

NEWSCLIPPINGS

JULY TO DECEMBER 2025

WATER SUPPLY



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Karachi's water supply from Dhabeji resumes

Water supply from the Dhabeji Pumping Station to the city has resumed to the full capacity on Tuesday after the K-Electric rectified the fault and restored the power, the Water Corporation spokesperson said. The supply of water to the affected areas would be normalised within 24 hours, the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson mentioned that due to the power outage, occurred on Thursday, the city faced a shortage of 360 million gallons of water.

City areas including Landhi, Korangi, Shah Faisal Colony, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Nazimabad, Liaquatabad, Federal B Area, PIB Colony, Old City Area, Mehmoodabad, Lines Area, Defence, Clifton, and others were affected.

Meanwhile, the K-Electric spokesperson said that two out of 22 pumping motors stopped functioning due to the fault in the underground cable.

The repair work was delayed due to the stagnant rainwater.

The K-Electric spokesperson has said that the power utility's representatives are in constant coordination with Water Corporation officials.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 02/07/2025)

Respite for Karachiites as water supply resumes gradually

The city's water supply began gradually returning to normal on Tuesday after power was restored to the Dhabeji pumping station, bringing relief to residents who had faced severe shortages during a four-day outage.

The outage had resulted in a significant shortfall of over 360 million gallons of water during the past four days, exacerbating the city's existing water crisis.

Though the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) started pumping water from the Dhabeji pumping station after the restoration of electricity, the crisis will persist for at least another day as it takes over 18 hours to fully charge the main pipelines of the distribution network.

According to a KWSC spokesman, the power was restored in the morning and the water supply to the city had resumed as usual. Due to the power outage, the city faced a shortage of 360 million gallons of water, he added.

The power breakdown at the pumping station had occurred on June 26 at 10 pm.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 02/07/2025)

Water boring heightens seismic threat in Karachi

Amidst the city's never ending water crisis, underground water boring has emerged as a crucial mode of supplying the survival necessity. However, the popular practice has come under scrutiny as experts debate its correlation with an unprecedented surge in earthquakes hitting Karachi.

According to Chief Meteorologist Ameer Haider Laghari, since June 1st, areas in the eastern part of Karachi including Landhi, Malir, Korangi, and Quaidabad, have experienced 57 tremors with magnitudes ranging from 1.5 to 3.8 on the Richter scale. Although these tremors were minor, their frequency has caused significant fear and anxiety among residents.

In these areas, underground water extraction through boring has increased significantly over the years as a result of which the land in these areas has reportedly subsided. While there is no scientific evidence directly linking the recent earthquakes and land subsidence to boring and construction activity, it is a hypothesis requiring comprehensive study.

Dr Adnan Khan from the Geology Department at the University of Karachi explained that in many areas of Karachi, particularly Landhi, Korangi, and Malir, the lack of a regular water supply system had led residents, industries, and RO plants to rely heavily on underground water extraction. "Land in areas like Landhi, Korangi, Malir, Defence, and North Karachi has subsided by 15 centimeters and is sinking at an annual rate of 1.5 centimeters," revealed Dr Khan.

Dr Nauman Ahmed, Professor at the NED University, claimed that although earthquakes occurred on a large scale and could not be definitively linked to boring, excessive extraction of underground water was an unnatural process hence areas where boring is prevalent have likely developed weakened underground structures.

"As water is extracted from beneath the surface, a void is created, which makes the natural underground position vulnerable, weakening the foundations of houses. These factors increase the risk of structural damage in these areas during earthquakes or otherwise," said Dr Ahmed, who urged the government to conduct a detailed survey of the affected areas, identifying the damage caused by boring, and taking steps to address the situation.

"Scientific research suggests that tectonic plate movement at local fault lines is causing land subsidence. However, it is under observation that excessive underground water extraction is occurring in areas like Landhi, Malir, and Korangi, where earthquakes are also being recorded, and the land is sinking. A detailed study is required to determine the exact cause," added Dr Khan.

Dr Masood Rafi, Chairman of the Earthquake Engineering Department at NED University, identified two major causes of land subsidence in Karachi: the construction of small and large buildings and the extensive use of underground water.

"Due to the water crisis in many areas, residents have resorted to alternative methods, such as boring, to extract underground water. Additionally, reverse osmosis (RO) plants have been established at many locations for drinking water, exacerbating the depletion of underground reserves and creating voids beneath the surface. The weight of newly constructed buildings further increases underground pressure, contributing to land subsidence. Therefore, it is imperative to halt underground water extraction to prevent further damage," opined Dr Rafi.

On the other hand, Dr Khan warned that although Karachi's local fault lines were not highly dangerous, the city was at risk from surrounding tectonic plates, especially those in India and Balochistan.

"Strong earthquakes in these regions could cause destruction across Karachi, which is part of the Indian tectonic plate. About 110 kilometers west of the city lies a point where three plates: the Indian, Eurasian, and Arabian intersect. The Arabian plate subducts beneath the other two from the south. If earthquakes occur in this region, their effects could also impact Karachi," warned Dr Khan.

(By Tufail Ahmed and Ashraf Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 03/07/2025)

Karachi Canal pollution persists

The discharge of toxic industrial effluent into the Karachi Canal continues unabated, posing a serious health hazard to the people of Karachi, Thatta, and Jamshoro despite multiple orders from the Sindh High Court and the Supreme Court's Water Commission. A team of the Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) collected samples from the canal near Kotri SITE area in Jamshoro district on Thursday.

The KB Feeder canal, aka Karachi canal, springs from Kotri barrage. It is the main source of water supply for the city and the ongoing K-IV project is also completely dependent on this canal.

In 2007 a lawyer from Kotri had filed a petition in the SHC, pleading for measures to stop the canal's pollution by the Industrial as well as from the municipal, commercial and hospital wastewater. The court had ordered the provincial govt to build a Combined Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) near the SITE area to stop that contamination of the fresh waterway.

The project's initial PC-I was approved in April 2010, at a cost of Rs667 million. However, due to delayed completion the cost later jacked up to around Rs one billion. The construction contract was given to M/S ARA Joint Venture Karachi in June, 2010. In September 2019, the Anti-Corruption Establishment lodged an FIR against the SITE officers who were part of the project. As per the ACE's investigation, the project was still incomplete and non-functional by that year besides lacking the treatment capacity.

Under an arrangement the deficient plant's management was handed over by SITE department to KATI. During in charge of SEPA Imran Abbassi's visit, the association's office bearers narrated that they stopped running the plant because the govt halted release of funds. The two sides had agreed to share 50% cost of the operations. They claimed the unpaid funds had accrued to Rs60 million when KATI decided to call it a day over two months ago.

The SEPA's officer also repeated instructions to the industries to install in house treatment plants, an order which the Water Commission had also passed for all the SITE areas back in 2018. Abbassi reiterated warning to the industries that SEPA will initiate action if they kept releasing untreated wastewater.

(By Z Ali, The Express Tribune, 05, 04/07/2025)

Rs10bn for new water pipeline in DHA, Karachi

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level provincial cabinet meeting at the CM House on Monday, where a series of transformative development projects aimed at tackling Karachi's water crisis, strengthening the agriculture sector, promoting industrial growth, and enhancing regional connectivity were approved.

The cabinet deliberated on a 52-point agenda and approved most items with implementation strategies. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, special assistants, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and senior officials from concerned departments.

Rs10.56b interest-free loan for water supply to DHA

To address the acute water shortage in Karachi-particularly in DHA, which currently receives only 4-5 MGD-the cabinet approved an interest-free loan of Rs10.56 billion for the Water and Sewerage Corporation. The scheme includes laying a 36km dedicated pipeline from Dumlottee to DHA, alongside construction of a pumping station, forebay, and filtration plant. Originally approved by the WSC board in February 2025, CM Murad directed its completion within 11 months to meet the growing city population's sustainable water needs.

Major overhaul of agricultural income tax rules

The cabinet approved the Sindh Agricultural Income Tax Rules 2025, introducing structured registration, e-filing, and record-keeping protocols. Landowners will be required to register with the Sindh Revenue Board via Form AIT-01 and file returns using AIT-03 along with payment proof. Records must be maintained in Urdu, Sindhi, or English. Provisions allow for carrying forward losses due to natural disasters. A sub-committee comprising ministers for agriculture, law, and works has been tasked with finalizing the draft.

E-Stamp Rule Amendments

In a step toward digital governance, the cabinet approved amendments to the Sindh E-Stamp Rules 2020, eliminating the need for physical stamp paper in areas with electronic registration systems. The digital system is already operational in 51 registrar offices, expediting property transactions through electronic stamp verification and integrated e-registration.

Flood Relief

Emergency flood aid allocation was raised from Rs21.56bn to Rs27.67bn, benefiting 151,147 verified farmers affected by the 2022 floods. While disbursements have been made in three phases, Rs6.1bn is earmarked for remaining cases. An additional Rs2.37bn in savings will be utilized under the Benazir Hari Card to support agriculture.

Benazir Hari Card

The cabinet allowed the Agriculture Department to sign an MoU with Sindh Bank for the rollout of the Benazir Hari Card, which offers farmers: subsidies on agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer, pesticides); soft-term agricultural loans; financial assistance in natural disasters; priority access to solar tube wells and crop insurance. As of now, 237,125 farmers have registered, with 88,871 verified and cleared for next steps.

A Vision for Sustainable Progress

Reaffirming his government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, CM Murad said the newly approved projects form the foundation for long-term socio-economic stability. He directed all departments to ensure transparency, inter-departmental coordination, and timely execution. "These wide-ranging decisions reflect the Sindh government's strategic approach of linking infrastructure development with social equity and economic opportunity," he said.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 09/07/2025)

Sindh cabinet approves Rs10bn loan for KWSC to end water shortage in Karachi's DHA

The long-standing water woes of residents in Clifton and the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) may come to an end within a year as the Sindh cabinet has finally approved a Rs10.56 billion interest-free loan for the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) to lay a 24-inch diameter dedicated pipeline from Dumlottee to these upscale areas of the city.

The project, approved by the KWSC in Feb 2025, involves laying a 36-km dedicated pipeline to the DHA along with the construction of a pumping station, forebay and a filtration plant.

Clifton and DHA have faced an acute shortage of water for years. The approved pipeline is designed to carry 10 million gallons per day (MGD) to the affected localities.

Although the plan for a dedicated DHA pipeline has been under consideration for several years, the Cantonment Board Clifton previously opposed it due to financial constraints.

CM Murad asks water utility to complete laying of dedicated 36-km long pipeline from Dumlottee within 11 months

A press statement, issued by the CM House on Tuesday, said that the cabinet approved the interest-free loan to address Karachi's worsening water crisis, particularly in the DHA, where residents currently receive only four to five MGD, far below the growing demand.

The meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, special assistants, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah and senior officers from relevant departments.

The CM directed the water utility to complete the project within 11 months, stressing the urgency of long-term water solutions for the city's rapidly expanding population.

To accelerate coal transport from Thar to the port, the cabinet approved Rs45.02bn for a railway project linking Islamkot (Thar Coalfield) to Chorr, as part of a joint venture with the federal government.

The project includes a 105-km rail line, a 9-km dual track from Bin Qasim to Port Qasim and a coal unloading terminal.

The cabinet approved the allocation of 248 acres for the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6), valued at Rs667.23m.

Additional reservations were authorised across Jamshoro, Matiari, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur and Naushahro Feroze, subject to departmental NOCs.

The cabinet endorsed the Sindh Agricultural Income Tax Rules, 2025, introducing clear procedures for registration, e-filing and record-keeping by agricultural income earners.

Under the new rules, agricultural owners must register with the Sindh Revenue Board using Form AIT-01 and the Tax Returns (Form AIT-03) must be submitted with evidence of payment.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 09/07/2025)

Christian community sets up sabeel in a show of interfaith harmony

Light for Life Trust — Caring Lives in collaboration with Dar-ul-Sukun set up a sabeel offering cool water, juice and sherbet to passers-by at Numaish on Wednesday.

As soon as the sabeel was set up under a tent shade on the footpath of Dar-ul-Sukun with tables, big stainless steel pots, lots and lots of ice and Rooh Afza along with an endless supply of disposable plastic drinking glasses, there were rickshaws stopping for a glass or two, motorbikers getting off for a cool drink and pleasantly surprised pedestrians helping themselves to water, sherbet or juice, it being almost noon and another particularly hot day.

"With Ashura having passed, I was not expecting a sabeel here," said a young woman in a lab coat, who requested a glass of watermelon juice with extra ice. After drinking two glasses of the much-desired beverage she carefully took out whatever ice was left over in her glass and rubbed it on her forehead and cheeks. "May God bless you all," she said to the volunteers at the sabeel before turning to leave.

One Bykea rider stopped for a drink as his passenger also helped himself to a glass. "No ice for me, thank you. The sherbet is already very cold," he smiled as he took a sip.

We are humans serving humanity, says volunteer

Many thirsts were quenched as the pots kept being refilled by the volunteers. "We have a water plant inside Dar-ul-Sukun," Social activist Brian Everest Benedict of Dar-ul-Sukun told Dawn.

