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## Trail of Tragedy-5

Chronology of Disaster in Pakistan 2014



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## Acronyms

FFC	Federal Flood Commission
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LBOD	Left Bank Outfall Drain
MNV	Main Nara Valley
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department
RBOD-I	Right Bank Outfall Drain
SIDA	Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority
SUPARCO	Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WFP	World Food Programme

## Acknowledgment

It is acknowledged that this chronology of disaster related to the floods in Sindh in 2014 has been compiled using the online archives of major national newspapers: Dawn at [www.dawn.com](http://www.dawn.com), The News at [www.thenews.com.pk](http://www.thenews.com.pk) and Express Tribune. SPO presents this chronology through the courtesy of these two media outlets. However, this data does not represent a hundred percent coverage of the disaster and response that have been reported. Editorials, news items and letters to Editors, included in this chronology are related to heavy Rains, Floods, Human security, Vulnerable Groups, Food Security, Livelihood and Aid & Aid effectiveness. SPO does not take the responsibility either for the authenticity of contents of news stories included in this report, or for the treatment of the flood disaster by the media. Most of the news items have been copied and summarized from the news stories published in the above mentioned newspapers.

## Background

Monsoon rains in 2014 resulted in flooding incidents mainly in Punjab & AJK were the worst affected. Heavy monsoon rains caused widespread losses to life, livelihoods and infrastructure.

Affected district authorities, supported by PDMA's and the NDMA, responded to the humanitarian needs. The military and paramilitary conducted rescue, evacuation and life-saving activities and helped to restore damaged infrastructure. Relief camps were established by the local authorities to provide humanitarian assistance.

In recent years, floods have devastated the lives of millions of people across Pakistan. In 2010 alone, nearly 2,000 people died during the annual floods and an estimated 14 million people needed humanitarian assistance. Another 5 million people were affected by floods in Sindh in 2011. Many of the families that were hit this year were still recovering from previous floods.

# News Items 2014





## Thursday, September 04, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE: All rivers in Punjab are likely to be in `very high` to `exceptionally high` flood from Sept 5 to 7 because of expected intensification of the current spell of fairly widespread rains reported from various parts of the country.

The spell is being generated by the first well-marked low pressure of the monsoon season that is moving towards Pakistan via Indian Rajasthan, moist current from the Bay of Bengal and a trough of westerly wave persisting over northern parts of the country.

In its warning on Wednesday, the Pakistan Meteorological Department and its Flood Forecasting Bureau in Lahore said the low pressure area was likely to move northwards (to Pakistan) in `the next 24 hours`. The inflow of moisture from the Bay of Bengal would also become strong during the `next three days`.

The system is capable of producing widespread thundershowers with scattered heavy to very heavy rains and isolated extremely heavy rains over the upper catchments of the rivers Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi and Sutlej in the next three days. This rain will generate very high to exceptionally high flood in the Chenab and Ravi rivers, along with their nullahs, and high to very high flood in the Jhelum and Sutlej rivers from Sept 5 to 7.

Widespread thundershowers with gusty winds could be reported from Punjab (with scattered heavy to very heavy rains in Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Lahore, Gujranwala and Rawalpindi divisions, Islamabad and isolated heavy rains over Dera Ghazi Khan and Multan divisions), Sindh (with isolated heavy rains over Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Hyderabad and Karachi divisions) and Kashmir (with heavy to very heavy rains).

Fairly widespread thundershowers with gusty winds could be reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (with isolated to scattered heavy to very heavy rain over Malakand, Mardan and Hazara divisions) and Gilgit-Baltistan. Also, scattered thundershowers with gusty winds are

expected over Fata, southern and north-eastern Balochistan (with isolated heavy rains over eastern parts).

Meanwhile, it continued to rain in different parts of the country on Wednesday. Rain in Lahore began in the late afternoon after dark clouds covered the sky. It was heavy around the airport area, central and southern parts of the city, and was continuing till the filing of this report.

Roads were inundated and traffic was disrupted. The temperature dropped, making the weather pleasant.

