

# NEWSCLIPPINGS

**JULY TO DECEMBER 2018**

## WATER SUPPLY



## Urban Resource Centre

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## Mayor orders removal of water pipelines from drains

Mayor Wasim Akhtar has said that water pipelines and other Karachi Water and Sewerage Board installations must be removed from nullahs as these things created hurdles in smooth flow of water in drains.

Briefing the media persons after visiting various storm-water drains on Sunday, he said that the cleaning work of 41 drains had been started and 54 big machines, 103 dumper trucks and hundreds of workers were being used in drain cleaning works.

He said encroachments were also being removed so that there was no stoppage in water flow. Removal of dug-up garbage along drains

The mayor also warned the contractors, who were present on the occasion, to ensure immediate removal of all garbage solid waste that had been dug from drains during the cleaning and de-silting works.

He said that no negligence will be tolerated in this work and he would monitor all works and if it was found unsatisfactory the concerned contractor would be removed.

He said that major drains would be cleaned by the KMC and small drains cleaning would be done by the District Municipal Corporations.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn 16, 02/07/2018)

## Water crisis: treading carefully

THE water crisis in the country is undeniably alarming. Serious action is required and long-term solutions will almost certainly include a combination of increased storage capacity and better utilisation of water already available in the system. Given the urgency of the problem, it is perhaps welcome that all institutions of the state are beginning to emphasise the gravity of the water crisis and the need for innovative solutions. But for effective interventions the right institutions of the state must address specific problems. Water storage and management are clearly an area of expertise and constitutional responsibility of the executive. Other state institutions ought to aid and encourage the executive in finding timely and comprehensive solutions to the national water crisis. It is quite possible that is what Chief Justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar has in mind with his recent remarks about dams being a large part of the solution to the water crisis and funds for building two large dams being raised through loan recoveries that banks may have waived earlier. But great caution is needed at the intersection of the law, finance and water.

On the issue of loan recoveries from businesses and allegedly politically connected wealthy individuals over the decades, it is possible that undue favours by state regulators may be unearthed in an exhaustive financial analysis. Yet, it is perhaps relevant to keep in mind the origins of the matter that the Supreme Court has again taken up with urgency. According to media reports, the current probe by the court can be traced back to hearings initiated by former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry in 2008 regarding loan write-offs during the regime of Gen Pervez Musharraf. The era of judicial interventions under Mr Chaudhry is almost universally regarded as highly controversial and, in the case of economic decision-making, is believed to have caused untold losses to the public exchequer. While fat cats and rogue businessmen should be pursued fearlessly, it is important that the foundations of the economy not be rocked in misguided pursuits. It is hoped that the superior judiciary will proceed with caution, keeping front and centre the constitutional separation of powers and the authority of the executive.

In the area of water policy, the enormous social, economic and political dimensions of policy interventions ought to make the judiciary even more cautious. Funding, building and maintaining dams and managing water flows are areas where the executive not only has constitutional authority but the greater expertise among the institutions of the state. Yet, the next federal and provincial governments ought to recognise the severity of the water crisis in the country and make it a priority to find national solutions to the water crisis. It has become apparent that inaction by the country's political leadership can invite outside interference. Surely, then, the next elected governments ought to make water a national priority.

(By Editorial Dawn 08, 02/07/2018)

## National Water Policy and mainstreaming of women

In June 2015, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ranked Pakistan among the top 36 countries in the world facing an acute water shortage. In January 2018, Cape Town became the first city in the world to say that it was running out of water. The government and citizens went to work together to ward this off and instituted water rationing and water conservation in a massive, collective effort. In Pakistan, it was not until recently that we began to feel the pinch and noticed the signs that had been obvious to water professionals for the last decade — we cannot go on as before; it cannot be business as usual.



The political leadership, in the shape of chief ministers of the federating units of Pakistan, signed a charter for water 'Pakistan Water Charter' that demonstrated consensus and political will, and Pakistan's first National Water Policy (NWP) came out on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018; a triumph indeed for Pakistan, after three decades of dithering. While this National Water Policy is more a wish list with a plethora of goals, it is nonetheless somewhere to begin.

Women remain largely invisible in the water institutions of the country, water-related ministries and department, water NGOs and water businesses. They are seen mostly as 'affectees' of the water crisis and climate change and therefore are bracketed as part of the problem.

The National Water Policy needs an implementation framework and that is where we can begin to mainstream the concerns of women. The strength and resilience of women can be harnessed to ward off further crisis, develop rational use of water, improve water management, institute water conservation and achieve water and food security.

Women account for 48.76 per cent of the population of the country, yet they on their own have been referred to only once in the said policy, and that in the context of stakeholder participation in section 18.3 of the policy document where 'women population will be promoted in domestic water supply and water hygiene.' This meagre mention shows that in spite of Pakistan's agriculture-based economy — an economy heavily dependent on water and the work of women — the policy only takes into account women's participation as domestic users of water.

By several estimates, women provide at least half the agricultural workforce, even if not remunerated or accurately counted. Women in Pakistan are not only careful users of water but also the custodians of water knowledge and practice. They carry the heavy burden of walking several kilometres a day in many parts of rural Pakistan to fetch water for household and livestock use, and continue to face many gender-based discriminatory practices which often determine their access to and their participation in water-related narratives when it comes to claiming entitlements to water. Pakistan's law does not directly address 'water rights,' and land ownership is usually a proxy for access to or entitlement to water. As women in Pakistan own land in a far smaller proportion than their numbers, their 'water right' is also limited.

As Pakistan is likely to face a crisis situation in future in terms of water availability due to high population growth rates and the depletion and pollution of its water bodies, it is essential to accept women as a legitimate group to engage with, in efforts to ward off the impending water-related difficulties. Currently, they are not recognised as a party to the current debate in the country on dams, water infrastructure, water distribution, irrigation, agriculture and competing demands for use of water. Very few women are encouraged to pursue education in water-related fields and there are few who have become prominent in this area as visionaries, scientists, planners, managers, technicians, researchers and professionals. The few women engineers and professionals often have challenges at the workplace and social biases due to which their careers and professional advancement opportunities are limited.

Combining Pakistan's gender equity and equality commitments with water-related goals can give a solid boost to gender mainstreaming in the water sector in Pakistan and ensure that the specific needs and concerns of and impact on men and women from different social and economic groups, are identified and addressed. The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have the potential to combine and build synergies to put women squarely in the middle of water development, conservation and management. The close inter-linkages of gender, women empowerment and access to water must be reflected in the implementation framework of the Water Policy.

Pakistan must invest in women as drivers of water management and conservation, agricultural growth and food security, and not just as beneficiaries. We have seen Pakistani girls and women bloom in the digital and economic sectors. They can bloom in the water sector too.

Emerging technologies and credit lines in the water sectors can be made more suitable to women's needs, their knowledge base and their acumen. Emerging agricultural value chains can break down traditional gender divisions of labour. We can design interventions in water supply, irrigation, agriculture and municipal sectors that explicitly target women. There is a need to promote collective action among women and cultivate women's orientation to income, rather than subsistence-only initiatives — that is, moving from kitchen gardening to productive agriculture and protect women's control over their economic gains. Such a shift will require more women as service providers, professionals and experts.

Women's voices need to be mainstreamed into gender inclusive water policy implementation framework. There is still time — we can build equitable measures into the provincial water policies and in the implementation framework of the National Water Policy.

(By Simi Kamal The Express Tribune, 17, 06/07/2018)

## Water and population link

THE alarm bells around Pakistan's water crisis are growing louder, and with good reason. Water stress is upon us, impossible to ignore, whether it manifests in cities facing shortages even of drinking water, deficiencies in agriculture, poisoning of resources in many areas, or any other crippling form.



The last three months have unleashed animated debates on mass and social media about the government's apparent failure to think ahead and complacency, and the lack of waterways and dams. Decision-makers are finally rattled. Seemingly in reaction, in the penultimate or last meeting of the Council of Common Interests, with three chief ministers in attendance, the government announced a National Water Policy, which came as a surprise, not only due to the haste in its passage, but also because it was a very rare instance of the

provinces and federal government reaching consensus on an issue of national importance.

*A reduction in fertility could markedly improve per capita water availability.*

While it is good that everyone finally agrees on the need to act, the proposed solutions, once again, take the pet forms of better infrastructure, dams, waterways, canals, water plants, etc. In particular, a divisive debate has arisen overnight about the Kalabagh dam. Slightly more nuanced conversations do touch on changing behaviours, water conservation, better storage, community-based solutions, and the difficult topic of redistribution. But, sadly and shockingly, hardly anyone, including leading water and environment experts, are relating the emerging water crisis to the looming population number, which is the very basis for calculating where we are in terms of per capita water availability.

One of the most straightforward and perhaps oversimplified formulae for calculating scarcity or stress is by dividing the volume of water, a finite resource, with the population number. Unlike per capita income, we cannot expect water to increase — except of course with storage systems, etc. In fact, with recent changes in rainfall patterns, and construction of dams in India in the upper reaches of the Indus, overall water availability may actually be in decline. On the other hand, the denominator of population, which is relatively constant in countries that have reached replacement-level fertility, is still increasing exponentially in Pakistan.

Until 1981, we were water abundant at 2,123 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) per capita. By the 1998 census, our population was already 132 million and growing at 2.6 per cent. Water availability was beginning to enter the stress levels of 1,351m<sup>3</sup> per capita.

Subsequently, we assumed that growth rates had begun to decline, but the period after 2000 saw little change in fertility and population growth rates. The 2013 Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey showed that Pakistan's fertility rate remained at 3.8 while other countries were registering record declines and reaching around 2.2. And in 2017, the new census indicates that the apocalyptic prediction has come true: we are in a state of water scarcity at 861m<sup>3</sup>. Had intercensal growth been 1.6pc, as projected under the best policy scenario, we would be at 1,000m<sup>3</sup> today.

Yet, apart from the occasional passing reference, the issue of our still unbridled population growth is forgotten or put aside in discussions of the water crisis as something that just happened or is out there. This passive acquiescence, and the pain it evokes in the demographic community, are not new.

When the preliminary findings of the 2017 census were announced, the disturbing news that we were 207m — several million more than the most conservative fertility decline estimates made in 2010 had suggested — was swallowed easily by politicians, media, and planners, as if it had no relevance to the country's present or future development outlook.

The political and media spotlight turned immediately towards political seats, finance shares, provincial leverage and shares. There was barely any concern for what the numbers mean in terms of providing the very basics of education, health, housing, and of course water to live!

With diminishing water resources and a growing population, the per capita availability of water will continue to decrease, impacting everything, even the health status of communities where water availability falls below 7.5 litres per person per day, which according to the World Health Organisation is the minimum necessary for maintaining hygiene and health. On the other hand, a reduction in fertility, achieved by preventing the million unwanted births taking place every year, could markedly improve per capita water availability.

It's not as if these connections haven't been highlighted before. Past population policies laid out many scenarios warning us of what might come in a few decades. The 2002 population policy acknowledged the need to expedite fertility decline to catch up with other nations. With regard to water, as far back as the late 1980s, when we were water abundant despite galloping population growth, Ayub Qutub warned us, as he documented deliberations for the National Conservation Strategy, that the abundance would not last. In 2013, the Population Council and UNFPA pointed out to political parties and media personalities across the board that Pakistani couples want fewer children, and that we must seize this critical opportunity to reduce fertility to manage emerging challenges. While political parties expressed concern, and even promised to include better access to birth spacing services in their manifestos, this obvious intervention failed to retain the attention it deserves.

Some basic facts need to be highlighted for politicians as they enter another election in a few weeks. Very simply, we cannot delink the water crisis from rapid and unsustainable population growth in Pakistan any more than we can delink the large out-of-school population from the ever-growing numbers of children who need to be put in school, or malnutrition from high fertility.

We cannot cry ourselves hoarse about water scarcity, about not achieving our basic rights of a universal primary education, about the world falling down without squarely facing our biggest national challenge. There should be nothing holding us back from action when even religious leaders and the most conservative elements concur that birth spacing is a positive maternal and child health intervention. The solution is utterly simple, the costs totally affordable, and people more than ready, even desperate, for change.

(By Zeba Sathar Dawn, 06, 07/07/2018)

### **Water scarcity: conspiracy or mismanagement?**



For the past several years, we have been focusing on India building dams that might block the flow of water to Pakistan. We are approaching international organisations like the UN and our friends, but have been at the receiving end of lukewarm responses towards the resolution of the problem. This tepid response should give us a hint of our own shortcomings on the matter. Why isn't the international community helping us? Is it possible that we actually might be at fault here?

Pakistan is concerned about India building dams over rivers but what it should concern more is that more than 30 MAF of water available to it every year is dumped into the Arabian Sea instead

of being stored in dams. To put it in context, 30 MAF is equal to 10 trillion gallons which can feed a population of more than 500 million people. Based on these figures, we know for a fact that natural supply of water is not the problem. Problem is the absence of efficient conservation, storage and usage, all at the same time. Therefore, what should concern Pakistan more is the fact that Pakistan's current water storage capacity is just 30 days and declining at an alarming rate. Compare this 30-day capacity with Australia's storage capacity of 600 days and Egypt's storage capacity of 1,000 days. Based on global storage capacity, it is only a matter of time before India starts to increase its storage capacity significantly. The institutions of Pakistan should aim to move forward in a manner whereby water management from the Indian side does not stress the country's consumption.

Pakistan has not built any notable water reservoir in the last four decades. It also has not significantly invested in the upkeep of the existing infrastructure and as a result, the water storage capacity of the existing dams is depleting at a very fast rate. To make matters worse, the country is inefficiently using its existing water and ranks amongst the lowest when it comes to water productivity. Rivers are not the only source of water for Pakistan, it receives a large amount of water from glaciers and rainfall. Fact is that Pakistan does not need to rely solely on Indian side to meet its demand, the predicament arises as the country lacks efficient method to utilise the water made available to it. Currently the politicians, bureaucrats and the establishment are focusing on hampering or slowing the progress of Indian dams. Their focus instead should be on building internal capacity. Agriculture sector consumes up to 90% of the available fresh water of the country. As with many sectors, the Government of Pakistan is spending less than 0.18% of GDP on agricultural research which is among the lowest in the world. Pakistan has one of the lowest yields in the world but has one of the highest use of hazardous or toxic use of chemical fertilisers.

Per-capita availability of water has declined to 1,000 cubic metres, which places Pakistan in the category of water-scarce countries. Despite the lower per-capita availability, Pakistan continues to waste water at an alarming pace. People at the helm of affairs need to understand the gravity of the situation. We do not only need to build dams but we also need to give fair attention to research and development in agriculture and water technology.

Agriculture techniques have been revolutionised all over the world. With innovative techniques, one can save 90% to 99% water compared to traditional agricultural farming techniques. Israel once also faced similar or even worse situation than what Pakistan is currently facing. Water was used as a weapon against Israel by its neighbouring countries who blocked its water. More than 60% of Israel's land is desert, the average rainfall in the country has fallen by 50% since 1948 and during this period, its population has increased 10-fold and economy has grown 70-fold. With innovation, modernisation and use of technology, Israel has become water abundant country to the extent that now it has started to supply water to its neighbouring countries. Policy makers of the country realised at that time that water is going to be a challenge for them in the future and therefore they devised a strategy on war-footing basis to tackle this issue. It is the result of focus, coherent effort and centralised management that water scarcity is not a threat for Israel anymore. Some of the founding pillars of Israel's water management policy are drip irrigation, desalination, deep wells, using treated sewage water for agriculture, curtailing water losses, pricing water to discourage wastage and high yield crops. This is an example for the entire world in general, and Pakistan in particular, how to resolve issues through vision and concrete efforts.

All in all, it can be concluded that water scarcity is rising at a panicking rate for Pakistan. Swift urbanisation and conflict combined with corruption, crime and years of mismanagement have left a massive proportion of the population without access to clean water. Environmentalists and economist have come to conclude that if the contingent plan for water crisis is not deployed, then the next biggest war would be subjected to water itself.

Pakistani politicians, bureaucrats, judiciary and the media need to stop playing politics by sensationalising the issue or worse blame other countries for the problems that we have created ourselves. Our focus should not be in slowing others down but rather hasten ourselves up before it is too late.  
(By Mohammad Asad Ilyas The Express Tribune, 17, 07/07/2018)

## Donating for dams

ONE can appreciate the chief justice of Pakistan's sensitivity to the growing water crisis in Pakistan, but with all due respect this is not how infrastructure finance is done. You do not crowd-source a mega dam. The fact that this even needs to be said is embarrassing, to say the least.