Sister Venus Bachchan, a senior nun at Dar-ul-Sukun, who was busy offering chilled watermelon juice to anyone and everyone who desired it, said that Christianity teaches one to respect all faiths and the battle of Karbala is a heartbreaking reminder of sacrifice.

"Imam Husain fought bravely for his people at Karbala and sacrificed his life for them. We offer water and cool sherbet in remembrance of the sacrifices of Imam Husain and his people," she said.

Jennifer Kennedy from Light for Life Trust — Caring Lives said that setting up a sabeel for humanity on the footpath of Dar-ul-Sukun has become an annual occurrence with them for some three years now.

"We do it every year for two days in collaboration with Dar-ul-Sukun," she said.

When asked why not do it on the 9th and 10th of Muharram when the processions are passing through the area, Jennifer explained that normally, they do it before Ashura, on the 6th and 7th of Muharram, "but this year because of the lack of availability of some of our volunteers at that time we are doing it around Soyem".

Sardar Ajit Singh, joint secretary of the Peace Council International for Interfaith Harmony, said that he is always glad to be invited to come and help with the running of the sabeel there every year. "It is good deeds like these, which bind us human beings together, no matter which religion we may follow ourselves. We are here for humanity," he said.

Brian Everest Benedict, also said that they are a diverse group of people who gather here to set up the sabeel every year. "You get to see true interfaith harmony as here we are not Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Sikhs or Hindus serving the people. We are humans serving humanity," he said.

"You'll see youth, middle-aged persons and senior citizens here all doing the same work. Clean water is a basic human right. What we drink ourselves is what we offer to our brothers and sisters," he said.

The sabeel will also be set up at the same place from 11am to 1pm on Thursday.
(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 10/07/2025)

Power outage at pumping station causes water crisis

A major power outage at the Gharo pumping station has caused water shortage in the city, piling miseries on the already water-starved people in different localities.

A Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation spokesperson said that the K-Electric restored power supply to the pumping station after 24 hours.

He claimed that the regular water supply to city had been resumed.

The spokesperson stated that repair work on the faulty cable had been completed by K-Electric on Saturday at 3pm, following which the pumping station resumed water supply to Karachi.

He said that the power outage caused a shortage of around 30 million gallons of water across the city.

It may be noted that Gharo pumping station plays a vital role in meeting the city's water needs.

Earlier on Tuesday, a major power breakdown at the Dhabeji pumping station had added hardships to the already water-starved people as they faced shortage of 100 million gallons of water.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 20/07/2025)

Water crisis turns absurd in Buffer Zone, Karachi

In the heart of a city parched by crisis, where families line up for hours to collect a few buckets of water, a shocking contradiction unfolds. In Buffer Zone, Sector 15-B, clean water gushes unchecked from a broken pipeline — not for minutes or hours, but for weeks — as officials look the other way. While residents endure dry taps and rising desperation, thousands of gallons of fresh water are wasted daily due to a severely damaged line belonging to the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC). The irony is painful, the consequences devastating - and the silence from authorities, deafening.

According to residents, the damaged water line has been leaking for weeks, causing massive water wastage and severe damage to nearby roads. They allege that despite repeated complaints, KWSC officials have failed to repair the line, indicating what they describe as "criminal negligence" and inefficiency on the part of the KWSC. They find themselves caught between an acute water shortage and the unchecked wastage of thousands of gallons.

"The roads are crumbling, the water is flowing nonstop, and yet no one comes to fix it," said one resident. Locals also accused the "tanker mafia" of exploiting the situation, selling water at arbitrarily-fixed inflated rates to desperate families while fresh water continues to go to waste in the open.

"It's a double blow for us: we're forced to buy expensive water while watching clean water flood our streets," another resident complained.

The crisis, however, extends beyond the water shortage. Byroads in the area are also in poor condition, with broken streets and heaps of garbage blocking several lanes. Residents say that once well-maintained green belts along the footpaths have also deteriorated, with little to no upkeep from municipal authorities.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 20/07/2025)

KWSC disconnects 'illegal' water connections to three textile mills

In a major operation against water theft networks, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) has disconnected illegal connections to three major textile units in the city.

Officials of one of the textile mills were booked on Saturday by the Quaidabad police on the complaint of a water utility officer. However, no arrests had been reported till late Monday.

In a statement, the water utility said a major water theft network operating under the guise of textile factories was exposed and dismantled in the Landhi area.

A KWSC spokesperson said the crackdown, conducted near Labour Square Hospital Chowrangi, revealed that three major textile units were directly involved in large-scale water theft, a crime that has worsened the city's chronic water shortage.

A KWSC team discovered six-inch-diameter illegal sump pumps connected to the Haliji conduit, an underground pipeline, through which the factories were siphoning off thousands of gallons of water daily without authorisation.

"This stolen water, meant for domestic supply, was being used to sustain industrial operations, depriving ordinary citizens of their fair share and worsening the city's water crisis," the spokesperson said.

KWSC chief operating officer Asadullah Khan stated that legal action would be taken against all those involved in the theft and no one responsible would be spared.

He warned that any KWSC official found complicit would also face the strictest departmental consequences.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 22/07/2025)

Completion of underfunded K-IV project in Karachi linked to stable financing

The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) on Wednesday made it clear that the timely completion of the long-delayed Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, commonly known as K-IV, depended on uninterrupted supply of funds.

In a fresh assessment that comes just weeks after the federal government allocated only Rs3.2 billion against the Rs40bn required for the scheme in the current budget, the authority in a statement said: "Overall physical progress stands at 63 per cent, while a sum of Rs86.4 billion has so far been spent on construction of the project. The Phase-I is planned to be completed in 2026, provided the required funds are made accordingly."

The assertion came during Federal Minister for Water Resources Moeen Khan Wattoo's visit to the project site. He was briefed during the visit that construction work on all components of the project is in progress at a satisfactory pace.

Accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary for Water Resources Rana Ansar, Sindh Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, former senator Nehal Hashmi and Wapda Chairman Naveed Asghar Chaudhry, the federal minister reviewed the progress on the scheme.

Member Water Syed Ali Akhtar Shah, general manager of the K-IV Project Amir Mughal, along with representatives of contractors and consultants, were also present.

The Wapda statement said the visited locations included intake structure and pumping stations being developed at Keenjhar Lake, the pressurised pipeline forming the main water conveyance system from Keenjhar to Karachi, water reservoirs and filtration plants on the city outskirts.

Expressing satisfaction over the pace of work, Mr Wattoo reaffirmed the federal government's full backing for the K-IV project.

The project, originally launched in the early 2000s to address Karachi's chronic water supply problems, has witnessed multiple revisions, cost escalations, and bureaucratic hurdles.

Despite renewed attention of the federal government in recent years, the latest budget allocation cast dark shadow on its future. Last month the federal government's allocation of just Rs3.2bn sparked fears that the city may have to wait for "another 10 years" or more for the completion of the plan.

"The K-IV is a vital scheme for Karachi, and its early completion remains one of the top priorities of the Ministry of Water Resources," the statement quoted the federal minister as saying.

The minister stressed the need for stronger coordination among stakeholders to eliminate any hurdles in the project's implementation. He directed the consultants and contractors to strictly adhere to the project's quality standards.

The project is designed to supply an additional 650 million gallons per day (MGD) to Karachi. The initiative is being executed in two phases: Phase-I aims to provide 260 MGD, while Phase-II will add another 390 MGD upon execution.

Currently, Wapda is implementing Phase-I through eight separate contract packages awarded to a mix of local and international contractors.

(By Imran Ayub and Ghulam Hussain Khuwaja Dawn, 13, 24/07/2025)

Rs12.8bn new Hub Canal to become operational on Aug 14

The water-starved people of the metropolis, particularly in districts Keamari and West, will get some respite from the water shortage next month after the operationalisation of the new Hub Canal.



The new canal, a significant initiative of the provincial government aimed at addressing the water woes of the city, will add 100 million gallons of water per day (MGD) to the supply. The old Hub Canal, being rehabilitated alongside the construction of the new canal, brings 150 MGD to the city.

In a tweet, Mayor Murtaza Wahab announced that the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation was all set to operationalise the new 100 MGD Hub Canal on Aug 14.

He said that the work, being carried out at a cost of Rs12.8 billion funded by the provincial government, would be completed in a record time of only nine months. "The existing canal is also being rehabilitated under this project," he added.

A spokesman for the water utility said that the new canal would significantly improve Karachi's water supply, addressing the city's ongoing water crisis, especially in parts of districts Keamari and West.

He said that the Hub Canal project was a vital step towards resolving the city's water issues, and its completion would bring relief to the city's residents.

The Hub Canal project, approved in 2022, included the construction of a new canal and rehabilitation of the old Hub Canal to further increase water supply in the two districts. The project included upgrading the Hub pumping station, rising main, and Hub Filter Plant from 80 MGD to 100 MGD.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 14, 24/07/2025)

CM Murad tells Centre to double supply to Karachi from Hub Dam

In order to address the chronic issue of water shortage in Karachi, the Sindh government on Thursday urged the federal government to double the water supply to the metropolis from Hub Dam and also bridge the funding gap of the K-IV project.

At a meeting with Federal Water Minister Mian Moeen at CM House, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah informed him that despite administrative approval, the project faced major challenges that required federal government's urgent intervention.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Sindh Planning & Development Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro, Wapda Chairman Naveed Asghar Chaudhry, DG Mian Riaz, and Project Director K-IV Project Wapda Aamir Mughal.

The chief minister told the federal minister that in the FY 2025-26, only Rs3.209bn had been allocated by the federal government against the actual requirement of Rs39.964bn. "This funding gap threatens delays, inflation-driven cost escalation, and potential contractor claims," he added.

A press statement issued by the CM House said that the federal minister assured the chief minister that he would brief Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the progress of the project to get more funds.

The federal minister noted that most Right-of-Way (ROW) issues had been resolved by the Sindh government. However, he said, two bottlenecks – 22 acres of land in Thatta required for the construction of infrastructure for the pumping complex and a pending court case related to the pipeline alignment — were yet to be resolved.

The chief minister assured the federal minister that the land would be handed over to the project executers for the pumping station at the earliest.

He noted that out of the provincial government's share of Rs8.5bn, he had approved the release of the fourth quarter of Rs1.27bn for the project.

100pc increase in supply from Hub Dam sought

Mr Shah requested Mian Moeen to approve increase in the water supply from Hub Dam from 100mgd (million gallons per day) to 200mgd. Both, the CM and federal minister, agreed to conduct a technical survey to determine water availability in the dam so that the CCI could be asked to take a decision accordingly.

The chief minister told the federal minister that currently the city received 650mgd as against a requirement of 1,300mgd. He said that in order to address the issue, the Sindh government had conceived the K-IV project, designed to ultimately supply 650mgd to Karachi from Keenjhar Lake. "The Phase-I of the project, being implemented by Wapda, is aimed at delivering 260mgd," he added.

The federal minister told the CM that he visited the K-IV project along with P&D Minister Nasir Shah on Wednesday (July 23). The physical progress stood at 63pc with the completion targeted being 2026, he added.

Ecneec directives

It was pointed out at the meeting that the federal government formally granted administrative approval for the execution of the K-IV Phase-I under the modified revised PC-I, which was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) on January 31, 2022. The project is approved for Rs126.404bn.

The main conditions set by Ecneec includes provision of 260mgd from Keenjhar Lake by the Sindh government; the provincial government's contribution of 50pc share will be Rs12.77bn; timely clearance of liabilities and land acquisition; coordination of power supply, distribution network, and O&M systems; and regular steering committee meetings to monitor implementation.

The chief minister said that the provincial government was fulfilling the condition set by the federal government.

Inter-provincial water distribution

The chief minister asked the federal minister to facilitate direct meetings between irrigation officials of Sindh and Punjab to resolve water distribution challenges amicably.

He said that water distribution must follow the 1991 water accord. The federal minister agreed to meet with representatives of Sindh and Punjab separately to resolve the issue.

RBOD

The meeting also reviewed progress of the Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD) project, for which a technical committee has been formed to address outstanding issues and submit a report within three days.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 25/07/2025)

K-IV delays

Karachi has been desperately water-stressed for longer than many of its citizens have been alive, but after almost a decade of work on a solution that millions had pinned their hopes on, the project is still several years behind schedule. The Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) was designed to alleviate Karachi's chronic water crisis by delivering 650 million gallons per day (MGD) from Keenjhar Lake, but the project's first phase, which was supposed to deliver 260 MGD, is still only at 63% completion, with its 2026 deadline hanging by a thread.

Incidentally, the first phase was kicked off by the Sindh government in 2016 and was supposed to be completed by 2019; but in 2018, with only 20% of work done, the project was shelved. In 2021, the federal government reallocated the project to Wapda, where it underwent a redesign that resulted in a new completion date of the end of 2025 and a cost estimate increase from Rs26 billion to Rs125 billion.

The cost has now risen by another Rs30 billion, according to reports, while completion is almost sure to miss the new 2026 deadline. This is because the 2025-26 federal budget allocated a mere Rs3.2 billion against Wapda's requested Rs40 billion — a

92% shortfall. The Sindh government, which is still involved in the project, has allocated a paltry Rs100 million. Wapda warns that without "uninterrupted funds", the 2026 target is unattainable. Meanwhile, Karachi's water deficit now stands at 550 MGD, meaning that the entire K-IV project would barely cover the shortfall.