The Met office reported that Faisalabad received 73mm of rain, Kotli 64, Rawalakot 53, Garhi Dupatta 42, Muzaffarabad 38, Jhelum 29, Bahawalnagar 27, Badin and Mangla 25 each, Mithi 23, Mandi Bahauddin 22, Lahore Jail Road 21 and Airport 18, Gujranwala 20, Gujrat 18, Skardu 17, Sialkot Airport 16, Kakul 14, Murree 13, Sahiwal 12, Balakot 10, Sialkot Cantonment 7, Okara 6, Jhang and Bahawalpur 4 each, and Astore and Sargodha 3 each.

## Friday, September 05, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE: Fifty-two people, three soldiers among them, were killed and over 90 others injured on Thursday as torrential rain wreaked havoc in northeastern Punjab and Kashmir, causing a very high flood in river Chenab.

A number of cities received over 130mm of rain. The Met department said the current monsoon system was likely to weaken on Friday morning, but till then it would continue to generate torrential rain. The system is likely to persist for another 48 hours.

A peak of 467,000 cusecs passing through the Chenab at Akhnor (India) at midday was to enter Pakistan in the night. The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) Lahore said it expected a discharge of 600,000 cusecs (very high flood) in the river at Marala at night. The water level in the river is expected to rise further over the next 24 hours, threatening low-lying areas of Sialkot and Gujranwala regions.

There are also chances of spillovers or breaches at vulnerable places and high to very high flood in nullahs of Ravi and Chenab rivers in the Sialkot region.

The system generated very heavy rainfall 8mm in one hour in Indian Punjab and upper catchments of Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers.

But the Flood Forecasting Bureau said that two unfilled Indian dams over Ravi and Sutlej and Jhelum-fed Mangla would absorb much of the rainwater. There was no immediate danger of exceptionally high flood in the three eastern rivers, it added.

The FFD said the flow into Jhelum was 186,000 cusecs and expected to rise to 600,000 over the next 24 hours, but most of the inflow would be absorbed by unfilled Mangla Dam.

DEATHS: Rescue 1122 said that 16 people, three women among them, were killed in Lahore as rain levelled houses in different areas of the city. Five people were killed in Faisalabad, six in Gujranwala, five in Sialkot, four in Kasur, three in Khanewal, two in Okara and one in Sheikhpura when roofs of their houses collapsed. The deaths in Kasur were caused by electrocution.

In Azad Kashmir, three soldiers and seven civilians were killed in landslides and flash floods which ravaged the mountainous region.

According to the ISPR, Captain Fazal Wudood and soldiers Ghulam Mohiyuddin and Mohammad Suleman were killed in a landslide in Kehler Khurshidabad area of Haveli district.

Gulshad Begum, Bashiran Bibi, Nasim Bibi and her daughter Sumayya and Fazal Hussain were killed when roofs of their houses collapsed in Kotli, Mirpur, Bhimber and Dariyan towns.

In Dina, a man was killed and over 20 people were feared dead when a dilapidated bridge over Nullah Kahan collapsed. Over 24 people were on the bridge. Rescue workers saved three men alive and recovered one body. Several vehicles were washed away in the torrent.

Rain in Lahore started on Wednesday afternoon and continued uninterrupted till Thursday morning. It inundated the entire city and exposed the Punjab government's claim of having been prepared to meet the monsoon challenge.

The Met office recorded 183 mm of rain at its Jail Road office and 171 mm at the airport from 8 am on Wednesday to 8am on Thursday. The average rainfall was 155 mm.

Low-lying areas were totally sub-merged, disrupting the smooth flow of traffic. Crippled cars and motorcycles were seen everywhere in the city. Attendance in educational institutions and offices remained extremely thin. Business activity resumed in the afternoon after the rainwater was cleared from marl

The Met office said Palandri in Azad Kashmir was the worst-hit town. It received 313 mm of rain in 24 hours.

Mangla received 199 mm of rain, Jassar (Narowal) 183 mm, Rawalakot 163 mm, Jhelum 143 mm, Ravi Syphon 131 mm, Kasur 129mm, Kotli 141 mm, Gujranwala 120mm, Gujrat 164mm, Okara 102mm, Sialkot (Cantt 98 mm and airport 96 mm), Toba Tek Singh 97 mm, Faisalabad 98 mm, Mandi Bahauddin 87 mm, Okara 70 mm, Garhi Dupatta 54 mm, Domel 53 mm, Muzaffarabad 59 mm, Kund 43 mm, Dir 39 mm, Skardu 37 mm, Bahawalnagar 57 mm, Islamabad Airport 55 mm and Zero Point 47 mm, Skardu 38 mm, Murree 28 mm, Astore 27 mm, Sahiwal 18 mm, Kakul 17 mm and Balakot and Sargodha 13 mm each.

