and mismanagement of the provincial government’s agriculture policies. “On one hand, the federal government has been stealing Sindh’s water through Water and Power Development Authority, while on the other, ordinary farmers in Sindh are being made to suffer from the shortage and whatever little water is available in the system is being used by the provincial ministers and influential politicians.”

Awami Tehreek President Rasool Bux Khaskheli said that the committee wanted to mobilise people against the dams as no more dams are acceptable on the Indus River. “Sindh’s agriculture has been destroyed and the people of this land are suffering from hunger,” claimed Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz Chairperson Riaz Chandio. He claimed that the people from rural Sindh have been migrating to urban areas to find menial jobs for their survival as the agricultural economy continuously faced a downfall. “A human disaster is in the making,” he warned, pointing out that in the current year, drought affected eight districts of Sindh.

Published in The Express Tribune, November 20th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1850734/1-water-issue-sindh-action-committee-protests-dams-indus/>

## DOMESTIC CONSUMERS: CM REJECTS MOVE TO INCREASE WATER RATES

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has rejected the proposal of increasing the rate of water for domestic consumers.

While presiding over a meeting of Governing Body of Lahore Development Authority (LDA) here on Thursday, he also directed the concerned staff to remove illegal water connections.

Thus, it was decided in the meeting to give a 45-day relaxation for self-disconnection of illegal connections and after which indiscriminate action will be initiated against the violators.

Punjab Housing Minister Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, LDA Vice Chairman Sheikh Muhammad Imran, Planning and Development Chairman, provincial secretaries, Commissioner Lahore Division and members of governing body attended the meeting.

The meeting also accorded approval to receive charges from the companies selling bottled water. On housing schemes, Buzdar said he will not approve any scheme without going through it and every plan will be personally examined by him.

He also directed the concern officials to constitute legal, financial and human resource committees of LDA, adding that facility centres of LDA should be set up in Nankana Sahib, Sheikhpura and Kasur soon so that citizens could be saved from trouble of visiting Lahore. The meeting informed the Chief Minister that a ban has been imposed on the usage of drinking water for car-wash service stations and an extension has been given to these stations to install water recycling plants.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/m/2018/11/23/16-page/750716-news.html>

#### LOOMING WATER CRISIS BIGGEST RISK FOR PAKISTAN ECONOMY: WEF SURVEY

Amin Ahmed Updated November 25, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ease-of-doing business is likely to be affected in the coming decade as the \$300 billion economy struggles to mitigate imminent risks, according to a report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The report titled 'Regional Risks for Doing Business' has listed water crisis, unmanageable inflation, terrorist attacks, failure of urban planning and critical infrastructure as immediate risks faced by the country with 220 million inhabitants.

The risks were identified after the WEF carried out an 'Executive Opinion Survey' between January and June. The findings were tabulated after receiving responses to survey's risk-related questions for the South Asian region – Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The report highlights 10 major risks to doing business in South Asia including failure of national governance, unmanageable inflation, unemployment and under-employment, failure of regional and global governance, cyber attacks, failure of critical infrastructure, energy price shock, failure of financial mechanism or institution, water crises and large-scale involuntary migration.

Failure of national governance was listed as one of the foremost challenges faced by the countries in the South Asian region which has remained politically active during the last two years as Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives went through highly charged election seasons.

South Asian elections are usually observed with anxiety, as they are prone to violence, blockades and tensions. Even after completion, the period following elections is usually mired with uncertainty.



The report also points out that Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh are susceptible to cyber-attacks as they continue to run on computers using Microsoft products that report malware encounters almost regularly. The region's vulnerabilities came under spotlight after Bangladesh Bank was hit by hackers who got away with one of the biggest heists in the history, robbing the country's central bank of more than \$80 million.

'Unmanageable inflation' was ranked as the second-highest risk in the region. South Asia benefited from low global oil prices during 2014-16, but a combination of rising energy prices and expansionary monetary and fiscal stances point to rising inflationary risks.

In July this year, Pakistan's inflation rate reached four-year highs as rupee's value continues to deteriorate. The report highlights unemployment or under-employment as the third leading risk for the region.

Of the 19 countries facing imminent cyber-attack risks, 14 were from Europe and North America, by contrast, 22 of the 34 countries that facing 'unemployment or under-employment' as top-most risks hail from sub-Saharan African region.

Geo-political concerns were relatively muted, with 'failure of regional and global governance' and 'terrorist' attacks in ninth and tenth place globally, respectively.

The starkest of geopolitical risks, 'interstate conflict' was ranked in the top three risks in 17 countries. Most of these countries were in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, a pattern that reflects the increasing importance of that part of the world as global geopolitical balances undergo recalibration.

Published in Dawn, November 25th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1447521>

## MAJOR OPERATION AGAINST IRRIGATION WATER THEFT LAUNCHED

Qurban Ali Khushik November 25, 2018

DADU: A major operation was launched in Dadu district on Saturday to check theft of irrigation water by influential landowners and to ensure equitable and adequate supply to all lands up to the tail-end of Dadu Canal.

Scores of landowners were booked for stealing water after irrigation officials, escorted by Rangers personnel, found and seized water-lifting machines, direct outlets (DOs), illegally fixed pipes and other objects along the course of the Johi and Daim branches during the operation.

In the areas fed by the Johi branch, three water channels — Pahore, Cheejani and Patoro — were sealed and as many as 40 DOs dismantled, irrigation superintendent engineer at Dadu Sajid Ali Bhutto said while speaking to the media.

Rangers, irrigation teams seal three channels, dismantle 40 illegal outlets

He accompanied Johi division executive engineer Abdul Rasheed Panhwar and Rangers deputy superintendent Farooq Ahmed and the area police during the operation. Ashfaq Ahmed Memon, Special Assistant to the CM on Irrigation, is monitoring the operation.

Nineteen influential landowners were booked during the operation along the banks of the Daim branch infested with gadgets like illegal pipes, water-lifting machines and flow-diversion structures. Irrigation officials and Rangers personnel seized 40 water-lifting machines as well as the gadgets fixed to illegally divert flows from its original course. They found such gadgets fixed and direct outlets raised at 24 points along the branch.

The FIRs against owners of the benefiting lands were registered at Khudabad and Bhan Syedabad police stations.

Daim branch is located at the tail-end of Dadu Canal and feeds lands across Sehwan taluka of Jamshoro district covering the entire constituency of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

Small farmers had been holding protests in Bhan Syedabad and Sehwan, as well as outside the CM's residence in Wahur village, against rampant theft of water from the branch over the past few months. They have also been complaining of mismanagement on the part of irrigation officials leading to the water scarcity aggravating further.

Irrigation Engineer at Sehwan Mahish Kumar told Dawn that notices had been issued to all landowners to undo tampering of watercourses in their respective areas or face the consequences. He said that 347 cusec was released into Daim branch and full flow had already reached its tail-end.

Mr Bhutto said that process of lodging FIRs against 12 influential landowners at the Johi police station was under way.

It is pertinent to mention here that this operation was ordered by Governor Imran Ismail and CM Syed Murad Ali Shah after a sustained protest campaign launched by small farmers and their families belonging to various areas of Johi taluka, especially tail-end areas, against unavailability of irrigation and drinking water for several months. The protests were held in different parts of Dadu district, Hyderabad and Karachi over the past few weeks.

Engineer Abdul Rashid Panhwar posted at Johi told Dawn that the operation would cover the area between 95-Mile (head of Johi branch) to 47-Mile (end of Johi branch) in the first phase.

Published in Dawn, November 25th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1447424>

## POLICY: WATER SCARCITY MAY DISRUPT PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

Abdur Razzaq November 25, 2018

With the country facing severe water crisis, our focus seems to be on India building dams on the eastern rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty and holding the power to divert Pakistan's water. While being obsessed with the water dispute with India, few in the country are aware of another potential dispute festering on the western borders, i.e. the water flow between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

At least seven major rivers bend their course between the mountainous range which divides Pakistan and Afghanistan, watering various parts of both the countries and sustaining life on either side of the Durand line. Yet till now, a sustainable policy has not been drafted and no joint treaty signed to manage trans-boundary waters.

The Kabul River is the most developed and utilised common water resource for Pakistan and Afghanistan. According to a World Bank Study, the highly populated river basin is the only source of fresh water for about seven million people. The study reveals that more than 96 percent of the total population of the basin lives in small villages in cultivable areas with access to water. The Kabul River basin and the watercourse is an integral source of life and livelihood for the cross-border Pakhtun population.

It is crucial for both Pakistan and Afghanistan to establish a cross-border network to find a solution to shared waters

A resident of Kabul city, Muhammad Jan, 50, has witnessed the construction of several dams on the Kabul River to store water for drinking, sanitation and irrigation. According to him, some hydroelectric projects on these dams are not functional due to the volatile situation in the region. Hundreds and thousands of acres of fertile land were cultivated by

the river, he tells Eos. In Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, most farmers cultivated olive crops which produced the best quality olive oil.

According to media reports, the Afghan government, with the support of India, will start work on Shahtoot Dam project on the Kabul river in Afghanistan in the near future. The project has not taken into consultation the lower riparian state of Pakistan and thus has evoked concern in the downstream country which might impact the worsening relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“The Afghanistan government plans to build two dams on Kabul River in Afghanistan. One in Shahtoot and the other in Shahrooz area of Kabul. These dams will be constructed for the purpose of drinking water. Both dams will provide drinking water to almost 0.8 million people,” Kabul based journalist, Raqib Ullah Shahab tells Eos.

Shahab says that according to the International Water Law, Afghanistan has the right to build dams for water storage and hydroelectricity production on Kabul River.

But he stresses the need for both Pakistan and Afghanistan to discuss water management of cross-border rivers in order to develop consensus for a joint treaty. Only one [reported] meeting between officials of the two countries was held in 2014 in Dubai, organised by the World Bank, he points out.

“Orphan River: Water Management of the Kabul River Basin in Afghanistan and Pakistan” is a (2105) report by Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT) journalists and editors in collaboration with experts from the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). It reveals that the river provides water to irrigate lands in Afghanistan and supplies 50 percent of the country’s hydro power.

On the Pakistan side, Kabul River provides water to 243 MW hydropower dam in Warsak built in 1960 and generation voltage is 11KV. In summer season the dam adds about 210 MW electricity per hour to the national grid but in winter due to shortage of water the electricity production is reduced to about 40 MW per hour. The river has sufficient quantity of water for irrigation.

“The Warsak Dam has silted up and has no capacity for water storage,” says Zahoor Muhammad, Executive Engineer at Hydrology section of KP Irrigation department. The dam can be used only for the production of electricity and has lost the capability to reserve water even for drinking and irrigation.”

The lack of check dams on Kabul River filled Warsak Dam with mud and silt and, in summer flood, water could not be stored. After the 2010 floods in the province, the irrigation department conducted a survey about the capacity of Warsak dam, and later the department came to know that the dam lacks water storage capacity.

He went on to say that in case of water shortage, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) will suffer more as compared to other provinces of the country, as apart from Tarbela Dam, KP does not have any other water reservoir.

According to the Irrigation Department, two canal systems, including Warsak Canal System (WCS) and Kabul River Canal System (KRCS) originating from Kabul River irrigate fertile land of Peshawar district.

Data obtained from the KP Irrigation department shows that WCS irrigates 107,414 acres of the total land of the district, while KRCS irrigates 84,270 acres. The data also reveals that in Rabi season of 2015-16 about 49,154 acres were cultivated via WCS while in the same season of 2017-18 the cultivable land was reduced to 46,050 acres.

Documents obtained from the KP irrigation department show that the Kabul River is not a single transboundary waterway between the two countries. In the tribal districts of KP and Balochistan, other rivers also enter Pakistan from Afghanistan: Kurram River, Gomal River, Pishin Lora/Bore Nullah, Kandai River, Kunder River and Abdul Wahab Stream.

On the other hand, the data shows the area irrigated in Peshawar district by KRCS in Rabi season of 2015-16 was 26,200 acres while in 2017-18 the cultivated land was reduced to 25,967 acres. Department officials say that although there are several other factors behind the reduction in cultivation, water shortage is a major reason.

The Kabul River also plays a vital role in the field of agriculture of KP's other central districts, including Charsadda and Nowshera. Most of the population of these districts depends on agriculture and use water from Kabul River for irrigation and cultivation.

According to the Orphan River study, the Chitral River — which is called Kunar River in Afghanistan — originates from glaciers in north-western Pakistan, 16,000 feet above sea level. The river flows for nearly 500 kilometres through the mountainous Chitral Valley, where it is joined by 35 or so tributaries, before crossing the border at Arandu area of the valley and flowing into the Kunar River in Afghanistan.

The study adds that on the other side of the Pak-Afghan border, the main tributaries of the Kabul River are Logar, Panjshir, Kunar and Alingar while, in Pakistan, Bara and Swat rivers join it at various points in KP.

Jan, from Kabul, recalls that before the Taliban regime in 1998, the Afghan government started rehabilitation work with foreign support on two non-functional dams in Jalalabad, but later the construction work was stopped due to security reasons.

Despite the strategic importance of Kabul River basin in both sides of the border, there is shortage of hydrological data. The last study on pollution in the Kabul River was conducted by the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) and was published in 1999. In Pakistan, on behalf of Indus River System Authority (Irsa), the KP Irrigation department collects hydrological data of Kabul River and provides it to Irsa headquarters on a monthly basis.

Although the Afghan government has installed more than 100 weather stations, the data-collection process has not taken place in the country for the last three decades due to cross-border insurgency.

Documents obtained from the KP Irrigation department show that the Kabul River is not a single transboundary waterway between the two countries. In the tribal districts of KP and Balochistan, other rivers also enter Pakistan from Afghanistan: Kurram River, Gomal River, Pishin Lora/Bore Nullah, Kandai River, Kunder River and Abdul Wahab Stream.

Haqmal Masoodzai, an Afghan journalist based in Paktia province, says that in three districts of Paktia province most of the population is engaged in farming. The Shamil River, called Kaitu River in Pakistan, is the sole source of water for irrigation and cultivation. After passing through Khost, the river enters Pakistan in North Waziristan where it converges with the Kurram River at Spinwam.

“On the Afghan side, the Kurram-Shamil Sub-Basin Council lacks the equipment to collect hydrology data,” the journalist explains. “There is no dam constructed by the Afghan government on the river. Thus, in summer season, floods in the river render a large population homeless in both countries.”

The Kurram river flows south-east in Ahmadkhel, Dand Aw Patan and Tasamkani districts of Paktia province and then crosses the border into Pakistan's Kurram tribal district.

“The province produces 310 cubic metres of water per second, of which only 71 cubic metres per second is used for provincial needs, while other flows to the rest of Pakistan at various points,” he says.

He says that the Afghan government was not able to develop a mechanism for the management and proper utilisation of water in Paktia but the central government had initiated plans to conduct a survey and build a dam for electricity production.

He mentions that the Afghan government signed an MOU with a Russian construction company to construct a dam on Machalgho River (a tributary of Shamil River) with the capacity to irrigate about 1,824 acres lands and produce hydroelectricity in Paktia but the work has not yet begun due to security reasons. About 32 million US dollars has been allocated by the Asian Development Bank for the project.

Common rivers between Pakistan and Afghanistan undoubtedly benefit both the countries but neither country pays attention to preparing a comprehensive policy about shared water. It is crucial for both the countries to establish a crossborder network, having officials of water ministries and members of other stakeholders. Hydrology data sharing is also vital for flood protection measurements on both sides of the border.