Just consider a few questions that arise when trying to use voluntary donations to fund the Diamer-Bhasha dam, whose cost has been given as Rs1.450 trillion. This figure is taken from a briefing given by water and power officials at a hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reform. The cost of reservoir construction was given as Rs650 billion, and the rest for power turbines and associated infrastructure, and land acquisition and resettlement.

Now let's do some math on this. As of writing, the total amount deposited in this account was Rs32 million. Since the account is shown as being open since July 6, let's assume only three of those days were functioning; that comes to almost Rs10m per day. Next let's assume this will pick up pace, since tacit pressure has come to apply on banks to raise funds from their employees (in a meeting held on Tuesday). Exactly how 'voluntary' the contributions will be is a separate conversation. For the moment, if we assume that on average, the account sees an inflow of Rs20m per day (which is highly optimistic), then it will take 72,500 days to reach the target, or 199 years.

*Public finance is not a joke, the state cannot be run like a charity, and infrastructure finance cannot be crowd-sourced like this.*

Wait a minute, some people will say. All the money does not need to be available up front in order to begin work! Fair enough. Consider another angle. For next year, the amount allocated for construction of the dam part of the project alone is Rs23.68bn as per the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) document on the Planning Commission's website.

Now do the math. At Rs20m per day, it will take 1,184 days to reach the target of Rs23.68bn, or 3.2 years. Meaning even next year's PSDP allocation (for the dam part alone) will not be possible to meet the amount.

You can change the assumptions. Let's say the contributions come in larger than what I have assumed (which, mind you, is generous). Let's say it's double the size. That cuts down the period by half, meaning it will take more than a year and half to reach next year's target alone.

Let's say instead that the contributions are not meant to pay for the entire dam, but only to supplement government allocations for the project. Even then, a year's intake of Rs7.3bn (assuming a Rs20m per day average contribution for the year) will not even be enough to pay for a portion of the resettlement cost of the project.

Public finance is not a joke, the state cannot be run like a charity, and infrastructure finance cannot be crowd-sourced like this. Mind you, the calculations here assume an average contribution rate of Rs20m per day, every day, for years and years on end. How long will the momentum behind this endeavour sustain itself? Weeks? Months?

Before people are asked to contribute their hard-earned money for any cause, they are entitled to ask a few basic questions. What will this money be used for? Who will have the authority to transact these funds? What rules will govern its distribution? How much of an impact will my contribution have?

Perhaps these questions ought to be answered first. For example, will the money from the account be disbursed directly to the point where the costs are coming from, or will it simply be handed to Wapda, the water and power division, or the finance ministry? If it is the former, then let's take one example. If a technical consultant needs to be retained to advise on what type of cement to use given the extremely large annual temperature variation in the region, and the attendant expansion and contraction that the dam structure will undergo in a typical year making the choice of concrete quite crucial, who will decide which consultant is most suitable for the job? What criteria will be used to make the selection?

There are thousands of such decisions that have to be made in mega projects of this sort. What are the rules of business according to which these funds will be distributed? If the plan is to simply hand them over to Wapda, who will supervise the funds to ensure their proper utilisation? How much expertise and experience does that person have in the execution of giant, highly technical projects of this sort?

This is not the first time that a joke has been made out of a very serious matter. After the earthquake of 2005, Pervez Musharraf launched a similar fund called the President's Relief Fund. Once launched, similar tacit pressure tactics were used to get people to pay up, and one by one various companies lined up saying 'we are pleased to contribute', and the amounts were a million here, two million there, until interest dried up and everyone moved on. Likewise, Nawaz Sharif launched a 'qarz utaro, mulk sanwaro' scheme in his second term, in the late 1990s, in an effort to get donations to help pay off Pakistan's external debt. That too ended in an embarrassing whimper.

I'm old enough to remember a similar scheme by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in his last year. The television ads asked everyone to contribute one rupee a day, which the ad promised would be used for development purposes. The visual used to illustrate 'development' was a cement elevator. And that was also that.

Fact is, modern-day public finances cannot be run in this way, least of all when it comes to infrastructure finance. It's time to grow up and face the facts: until we fix our water-pricing regime, there is no way out of this crisis.  
(By Khurram Husain Dawn, 08, 12/07/2018)

### **For citizens, water is life. For parties, a lifeline to voters**

Water is life. For citizens, certainly. For some political parties, an election slogan. For others, the issue seems insignificant.



This much is apparent in the manifestos released by political parties contesting the upcoming general elections. Four major parties – Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and the Awami National Party – have made the resolution of water and sanitation issues part of their agenda. Others seem to have missed the memo.

Water scarcity continues to be a major issue for Pakistan – ignored by previous governments and politicised by opposition parties. According to the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation run by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children Fund (Unicef), 74% of Pakistanis lack access to clean drinking water, 42% have no access to basic sanitation and 79 million Pakistanis have no facility for proper disposal of human waste. Of these, around 25m people living in rural areas lack basic awareness of the need for proper waste disposal, leading to the spread of diseases.

Despite these miserable numbers, only four political parties have thought it important to make water part of their outreach to voters.

The governments have constantly failed to address the issue of water scarcity by constructing new dams and reservoirs.

### **Water shortage prompts Karachi's residents to take to the streets**

It was the consistent failure of the successive governments to address the issues of dams and reservoirs which compelled the Supreme Court to take up the issue. After many hearings and debate, the apex court ordered construction of two dams – Diamer and Bhasha. It also opened accounts under its supervision, seeking donations from public and institutions to help the government construct these dams.

### **PTI**

"We will transform Karachi into a vibrant, competitive megacity through large-scale reforms in governance and with the provision of public services such as housing, mass transit, water and sanitation. We want to make Karachi the urban jewel of Pakistan," says the PTI manifesto. "Water is scarce, as only 55% of the daily water needs are met due to the monopoly structure in place by a water mafia," it adds.

According to the party, approximately half of Karachi's citizens do not have access to sanitation and the root cause of Karachi's poor state is its poor local government system, which is neither empowered nor resourceful enough to resolve these issues. "We will provide clean drinking to all residents of Karachi. In the process, we will crack down on the water mafia, illegal connections on public pipelines and champion the installation of desalination plant. We will aggressively improve waste management and resolve sanitation issues in Karachi through a component sharing model with public, private and community funding," the document states, besides pledging to resolve sanitation issues only in mega cities like Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta.

The PTI has said it will build dams and solve the water crisis with immediate steps to conserve and improve the management of water. "We will expedite development of requisite infrastructure and ensure implementation of Pakistan's national water policy and our water plan for each province," the party's manifesto reads.

### **PPP**

Even though the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) 2013 election manifesto touched upon issues of water scarcity and sanitation, the party failed to live up to its promises. This time, the party has made the same promises all over again. "We recognize safe drinking water and decent sanitation as basic human rights and will work towards formulating appropriate legislation and policies," states the party's 10th manifesto launched by its co-chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on June 28 in Islamabad. "The provision of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities has been our top priority. Our seriousness on this issue can be gauged from the last PPP government in Sindh which allocated Rs29.12 billion to address water and sanitation issues in Sindh." Commenting on the gravity of the issue, the PPP manifesto recognises that, "potable water is not available to 83% of the population despite more than seven decades of independence. In Pakistan, unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation have been the primary causes of many water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria."

According to the manifesto, following the consensus of all federating units, PPP aims to build more dams, keeping in view the rights of the lower riparian and delta ecosystem. "Bhasha dam is of immense economic value to Pakistan and therefore our focus will be to raise funds for and finance this important project," the PPP manifesto reads.

### **ANP**

The ANP manifesto also assures that the party will work for the provision of drinking water, particularly in public schools, where it will also initiate the construction of toilets.

"ANP will review the policy for urban planning and management. The design and alignment of underground and surface drainage would avoid or minimise the impact on existing environmental values," its manifesto reads, adding that the party will ensure improved access to clean air, drinking water, waste management systems, sanitation and open spaces.

"ANP will also urgently address the problem of safe disposal at hospitals, industrial units and other toxic waste," the party has claimed. "We will publish literature regarding protection of environment and the importance of potable water in textbooks."

### **PML-N**

While the PML-N manifesto lacks details of a strategy designed to address water-related issues, it does mention some steps to be taken to improve the water supply. These include revision of tariffs, waste and theft reduction and establishment of quality standards for drinking water. "PMLN will ensure supply of clean drinking water to coastal areas and Karachi by setting up desalination and Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants," the manifesto reads.

### **What experts say**

According to water expert and research scholar, Nadeem Ahmed, inferior water quality and decreasing availability are an international issue. "Universal access to clean drinking water and sanitation stands unaddressed as 110 children die every day due to diseases like diarrhoea caused by contaminated water," he said. "We in Pakistan spend on healthcare, but ignore preventive measures," he lamented, adding that every elections, political parties promised to resolve these issues, but all in vain. For Ahmed, water and sanitation are the fundamental rights of every individual, recognised by the United Nations General Assembly and in turn by the Government of Pakistan after the ratification of the charter in 2008. "However, this recognition is not explicitly recognised in the legal ecosystem in Pakistan, nor is it given priority as an essential public right by political parties."

(By Hafeez Tunio The Express Tribune, 05, 14/07/2018)

## Sell vote buy water

Images of children, seemingly as young as toddler age, lining up with empty jerry cans to fill water in sweltering temperatures from a tanker is an egregious display of the basic human rights violation by past governments that has existed for decades in Pakistan. Debate over the issue throughout the years following repeated promises by past governments to eliminate the shortage has kept the topic alive. At least 74 per cent of the population in the country lacks access to potable water, according to the WHO and Unicef. With elections less than ten days away, major political parties have once again reiterated tall claims via their party platforms on how they plan to combat the water crisis facing the residents of Karachi all the way to Mansehra. Commendably, however, voters appear slightly wiser this time, urging that they will believe in a party's solutions when they see them in practice.

Manifestos are pertinent to a party's success in elections but the people have reached a threshold for false promises. For Mansehra residents to have to travel 12 kilometres to collect water may have been acceptable a few hundred years ago but not in a technological era when self-driving cars, 3-D printers, and smart sensors in toilets exist. Indeed, it is only a matter to be ridiculed, that no government up until now has been able to make provisions for potable, and even non-potable water. The issue has persisted throughout the provinces, despite hyperbole on desalination plants and reverse osmosis systems.

In these desperate times, too many untimely and avoidable deaths have occurred due to a lack of access to clean water. Health infrastructures and poor hygiene do not support a water shortage and tanker mafias are ever ready to add insult to injury. It is not in the interest of a democracy to have citizens forgo their votes, as some are planning to do in these elections if their water needs remain unmet, but we support the citizens in taking a stronger stance.

(By Editorial The Express Tribune, 17, 16/07/2018)

## Water is life: A decade on, Mauripur's water treatment plant inaugurated

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar inaugurated on Sunday Mauripur's Treatment Plant-III, which was being rehabilitated on the orders of the Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation after being dysfunctional for over a decade.



The restoration and extension of TP-I at Haroonabad, TP-II and TP-III at Mauripur had to be completed by 2015, under the Sewerage-III project, after work started in 2013.

However, the project director, Noor Ahmed Samoo, had told *The Express Tribune* that S-III started facing delays from 2008 when the three Karachi Water and Sewerage Board treatment plants became inactive. The delay was due to a conflict over the S-III budget between the federal and provincial governments.

There was further delay in the work due to the negligence and incompetence of KWSB, Samoo had said.

Addressing the ceremony, the CJP lamented that the sea was being polluted, which was dangerous.

### CJP denies running 'anyone's campaign' while visiting Rawalpindi hospital

Justice (ret'd) Amir Hani Muslim, the head of the judicial commission, welcomed the CJP to the ceremony where Sindh High Court Chief Justice Ahmed Ali Sheikh, Inspector-General Amjad Javed Saleemi, Chief Secretary Azam Suleman Khan and other officials were also present.

"Life cannot be imagined without water and we need to value it for a better Pakistan," said Justice Nisar, adding that provision of water was vital to save the next generation.

TP-III will clean 77 million gallons of dirty water daily and be a source of clean water to Malir, Korangi, Haroonabad and Mauripur.

According to the water board officials, Mauripur's TP-III previously had a capacity of 54MGD of water, which has now increased to 77MGD. The treatment plant's total capacity is 180MGD of water.

The total cost of the plant was more than Rs36.117 million. The federal and provincial governments contributed equally to the project.

The CJP noted that springs of water were flowing in Gilgit-Baltistan. "The people of Gilgit are happy over the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam."

He shared that several meetings were held over the dam and it was agreed that Pakistan was nothing without water.

### Department of Plant Protection operates with 'contractual' DG

Commenting on the condition in Karachi, the CJP expressed delight over the cleanliness in the city, saying that all the roads he passed by appeared to be clean. He added that the city had improved compared to what it was like six months ago.

Proud of Justice (ret'd) Muslim's accomplishment, the CJP said he had not disappointed the nation as he had kept the integrity of the Supreme Court intact.



“A huge task has been completed today which will help clean the polluted environment of the city,” the chief secretary said, adding that the targets given by the water commission had been fulfilled.

“Three treatment plants have been installed in Karachi. The funds were provided by the federal and provincial governments,” he said, adding that the project’s next phase will be completed by 2019. He said they were determined to not dispose even a drop of water into the sea without treatment.

Project director Samoo acknowledged that Karachi faced a huge environmental issue. He informed that 472MGD water was being disposed into the sea without treatment and more than 90MGD of industrial waste was being disposed into the sea. He said that 400MGD of water was being treated at three water treatment plants.

Commenting on the restoration of TP-I, Samo said it will be made functional by December, 2018.

#### **What is the S-III project?**

The S-III project, to be completed by 2020 under KWSB’s supervision, promises a combined filtration capacity of 460MGD of water.

The project has been divided into two phases with the first phase estimated at Rs21.31 billion and the second at Rs14.79 billion. Phase I of the project involves a 33.32 kilometre extension of a pipeline and conduit installation in Lyari River’s basin. The system will be linked to TP-I at Haroonabad and TP-III at Mauripur. TP-I entails treatment capacity for 100MGD while TP-III has a capacity of 180MGD.

#### **Industries without treatment plants will be sealed, warns judicial commission**

Phase II covers installation of a trunk sewage system extending to 22.74km in the Malir River basin. The system will be linked to the TP-IV in Korangi. Meanwhile, TP-IV will have a capacity to filter 180MGD of water daily.

As per the feasibility report of S-III, restoration work of TP-I will be completed by January, 2019 while work on the extension of 100MGD capacity will start by December, 2019.

KWSB officials had confirmed that 95% of the conduit work was completed between Yaseenabad to Mauripur while work between Yaseenabad and Surjani Town will start by September this year.  
(By Nasir Butt The Express Tribune, 04, 23/07/2018)

### **Living by the sea, residents of NA-248 crave drinking water**

The NA-248 constituency in District West covers the seaport of Keamari and the western part of the city’s coastline till it meets Balochistan. The beaches of Hawkes Bay, Sandspit, French Beach and Paradise Point are some of the most sought after picnic spots in the city as people from all areas of Karachi throng there to bathe in seawater and enjoy the crashing waves. It is through Keamari port that the trade based on exports and imports keeps the country’s economy moving. However, the economic indicators of people living in the localities of NA-248 are not very promising as the constituency is largely underdeveloped and includes several rural pockets, slums and impoverished islands.

After the new delimitation, the entire sub-divisions of Harbour and Mauripur, and the Manora Cantonment Board have become a part of NA-248, which also includes some of the areas of SITE and municipal sub-divisions. Some of the locations of the constituency include Machhar Colony, Sultanabad, Ittehad Town, Gulshan-e-Sikandarabad, Masan Road, Customs Line, Railway Colony, Jackson Bazaar, Docks Colony, Gulbai, Kachi Muhalla, Mochko Deh, Sahafi Colony, Mawach Goth, Saadullah Goth, Saeedabad Sector 8 and areas of Baldia Town. The constituency also features Pakistan Air Force Masroor Base, the largest air base of the country. Adjacent to Keamari lie West Wharf Industrial Area and Karachi Fisheries Harbour that also lie in NA-248.

Apart from these inland areas, three inhabited islands, Baba Island, Shamspir Island and Bhit Island, are also included in the constituency.

The constituency comprises two entire provincial constituencies, PS-112 and PS-113, along with some portion of PS-114.



#### **Past trends**

Due to a large number of non-Urdu-speaking people living in Mauripur and Harbour sub-divisions, these areas have not often voted for the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), which has been inarguably the strongest political party of the city in terms of electoral results.