And even if the K-IV project itself is only slightly delayed, the Sindh government's work on the water supply network has barely started. That work is scheduled for completion in 2029, which is another deadline that is certain to be missed because of a lack of funding. Other supporting infrastructure work is also well behind schedule. It is becoming a foregone conclusion that by the time anyone receives a drop of water through the K-IV project, the city will be even more water-stressed than it is today. (By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 26/07/2025)

CM Murad asks Centre to provide fair share of water for Karachi

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday criticised the federal government for not providing enough funds for the vital K-IV water project meant to ease Karachi's water shortage.

Speaking at the inauguration of the "20th My Karachi – Oasis of Harmony International Exhibition", the CM stressed the urgent need to address the city's water crisis and demanded a greater share of water from the Hub Dam.

He said the federal government had allocated only Rs3 billion for the K-IV project this year, far below the Rs78bn it had promised. In contrast, he added, the Sindh government has fully funded all related components of the project.

The chief minister also criticised the federal government's handling of natural gas distribution, noting that Sindh produces 70 per cent of the country's gas but does not receive its fair share. He vowed to raise the issue in the next meeting of the Council of Common Interests, which he said is long overdue.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Chairman Zubair Motiwala and President Jawed Bilwani also spoke. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 02/08/2025)

Unsafe drinking water

In its second-quarter report for 2025, the Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has flagged 23 bottled water brands as unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological and chemical contamination. The report, which examined 203 samples collected from 21 cities across the country, once again lays bare the disturbing disconnect between public health warnings and regulatory enforcement.

Tasked by the government to monitor and publicise bottled water quality on a quarterly basis, PCRWR continues to fulfil its mandate with consistency. But what follows such disclosures - or rather, what doesn't — is where the real problem lies. Despite repeated exposure of violators, there has been little effort to hold them accountable. No complaints lodged, no punitive action taken, no meaningful oversight from the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority. It is a damning indictment of regulatory paralysis that even after being named and shamed, companies continue operations without interruption. Consumers, in the absence of strict enforcement, remain vulnerable and are forced to rely on what should be the safer option, only to unknowingly ingest harmful contaminants.

In a country where access to clean drinking water is already limited, the unchecked proliferation of unsafe bottled water represents a public health crisis in the making. Diarrhoeal illnesses, gastrointestinal infections and long-term exposure to toxic substances are just some of the consequences that accompany this lack of oversight.

It is not enough to release periodic lists and encourage the public to check them. What is needed is a firm policy response: sealing of production facilities found in violation, blacklisting repeat offenders, initiating criminal proceedings where applicable, and shutting down operations once and for all. Regulatory bodies must move beyond the passive role of data collection and assume a more assertive posture in safeguarding public health. (By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 04/08/2025)

Videos of damages in newly built Hub Canal termed 'propaganda'

Viral videos circulating on social media, showing damages to the soon-to-be-inaugurated Hub Canal during testing on Tuesday, sparked controversy as authorities dismissed the content as "propaganda", saying that the new water supply project would be launched as scheduled.

The videos emerged on different social media platforms claimed that the newly built structure was recently damaged twice during the testing.

The multi-billion-rupee project would improve Karachi's water supply by rehabilitating the existing infrastructure and constructing a new 100 million gallons per day (MGD) canal from Hub Dam.

However, the chief of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) and Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab rejected the claims and vowed that the structure remained intact.

"Report circulating that the new Hub Canal has been damaged/destroyed due to faulty construction is incorrect & has been issued unfortunately without any verification," Mayor Wahab posted on X (formerly Twitter).

"We will be inaugurating the new 100 MGD Hub Canal on 13th August 2025 as announced. There are some people who are not happy with development work being carried out & completed under the PPP leadership. However, such propaganda will not deter us in solving issues of the people of Karachi."

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 06/08/2025)

Deepening water crisis

Pakistan is hurtling towards an environmental emergency that demands urgent national attention. At the heart of this looming disaster is the rapid and largely unregulated over-extraction of groundwater, a practice that is steadily depleting aquifers and pushing vital freshwater ecosystems towards collapse. The threat is not distant; it is unfolding before our eyes.

Scientists warn that nearly half of the world's population could be living in water-stressed river basins by 2030 if current trends persist. For Pakistan, where water availability per capita has already plunged to alarmingly low levels, such projections translate into a fight for survival.

The country's water crisis is aggravated by climate shocks that are growing in frequency and intensity. The 2022 monsoon floods remain a grim reminder of how fragile our water systems have become. These disasters are not isolated events but symptoms of a deeper malaise. When ecosystems lose their ability to regulate water flows, the consequences are deadly, resulting in destruction of livelihoods and worsening of food insecurity.

Yet policy responses remain reactive, piecemeal and politically expedient. Groundwater extraction is still treated as an infinite entitlement rather than a finite resource that must be managed sustainably. Licensing and monitoring mechanisms are either absent or unenforced, while development priorities continue to favour short-term gains over ecological resilience. In many regions, water use is dictated by individual capacity to drill deeper rather than collective responsibility to preserve the commons.

What Pakistan needs is a decisive shift to a nature-positive approach — one that restores wetlands and recharges aquifers while protecting river systems from pollution and encroachment. This requires integrating ecosystem protection into agricultural, industrial and urban planning policies, backed by strict regulation and public accountability. The country must choose whether to bequeath future generations a landscape of thriving rivers and fertile fields, or a barren land where water wars replace the flow of life.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 11/08/2025)

Water victory

What began as a supplemental request has now crystallised into a full-fledged award — a binding, enforceable judgment that firmly upholds Pakistan's position under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The August 8 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague is a landmark moment, not merely for Pakistan's water security but also for the principle that international agreements cannot be set aside on a whim. India must allow the waters of the Western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — to flow for Pakistan's unrestricted use, in line with the treaty's provisions.

Since 2016, Pakistan has objected to India's designs for projects like Kishanganga and Ratle, arguing that excessive pondage and unrestricted spillway gates risk violating the treaty, which protect Pakistan's "unrestricted use" of Western rivers. The PCA's ruling effectively aligns with this interpretation, limiting India's operational flexibility. Equally significant is the court's rejection of India's April 2025 declaration that it would hold the IWT "in abeyance."

The award makes clear that unilateral suspension is not permissible under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. It instead affirms that the treaty's dispute resolution system is hierarchical but interconnected: while a Neutral Expert may decide certain technical issues, a Court of Arbitration can interpret treaty provisions, and both outcomes are equally final and binding. This ruling is the result of Islamabad's persistence since 2016 in seeking arbitration despite considerable diplomatic headwinds.

But the real test begins now. Implementation has long been the Achilles' heel of international rulings. Pakistan must invest in technical capacity for water monitoring and maintain diplomatic pressure to ensure compliance. This award is a significant win — but its true worth will be measured by whether its promises flow, uninterrupted, from the rivers to the fields.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 13/08/2025)

Bilawal hits out at PM Shehbaz over delay in K4 project

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif over the inordinate delay in the K-IV water project, saying he had expected the premier to demonstrate the same speed and efficiency in Karachi as he does in Lahore.

Launched in the early 2000s to ease Karachi's water woes, the K-IV project has faced repeated delays and cost hikes. With just Rs3.2 billion allocated against the Rs40bn needed, officials fear completion could be pushed back another decade.

Addressing an inauguration ceremony of a new canal for Karachi from Hub Dam, Bilawal said: "The K4 project, we had hoped for Shehbaz speed, but Karachi got Shehbaz slow. This cannot happen that Lahore gets Shehbaz speed and Karachi gets Shehbaz slow, so I will especially request the prime minister to complete the promises as quickly as possible regarding the K4 and this city."

Bilawal was referring to the famed 'Punjab speed', a term coined to describe PM Shehbaz's swift and efficient governance as chief minister of Punjab.

Islamabad's budget allocation had triggered a kind of rift between the PML-N and the PPP — allies in the ruling coalition.

The Sindh government had expressed strong reservations over the "inadequate allocation" in the federal budget, saying it was taking the matter very seriously and in the process of reviewing the entire budget.

"We have serious concerns not only about this project but also the K-4 initiative," Sindh Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon had said. "The funds allocated are highly inadequate. The Pakistan Peoples Party is taking these issues seriously and will thoroughly review the budget."

He had stressed the need for fiscal discipline and smarter resource management at the federal level.

"We've submitted formal proposals to the prime minister and urged the federal government to cut down on unnecessary expenditures," he said. "If revenue is not increasing, it becomes essential to control expenditures. All spending must be managed wisely; otherwise, we're putting our entire fiscal policy at risk."

Meanwhile, the new Hub Canal, a significant initiative of the provincial government aimed at addressing the water woes of the city, will add 100 million gallons of water per day (MGD) to the supply.

The Hub Canal project, approved in 2022, included the construction of a new canal and the rehabilitation of the old Hub Canal to further increase water supply in the two districts. The project included upgrading the Hub pumping station, rising main, and Hub Filter Plant from 80 MGD to 100 MGD.

Bilawal said the water from the new canal would be supplied to the Central, East and Keamari districts, hoping that it would be supplied to Lyari and the islands in the future as well.

He said restoration of the old canal was also underway and added that the party would try to secure increased water allocation of 200 MGD for Karachi from the chief minister.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 14/08/2025)

Sindh's exclusion from federal water resources shocks Sindh High Court

The Sindh High Court on Monday expressed its surprise that Sindh was being ignored in distribution of water resources by the federation although the province was the lower riparian and has a very significant interest in water-related issues.

"We find it quite astonishing that within the federation, one of the units of that federation i.e. province of Sindh, prima facie, appears to be ignored in respect of the issue which concerns whole of the federation's water resources especially as the province of Sindh is the lower riparian and has a very significant interest in water related issues," remarked a two-judge constitutional bench of the SHC.

The bench was hearing a contempt application regarding delay in appointment of a federal member of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) from Sindh despite repeated court orders.

The bench, headed by Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha, deplored that the federal government was unnecessarily dragging an already decided matter and not appointing the federal member of the Irsa from Sindh in compliance with an order of the SHC passed in 2017. The same had also attained finality after the order of the Supreme Court.

The court again summoned the secretaries of the Establishment Division and Ministry of Water Resources for not notifying the federal member of Irsa from Sindh despite an earlier order.

The SHC also noted that it was quite surprising that the Islamabad High Court had passed an order on July 28, restraining the respondents from making any change in the current composition of Irsa, and questioned how a single judge of the IHC could override a judgment which had attained finality before the apex court.

It also issued notice to Asjad Imtiaz Ali, who was appointed federal member of Irsa, and directed him to appear in person on Sept 16, as the bench said that apparently his domicile was from Punjab and he appeared to be a beneficiary of re-appointment, which was prima facie a violation of the SHC's judgment that had attained finality after the order of the Supreme Court.

At the last hearing, the bench had summoned both the federal secretaries for not notifying the federal member of Irsa from Sindh in compliance with the SHC's order passed in 2017.

At the outset of the hearing on Monday, the bench noted that, surprisingly, both the alleged contemnors, Establishment Secretary Inamullah Khan and Water Resources Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza, were on ex-Pakistan leave for three weeks with effect from Aug 13.

It directed the alleged contemnors— both secretaries—to appear along with a compliance report at the next hearing. “We do not expect them to be busy elsewhere or otherwise on leave after this, else this court shall pass appropriate orders,” it added.

It further noted that the 2017 SHC judgment was challenged before the Supreme Court, which was dismissed for non-prosecution in 2021, and as such, the original judgment has reached finality.

The bench expressed surprise over the IHC for passing an order about the current composition of Irsa and said that under the Constitution, once an issue has reached finality by the apex court, it cannot be re-agitated.

Perhaps the IHC was not made aware of the Supreme Court judgment/order, it added, and directed its office to send a copy of this order to the registrar of the IHC for placing before the same bench who passed the order on July 28, as it appeared that the necessary judgment passed by the SHC in 2017 had attained finality and might not have been brought to its attention.

In 2017, the SHC had ruled that the executive order regarding the appointment of the federal member of Irsa from Sindh was still in force, being protected under Article 270AA(2) of the Constitution, and the federal government was bound to serve the policy enunciated therein in respect of nominating its nominee for federal member Irsa from Sindh until the same was altered, superseded, repealed, or amended as provided in such Article.

Recently, petitioner Ghulam Abbas Laghari filed an application in the SHC seeking contempt proceedings against the secretaries of the Establishment Division and Ministry of Water Resources for not complying with its order passed in 2017.

Meanwhile, another two-judge bench of the SHC headed by Justice Muhammad Faisal Kamal Alam on Monday also directed the Secretary Ministry of Water Resources to appear and apprise it about non-compliance with its earlier order.

A grower of Sindh, Qurban Maitlo, had petitioned the SHC against the appointment of Asjad Imtiaz Ali as federal member Irsa.

The counsel for the petitioner, Barrister Zamir Ghumro, informed the bench that at the last hearing, the court had ordered the federal government to appoint a federal member from Sindh in four weeks, and in case of non-compliance, the impugned appointment of the federal member Irsa would stand automatically suspended.

However, the counsel submitted that compliance has not been made yet.

The Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Duggal submitted an order of the IHC restraining the federal government from changing the composition of Irsa.