Experts say that the Indus Waters Treaty with India in 1960 is a good example for establishing policy about shared water with Afghanistan. Would we have to wait for the World Bank to bring officials of both the countries to the table for negotiations yet again?

The writer is a Peshwar-based reporter

Published in Dawn, EOS, November 25th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1447512>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 12TH TO NOVEMBER 18TH 2018

MORE DAMS BOUND TO DEEPEN WATER CRISIS IN SINDH, WARNS SUP

The Newspaper's Correspondent November 12, 2018

DADU: Sindh United Party (SUP) led a rally of its component parties and other nationalist groups taken out here on Sunday against construction of new dams over the Indus. It was organised by the Sindh Action Committee.

The participants marched through various streets of Dadu and held a demonstration at Cinema Chowk, where SUP chief Syed Jalal Mehmood Shah, general secretary Roshan Ali Buriro, Jeay Sindh Mahaz-Riaz (JSM-R) chairman Riaz Chandio and leaders of various other nationalist groups spoke to them.

Mr Shah said that the people of Sindh strongly opposed construction of any new dam, including Bhasha Dam and Kalabagh Dam, over Indus.

He noted that the water crisis in Sindh had been deepening with each passing day and held successive government responsible for the situation, arguing that they failed to get the province its due share in the Indus water.

While Sindh's representatives in the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) and other relevant forum miserably failed to effectively plead its case on all forums, the senators, federal ministers and MNAs from Sindh, as well as members of the Sindh Assembly, did not forcefully raise the issue on the floor of their respective houses, he said. Resultantly, he added, the situation continued to aggravate over the past decade and finally ended up in a crisis.

"Indus has been facing an acute shortage of water due to inadequate flows; tail-end growers are not getting water at all while others have also been raising a hue and cry for not being able to properly cultivate their lands," he said.

The SUP chief said that the crisis had destroyed Sindh's agriculture sector and also devastated the province's economy as it was heavily dependent on agricultural revenues. "Already hit by the crisis, Sindh cannot afford construction of

more dams over Indus as this is bound to deprive the province of the small amount of water it is currently getting,” he said.

Mr Shah described Indus as Sindh’s lifeline, and declared that the people of Sindh would not allow the lifeline to be disrupted or choked.

Jalal Shah pointed out that Sindh had not been getting its due share in water as per the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord ever since it was signed. Still, no positive outcome of the parleys on the issue was in sight but authorities at the helm of affairs were bent upon building more dams. “They should first ensure implementation of the accord in letter and spirit; arrange for release of adequate water downstream Kotri and take measures to make it sure that all tail-end areas of the irrigation system in Sindh are getting adequate water,” he said.

At the moment, he said, flows at Guddu, Sukkur and Kotri barrages were dangerously low and building more dams over Indus without addressing the chronic issue would only add to the miseries of Sindh people, he said.

SUP general secretary Roshan Ali Buriro, JSM-R chairman Riaz Chandio, Younus Waho (Awami Workers Party), Hafiz Sikandar (Sindh Sagar Party), Hashim Khoso (Jeay Sindh Mahaz), Amjad Mahisar (Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz) and Mir Khoso (Awami Tehreek) also spoke.

Published in Dawn, November 12th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1445030/more-dams-bound-to-deepen-water-crisis-in-sindh-warns-sup>

10,000 CUSEC RELEASED FROM TARBELA TO REACH SUKKUR BARRAGE WITHIN A DAY: OFFICIAL  
Dawn Report November 13, 2018

SUKKUR: The Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has released to Sindh its additional share of 10,000 cusec water from Tarbela Dam which was expected to reach Sukkur Barrage within 40 hours and help growers sow wheat and other seasonal crops, according to in-charge of control room at Sukkur Barrage Haji Abdul Aziz Soomro.

Mr Soomro told media persons on Monday that situation would become better when the water reached Sukkur and was released from the barrage into Rice Canal, Dadu Canal and Khirthar Canal on the right bank of the river and Khairpur East Canal, Khairpur West Canal, Nara and Rohri Canal on the left bank.

He said that as of Nov 9, water level at Tarbela Dam was recorded at 1,460.8 feet, at upstream of Kalabagh Barrage the level was 75,791 cusec and downstream 71,791, at upstream of Chashma Barrage it was 64,700 cusec and downstream 61,000 cusec, at upstream of Taunsa Barrage it was 50,927 cusec and downstream 45,936 cusec, at upstream of Guddu Barrage the water level was 37,968 cusec and at downstream 31,835 cusec, at upstream of Sukkur Barrage it was 28,540 and downstream 5,900 cusec while 22,640 cusec was being released into canals. The water level at upstream of Kotri Barrage was recorded at 3,733 cusec and at Mangla Dam it was at 1,149.25 feet, he added.

He said the Sindh government had requested Irsa to release additional 10,000 cusec of its share so that its growers could utilise the water in the cultivation of wheat and other seasonal crops before the annual closure of all off-taking canals of Kotri Barrage (from Dec 25 to Jan 10) and Sukkur Barrage (from Jan 6 to 20) for repair and maintenance.

Mr Soomro said that growers had been informed about the arrival of additional water and said that water shortage at Sukkur Barrage had remained about 30 per cent.

GROWERS PROTEST AGAINST WATER SHORTAGE

MIRPURKHAS: Scores of growers, whose lands were irrigated by Khairpur Gambo irrigation subdivision, held a demonstration at Fraho regulator near Jhuddo town on Monday in protest against the irrigation department's failure to release water into 17 distributaries and minors of the subdivision for the past few months.

The protesters' leaders Raees Abdul Jabbar, Manzoor Chandio and Haji Mukhtiar Pitafi told media persons that the minors and distributaries of the subdivision, including Khoski, Jaraks, Sangi, Bangar, Oilpur, Farho and others had been deprived of water for the last few months.

They feared about 60,000 acres of fertile land could become barren if it remained uncultivated for longer periods. They were facing financial crisis while many farm workers had already migrated to other places because of famine-like conditions in the area, they said.

They said that they did not even have water for drinking and were compelled to buy small water cans at exorbitant rates for their families and cattle.

They demanded Sindh chief minister, provincial minister for irrigation and secretary of irrigation take notice of the aggravating situation, ensure supply of water into their distributaries and take action against the officers responsible for the situation.

Published in Dawn, November 13th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1445180/10000-cusec-released-from-tarbela-to-reach-sukkur-barrage-within-a-day-official>

**'PAY RE1 PER LITRE OR EXIT THE INDUSTRY,' CJP TELLS BOTTLED WATER COMPANIES**  
Haseeb Bhatti Updated November 13, 2018

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all provinces to impose a tax of one rupee per litre on companies bottling and selling water while also constituting a committee to examine the quality of 'mineral water' being sold by these companies.

The tax will be applicable on water extracted from the ground by mineral water companies. The issue as it concerns beverages companies will be taken up at a later stage.

The committee to examine the quality of bottled water being sold in the markets will be headed by environmental scientist Dr Ahsan Siddiqui and include officials from the Environment Protection Agency, Punjab Food Authority as well as representatives of bottled water companies.

The committee will submit a report on its findings within the next 10 days. In case it finds that any company is selling 'substandard' mineral water, the company in question will be given three months to improve its product before punitive action is taken against it.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar issued orders to this effect while wrapping up a suo motu case pertaining to the exploitation of water resources by mineral water companies operating in the country.

The issue had cropped up in September during the hearing of a case related to the drying up of the Katas Raj pond due to heavy consumption of subsoil water by nearby cement factories.

**Arguments dismissed**

During today's hearing, a PepsiCo representative told the apex court that the company earns Rs158 million per year from bottled water. He said the company has been operating in the country for the last three decades.



Discussing the cost of bottled water, the representative said it cost the company Rs5 to add minerals to the water it extracts. At this, the CJP intervened and remarked that he had seen a report according to which there was no [additional] mineral in the water.

“Water companies have stolen water for their gains,” CJP Nisar regretted, adding that the court will constitute a commission to find that how much water had been used up.

“Bottled water companies earn billions of rupees without paying a single penny: I will not let people die of thirst for the profit [of bottled water companies],” the CJP remarked.

“What would we say to our offspring 30 years hence if they do not have enough water to consume,” the CJP said at one point.

“If you don’t want to accept the deal [paying Re1 per litre], you are free to exit the industry,” the CJP said while concluding the case.

“Show some courage and close the factory. I will see how long can you keep it closed,” he challenged the companies.

During the last hearing, Justice Nisar had regretted that bottled water companies were selling water after extracting it from the ground almost for free and had summoned the owners of all mineral water companies to appear in person before the court on Nov 13 (today).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1445356/pay-re1-per-litre-or-exit-the-industry-cjp-tells-bottled-water-companies>

## CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS INEVITABLE: DUMMAR

By APP

Published: November 14, 2018

ISLAMABAD:Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar has said that the Balochistan government is building dams across the province to overcome the shortage of water.

“In order to overcome the shortage of drinking water, construction of dams has now become inevitable,” he said while talking to a private news channel on Tuesday.

“Clean drinking water is only available to 30 per cent of the population in Pakistan,” said Dummar, adding that the government would also ensure provision of safe drinking water to the citizens of Quetta.

He also stressed the need for avoiding unnecessary use of water.

Meanwhile talking to APP, the minister described the initiative of the Supreme Court and the federal government to build dams as a positive sign. He also mentioned that the long-lingering drought was causing scarcity of water in Balochistan.

Dummar said the provincial government, led by Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan, had focused on the provision of clean drinking water to the citizens of Quetta. The government and non-governmental organisations would devise a comprehensive plan for tackling the crisis in the area.

He minister said President Dr Arif Alvi and Balochistan cabinet members had discussed provincial matters in detail during their visit to the capital.

“Prime Minister Imran Khan is taking revolutionary steps to address issues related to education, health and water supply,” he said.

Dummar said the provincial government was making a comprehensive plan for reforms in the Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) for providing clean water to the public.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1846794/1-construction-dams-inevitable-dummar/>

Katas Raj Temple case: SC forms committee to probe cement plants' water use  
By Hasnaat Malik

Published: November 15, 2018

ISLAMABAD: After conducting several trials, the Supreme Court on Wednesday formed an inspection committee to determine the veracity of the claims made by two cement factories – DG Khan Cement and Bestway Cement – located around Katas Raj Temple over water utilisation.

The three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar, resumed the hearing of a case regarding the dried up pond of Katas Raj Temple due to massive commercial water utilisation by factories located in Kallar Kahar, Punjab.

According to a court notification, the committee would be headed by Human Rights Director General Saleem Rana and comprise Environmental Protection Agency DG Farzana Altaf Shah, while the Additional Registrar Administration Khawaja Daud had been appointed as the focal person.

The bench also made it clear that on the input of the Punjab Anti-Corruption Department, criminal proceedings against DG Khan Cement CEO Muhammad Raza Mansha, son of business tycoon Mian Mansha, and the Bestway Cement CEO had been quashed; however, they would face civil liabilities.

The court allowed the committee, if deemed appropriate, to hire the services of engineers for the purpose of assistance in inspection.

The committee would determine the number of operational tube wells and how much of them were dismantled. It would also examine the capacity of reservoirs of cement factories for storage of water and the current quantity.

The committee would find out whether the factories paid the amount in favour of the government for utilisation of water so far.

The committee would also determine whether the water currently stored in reservoirs is of rain or from underground extraction.

The committee has been directed to start its work from Thursday (today).

The bench ruled that a case would immediately be registered against those who would not cooperate with the committee.

Representing the DG Khan Cement, Salman Aslam Butt advocate informed the bench that the factory had shut down the tube wells.

He also explained how the factory was managing the water for operations of the cement factory.

Civil society representative Waseem Raja informed the bench that the factories had installed reservoirs and met the water demand through tube wells installed at different locations.

Chakwal deputy commissioner (DC) submitted his report stating that all tube wells had been made non-functional, but he was unable to respond when the chief justice asked as to how many tube wells had been closed.

CJP Nisar observed that the DC appeared in the case without preparation.

“You should have known every figure in the matter,” the chief justice observed, questioning as to whether the representatives of civil society were taken along while visiting the factories. The Chakwal DC responded in negation.

The chief justice expressed displeasure and asked as to why the representatives were not taken during the visit to factories. “You have not done the things which you should have,” Nisar told the DC.

On cement factories reserving water in their tanks for four months’ usage, the CJP inquired as to how such a huge quantity of water was conserved.

He further observed that the cement factories were carrying out the same practice which the court had ordered to stop.

Referring to DG Khan Cement CEO Mansha, the chief justice told Butt that a day ago the court had quashed criminal proceedings against him.

“Whatever you are doing will get you into difficulties,” the chief justice told Butt, adding that he himself would visit the sites if required.

The civil society representative alleged that the cement factories were spreading a nexus of underground pipes and utilising water for commercial purpose on the pretext of domestic use.

However, an official of the cement factory denied the allegations, saying they have conserved rainwater in reservoirs.

Justice Ijazul Ahsan, a member of the bench, observed that record of the Metrological Department be sought. The Chakwal DC informed that he had the Metrologic Department’s record.

The DC recalled the figures of closed tube wells and informed the bench that 12 tube wells had been shut down.

However, the civil society representative contended that he himself had highlighted 18 operational tube wells.

“We will examine everything and you will face the music if we find any criminality,” the chief justice told the counsel for factories.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1847541/1-katas-raj-temple-case-sc-forms-committee-probe-cement-plants-water-use/>

PAKISTAN CAN ONLY STORE 10% OF ANNUAL RIVER FLOWS

By Our Correspondent

Published: November 17, 2018

LAHORE: The per capita water availability in Pakistan has dropped from 5,650 cubic metres in 1951 to an alarmingly low level of 908 cubic metres at present, pushing the country into the ranks of nations facing water scarcity.

This was stated by Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairman Muzammil Hussain during a briefing to a delegation of the National Security Workshop of the National Defence University Islamabad, which visited the Wapda House on Friday.

“Pakistan can store only 10% of its annual river flows whereas the average water storage capacity around the world stands at 40%,” the chairman lamented. “Instead of raising the storage capacity, we have lost more than one-fourth of the storage space of our dams.”

The live water storage capacity, which was 16.26 million acre feet (MAF) in 1976, dropped to 13.68 MAF now, which was equal to a carryover capacity of merely 30 days, he said. On the other hand, India enjoys a carryover capacity of 170 days, Egypt 700 days and the US 900 days.

The Wapda chief underscored the need for a sustainable long-term plan to tackle the looming water crisis in the country.

“The mechanism in vogue for implementing development projects in Pakistan will take us nowhere,” he emphasised. “A paradigm shift is required to improve the water situation and handle circular debt.” The carryover water storage capacity should be increased from 30 days to 120 days.

Hussain told the delegation that Wapda planned to add 2 MAF to the water storage capacity in the short term by 2023, 18 MAF in the medium term by 2030 and another 23 MAF in the long run by 2050.

Wapda has already added 2,487 megawatts of hydel electricity to the national grid by completing Golen Gol, Neelum Jhelum and Tarbela 4th Extension hydroelectric power projects. It plans to add 4,582MW up to 2023 and another 16,180MW up to 2030.

Published in The Express Tribune, November 17th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1848791/2-pakistan-can-store-10-annual-river-flows/>

## RATIONALISING WATER

Taimoor Akhtar November 18, 2018

THE drought wars have begun. In a recent National Assembly session, Federal Minister of Water Resources Faisal Vawda went on a rampage against the PML-N, alleging that the previous government stole water from Sindh to give to Punjab. The basis of Vawda’s accusation was that the PML-N closed down telemetry stations that monitored river flows of the Indus during their tenure. This statement is perplexing and irrational, since 1) the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) relies on the manual (legacy) flow monitoring system for distributing water to provinces as per the 1991 Water Accord; and 2) the last large-scale telemetry system installed in the Indus basin was an almost immediate failure in the late 2000s.