Though the MQM was able to clinch the seat comprising the Mauripur belt in the 1990 elections, it was secured by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in 1988 and by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in 1993 and 1997. In the 2002 elections, the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) emerged triumphant with Qari Gul Rehman securing the seat which was NA-239 at that time. The PPP reclaimed the seat after 20 years in the 2008 as its candidate Abdul Qadir Patel was declared the winner. In the general

elections of 2013, MQM's candidate Salman Baloch returned from the constituency.

Some areas that have been included in the Mauripur constituency after the new delimitation were earlier part of NA-240 before. The seat was secured by MQM's Sohail Mansoor Khawaja in the last elections.

The PML-N managed to win a provincial seat, former PS-89, in the last elections which falls in NA-248.

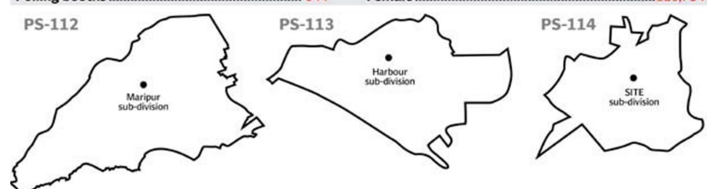
### General issues

Severe water shortage is the greatest problem being faced by the residents of many areas of NA-248, including Keamari, Sultanabad, Majeed Colony, Saeedabad, Gulshan-e-Mazdoor, Gulbai, Shershah and others.

Roads and streets in the constituency are mostly bumpy causing commuters to face trouble. Even the major artery of Mauripur Road is in a dilapidated state and movement of heavy traffic has caused deep holes. Lack of solid waste disposal is another major issue of the constituency.

Due to lack of infrastructure, many residential schemes in the constituency are not being inhabited. Plot owners are reluctant to construct houses because of absence of electricity, water and other facilities.

Total population .....	785,158	Total voters .....	303,258
Polling stations .....	231	Male .....	182,524
Polling booths .....	644	Female .....	120,734



### Life on islands

Life is rough for the inhabitants of the three islands in NA-248, who mostly belong to fishing community. They islands are severely underdeveloped and its peoples have been living in penury. Unemployment, non-availability of potable water, lack of health and education facilities are major issues of Baba, Bhit and Shamspir islands.

According to the latest census, the population of the three islands is 20,202 with 3,476 total housing units.

The ratio of total registered voters is more than 60% with 7,080 male and 5,796 female voters. Baba Island is the most populated of the three with 8,404 people living there. The least population is of Shamspir Island with 4,329 dwellers.

The islands come under District West's union council (UC) 41. UC 41 Vice-Chairman Ahsraf Bhatti informed The Express Tribune that a majority of the population in the three islands catches fish to earn their living and their lives become miserable when the government imposes ban on fishing.

In the months of June and July, the government bans fishing because fishes breed during these months. Due to this, the island dwellers become jobless and they have no means of earning. The governments in the past have been pressed multiple times to either create some jobs for the fishing community during breeding season or fix some unemployment allowance for them, however, no step has been taken as of now to mitigate the plight of the island inhabitants.

According to Bhatti, unavailability of potable water was the biggest issue for the residents of the islands. During the last city government's tenure, water lines were laid, however, no water was supplied through them, he stated, adding that although free water can be fetched from a pumping station located near Native Jetty Bridge, it has still to be transported to the islands through boats, due to which it becomes unaffordable. The price of a drum of water is Rs200, whereas, a tank of 1,200 gallons costs approximately Rs3,000, the UC vice-chairman said.

Since there is no hospital in the islands, patients have to be taken on boats to the main city in case of emergency. The situation becomes problematic during night hours as boats are not operated at night, causing misery for patients.

### Contestants in the run

MQM-Pakistan's Afshan Qamber Ali, PPP's Abdul Qadir Patel, PML-N's Salman Khan, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Sardar Abdul Aziz, Pak Sarzameen Party's (PSP) Muhammad Yousuf and MMA's Gul Muhammad Afridi are among 12 candidates who are vying for NA-248.

For PS-112, the MQM-P has fielded Afshan, the PPP Liaquat Ali Askani and the PML-N Saleem Javaid. There are a total 24 candidates vying for the seat, including PSP's Imtiaz Akbar and MMA's Naik Amanullah.

The number of candidates contesting on PS-113 is 18. They include PPP's Humayun Muhammad Khan, MQM-P's Mangla Sharma, PML-N's Mohibullah Khan and MMA's Sajjad Ahmed Khan.

As many as 14 candidates are in the run for PS-114 that is partially included in NA-248. The candidates include PPP's Mir Talib Hussain Brohi, MQM-P's Syed Shahid Mian, PML-N's Saeedullah Khan and MMA's Muhammad Usman.

(By Syed Ashraf Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 20/07/2018)

## **Judicial commission seeks list of water, sanitation projects with progress report**

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Monday expressed displeasure over the non-compliance with its order about transfer of water and sewerage schemes and sought from the local government secretary a list of such projects of the entire province with their status.

While hearing a matter regarding some schemes in Mirpurkhas, head of the commission retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim observed that in the first place such schemes should have been assigned to the regular formation instead of the local government, which had no expertise as far as sewerage and water supply schemes were concerned.

However, despite the order passed by the Supreme Court as well as the commission, such schemes had not been transferred to regular formation by the government, he added.

A contractor informed the commission that a scheme in Mirpurkhas had not been completed for want of funds while a former project director said it was spread over more than two years.

The commission directed the secretary for the public health engineering department to verify the execution of the work and the quality in conformity with PC-1 and PC-2 within 15 days and thereafter the fate of those schemes would be decided.

It also asked the local government secretary to provide a list of the schemes related to sewerage and water supply of the whole province being executed by the local government department with their status.

The special initiatives department (SID) had been dissolved on a directive of the apex court and therefore those schemes should have been transferred to the public health engineering department, but the directives had not been complied with, the commission added.

A former project director of the now defunct SID told the commission that he was looking after difference schemes of roads, water supply and drainage in Thatta and Sujawal districts and contended that those projects were executed in conformity with PC- 1 and 2.

The commission, which had summoned the officer after finding some flaws in schemes during its recent visit to Thatta, ruled that the same was to be verified by the public health engineering secretary within a week.

The former project director undertook that if there was any error in these schemes, it would be rectified by him through the contractors within 15 days.

After the verification, the public health secretary would take over the schemes of water supply and drainage, the commission ruled and directed the local government secretary to provide manpower and budget for those schemes.  
(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 24/07/2018)

## **Judicial commission seeks list of water, sanitation projects with progress report**

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(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 24/07/2018)

## **Pakistan's water economy: getting the balance right**

Pakistan is a country characterised by great landscape variations from snow-covered northern mountains to irrigated floodplains of the Indus, vast coastal lands and extremely dry deserts of the Balochistan Plateau. Since independence in 1947, Pakistan has been struggling with managing its water resources as more than one-third of the water resources have origins outside of the country. This has resulted in water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank in 1960, giving control over waters of the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej to India. With rising population and increasing demand for water, water security has become a major concern as the per capita annual water availability has dropped from 5,260 cubic metres in 1947 to less than 1,000 cubic metres in 2018.



According to some recent studies, Pakistan is ranked 46<sup>th</sup> among 48 nations in the Asia-Pacific region, with only Kiribati and Afghanistan having a lower water security index. Pakistan is also among the top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. The looming shortages and worsening quality of water have become serious threats to food, health, energy and job security. Cities have run out of safe drinking water, agriculture shows lowest crop yields as crops remain thirsty and vast salinised floodplains below the Kotri Barrage and drying polluted wetlands like Lake Manchar have become sad environmental disasters. There is a National Water Policy and a National Climate Policy but the crisis seems to have become only worse as implementation road maps and action plans are missing. This situation requires extraordinary measures since business-as-usual is no longer an option. This article intends to provide an in-depth analysis of existing data on water availability, water demands, future water availability scenarios and implementable solutions to lead Pakistan from a water-scarce to a water-secure country.

The diagnostic analysis shows that for the last 30 years, the minimum, maximum and average flows in Indus are 67, 112 and 90 million acre feet (MAF) whereas same statistics for the Chenab river are 18, 33 and 26 MAF and for the Jhelum river 12, 32 and 23 MAF. The overall minimum, maximum and average availability of water from these rivers is 99, 183 and 144 MAF. The effective water available from underground water recharges from rivers and vast irrigation system is estimated to be around 50 MAF. Key questions are whether these water resources and rainfall over the irrigated and Barani areas are enough for consumptive water uses? Is too much water escaping the productive use below the Kotri Barrage to the ocean? Pakistan's water storage capacity from existing large dams like Mangla and Tarbela is less than 14 MAF and is continuously decreasing due to sedimentation. A key question is whether an additional 6 to 10 MAF of water from planned dams can make Pakistan water secure?

A close examination of water flows for the last 30 years below the Kotri Barrage shows maximum, minimum and average flows as 92, 0.3 and 27 MAF. There have been many years, eg, from 2002-2003 when there were no substantial flows downstream the Kotri Barrage which means all the available water was diverted due to low supplies. Under such future scenarios will managers be able fill the existing and new dams?

A close study of the water balance of Pakistan shows water losses from dams to fields and within the farmer fields from 25 to 50 per cent due to use of flood irrigation and poor system management. Such losses are too high by international standards. Some of these losses can be recovered through an extra expense of energy from the groundwater while others are unrecoverable as they end up in saline unusable groundwater or evaporate back to the skies.

The storage yield curves of the Indus river basin show that up to 20 MAF, every additional MAF of storage will yield around 1 MAF of additional water supplies after which available water becomes lesser and lesser. Given the data of low flow below Kotri, there will be years when managers will be unable to fill the existing storages. The existing dams and network of barrages and canals have been able to divert around 105 MAF successfully. The additional surface storages can store around 10 MAF flows in the Indus Basin during normal and flood years. During flood years like 2010, more than 50 MAF of water flowed below the Kotri Barrage. During such years, there is an option of using these flows to recharge groundwater by diverting floods to the thirsty landscapes such as Thar.

Cultivation of many of the summer crops grown in Pakistan, such as rice and sugar, demands highest amounts of water while the largest winter crop, wheat, a staple food crop, remains under-irrigated. Can there be options to limit areas of rice and sugar cane and tailor Pakistan's cropping patterns to present and future water availability?

Key conclusion from these scenarios is that there is a need to invest in more dams but additional storage alone will not be enough to make Pakistan water-secure. Greater gains need to be made for saving huge water losses equivalent to storage of over five new dams by investment in proven water efficiency technologies. At the farm level, such technologies can include use of drones for cropping mapping, water control devices such as smart valves, laser levelling, cheap drip irrigation, crops on beds, etc to reduce water losses. There can be leakage hotspot investments to reduce losses from supply system to saline

groundwater and unproductive evaporation in the system. To improve water availability, one can recommend rooftop and micro catchment harvesting, artificial recharge of areas such as Thar with flood waters and storage of water in soils through conservation measures such as using polymers and other technologies. Given the trans-boundary nature of water resources with over 30 per cent of water supplies coming from upper catchments of Jhelum and Chenab rivers across the borders, there is a need to construct minimum linkage infrastructure, like linking Indus River below Tarbela with Jhelum River to be able to supply minimum water needs for strategic water and food security plans.

Where can be the practical entry points for road to a water-secure Pakistan? The urgent need is to provide safe drinking water as a basic human right to all citizens of Pakistan. If one uses such an approach, less than 2 MAF are needed to provide basic water supply to all Pakistanis. It is recommended to replace hazardous groundwater with surface water supplies from canals running close to our cities such as Lahore and Faisalabad and provide desalinated seawater to cities such as Karachi. Land-based wastewater treatment such as the one being used by the National University of Science and Technology through a UNESCO project can provide economical solution to treat waste waters from the cities which is being used to grow unsafe vegetables in the surroundings of most cities.

Existing water institutions and governance system has been unable to tackle the water security challenge of Pakistan. There is a need for a National Water Commission working under the directions of the National Water Council representing all stakeholders. The water education and continuous professional development need reforms through international collaborations. A national research university of water management similar to Hohai University in China is recommended closely linked with the Ministry of Water Resources.

In a nutshell, dams and artificial recharge of aquifers are urgently needed but increased water storage capacity of Pakistan cannot solve the water security problem alone. There must be a focus on improved governance, trans-boundary data availability and more extensive water loss analysis at the urban water supply system and irrigation districts levels for targeted improvement of water efficiency, availability and water equity. A sustained 10-year effort is needed for a water-secure Pakistan including construction of critical water infrastructure (dams and artificial recharge of aquifers), good governance according to 21<sup>st</sup> century water management standards, and technology for water resilience and efficiency. The business as usual is no more an option for Pakistan!

(By Dr Shahbaz Khan The Express Tribune, 17, 28/07/2018)

### **KWSB ordered to change 65MGD scheme project director and team**

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Wednesday directed the managing director of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board to replace the project director of a 65 MGD water scheme and his team as they were not paying required attention to the project.

The commission, which held proceedings on the premises of the Sindh High Court, directed the water utility chief to replace the team along with project director Zafar Palejo “who failed to deliver since long”.

The commission head, retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, gave the direction after confronting MD KWSB with the slow progress of the project.

He, however, expressed his satisfaction over the execution of another 100 MGD water scheme observing that its working was on a fast track and the project manager was “dedicated”.

#### **Order to fill KWSB vacancies**

Responding to a query from the commission, the KWSB chief said that the water utility had a number of vacancies.

The commission ordered him to start recruitments through competitive process by engaging reputable agencies like National Testing Service and/or Institute of Business Administration.

As for the gazetted posts, Justice Muslim asked the water utility chief to approach the Public Service Commission. “This process should immediately start without any further delay of time so that the water board is fully functional and self-sufficient in terms of human resource”.

He also ordered that such process should be in conformity with the budgetary limits of the KWSB.

#### **Warrants issued**

Meanwhile, the commission issued bailable warrants for the arrest of owners and representatives of as many as 15 different companies and industrial units for not attending proceedings despite issuance of notices for their personal appearance. They were directed to appear before the commission on Thursday (today).

Justice Muslim in his order also referred to a protest of employees who were transferred from Town Committee Mirpur Bathoro and Daro of District Sujawal. “What is unfortunate is that after their transfer, the salaries and pensions were being received by the parent wings which were not being transferred for different reasons”.

He observed that the local government and the finance department never bothered about these issues which had direct impact on the transferred employees.

"What is most unfortunate is that the parent municipality, which was receiving the salaries of the employees and pensions of the transferred employees, pocketed that amount and utilised in some other head".

The local government secretary also informed the commission that similar irregularities were also committed in Thatta.

The commission directed the local government and finance secretaries to sit together to see that all the transferred employees and/or retired employees transferred to any other wing within local government in municipalities start getting their salaries and/or pension from the transferred municipality.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 16/08/2018)

### **Rains increase water level at Hub Dam**

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.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 20/08/2018)

### **40% of Karachi without water for last 15 days**

More than 40% of the areas in Karachi are without water for the past 15 days. A scarce resource in most towns, the inequitable distribution of water by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) officials has aggravated the crisis in the city as citizens are compelled to buy water at exorbitant rates.



Citizens have appealed to Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani to take notice of the crisis while many who are fed up have resorted to protests against the water shortage in various neighbourhoods.

According to sources in the KWSB, officers of the bulk supply department are to blame for the unfair water distribution in various parts of the city, including Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Korangi, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Buffer Zone, Orangi Town, Malir, Shah Faisal Colony, Surjani Town, North Karachi, Baldia Town and Keamari.

The KWSB sources claimed that the bulk supply lines of the water board have been diverted to supply water to illegal hydrants established in different areas, such as Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Mauripur, Hub River Road and Ittehad Town.

The tanker mafia is profiteering from the massive KWSB theft and selling the water at exorbitant rates. The sources shared that around four to five million gallons of water is being stolen on a daily basis.

#### **Frustrated and helpless: Karachiites take to the streets over power, water shortage**

"The unfair water distribution of the water board has devastated the city's water supply system. The citizens are being deprived of a basic facility," one KWSB official said, adding that areas which previously had regular supply of water have also been affected by the current crisis, compelling the residents to pay large sums of money for tanker water. The citizens have appealed to Ghani to take notice of the issue and take action against the officers involved in water theft.

#### **Struggle continues**

Meanwhile, presidential candidate Arif Alvi of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has said that a neat and clean Karachi is the party's first priority.

He expressed this view while addressing a think tank dialogue, 'Is struggle for water an alternative approach towards resolution of water crisis', organised by the Hisaar Foundation on Monday.