The counsel for the petitioner argued that such an order had been procured from the IHC by concealing facts and orders of this court, as the subject matter had already attained finality.

The bench remarked that the federal government was unnecessarily dragging the decided issue, which amounts to contempt of court, and summoned the Secretary Water Resources on Sept 16.
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 19/08/2025)

KWSC told to curb water theft, illegal hydrants

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday reviewed the city's pressing water challenges, focusing on issues arising from ageing infrastructure.

The meeting also attended by Mayor Murtaza Wahab and senior officials of the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation discussed the issues of low water pressure, frequent bursts, leakages, and rampant illegal tapping of water supplies.

The officials pointed out that the absence of real-time monitoring of flow and pressure at critical junctions hampers effective management. Delays in enforcement, irregular audits, and lack of accountability further compound the problem.

Unbilled or under-billed connections persist due to insufficient digitisation and lack of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. In some areas, poor documentation and lack of metering leave systems vulnerable to theft.

The meeting was informed that criminal syndicates illegally tap into main supply lines, fill tankers without authorisation, and sell water at inflated rates. Entire networks of pipes, valves, and pumps operate with impunity, resulting in massive financial losses for the corporation.

In response, the water board has launched several initiatives, including a crackdown on illegal connections and hydrants, disconnections for chronic defaulters, and the establishment of a police station dedicated to water-related offences at COD.

The meeting decided to expedite the establishment of a KWSC tribunal. Legal reforms are already under way, with improvements made in community reporting and internal systems.

Initiatives such as water metering, monitoring, and master planning are also being introduced. These include the implementation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, tax surveys, and enhanced GIS and asset management.

Looking ahead, the meeting resolved to amend legal and regulatory frameworks to impose stricter penalties on water theft and improve recovery of dues.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 20/08/2025)

Karachi's water crisis may ease as Hub Dam nearly fills up

Amid the city's ongoing water crisis, recent monsoon rains have brought a significant improvement by raising the Hub Dam's water level by 11 feet and securing potentially enough storage for up to three years.

According to official sources, the water level at Hub Dam rose significantly due to the recent monsoon rains, increasing from 322 feet to 333 feet.

Karachi faces severe water shortages, with a daily requirement of over 1,200 million gallons per day (MGD) but currently receiving only around 650 MGD, officials said.

The Hub Dam supplies approximately 100 MGD to the Keamari and West districts, while the remainder is sourced from Keenjhar Lake.

Officials say additional six feet of water is required to reach dam's maximum capacity of 339 feet

Officials also said that the dam's maximum capacity is 339 feet and when filled to this level, it can supply water to the West, Keamari and Central districts of the city for up to three years.

When the dam reaches full capacity, excess water is released through a spillway to ensure safe drainage.

It is worth noting that the Hub Dam, completed in 1981, spans an area of 24,300 acres. To date, the dam has reached its full capacity 12 times. Last year, it reached the maximum level on Sept 1, after which the spillway was opened and water was released.

Experts believe that if monsoon rains continue, the dam may reach full capacity again in the coming days.

Officials welcomed the rise in the water level and described it as encouraging news for both the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation and the city's residents.

They added that the increased water reserves will play a crucial role in stabilising and improving Karachi's water supply system. (By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 24/08/2025)

Karachi citizens face water shortage as Wapda repairs damaged Hub Canal

A critical water crisis hit the city on Sunday when emergency repairs to the Hub Canal slashed Karachi's water supply from Hub Dam by a staggering 60 per cent, plunging millions into a severe shortage.

Following the recent heavy monsoon rains, "significant erosion and damage" have been reported in the Hub Canal within the jurisdiction of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), said a statement issued by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC).

According to KWSC officials, the recent damage to the Hub Canal did not occur in the old or new Hub Canal. Instead, the damage took place in an eight-kilometre stretch that falls under the jurisdiction of Wapda.

They said that the section is managed entirely by Wapda, and after this stretch, the canal connects to the section overseen by the KWSC. The point where the canal transitions from Wapda to KWSC control is known as the "Zero Point," they said.

In an urgent move to prevent further destruction, the statement said that Wapda has drastically reduced the flow from the dam, sending shockwaves across the city's water distribution system.

KWSC says city receives only 40 MGD instead of 100 MGD from Hub Dam

"Karachi is currently receiving only 40 million gallons per day (MGD) from the Hub Dam, down from the usual 100 MGD," the KWSC statement confirmed while quoting the chief engineer of bulk.

This sharp drop in supply is already being felt across the western, central, and Keamari districts, where taps have started to run dry. Residents are bracing for extended hours without water as the city struggles to cope.

Although the emergency repair work was expected to be completed by 4pm on Sunday, the water supply is unlikely to return to normal immediately.

"The repairs are expected to take until 4pm on Sunday, though it takes around 12 hours for water to travel from the dam to the Hub Pumping Station," said the KWSC statement, confirming delays to any immediate relief while urging the public to act responsibly.

"We apologise for the inconvenience and urge citizens to use water sparingly. All available resources are being deployed to expedite the restoration process," said the KWSC chief engineer.

MQM-P pins blame on Sindh govt, KWSC

As the city reels under the water shortage due to emergency repairs at the Hub Canal, political tempers have flared. Senior MQM-Pakistan leader and Member of the National Assembly, Syed Aminul Haque, launched a scathing attack on the Sindh government and KWSC, accusing them of "criminal negligence" and "systemic corruption" that has left citizens "thirsting for every drop."

In a strongly worded statement, Mr Haque alleged that despite the much-publicised 100 MGD Hub Canal water supply project, the water board has failed to deliver water to large swathes of the city.

"The people in Orangi Town, Surjani Town, Baldia Town, Keamari, Korangi, Landhi, North Karachi, Malir, and Shah Faisal Colony are struggling without water," he said.

He further accused the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Sindh government of growing mismanagement.

"Their incompetence has written a new chapter of urban failure. Even after the recent rains, areas like Orangi remain submerged in sewage water," he said.

The MQM leader also criticised Jamaat-i-Islami, saying their role has been limited to slogans without action.

"Drainage and sanitation projects exist only on paper. Central Karachi and other districts flood every time it rains," he added.

The MQM-P leader demanded immediate, practical solutions and accountability.

"People pay taxes, but receive garbage, sewage, and broken promises in return. Karachi needs action, not speeches," he said. (By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 25/08/2025)

Many KWSC officers await promotions even after 32 years

A severe crisis is brewing at the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) as an inordinate delay in the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC-I) meeting has left hundreds of senior officials in Grade-17 without promotions.

Informed sources said the delay in the promotion of eligible officers had sparked grave concerns about its impact on the city's water supply and sewerage system, with over 900 employees expected to retire in the current and next year.

They revealed that the DPC-I meeting, which was responsible for approving promotions, had been pending for a long time, leaving many senior officials in Grade-17 without promotions. Those officials had been waiting for over 32 years for their promotions, and the delay had caused them significant distress and financial hardships, said the sources.

When contacted, the KWSC Chief Executive Officer Ahmed Ali Siddiqui acknowledged that the process of holding the DPC meeting had already been initiated with clear directions to the human resources team of the water utility. "We ensure due promotions of eligible officers on merit as per rules and policy as soon as possible," he added.

According to the sources, Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, who is also the chairman of the KWSC Board, has directed the water utility's administration to give promotions to all the senior officials and employees as soon as possible. However, despite these instructions, the administration has failed to hold the DPC-I meeting.

Voicing their discontent, the denied officials alleged a disparity in promotion procedures, where high-ranking officials received timely promotions while hardworking and senior officials in lower grades were overlooked and unfairly denied their due promotions.

One affected officer, who wished to remain anonymous, expressed his concerns about the impact of the delay on the city's water supply and sewerage system. "The delay in promotions has not only affected the officials' fundamental rights but also raised concerns about the impact on the city's water supply and sewerage system," he said. "The lack of promotions has already affected the morale of the employees and the overall performance of the institution to a great extent," he added.

Another officer, also on the condition of anonymity, emphasised the need for immediate action to hold the DPC-I meeting and grant promotions to the deserving officials. "The water utility administration must take immediate action to hold the DPC-I meeting and grant promotions to the deserving officials to ensure the stability and efficiency of the institution and ultimately benefiting the citizens of Karachi," he said.

The sources revealed that the affected officers waiting for promotions had repeatedly requested the KWSC top management to hold the meeting of the DPC-I and grant promotions to all the eligible and senior officials in Grade-17 without further delay. They believe that the delay in promotion has led to lethargy among the officers, which is affecting the performance and efficiency of the water utility officials in general.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 14, 01/09/2025)

Water project stuck in the pipeline

Due to a lack of interest of the Sindh government, the most important water project for Karachi, the 65 million gallons per day (MGD) has been closed for over six years, with little signs of progress in the near future.

Karachi has been facing a severe water crisis for over two decades. The city's population is more than 30 million, with the daily water requirement surpassing 1,200 million gallons. The water supply, however, is only 520 million gallons daily, with a shortfall of 680 million gallons. Due to the negligence of the provincial government, the 65 MGD project was closed in 2019.

The original Project Cost-I (PC-1) of the project was estimated at around Rs6 billion, however, these funds were not released in time and due to the increasing cost of construction materials, there was a need to increase PC-1 to Rs11 billion.

Even after the approval of the new budget, funds were not released, due to which the cost of the project increased further. Only Rs30 million have been allocated for this project in the current financial year and now the project is being considered for a re-tender.

An official from the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) revealed on the condition of anonymity that the 65 MGD additional water project was approved by the Sindh government in 2014 and Rs1 billion was allocated in the budget of 2017 however, due to a lack of funds, development work happened only partially.

"Construction work started in 2018, but some top officials removed the engineers working for the project and appointed their favorite personnel who had no experience or fieldwork. These incompetent engineers declared the design of the project unsuitable, due to which construction work stopped for 10 months.

Later the Sindh government transferred appointed new staff and the project resumed but only Rs150 million was released from the funds approved by the provincial government. Hence, only 15 per cent of the work could be completed. The Sindh government took one-and-a-half years to approve revision PC-1," said the official.

The official further revealed that the second major reason behind the delay in the project was the increase in its cost, due to which construction work on the project had been closed since 2019. "The Sindh government approved a revision PC-1 of Rs11 billion in 2021 and also allocated Rs9 billion in the budget for 2022-23 however, the required funds have still not been provided," said the official. According to the official, in the budget for 2025-2026, only Rs30 million has been allocated for this project. The dues of the contractors will also be paid from this fund. "Although the Sindh government has approved the revised PC-1, due to non-timely release of funds and such a long closure, the cost of the project has now increased even more," informed the official.

Talking to The Express Tribune, Project Director Zafar Palijo confirmed that the project had been closed for six years. "Mayor Karachi and Chairman Karachi Water Corporation Murtaza Wahab have included this project in their priorities, and they want to complete it. The minimum offer will be sent to the Planning and Development Department of the Sindh government for approval," said Palijo.

(By Syed Ashraf Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 09/09/2025)

Gulberg Town harvests rainwater

The rain harvesting idea is catching up in the metropolis with an aim to replenish groundwater reserves and use rainwater for gardening and irrigation instead of wasting the valuable resource.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar Khan, along with Gulberg Town Chairman Nusratullah, visited various rainwater harvesting system sites across Gulberg Town on Tuesday during the rainfall to review their functionality.

Following its successful implementation in Federal B Area Blocks 10, 11, and 20, the rainwater harvesting system has also been activated in Block 3, Hussainabad, specifically at Khatun-e-Jannat Park. The recent rains have shown promising and encouraging results from these systems.

Under this project, not only rainwater but also the water used for ablution in mosques is being collected and preserved. Instead of being wasted, this water first gathers in a chamber, from where it is filtered through a small well and then transferred into a larger underground reservoir. This method contributes to the recharge of groundwater and directly benefits the local population. Speaking on the occasion, Monem Zafar Khan stated that such projects were a positive step toward resolving public issues related to water and rainfall.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 05, 10/09/2025)

KWSC completes repairs on damaged Hub Canal, resumes water supply

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) has claimed to have restored supply from the Hub Dam after completing the repair work on the damaged section of the new Hub Canal in three days, instead of its earlier commitment of 36 hours.

The new Hub Canal, inaugurated on Aug 13 by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, sustained damage during the recent heavy rains. Opposition parties pointed to alleged substandard construction and demanded the formation of an independent commission to investigate the collapse of the Rs12 billion project within just 28 days of its inauguration.

Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab took to X (formerly Twitter) to respond to opponents for "exposing their hypocrisy", accusing them of making false allegations without "understanding the facts."

"The small 20-meter portion that got damaged due to flash flooding that came from Northern Bypass has been repaired and water supply from Hub Dam has been restored within 48 hours of the damage by KWSC through the existing Hub Canal contractor," he posted.

"Unfortunately, our opponents are always too quick to hurl allegations without understanding the facts. We will continue to work and expose their hypocrisy," the mayor stated.

A KWSC spokesperson, in a statement, said that repair work had been carried out round the clock without interruption to ensure a swift resolution to the water shortage faced by citizens.

As a result, the process of recharging the rising main and supply lines is now under way. Once the lines are fully charged, water supply to the affected districts — Central, West and Keamari — will be restored, he added.