The contextual incorrectness of Vawda’s accusation will only escalate the long-standing discord on water distribution. Such accusations are not new. Irrational allegations regarding misreporting and water theft have gone back and forth amongst provinces in the past as well, especially in times of severe water storage. I am calling these allegations irrational not because the ‘claims’ themselves are unfounded, but because the ‘evidence’ attached to them is either non-existent, devoid of logic, or impossible to find. And the root cause of the lack of rational ‘evidence’ is that the provinces themselves operate the physical infrastructure (and report official water flows in canals and rivers) that diverts water to their canals.

Transparent and equitable distribution of water, as per the 1991 accord, requires a comprehensive water monitoring, operation, accounting and auditing framework where the entire distribution workflow — the individual processes of

operating barrages, accurately measuring waters diverted to canals, recording river and canal flows and accounting diversions against entitlements — should be the responsibility of a single federal entity. This idea is echoed by emerging experts on our water sector: Muhammad Fraz Ismail, Muhammad Umar Farooq and Syed Haseeb Bukhari. Moreover, most successful inter-state river treaties follow this centralised operation framework. For instance, in the US, the Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for planning and operating the Lower Colorado River Basin to distribute water between four states, as per the Colorado River Compact. The bureau's responsibilities include water distribution planning, dam operations, water monitoring and water rights accounting. Similarly, in Australia, the Murray-Darling River Authority is responsible for the operations of the River Murray System, including the system infrastructure — ie the dams and barrages, etc.

Structural reforms are needed to resolve provincial discord.

In Pakistan, Irsa is the federal entity responsible for distribution of river waters to the provinces as per the 1991 agreement. In this regard, Irsa is fully involved in water distribution planning, providing instructions for operation of the Indus River system. However, it does not operate the physical infrastructure that diverts waters to canals. Nor does it manage an independent physical system for monitoring and recording water flows. These key tasks are managed by the provinces themselves, and are the root cause of the provincial water discord.

The blame game on water theft will continue if the responsibility of diverting and measuring water remains with the provinces. It is counter-intuitive. For rationality to prevail, Irsa needs to expand its mandate (via revision of the Irsa Act, 1992) and take responsibility for operating the physical infrastructure that diverts water to provinces. If that is not possible, Irsa, at the very least, needs to develop its own physical flow monitoring system, adhering to a 'national standard' for measurement of river and canal flows agreed upon by all provincial stakeholders, and one that could be based on new technologies, like remote sensing, telemetry, sensor networks and state-of-the-art water accounting and auditing systems.

However, the adaptation of technology would require a change of mindset. Experiences of state-owned water institutions across the globe indicate that it is better for state entities to outsource the management of technology to private tech firms, via public-private partnerships. Telemetry has not repeatedly failed in Pakistan due to the PML-N or any other government. It failed because state institutions were either unable to manage it or refused to own it. The US Geological Survey recently outsourced development of their water data management system to a private IT firm from Canada. Moreover, Singapore's Public Utilities Board outsourced the management of their water quality telemetry network. These partnerships were successful.

Our water sector can also partner with the private sector to successfully embrace technology. And it can inculcate rationality in provincial water distribution through institutional restructuring and technologically informed water governance.

The writer is a researcher and consultant in water resources systems engineering and management.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1446332/rationalising-water>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 29TH TO NOVEMBER 4TH 2018

HIGHWAY BLOCKED IN PROTEST AGAINST WATER SHORTAGE

Abdul Wahid Shahwani October 29, 2018

**KHUZDAR:** Dozens of people, including women and children, blocked the Quetta-Karachi highway near Khuzdar on Sunday in protest against shortage of water in the city.

The protesters placed blockades on the highway. They raised slogans against the government, urging it to take immediate measures to resolve the issue of water shortage in Khuzdar.

They alleged that some water projects were being launched in the city to provide water only to influential people, adding that poor people were being compelled to purchase water through tankers.

Hundreds of vehicles were stranded for hours due to the protest on the highway, causing difficulty to a large number of passengers, including women and children.

The member of Balochistan Assembly from Khuzdar, Younus Aziz Zehri, and officials of police and the district administration held negotiations with protesters at the highway.

The protesters informed the officials that their areas were facing acute shortage of water. They said that against their tribal traditions women and children had taken part in the protest because they no other option.

Mr Zehri directed the officials concerned to take immediate measures for resolving the issue of water shortage in Khuzdar.

He assured the protesters that the problem would be solved on a priority basis.

On the officials' assurance the protesters dispersed peacefully.

Published in Dawn, October 29th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1442096/highway-blocked-in-protest-against-water-shortage>

## **RAHIMYAR KHAN RESIDENTS PROTEST CONTAMINATED WATER**

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter October 30, 2018

**ISLAMABAD:** Residents of Rahimyar Khan, including children, gathered outside the National Press Club on Monday to protest the contamination of streams and groundwater by a sugar mill.

Abdul Qadir, a resident of Pararan Sharif, told the media that residents of slums near the sugar mill are suffering due to the disposal of waste water by the mill in a nearby stream.

“People are suffering from diseases because they drink that contaminated water. Even underground water has been contaminated, but people have no choice but to drink the stinking water,” he said.

Mr Qadir said he has submitted applications in various offices and filed a writ petition in the Lahore High Court, but nothing has come of these efforts.

“Although the sugar mill has been directed to install a waste water treatment plant, to control smog, it has done nothing. The owner of the sugar mill is a federal minister, so no one takes action against him. On the other hand, our children have been suffering,” he said.

Published in Dawn, October 30th , 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1442201/rahimyar-khan-residents-protest-contaminated-water>

## AUDIT REPORT FINDS PROFIT MARGINS IN BOTTLED WATER SALE UNJUSTIFIED

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter October 31, 2018

ISLAMABAD: A forensic audit report on the bottled water business of Nestle Pakistan Ltd submitted before a Supreme Court bench on Tuesday termed the margins of distributors and retailers 'very high' and 'unjustified' as compared to the private company's profit.

The three-judge bench was informed that the company earned a net profit of Rs739.5 million in 2017, while the distributors and retailers got 276 per cent net profit, to the tune of Rs2 billion, the same year.

The SC bench, headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, however, regretted that the bottled water companies were selling water after extracting it from the ground almost for free and summoned the owners of all mineral water companies to appear in person before the court on Nov 13 when the case will be taken up again.

SC summons owners of all mineral water companies on Nov 13

At the last hearing, the court had ordered the auditor general to form a team to conduct forensic audit of the bottled water business of Nestle Pakistan to determine the real profit earned by the company.

The audit report showed that the company had virtually paid no amount to any government department for the 4.43 billion litres of water extracted between 2013 and 2017.

According to the report, the total water extraction during the past five years from all wells at the three sites, except beverages segment, was 4.433 billion litres of which the water processed and sold in bottles was 2.5 billion litres.

The figures showed that 1.9 billion of the total 4.4 billion litres of water were wasted, indicating a 43 per cent loss.

While the Nestle Pakistan management said that 15 per cent water was wasted during the Reverse Osmosis (RO) process in water treatment, it could not justify the rest of 28 per cent wastage of water.

The report highlighted that Pakistan was one of the most water-stressed countries in the world and due to the ill-planning and callous attitude of the successive governments, water resources were rapidly depleting.

The crisis was affecting every segment of society, it stated, adding that the per capita availability of water had dropped from 5,000 cubic metres per annum in 1951 to about 1,000 cubic metres in 2014. The share deteriorated further in the following years.

The bottled water business in Pakistan is being dominated by three international companies — Nestle Pakistan Ltd, Pepsi Co Inc. and Coca Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd — with Nestle having the largest share of 36.30pc. There are a number of other big and small companies also doing bottled water business.

Nestle Pakistan established three processing plants for treatment of water extracted from a total of nine wells at three sites of Islamabad, Port Qasim and Sheikhpura.

The report also highlighted legal inadequacies in regulating the bottled water business in the country and its impact on the respective aquifer.

During the proceedings, the court was informed that the plastic bottles being used by the mineral water companies did not meet health safety standards.



The chief justice also recalled his visit to the Nestle site in Karachi, where the company was given land on lease without any charge. He said a sample of Nestle water was not found up to the standard considered to be fit for human consumption.

Claiming that he had quit drinking bottled water, the chief justice appealed to the nation to revive the forgotten tradition of using pitchers for drinking water.

He observed that bottled water exposed to sunshine for hours became unsuitable for human consumption.

Published in Dawn, October 31st, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1442464/audit-report-finds-profit-margins-in-bottled-water-sale-unjustified>

## WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS GET PM'S NOD

By Our Correspondent

Published: November 1, 2018

ISLAMABAD: In line with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's 100-day agenda, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday gave a go-ahead to the Ministry of National Food Security & Research for the development of three major projects for conservation of nine million acres foot (MAF) water.

Water conservation would be done through lining of the watercourse across the country, laser levelling of the fields, enhancement of 60,000 acres of command area of small and mini dams and water conservation in Barani areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

The move is in line with the PTI government agenda that features massive expansion in water conservation efforts through smart interventions to reduce water losses.

The project "National Program for improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan Phase-II" would be undertaken across the country with a target of lining over 73,000 watercourses and laser levelling of 12,110 units. It was decided that the government would subsidise laser-levellers for all the provinces with emphasis on Sindh.

The PM was informed that rain water conservation in K-P required small investments in infrastructure and can be implemented through local governments. These infrastructures include construction of check dams, water retaining facilities, water storage reservoirs, spurs, water ponds and terracing etc to harness rain water for its use in irrigation and other purposes.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1838165/1-water-conservation-projects-get-pms-nod/>

## INDIA 'LIKELY TO ALLOW' DAMS INSPECTION NEXT MONTH

Khalid Hasnain Updated November 02, 2018

LAHORE: India is likely to fulfill its commitment of getting its two hydropower projects — 1,000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnal — inspected by Pakistani experts next month after the local (Punchayat) elections in the held Kashmir end by Dec 15.

On the other hand, Islamabad is also set to send a reminder in-writing to New Delhi in a day or two, urging it again to fulfill its promise of allowing Pakistani experts inspect the projects at Chenab and Jhelum basins, according to a senior official of the ministry of water resources.

"We approached India's Commissioner for Indus Waters Pradeep Kumar Saxena by phone a couple days ago and urged him to give us schedule for our tour to the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnal projects. He replied that it is not

possible during first or second week of December due to local Panchayat elections in the state,” Pakistan’s Commissioner for Indus Waters Mehar Ali Shah told Dawn on Thursday.

“Following conversation with my counterpart, I am of the view that they (India) will surely get the projects at Chenab basin inspected by us after the elections. I am still very optimistic since India is legally and morally bound to do this under the treaty. So they cannot ignore this,” the commissioner maintained. About Kishanganga inspection, the official said it might be possible during next year.

Under the Indus water Treaty, both Pakistan and India are bound to inspect projects, share data related to water flow, storage and releases, floods.

The treaty also empowers the two countries to mutually resolve their water related issues on their own or through arbitration and appointment of independent experts and other relevant forums.

India had earlier agreed during 115th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission held between the two countries from Aug 29 to 30 in Lahore to allow Pakistani experts inspect the projects at Chenab basin by end of September last. It also agreed to schedule visit of Pakistani experts for inspection of the Kishanganga project at a later stage.

Similarly Islamabad had agreed to allow New Delhi to carry out inspection of the Kotri barrage over the Indus after September. As a result, India agreed to a scheduled programme (Oct 7 to 11) for the visit of Pakistani experts. But, later, it postponed the same on the pretext of some local bodies elections.

Pakistan had also asked India during last month’s first week to immediately share the data showing inflow and discharge of water at the Kishanganga dam and water flows in different rivers. However, India is yet to do so.

According to the minutes of the 115th meeting of the PCIW held between the two countries in Lahore, Pakistan had also asked India to share information about potential projects at the planning stage for examination.

Published in Dawn, November 2nd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1442966/india-likely-to-allow-dams-inspection-next-month>

## PUNJAB REJECTS BAHRIA TOWN’S PROPOSAL TO BUILD DADOCHA DAM

Malik Asad Updated November 02, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The government of Punjab has rejected the proposal of property tycoon Malik Riaz for the construction of Dadocha Dam as the Bahria Town-led joint venture (JV) proposed over Rs26 billion for acquisition of land against Rs2.8 billion worked out by the government.

Additional Advocate General (AAG) Punjab Qasim Nawaz Chuhan informed a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar that the proposal regarding the future water reservoir for Rawalpindi was not acceptable for the government and the provincial authorities would execute the project on their own.

CJP Nisar showed his displeasure over the ‘negative’ response and said the Malik Riaz-led JV were constructing the dam for free.

Bahria Town-led joint venture seeks Rs26bn for acquisition of land against Rs2.8bn worked out by govt, SC informed

“It is not free sir, they are charging Rs26.7 billion as land acquisition cost,” replied Mr Chuhan.

Justice Nisar remarked: “Visibly Punjab government could not complete the dam despite lapse of years.”

He added: “Malik Riaz offered construction of dam on a build, operate and transfer basis and the Punjab government took time to consider the proposal. Flimsy reasons are given [for not availing the offer] which shows the government does not want to complete the dam.”

Justice Nisar also highlighted the importance of water reservoirs owing to existing water scarcity which would aggravate in future.

When the court asked how much time the provincial government would take to complete the project, the AAG said two years.

The CJP directed the government to submit a report on the construction of the dam along with the probable date of its completion by Monday.

The AAG requested the court to expunge the word ‘flimsy’ from the order sheet.

But Justice Nisar dictated: “It is my perception that the response of government of Punjab was flimsy, baseless.”

He then asked the fellow judge to suggest a suitable superlative degree and got another word “unsubstantiated” which he incorporated in the order sheet.

When the counsel requested the court to at least let him argue the case, the CJP directed him, “you will not appear before this court especially bench 1 [headed by CJP] from tomorrow”.

Subsequently, the court adjourned the hearing without considering the “report of the committee regarding unsolicited proposal” of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA), Bahria Town and Habib Rafique (DBH) for the construction, operation and maintenance of the dam.

The report noted that instead of the government rate for the land, the DBH JV had estimated the price of the land on the basis of its investment in the housing scheme, DHA Valley, which was lying dormant for over a decade.

The cost of the project was to be borne by the JV and the government of Punjab, it added.

As per the PC-I, the land acquisition was to cost Rs2.8bn whereas the DBH-JV had proposed Rs26.7bn which was to be borne by the provincial government. Moreover, the JV would bear Rs3.5 billion cost for the construction of the dam.

The JV has submitted that that out of the 18,556 kanals proposed for the project, 15,896 kanals was owned by DBH-JV partners and that in view of the joint venture the government should not initiate fresh land acquisition proceedings.

It said: “The JV invested Rs6.5 billion for the purchase of the land now subject to proposed acquisition for the dam. Further, DBH-JV spent about Rs1.7 billion on the development of 1,444 residential plots, 451 commercial plots and other facilities for the purpose of its scheme on the land.”

The committee rejected the proposal of DBH-JV since it did not submit the details of its legal, technical, managerial and financial capability, and also did not indicate the amount it wanted to earn from the water obtained from the dam.

Moreover, JV did not submit proposals related to economic viability of the project which was mandatory under the Public Private Partnership Act 2014.

The feasibility study for the dam was approved in 2013-14 after which the irrigation department hired consultants for the purpose.