He said that the PTI government will resolve the water, garbage and sewerage crisis in Karachi. The dialogue aimed to analyse the current progress in resolving the water crisis, different aspects of policy making and advocacy in relation to water.

### **Water shortage prompts Karachi's residents to take to the streets**

The panel comprised experts, including Advocate Shahab Osto, former KWSB chief and a member of the Sindh Water Commission Task Force Suleman Chandio, chief of the World Bank fund formed for betterment in the water sector, Dr Fateh Marri, former MPA Samar Ali and Hisaar Foundation Chairperson Seemi Kamal.

A geography professor at Kings College, London, Dr Danish Mustafa, was the panel moderator.

Kamal said that the scarcity of potable water within the drinking water available is alarming. She said around 44% of the country's population is deprived of potable water.

Pakistan is among the 10 countries where clean drinking water isn't available, she shared, adding that bacteria present in the water in Pakistan is dangerous for human development.

Raising awareness about the negative impacts of bacteria in water, she said that not only do lung and kidney diseases emerge from consumption of polluted water, but people are also contracting cancer, blood disorders and birth defects are taking place. According to a report by the Pakistan Council of Research, 69% to 85% of the water samples are dangerous to health.

### **People take to streets over continuous water shortage**

Every fifth person is affected by diarrhea – one of the most common illnesses in Pakistan – due to consumption of polluted water, according to the report.

The report states 60% children in Pakistan get affected by diarrhea, which is the highest estimate in Asia.

Pakistan is also among the 10 countries worst-affected by the climate change.

(By Naeem Khanzada, The Express Tribune, 04, 28/08/2018)

## **Governor pledges to solve Karachi's water shortage problem**

Sindh Governor Imran Ismail said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Imran Khan's Naya Pakistan in fact was the fulfilment of the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah the way he wanted to see the country.

Talking to media after offering fateha at the Quaid's mausoleum and laying a wreath, he said PM Khan picked up the gauntlet to transform the country in accordance with the vision of the Father of the Nation.

He said: "Today is the luckiest day for me to visit the Mazar in the capacity of Sindh Governor to pay my respects to Father of the Nation. The great leader gave us Pakistan where we are living in a free environment. Let us pledge that we would build Pakistan as per vision of the Quaid."

In reply to a question, Governor Ismail said he would not leave any stone unturned in the service of the people of the province with total honesty and dedication and would not hesitate to sacrifice his life for the development and prosperity of the province.

### *Promises to remove all obstacles standing in way of Green Line BRTS's completion*

He said he would take along all stakeholders because the interest of the people of the province could only be served through consultation and consensus of every party in the assembly and outside the assembly.

He said he would work with the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party, Grand Democratic Alliance, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan and other parties in Sindh.

### **Green Line project**

In reply to another question, he said he would start taking briefing of the federal government's development projects being carried out in the province.

The governor said the pressing issue of Karachi was of water and it was his top priority to improve water supply.

In this connection, he said, he had already talked to the prime minister and federal finance minister who had assured him to ensure availability of water in the city at every cost.

Besides the ongoing water projects, there was a dire need to start new water projects to meet the future needs of the metropolis. He hoped that new water supply projects would soon be initiated for Karachi.

Talking about transport problems in the city, he said that the Green Line metro bus was a good project for facilitating commuters. He said he would be able to comment on the pace of work for the Green Line project's early completion after having a briefing. He promised to remove all obstacles so that the project could be completed at the earliest.

The governor also recorded his impressions in the visitors' book at the Quaid's mausoleum. He wrote: "Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah succeeded [in] acquiring independent state for the Muslims of India through his untiring efforts where every entity enjoy total religious freedom and full opportunities. Building the country in accordance to the vision of Quaid-i-Azam is our top priority."

### **Guard of honour**

Also on Tuesday, the governor had a brief meeting with the Governor House staff and told them that service to the people of the province ought to be their top priority.

He said the people had a lot of expectations from the Governor House and “we have to play a role in ending their difficulties and extending them maximum facilities”.

He was given a guard of honour by Rangers when he arrived at the Governor House.

Later, he visited different wings of the Governor House and planted a sapling as part of the ongoing ‘Green Pakistan’ initiative.

(By Habib Khan Ghorri Dawn, 17, 29/08/2018)

### **Talking out the water dispute**

In what comes up as the first official engagement of the Imran Khan-led Pakistan government with India, Lahore is hosting a nine-member delegation from New Delhi for two-day talks on the contentious water issues, from today. During the Pakistan-India Permanent Indus Commission talks, Pakistan is all set to reiterate its objections to the design of two water storage and hydropower projects — 1,000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnai — being built by India. Pakistan believes that the projects are in violation of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and wants India to modify them in compliance with the treaty. India, on the other hand, finds the projects well within the domain of the treaty.

The Indus Water Treaty — signed by Pakistan and India in 1960 after nine years of consultations mediated by the World Bank — divides the waters of the Indus river system between the two hostile neighbours. Under the Indus treaty, waters of the eastern rivers — Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — had been allocated to India and waters of the western rivers — the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — to Pakistan. The treaty has survived years of tensions between the two archrivals, including two wars and countless military standoffs. However, several recent steps by India pose a threat to the treaty that is widely regarded as an extremely successful agreement.

In March 2017, India had promised to modify the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai projects. To the contrary, it started constructing the two projects without addressing Pakistan’s reservations — as well as a third one, the 850MW Ratle dam — on the River Chenab to redirect water away from Pakistan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself laid the foundation stone of Pakal Dul project in May this year, targeted to be completed within 66 months. Baglihar and Kishanganga are two more examples of projects built by India in violation of the 1960 treaty. Pakistan can no more afford to slumber on the vital water issue and needs to act tough. India’s confrontational stance must, alongside, be tackled by energising the arbitration mechanisms existing within the 1960 treaty.

(By Editorial The Express Tribune, 16, 29/08/2018)

### **Over 2,400 water supply and drainage projects in Sindh non-functional**

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. (By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 17, 30/08/2018)

### **ADB to finance Karachi water supply, drainage schemes**

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 Numais, 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.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 31/08/2018)

### **Mismanagement of resources cited as reason for water scarcity**

Water resources are under immense pressure from climate change and the soaring demand generated by the domestic, agriculture and industrial sectors. There is an urgent need for communities, companies and governments to come up with innovative solutions to secure water that can help maintain the balance between people and nature.

This was stated by World Wildlife Fund-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) on the occasion of World Water Week that started on August 26.

This year, the theme for World Water Week was 'Water, ecosystems and human development'. The week provides an opportunity to scientists, policymakers, the private sector and civil society actors to network, exchange ideas and foster new thinking around the most pressing water-related challenges.

WWF-Pakistan Director General Hammad Naqi Khan said that it's important to value Pakistan's water bodies, particularly rivers and lakes. To achieve sustainable development goals, it is crucial to manage them efficiently, he added, sharing that due to mismanagement and ill-planning of water resources, Pakistan was a water scarce country.

#### **Pak-India water talks: Islamabad voices its concerns over Pakal Dul, Kulnai dams**

Khan informed that Pakistan's per capita surface water availability had declined from 5,260 cubic metres per year in 1951 to around 1,000 cubic metres in 2016. He also warned that this quantity was likely to drop further to about 860 cubic metres by 2025. He added that the rapid rise in population would further aggravate the water situation and emphasised that water, ecosystems and its impact on human development required collective action.

To raise awareness and educate the masses, WWF-Pakistan is hosting a 10-litre water challenge, a short video competition for the young generation. The aim of this competition is to make the youth understand the water issues in Pakistan. Under this challenge, students will spend 24 hours using only 10 litres of water. This includes water consumed in all daily activities including the water used to prepare meals, bathe and washing of clothes. The experience will be documented by the students and hopes to make the public understand how hard it is to spend a day with such little water. In this way, the water challenge will change a student's perspective about freshwater use and management.

On the occasion of World Water Week, WWF-Pakistan has also released a report, 'Valuing Rivers', that outlines how the traditionally narrow view of rivers as primary sources of water and power puts other critical benefits at risk, from freshwater fisheries to natural flood protection for cities and sediment flows that keep the world's deltas above the rising seas. While these rivers directly benefit hundreds of millions of people, they are often overlooked and remain a low priority for decision makers – until they disappear and crises occur.

#### **CDA's apathy closes water treatment plants in Bahawalpur**

The report shows how this short-sighted approach has proven costly across the globe and could result in even greater economic losses in the future. Already, 19% of global GDP comes from watersheds with high or very high water risk, while most of the world's great deltas – including the Ganges, Indus, Mekong, Nile and Yangtze – are sinking and shrinking.

To discuss water issues and showcase the work, WWF-Pakistan attended the World Water Week 2018 in Stockholm, where freshwater initiatives taken by the organisation were presented. WWF-Pakistan Manager International Environmental and Labour Standards Sohail Naqvi along with officials from Arizona State University, Earth Genome and WWF-US presented the Basin Assessment Scenario Intervention Tool, which is currently under construction. This tool shows an integrated approach of surface water, groundwater and supply-demand scenarios of the Ravi Basin in Pakistan. He also shared the findings of the work with the textile sector in Pakistan and discussed the organization's approach of engaging local stakeholders for collective action.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 01/09/2018)

### **Dog's carcass retrieved from Sakhi Hassan hydrant tank**

A three-to-four days old dog's bloated carcass was retrieved from an underground water tank at Sakhi Hassan Water hydrant on Saturday. Water from this pump is mostly supplied to the areas of District Central.

According to Karachi Water and Sewage Board's (KWSB) spokesperson, Rizwan Ahmed, the dog fell inside the tank early in the morning and after a few hours, workers at the hydrant fetched out its body. "The tank was properly washed after it was emptied," he claimed.

The dog which was retrieved had his eyes popped out, tongue swelled up and protruding outside his mouth, with the entire body swelled up and skin shredded in several places. According to a water researcher at Agha Khan University Hospital, Hassan Nawaz, the body by no means seemed hours old. "It's surely a three-to-four days old animal carcass," he said.

Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani has ordered an inquiry into the matter and assured that he will take action against the staff responsible for the incident. "After cleaning the tank, water supply has been resumed," said KWSB Managing Director Khalid Sheikh. According to a press statement from KWSB, a high-level inquiry team has been constituted to look into the matter.

Sheikh has directed KWSB officials to cover all of KWSB's reservoirs, tanks, water chambers and pumping stations properly.

#### **Rupture in pipeline affects water supply to city**

##### **Huge Tank**

An official of the Sakhi Hassan water hydrant told The Express Tribune that it wasn't the water hydrant where the dog's body was found. "It is basically a water pump adjacent to the hydrant," the official said adding that the tank of that pump is some 90-foot-long, 30-foot-wide which can store around 0.5 million gallons of water.

At around 12:30pm, the official said that the staff at the pump found the dog's body floating inside the tank. He explained that there were small openings in the tank covered with grills, from where they could see the dog, but as it was rotating, they couldn't fetch out his body. "We immediately wasted some 0.3 million gallon water," he said adding that then one of the drivers of the water tanker went inside the tank, which still had some seven-feet deep water, and brought out the dog's body.

When The Express Tribune visited the water tank, the few openings of the underground tank were covered either by a rickety wood plank or some cardboard. Several dogs were roaming around. A security guard at the water pump told The Express Tribune that a few weeks back a female dog gave birth to few puppies that could have easily fallen inside the tank. The official at the hydrant added that there was a possibility that the dog fell in any of their other reservoirs.

##### **Health hazard**

According to Nawaz, there are severe health hazards for the consumers of this water. The water now, he said, can have coliform units, which can cause diarrhoea, typhoid among several other diseases. "Ideally the KWSB should immediately conduct biological water quality tests," he said adding that if the water board isn't doing its job then residents should do it.

"At least, they should boil the water properly before using it," he said. However, the KWSB official said that they chlorinated the water with 60 litres of chlorine.

(By Oonib Azam The Express Tribune, 05, 09/09/2018)

## Sindh's legal fraternity opposes dams on Indus river

The Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA) announced its opposition to any move to build dams on Indus River without the consent of Sindh, citing inter-provincial disputes between Punjab and Sindh on water sharing since 1859. The legal fraternity of SHCBA also held a demonstration in Hyderabad on Monday to express its disapproval.



“The SHCBA, keeping in view the water disputes between Sindh and Punjab and perusing Articles 153, 154 and 155 of the Constitution, strongly condemns violation of the said articles,” reads a three-page resolution signed by SHCBA Vice President Advocate Syed Muhammad Waseem Shah and General Secretary Advocate Ishrat Ali Lohar.

Lawyers from 14 districts of Sindh’s Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Nawabshah divisions are members of SHBCA, Hyderabad.

The resolution further blamed the Centre of not only violating the Constitution, but usurping Sindh’s rights of the co-sharer and beneficiary as the lower riparian of the Indus river system. “... while perusing several reports, decisions of the committees and commissions constituted before and after Independence ... [the bar] is of the opinion that Sindh is facing sheer violation of its rights on Indus since 1859 and Punjab is taking its water illegally.”

The resolution referred to the 1901 India Irrigation Commission, 1919 Cotton Committee, 1935 Anderson Committee and 1941 Rao Commission of the pre-Independence era. It also cited the 1968 Akhtar Hussain Committee, 1970 Fazal Akbar Commission, 1981 Anwarul Haq Commission and 1983 Haleem Commission.

“The SHCBA condemns and opposes the projects in the name of dams or canals on Indus River [which are built] without the consent of Sindh.” The resolution also mentioned the April, 2016 report of the Senate’s Standing Committee on Planning and Development which surveyed sea intrusion in Sindh.

It pointed out that of the around 770-kilometer stretch of the coast from Sir Creek in Sindh to Jeewani in Balochistan, a 254 km area from Sir Creek to Karachi had been affected or was vulnerable to the intrusion. The standing committee’s survey was assisted by the Pakistan Navy, National Institute of Oceanography and Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Centre.

“The contention that the water released into the sea is lost is incorrect and nothing but a lie,” the resolution reads. “The SHCBA, Hyderabad strongly believes that the flow of water to the sea isn’t a loss but it’s a need of the delta.” The legal fraternity pointed to tens of thousands of acres of land which has been eaten by the sea in Thatta, Sujawal and Badin districts.

The bar underscored that any dam or canal built without the approval of Sindh and without addressing the water disputes between Punjab and Sindh from 1859 to 2018 will not be acceptable.

### Another resolution

Meanwhile, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Nawab Taimour Talpur submitted a resolution against the Kalabagh Dam after the Chief Justice of Pakistan’s remarks that Pakistan’s survival is in building the dam.

Expressing concern over the matter, the PPP MPA said, “It is a known fact that the people of Sindh, irrespective of political affiliation, have opposed and negated the construction of Kalabagh more than once.”

Not only Sindh, but Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have also rejected this controversial project, he stated, adding that such an announcement [in favour of the dam] from different quarters, makes them feel insecure as being affectees of dams and canals by upper riparian, they have suffered a lot.

He expressed the belief the dam will ruin the economy and agriculture of Sindh and the Indus Delta will be vanished with sea intrusion. “The people of Sindh who are protesting against it are being threatened of invoking Article 6 of the Constitution. Therefore, this assembly resolves that now any decision for this dam on Indus will be against three federating units, Sindh, KP and Balochistan and the construction of Kalabagh be stopped forever,” he said.

(By Our Correspondents The Express Tribune, 05, 18/09/2018)

## Unsafe waters

As if there were not enough issues for the country to fret about, the discovery of hundreds of fish washed up along Karachi’s Sea View beach has raised alarm bells about fresh threats to marine life.

On September 16, a large number of sea creatures washed ashore, causing a concern for the fishermen community, whose livelihood depends on them. While the reasons for this are yet to be known, citizens blame the maritime movement of ships to Karachi’s port and shore, along with poisonous chemical waste and diesel from factories, and disposal of untreated waste into the sea as major reasons behind the incident.

These occurrences seem to have become an annual affair but despite that neither has the federal, provincial governments nor the Karachi municipal authority taken any action against these factories, putting marine life and the lives of citizens who frequent the beaches at a risk.

What is worse is that the failure of authorities to ensure clean and safe water is not limited to Karachi. Recently, a probe into a large number of dead fish being found in the Rawal Dam — the main source of drinking water for the residents of Rawalpindi — found that four people had mixed poison in the water. This was the third such incident that occurred since last year, owing to a tussle between two groups over the fishing contracts in the lake. On the other hand, around 40 storm drains carrying sewage also fall into the dam, along with industrial waste, polluting the dam.