Explaining the cause of the disruption, the spokesperson said that recent heavy rainfall, water flow from nearby mountains and a major flood stream passing through the Northern Bypass had caused significant damage to the Hub Canal. This led to a temporary halt in water supply to parts of the city.

"The KWSC apologises to the public for the inconvenience caused by the suspension of water supply and assures that all available resources are being utilised to restore full operations and prevent further hardship for residents," the statement added. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 15/09/2025)

Water supply from Hub Dam starts

Mayor Murtaza Wahab, on Sunday, said that the supply of water from Hub Dam had started.

The Hub Canal was affected by the rain on Wednesday, he said. Additionally, he said that the soil around the Hub Canal was washed away by water and that a twenty-meter section of the canal was affected.

Wahab, accompanied by Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) CEO, paid a visit to the Old City Area, including Bartan Gali, Khajoor Bazaar, Jodia Bazaar, Napier Road, and Shaheen Complex, where he inspected ongoing installation and repair of sewerage lines.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 15/09/2025)

243 illegal hydrants razed across city, meeting told

Mayor Murtaza Wahab has informed a high-level meeting that authorities have demolished 243 illegal hydrants across the metropolis.

The meeting was chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah at the CM House on Tuesday to review measures against illegal hydrants and tankers in the city.

Briefing the CM, the mayor said that 212 FIRs were lodged against those running illegal hydrants and 103 people involved in the illegal tanker business had been arrested. He further stated that currently 3,200 tankers have been registered with QR codes, ensuring better regulation of water distribution.

Due to these measures, the revenue of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) has increased by Rs60 million, he added.

The CM directed the mayor, who is also the chairman of the board of the KWSC, that the crackdown against illegal tankers must continue until the "mafia is completely dismantled". (By Dawn Reporter, 14, 17/09/2025)

CM orders tap turned off on 'tanker mafia'

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday chaired a meeting to review progress in the ongoing crackdown against illegal hydrants and unauthorised water tankers in the metropolitan city.

Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab informed the session that 243 illegal hydrants had been demolished so far, with 212 FIRs registered and 103 persons arrested. He added that around 3,200 water tankers had been registered through QR codes, which had not only improved water distribution but also increased the revenue of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation by Rs60 million.

The chief minister directed that the campaign against the illegal tanker mafia must continue relentlessly until the menace is completely eradicated.

Separately, CM Shah announced that Sindh has sufficient wheat reserves — 1.3 million tons — to meet demand until Feb 2026, with the new crop expected in March. Chairing a meeting at his office to review the wheat stock and supply situation, he was informed that the monthly wheat requirement for Sindh and Balochistan is 400,000 tons, while an additional 600,000 tons are available in the open market.

The chief minister stressed the need to maintain strategic reserves and instructed the Food Department to draft a wheat release policy for approval. He also directed strict monitoring of wheat flour prices to prevent unnecessary hikes and ensure affordability for the public. CM Shah reaffirmed his government's commitment to ensuring food security and price stability across Sindh.

Meanwhile, the chief minister declared that the elimination of dacoits from the Katcha areas is non-negotiable and must be ensured at all costs. He said this while chairing a high-level meeting at his office which was convened to review the ongoing operation against bandits.

CM Shah directed police to intensify intelligence-based operations (IBOs), especially in flood-affected riverine areas. "With parts of the Katcha belt inundated due to recent floods, criminal elements are likely displaced. This presents an opportunity to eradicate them. The operation must be expedited," he added.

CM Shah instructed Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah to devise a comprehensive infrastructure development plan for the riverine belt. The plan would include the construction of roads, schools, hospitals, dispensaries, and the provision of transport facilities. He assured that rehabilitation and development work would commence as soon as floodwaters recede.

The meeting was attended by Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, Principal Secretary Agha Wasay, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, and other senior officials.

Briefing the meeting, IGP Memon and the home minister said that since October 2024, technology-driven operations had been launched in the Katcha region. Between Jan 2024 and Sept 2025, a total of 760 targeted operations and 352 search operations were carried out.

During this period, 159 dacoits were killed, including 10 in Sukkur, 14 in Ghotki, 46 in Kashmore, and 89 in Shikarpur, while 823 suspects were arrested. Eight most-wanted criminals were also neutralised. Law enforcement agencies recovered 962 weapons of various calibres during the operations.

Highlighting the strategic importance of infrastructure, the chief minister said the construction of the Ghotki-Kandhkot bridge would improve regional connectivity and contribute to restoring law and order. "The Sindh government's top priority is the maintenance of peace and security across the province," he added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 17/09/2025)

Baldia protests for water and power

Residents of Baldia Town staged a protest on Tuesday against prolonged power outages and severe water shortages, blocking Hub River Road and the Northern Bypass.

According to traffic police, the demonstration brought traffic to a standstill on both routes, causing long queues of vehicles and a massive traffic jam. Protesters chanted slogans against the lack of basic utilities, claiming that water supply had been suspended in several parts of Baldia Town for the past month, severely disrupting daily life. Residents said they were forced to purchase water through expensive tankers, while elected representatives had failed to address their grievances.

Protesters also complained of extended power load-shedding, demanding immediate restoration of water supply and an end to electricity cuts in the area.

A traffic police spokesperson stated that alternative routes were provided to commuters during the blockade. The protest was later called off following successful negotiations between the administration and demonstrators, after which Hub River Road and the Northern Bypass were reopened and traffic flow returned to normal.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 18/09/2025)

Tanker tyranny

For decades, Karachi's citizens have been forced to live under the shadow of an exploitative water economy - one controlled not by the state, but by illegal mafias. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah's latest promises of "zero tolerance" towards illegal hydrants and tanker operators sound reassuring, but they are far from new. Hydrant demolitions and a few arrests have been made time and again, yet the tanker mafia continues to flourish.

The facts presented to the CM at a recent high-level meeting were designed to impress - illegal hydrants demolished, FIRs registered, arrests made and QR codes introduced for registered tankers, generating additional revenue for KWSB. But the reality on the ground tells a different story. Citizens are still forced to buy overpriced tanker water. The mafia, often operating with the tacit support of corrupt officials, adapts quickly to each crackdown.

Once the spotlight fades, the hydrants reappear and business resumes as usual. The root cause is structural and governance failure. Karachi's population has ballooned beyond 20 million, yet its outdated water infrastructure continues to creak under pressure. KWSB is politicised, inefficient and riddled with corruption. Projects like the K-IV scheme, meant to increase water supply, have been delayed for years due to bureaucratic incompetence. In this vacuum, mafias fill the gap, charging citizens thousands of rupees for a basic necessity that should be provided by the state.

If the government is serious about ending Karachi's tanker tyranny, three reforms are urgent. First, depoliticise and professionalise KWSB. The utility must be restructured with independent management, third-party audits, and performance-based accountability.

Second, establish a Karachi Water Regulatory Authority, separate from KWSB, for strategic oversight. Third, invest in the long-delayed water project and modernise distribution through digital monitoring systems. It's time to walk the talk.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 25/09/2025)

Over 90pc rural households use unsafe drinking water, Sindh CM-World Bank meeting told

Over 90 per cent of rural households depend on self-supplied drinking water, often drawn from contaminated groundwater sources, which is posing serious health risks and leaving people highly vulnerable to waterborne diseases.

This emerged on Thursday during a meeting between Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and a World Bank delegation led by its Country Director Bolormaa Amgaabazar.

The meeting was held to review the proposed Sindh Transformational Accelerated Rural Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services (STAR WASH) Project, aimed at tackling rural water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges and reducing child stunting across the province.

Held at the CM House, the meeting was attended, among others, by Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro and Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah.

Steps discussed to improve water, sanitation and hygiene situation

According to a statement, it was pointed out in the meeting that the self-provision approach raised significant health concerns, given the potential risks associated with consuming untreated or inadequately treated water.

The meeting was informed that the previous water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives focused on building infrastructure, then handing it over to local governments or communities.

However, these efforts have hampered due to inadequate operations and maintenance, leaving many without access to safe drinking water.

The World Bank delegation, following a month-long mission and extensive consultations with key stakeholders, presented its findings and proposals to the chief minister.

The meeting underscored that access to safely managed WASH services was directly linked to stunting rates and stressed the need for a paradigm shift from traditional asset-based interventions to a sustainable service delivery model.

It was pointed out that over 90pc of rural households in the province self-provide drinking water, often relying on contaminated groundwater.

The proposed STAR WASH framework calls for a comprehensive WASH policy and strategy with clear service standards, delivery models, and financing for operation and maintenance (O&M). It was informed that the multiphase programmes included STARS WASH Phase I, covering over two million beneficiaries, and Phase II reaching the remaining population.

The project roadmap, as agreed by the chief minister and the WB, envisions different models based on village size, such as large villages of over 300 households, which would be provided with piped water networks, overhead tanks, decentralised wastewater treatment, and O&M run by professional utility companies or under public-private partnerships.

Small villages of 150 households would be given hand pumps or stand posts linked to clean water, engineered septic systems, and community-driven development models, with professional backup for major issues.

The proposed reforms also included the Sindh Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Act, a quasi-regulator for monitoring, and financial alignment through provincial fiscal transfers.

The World Bank team emphasised that aligning water, sanitation, health, and nutrition strategies was essential for tackling stunting and ensuring long-term impact.

The chief minister and the World Bank agreed that the next mission scheduled for Nov 2025 would negotiate further to finalise the project.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 03/10/2025)

Residents protest days-long water shortage in Gulshan-e-Hadeed

Residents of Gulshan-e-Hadeed held a rally in protest against the ongoing water shortage in the area. The rally, organised by the Citizens Forum, saw participation from crowds of men, women, elderly citizens, and children.

Protesters carried banners and placards with slogans such as "Give us water!" and "Reject the tanker mafia." They also chanted against the Water Board administration, demanding the immediate restoration of water supply in the area.

Protesters complained that the supply had remained completely cut off for several days. They argued that despite paying bills worth hundreds of thousands of rupees for the basic amenity, it still fails to reach their homes. Additionally, the affectees said that repeated complaints to authorities have gone unheard, leaving them hopeless and making their daily lives unbearable.

Participants of the rally demanded that the government take action to restore water supply to Gulshan-e-Hadeed and Steel Town, and that it launch a crackdown against the tanker mafia to provide relief to the public.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 06/10/2025)

Water line repair leaves Karachi's two districts dry

As the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board claimed to have completed the repair work on a main supply line on Thursday, residents of Central and East districts continue to grapple with severe water shortages and it seemed they would have to endure at least another 24 hours without water flowing out of taps.

The residents of the city's two densely populated districts first faced acute shortage of water on Sunday due to a power breakdown at the North East Pumping Station.

Just as the underground cable fault was resolved on Tuesday, another setback hit the city's water supply when a major 48-inch main line required repair, prompting KWSC to suspend water supply again for the replacement of a key valve along the K-II main line.

As a result, the water supply to Liaquatabad, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Federal B Area, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Gulistan-i-Jauhar, Safoora Town etc was suspended.

Officials said that three of the 11 pumps at the North East Pumping Station had been temporarily shut down. Additionally, one pump at the Dhabeji Pumping Station was also taken offline for maintenance-related needs, which further affected the regular water supply in other parts of the city.

Residents complain of no water for past six days; officials say valve replacement, power outage causing shortages

A resident of Federal B. Area said that he had been waiting for five days just for a glimpse of water.

"Water is a basic right and authorities are sitting like silent spectators," he lamented.

Muhammad Saleem Khan, a resident of Nazimabad, said that there had been no water in the area for the past six days. "I cannot afford to buy water through tankers," he said.

Another resident of the vicinity said that he was tired of asking for a bucket of water from his neighbours. "I have moved my family to my elder brother's house as we have no water," he said.

The water shortage in parts of the two districts has led to a surge in demand for water tankers, causing prices to skyrocket, further burdening residents who are forced to buy water at exorbitant rates.

A resident of Gulistan-i-Jauhar said that he paid a huge amount to get water tanker at his home. "I was lucky to get it, or perhaps I could afford," he added.

Meanwhile, a KWSC spokesman said that the water utility had completed the repair of the damaged 48-inch diameter rising main line at the North East Pumping Station K-II, restoring water supply to the affected areas of the city.

He said that the repair work had been completed successfully and that supply operations have resumed.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 17/10/2025)

Water mainline repaired after five days

Poor planning, negligence, and mismanagement by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) have plunged large parts of the metropolis into an acute water crisis, as repair work on a 48-inch main line near Karachi University remained leaking for four days. It was finally plugged on Thursday, however, water supply will take another 24 hours to reach consumers.

The damaged line, part of the North East Pumping Station system, developed a major leak last week. Although the KWSC had initially claimed that repairs would be completed within 48 hours, by Wednesday night the work remained unfinished, crippling supply to vast sections of the city. As a result, water supply from key hydrants at NEPA, Safora, and Sakhi Hassan also remained suspended for the past three days, worsening the shortage across residential and commercial areas.

According to officials, the damaged line has disrupted nearly 35 to 40 per cent of the city's total supply. The worst-hit localities include Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, the Federal B Area, North Nazimabad, Nazimabad, Liaquatabad, PIB Colony, and Malir, where residents have been without water for several days.