In 2002, a pre-feasibility study of the site was carried out by the Small Dams Organisation which remained under consideration for the construction of the dam, the report stated, adding a notification under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 was issued on Nov 3, 2010, to secure the land.

The area is part of Kahuta, Kallar Syedan and Rawalpindi tehsils of Rawalpindi district.

Published in Dawn, November 2nd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1442919/punjab-rejects-bahria-towns-proposal-to-build-dadocha-dam>

## JUDICIAL COMMISSION IRKED BY GOVT'S FAILURE TO RELEASE WATER INTO THAR'S ONLY CHANNEL

Dawn Report November 02, 2018

MITHI: The head of Supreme Court-appointed commission on water and drainage retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim visited waterworks in Tharparkar district on Thursday and expressed anger over the irrigation department's failure to release water into Rann Minor, the only channel of Thar, and waterworks' ponds.

He directed officials of Nara irrigation division of Sukkur Barrage and public health engineering department (PHED) to release water into the channel at least for drinking purposes in water-starved Thar.

He asked the officials concerned how they would provide water to the hilly area of Nagarparkar through pipeline when the ponds were not getting enough water from Rann Minor. "If we do not get enough canal water then Nagarparkar town will be provided water from the reverse osmosis plants of Mithi and Islamkot," said an official of PHED.

Justice Muslim directed all the officials concerned to appear before the commission on Nov 6 to clarify their position on the canal water crisis and other issues with waterworks in Thar.

He was informed by local farmers and residents of the canal-irrigated areas that their areas had not been provided due share in water over the years by the irrigation department, which did not even release water for drinking purposes.

They deplored that conditions in their areas were even worse than rest of the rain-dependent areas and hundreds of families had already migrated to urban centres in search of livelihood.

They requested him to direct the irrigation department to release water into the channel at least twice a month so that they could get water for drinking at least. They urged the judge to take stern action against the officials involved in theft of water.

Justice Muslim assured them that he and other officers were trying their best to ensure people were provided maximum relief as per mandate given to the one-man commission and directed Thar Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Asif Jameel to make concerted efforts to ensure that people were provided relief during drought conditions.

He held meetings with officials concerned immediately after arriving in Mithi and said that he would visit other waterworks and reverse osmosis plants on Friday. He said during a visit to an RO plant near Mithi that the issue of non-payment to the private firm operating the RO plants across Thar would be resolved as per promises and commitments of high-ups of Sindh government, including the chief minister and chief secretary.

The judge directed the private firm hired to run and maintain the RO plants to pay salaries to workers and operators and warned the officials concerned to ensure that all the plants be made functional to provide water to the drought-hit people.

Water experts of the area told this reporter that electric motors installed at the waterworks to pump water into the pipeline that supplied water to towns as well as villages of Thar had no capacity to run round the clock.

They urged the departments concerned to increase capacity of the motors and the pipeline as per growing demand of water in the drought-hit desert region.

Thar SSP Imran Qureshi and other officials concerned were also present during the judge's visit to Naukot and Mithi towns.

#### Judge visits Dhoro Puran

MIRPURKHAS: Justice Muslim paid a surprise visit to natural storm water drain, Dhoro Puran, near here on Thursday to inspect the newly-built underground sewage line across the drain.

He expressed his anguish over silt deposits in a part of the drain and absence of project director and engineers concerned.

Sub-engineer Shahid Iqbal Rajput briefed the judge in the absence of his superior and said that 70 per cent work on mega drainage project had been completed and as a result six pumping stations had been closed because sewage was flowing through the newly built line smoothly.

He hoped that after completion of work 14 out of 18 pumping stations would become redundant and would have to be closed.

He said the project was being completed in consultation with local government department.

The judge asked the project director, consultants, engineers, contractors etc to appear in his office at Sindh High Court Karachi at 10.00am on Nov 6 and brief him in this regard.

Sources said the drainage project built in 2007 by PHED collapsed during floods in 2011 when it failed to drain out rainwater, exacerbating peoples' woes.

Mirpurkhas deputy commissioner Syed Mehdi Ali Shah, municipal committee chairman Farooque Jameel Durrani, engineers of PHED and engineers of highway division accompanied the judge during the visit.

Published in Dawn, November 2nd, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1442901/judicial-commission-irked-by-govts-failure-to-release-water-into-thars-only-channel>

#### SC ORDERS PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DADHOCHA DAM

By News Desk

Published: November 2, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has demanded the full plan from the Government of Punjab regarding the construction of Dadhocha Dam.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar heard the plea related to the construction of the dam on Wednesday. The CJP told the Punjab Additional Advocate General Qasim Chauhan that the provincial government was not aware of the water scarcity problem.

The CJP said the provincial government did not want to construct the dam since it had not done anything about its construction for a long time. He directed the additional attorney general to not appear in the next hearing.

Meanwhile, Senior Lawyer Naeem Bukhari has offered to donate Rs1,000 per second in the dam fund.

This came during the hearing of the dual nationality disqualification case at the Supreme Court against former Balochistan provincial assembly member Abdur Rauf on Thursday. The complainant's lawyer Naeem Bukhari prayed to the court that he should be granted 120 seconds to speak. At this, the CJP remarked that at what price the court should allow him to speak. Bukhari responded that he would donate Rs1,000 per second in the dam fund for the time given to speak.

The CJP said he would not ask for money in the court because it would compromise his status as the judge. He remarked that he would not ask for money in the court. He added that a lot of money was coming in the dam fund and even children had been donating for the cause.

The CJP remarked that it appeared the dam would be constructed with Rs8 billion.

Naeem Bukhari had requested the court to permit him as the lawyer in the case since his client's previous lawyer had recused himself.

The top court rejected Bukhari's appeal and said the client's previous lawyer Kamran Murtaza may think that their case was no case for review. The court asked that on what grounds should the change of lawyer may be permitted.

The court rejected Bukhari's appeal and directed him to contact Kamran Murtaza

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1838916/1-sc-orders-plan-construction-dadhocha-dam/>

## BALUCHISTAN OVERLOOKED WATER POTENTIAL

BR Research November 2, 2018

Recall from grade school years the map of Pakistan. Through hazy memory of geography lessons one can visualize the rough demarcations of the provinces with Balochistan easily being the biggest province. In fact, Balochistan is nearly half of Pakistan, covering 44 percent of land but home to only 5 percent of the population.

Development wise, it is nearly at the bottom of the list contributing to only 8 percent of Pakistan's GDP. While the province has a smorgasbord of under-developed natural attributes, one of most pressing and yet most ignored is water.

Historically, Balochistan has been known as a water-scare region. Its geographical location isolates it from the Indus river irrigation system and most areas relies on small water storages and ground water. Already limited, these water resources have shrunk since the aftermath of 1998-99 droughts.

Former finance minister Salman Shah at a talk conducted by Pakistan Business Council highlighted the neglected status of the province while putting a number on its water potential. Pakistan has 200 million acre feet (MAF) of water of which 50 (MAF) is ground water; the value of each million acre feet of water is \$2 billion. Admittedly, that is a very high figure to aim for and more in line with farming in developed economies rather than developing countries but it indicates the scope of potential for utilizing water resources.

According to an aged World Bank presentation of 2003, Balochistan has 2.5-3 MAF of unutilized flood water and 0.4 MAF of ground water. This indicates that the water potential in Balochistan is roughly 3 MAF with a value of \$6

billion. More recent ADB documents also underline the importance of using floodwater since 60 percent of it is washed away in the sea. Because of water mismanagement, only 3.2 percent of Pakistan's biggest province is irrigated.

Undoubtedly, Pakistan has agriculturally inefficient water practices with less than 15 percent of rain and river water actually reaching the crops. Since Baluchistan is the least developed, it is unrealistic to expect it to achieve its water potential. But assuming even a fraction of its water potential is realized, the rewards would amount to millions of dollars if not billions.

To give an example, even without fertilizer at per hectare yield of wheat in rain-fed areas of the province is the highest in the country because land is mostly virgin and nutritional. Similarly, it is the fastest growing province in terms of horticulture with applies apricots, and grapes growing at about 5-6 percent per annum as compared to stagnant or negative numbers in other provinces. Given that Balochistan's GDP was estimated at \$8.6 billion in FY16, accessing its water potential would significantly boost the provincial and national economy as its agriculture's efficiency per hectare of crop produced is higher.

Tragically, no one is trying to achieve a proportion of its potential nor it is on anyone's radar. As Shah mentioned in his talk, to the best of his knowledge no member of Baluchistan's provincial or national assembly has raised the question "where is our water". Without a narrative or a rhetoric building pressure to address Baluchistan's water potential, its water tables will continue declining away and its water resources will dry up and remain ignored similar to its other natural attributes.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2018/11/02/450183/balochistan-overlooked-water-potential/>

## December 2018

### *NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 24TH TO DECEMBER 30TH 2018*

#### ***GROWERS' BODIES OPPOSE CONSTRUCTION OF NAI GAAJ DAM***

The Newspaper's Correspondent December 26, 2018

DADU: The Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) and activists of a local organisation calling itself the Save Manchhar Alliance (SMA) have expressed their serious reservations over the Nai Gaaj dam project and vowed to launch a campaign against it.

Speaking at a press conference at the Sehwan Press Club on Tuesday, vice president of SAB's local chapter Attaullah Brohi said that 90pc of Manchhar Lake's water came from the Khirthar range through a natural course and Nai Gaaj drain and the remaining 10pc from other rainwater sources located on the western side of the lake.

He pointed out that population of the areas surrounding Manchhar lake depended on its water for the purposes of irrigation, livelihood and human consumption.

With the construction of the Nai Gaaj dam, the lake would stop receiving rainwater from its drain, he said.

He noted with concern that that dam was designed to store rainwater from all these sources at certain points much away from Manchhar Lake.

Pointing out that three canals would originate from the Nai Gaaj dam, Mr Brohi said that only one was projected to flow towards the lake but its end point would be Haji Khan village, some 25 kilometres from the lake, in Johi taluka.

SMA chairman Maula Bux Mallah, Ali Khan, Azhar Mengal and Ali Gul said that all three canals were supposed to flow into Manchhar lake but the three canals were designed to ensure provision of water to the lands owned by influential political figures. They apprehended that Manchhar Lake would dry up as it would not receive a single drop



of water after construction of the dam. In that case, they added, a big population of the area around the lake would stand deprived of drinking and irrigation water as well as their livelihood, mainly fishing.

They demanded that 280 cusec flow into the Nai Gaaj drain be ensured and up to 12 feet water level in the lake be maintained so as to safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders.

They warned that the construction of Nai Gaaj dam would completely destroy the Manchhar lake irrigation system.

Published in Dawn, December 26th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1453531/growers-bodies-oppose-construction-of-nai-gaaj-dam>

## TETHERED TO CHINA BY A DAM

Ecuador is deeply in debt to Beijing over a project that barely operates

“They know they don’t have too many financing sources, so they are going back to knocking on China’s door.”

The dam sits under the glare of an active volcano, with columns of ash spewing toward the sky. Officials had warned against the dam for decades. Geologists said an earthquake could wipe it away. Now, only two years after opening, thousands of cracks are splintering the dam’s machinery. Its reservoir is clogged with silt, sand and trees. And the only time engineers tried to throttle up the facility completely, it shook violently and shorted out the national electricity grid. This giant dam in the jungle, financed and built by China, was supposed to bolster Ecuador’s vast ambitions, solve its energy needs and help lift the small South American country out of poverty. Instead, it has become part of a national scandal engulfing the country in corruption, perilous amounts of debt and a future tethered to China. Nearly every top Ecuadorean official involved in the dam’s construction is either imprisoned or sentenced on bribery charges. That includes a former vice president, a former electricity minister and even the former anticorruption official monitoring the project, who was caught on tape talking about Chinese bribes. Then there is the price tag: around \$19 billion in Chinese loans, not only for this dam, known as Coca Codo Sinclair, but also for bridges, highways, irrigation, schools, health clinics and a half dozen other dams the government is scrambling to pay for. It doesn’t matter whether Ecuador can afford them. China gets paid either way. To settle the bill, China gets to keep 80 percent of Ecuador’s most valuable export — oil — because many of the contracts are repaid in petroleum, not dollars. In fact, China gets the oil at a discount, then sells it for a profit. Pumping enough oil to repay China has become such an imperative for Ecuador that it is drilling deeper in the Amazon, threatening more deforestation. But that is not enough. Hobbled by the debts, President Lenín Moreno has slashed social spending, gasoline subsidies, several government agencies and more than 1,000 public jobs. Most economists expect the country to slide into recession, stirring outrage. “China took advantage of Ecuador,” said Ecuador’s energy minister, Carlos Pérez. “The strategy of China is clear. They take economic control of countries.” The story of how the dam got built brings together two natural allies, both eager to change the course of the hemisphere and displace the United States as the unrivaled power in the region. China made its plans clear a decade ago, when it swept into Latin America during the global financial crisis, tossing governments an economic lifeline and promising to “treat each other as equals,” a clear swipe at American dominance. It worked. China, now South America’s top trading partner, has seeded the region with infrastructure and a staggering trail of loans. It has reaped political benefits, too, getting Latin American nations to sever diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Still, as the giant dam in Ecuador shows, the two sides were hardly equal partners. Both nations were willing to overlook deep design flaws, questionable economics and independent warnings that the technical studies for the dam were decades out of date. But using an approach it has applied to billions of dollars in loans across the developing world, China never faced much of a financial risk. The gamble was all Ecuador’s, and now the country is looking for new loans to plug its many gaps, including more money from China. Just this month, Mr. Moreno flew to China to renegotiate some of his country’s debt — and borrow another \$900 million. “The Chinese put the hook in,” said Steve Hanke, an economist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. “At the end of the day, what do these countries have? A pig in a poke.”

Ecuador has taken out \$19 billion in Chinese loans for the Coca Codo Sinclair dam, above, and for bridges, highways, irrigation, schools, health clinics and a half-dozen other dams the government is scrambling to pay for.