While the government asks the citizenry to donate for the construction of new dams, it ignores the issues in the existing dams and water reservoirs. The Supreme Court's order of a forensic audit of operations of a private mineral water company and quality check of all major bottled water brands is a welcome move. But this action needs to be stretched across all water governing bodies to ensure a safe flow of water.

(By Editorial The Express Tribune, 16, 18/09/2018)

## **CM to seek 1,200 cusecs additional water for city at CCI meeting tomorrow**

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 Iftikhar Chaudhry, 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.  
(By The Newspaper’s Staff Reporter Dawn, 15, 23/09/2018)

## **City running dry**

THERE are neighbourhoods in Karachi that receive water for one or two hours every 36 days; there are those who have not received water for the past six months or more; and there are those where pipelines have been laid but water has never come.



In these conditions, people have to fend for themselves. The well-off make independent bores to a depth of 30 metres or more at a cost of Rs200,000 to get brackish water. Those who cannot afford to do this pool money to develop a collective bore. Those who cannot afford to participate in this process purchase tankers collectively. In all cases, portable water is mixed with brackish water to increase the volume.

Meanwhile, the private sector has stepped in to provide relief. Entrepreneurs have taken over the abandoned filtration plants that were set up (one in every union council by the city government). They operate these plants ‘illegally’, in connivance with the police and ‘officials’. There are long lines at these plants where water is sold at Rs1 per litre. Water vendors also pick up water from here on Suzukis and sell it at a cost of Rs2 per litre at the household door. Entrepreneurs have also put up osmosis plants where water is sold at Rs3 to Rs4 per litre.

### *Around 40pc to 50pc of Karachi’s water is lost through leakages.*

The poorest can’t make use of any of these options and wait for KMC tankers to provide them with water. These tankers function erratically, and so people, mainly women and children, wait in long lines, sometimes for an entire night to fill their cans and utensils. Surveys show that the water situation stops children from going to school, women from working, and men from being punctual at their jobs. The situation is also responsible for domestic violence, neighbourhood quarrels, and abusive language against the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) and KMC staff, who along with the informal private sector are the main financial beneficiaries, through bribes and coercion, of a system that informally provides relief to a thirsty public.

Politicians constantly remind the people of Karachi that their water problems will be solved when the K4 water scheme which is supposed to bring additional water to the city will become operative. However, it will take three to four years before the project can be commissioned. And even when commissioned it will not solve Karachi’s water problems in the absence of an efficient and empowered KWSB. This is because Karachi’s water-related infrastructure needs repair, replacement, and maintenance, especially since more than 40 per cent of the city’s pipes are 50-70 years old.

As a result, 40pc to 50pc of Karachi’s water is lost through leakages. Most of the pumps are old and energy inefficient, and require heavy maintenance. The diesel pumps which are to function during load-shedding often do so erratically, and in many cases do not have any diesel available, for whatever reason.

Water is also tapped illegally in a big way and lines are often laid in the sewage-carrying nullahs. Parallel lines, depriving the system of water, are also laid for political reasons, and are not documented. On the outer fringe of the city, councillors and KWSB staff are continuously extorting money from people promising water supply which never materialises. A bulk metering system was installed at an enormous cost but it no longer functions, making a rational water-rationing system impossible.

In all this, line men are kings. They determine who gets water and who does not, and they arrange for illegal connections and extensions. Only they know the location of pipes, thousands of the smaller leakage points and the amount and process through which people are willing to pay for the service.

Given this situation, it is necessary that the system be documented, a human resource audit carried out, and its recommendations implemented. This can only be done effectively with the involvement of the line man and mid-level KWSB staff. In addition, the KWSB requires a culture of continuous learning, training, and documentation. It also requires being accountable to the people through presenting them with its plans and their costs, and incorporating their concerns.

It is assumed that accountability can be achieved through a board of respectable citizens. However, the board has proved to be an incompetent entity composed of competent people. What the KWSB requires is a paid executive committee drawn from civil society that advises the KWSB executive in carrying out the agenda outlined above. It is a difficult task that has to be done.

As for sustainability, the KWSB will require a large subsidy for the foreseeable future. But over a 10-year period, with consultative reforms, sustainability can be achieved. Mega projects funded by international funds have not worked in the past and will not work in the future without mega management. We have learnt this at an enormous expense. We must not make the same mistakes again. (By Arif Hasan Dawn, 09, 25/09/2018)

## RO plants to run on solar power

Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani has said that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that clean drinking water is provided to all districts of the province and in order to accomplish this, it is essential to complete water schemes on time. He said this in a meeting with public health engineering department officials on Thursday.



### Power for off-grid areas: Solar mini-grids set up in two districts of K-P

Ghani directed the officials to ensure that all dysfunctional RO plants in the province are operational within two months and all minor problems due to which the completion of schemes is hindered are resolved. Secretary of public health engineering department, Jamal Mustafa Shah, and chief engineers from all districts and other officials were present in the meeting.

### Sindh plans to light 20,000 households with solar energy

Ghani was also informed that 1,044 out of the 1,862 RO plants installed all over the province are functional while 818 are dysfunctional which would be activated within two months.

Ghani said that the delay was caused due to shortage of electricity and this issue would be resolved soon as the projects are being shifted to solar energy.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 05, 28/09/2018)

## Water management

THE ushering in of a new government has generated excitement in Pakistan for a political paradigm shift, with the promise of strengthening public institutions, good governance and accountability to advance citizens' social and economic well-being and to protect our environment for future generations. Will we see a paradigm shift in the water sector? What should such a shift look like?



In his Aug 19 address, Prime Minister Khan highlighted numerous infrastructure-oriented solutions (the Diamer Bhasha dam, canal lining, etc) for our water woes. This should not be the paradigm shift. While such measures are important components of our water planning and management framework, they do not adequately address the socioeconomic and environmental sustainability challenges we face. In fact, romanticising infrastructure-oriented solutions shifts the focus from long-standing issues of poor management,

substandard water quality and inequitable delivery. These problems are a consequence of our static water policies, poor governance, institutional weaknesses and lack of accountability — and the magic wand of infrastructure development is not the solution.

If the goals of the paradigm shift are socioeconomic well-being and environmental sustainability, the focus of any water solution should be on i) provision of clean water for drinking and domestic use to all Pakistanis, ii) equitable water supplies to all farmers (and industrial users) as per predefined water rights, and iii) extraction of water from the Indus basin to levels that are environmentally sustainable. The means to these ends are revisions of key policy documents (especially the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord and the 2018 National Water Policy) and institutional reforms.

### *The magic wand of infrastructure development is not the solution.*

The policy framework should first see a revamp of the 1991 accord between the provinces. In his address, Mr Khan rightly pointed out that sustainable water supply to large cities (especially Karachi and Quetta) is the foremost challenge. While introducing new water treatment plants, desalination, etc, mentioned in the PTI's Karachi plan, may be important cogs of an urban water solution, explicitly introducing urban budgets and entitlements in the provincial water accord is inevitable and will usher in a sustainable, economically feasible source of water supply to large urban centres. A city like Lahore, for instance, could then rely less on groundwater extraction. There is already precedence for this: in 2016, all provinces agreed on allocating 200 cubic feet per second of water to Islamabad and Rawalpindi from the Indus at Ghazi Barotha.

Reliable and equitable water delivery for farmers and industry is another key challenge that requires a paradigm shift towards institutional reforms of water institutions. There is a genuine lack of service-oriented accountability among our key water delivery institutions. Water for agriculture, for instance, is to be delivered by irrigation departments (within provinces) through an equitable distribution mechanism, also referred to as the rotational plan. While ensuring delivery according to the rotational plan is the prime responsibility of each department, are these institutions held accountable for ensuring equitable delivery according to water rights

and the rotational plans? Are these institutions well equipped, in terms of human resources, technologies for water monitoring, and systems and standards for accounting, to ensure reliable and equitable water delivery? Unfortunately, no.

The 2018 National Water Policy is a landmark document that provides an opportunity to initiate reforms for our federal and provincial water institutions. However, it needs a major revisit if fostering water reforms is a key objective of the paradigm shift (the name should also be changed to 'national water reforms'). In its current form, the policy highlights the importance of strengthening institutional capacity. However, when tangible timelines and solutions are proposed for the next decade, the document heavily leans towards infrastructure development, and the mention of institutional reforms is negligible.

In this regard, we can definitely learn from Australia, who in 2004 proposed their National Water Initiative, a blueprint of their water reforms. The foundation of this reform was introduction of a standardised system for monitoring and accounting of water rights. The blueprint pledged a timeline for incorporating this reform and successfully did so by 2014.

Climate change and the drought of 2018 have compelled the nation to rally behind our leaders in support of the Diamer Bhasha dam fund, and rightly so. However, there is a great risk that a genuine paradigm shift will drown in the waters of the Bhasha reservoir. Hopefully, this won't be the case.

(By Taimoor Akhtar Dawn, 09, 28/09/2018)

## Water priorities

THE attention that Prime Minister Imran Khan is giving to water issues in the country is a refreshing break from the more brick-and-mortar priorities of the previous government. However, securing the water future of the country will take a lot more than meetings and directives. It is unfortunate to note this — increasingly, there is an impression that while the government's priorities might appear sound, the new setup has little idea of what to do about pursuing them. The latest example of this was the meeting held by Mr Khan on Wednesday in which he directed key individuals on his leadership team along with senior members of the water bureaucracy to ensure better coordination with the provinces, apart from formulating a legislative framework to regulate surface water usage and groundwater extraction. These are all important issues and the prime minister's personal attention to them is welcome. But water is an intricate and sprawling issue, and it is absolutely necessary for Mr Khan to meet and solicit advice from people beyond the water bureaucracy.

Once he ventures outside the limited confines of the water bureaucrats, he will experience the difficulty of even trying to take a comprehensive view of the water predicament in the country. Urban and rural water issues, for example, are very different from each other, and involve very different tiers of government. Urban water distribution presents challenges that are part technical, part financial — they are also challenges that are deeply embedded in urban rackets and municipal dysfunctions. In some places, the dysfunctions are political, in others they are economic. Trying to take a single, comprehensive approach to problems in the water sector is clearly the wrong starting point.

Compounding the issue is the blinkered view that the water bureaucracy has traditionally taken of Pakistan's water sector. In their opinion, the problem is first and foremost one of quantity, and all other aspects of it, such as governance, reform of access regimes and pricing, are a distant second. The best illustration of this is the read-out that emerged from the meeting itself, in which water pricing was not even mentioned as a topic that was discussed. The scale of the water sector is so large, and the number of problems that need simultaneous attention so vast, that the prime minister would be well advised to adopt a more systematic approach to pursuing his priorities in this area. In doing this, it would be a sensible move to consult water sector experts outside the water bureaucracy, and even beyond the donor agencies. It will take a monumental effort to build the coalitions he needs to generate a positive outcome in the water sector, and one can only wish him all the best in this endeavour.

(By Editorial Dawn, 08, 28/09/2018)

## What Pakistan's worsening water crisis needs — another conference

What can be an alternative to the large storage water dams which often trigger resentful controversies in Pakistan? At an interchange of views at a dialogue, organised by non-profit organisations in Hyderabad on Friday, the participants discussed the concepts of reverting to the natural flow of the river and adoption of water conservation models.



### Students set out to help water-starved residents

"Tarbela and Mangla dams contribute around 10% of the total water required for irrigation of agricultural lands in the country. The remaining 90% still comes from flow of the river," said Dr Hassan Abbass, an expert of hydrology, who dwelt at length in his presentation making an argument against construction of dams.

"The world now acknowledges that a flowing river is a healthy river and the stored water is unhealthy." He underlined the need of adopting the 'flowing river model' and desisting from the dam-centered approach of water management.

For him, dams are costly and besides creating inter-provincial controversies over water sharing, they also end up denying release of the required quantity of water to the sea which leads to sea intrusion. "It's a misconception that the delta [the place where river meets the sea] belongs to Sindh province only. It [the delta] belongs to the river and to the whole country," he clarified.



According to the estimates he shared from the 1980s to the present times, the sea has been affecting 24 million acres of land and consuming eight acres every day. In the last century, up to 200 million acre per feet water went to the sea from the River Indus which has currently shrunk to the paltry one or two MAF. This is despite the 1991 Water Accord which provides for releasing 10 MAF in the sea.

He said the coastal land in Badin, Thatta and Sujawal districts where sea intrusion is being neglectfully allowed is a pricey land in terms of agriculture and other purposes.

Dr Abbass suggested utilisation waterfront land along the river for commercial and residential purposes and inland navigation through the river to generate economic activity. He said that the stretch of the rivers in Pakistan spread to around 7,000 kilometers. "To begin with, the government can build a port at Kotri Barrage [in Jamshoro near Hyderabad]. And later, the people living near the barrages in Sukkur, Guddu, Multan and Attock may demand construction of ports there as well."

All the provinces of Pakistan, he said, can earn significantly from the inland navigation which is the cheapest mode of transport. According to him, India is already planning an inland navigation project but as compared to Pakistan, the former country is at a disadvantage because its delta is mostly located in Bangladesh.

He traced navigation in River Indus as far back as 326 BC by Alexander of Macedonia. It was also done in different times in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. "The port at Kotri can be built and made operational much before the Gawadar port. It requires some investment and release of water in the river," he shared.

According to him, at the Karachi port, only around half of some 30 berths are presently being used because inland road communication does not allow loading and offloading of containers in all the berths. He said the Kotri port can immediately help reduce burden from Karachi while helping the country increase its exports and imports.

The water expert also shared models of efficient use of water to irrigate agricultural land which will end the need of constructing dams and provide more water for the river. "In a meeting with the Chinese policy makers, they said they wouldn't have built the Three Gorges dam if the solar technology was harnessed in the 1990 when the dam project began. They are generating 8,000 megawatts from the dam while the solar power is providing 70,000 MW energy to the country," the expert said.

#### **SHC serves notices on petition against unclean water supply, water theft**

Zahid Hussain Bhurgari, a representative of the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, which is a farmers' lobbying group, differed with Dr Abbass on the matter of dam building. He said they support construction of the Diamer Bhasha dam. "Sindh's agriculture is currently dependent on Tarbela dam. When Tarbela empties we don't get water for our crops," he contended.

He said both China and India have constructed tens of thousands of dams but when Pakistan decides to build the dams, voices of opposition crop up without cogent justification.

Advocate Ali Palh of Rights Now, a non-profit, who also belongs to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, contended that the dams do not affect environment or the biodiversity. He said the dams which have been approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) should be constructed.

Sindh Abadgar Board General Secretary Dr Zulfiqar Yousfani supported Dr Abbass's propositions about putting a stop on dam construction and releasing more water in the river while adopting efficient farming. "Bhasha dam can be filled once in four to five years only. But Dr Abbass's concept about allowing natural flows in the river, commercial and residential use of waterfront land and inland navigation can revolutionise the water management and the economy."

Advocate Israr Chang, an office bearer of the Sindh High Court Bar Association, objected to the television campaign being run in favour of the dams. He argued that the campaign does not inform the people about flip sides of the dams.  
(By Z.Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 30/09/2018)

### **Addressing water worries**

The National Water Council is set to hold its first meeting at the end of this month to address water worries across provincial water sectors. Indubitably, this is one of the most pressing issues of our time. The lack of water, both potable and unpotable, continues to negatively impact a plethora of other areas, including hygiene, health, agriculture, education, and industry, not to mention the biome of the region. The Council's urgency in the matter will be appreciated; the team includes five private industry experts from whom we have high expectations, in addition to the chief ministers and finance ministers on the team alongside Prime Minister Imran Khan. Specific measures to update the existing water accord to match today's population demands are in order.

Disputes with India over water resources will continue long term inevitably and incessantly to maintain a means of applying pressure on Pakistan. Our internal neglect of the water sector over the decades has resulted in inter-provincial disputes over water supply, which is detrimental to national interest. Islamabad and Sindh have already had a run-in over sharing water resources and Balochistan lodged a complaint against Sindh for hogging supply. Sindh has valid reasons for requiring more water — but we will ignore the fact that it exists adjacent to the Indian Ocean, the third largest ocean in the world. There is no justification for violations of prior agreements.