Citizens complain that they are now being forced to buy water from private tankers at exorbitant prices. Sources claim that commercial operations are quietly continuing from hydrants at NEPA, Safora, and Sakhi Hassan, despite their official suspension - a charge the KWSC denies. "The same hydrants that are supposed to be shut for maintenance are reportedly supplying water to private contractors," a KWSC source told The Express Tribune. Residents and civic activists have criticised the KWSC's handling of the situation, calling it a reflection of chronic mismanagement within the city's water infrastructure system.

(By Naleem Khanzada The Express Tribune, 04, 17/10/2025)

Pakistan faces growing public health crisis from unsafe water, moot told

Experts at the “7th Karachi International Water Conference” on Tuesday warned of a growing public health crisis driven by water-borne diseases and examined contamination risks, gaps in hygiene and strategies to protect vulnerable communities during and after floods.

The conference was organised by Hisaar Foundation at the Karachi School of Business & Leadership. It brought together government representatives, international experts, civil society leaders, private sector actors, academics and youth to deliberate on water security, public health, and climate adaptation.

In her keynote address, Founder and Chairperson of Hisaar Foundation Simi Kamal said the conference took place at a critical juncture and will be a “clarion call of returning to nature-based solutions.” She also spoke of a paradigm shift from “Think global, act local” to “Think local, act global.”

At a session titled “Water for Health: Water-Borne Diseases in Flood Times”, researchers and practitioners highlighted that floods have devastated infrastructure, contaminated water sources, and worsened malnutrition, creating ideal conditions for diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, hepatitis and other infections.

‘7th Karachi International Water Conference’ focuses on water security, public health, climate adaptation

A public health specialist, Dr Afia Zafar, highlighted Pakistan’s alarming water contamination challenges, pointing to the lack of adequate water testing laboratories. She noted that sewerage and drinking water pipelines frequently run side by side, and many households rely on bore wells, which are often unsafe. She compared the situation in Pakistan to the United States, where pressurised water pipelines deliver clean water directly to homes, a system that remains largely absent in most areas of Pakistan.

Dr Xaher Gul, a disaster management expert, described floods as “a part of our culture,” emphasising that while floods are natural events, preparedness and timely action are essential to mitigate their impact on communities. He stressed the importance of practical measures and proactive planning to minimise public health threats during flood periods.

Environmental health researcher Dr Abid Aman Burki focused on rural sanitation, saying that nearly 95 per cent of villages lack organised waste collection systems. He explained that septic tanks are widely used, but about 70 pc of users are unaware that regular maintenance is required, which increases the risk of contamination and disease.

The speakers agreed that an integrated healthcare system is essential to tackle waterborne diseases effectively.

Additional recommendations by the experts included community education, empowering women and youth and deploying local and technological solutions such as water testing, monitoring and rapid response systems during floods.

The second plenary session, titled ‘Citizens’ Commission on Floods: Impact on Water, People and Health’, was chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. The dramatic session aimed to hear what the young have to say by underscoring the rationale behind the conference theme — “Water, People and Health” — and its relevance to Pakistan and the wider region.

Speakers including Ehsan Leghari, Rafay Alam, Yasmeen Qazi, Noman Ahmed, Afia Salam, Hammad N Khan and Syeda Malaika Zehra addressed the issue from all different angles and highlighted their detrimental impact.
(By Tooba Tariq Dawn, 14, 29/10/2025)

7th Karachi International Water Conference concludes on high note

The 7th Karachi International Water Conference that kicked off on Tuesday concluded with gusto on Wednesday, featuring various sessions where speakers delved into critical subjects related to water crisis and floods.

Throughout the day, the experts dwelled on water-related challenges in the country and potential solutions to bring about a positive change.

According to a press release, day two started with a panel discussion on ‘Urban drainage and floods’. Chaired by academic Dr Sarosh Lodi, the session was moderated by NED University Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Noman Ahmed. Other panellists include Umer Karim, Seema Taher Khan, Alia Shahid, Nazeer Essani, and Fahimuzzaman Siddiqui.

Simultaneously, under the stream of Water and Health, the topic of ‘Child stunting: why is it not addressed?’ was tackled by panellists Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta, Dr Naveed Bhutto, Dr Fauzia Waqar, Basharat Saeed, and Dr Farhana Shahid.

The session was chaired by Dr Qaisar Sajjad and moderated by Dr Yasmeen Sabeeh Qazi.

The stream of Water Justice focused on ‘Living on the edge with floods: economic and social impacts’, moderated by Rafay Alam. Panellists included Simi Kamal, Dr Lubna Ghazal, Dr Shehla Batool, Riaz Wagan and Farrukh Ahmad.

The second part of the conference was the highlight of the day, featuring Hisaar Foundation’s signature “Café of the Unheard”. Co-moderated by Simi Kamal and Talha Jatol, who created an open and interactive space for young people to sit with experts

and young provocateurs at roundtables, they engaged directly on topics ranging from environmental justice to governance and technology.

The third segment of the day saw Dr Akissa Bahri chairing 'Putting people first — indigenous water wisdom' under the Water for People stream. Moderated by Sanaa Zulfikar Causer, its panellists included Faiz Kakar, Kausar S Khan, Shaikh Soaleh, Sohail Naqvi, Sirj ul Haq Ghorri, and Askari Hasan.

Under the stream of Water and Health, Kamran Naeem chaired a session on 'Sanitation — the forgotten part of WASH', which was moderated by Rahal Saeed and included Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Dr Qurat ul Ain Bakhteari, Bisma Imran, Dr Tasneem Fatima, Dr Zafar Fatmi as panellists.

The closing plenary was moderated by Sanaa Causer. Featuring Tofiq Pasha Mooraj, Shabina Ayaz, Aijaz ul Haq, and Dr Muhammad Tufail, it explored innovative collaborations and grassroots institutionalisation. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between Panjwani Hisaar Water Institute and University of Southern Punjab.

The formulation of the Living Charter for Water and People was presented online by Simi Kamal, while Akissa Bahri concluded the conference.

Acknowledgements by Ashraf Kapadia brought the very successful two-day international conference to an end, having shed light not only on critical water issues but also provided a platform for collaborative solutions and a renewed commitment to addressing the water crisis.

(By Dawn Reporter, 14, 30/10/2025)

Groundwater emergency

Groundwater availability in Pakistan has declined at a rate even higher than previously projected by most experts. The clearest indicator of this crisis is the alarming plunge in per capita water availability, which was over 5,000 cubic metres in 1947 but is under 1,000 cubic metres today. This transition from being water-stressed to water-scarce marks a critical threat to the nation's food security, economic stability and public health.

Pakistan is the world's fourth-largest user of groundwater, extracting about 65 cubic kilometres of groundwater per year against a natural recharge rate of only 55 cubic kilometres. This massive deficit is causing water tables to fall at an alarming rate, with cities like Lahore losing about a metre of groundwater each year. While overpopulation is the obvious contributor, an estimated 1.5 million unregulated tubewells and other water management policy failures are also pushing the country toward an irreversible crisis.

Over 80% of the rural population relies on unsafe drinking water sources, including nearly 60 million people who are exposed to arsenic contamination. Meanwhile, the agri sector consumes 90% of the country's water and wastes a significant amount of that due to deep inefficiencies, such as the incomprehensible focus on water-intensive crops like sugarcane and rice, supported by distorted electricity subsidies and water pricing — thereby recovering only a fraction of operational costs. The political power of the people who control the production and processing of these crops also makes it impossible to force a change in sowing priorities.

There have been some bright spots on the innovation front — a demonstration well in Islamabad's Kachnar Park, for instance, channeled 1.9 million gallons of rainwater back into the aquifer during a single monsoon season and brought several boreholes back to life. While the experiment deserves to be replicated, it is not universally applicable and only works as part of a more holistic plan. Until that plan is clearly laid out, we will continue straddling the line between crisis and catastrophe.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 01/11/2025)

Weaponising water

It is important to expose the truth of how the weaponisation of natural resources — especially water — has unfolded in one of the world's most volatile regions. The Indus River, once a symbol of shared prosperity, is now increasingly being used as a tool of political leverage and strategic influence.

While India cannot completely stop the Indus flow or divert its tributaries, its control over dam operations allows it to manipulate the timing of water releases — a capability that carries serious implications for Pakistan. Even minor disruptions during crucial agricultural seasons can have devastating effects, particularly given Pakistan's limited storage capacity of barely a month's river flow.

With nearly 80% of its irrigated agriculture dependent on the Indus Basin, any alteration in water timing could trigger far-reaching economic and social consequences. Recent unilateral actions by India — such as conducting reservoir flushing on western rivers without prior coordination — have raised alarm. Though presented as technical measures, they carry unmistakable political undertones, challenging the spirit of the Indus Waters Treaty. The Ecological Threat Report 2025 too confirms this growing risk, warning that water flow manipulation, even within technical limits, could become a form of strategic pressure amid escalating regional tensions.

For more than six decades, the Indus Water Treaty has stood as a rare example of sustained cooperation between two nuclear-armed neighbours. Its erosion would not only weaken one of South Asia's most critical peace mechanisms but also risk drawing in external powers whose strategic interests could complicate the situation further.

Water is not a weapon, nor should it ever become one. It is a shared lifeline that demands collective responsibility and restraint. The stability of South Asia depends on both nations recognising that peace will not come from controlling rivers — but from managing them together with dialogue and respect.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 02/11/2025)

Water wastage

Preventable crises are often the ones that hit the hardest, and Pakistan's looming water emergency is no exception. A new World Bank report on water conservation has delivered what should be a wake-up call for policymakers. It states that Pakistan is among the worst offenders in inefficient agricultural water use at a time when the country is rapidly drying. In fact, the country stands alongside only five other nations where poor water management and increasingly arid conditions now collide with dangerous force.

The world is losing 324 billion cubic metres of freshwater every year - enough to meet the annual needs of 280 million people. Much of this loss is driven not by natural scarcity alone but by unsustainable practices and the steady expansion of agriculture into crops that simply require more water than our climate can reliably offer. In other words, we are bleeding water at a time when we should be conserving every drop. This should alarm a country where agriculture consumes more than 90% of freshwater resources and where climate-induced droughts are intensifying year after year.

Over the last two decades, Pakistan has shifted toward cultivating more water-intensive crops. Rice and sugarcane continue to dominate despite repeated warnings that they are ill-suited to arid and semi-arid conditions. This inefficiency is compounded by outdated irrigation systems that lose massive volumes of water before it even reaches the fields. Add deforestation, wetland degradation and poor groundwater governance to the mix, and the country's water security becomes nothing short of precarious.

The government cannot continue business as usual. Mere rhetoric about "water scarcity" is no longer enough when backed by such alarming global evidence. Pakistan urgently needs a three-pronged approach: a decisive shift away from water-intensive crops; modernisation of irrigation infrastructure; and the introduction of realistic water pricing that discourages waste.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 07/11/2025)

Prep on for new Sindh water law, WB team informed

The Sindh government has started preparations for introducing a new Sindh Water Law in line with the Sindh Water Policy 2023. Provincial Minister for Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro said this in a meeting with a World Bank delegation at the Archives Complex on Saturday.

Irrigation Secretary Zarif Iqbal Khoro assisted the minister during the meeting. According to a spokesperson from the department, the discussions focused on the progress of the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) Project and the drafting of the new Sindh Water Law.

A committee comprising officers from the Irrigation Department and Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) will finalise the draft by next month and submit it to the Irrigation Ministry.

Minister Shoro said that once the draft is ready, it will be presented to the provincial cabinet and subsequently tabled in the Sindh Assembly for approval. "This law will mark a milestone in ensuring fair water distribution, efficient management, and environmental protection in Sindh," he stated.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 05, 09/11/2025)

Man drowns in Hub Canal after rescuing two sons

A man drowned while saving his two minor sons in Hub Canal on Sunday, police said.

Manghopir SHO Mohammed Zubair Nawaz told Dawn that a Korangi family came to Hub Canal near Northern Bypass for picnic.

At around 3:30pm, they were taking a dip in the canal when two children drowned. Their father, Majeed Khan, rescued both the children but he lost control and drowned.

The body was recovered and shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH) for medico-legal formalities.

Suspect shot dead in 'encounter'

A suspected robber was gunned down and another arrested in wounded condition after an alleged encounter in F.B. Area on Sunday, police said.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that the Shaheen Force challenged the robbers near Aqsa Masjid in Block-19. The suspects resorted to firing and in an exchange of gunfire, one suspect was killed and another arrested in an injured condition.

The deceased was identified as Osama, 26, while the wounded was identified as Noor Muhammad, 32.

The police claimed to have recovered three cell phones, one pistol and cash from their custody.

The body and injured were shifted to ASH.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 10/11/2025)

Murad vows rapid completion of Karachi's K-IV project

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday said that the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, also known as the K-IV Project, will be completed rapidly as the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) has been directed to adhere strictly to the scheduled timeline.

The K-IV project, designed to provide a sustainable supply of an additional 650 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to the city in three phases, is being jointly executed by the Sindh and federal governments, with the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) currently being responsible for implementing Phase I, aimed at supplying 260 MGD to the city.

The construction under the K-IV project continues from Aziz Bhatti Park to Federal Urdu University of Art, Science and Technology, with a 300-meter section currently closed, causing severe traffic jams in the neighbourhoods.