## AN UNEASY RELATIONSHIP

When Fernando Santos, an energy minister in the 1980s, found out that the Coca Codo Sinclair dam was actually being built, he could hardly believe it. During his time in government, officials had rejected a much smaller version of the project. The whole idea was doomed, he said, because of the volcano nearby. A major earthquake had decimated oil infrastructure in the area in 1987. “The volcano has been erupting since the time the Spanish came to Ecuador in the 16th century,” Mr. Santos said, adding that investing so much money “in such a risky location was nonsense.” There were other alarm bells. An independent review of the project in 2010, prepared by a Mexican government agency and obtained by The New York Times, warned that the amount of water in the region to power the dam had not been studied for nearly 30 years. Since that time, Ecuador had suffered punishing droughts, and there were concerns that its glaciers were melting because of climate change. Despite the advice, Luciano Cepeda, the dam’s former general manager, said top Ecuadorean officials pressed ahead anyway because “a new study would have taken several years” and they didn’t want to slow down. China’s record offered both encouragement and cause for concern. Its massive Three Gorges Dam, which cuts the Yangtze River and rises 600 feet high, was the largest hydroelectric project in the world, designed to produce 20 times the power of the Hoover Dam. But inadequate safety measures led to the deaths of 100 workers, the dam displaced more than one million people, and the environmental damage was considerable, including the destruction of forests. Warnings aside, there were bigger geopolitical forces at play. Ecuador’s president at the time, Rafael Correa, was a left-wing populist who had vowed to modernize his country and free it from the orbit of the United States. Elected in 2006 under a surge that brought leftists to power across Latin America, Mr. Correa took aim at the United States with fiery, anti-imperialist speeches. Soon, Western financial institutions fell in Mr. Correa’s cross hairs. He denounced the International Monetary Fund, saying it put restrictions on his spending. Then in 2008, he defaulted on \$3.2 billion of his country’s foreign debt and invited China to fill in the breach. “Correa wanted to get away from Western banks and institutions,” said Diego Borja, Mr. Correa’s former minister of economic coordination. “We knew this relationship wouldn’t be an easy one with China.” Mr. Borja and other officials were staggered by the terms on Chinese loans. Most came from a large state-owned lender, the Chinese Export-Import Bank, which had high interest rates and required Ecuador to use Chinese companies in construction, effectively eliminating competition. China seemed particularly interested in oil from Ecuador, one of OPEC’s smallest members. In one deal in 2009, China lent Ecuador \$1 billion, to be repaid in oil shipments to the state oil company PetroChina. “But we didn’t have other options,” Mr. Borja recalled. “The doors were closed to the West.” Mr. Correa suddenly had access to money, but a new crisis emerged: The country was running out of power. A drought was depleting the nation’s reservoirs, paralyzing its dams. Rather than look for another source, Mr. Correa doubled down on hydropower. Officials say it was Mr. Correa’s electricity minister, Aleksey Mosquera, who first mentioned Coca Codo Sinclair: a megaproject that was supposed to provide a third of the country’s electricity and represent the single largest investment in Ecuador’s history. It ended up being built right under the Reventador volcano — at nearly twice the size of the proposed dam that had been rejected decades before. When it finally opened in late 2016, China’s president, Xi Jinping, flew to Ecuador to celebrate. Yet only two days before the visit, the dam was in chaos. Engineers had tried to generate the project’s full 1,500 megawatts, but neither the facility nor Ecuador’s electrical grid could handle it. The equipment shuddered dangerously, and blackouts spread across the country, officials said. Ecuadoreans were never told about the failure, and a full power test has not been attempted since. Today, the dam typically runs at half capacity. Experts say that given its design — and the cycle of wet and dry seasons in Ecuador — it would be able to generate the full amount of electricity for only a few hours a day, six months out of the year. That is, if everything worked perfectly. Ecuador still has to pay back the debt, though. The \$1.7 billion loan from China’s Export-Import Bank is lucrative for China: 7 percent interest over 15 years. In interest alone, Ecuador owes \$125 million a year. Now, many Ecuadoreans say the burden falls on them. Under the constant hum of the dam’s transmission towers, residents in the town of Cuyuja worry that the towers will topple in the constant mudslides. Geologists say the tower foundations weren’t built into bedrock by the Chinese. Another complaint is the bill. Maria

Esther Tello paid \$60 last month to keep the lights on in her home, a shock given the government's promises that electricity prices would go down.

## EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE BRIBERY

At an entrance to the dam is an inscription, in marble. "Jorge Glas Espinel, vice president of the republic," it says. "For having forged and envisioned this monumental project." Mr. Glas now sits in a cell in Ecuador, sentenced to six years in prison. He was convicted of taking bribes from China's main competitor for infrastructure projects in much of Latin America: Odebrecht, a Brazilian construction giant. American prosecutors say Odebrecht paid \$33.5 million in bribes in Ecuador as part of a worldwide scheme to win business. Now Ecuadorean officials are investigating whether the Chinese also made payments to Mr. Glas and others around him. "I don't think it's a coincidence that all the same people managed all these projects," said Mr. Pérez, the energy minister. The officials include Mr. Mosquera, the former electricity minister, who is serving a five-year sentence for taking \$1 million from Odebrecht; and Carlos Pólit, the former anticorruption official, who was charged with receiving millions in bribes from the company. Ricardo Rivera, another close associate of Mr. Glas, was also convicted of receiving payments from the Brazilians. But evidence has emerged suggesting that officials took bribes from China as well. Ecuadorean law enforcement officials say they have confirmed a secret tape recorded by an Odebrecht executive, given to Brazilian prosecutors and leaked to the Brazilian news media. In the recording, made at the house of Mr. Pólit, the anticorruption official, the two men discuss a bribe. The executive can be heard saying that Mr. Glas, Ecuador's vice president, was "asking for a lot of money." The executive then explained that he was told "it was an obligation because the Chinese had already paid." The recording has set off an investigation, particularly around Mr. Rivera, who presented himself as the vice president's representative during multiple visits to China, according to Ecuadorean law enforcement officials. They say they are examining 13 bank transfers worth \$17.4 million authorized by Mr. Rivera to an HSBC account in Hong Kong. Law enforcement officials say they consider the bank transfers authentic — and want to know how Mr. Rivera deposited so much money in China. Until recently, Attorney General Paúl Pérez was leading an investigation into corruption by the Chinese, and traveled to China in November to ask for help. But Mr. Pérez abruptly resigned on Nov. 13, shortly after returning. He did not respond to interview requests. A lawyer for Mr. Glas denied that his client had been involved in corruption with Coca Codo Sinclair, calling Mr. Glas "an honorable, honest man" and describing the dam's problems as "small imperfections." Mr. Correa, the former president, is in exile in Belgium, wanted for organizing the kidnapping of a rival. Many of his lieutenants have been sentenced for corruption or are on the run as well. Mr. Pólit and a lawyer for Mr. Rivera did not respond to requests for comment; nor did Sinohydro, the Chinese state-owned construction giant that built the dam.

## 7,648 CRACKS IN THE MACHINERY

When you approach Coca Codo Sinclair along the Quijos River, it's hard to tell you're nearing a dam at all. Much of the reservoir containing the project's water supply has filled up with small trees and bushes. Boats sometimes get grounded because the sediment is so thick. Workers at the dam say the silting, a consequence of design flaws, is only the latest problem. As early as 2014, technicians noticed cracks in the Chinese-made stainless steel equipment. That December, 13 workers were killed when a tunnel flooded and collapsed. A senior engineer sent records to Mr. Correa, the president, asking to brief him on the problems, according to documents viewed by The Times. The engineer was fired days later, according to former officials. Ecuadorean law enforcement officials say they are investigating whether Mr. Pólit and other officials were paid by the Chinese to overlook the problems. It was part of Mr. Pérez's inquiry before his resignation, they say. Now, 7,648 cracks have developed in the dam's machinery, according to the government, because of substandard steel and inadequate welding by Sinohydro. Sand and silt are also big concerns because they can damage vital equipment. On a recent visit, an engineer looked on nervously as readouts showed sand flowing into the dam. But workers say they're sometimes confused because of shoddy translations. One sign in Chinese reads correctly: "Direct-Current (DC) Pumping Group." The Spanish does not: "Pressure Group from Washington, D.C."

"ADDICTED TO LOANS"

The piles of debt have led the country's new leaders to rail against China much as they did against the United States. "We are not going to pay," Mr. Pérez, the energy minister, said of the possible billion-dollar price tag to fix the dam. But escaping China's orbit will be difficult, said Risa Grais-Targow, an analyst at Eurasia Group, a consulting company. "They know they don't have too many financing sources, so they are going back to knocking on China's door," she said. China has already made some concessions to Ecuador, like paying 92 cents more per barrel of oil. The share of Ecuador's oil going to the Chinese has also dropped — to 80 percent, from 90 percent. But the government still needs \$11.7 billion to finance its debt, and it is billions short, analysts say. Beyond China, the new government is going back to the institutions Mr. Correa demonized: the World Bank and the I.M.F. "We are addicted to loans," said Mr. Santos, the former energy minister. Leopoldo Gómez, who works at a water treatment facility built under Mr. Correa, agrees. "Now we realize," he said, "there's things we didn't need — like the dam."

<http://iht.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

## SC ASKS MINISTERS FOR DADU DAM CONSTRUCTION TIME FRAME

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated December 29, 2018

LAHORE: The Supreme Court on Friday directed Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda and Minister for Planning and Development Khusro Bakhtiar to give a time frame for the construction of Nai Gaj dam in Dadu, Sindh.

Both ministers appeared before a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar and comprising Justice Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Ijazul Ahsan.

The chief justice told the ministers that an officer of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) had informed the bench during the last hearing that a revised PC-1 for the construction of the dam had been issued and its scrutiny by relevant ministries was awaited. The officer had further stated that with the approval of the ministries, the matter would be placed before the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) for a final go-ahead.

"Now you tell the court how much time is required for the construction [of the dam]," the chief justice asked the ministers.

Mr Bakhtiar came to the rostrum and told the bench that the projects of water resources were the top priority of the government. He said that Rs12 billion from the public exchequer had already been spent on Nai Gaj dam. He said there were many other water projects that could be considered on merit.

Vawda says revised PC-1 of project will be forwarded to planning ministry next week

At this, the chief justice asked the minister to submit a list of the projects in the pipeline.

About the Nai Gaj dam, Mr Bakhtiar said his ministry was yet to receive the revised PC-1 officially.

Chief Justice Nisar observed that departmental delays had marred the performance of the government. He noted that in Punjab as well many important summaries remained pending before the cabinet unless the court took notice.

Mr Bakhtiar said that being the minister for planning and development, he also headed the Central Development Working Party (CDWP). However, he said the competence of the CDWP to approve a project was not more than Rs3bn and that Ecneec would give approval for the dam. Since Finance Minister Asad Umar was not available to attend the proceedings, Mr Bakhtiar said he would convey the court's order to the minister.

Mr Vawda informed the court that he had received the revised PC-1 of the Nai Gaj dam and would forward it to the planning and development ministry by next week after examination.

Chief Justice Nisar reminded the ministers that they had an advantage as not only the government but the court was supporting them on the water issue.

The bench adjourned the hearing till Jan 4 and directed the ministers to submit a progress report on the issue.

Talking to reporters outside the SC Lahore registry, Mr Vawda alleged that MQM-London chief Altaf Hussain was involved in the murder of former MPA Syed Ali Raza Abidi in Karachi. He said the government would bring the killers to justice at any cost.

He said the cases against Asif Ali Zardari were made during the government of Nawaz Sharif and claimed that Mr Zardari had used the word “Ladla” (blue-eyed) for Mr Sharif and his remarks were not directed at the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf.

Mr Vawda said he never thought that Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari would become a spokesman for the Omni Group. He said the law was equal for everyone. “If Bilawal is innocent, he will get cleared of charges,” added the minister.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1454186/sc-asks-ministers-for-dadu-dam-construction-time-frame>

#### KWSB CHIEF SUMMONED TODAY FOR NOT INSTALLING WATER METERS

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter December 29, 2018

KARACHI: The Supreme Court-mandated judicial commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Friday expressed its resentment towards the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board for not installing flow meters on water pipelines and summoned its chief to appear before it on Saturday.

The one-man commission, headed by retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, has repeatedly been issuing directives to the water and sewerage utility to install flow meters to ensure a fair distribution of water to consumers in the provincial capital.

Justice Muslim observed that repeated story of procurement was being placed before the commission, adding that the issue, which needed to be addressed, was not being answered in the explanation.

The commission said that the Supreme Court had also ordered the KWSB in the past that the water supply be metered, which was not confined to bulk water supply but also included the supply system down to the consumer level.

However, it deplored that the order was defied for one or the other reason and even the installed meters were non-operational and there was no vigilance of the KWSB as it was least interested in ensuring water to be gauged by meters.

On the contrary, they [KWSB officials] were more interested in providing water on manual basis in order to avoid efficient vigilance and record, it added.

Under these circumstances, the commission said that the managing director of the KWSB should personally appear on Saturday (today) since the explanations of his subordinates regarding instalment of flow meters were meaningless and did not serve the purpose.

## Inspection of industries

The commission directed its focal person Syed Asif Hyder Shah to interact with the director general of the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) to resolve the issues regarding inspection of industries located in the city.

In the first phase, both officials will hold meetings with different associations of industries in Karachi and thereafter, Sepa will carry out inspections/surprise visits in order to ensure that the law was not violated, it added.

Meanwhile, the commission also asked the Sepa officials, who had previously been refused accesses to certain industries located in SITE-II, Phase-I, Malir, Superhighway, to again visit the same. If they were again denied the accesses, then FIRs be registered against them, it said, and directed the police to register cases for obstruction in the discharge of duty.

The commission asked Sepa to take the association concerned into confidence before registering cases.

## SHC notices police officers

The Sindh High Court on Friday issued notices to the deputy inspector general of police (east), SP east and SHO of Korangi police station in a case pertaining to a missing boy, PPI adds.

While hearing the petition, the court directed the police officials to recover the missing boy within the next two days.

Qaim Ali Memon, the petitioner's counsel, submitted in court that Hawaldar Shaukat had picked up the 12-year-old boy, Jahanzaib, during patrolling 10 days ago but there had been no clue to the boy's whereabouts so far. Meanwhile, a division bench of the high court through an order allowed holding of the election for the Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Association as per the schedule on Saturday (today).

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1454295/kwsb-chief-summoned-today-for-not-installing-water-meters>

## PM IMRAN TO INAUGURATE MOHMAND DAM PROJECT

By Mureeb Mohmand

Published: December 30, 2018

PESHAWAR: All preparations have been finalised for the ground breaking ceremony of Mohmand Dam in the first week of January by the PM Imran Khan.

MNA advocate Malak Anwar Taj said it was most likely that PM Imran will be accompanied by Chief Justice Saqib Nisar and Chief of Army Staff Genral Qamar Javed Bajwa at the ground-breaking ceremony of the dam.

Tribal district administration Mohmand are busy in giving final touches to the grand event for the mega project.

District administration officials were holding meetings with elders of Burhan Khel, Uthman Khel and Essa Khel tribesmen to finalise the documents about land acquisition.

Unlike other part of the country, there is no state land in tribal areas, neither are individuals authorised to deal with matters of land. Land belongs to tribes. Each tribe has its demarcated area and there is no land revenue department record for individual land holdings.

The government will have to deal with whole tribes instead of individuals as it does in settled districts in acquiring land. However, these tribal areas have been merged with K-P and all law have been extended to erstwhile Fata after 25th Constitutional Amendment.

Nevertheless, as of now the Peshawar High Court has suspended the Interim Government Regulation and the judgement was challenged by K-P government in Supreme Court.

Therefore, technically, there is no law to dictate the land transfer process in this part of Pakistan.

Besides land transfer, the government will also have to resolve the issue of compensation to the local community.

MNA Taj maintains that the Mohmand tribesmen have welcomed the construction of the dam and term it a fate changer of the area.

However, the tribesmen want compensation for their land which will go under the project.

The Mohmand tribesmen, in their Jirgas held with government officials, have demanded at least 20 per cent share in dam royalty for their tribal district.

Moreover, they have demanded 100 megawatt free or subsidised electricity for the entire tribal district of Mohmand, water channel to Pandyalali and Safi Tehsils and pure drinking water facility for the parched tribal district.

Burhan Khel Essa Khel and Utman Khel tribesmen also have demanded reasonable price of land. Besides, they have demanded that employees in the project, up to BPS 15 grade will be local people and only local labour for construction and also to grant small scale contract to local contractors.

Mohmand Dam is seen as one of the main water reservoir projects of the government.

According to available information, Mohmand Dam is a proposed multi-purpose concrete-faced rock-filled dam located on the Swat River approximately 37km north of Peshawar and 5km upstream of Munda Headworks in Mohmand tribal district.

Once completed, the dam will generate 740 MW of hydroelectricity, irrigate 15,100 acres of land and control floods downstream.

It is expected to provide numerous estimated annual benefits including Rs4.98 billion in annual water storage benefits, Rs19.6 billion in power generation benefits by generating 2.4 billion units of electricity annually and Rs79 million in annual flood mitigation benefits.