Coming to the 1991 Water Appointment Accord, the Council of Common Interests and the National Water Council do in fact need to revise figures established in 1991 for the allocation of water to provinces. This should have been achieved years ago

with the influx of citizens from other provinces and refugees into Sindh. The diaspora, because it was not analysed early enough, has led to this water crisis. Once again, setting targets such as increasing the number of reservoirs and constructing dams is a start but realistic, measurable and attainable strategies will need to be implemented to carry ambitions forward. The Council is also advised to examine the environmental impact of the meat and dairy industries in relation to water. *Published in The Express* (By Editorial The Express Tribune, 16, 15/10/2018)

## The Diamer-Bhasha challenge

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 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.  
(By Afzal Ali Shigri Dawn, 08, 15/10/2018)

### **Reopening of hydrant in Baldia under Rangers' watch ordered**

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Monday ordered reopening of a hydrant in Baldia Town on a weekly basis and under the supervision of Pakistan Rangers, Sindh.

The commission, headed by retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim of the apex court, observed that the closed Baldia hydrant needed to be reopened on account of non-availability of water from the original source as water level had already decreased at Hub Dam. It further said that the managing director of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), contractor and area people agreed that Rs1,000 instead of Rs1,200 would be charged for a tanker.

They also agreed that the hydrant would operate for 12 hours on every seventh day of the week.

The commission asked the KWSB chief to ensure that the facility would be supervised by the Rangers in order to avoid any law and order situation.

It also directed the deputy commissioner (DC) of West district to approach an appropriate forum for getting assistance from the paramilitary force since previously there were complaints that public at large created law and order situation at the hydrant.

It also directed the contractor not to run the hydrant on commercial basis and exclusively use it for the people of the locality at the rate of Rs1,000 per tanker and warned that any complaint would expose the contractor to prosecution.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 15, 16/10/2018)

### **PTI, PPP exchange barbs in NA over Karachi water woes**

The National Assembly on the opening day of its winter session on Monday witnessed a war of words among major political parties over the issue of water shortage in the country, particularly in Karachi, as members of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) alleged that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government in Sindh was patronising "tanker mafia".



Taking advantage of the weak handling of the proceedings by Speaker Asad Qaiser and his generosity in giving floor to everyone, the members held almost a full-fledged debate on the water shortage issue when the house took up a calling attention notice on the matter that had been moved by five PTI lawmakers from Karachi.

Under the rules, only the movers of a calling attention notice can ask brief and specific questions and the minister concerned is required to give replies.

The speaker many a time announced that they had already decided to hold a debate on the economic situation and water shortage during the current session that will continue till Nov 9.

#### ***Opposition stages walkout over Shahbaz's delayed arrival***

At the outset of the sitting, the opposition members staged a walkout from the house over what they called "a deliberate delay by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB)" in bringing Leader of the Opposition and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shahbaz Sharif from Lahore to attend the session despite issuance of his production order by the speaker.

The opposition members, however, returned to the house when Mr Sharif was brought to the Parliament House by the NAB authorities.

Talking informally to the reporters, Mr Sharif alleged that the NAB officials were reluctant to bring him to Islamabad from Lahore and claimed that it was upon his insistence that they finally agreed to allow him to attend the NA session. He alleged that the NAB officials had intentionally brought him to Islamabad by road after cancellation of his flight.

There was unusual hustle and bustle inside the Parliament House due to the presence of a large number of political activists who had come to see the oath-taking of the members who had been recently elected in the by-elections. The press gallery was also abuzz with discussions among the journalists who had gathered in large numbers expecting some fireworks from the opposition over the recent decision of the government to increase power tariff, besides hoping another fiery speech from Mr Sharif like he did during the requisition session some two weeks back. However, Mr Sharif made no speech despite the fact that he remained present in the house till its adjournment.

Former president Asif Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also attended the sitting and silently heard the criticism against their party-led government in Sindh. The reply to the criticism came from senior party leaders Syed Khursheed Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar and Shazia Marri.

The speaker also administered oath to 10 new members who were elected in the Oct 14 by-elections.

### **Water shortage**

Raising the issue of “non-availability of potable water in all parts of the country, including Islamabad and particularly in Karachi”, the PTI legislators warned that Karachi could witness a mutiny due to severe water crisis.

Faheem Khan, a PTI lawmaker from the Korangi area of Karachi, said water shortage had become a “political issue”. He questioned when water was not available to the citizens, where did this “tanker mafia” get water from.

Saifur Rehman, an MNA from Karachi East, warned that there could be a “civil war” in Karachi over acute shortage of water. Making a direct attack on the PPP, he said there was no government in Sindh, but a “mafia” was ruling the province.

PTI legislator Attaullah Khan claimed that an “artificial shortage” had been created in Karachi, as “ministers are involved in selling of water”. He claimed that they were receiving threats for raising the matter. “They (PPP) have been ruling the province for 10 years. If the Sindh government is not involved, it should immediately hold a crackdown on tanker mafia,” he went on saying, amidst noisy protest by PPP members.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Mohammad Khan added fuel to the fire when he joined his voice with his party colleagues from the port city and asked the Sindh government to take action against tanker mafia and offered assistance from the federal government in this regard. He said there were 17,000 workers in the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board and most of them were ‘ghost’ employees. He also criticised the previous PML-N government for not releasing funds for Karachi’s K-IV water project. PPP lawmaker Naveed Qamar was of the opinion that discussing a “provincial subject” in the National Assembly was a violation of the Constitution and rules. He blamed the federal government for the water crisis in Karachi and said why Islamabad had not provided the required funds for the crucial K-IV project.

Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari took exception to Mr Qamar’s assertion and said that water was a “fundamental and human rights issue” and the NA could hold a debate over it. She said it was the PML-N government that had not provided the required funds to resolve the issue.

PPP leader Khurshid Shah said that people across the country were facing water shortage but the issue was more serious in Sindh as it was situated at the tail end of the Indus. He said the issue was ignored not only by the previous PML-N government but also by the ruling PTI in its minibudget.

A lawmaker from Karachi’s Malir area criticised the working of water commission under retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, saying that he was running a “parallel government” in Sindh. He said the commission chief had become more powerful than the chief minister of the province. He claimed the issue could be resolved if elected representatives were given the powers.

Abdul Qadir Patel, another PPP MNA from Karachi, in an indirect attack on the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) said that those who were responsible for burdening the water board with ghost employees were sitting with the PTI on the treasury benches. There was also a brief verbal fight between Planning Development Minister Khusro Bakhtiyar with his predecessor Ahsan Iqbal on the issue.

Mr Iqbal clarified that the PML-N government had paid Rs12.1 billion to the Sindh government for K-IV project out of Rs12.6 billion. He also alleged that a number of water projects, which had been initiated by the PML-N government, were dropped by the PTI government.

### **Resolution**

The National Assembly also passed a resolution condemning atrocities being committed by the security forces in the India-held Kashmir.

(By Amir Wasim Dawn, 01, 20/10/2018)

## **Polluted waters**

A MYSTERIOUS black ‘oil spill’ stretching from the coast of Mubarak Village in Sindh to Churna Island in Balochistan has spread panic among the local fishing community and residents, who quickly alerted the authorities. The black slick on the surface of the water that is clinging to rocks and fishing nets is thought to be some days old. Although workers of various NGOs, the navy, Karachi Port Trust, the Pakistan Disaster Management Authority and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have begun cleaning up some of the mess, the extent of the damage to marine life can only be ascertained in the coming days. The source of the spill has still not been found, but Balochistan’s Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the nearby Byco Petroleum plant to halt its operations for now. They fear the spill will spread towards other beaches. Fishermen, who will be the worst affected, have demanded that the government take strict action against the owners of whichever company is found to be responsible for the discharge.

The incident brought back memories of the 2003 oil spill off the coast of Sea View beach in Karachi. Back then, a Greece-registered oil tanker carrying 67,535 tons of light crude oil spilled around 31,000 tons into the surrounding waters. Traces of oil could be seen even one year after the incident. It was catastrophic on all accounts — environmental, social and economic. Mangroves, fish, mammals, turtles, bird and crustacean life were affected by the spill on a large scale. A report stated that out of the 31,000 tons of oil spilled, less than 1pc was recovered in consequent cleanup drives. The implications for the health of those living on the coastal belt were even worse. In 2017, similar fears of another oil spill surfaced after residents noticed that the waters of Sea View and Hawkesbay beaches were growing increasingly dark. Later, it was found that the dark colour was caused by sewage that was being directly flushed into the sea from a drain, which had unclogged due to the rains. There are two sewage and industrial waste dumps

at Sea View that discharge untreated water directly into the sea. It is said that around 500m gallons of waste are discharged daily, which adversely impacts vegetation and marine life, and disturbs the ecological balance. Due to the pollution of these waters, KPT officials bemoan spending millions extra on the maintenance of ships. Pakistan's polluted waters are costing us in every way. (By Editorial Dawn, 08, 29/10/2018)

### **K-IV project cost rises to Rs75bn because of design change, rupee fall**

The cost of the long-delayed Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply project, better known as K-IV, has been increased from Rs25 billion to a whopping Rs75bn due to issues relating to design and site as well as a hike in exchange rate.



K-IV project director Asad Zamin told a high-level meeting, chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and especially attended by Karachi Corps Commander Lt Gen Humayun Aziz, that the mega scheme pertained to supply of 650 million gallons daily of potable water which would be executed in three phases.

The meeting was especially convened by the CM here at the Chief Minister House on Tuesday to settle all K-IV water project issues, including the increasing cost of the project.

*The Sindh govt to ask the Centre to share 50pc of the revised cost*

Mr Zamin said that the first phase of the project was meant for 260 MGD with a length of around 121 kilometres starting from Keenjhar Lake, Thatta and ending at Deh Allah Phihai, Malir.

He said that the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) had approved Rs25.551bn K-IV in 2014 and the prices/cost of the project was based on the rates of 2010.

The federal government had committed to share 50 per cent cost of the project while the remaining 50pc was being borne by the provincial government. The project was scheduled to be completed in three years i.e. 2019.

The CM was told that the estimated cost of the project may increase to Rs45bn from the PC-1 that estimated the cost at Rs25.5bn. He was told that the design and site issues, major deviations in quantities and exchange rate hike were the key reason behind such a huge increase that now ranged between Rs73.4bn and Rs75bn.

The funds so far committed by the federal and the provincial governments for the water project are Rs12.5bn each. With the increase in estimated cost, both the province and the Centre have now to bear a total cost of Rs37.5bn each for the project. Federal govt to be asked for sharing 50pc cost

CM Shah told the meeting that he would ask the federal government to share the increased cost of the project.

He directed Mohammad Waseem, the chairman of the planning and development board, to head a committee comprising experts of the provincial government, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) and Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) to go through all the estimates once again and firm up their recommendations so that he could take up the matter with Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also issued categorical instructions to the project director Zamin and the FWO to continue work on the project so that it could be completed by the end of the next year.

The meeting was also briefed by FWO director general Maj Gen Inam Hyder, KWSB chief Khalid Shaikh and the project director. The Sindh government had awarded the project to the FWO for Rs28.187bn in June 2016. The missing components of the K-IV project such as ancillary works and 50-megawatt power plant to power two pumping stations were also to be developed.

The meeting was also told that the Rs18.6bn augmentation project also included Rs4bn for land and utilities. The project was sent to the planning and development department for its approval from the provincial development working party (PDWP). After its approval, it would be sent to Ecneec for further approvals.

Mr Zamin said that the ancillary works amounting to Rs9.8bn had also been submitted to the P&D department for approval from its technical committee.

CM Shah had already decided to establish a 50 MW power plant on a public-private partnership mode. This project may be extended up to 100 MW.

A recent report of retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim-led commission on water and sanitation in Sindh, only 38pc of the work on the K-IV project had been completed.

Although acquisition of encroached land had been progressed considerably, a 5.7-km-long portion was yet to be handed over to the project executing agency, the report said.

Other participants of the meeting were Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Jamal Abro and other senior officers of the FWO and the provincial government.

(By Habib Khan Ghori Dawn, 15, 31/10/2018)

## **Cost of K-IV rises by Rs50 billion**

Karachi's bulk water project, K-IV, hit another snag on Tuesday with the Sindh government officially announcing that its cost has jumped from Rs25 billion to Rs75b.

This was disclosed to Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a meeting at the CM House. The meeting was convened to settle all the issues relating to the project, including the increase in its cost.

The first phase of this project, being jointly developed by the provincial and federal government, to resolve the city's water crises, was supposed to be finished by 2019, but officials said it won't be possible to meet the target to supply the water to Karachi.

"The tender has been awarded to FWO [Frontier Works Organisation]," said a senior official present at the meeting. "The first phase of project is meant to provide 260 MGD to the city, with a 121-kilometre pipeline, starting from Keenjhar Lake, District Thatta, and ending at Deh Allah Phihai, District Malir," he told The Express Tribune.

According to the official, the infrastructure may be developed till Malir, but it would be difficult to supply water to other areas of the city due to the outdated pipelines.

"FWO officials have suggested to add another Rs20 billion to revamp pipelines and their alignment in the city. It will take more time and we can't meet the deadline of 2019," the official explained. The project was originally conceived during the tenure of General [Retd] Musharraf and was approved by the federal government in 2014.

The meeting was attended by Corps Commander Karachi Lt General Humayun Aziz, Planning and Development Chairman Mohammad Waseem, FWO Director-General Major General Inam Hyder Malik, Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Jamal Abro, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board Managing Director Khalid Shaikh and K-IV project director Asad Zamin, among others. As the meeting started, FWO DG Hyder, Shaikh and Zamin briefed the participants about the progress of the much-talked-about scheme.

According to Zamin, the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Scheme (K-IV Project) is a 650 MGD project of potable water to be executed in three phases. He said that the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) had approved Rs25.551 billion for the K-IV in 2014, as per the cost estimates from 2010.

The federal government, meanwhile, had committed to share 50% of the cost of the project, while the remaining was to be borne by the provincial government. The project was scheduled to be completed in three years. The Sindh government awarded the project to Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) at an estimated cost of Rs28.187b in June 2016.

### **Revisions in costs**

In an exclusive interview with The Express Tribune on October 17, the chief minister had quoted the total cost of the project as Rs63b, pointing to massive errors in the initial feasibility report. "I was surprised to see serious technical errors in the feasibility report which was prepared before the Pakistan Peoples Party came into power in 2008," he said, adding that original cost of the project was Rs25b and later, Rs3b were added at the FWO's request.

"Soon after the tender was awarded, Rs5 billion were given for land acquisition," he said, adding that the FWO later sought Rs20 billion to revamp the pipelines and their alignments and Rs10 billion were demanded for missing facilities. "We would not have faced such a situation if a proper feasibility reported had been drafted," he remarked. "We will approach federal government to share fifty per cent of the total cost."

The meeting on Tuesday was informed that in addition to other essential components of the K-IV Project, such as the augmentation project, missing components such as ancillary works, and a 50MW power plant to power the two pumping stations, were also to be developed.

The meeting was informed that the project director has submitted an application to the planning and development department, seeking around Rs22 billion for the acquisition of land and utilities.

### **Judicial commission warns of referring K-IV project delay to NAB**

The matter will be referred to the Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), a government body which is empowered to sanction projects for approval. After its approval from the P&D, it would be sent to ECNEC for further approvals. The chief minister said that the federal government should share 50 percent of the cost of the project.

### **Ancillary works**

Ancillary works amounting to Rs9.8 billion have also been submitted to the P&D for its approval from the technical committee. Again, the provincial government expects the federal government to share 50% of these costs.

The meeting was informed that the CM has already decided to set up a 50MW power plant on the public-private partnership model.

### **Karachi's K-IV water project delayed further**

Earlier, the meeting was informed that the original cost of the project was Rs25 billion, which was enhanced by Rs45b, for multiple reasons such as design and site issues, major deviations in quantities and hike in exchange rates. Add to this the amount needed for land acquisition and the cost of the K-IV thus would now range between Rs73.4 to Rs75 billion.

The federal and the provincial governments have currently committed to spending Rs12.5b each. Both governments would now have to revise their commitments and each would have to allocate Rs37.5b.

On Tuesday, the CM directed P&D's Waseem to take charge of a committee, comprising experts of the provincial government, water board and FWO to go through all the estimates once again and finalise their recommendations which he would communicate to the prime minister. At the same time, he issued strict instructions to the P&D and FWO to continue work on the project so it may be completed by the end of next year.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 31/10/2018)

## **Water scarcity — myth or reality?**

THE debate on this country's water security, now being spearheaded by the Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan, is finding traction with a wide range of stakeholders.

The need for enhancing storage capacity through construction of large dams is being propagated vigorously by policymakers, and receiving positive affirmation from the public. However, there are concerns based on geo-technical surveys that need to be taken into account as we proceed with mega dam projects.