Once the section between Aziz Bhatti Park and the Urdu varsity is completed, the road will be restored and work will proceed to the next phase. Water pipelines of 9.6 and 7.2 inch diameter are being installed from Aziz Bhatti Park to Hussain Square, which will meet the growing needs of the city in the future.

The pipeline will extend from the water filtration plant under construction in Bahria Town to Gulbai. Due to road closure from Aziz Bhatti Park to Urdu University, traffic disruption is expected.

In a statement issued from the Chief Minister House, the chief minister said that the work on the Red Line project was also ongoing; therefore, the water pipeline under K-IV was being laid in advance along this route to avoid repeated digging.

He said that the Sindh government "apologises" for any inconvenience caused by ongoing development work and renewed its commitment to transforming Karachi into a modern city equipped with adequate facilities.

Mr Shah said that providing clean and ample water to the people of Karachi is the top priority of the Sindh government. He directed the provision of alternative routes for the public during the closure.

He instructed the traffic police to guide citizens and ensure smooth traffic flow, especially during peak morning and evening hours. "Traffic police deployment in the area must ensure public convenience," he said.

The chief minister stressed that public convenience must be ensured throughout the project. He also urged citizens to cooperate by using alternative routes.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 12/11/2025)

Road closure and KIV

The K-IV project — formally known as the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme and informally referred to as University Road's dejected fate — was imagined to be completed by 2026. But a quick stroll (or an exceptionally slow drive) along its parameters will unabashedly provide evidence contrary to that claim. There are only 50 days left in the deadline for its first phase, a deadline reinstated since last year, yet as of mid-2025 the project was only 63 per cent complete. Whether the recent announcement of University Road's closure for these 50 days will see the phase to completion remains a speculation.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has attempted to console an increasingly agitated public by claiming that the project will "ease city's water shortage", conveniently omitting the 'if ever completed' part. Meanwhile, as the road harbours six universities, thousands of students and commuters have been battling the dilapidated road, intense traffic congestion, endless noise pollution and consequential stress every single day for a long time. For them, the Chief Minister has a message: the government apologises for any inconvenience caused.

Even the primary benefit of the K-IV project's imagined completion remains dubious. According to current demands, Karachi requires around 1200 MGD (million gallons per day) for its population of over 20 million residents. After K-IV's completion, the city will have a projected supply of 1250 MGD in total — expected by 2027. But the fact that the current projection for Karachi's population in 2030 stands at almost 25 million will possibly render water supply inadequate yet again.

Incessant delays, ever-increasing budgets that aren't fulfilled and colossal mismanagement is making citizens wonder whether this 50-day closure will bring them further troubles with nothing to show for it. And if it bears no fruit, the public's trust will be buried in the excavated University Road itself, along with the pipelines.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 12/11/2025)

Clifton goes dry after excavator damages pipeline during digging

A large number of residents of Clifton have been facing an acute shortage of water since Sunday, with major parts of the area expected to remain without supply until at least Wednesday (tomorrow) due to the damage to a 24-inch supply line caused by an excavator at a nearby construction site for a residential plaza.

Residents said that the excavator operator accidentally damaged the water line at 3am on Sunday while digging at the construction site near Teen Talwar, causing the pipe to burst and submerge the nearby streets in water.

They said they were already facing water shortage due to low pressure and decades-old lines and the suspension of the already meager supply was causing them even more hardship.

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) said that the burst water line had disrupted supply to several Clifton areas, including Blocks 5, 7 and 9, Gulshan-i-Faisal, Shah Rasool Colony, Boat Basin and Shireen Jinnah Colony.

KWSC Chief Engineer Aftab Alam Chandio told Dawn that the water utility had mobilised resources to repair the damaged pipeline, with work expected to be completed by Tuesday.

He said that once the repairs were finished, water supply to the affected areas would be gradually restored, with services expected to return to normal by Wednesday.

The water utility said that the builder and contractor of the residential plaza would be held responsible for the costs associated with the repair work, and all expenses incurred during the repair process would be recovered from the parties involved in the project.

The abrupt disruption of the water supply in Clifton and its surrounding neighbourhoods caused immense inconvenience for residents, who woke up on Sunday morning to find their taps dry.

Many residents expressed frustration and disappointment, as the sudden water outage spoiled their holiday plans and left them scrambling to manage their daily routines, forcing them to look for alternative arrangements.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 18/11/2025)

Karachi's water woes

In a city already parched for water, unscrupulous businessmen behind the predatory water tanker networks have exacerbated the problem by siphoning off a large share of Karachi's water supply and then selling it back to residents at exorbitant prices. The scale of this theft is staggering. Karachi only receives around 550 to 650 million gallons per day (MGD) against demand for 1,200 MGD.

Compounding this scarcity is the fact that the tanker mafia diverts much of that water through a network of illegal hydrants that tap directly into main water lines. Experts estimate that the illicit enterprise, which allegedly has the blessings of politicians and city managers, generates daily revenues of over Rs1.2 billion, creating a powerful financial incentive to maintain the status quo.

This systematic theft creates artificial scarcity, which in turn generates demand for the tankers from what is effectively a captive market, leading to even higher profit margins. The burden falls hardest on the poor, as households in slums and other informal settlements can spend between 15% and 60% of their monthly income on water, while those in affluent areas with reliable connections to supply lines pay as little as 2%, according to reported estimates. This inequity eventually goes beyond economics and enters the realm of public health, as some tankers have been linked to contaminated water that has caused outbreaks of cholera and diarrhea, which in turn claim thousands of lives every year.

The failure of Karachi's city managers and elected officials to take meaningful action to correct this heinous wrong is a microcosm of the governance failures at every level that have helped make Karachi rank below several war-torn cities in terms of livability and quality of life. Indeed, city managers' failure is so astounding that they can't even perform the most basic work of upgrading pipes — which would also technically benefit the water mafia — to reduce wastage and improve line water quality.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 19/11/2025)

Water shortage persists as another outage hits key pumping station

Residents continued to face a worsening water crisis as repeated power outages disrupted the city's water pumping operations on Friday, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) said on Friday.

A KWSC spokesperson told Dawn that frequent power breakdowns at the Dhabeji and other pumping stations have caused an estimated total shortage of 335 million gallons of water, severely affecting the supply across Karachi.

Areas such as North Nazimabad, Gulberg Town, Gulistan-i-Jauhar, Scheme 33, various blocks of Gulshan-i-Iqbal, New Karachi, Saddar and Clifton are among those experiencing severe shortages.

The spokesperson said that the city's crucial K-III pumping station in North Karachi experienced a major power breakdown late on Thursday night.

However, the KE claimed in a statement on Friday evening that power supply had been restored to the North East Karachi Pumping Station after fixing the underground cable fault. It said that the power utility faced problems in repair work due to accumulation of water.

The KWSC spokesperson recalled the station had also faced a significant breakdown on Nov 18, with electricity restored only a day ago after a 41-hour delay. Just hours later, the cable fault reappeared, forcing the station to shut down again.

The station had been temporarily shut down on Monday to fix technical issues, but problems persisted, he added.

KWSC officials stated that despite all administrative and technical efforts, the lack of consistent electricity supply continued to impact pumping operations.

They urged KE management to prioritise the immediate and stable restoration of power to pumping stations to ensure that the water supply to Karachi was quickly normalised.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 22/11/2025)

Mayor opens RO plant in Mauripur

City Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab has inaugurated a reverse osmosis (RO) plant in the Mauripur area that would supply upto 100,000 gallons of clean drinking water daily to residents.

Addressing the ceremony, he said that the long-standing water supply issue faced by residents of Mauripur Grex Colony was finally being addressed.

"In line with the vision of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, this RO plant will benefit four nearby communities and provide between 90,000 and 100,000 gallons of clean drinking water daily," he said.

He said this project by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation was a milestone because, unlike conventional RO plants that treat groundwater, this plant draws seawater through a 5-kilometre pipeline.

"The seawater is desalinated using RO technology and supplied to the local population," he added.

"Access to clean water is a basic right, and the PPP is committed to ensuring this right through practical steps," he said.

The mayor noted that development work in the area, including road repairs, parks, playgrounds, sewage treatment plants and an additional RO plant, was under way.

A special development package for the people of Gabopat was also being prepared, he added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 24/11/2025)

North Karachi residents protest over water shortage

Residents of North Karachi in the early hours of Sunday stormed the Nagan Chowrangi pumping station in protest against an acute water shortage that has persisted for weeks.

A large number of women were part of the demonstration, during which protesters exchanged harsh words with Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) staff. Some enraged residents allegedly attempted to manhandle the staff as tempers flared.

Protesters said that despite repeated assurances, the KWSC had failed to restore water supply to their homes for more than a month. Many women complained that purchasing water tankers had become unaffordable and unsustainable for households already under financial strain.

Chanting "Pani do, pani do" (give us water), the crowd demanded immediate restoration of supplies. Police from the Taimuria station arrived at the scene after receiving reports of the unrest and held negotiations with the demonstrators. The protest was called off after successful talks, and the crowd dispersed peacefully.

Drawing fault lines

The water and power utilities are blaming each other for the water supply disruptions in the city.

Following the K-Electric spokesperson's statement that power supply at water pumping stations is normal the KWSC spokesperson blamed electricity outages to pipeline bursts and supply cuts. However, K-E spokesperson put the onus on leaking pipes that drip water on power cables causing short circuits and power outages at pumping stations.

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) on Sunday reported that prolonged power outages at major pumping stations led to a shortfall of 884 million gallons of water across the city during November 2025.

According to a KWSC spokesperson, repeated electricity breakdowns caused by K-Electric severely disrupted pumping operations throughout the month. The Dhabeji pumping station was the worst affected, suffering 132 hours and 20 minutes of power suspension, which resulted in a shortfall of 424 million gallons.

Similarly, 146 hours of outages at the Dumlottee station led to a loss of 111 million gallons, while the North East Karachi station recorded a shortfall of 335 million gallons. The Hub and Pipri stations each reported a deficiency of 6 million gallons, and the Gharo station faced a shortfall of 2 million gallons.

Officials said continuous power cuts brought operations at central pumping stations to a standstill for several hours, affecting water supply across Karachi. They urged K-Electric to ensure a stable and uninterrupted power supply to key pumping stations, warning that repeated cable faults were damaging critical pumping machinery.

They stressed the need for alternative feeders, standby cables, and urgent technical upgrades to safeguard the city's water supply system from future disruptions.

The spokesperson added that KWSC is maintaining close coordination with K-Electric to ensure steady supply, and that water distribution across the city returned to normal once power was restored. He said all possible measures were being taken to further improve the system and ensure uninterrupted water supply to residents.

KE tells KWSC to fix leaking pipes

The KE spokesperson stated that electricity supply remains stable at all water pumping stations, but leakage from pipelines hampers repair work. He said that electric cable repairs cannot be carried out in standing water due to safety risks for staff. Water seeping from KWSC pipelines submerges underground power cables, damaging the infrastructure that delivers electricity to these stations. The spokesperson noted that the persistent leakage had been officially reported to the authorities on November 10, following an earlier notification in June.

Fixing electricity cables in accumulated water is extremely challenging and time-consuming. He further explained that stagnant water leads to additional complications, such as the growth of bushes, which obstruct testing and fault correction. Meanwhile, as the water and power utilities trade blame, residents of the metropolis continue to endure water supply disruptions.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 24/11/2025)

Residents of Karachi's district Central stage protest against water shortage

Residents of district Central on Sunday staged a protest at the Sakhi Hasan hydrant against a severe water crisis in their localities.

A number of people living in Nusrat Bhutto Colony and some other areas in North Nazimabad Town entered the hydrant and stopped the filling of tankers. They demanded that water be supplied to their areas before being given to tankers.

The protesters chanted slogans against the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) and the provincial government. Later, they dispersed peacefully.

KWSC officials said repeated shutdowns at the North-East Karachi Pumping Station had caused water shortages in district Central.

In a statement, the KWSC said that power outages at water pumping stations had been resolved and that citywide water services were normal.

It said the city experienced a total shortfall of 884 million gallons of water due to electricity disruptions.

"The Dhabeji Pumping Station was hit hardest, with 132 hours and 20 minutes of power outages leading to a shortage of 424 million gallons, while the Dumlottee Wells recorded 146 hours of outages, resulting in 111 million gallons of lost water," the statement read.

It added that North East Karachi Pumping Station alone faced a deficit of 335 million gallons, while smaller stations saw comparatively lower shortages — six million gallons at Hub and Pipri stations and two million gallons at the Gharo station.

"All possible steps are being taken to further strengthen the water supply system in the future," the KWSC statement said.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 24/11/2025)

Wapda again links completion of K-IV to timely funding

While a hefty sum of Rs86 billion has been spent on the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, commonly known as K-IV, the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) has once again made it clear that the timely completion of the long-delayed project depends only on the uninterrupted availability of funds.

The fresh assessment by Wapda, which came months after the federal government allocated only Rs3.2 billion against the Rs40bn required for the scheme in the current budget, emerged when its chief, retired Lt Gen Muhammad Saeed, undertook a two-day visit during which he reviewed in detail the construction progress at key sites of the K-IV project.