The project was time again started then shelved by number of past governments.

However, Chief Justice Saqib Nisar started a fund raising drive to complete the project so as to end the shortage of water and power in the country.

Besides irrigating thousands of acres land in Mohmand and Charsadda, it will save the downstream area of Charsadda and Nowshehra from floods.



These cities had suffered colossal damage in the 2010 torrential flood. The Supreme Court acting on flood commission report had ordered early construction of Mohmand Dam, which may be completed by 2023.

Published in The Express Tribune, December 30th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1877416/2-pm-imran-inaugurate-mohmand-dam-project/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 17TH TO DECEMBER 3RD 2018

WATER SHORTAGE IN BALOCHISTAN TO END SOON: CM

Saleem Shahid Updated December 17, 2018

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani said on Sunday that the water crisis in the province would be resolved in the coming weeks as his government had decided to hold direct talks with the Sindh government over Balochistan's share in River Indus and releasing its water in Balochistan's canals.

He articulated these thoughts at a gathering of prominent tribal elders of Nasirabad division.

Regarding power and gas shortage faced by the residents of Nasirabad Division, the chief minister said his government was aware of these problems and was taking steps to resolve these important issues with the federal government.

CM Alyani said that the incumbent government has set a direction to address public issues, adding that they are not making tall claims but the issues of people of Nasirabad Division would be addressed on a priority basis. "The provincial government has formed a committee headed by elected MPAs for land allotment in Nasirabad and work is underway to impart land ownership to the residents."

He told the gathering that he and his ministers were making all out efforts to provide maximum relief to the people. He said, "I, myself, have visited almost all the districts during the last four months to review the situation on the ground." He said: "My cabinet is fully aware of problems of the people and government and is taking up all important issues of Balochistan at all the right forums to get relief for the deprived people of the province."

Published in Dawn, December 17th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1451933/water-shortage-in-balochistan-to-end-soon-cm>

BALOCHISTAN TO HOLD WATER TALKS WITH SINDH: KAMAL

By Mohammad Zafar

Published: December 17, 2018

QUETTA : Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan has said previous government received \$35 billion in the form of foreign assistance and investment but people of Balochistan still remained deprived of water, infrastructure and development.

"The financial crisis we are witnessing today basically emerged due to flawed policies of our predecessors. They had more power and resources than we have at present," Kamal said while addressing a gathering of tribal elders in Dera Murad Jamali on Sunday.

The minister said being sons of this soil, the provincial cabinet members have been making earnest efforts to provide relief to the people of Balochistan. The CM highlighted that during the first four months of the provincial government he personally visited all districts to review the ground situation.

Kamal said: “Today the cabinet members are fully aware of people’s woes and have been raising those issues at all forums. At the provincial level measures are being taken to provide immediate relief to the downtrodden people”.

Home Minister Mir Saleem Khosa, Adviser to CM for Education Muhammad Khan Lehri, provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, MNA Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi, MPA Umar Khan Jamali, MPA Mir Sikandar Khan Umrani and government officials were present.

The CM said the incumbent government has set a direction to address public issues. Moreover, he assured that public issues in Naseerabad division would be addressed on priority basis.

“We have formed a committee headed by elected MPAs for land allotment in Naseerabad while preparations were underway to give land ownership to the residents of the division,” said Kamal.

On water dispute with Sindh, Kamal said the government of Balochistan has vowed to hold direct talks with Sindh government. He expressed confidence that the dispute with Sindh would be resolved in coming weeks.

“We know Naseerabad has been facing electricity and gas crisis and the provincial government would take up the issue with Centre,” the CM, said adding that steps were being taken to provide direct relief to the masses. This, he said, would increase public trust on Balochistan Awami Party-led government.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Kamal said the provincial government is serious in delegating power at the grass-root level level. It would resolve public issues in their native districts, he added.

“In four months, the provincial government has achieved major goals, we have imposed emergency in health and educational sectors while 20,000 fresh appointments would be made in government departments in the near future,” the CM.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1868289/1-balochistan-hold-water-talks-sindh-kamal/>

## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SOUGHT FOR SURFACE WATER PLANT AT BRB

Amin Ahmed December 18, 2018

ISLAMABAD: In order to meet the water supply demand of the growing population of Lahore, the Punjab government is seeking foreign assistance to set up a surface water treatment plant at the Bambawali-Ravi-Bedian (BRB) canal.

According to Syed Zahid Aziz, Managing Director of Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa), Lahore, negotiations with multiple donors were at an advance stage. The Supreme Court has set a deadline for the preparation and approval of PC-1 of the project by mid-2019, while the work will start towards the end of the year and to be completed in 30 months.

Revealing the plan, Mr Aziz said that the project, which will be completed in phases, will involve one surface water treatment plant and six other water treatment plants, and it will reduce dependence on underground water. Investments during the first phase of the project will be coming from the government and multiple donors, he said.

The project will be completed at a cost of Rs18 billion in view of the distance from BRB canal which is 14kms from the city. It has been planned that the plant will be constructed on BRB crossing point of Ravi. Wasa is currently negotiating with the irrigation department to get the nearest point to source water. If water is made available from the nearest source, the laying of 14kms of pipe will not be required and the project cost will be reduced by Rs3 billion.

Initially, 100 cusecs of water which is equal to the water from 50 tube wells will be coming from the surface source. Wasa has requested the irrigation department to allow use of 1000 cusecs of water in the long-term. The remaining 900 cusecs of water will be available once the BRB canal is remodeled. WASA has a long-term plan to get water from surface source by 2035, he said.

So far, Japan has emerged as the largest donor by providing grant-in-aid assistance worth Rs5 billion over a period of 14 years to Wasa for improving water supply and sanitation condition in Lahore city.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1452041/foreign-assistance-sought-for-surface-water-plant-at-brb>

## MOHMAND TRIBESMEN WANT SAME FACILITIES OFFERED TO DIAMER-BHASHA DAM AFFECTEES

By Mureeb Mohmand

Published: December 18, 2018

PESHAWAR: As the government tries to overcome hurdles in the construction of the Mohmand Dam, residents of the tribal district who stand to be affected by the construction of the water reservoir on Monday said that they want the same terms offered to residents of Kohistan where the Diamer-Bhasha Dam is being built.

This was stated on Monday by tribal elders from the Burhankhel, the Essakhel and the Uthmankhel tribes of Mohmand at a grand tribal jirga in Ekka Ghund, a sub-division of lower Mohmand.

Apart from tribal elders and district administration officials, lawmakers from Mohmand were also present in the jirga.

Tribal elders Malak Ismail Sher, Malak Deen Arab, Malak Aslam, Gul Hakeem Jehangir and others who addressed the jirga, welcomed the construction of the dam.

However, they demanded that before work on the dam starts, expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan next year, the government should fix the rate for acquiring land for the dam.

They added that the rate should be equivalent to that government paid to residents of Kohistan who gave their ancestral lands for the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam there.

The tribesmen also demanded that once the dam has been built, the government provide them with 100 megawatts of power for free apart from setting up an industrial estate in the tribal district, up-stream irrigation channels, a drinking water scheme and hiring locals as non-technical employees and awarding locals small contracts relating to the dam project.

Later MNA Malak Anwar Taj told the media that he will convey concerns of the local community regarding the dam project to the water and power minister to settle the dispute.

Chitan calls jirga

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Vice President and member of CEC Akhuzada Chitan has summoned a jirga later this week for all political parties, intellectuals and journalists from the tribal areas on safeguarding the rights of tribal districts.

He announced the jirga in a news conference in the Khar area of the Bajaur Tribal District on Monday.

Chitan has said that during the process of merging the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), he had expressed his concerns about the rights of tribes people.

He added that they had demanded the extension of the judiciary to Fata, providing Rs100 billion in annual funds and holding local government and provincial assembly elections in the tribal districts.

However, over six months after the merger, no initiative has been taken which awards those rights.

He criticised visits of the KP mines and mineral minister to mines in the tribal districts, accusing him of controlling mines in the tribal districts for PTI leader Jehangir Tareen through KP Senior Minister Atif Khan.

Published in The Express Tribune, December 18th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1869126/1-mohmand-tribesmen-want-facilities-offered-diamer-bhasha-dam-affectees/>

## PARLIAMENTARY BODY ON WATER RESOURCES IRKED OVER ABSENCE OF MINISTER

By Our Correspondent

Published: December 18, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources expressed serious displeasure on Monday over the absence of the minister for water resources and noted that the issue of water, which was a top priority, was being neglected by the government as it displayed non-serious attitude towards the committee gathered to discuss the matter.

“They are crying on TVs over the water issue but cannot spare even five minutes to attend the meeting of the standing committee,” regretted Committee Chairman Senator Shamim Afridi.

The committee expressed annoyance over the absence of the minister, Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairman and other senior officers. The meeting was adjourned without any proceedings due to unavailability of senior officials of the ministry and Wapda.

Afridi continued that the minister could speak on televisions but avoids talking where his comments are actually needed. Other senators in the meeting also expressed their disapproval over the situation.

The members resolved to pen a letter to the prime minister and Senate chairman over the matter. The committee fixed December 20 as the date for the next meeting.

Published in The Express Tribune, December 18th, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1869049/2-parliamentary-body-water-resources-irked-absence-minister/>

## ISLAMABAD’S GROUNDWATER HAS LOWERED BY FIVE TIMES OVER LAST FIVE YEARS: MINISTER Kashif Abbasi December 20, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Groundwater in the federal capital has lowered by five times over the last five years, Minister of State for Interior Shehryar Afridi said in response to a question by Muttahida Qaumi Movement Senator Ateeq Sheikh on Wednesday.

In a written reply, the state minister told Senate a 6ft decrease in ground water was observed in 2013, a 10ft decrease in 2014 and a 16ft, 23ft and 30ft decrease up to 2017.

He said ground water is lowering in Islamabad due to extensive pumping by departments and residents to meet water requirements and due to below normal rainfall.

Mr Afridi said no concrete measures were taken in the past to facilitate the recharging of the aquifer and stressed on the need for constructing small reservoirs and ponds in the existing natural streams and installing recharging wells to maintain the ground water level.

Water level is decreasing due to extensive pumping, below normal rainfall, Shehryar Afridi tells Senate

Capital Development Authority (CDA) officials told Dawn there are several reasons for the drop in groundwater level. They said the capital city has the highest population growth rate and the city has also been witnessing a mushroom growth of buildings.

The population of Islamabad was recorded at 800,000 in the 1998 census and 2 million in the latest census. However, the water sources are the same as they were in the 90s.

The water supply directorate of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) is unable to meet water requirements of the city and residents have to turn to using ground water instead.

Water Directorate Director Nasir Jamil Butt said MCI is supplying 60 million gallons daily (MGD) of water when the requirements is 110MGD for the urban population. Sources said most of the rural population depend on water bores.

There are about 50 legal and 110 illegal housing societies, most of which pump ground water to meet their demand but the civic agency is yet to take action against them.

Many urban areas where water supply is short, including I-9, I-10, G-7 and G-8, have to rely on water bores as well.

CDA also did not construct any dams for storing rain water and the city is supplied water from Simly Dam, Khanpur Dam and tubewells.

“I do agree that the groundwater level is lowering at an alarming pace,” said MCI Chief Metropolitan Officer Syed Najaf Iqbal.

He said MCI has proposed several steps to control the situation.

“We are in talks with the finance ministry for a special package of Rs2 billion for improving Islamabad’s water supply,” he said, and that if the project is approved, water recharging wells will be created in order to raise the water level.

MCI is planning on constructing some 40 small dams and reservoirs in various areas of the capital city, he said.

In July this year, MCI also decided to build at least five reservoirs according to the recommendations made in a high level consultative meeting.

According to the minutes of the meeting, held on June 27, 2018, the chief justice urged MCI and the Islamabad Capital Territory administration to construct small dams to cope with the shortage of water in the capital.

The MCI was to build water reservoirs, including in the Margalla Hills, but no progress has been made on this yet.

The project for the conduction of water from the Tarbela Dam, which is seen as a long-term solution to the water shortage, is also facing delays for the last decade and is only discussed in meetings.

According to the unapproved PC-1, the project will cost Rs77 billion and will provide 100MGD each for Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Published in Dawn, December 20th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1452462/islamabads-groundwater-has-lowered-by-five-times-over-last-five-years-minister>

‘PAKISTAN RUNNING OUT OF FRESH WATER, SAYS PROFESSOR IQBAL  
RECORDER REPORT | DEC 20TH, 2018 | KARACHI

“Pakistan is running out of fresh water, and approaching towards drastic famine as irrigation lands are being reduced due to shortage of fresh water, urbanisation, salinity and deforestation. Malnutrition has caused reduction in average height of Pakistanis. This demands urgent adaptation of modern agriculture technologies. The per capita water availability in Pakistan at present is around 865 cubic meters which is likely to go down to 850 cubic meters in 2025.

Global food insecurity is the leading threat in the developing world. Strong political commitment to eliminate hunger is essential. Globally biotech crops have contributed to food security, sustainability and climate change by increasing crop productivity and helping alleviate poverty through uplifting the livelihood of farmers and agriculture related workforce.”

Prof Dr M Iqbal Choudhary, Director International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi (UoK), and Pakistan Biotechnology Information Centre (PABIC), expressed these views while speaking at a press conference held at the Latif Ebrahim Jamal (LEJ) National Science Information Centre, University of Karachi (UoK) on Wednesday. On the occasion, Dr Sammar was also present.

The objective of the press conference, organised by PABIC, was to raise awareness about the tremendous potential of biotechnology commercialisation for the sustainable development of Pakistan’s economy. On the occasion, Prof Iqbal Choudhary also launched ISAAA Brief 53.

Prof Iqbal Choudhary said that there were 155 million stunted (unable to grow) children globally and Pakistan accounts for one out of every 15 such children.

A recent report by the United Nations unearthed a shocking statistic which highlights the extent to which Pakistan as a society ignores its children, he lamented, adding that the state claims that one in every 22 newborn dies in Pakistan, which makes Pakistan the worst country on the entire planet in neonatal mortality. Talking about water scarcity, he said per capita water availability in Pakistan at present was around 865 cubic meters which was likely to go down to 850 cubic meters in 2025.

He mentioned that global food insecurity was a leading problem in the developing world. According to the Global Report on Food Crises in 2017, around 108 million people in 48 food crisis-affected countries are still at risk or in severe acute food insecurity in 2016.

About 60 percent of the hungry people are located in 19 countries facing conflict and climate change crisis situations, he said, adding that high risks of famine were recorded in Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen, where 20 million people were severely experiencing hunger.

He pointed out that strong political commitment to eliminate hunger was essential, but it was not enough. Hunger will only be defeated if countries translate their pledges into action, especially at national and local levels, he said, adding

that peace is of course the key to ending these crises, but we cannot wait for peace to take action. It is extremely important to ensure that these people have the conditions to continue producing their own food, he observed.

Food experts for a long time believed that food production must increase by 70 percent to feed the world's growing population, he said.

This is really a good sign that Pakistan increased its IR cotton area by 3.4 per cent or 100,000 hectares from 2.9 million hectares to 3 million hectares, he said, adding that this is expected to increase cotton production by 14.04 million bales.

Prof Iqbal Choudhary, giving a reference from ISAAA Brief 53, said that for the last eight years, an estimated 725,000 smallholder Pakistani farmers had been benefiting from the economic gains in using biotech cotton. It is provisionally estimated that the economic gains from biotech crops for Pakistan for the period 2010 to 2016 was US\$4.8 billion and US\$483 million for 2016 alone, he maintained.