Some voices have raised alarm about the phenomena of reservoir-induced seismicity. Not many people are familiar with the term, but RIS represents three timescales of seismicity which include: (i) initial loading from water and increased pore pressure, (ii) delayed diffusion of pore pressure, and (iii) protracted subsequent changes in water level.

The measured hydraulic diffusivity from induced earthquakes is the result of changes in elastic stress and pore pressure called seismogenic permeability.

According to studies conducted by the Geological Survey of Pakistan, the site for the Diamer-Bhasha dam is traversed by multiple fault lines and lies at the plate boundary between the Indian and Eurasian plates.

The second concern, according to water expert Daanish Mustafa, is that the Indus River has one of the highest silt loads in the world, and building one of the world's highest concrete-filled dams at such a site entails the risk of triggering a massive earthquake. *Pakistan needs to explore sustainable solutions that are good for people and the environment.*

The third compelling consideration is about the question of scarcity itself. Is Pakistan really water scarce, or is the dwindling per capita availability of water due more to the steady unsustainable increase in population and mismanagement of present flows? According to William Young, the lead water management specialist at the World Bank, there are five persistent myths that are barriers to improving water security that can end up misguiding policy. The following is a summary:

First: Pakistan is a water rich country and needs to shift its focus from scarcity to managing water demand, and producing more from each drop. Only 35 countries in the world have more renewable water than Pakistan, and there are 32 countries that have less water per person, and most are much wealthier and use less water for each person, than Pakistan.

Second: Storage is used to buffer the variability of flows to match the time varying pattern of demand. The Indus flows do not vary greatly, making the need for reservoir storage from one year to the next unnecessary. Storage needed to even out within-year variations associated with the monsoons can be done more cost effectively by run-of-the-river facilities. Justifying the cost of large dams is difficult given our irrigation inefficiencies and the high sediment accumulation rate in reservoirs.

Third: Although climate change appears to be affecting rainfall, snowfall and glacial melt, it has no clear trends, and no significant changes in river flows are projected before 2050. While a 20-28 per cent ice volume reduction is anticipated (mostly at lower elevations), since the Indus has a greater share of glacial ice at higher elevations, the faster rates of warming do not support absolute higher temperature projections to drive rapid melting there.

Fourth: It is estimated that irrigation at the basin-scale is over 80pc efficient. The proportion of irrigation water lost due to evaporation and non-productive plant use is minimal compared to losses through drainage returns to the river and seepage to groundwater. Irrigation problems are more about inefficient and unfair water distribution, and low productivity in terms of the yield and value of crops per unit of water.

Fifth: The flows to the sea are commonly seen as wastage, and average annual flow reduced by more than 80pc. There is strong evidence that declining flows have a significant effect on accelerating the decline in health of the lower river and delta, and in destabilising these vital ecosystems.

To address Pakistan's water woes, it needs to take all the above mentioned concerns into account in order to develop sustainable solutions. The political economy of water makes it increasingly difficult to tackle water in a country that is divided along ethnic and provincial lines, and has a relationship of distrust with the two upper trans-boundary riparian countries. That is perhaps one reason why even the newly approved National Water Policy assiduously avoids mention of the word 'dam' in its 33 stated policy objectives and only talks about the need for building storage capacity.

As the policy instruments to support the objectives have yet to be developed, it would be desirable if the government engages with all stakeholders in a participatory and inclusive manner to discuss and assess all forms of storage and not just large dams. Small storages throughout the distribution network may enable highly valuable re-regulation of flows. There is need for enhanced control to match field-scale water supply to water demand.

The role of the provinces after the passage of the 18th Amendment will be critical in achieving the core objectives of the policy, and a collaborative approach that brings together all actors, including civil society, to co-create recommendations for its implementation framework will go a long way in building and cementing cohesion.

The moot point is that while infrastructure and technology will remain an integral part of ensuring water security, it is political and governance issues that will end up being the most complex barriers to finding solutions that are acceptable to all stakeholders. A science policy dialogue — based on assessments of water sources, flow patterns and storage, and usage and distribution — is vital for reaching an agreement that is fair and equitable, as well as safe and sustainable, by bringing all parties on board to develop an actionable roadmap for making Pakistan water secure.

(By Aisha Khan Dawn, 08, 13/10/2018)

### **KWSB chief told to ensure fair distribution of water across Karachi**

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Monday directed the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board managing director to ensure fair distribution of water in the provincial capital.



In a previous hearing, the commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge Amir Hani Muslim, had passed directions regarding equitable distribution of water in the city on complaints of many citizens, mostly from Baldia Town.

On Monday, the KWSB MD offered an explanation in this regard. However, the commission said the explanation was not convincing and observed that fair distribution of water must be done as earlier connections were given to favourites.

*Judicial commission summons a number of persons over conversion of industrial plots*

The MD must take steps to ensure that the issue was resolved in conformity with fair distribution of water within a week and a compliance report be submitted to the court, it added.

#### **Commissioner told to hold inquiry**

Earlier, the commission summoned a number of persons over conversion of industrial plots into commercial ones, or allowing commercial activities on such plots.

On Monday, the owner of a plot, located along a drain in SITE Hyderabad, claimed that the plot was allocated as commercial premises and it was never meant for any installation of industry.

The commission directed the Hyderabad commissioner to hold an inquiry into the matter and also record his findings whether SITE had failed to restore and revive the choked drain.

The commission directed that the advocate general of Sindh or an additional advocate general must appear on Nov 13 to assist it after the owner of a fast food centre in Karachi contended that the plot in question was never an industrial plot.

Meanwhile, the commission also issued notices to a number of persons for appearance at the next hearing for reportedly using the industrial plots for commercial purposes.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 16, 06/11/2018)

### **Taking charge: Justice Hani asks KWSB to increase DHA water quota**

The head of the Supreme Court-mandated Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation, Justice (ret'd) Amir Hani Muslim, on Wednesday directed the Sindh Building Control Authority's (SBCA) chief to present the job profile of the regional director involved in the commercialisation of residential plots in Latifabad. Justice (ret'd) Muslim also asked how this official has enjoyed the posting at Latifabad for the past eight years, adding that the officials involved in the commercialisation of residential plots will have to face the consequences.



On the issue of commercialisation of residential plots in Latifabad, Justice (ret'd) Muslim asked, "This land belongs to the government, who gave permission for this?" He asked the Hyderabad mayor to explain his position. The mayor said that he had not given any such permission from the time he assumed office. The director-general of SBCA said that the permission was granted by the director of land and a letter was available in this regard.

On a question about the law that allowed change of status for the residential plots, the mayor of Hyderabad said that since the formation of SBCA, all operations were being performed from Karachi.



As area residents complained that work was still being carried out, the commission said that they can verify this by sending a magistrate.

Referring to the performance of the Hyderabad regional director, Justice (retd) Muslim said that the matter will also be forwarded to Sindh High Court and contempt proceeding would be initiated against him. The commission asked the SBCA director general whether he had any idea about the repercussions. The SBCA regional director said that he was sorry. The commission head however told him that the apology was of no use and this is a grave matter.

The commission also took up the issue of water shortage in Defence Housing Authority (DHA). Justice (retd) Muslim told DHA officials, that people were not getting water and the officials had no regard for the citizens' sufferings. An officer of DHA said that Karachi would have an increased supply of water after the completion of new projects. On this the commission remarked, "You are mistaken, the increase in water will not be sufficient to accommodate everyone." The managing director of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) said that for the past 40 years it was being claimed that 550 million gallons of water was being supplied to Karachi but now that meters have been installed it has been revealed that Karachi is not getting the stated supply.

The commission also came down hard on the Clifton Cantonment Board (CCB) officials over the issue of water shortage. Justice (retd) Muslim said that the CCB was responsible to ensure regular supply of water to Clifton residents. The DHA official said that they get only four to five millions of gallons per day (MGD) of water which is inadequate to meet the demand. The commission directed KWSB to add one MGD more to the DHA quota. Justice (retd) Muslim ordered KWSB and CCB to collaborate and resolve the water supply issue within two weeks.

The commission also discussed the issue of installation of six RO plants in water scarce Tharparkar. Justice (retd) Muslim said that people were suffering for want of water while the officials were enjoying life. The director-general of the Thar Coal project said that it was due to the budget problems that work on water supply could not be completed. The commission directed the authorities to resolve the matter in two days and present a report.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 08/11/2018)

## Rationalising water

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.  
(By Taimoor Akhtar Dawn, 09, 18/11/2018)

## Poverty & poison for drinking

ONE always had doubts about the reduction in poverty levels, from 64 per cent in 2001 to 30pc in 2014, being uniform across the country. Now the discrepancies between urban and rural areas and within metropolitan centres as revealed in a new World Bank report should serve as an eye-opener to anyone in a position of authority.



The report, titled *When Water Becomes a Hazard: A Diagnostic Report on the State of Water Supply, Sanitation and Poverty in Pakistan and its Impact on Child Stunting*, finds large "spatial disparities in poverty levels" and "in the pace of poverty reduction". Over the past decade and a half, "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa saw the largest decline in poverty, followed by Punjab and Sindh" but in Balochistan, the poorest province in the country, the poverty rate in 2014 was a hefty 57pc.

Neither this nor the finding that rural areas lag behind the urban parts in terms of both poverty and access to basic services (education and health) should cause as much surprise as the disclosure about pockets of high poverty inside well-off districts, and that "districts that host large cities like Lahore, Rawalpindi and Faisalabad have much higher levels of within-district inequality than smaller districts".

*The failure to manage fecal sludge or waste water poses a grave threat to public health in rural Pakistan.*

The focus of the report is on "the relationship between poverty, access to water and sanitation, and the nutritional status of children — especially child stunting" and it brings out the havoc that is being caused by the non-availability of safe water for drinking and other purposes. After noting a substantial reduction in open defecation — from 29pc in 2004-05 to 13pc in 2014-15 — due to increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities throughout the country, the report dwells on the gigantic failure to prevent water pollution. The rural areas have much less access to WASH facilities than their urban compatriots, and "the public sector provides virtually no piped water or sanitation in rural areas".

The failure to manage fecal sludge or waste water poses a grave threat to public health in rural Pakistan. About 42pc of households in rural Punjab, 60pc in rural KP and 82pc in rural Sindh and Balochistan have no drainage system worth the name. "Untreated fecal waste water seeps into groundwater aquifers or drains into surface water, polluting both. Fecal sludge also contaminates the soil." The report concludes: "Lack of investment in fecal waste management, combined with the expansion of low-quality toilets, is the most critical determinant of weak nutritional outcomes in Pakistan."

One factor of the poor WASH infrastructure in rural Pakistan highlighted in the report is the preferential allocation of resources to provincial capitals from 2004 to 2015. The total per capita allocation for Lahore was almost 18 times higher than the average for all other districts in Punjab combined. Meanwhile, Karachi received almost 100 times more in per capita terms than the other districts of Sindh.

The report makes a number of salutary recommendations that both the federal and provincial governments should seriously ponder over, because the inequalities between urban and rural areas and within urban settlements are perhaps the single biggest problem in the country. The recommendations are as follows:

— "Policy emphasis needs to shift from a focus on improving access to improving the quality and safety of WASH infrastructure and the safe management of human waste."

— "Institutional structure at the provincial and local governments should be matched with their responsibilities for service delivery, and the lack of institutional coordination mechanisms and short-term planning horizons should be remedied."

— "Improve technical capacity within providing agencies."

— "Monitor the [WASH] sector and develop performance assessment metrics."

— "Improve water quality on an urgent basis."

— "Improve the targeting of resources to communities most in need and raise annual national spending on the sector to 1.4pc of GDP."

While one should like to thank the World Bank for reminding us of the hazards to children's health and the dangers of bringing up a generation that will be mentally and physically incapable of taking the nation forward, or even meeting the challenges of living in the modern world, the theme and findings of the report are not unfamiliar to us. Quite a few Pakistani economists and social activists have, at different times and in different ways, drawn attention to the grim consequences of both inter- region and intra-region inequalities, and called for special efforts for the uplift of the rural masses.

The proposition that there is a strong correlation between urbanisation and poverty reduction and improvement in access to water, sanitation and hygiene arrangements is not new either. Many decades ago, the level of development by a state began to be measured in terms of the access of its population, including those living outside cities, to urban facilities, ie safe water for drinking, electricity, schools near the homestead, minimum essential health cover and opportunities for gainful work. This model has often been recommended for Pakistan as it promises a decline in the birth rate, infant and maternal mortality, and in migration to cities.

However, there is a limit to which urbanisation and improved service delivery can enable the people of Pakistan to reduce poverty and overcome the hazards to people's well-being caused by the absence of or inadequacies in water, sanitation and hygiene management.

In order to ensure that the entire population of the country can be rid of poverty and can overcome the hazards of consuming contaminated water, it will be necessary to liberate the people of the hydra-headed curse of an iniquitous land ownership pattern, feudal culture and patriarchy. Without a meaningful advance in these directions, a substantial part of the Pakistani population will remain condemned to increasing poverty, to living in urban slums, to non-realisation of women's potential to contribute to progress, and to stunting in children.

(By I.A. Rehman Dawn, 08, 15/11/2018)

### **WB offers \$400m assistance to improve water board**

The World Bank has offered \$400 million assistance to the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board for improving water and sewerage services in Karachi. The Sindh government has agreed in principle and decided to go ahead with the plan.

This emerged from a meeting on Thursday when a World Bank team led by senior water resources management specialist Andreas Rohde called on Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani in his office here.

The other members of the team were senior water and sanitation specialist Farhanullah Sami, associate investment officer Sarah Afridi and water resources specialist Basharat Saeed.

Minister Ghani was assisted by local government secretary Khalid Haider, managing director of water board Khalid Shaikh, DMD planning of water board Ayub Shaikh and others.

#### *Suggests reforms in working of KWSB*

The World Bank delegation briefed the minister about projects for remodelling on modern lines the water and sewerage system in Karachi and assured its financing by the Bank.

The minister inquired about details of the projects from the water board managing director and other officers concerned and directed them to prepare and finalise all details for early execution of the plan.

Replying to a question, the minister told Dawn that the World Bank delegation also suggested reforms to improve the working of the water board and sewerage system which included water and sewer lines' condition, survey and rehabilitation, improving water supply in low-income communities and monitoring of industrial discharge into the sewerage and storm-water system.

Agreeing to the proposed reforms, he told the Bank delegation that the Sindh government had taken initiative in this regard and with assistance and coordination, the project would certainly be implemented on a fast-track basis.

In reply to a question, MD water board Khalid Shaikh said that projects would be implemented in phases and first phase would be completed in three years.

He said \$400m financing was part of \$16 billion package offered by the World Bank, which would be implemented in three phases spreading over a 10-year period.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 16, 09/11/2018)

### **Judicial commission irked by unfair distribution of water in city**

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Wednesday expressed its serious resentment over the "unfair" distribution of water in the provincial metropolis and summoned the Karachi commissioner to appear on Dec 12.

The commission, headed by retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, directed the commissioner that during the intervening period he had to hold a meeting with all stakeholders, collect details of supply and distribution of water and come up with a detailed report and suggestions to improve the distribution system.

It came down hard on the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) for showing little interest in installing and maintaining flow meters and not providing details about the distribution of water in the city.

The commission also directed the secretary for local government and the managing director of the KWSB to be in attendance on Dec 12.

*'The public of Karachi is suffering because of inaction of the water board'*

Justice Muslim said that details about water supply to Central district were sought from the KWSB's deputy managing director, but he filed a report which did not contain the required details. He directed the official to provide details to the chief engineer of the wing who will sit with the deputy commissioner Central and the DMC chairman to collect required details and the DC will submit a comprehensive report by Dec 12.

**Meters out of order**

The commission deplored that of the 2,600 flow meters, installed on the intervention of the Supreme Court, 1,200 were out of order and the KWSB was unable to offer any plausible explanation for that.

The KWSB informed the commission that an official, looking after the meter section, had retired and a new officer had assumed the job.

However, the commission rejected the explanation and said it appeared that there was no accountability in the KWSB as despite repeated directives for the installation of flow meters in the city, it had been delaying the matter for the last several months. "The meters already installed have gone out of order and no step has been taken by the officials concerned [to fix them]," it said and issued a show-cause notice to the superintending engineer for the meter consumer cell and the executive engineer, directing them to explain why such meters had not been repaired or replaced and why the remaining meters were not being installed.

"It appears that the KWSB is less interested in installing the meters, which in turn is encouraging theft of water in Karachi as there is no other way by which the intake of water supply can be measured or gauged. The public of Karachi is suffering because of inaction/criminal negligence on the part of water board, which is prima facie not providing required details as to how much water it gets from the source, and how much water reaches the end user in Karachi. There appears to be unfair distribution of water within Karachi which has multiplied the agony of the residents of Karachi," it added.