A statement issued after the visit stated that the Wapda chairman's programme included the intake structure and pumping stations at Keenjhar Lake in Thatta district, a water conveyance system comprising high-pressure pipelines from Keenjhar Lake to Karachi, and one of the filtration plants in the metropolis.

“During the visit, the General Manager and Project Director, along with the contractors and consultants, briefed the chairman about site-wise as well as contract-wise progress, key targets and their completion schedules,” the statement added.
Overall progress reaches 64pc with Rs86bn spent so far: briefing

“K-IV project has been divided into eight contract packages for its completion on a fast-track basis. At present, construction work is in progress at all key sites of these contract packages. The overall physical progress on the project is 64 per cent, with spending of Rs86 billion. Wapda stands committed to completing K-IV during 2026, provided that the funds are made available accordingly.”

The briefing, the statement said, also encompassed the current financial status and funding requirements for the project in the coming period.

The Wapda chairman, highlighting the critical significance of the project for Karachi, urged the contractors to expedite the pace of work by deploying additional resources to meet the timelines. The contractor working on Pipeline-2 (PL-2), in particular, needs to catch up with the construction schedule of the respective contract package.

He directed the project team to maintain close liaison with the Sindh government for the smooth implementation of the project.

He expressed hope that the provincial government would complete the water distribution and augmentation project in time so that the benefits of K-IV could be fully realised, the statement said.
(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 01/12/2025)

Sindh govt decides to put in all resources to protect Karachi’s water quota

The Sindh government on Thursday affirmed that it would mobilise all available resources to carry out urgent lining of the Kalri Baghar (KB) Feeder — the main conduit supplying water to Karachi — to protect the city’s allocated water quota.

At a high-level meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, it was decided that all necessary resources would be mobilised quickly, given the brief construction window that opens only while the Kotri Barrage remains shut for its December closure.

The chief minister said: “This is a decisive step towards sustainable water security for the city, reflecting the government’s commitment to fulfilling citizens’ needs through strategic infrastructure investments.”

According to a statement issued by the CM House, the meeting was informed that this timing was crucial because it would allow the urgent lining of the KB Feeder to be finished on schedule.

The Rs50.989 billion project, funded by federal and provincial governments, is expected to save 510 cusecs of water by preventing seepage.

Murad terms move a ‘decisive step towards sustainable water security for Karachi’; authorises release of Rs1.075bn for accrued liabilities, securing Hub Dam’s structural integrity and water supply to Karachi and Balochistan

The meeting, held at CM House, was attended among others by Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Planning and Development Minister Jam Khan Shoro, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, P&D Chairman Najam Shah, LG Secretary Waseem Shamshad and Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi.

The CM noted that the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Project (K-IV) will deliver 260 mgd (million gallons per day) of potable water from Keenjhar Lake to Karachi via an advanced pressurised pipeline system. The project, under Wapda’s management since 2020, is progressing steadily.

During the briefing, the chief minister was informed that augmentation work within the city, such as pipe-laying along University Road to connect with the main K-IV line at Gulbai from the Northern Bypass, is being fast tracked.

Three proposed reservoirs — R-1, R-2, and R-3 — will be developed under the K-IV augmentation strategy to integrate new bulk water with the existing distribution network. R-1, with a 65-mgd-capacity, can immediately support central Karachi through its current system. By laying just 13 per cent of the proposed pipeline network, it will strengthen supply to Central Karachi and partially to the East and West zones, also reinforcing supply to Razi Goth and serving as an alternative augmentation to the Hub Canal as and when required.

R-2, with an augmentation capacity of 130 mgd, is designed to support large parts of North, Central, and East Karachi using 40 per cent of its network and stabilise systems like the 66-inch dia Gulshan-i-Maymar line.

R-3, with a 65-mgd-capacity, will enhance water supply in the West and Central corridors, extending up to the Hub pumping station. If the Rozi Goth-Hub corridor is disrupted, R-3 can reinforce the entire West system, ensuring continued delivery to the areas such as Surjani, Orangi, Manghopir, and their surroundings.

The pipeline completion is targeted for December 2026, with distribution enhancements expected by March 2028.

K-IV grid station

The meeting also highlighted progress on the crucial power supply components with the contracts signed for the K-IV grid station and transmission line projects. These are essential for an efficient and sustainable water pumping.

The Sindh cabinet has approved joint equity investment and plans for debt financing, demonstrating robust provincial and federal cooperation to overcome previous funding delays.

Hub Dam

To ensure critical maintenance, CM Shah authorised release of Rs1.075 billion for accrued liabilities, securing Hub Dam's structural integrity and water supply to Karachi and Balochistan.

RBOD Drainage System

Emphasising a coordinated approach between Wapda and Sindh irrigation department, the chief minister called for swift rehabilitation of the Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD) drainage system, damaged during the 2022 flood, to protect the environment and prevent further disasters from toxic waste dumping.

The chief minister directed relevant departments to ensure timely financial releases and inter-agency cooperation to meet the projects' deadlines.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 12/12/2025)

Water urgency

We are long past the point of calling Karachi's water crisis a 'threat'; it has rather become an everyday reality and a city-wide infrastructural disaster. Despite repeated assurances, K-IV - the mega water supply project that was meant to bridge the gap between demand and supply — has instead become a symbol of everything that is wrong with how the city is run.

This demand and supply gap has ballooned massively over the years. The city now needs nearly 1,200 million gallons a day, but an inconsistent supply of 650 million gallons from the River Indus and Hub Dam leaves citizens scrambling for water tankers. The water that is available and meant for the public is instead utilised for industrial needs or wasted in leakages.

Currently, budget estimates for the K-IV project are exponentially rising owing to increased costs of construction materials, the already-extended deadline is being pushed even further, and work on the fourth component of the major project has not even begun. While the official deadline has already been pushed to 2027, internal assessments have revealed that the project's completion could take about five more years. This means Karachi will likely remain parched well into the next decade. In the interim, the vacuum left by the state is inevitably filled by exploitative groups that force residents to pay exorbitant rates for a basic human right.

The population of Karachi is not static. By the time K-IV trickles into the system, the population will have likely outgrown the project's capacity, rendering the so-called solution obsolete upon arrival. The city is effectively chasing a moving target, bound by administrative incompetence. Unless there is genuine accountability, the city will remain trapped in this cycle of promises that offer nothing but dried-up water pipes.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 17/12/2025)

Sindh Assembly echoes with opposition concerns over Karachi's worsening water crisis

The Sindh Assembly echoed with concern on Monday as opposition lawmakers sounded the alarm over the city's worsening water crisis and pointed to widespread theft through illegal hydrants and the tanker mafia.

During the heated session, legislators from the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) strongly criticised the provincial government for its failure and inability to ensure a reliable water supply for Karachi. They demanded immediate action against water theft and urged the mayor to prioritise repairs of the city's broken pipelines.

Replying to lawmakers' written and oral queries during Question Hour and different call attention notices, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government Department Qasim Soomro informed the Sindh Assembly that the Sindh High Court had set up a special tribunal to handle water theft cases. "All cases of water theft will now be heard in this tribunal," he said, adding that amendments were being drafted to the existing law to impose stricter penalties.

Mr Soomro assured the house that the tribunal would accelerate prosecutions and curb the activities of the water mafia.

Muttahida, PTI and JI lawmakers slam govt over failure to ensure reliable supply

He also said that the long-delayed K4 water project would be finished within a year, after which Karachi's water shortage would be resolved.

He announced that the provincial government was drafting a proposal with the Sindh Building Control Authority to develop a mapping system that would enable the construction of a rainwater storage tank.

During Question Hour, MQMP's parliamentary secretary Dr Fouzia Hameed raised a supplementary question, pointing out that any leak in the main water line was invariably accompanied by water theft.

She called for the public disclosure of all individuals linked to the watertheft mafia and urged that nonbailable arrest warrants be issued against them.

The parliamentary secretary said that a fine of over Rs20 million had been imposed on those involved in water theft.

MQM-P's Abdul Waseem and Muhammad Awais, PTI's Shabbir Qureshi and JI's Muhammad Farooq in their call attention notice said that immediate initiatives were required to overcome the water shortage as people of their respective constituencies had been suffering for a very long time.

In her call attention notice, MQM-P's Qurat-Ul-Ain Khan drew the attention of the excise minister towards the increasing use and sale of drugs in the province, especially in Karachi.

Excise and Narcotics Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla said that anti-drug operations were underway across the province.

He said that special committees consisting of parents and teachers had been formed in schools and random testing of the students was being carried out.

The excise minister also conceded that police and excise department officials were also involved in drug trafficking and action was also being taken against them.

The House unanimously passed a congratulatory resolution on the occasion of the religious festival of Christmas of the Christian community.

The resolution was presented by PPP member Roma Mushtaq.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Opposition Leader Ali Khurshidi, PTI's Shabbir Qureshi, JI's Muhammad Farooq and Health Minister Dr Azra Peecheehu and MQM-P's Sabir Kaimkhani in their speeches congratulated the Christian community.

The house also unanimously passed the Thar Coal and Energy Board (Amendment) Bill.

Later, the house was prorogued.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 23/12/2025)

Two engineers of KWSC suspended

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) on Friday placed the services of an executive engineer and a subengineer under immediate suspension for failing to prevent the discharge of sewage near the QuaidiAzam mausoleum.

The sewerage overflow was noticed by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday when he, along with Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, was on his way to the Mazar-i-Quaid.

The local government department placed Engineer Ali Ahmed and SubEngineer Qamar of the Jinnah Town, said that the chief minister, while travelling to Mazar-i-Quaid, took serious notice of sewerage water overflowing on the road and directed for the suspension of the officers concerned.

Later, the water utility through an office order placed the two engineers under suspension.

The suspension cited misconduct and negligence on the part of the two engineers for failing to prevent the discharge. Both officials have been directed to report to the KWSC's human resources department pending a full investigation.

Later, the chief secretary directed the concerned authorities to take immediate and effective measures for the improvement of cleanliness and the sewerage system across the city.

He emphasised that negligence in matters related to sanitation and drainage would not be tolerated under any circumstances. The chief secretary further reiterated that a zero-tolerance policy was being strictly enforced against lapses in cleanliness and sewerage management, particularly at public and sensitive locations, and warned that strict action would be taken against any officer found negligent in the performance of duties.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 27/12/2025)

Experts rule out toxic threat after Balochistan waters turn green

Seawater along Pakistan's coast, especially Gwadar, Pasni, Jiwani and Ormara in Balochistan, has turned green by an algal bloom, marine experts reported on Saturday.

However, they declared that the bloom posed no toxic threat.

"Strong winds and ocean currents have pushed large quantities of algae toward near shores, also amassing rotting seaweeds, which has stunk up the beaches," said Abdul Rahim, Deputy Director at the Gwadar Development Authority, adding the bloom was caused by a single-celled marine organism Noctiluca.

Algal blooms, he explained were rapid growths or gathering of algae in water bodies and they could cause red, brown, green or blue pigmentation in the water, depending on the type of algae.

According to the GDA official, the intensity of these blooms has increased over a decade along Balochistan's coast.

Earlier, he pointed out, there was one bloom in one or two years but now the region was seeing two to three blooms in a year.

"This is happening all over the world and researchers have linked this change to the rapid warming of oceans, which is providing them with favourable conditions to grow."

Muhammad Moazzam Khan, Technical Adviser at the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan, said the Noctiluca bloom has also spread to neighbouring Iran. "This year, the bloom has started in Pakistani waters in November and spread along the Karachi coast. Currently, it exists in patches along the entire Pakistan coast, especially along the area between Pasni and Jiwani, where it's dense."

The occurrence of green blooms, he pointed out, along the coast of Pakistan wasn't unusual.

"The organisation has been monitoring Noctiluca bloom since 2012 and reported its occurrence every year in winter (between November and February); however, in some years, such blooms are extensive and spread in vast areas along the coast of Pakistan," he added.

"The winter bloom is a characteristic of the north Arabian Sea. There have been studies conducted by WWF-Pakistan, which indicate that the bloom is triggered by the spread of cold water from upwelling in some part of the Arabian Sea and its spread under the influence of eddy formation during this period," Mr Khan said, adding: "Linking this bloom with Eutrophication is not scientifically substantiated. Noctiluca scintillans is a small, free-floating organism that may appear in red, orange, green, or even colourless forms."

He added: "The current bloom poses no toxic threat, and no associated fish mortality has been reported along the coast. Regular observations since 2012 show that nearly all Noctiluca blooms along the Sindh and Balochistan coasts have been non-toxic."

In 2017, the Noctiluca bloom was so intense that it covered the entire Arabian Sea, including Iran, Pakistan, India, Oman, and the Persian Gulf, he added.

While the current Noctiluca bloom is being misinterpreted in some reports and wrongly linked to pollution, WWF-Pakistan clarifies that this bloom is a naturally occurring oceanographic phenomenon and is not caused by pollution.

Along Pakistan's coast, blooms are most often green or orange and can spread extensively depending on seasonal conditions.

Although the organism itself is not green, the colour comes from its internal symbiont, *Protoeuglena noctilucae*, which enables it to photosynthesize and grow rapidly. Because Noctiluca is naturally bioluminescent, its presence creates the glittering glow reported at night.

(By Faiza Ilyas Dawn, 13, 28/12/2025)