Globally biotech crops contribution to the world economy can not be ignored at all, he observed, adding that a total of US\$186.1 billion economic benefits were gained by countries planting biotech crops from 1996 to 2016. The highest gain was obtained by USA (US\$ 80.3 billion), Argentina (US\$23.7 billion), India (US\$21.1 billion), Brazil (US\$19.8 billion), China (US\$19.6 billion), Canada (US\$8 billion), and others (US\$13.6 billion), he mentioned.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/12/20181220432757/>

### 39 RO PLANTS WORTH RS780M IN MANCHHAR LAKE AREA NOT FUNCTIONING: PTI LEADER

By Our Correspondent | 12/22/2018 12:00:00 AM

DADU: Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Shaikh has said that all the 39 reverse osmosis plants, which had been installed in settlements around Manchar Lake at a huge cost of Rs780 million, have stopped functioning thanks to incompetence and irresponsible attitude of Sindh government.

Mr Shaikh, who is also general secretary of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Sindh chapter, told journalists during a visit to the lake on Friday that one RO plant cost around Rs20m and 39 such plants were installed in different areas near the lake. Not only the plants had stopped working but the employees responsible for operating them had not been paid salaries for the past eight months, he said.

He said that fishermen and their families were once again forced to consume highly polluted lake water for drinking, which had caused numerous diseases among them. Waterborne diseases, weakness of eyesight and skin diseases were common among fishermen and their children faced malnutrition.

Mr Shaikh said that there were no schools in the area and the lake and its boathouse culture had been destroyed as around 40,000 families had migrated from the lake area to other places in search of livelihood but regrettably, it did not bother PPP rulers in the least.

He said the situation in the areas around the lake was alarming as the fishermen were living without basic facilities and their only source of income was on the wane.

Sindh government's half-hearted measures to rehabilitate the lake, believed to be the largest freshwater body in Asia, had failed to bear any fruit, hence migration of fisherfolk families continued unabated, he said.

He said the federal government would take steps for the rehabilitation of the lake whose water had turned highly brackish.



The lake would be developed into a tourist resort, financially viable projects would be launched to create alternative jobs for fishermen and pollution in lake water would be brought down to minimum level with the help of experts.

He said that PPP MPAs and MNAs showed little concern for the fate of fisher-men and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, whose native village Wahur was situated close to the lake, had not visited the area even once since general election.

He said the chief minister had `disappeared` after receiving votes from people. The estimated cost of RBOD-II project was increasing by each financial year but the project remained incomplete due to wrong policies of Sindh government`s bureaucrats.

He said that PPP leaders had not carried out development schemes in Larkana and the chief minister had not paid any attention to his constituency. PPP leaders were adept at only committing corruption; they were least concerned about people`s problems.

[https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=22\\_12\\_2018\\_117\\_005](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=22_12_2018_117_005)

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 10TH TO DECEMBER 16TH 2018

RS1 BILLION DONATED BY OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS FOR DAMS SINCE JULY

APP Updated December 10, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Pakistanis have so far contributed around Rs1 billion while local individuals as well as institutions have donated Rs7.47bn to the Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams fund, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Within a span of five months, a total of Rs8.46bn was deposited in The Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dams Fund, the SBP data showed.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar took the initiative of collecting donations by launching the fund on July 6 that was later joined by Prime Minister Imran Khan, making it a joint venture to overcome the country`s water scarcity.

Till December 6, according to the SBP, the overseas Pakistanis shared 10.6pc of the total contribution for the construction of the dams.

Locals contribute Rs7.47bn in PM-CJP joint initiative

Earlier, the prime minister in his televised address to the nation had appealed to the estimated nine million overseas Pakistanis, particularly those living in European countries and the United States, to contribute at least \$1,000 per head to the noble cause, and warned that Pakistan could face famine-like conditions by 2025 if new water reservoirs were not built.

The CJP recently visited the UK for fundraiser to avert the looming threat of drought in Pakistan in coming years.

Around \$14bn (nearly Rs2 trillion as per exchange rate in December) is required for the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam.

Within Pakistan, the contributions were made through cheques, cash and mobile phone message service. An amount of Rs125m was received through SMS services of the four cellular phone service companies operating in the country.

Many overseas Pakistanis sent their donations through debit and credit cards, while many others deposited money in the SBP Nostro account and commercial banks overseas.

Most of the foreign donations, around Rs362m, came from the Pakistanis living in the US, followed by around Rs214m from those living in the UK, while those in Canada donated Rs107m.

Other major donations by the overseas Pakistanis came from the United Arab Emirates (Rs65m), Saudi Arabia and Qatar (around Rs40m each), Switzerland (Rs32m) and others.

Generous contributions were also made by the overseas Pakistanis living in Norway, Turkey, Japan, China, Sweden, Russia, Brazil, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, Brunei, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Ireland, South Korea, Thailand, Oman, Jordan, the Maldives, Nigeria, Peru, Tunisia and the Philippines.

When contacted, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis Syed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari hailed the contribution from Pakistanis working abroad for the noble cause and said they always came forward to support the country in difficult times.

He announced constitution of an overseas Pakistanis associates committee, which would be mandated to raise fund till the completion of dams. He said the confidence of overseas Pakistanis was boosted after PM Khan assured them of maximum facilitation.

Mr Bukhari pledged to bring in more money from upcoming fundraisers he was scheduled to attend abroad.

Published in Dawn, December 10th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1450493/rs1-billion-donated-by-overseas-pakistanis-for-dams-since-july>

## WATER SCARCITY HITS MAJOR CROPS IN BALOCHISTAN

Amin Ahmed Updated December 11, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Farmers in Balochistan are not able to grow any major crops like wheat due to scarcity of water and inputs, and the comparative edge of climate in the province is being exploited by fruits and vegetable growers, according to 'Soil Fertility Atlas' jointly released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the US Department of Agriculture, on Monday.

Almost 81 per cent of farmers complained that water scarcity is the major constraint hampering agricultural activities throughout the province, while unavailability of good quality seed was reported by 65pc of farmers whereas access to agricultural loans was limited to 61pc farmers. The water scarcity varies in the seven districts of crop production zones.

Wheat is the most common crop in all the crop zones, but the proportion does not fulfill the domestic requirements of the growers and is sparingly sold in the market.

Apple, apricot, grape and dates are grown in specific zones due to suitable climate for quality fruit production, whereas onion, tomato, chillies and cauliflower are grown for markets of Balochistan and other parts of the country during off-season.

Being the principal cash earning commodities, fruits and vegetables are grown with mostly balanced supply of fertilisers combined with organic manures.

Sizeable numbers of farmers tend to apply fertilisers whereas the micro-nutrient application is not common in fruit orchards or even not practiced.

Traditionally, the vegetable growers in the province prefer organic sources because of its availability and low or no cost, according to the soil atlas.

Fertiliser offtake data for ten years (2008-17) in seven crop producing zones of Balochistan showed maximum annual urea offtake in five zones during eight years (2008-15) by two other crop zones.

Though DAP offtake in different crop producing zones during 2007-17 indicated maximum DAP offtake, consistent decrease in DAP offtake was recorded in the following years.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, USAID Deputy Mission Director, Clay Epperson, stated that the success of Pakistan's agricultural sector will depend on the health and quality of the country's soils. "Just as the soil gives to us, we must give to the soil," he remarked.

FAO Representative in Pakistan, Mina Dowlatchahi, stated that the atlas is an important addition to the series of 'Soil Fertility Atlases' which will be instrumental in addressing the lack of data in managing soil fertility in Pakistan. Soil maps based on agro-ecological zones have been made part of the Balochistan atlas.

There is a need for raising awareness and increasing knowledge of farmers in addition to engaging with public and private sector to ensure sustainable agriculture development in Pakistan," she said.

The launching of atlas marked the conclusion of the Soil Fertility Management for Sustainable Intensification Project, with soil atlases published in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan provinces and a publication date of Dec 21 for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chief of National Fertiliser Development Centre of the Planning Commission, Abdul Jalil Marwat, also spoke on the occasion, and stated that declining land productivity with reduced crop yields has been one of the major problems being faced by our farmers.

Published in Dawn, December 11th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1450775/water-scarcity-hits-major-crops-in-balochistan>

'COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING' KEY TO RESOLVING WATER ISSUE: PM

By Our Correspondent

Published: December 12, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said the water issue in Balochistan is serious.

"This problem has become more severe with the increasing population and dropping groundwater level. To resolve the issue, there is need for a joint comprehensive plan," said the prime minister while addressing a 58-member student delegation of Cadet College Mastung at the Prime Minister Office on Tuesday.

Federal Minister for Defence Production Zobaida Jalal was also present.

Prime Minister Imran announced provision of funds to Balochistan to help in the field of education.

“There are three types of education standards in the country, which have given birth to problems,” said Imran. “There is no room for separate education standards for different strata in any society. We are trying our best to implement quality standard of education all over the country.”

The PM said that due to various reasons Balochistan was left behind other provinces of the country.

Imran vowed to develop Balochistan and provide education opportunities to the students of the province.

“In the new local government system, funds will be transferred to the lower level. Providing funds at the village level will help end backwardness in the areas of Balochistan,” he said.

He announced introducing a new system in the field of sports, saying the youth will be provided an opportunity to display their talent.

The students interacted with the prime minister on various topics.

Separately, the Cadet College students visited the Parliament House.

The Senate staff warmly welcomed the delegation on arrival.

Cadets also visited Unsung Heroes of Democracy Enclave, Gali-e-Dastoor, Senate Museum and Senate Hall.

The cadets took keen interest in the historical displays and statues of prominent politicians of the country at the Senate Museum.

The staff also briefed the cadets about the importance of parliamentary system in nation building and the role of the upper house in promoting national cohesion and harmony among federating units.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1864764/1-comprehensive-planning-key-resolving-water-issue-pm/>

## SC FORMS COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO WATER SHORTAGE IN BHAGNARI

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter December 15, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday constituted a two-member commission to look into the problem of drinking water shortage in the Bhagnari area of Balochistan's Bolan district and sought a report in a fortnight.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar had taken suo motu notice a few days ago over a video on social media showing people and animals were drinking contaminated water from the same pond.

According to the video, which was also run by some TV channels, the stagnant water in the pond outside Bhagnari was contaminated, polluted and unhygienic.

The Supreme Court directed the Balochistan government to install a water treatment plant in the area in a month.

Suo motu follows a video showing men and animals drinking water from same pond

When the CJP asked the deputy commissioner of Bolan district about the time frame for installation of a drinking water plant in Bhagnari, he said it could take a couple of months.

The CJP expressed displeasure over the deputy commissioner's reply and wondered why everyone sought two months' time to execute the court orders. He directed the district administration to install a reverse osmosis plant in the area in a month.

The two-member commission would be headed by Supreme Court Bar Association president Amanullah Kanrani.

CJP Nisar expressed displeasure over the provincial chief secretary's absence when he was summoned by the court.

Taking notice of the matter on Dec 8, the CJP directed the advocate general, chief secretary, health secretary, secretary of the Public Health Engineering Department, deputy commissioner of Bolan district and representatives of the Balochistan government to appear before the apex court on Dec 14.

During the hearing, CJP Nisar regretted that despite the release of a huge amount for various projects, nothing had been spent on water-related schemes.

Published in Dawn, December 15th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1451549/sc-forms-commission-to-look-into-water-shortage-in-bhagnari>

## SC FORMS TWO-MAN WATER COMMISSION

By Hasnaat Malik

Published: December 14, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday constituted a two-member commission to probe non-availability of clean drinking water in Bolan district.

A three-member bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar, conducted the hearing in the suo motu case and sought a report from the commission in two weeks.

The court appointed Supreme Court Bar Association President Amanullah Kanrani as the head of the commission. Engr Osman Babai is the other member. Further, irrigation and other departments would provide full support to the commission, the court ruled.

The bench also directed the authorities concerned to install water purification plant within a month in Bhagnari Bolan.

The apex court had taken suo motu after a video on social media showed that residents of Bolan's Bhagnari area did not have access to clean potable water.

He remarked that the Balochistan government should see the video of a runway on which donkeys and people are drawing water from the same place. The matter is serious, people have been drinking poison instead of water, he added.

The video of a dirty water pool in Bolan's Bhagnari area was played in SC's Courtroom No 1.

Addressing the Additional Advocate General Balochistan, the CJP remarked that the provincial government should see what kind of water is available to people.

Who are your masters? Why did not the chief secretary come? If Balochistan chief minister had visited there then he could see the actual condition of the province, he said.

Moreover, Member National Assembly Shah Zain Bugti thanked the chief justice for taking notice of the matter.

Meanwhile addressing Bolan deputy commissioner, the CJP said that you have been supplying poisonous water to people.

He stressed that the government put 1,200 million rupees in non-developmental activities. They should have installed one water purification plant in the area.

Justice Nisar said that drinking water was not just the problem of people living there but the entire Balochistan. The chief minister and cabinet can be summoned in the case if the need arose, he added.

The chief justice ordered the formation of an authority in Thar after MNA Ramesh Kumar – a provincial minister from Sindh – informed the SC regarding lack of action by authorities in the drought-stricken region.

[WITH INPUT FROM APP]

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1866676/1-sc-forms-commission-probe-non-availability-potable-water-balochistans-bolan/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 3RD TO DECEMBER 9TH 2018

BOTTLED WATER FIRMS ORDERED TO PAY PRICE OF GROUNDWATER

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter December 04, 2018

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar has directed bottled water companies to pay the price of groundwater and improve the quality of their products within a week, warning their owners that the firms will otherwise be shut down.

The Supreme Court was informed on Monday that the bottled water companies in the country were extracting seven billion litres of groundwater per month to sell it as mineral water for public consumption.

“If Re1 per litre is charged, the amount for extracting seven billion litres of water becomes Rs7 billion every month,” says a report submitted by a Supreme Court-formed committee to a three-judge SC bench headed by the chief justice.

The committee comprised Prof Dr Mohammad Ahsan Siddiqui, an environmental scientist, and Director General of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Farzana Altaf Shah.

The apex court was hearing a suo motu case regarding the sale of bottled water and extraction of groundwater by bottled water companies.

Improve quality of products or face shutdown, CJP tells owners of companies

The court asked owners of the companies to pay the price for groundwater they extracted for their products.

The court was informed that the level of groundwater in Karachi had gone to 1,300 feet whereas canals and different water courses had dried up in Punjab. It was also told that sewage water was being used for cultivation of vegetables in different parts of the country.

According to the report, majority of beverage companies in the country discharge their waste water with total dissolved solids (TDS) less than 1,200 PPM. Therefore, it said, this water should be used for agricultural purposes rather than its direct discharge into sewerage lines.

The committee, which visited 44 water and beverages plants of different national and multinational companies in all the four provinces, observed in its report that in the history of Pakistan water had been a luxury for the end user. But with the passage of time, it has become a challenge to meet the ever-increasing water demand of the population. Meeting the future demand of water in the country would be a challenge, it added.

The report said that during inspections, the committee found that many bottled water and beverage plants had not installed flow meters on their extraction units. Therefore, it said, it was strongly recommended that such companies must install flow meters on every extraction unit in their plants.

Moreover, the report said, Reverse Osmosis (RO) operators at different beverage plants were not up to the required standards, adding that there was a need to inculcate extensive capability development training among them.

During the inspections, the report said, it was found that two beverage companies — Pepsi Sukkur and Pepsi Hyderabad — were using river and canal water for their products.