**Notice to TDAP chairman**

The commission issued a notice to the chairman of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, directing him to submit a report containing the names of importers of a factory situated in the Bin Qasim industrial zone.

It said that despite repeated directives by the commission, the firm was discharging untreated effluent.

The commission said that on Nov 23 the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency, through a report, said that the firm was discharging untreated effluent in violation of the Sepa rules. Thereafter, an official of the Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources was asked to verify the same and his report said that the treatment plant installed could not treat the required effluent as it was under capacity.

The commission adjourned the matter till Dec 1 and sought a report from Sepa with the assistance of the Port Qasim Authority. (By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 14, 29/11/2018)

**Major water crisis feared in Karachi**

The water crisis in Karachi seems to be getting worse day by day with no immediate solution in sight. Currently the city requires 1,100 million gallons of water per day (MGD) and faces a shortage of 700MGD.

The city has two sources of water supply, Hub Dam and Keenjhar Lake. Of these, the supply from Hub Dam, of 100MGD, has come to complete halt as the dam stands empty due to the lack of rainfall in Karachi in the last three years. Hub Dam primarily supplied water to district West. Now, the city depends on the water Keenjhar Lake that is distributed via Dhabeji pumping station. The Dhabeji pumping station supplies 450MGD, but by the time it reaches the city it is reduced to 400MGD as it is either stolen or lost in leakages. Various areas that were earlier supplied water every 15 to 20 days, now do not receive water for more than a month.

**Power breakdown at Dhabeji disrupts water supply to Karachi**

Residents feel that federal and Sindh governments are not serious about resolving the crisis.

The governments do not have any projects that could mitigate the issue. Even the K-IV project, that could supply an additional 260MGD, may take a further two years to complete. The project began in 2007 but has been delayed as the Sindh government changed its designs about 21 times. According to sources, it could take four years to complete.

Furthermore, with no check in place, local valve men of Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) have become a powerful mafia and distribute water unfairly. Due to this, some areas suffer acute water scarcity and some other localities are even deprived of a single drop of water. The crisis could endanger the law and order situation in the city.

The KWSB official Asadullah Khan informed The Express Tribune, Karachi has a population of 1.17m but gets a supply of only 350MGD. He added that since Hub Dam had dried up, we face further 1m gallons of shortage in water. "Dhabeji Pumping Station is currently the only water lifeline of Karachi," he said.

#### **Conservation only way to ward off water crisis**

Khan said that 20 pumps of Dhabeji Pumping station were supplying water to the city and appealed to the residents of Karachi to use water with extreme caution.

He also said that steps were being taken to stop water theft and asked residents to report if they observed any illegal water hydrant anywhere.

Khan said Million Gallons Per Day programme at Dhabeji Pumping Station was underway. "We will try to eliminate water crisis as soon as possible.

That's the reason the system of supplying water on alternate days has been introduced," he said.

(By Naeem Khanzada The Express Tribune, 04, 08/12/2018)

### **Water commission records improvement, wants stakeholders to tap into its success**

The Supreme Court mandated water commission submitted its fifth interim report in the apex court's Karachi registry on Wednesday, underlining that "the commission's efforts are now making the things fall into place."



The 49-page report pointed out an array of initiatives in improvement of the water supply, drainage, solid waste collection and related areas taken due to its intervention. "While the commission is drawing close to the end of its tenure [on January 15,2019] the efforts have been multiplied to make the different projects take shape."

Until the fourth interim report, the commission had conducted 68 hearings. Another 28 hearings were further conducted during the span of the fifth report. The commission's head, Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim, paid 29 visits to different parts of Sindh during the period in question besides holding meetings with bureaucrats, civil society representatives and experts.

#### **Solid Waste**

The commission observed an improvement in the performance of the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB). In February, 2018, the board transported 177,312 tons of garbage to the landfill sites. The quantum increased to 218,786 tons in October. In the nine months of 2018, a total of 2,223,461 tons were collected and disposed.

The board is at present operating in four districts of Karachi division. The private contractor will place 15,000 waste bins across Karachi's four districts by December 15. It has installed 80 biometric machines to record attendance of the staff in the South and East districts.

Some of the SSWMB's other near-term initiatives include setting up six garbage transportation stations, development of two landfill sites, preparing a plan for generating electricity through waste and activating the board in other parts of Sindh.

#### **Water Hydrants**

The report acknowledged that the regulation of water hydrants in Karachi has streamlined after the enactment of regulatory laws by the Sindh Assembly on its orders. Electronic meters have been installed at all hydrants, the water delivery charges are painted over the tankers and also advertised in print media and Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) has introduced an online booking service which operates 24/7.

The water flow meters have been installed at 37 bulk pumping stations while the tender is being floated for another 421 meters. The water testing laboratories have been made functional at six filtration plants in Karachi and 35 chlorination plants have also been activated.

The commission has been overseeing the completion of sewerage treatment plant I in Karachi which will treat 51MGD. Its capacity will be doubled to 100MGD by July, 2019, on the commission's order. The commission also expedited work on the 77MGD capacity sewerage treatment plant III (STP III) which was inaugurated by Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar. The work on 180MGD STP IV at Korangi is scheduled to be completed by December 2020. Justice (R) Muslim conceived 100MGD STP V for which land is being acquired from Karachi Port Trust and the revenue department. Defence Housing Authority (DHA) agreed to construct an STP along the sea view beach, link the sewage channelled towards the beach to DHA Phase VIII's treatment plant and stop disposal of sewage in sea.

#### **SEPA and Industries**

Among 2,397 industrial units in the Karachi SITE area, 654 required installation of in-house treatment systems and 1,743 were meant to install septic tanks, the report stated. The commission has granted four months time for compliance to all these units.

Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is conducting a survey of 600 industries in Korangi industrial zone and 102 units in Landhi zone to assess how many of them require treatment plants and tanks. The report will be submitted to the commission on December 15. SEPA has also initiated a survey in the Export Processing Zone where there are 253 units.

A similar survey is under way for 292 industries in Federal B Area and North Karachi industrial zones.

At Port Qasim industrial zone, 38 units have installed the tanks while 31 others have been directed to build the treatment plants. Justice (R) Muslim has ordered 36 rice mills, 25 cotton ginning factories and two cement factories to install air emission control systems. The commission got 218 battery recycling units demolished and 16 brick kilns have been stopped from operating because they burn tyres, shoes and plastic as fuel.

"Referral of cases [of environmental violations] to the judicial forums was not in practice of SEPA," Justice (R) Muslim observed in the report, pointing out that he directed the agency to begin taking these cases to the courts besides the environment tribunal. So far, 152 cases have been filed in the tribunals and 384 before the judicial magistrates. The latter have convicted 149 violators, collecting Rs19.5m in fines.

### **Commercialisation**

The commission cited cancellation of conversion of plots in the industrial areas for commercial use, stopping on-going construction work on such plots and a ban on future commercialisation as some of its other achievements.

### **Effluent treatment**

A team of engineers from NED University evaluated the newly built, yet defective, combined effluent treatment plants (CEPT) at Kotri SITE area in Jamshoro district. A PC-I costing Rs92.986m has been prepared for its rehabilitation on the commission's directive. The industrial waste from Nooriabad SITE travelled to Keenjhar Lake from where water is supplied to Karachi. A CEPT at the cost of Rs443m will be built in Nooriabad within a year.

### **Most Hyderabad's water samples unfit for human consumption: study**

Separately, five CEPTs will be constructed in as many industrial zones in Karachi at a cost of Rs11.8b which will be shared – 33% by the centre and 67% by Sindh government.

### **Waterways contamination**

On the commission's orders, Sindh Irrigation Department conducted a study identifying 700 points from where municipal and industrial wastewater is released in the waterways. The study was handed over to Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) which prepared a PC-I of Rs4.33b to undertake the task of treating the wastewater at 181 locations in the province in the first phase. The remaining points will be taken up in second phase of the project.

### **RO plants**

There are 2,207 reverse osmosis (RO) plants in Sindh among which the commission has inspected 1,800 plants. Among those 1,800, some 1,166 have been made functional and the rehabilitation on the remaining will be completed by end of December. A total of 634 RO plants are non-functional in the province. The drought hit Tharparkar district has the highest number of RO plants, 589, in the province. Among them 454 are working and 128 are out of order.

### **PHED**

The commission observed a shortage of staff in PHED following which 211 sub-engineers and 59 assistant engineers were recruited. Some 547 water supply and drainage schemes of PHED are being rehabilitated under phase I while another 276 will undergo rehabilitation in phase II whose PC-I will be submitted to Sindh government by February, 2019.

In compliance with the commission's order for establishment of water testing laboratories in 17 districts of Sindh, eight laboratories have been set up so far and the summary for the remaining has been sent to Sindh chief minister.

### **Hyderabad**

After the commission's intervention, three out of five filtration plants in Hyderabad have been rehabilitated. These include a new 30MGD filtration plant and two 8MGD plants at Hala Naka and Paretabad, respectively. "When the commission took over, all the plants were found non-functional," the report stated. The rehabilitation of the fourth plant, old Jamshoro road filtration plant, is scheduled to be completed by January, 2019. A new plant of 6 MGD capacity is being constructed in Hussainabad area. It will be completed by December 2019.

Under the commission's direction, a scheme worth Rs684.3m for rehabilitation of 400MGD pre-settlement lagoons in Hyderabad has been approved. Another scheme of Rs399.74m has also been approved for revival of water distribution network in the city. "There are areas where filtered water doesn't reach the consumers at the tap." The old and broken distribution network surfaced as the cause of the problem. For the rehab of sewerage system in Hyderabad a Rs414.13m project has been approved and will be commenced in the coming months.

The provincial government has been handed over the PC-I for construction and expansion of the eastern and southern treatment plants at the cost of Rs5.2b. Both of the plants were found non-functional. Another two schemes for rehab of northern and Qasimabad treatments plants have been approved. The work on these Rs300m projects will be initiated after the tendering process.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 05, 13/12/2018)

## Contractor given seven days to make filtration plant functional in Hyderabad

A water filtration plant built at a cost of Rs587.437 million for Hyderabad SITE area in fiscal year 2014-15 has remained abandoned all these years despite the project's physical completion. The matter was taken up by the Supreme Court-mandated water commission during the hearing in Karachi on Friday.



After hearing explanations of the officials of Sindh Industrial and Trading Estate (SITE) Limited, the commission's chairperson Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim gave the contractor seven days to make the plant operational, "... failing which the matter will be referred to the appropriate forum for inquiry," Justice (R) Muslim warned.

The idle project was discovered by the chairperson of the commission's task force, Jamal Mustafa Syed, who is also provincial secretary of irrigation and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED). Subsequently, the commission issued notices to the SITE officials to come up with an explanation.

### Around 50 houses razed to clear land for water filtration plant in Hyderabad

During the hearing, SITE Chief Engineer Shamsuddin Sehto said that the plant, whose capacity is five million gallons per day (MGD), has been kept non-functional because of an old pipeline connecting it with the SITE area. He maintained that the pipeline cannot sustain pressure of the heavy pumps installed at the plant. "... hence the possession of the plant has not been taken over from the contractor," he said.

The plant was approved in 2008. Former Sindh minister for industries and commerce, Rauf Siddiqui, whose party Muttahida Qaumi Movement was a coalition partner in Sindh government, laid the foundation stone of the project on February 21, 2009.

According to Sehto, the project was approved in the fiscal year 2008-09 at a cost of Rs269.826m. The tenders were invited and M/S Abdul Sattar and Company quoted the lowest rate at Rs464.745m. Later, the contractor claimed to have incurred Rs126.37m additional expenditures and the sum was released in the financial year, 2014-15.

The chief engineer informed that the work of laying a new pipeline was awarded to another contractor from the funds of SITE limited. However, he added, the project could not be completed for want of funds even though a large part of the new pipeline had been laid.

"No justifiable reason has been advanced in his explanation as to why this fact [about abandoned plant] was not brought to the notice of the commission earlier," Justice (R) Muslim observed. He summoned the SITE officials over the matter on December 28.

### Karachi's water crisis

Taking notice of the water crisis in Karachi, the commission directed all the deputy commissioners and chairpersons of the district municipal corporations, Karachi Water & Sewerage Board (KWSB) managing director and Karachi commissioner to hold a joint meeting on December 23 with provincial secretary Asif Hyder Shah to work out a plan for distribution of water in the city.

Local government secretary, KWSB MD Khalid Sheikh and Central District Municipal Corporation (DMC) Chairperson Rehan Hashmi and other officials appeared before the commission. KWSB MD briefed the commission about the water shortage while Hashmi said that people have set up residential colonies on water lines in District Central. Many residential water lines are being used commercially.

Water board MD confessed that many water lines have illegal connections but they hadn't taken any action against those who were doing this. Justice (R) Muslim remarked that all the entities should work together to ensure water supply in the city.

### Meters for water lines

The issue regarding non-installation of meters for water monitoring in Karachi was also raised before the commission. KWSB presented a progress report in this regard. Justice (R) Muslim remarked, "We had issued the show-cause notice for the non-installation of meters and you are presenting the progress report". Commission asked a KWSB official about the progress and if the meters had been installed. The officer replied that meters had not been installed. Justice (R) Muslim said that when no progress had been made, "what report are you presenting? Keep your report with you and submit the reply on meters installation".

### Garbage collection

Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) chief executive officer and MD also appeared before the commission. They informed the commission that 1,000 employees were to be provided to Chinese company by West DMC. After a whole year, West DMC only provided 453 employees. The Commission also expressed anger over the payment of salaries to absent employees and ordered the provision of required number of employees within 15 days. The chief of SSWMB said that the Chinese company has bought only 86 vehicles yet, which still need to be renovated.

Meanwhile, the commission warned Hangzhou Jinjiang Sanitation Company that its work will be outsourced on its expenses to other contractors if it failed to arrange the required number of vehicles and staff within 15 days.

Justice (R) Muslim remarked that there were lots of complaints against the contractor. "If it goes on like this, we can terminate the contract also," Justice (R) Muslim remarked. The Chinese company's director pleaded the commission to grant a one-month extension, to which Justice (R) Muslim remarked, "You haven't done anything in years so what will you do now". The commission warned the contractor to act in accordance with the contract otherwise they would be sent home. Commission adjourned the hearing till December 17.

(By Z.Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 15/12/2018)

### **KWSB to install 421 meters at 156 pumping stations**

In a bid to stop theft, the governing body of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) has decided to install 421 water meters at all of the utility's 156 pumping stations.

The KWSB will also take necessary measures to recycle sewage in consultation with experts and members of its board.

These decisions were taken in the meeting of the board's governing body chaired by Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani on Monday.

Minister Ghani said that all measures were being taken to ensure availability of water to citizens.

He said that a committee had been formed in order to make subsoil water and the hydrant system more effective.

He also stressed the need for holding the meeting of the KWSB's governing body on a quarterly basis to immediately solve the administrative and technical issues.

*The governing board of the water utility forms a body to regularise illegal water connections*

The minister also appreciated the efforts being made by KWSB managing director Khalid Shaikh, who he said despite water shortage had been striving for "fair distribution" of water by keeping an eye on water theft.

The board also appealed to the people not to use subsoil water for drinking purposes and in domestic use as it could only be utilised for industrial use.

Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar, who was also present at the board meeting, said that service delivery was our foremost duty and assured full cooperation to the KWSB for improving water supply.

He also assured the board of his full cooperation in finding solutions of problems being faced by the board, including improvement in its recovery to provide improved facilities to the people of Karachi.

KWSB chief Shaikh informed the meeting that his staff was busy day and night for ensuring water supply to the people, checking water theft by demolishing illegal hydrants and encroachments on the KWSB land and its installations.

In order to keep an eye on water theft, he said, 421 water meters were being installed at 156 pumping stations located inside and outside the city to mitigate complaints of the people about shortage of water supply and drainage of sewage.

He also said that all resources were being utilised to ensure water availability to tail-enders and those living on higher ground.

The meeting decided to formulate a strategy to improve recovery of water taxes and regularise illegal water connections.

The meeting also set up a works committee and another committee to consider and formulate rules and regulations for the uses of subsoil water.

Also, the board constituted a three-member committee to consider proposals for reforming and improving the tax recovery system.

(By Habib Khan Ghorri Dawn, 15, 18/12/2018)

### **KWSB chief summoned today for not installing water meters**

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).

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 15, 29/12/2018)