It was also observed that the concentration of minerals mentioned on the labels of water bottles was not accurate, the committee said, adding that special measures should be taken by all companies to minimise the plastic waste generated by them through awareness campaigns on print and electronic media.

#### Environmental management plan

It was also observed that some of the water bottling and beverages plants did not have relevant environmental approval. The report recommended that all plants should obtain approval in context to their environmental management plan from relevant environmental protection agencies.

The report stated that certain companies were using carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in their products which they purchased from vendors without proper analysis of carbon monoxide. According to the report, these companies should conduct in-house tests for carbon monoxide concentration. The companies should rather install CO<sub>2</sub> recovery plants through which they will utilise CO<sub>2</sub> from their own boilers to reduce its impact on environment in the form of smog.

The committee observed that no other water bottling and beverages plants other than Nestle Sheikhpura, Coca-Cola Lahore, Gujranwala, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan and Karachi, Murree Brewery Rawalpindi, Pepsi Sukkur, Hyderabad, and Nestle Kabirwala had installed waste water treatment plants (WWTP). The report said all water bottling and beverages plants should install WWTP and septic tanks under intimation to the Supreme Court through undertakings.

The report stated that all companies should be directed to ensure execution of tree plantation under respective approvals that they have obtained under their corporate social responsibilities. The companies should additionally plant 25,000 trees per annum, the report suggested.

The report also suggested that the companies should install salt recovery plants and WWTP as soon as possible, adding that all companies should submit a compliance report of the observations made during the inspection visits of their respective bottling facilities with action plan and time frame within 30 days.

Published in Dawn, December 4th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1449318/bottled-water-firms-ordered-to-pay-price-of-groundwater>

#### TARBELA, MANGLA DAMS AT NINE-YEAR LOW LEVEL RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Pakistan's top water reservoirs Tarbela and Mangla dams have been half filled, the lowest levels in nine years, showing weak prospects for the Rabi crops irrigation, the Met Office said on Friday.

In the drought-III alert, the Met said that the dry conditions are likely to increase affecting the agriculture and livestock in several districts mainly in Sindh and Balochistan. Dry conditions are also likely to trigger water stress in the cultivated lands of the country because of a limited water supply for crops irrigations.



“Current water availability in Tarbela and Mangla dams is half filled [lowest in the last 9 years],” it said, adding that the country received below normal rainfall in most of its southern parts between June and November 2018.

Situation at small dams regarding water shortage in the pothohar region is satisfactory.

“Major rainfall deficit was experienced over the provinces of Sindh [-79.9%], Khyber Pakhtunkhwa [-46.9%] and Balochistan [-44.2 %] during June to November 2018,” it said.

Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) had already forecast the below normal rains for the country. It said Sindh and Balochistan are already faced with moderate to severe droughts. The Met observed through its satellite data analysis that currently Badin, Larkana, Sanghar, Dadu, Matiari, Shaheed Benazirabad, Hyderabad, Mohenjo-Daro, Tharparkar, Jacobabad, Padidan, Thatta, Jamshoro, Qambar Shahdadkot, Umerkot, Karachi, Rohri, Khairpur and Sujwal in Sindh province and Awaran, Kech, Panjgur, Bolan, Kharan, Quetta, Chagai, Noushki, Washuk, Gwadar and Mastung in Balochistan suffer from drought.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/12/08/13-page/753000-news.html>

#### ADB AGREES TO PROVIDE RS27BN FOR NALONG DAM

Khalid Hasnain Updated December 09, 2018

LAHORE: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide Rs26.6 billion for the construction of the much-delayed Naulong dam in Balochostan after the provincial government agreed to issue an NOC next week allowing the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) to execute it.

“ADB has agreed to fund the project, as it has included it in its business plan,” a spokesman for the bank told Dawn on Saturday while confirming the development.

“The bank is of the view that the provincial government doesn’t have the capacity to execute the project in a professional manner. And if Wapda executes this, it is ready to fund it,” the Wapda official said.

After this development, the Naulong dam project is no more in the funding ambit of the federal government’s Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), a senior official in Wapda told Dawn requesting anonymity.

Located on Mula River—about 30km from Gandava Town in Balochistan’s Jhal Magsi district, the 4.4-megawatt Naulong project was planned to be launched in 2009 with completion in 2012. However, the project—a zoned earth fill dam with 186 feet height and gross and live storage capacity of 242,163 and 199,956 acres feet—remained stuck for about nine years and became a shuttlecock between the Planning Commission and the provincial government on various issues related to funding, capacity, execution etc. Wapda, which was too engaged in the process, was also directed in the past to explore financing avenues for the project. However, the international donors, especially the ADB didn’t agree to fund the project if it executed by the Balochistan government.

He said after the Balochistan government’s failure in securing funds from the donors for the project, the federal government finally agreed to fund the project under PSDP. However, it, too, failed to allocate adequate funds in this regard. And finally, the government started pushing Balochistan government to withdraw from executing the project, paving the way for securing funds from the ADB.

The Wapda management one and half years back took up the issue with the government besides engaging the ADB in the process which sought a couple of more studies required before execution of the project.

“Since the detailed design and feasibility study are already completed, Wapda got two more studies carried out according to guidelines of the ADB.

The official said Wapda would also contribute some money in the form of equity in the project’s funding.

Published in Dawn, December 9th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1450356/adb-agrees-to-provide-rs27bn-for-nalong-dam>

## WATER LEVELS DROP BY 30% IN INDUS BASIN

By Rina Saeed Khan

Published: December 9, 2018

KATOWICE: In the last 50 years, water level has decreased by 20-30% in the Indus River Basin, according to a research presented by the Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2018 (COP24) currently under way in Katowice, Poland.

The decrease is likely to affect both hydropower generation and food security and impact Pakistan's GDP according to experts on a panel organised to present integrated community-centric models of early warning systems.

Experts further suggested farmers will need information on how to diversify their crops and how much water is available in the years to come

“This study of the Indus Basin is relevant to us and we welcome the research. We are going to start pilot projects on the ground that will focus on climate resilient agriculture,” said Adviser to the PM on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam who was invited to be on the panel to discuss Pakistan's food-energy-water security challenges and adaptation to climate change.

“We are one of the ‘continuous affectees’ of climate change since the last 20 years and we are fourth in terms of the number of climate triggered events and second in terms of the total climate losses amounting to as much as \$3,826 million,” the adviser informed the panel, adding this means a heavy strain on the country's economy is money being diverted from health and education to be spent on climate related disasters.

Aslam further said Pakistan receives a lot of water as it is at the base of the third pole with glaciers on top. “However, only 9% of the water is saved and climate change will compound the loss further.”

The adviser also said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government would be shifting to renewable energy and investing in wind and solar energy. “We need better early warning systems for farmers,” he pointed out.

Earlier at an event organised by the WWF-International on national adaptation plans, the climate change adviser spoke of an innovative project that will use floodwater to restore ecosystems in Pakistan. The project, which will be implemented with the help of WWF-Pakistan, will restore wetlands and recharge groundwater.

“We currently have a million tube-wells sucking out all the water in the country. We hope to get funding from the Green Climate Fund and this project is one of our government's priorities,” he said, adding that a similar project on the Yangtze River in China is saving a vast amount of water.

He added the WWF had been a good partner for Pakistan as they had also audited the “Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project” (BTTAP), making it the first time a government project had been independently audited.

The BTTAP was registered under the international Bonn Challenge and was the first sub-national entity to achieve its targets of afforestation. “We didn't think we could achieve the one billion tree target, but found that with the help of local communities and the assisted natural regeneration of forests in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) was a big factor as nature helped us.

“When you work with nature, it gives you a solution,” said Aslam, adding that the PTI government is now planning the nationwide 10 billion tree project.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1863097/1-water-levels-drop-30-indus-basin/>

LARKANA: The Sindh Chamber of Agriculture (SCA) has feared drought in Sindh if the issue of irrigation water shortage remains unaddressed.

In a press statement issued here on Wednesday, SCA Larkana president Syed Siraj-ul-Oliya Rashdi described the acute shortage of water in canals and their offshoots as very serious. The situation would gradually turn fertile agriculture lands barren, he said. He said judicious distribution of irrigation water was the only key to resolve the issue.

Mr Rashdi said that sea erosion in Thatta and Badin districts had inflicted huge losses on growers and small traders. He said the sea had not only engulfed the big belt of agriculture land in the coastal area of Sindh, but had also erased many villages coming in its way.

Rampant corruption had developed a dent in the irrigation system, he added.

He said rotation system was being implemented in all provinces except for Sindh, alleging that influential people by bribing the irrigation staff got uninterrupted water supply. Poor growers were looking for water while "water theft continued" under the very nose of irrigation department, he added.

He believed that water equal to the capacity of a big dam could be saved if its theft was effectively contained. He said 40 per cent water was illegally driven away while an equal amount of that was wasted due to kutchha lining of water channels and tributaries.

Published in Dawn, November 29th, 2018

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1448207/sca-fears-drought-if-water-scarcity-persists-in-sindh>

#### SWC TAKES NOTICE OF FAULTY FLOW METERS OF KWSB RECORDER REPORT | NOV 29TH, 2018 | KARACHI

Sindh Water Commission (SWC) on Wednesday took exception to 200 faulty flow meters out of 2600 installed on the directives of Supreme Court (SC) and sought the explanation from the department concerned. Karachi Water & Sewerage Board (KW&SB) didn't give any justifiable explanation over the faulty meters at the proceedings of the commission after it informed that Meter Department is under the control of DMD (RRG) Muhammad Aslam Khan, who has retired recently and now Muhammad Saqib has assumed the office.

The commission stated that apparently there is no accountability in the Water Board as repeated directions of the commission were issued in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court for installation of flow meters in the entire Karachi but for one or the other reason, it is being delayed for the last several months.

The commission also showed its surprise over the fact that the meters already installed have been gone out of order and no steps have been taken by the responsible officers of the Water Board.

The commission ordered to issue show cause notices to the Superintending Engineer Meter Consumer Cell, Tariq Latif and Rehmatullah Magsi Executive Engineers to appear before it with justification as to why the meters which have gone out of order were not repaired or replaced and what is reason for not installing the meters in the entire Karachi?

The commission observed that KW&SB is less interested in installing the meters which in turn is encouraging the theft of water in Karachi as there is no other way by which the intake water supply can be measured and or gauged.

It stated that the public of Karachi is suffering because of the inaction / criminal negligence on the part of the Water Board, which is prima facie, responsible for non-providing the required details as to how much water, which it gets from the source and how much water reaches the end user in Karachi.

The commission said that there appears to be unfair distribution of water supply within Karachi which has multiplied agony of the residents of Karachi.

The commission also directed to issue notice to the Commissioner Karachi to appear before the commission on December 12, 2018 to provide way forward for providing fair distribution of drinking water within Karachi city. Meanwhile, the commission ordered to issue to Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to submit a report on Thursday about the names of importers whom a local manufacturing company exports its products discharging untreated effluent beyond its industry in defiance of the rules of Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/11/20181129427226/>

‘WORK ON DIAMER BHASHA DAM TO START FROM MAY 2019’

By Our Correspondent

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ISLAMABAD: Construction work on Mohmand and Diamer Bhasha dams would commence respectively from February and May 2019, the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Muzammil Hussain told the Senate Committee on Water Resources on Wednesday.

Briefing the Senate panel, he said Balochistan government did not have the network to distribute 74,000-acre feet water of Kichhi Kanal.

“The province has the network to distribute only 10,000-acre feet water while 62,000-acre feet water could not be distributed, owing to the absence of distribution system,” he said.

He said Wapda has completed various overdue projects in the last two years including Tarbella-IV, Golan Gol, Neelmu-Jhelum despite severe issues of scarcity of funds. Massive liabilities of Wapda could not be cleared in five years period despite not starting the new projects during the period.

“Wapda has asked Balochistan government to assign it the task to construct Naulong Dam,” he added.

He said during an earlier year of the country, Wapda had completed 12 projects in 12 years as funds were available in abundance. Brushing aside the allegations of neglecting Balochistan, he said out of 81 Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP) projects, 36 are situated in Balochistan.

Out of the 36 projects of Balochistan, 32 projects were approved in the PSDP. Rs22 billion have so far been spent on constructing water reservoirs [in the province] and Rs47.3 billion would be spent during the current year, he said.

The official told the Senate body that the cost of K-4 project of Karachi had jumped up from Rs14 billion to Rs74 billion. The project would not complete in the next 20 years if funds are not available, he added.

Senator Hasil Bazinjo of the National Party urged that the PM-Chief Justice fund for construction of Mohmand and Diamer-Bhasha dams should be diverted to complete 100 dams in Balochistan.

Senator Usman Kakar said over 12 million acre water was getting wasted in Balochistan and Rs500 billion were needed to build reservoirs in the province. The water reservoir projects should be included in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he added.

Senator Dr Jehanzeb Jamaldini of the Balochistan National Party directed the Ministry of Water Resources to give feasibility of constructing only one dam in the province. The meeting was told by officials that during the last financial year, Rs35 million had been spent for constructing Khazana Dam.

This year Rs4 billion has been allocated out of which 8 million have so far been released. The committee was informed that work on Naulong Dam has been over-delayed.

The Asian Development Bank had agreed to provide funds with the condition to construct distribution network first. However, the provincial government has not yet constructed the distribution system.

Wapda chairman said the process to prepare PC-I for construction of Bara dam was initiated in 2002, adding that 6MW electricity will be produced from the dam.

Tenders were issued in December 2009 and April 2010, but no bid was received. The cost has increased manifold in PC-II of the project which has been deposited in Ministry of Water Resources, they said.

The chairman of the committee approved constituting a committee for changing the venue of Khazana dam. The committee recommended completing one or two dams in Balochistan on a priority basis.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1856360/1-work-diamer-bhasha-dam-start-may-2019/>

## WATER CHARGES TO GO UP IN CAPITAL

Kashif Abbasi November 30, 2018

ISLAMABAD: In order to meet its expenses, the cash-starved Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) on Thursday decided to double water and conservancy charges.

At a session held at Pak-China Friendship Centre with Mayor Sheikh Anser Aziz in the chair, the MCI approved 100pc increase in domestic and 200pc in commercial water charges.

The house also approved an increase in the property tax and recommended a hike in the conservancy charges. The new rates were finalised by a committee of the house with participation from both the treasury and opposition benches after a number of meetings.

Currently, the MCI spends Rs414 million on water supply but receives Rs78 million from the consumers as the rates have not been revised since 2001.

Similarly, the MCI collects Rs84 million under conservancy charges per year but spends over two billion on sanitation.

MCI officials said on an average the citizens were paying Rs320 as water charges after every three months. With the increase, they would be paying Rs640.

In order to improve its receipts, the MCI is also planning to collect entry fee at the three entrances to the capital and a parking fee at recreational places. House committees have been formed to consider the procedure for the restoration of toll plazas at Rawat, Kashmir Highway and IJP Road and the entry fee at recreational places.

Meanwhile, the issue of proposed merger of the emergency and disaster management unit of the MCI and CDA's building control as proposed by additional director emergency and disaster Ammaduddin Mohammad also came under discussion.

Member Sardar Mahtab raised the issue that MCI's additional director wrote a letter proposing the merger of his directorate with CDA's building control section.

The mayor said the officer did not take him into confidence before writing the letter and for this he had been suspended.

The MCI was formed following the Nov 30 2015 elections but so far it has failed to deliver, mainly because of unavailability of funds. The previous PML-N and the incumbent PTI government not only provided funds to the MCI but also failed to notify its rules and regulations.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1448485/water-charges-to-go-up-in-capital>