The Met office forecast widespread thundershowers with gusty winds and scattered to fairly widespread heavy to very heavy rain over upper catchments of Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers.

Widespread thundershowers with gusty winds are likely to occur over Punjab, with scattered heavy to very heavy falls over Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Lahore, Gujranwala and Rawalpindi divisions and Islamabad and isolated heavy falls over Dera Ghazi Khan and Multan divisions and heavy to very heavy falls over Kashmir.

Fairly widespread thundershowers with gusty winds may occur over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with isolated to scattered heavy to very heavy falls over Malakand, Mardan and Hazara divisions and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Scattered thundershowers with gusty winds are expected over Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad and Karachi divisions as well as Fata and eastern Balochistan.

There may be urban inundation in areas of heavy to very heavy downpours and medium to high flooding in nullahs of hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and their surroundings.

## Friday, September 05, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE: At least 16 people were killed, including six of a family, and over 30 injured in rain-related incidents here on Thursday in the city.

Six members of a family were killed when the roof of their dilapidated house caved in at Chah Miran, Misri Shah. They included two women and an infant girl.

The family was asleep when the roof fell on them because of the torrential rain early on Thursday.

The dead were identified as Bilal, 18, his brother Arshad, 16, two sisters Sonia, 19, and Asifa, 26, her husband Aurangzeb, 28, and their infant daughter, Abeera.

Victims' brother Asif told Dawn that other family members and neighbours recovered the bodies from the rubble while the Rescue 1122 reached the spot afterwards.

He alleged the locals took the victims to Nawaz Sharif Hospital, Kot Khwaja Saeed, on a police van.

He said two of them died in hospital.

He said his brother-in-law and sister had come to meet them and stayed for the night due to the torrential rain.

In Johar Town, Ahmed and an infant girl, Rifat, died and four others suffered injuries in a similar incident.

Couple Maqbool and Ayesha also lost their lives as the roof of their two-storey residence in GOR-H, Mozang Chungi, fell on them during rain.

Hasan, Husain and Bilawal were killed when the roof of their house collapsed at Thokar Niaz Beg whereas a man died in a house near Samanabad Roundabout.

Abdul Qadeer, 30, died when roof of his ramshackle house collapsed in Sabzazar Colony, his two children and wife suffered injuries and were shifted to Jinnah Hospital.

Two siblings Shahid and Farwadi died in Manawan and a woman, Shamshad, was electrocuted in Samanabad.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif visited the residence of six roof collapse victims in Misri Shah late on Thursday and announced Rs 500,000 for each deceased member and Rs 100,000 for the each injured.

INQUIRY: District Coordination Officer (DCO) retired Capt Muhammad Usman has ordered an inquiry against the Rescue 1122 for arriving late.

The DCO issued the order on a complaint lodged by relatives of six roof collapse victims in Chah Miran.

## Friday, September 05, 2014( The News)

### Flood action plan for Multan prepared

**MULTAN: Keeping in view heavy rains, the district administration has prepared a flood action plan to deal with the situation in rivers after discharged of additional water by India.**

Talking to journalists here on Thursday, DCO Zahid Salim Gondal

said that pre and post monsoon arrangements had been finalised. He said the situation in low-lying areas was poor. He added that the development work on two sludge carrier treatment plants was underway and sewer lines were being laid in the areas. He said all the private estate developers had been ordered, ensuring completion of sewer lines before the opening of new housing colonies. The DCO said that reconstruction of dilapidated buildings in the walled city was underway in collaboration with Turkish government.

The DCO also gave cheques worth Rs 50,000 each to Nabila Butt and Kinza Sehr under the Punjab Chief Minister's Financial Help Scheme. Both the women had appealed to the chief minister to give them financial assistance.

## Saturday, September 06, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE: The monsoon low pressure over India generating torrential rain unleashed its full face of fury on Punjab, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday, leaving another 85 people dead.

Forty people were killed in Punjab, 11 in Gilgit-Baltistan, seven in KP and 27 in Azad Kashmir in rain-related incidents.

At least 52 people had died on Thursday, taking the death toll to 137 in two days. A large number of people were injured.

Reports from different parts of the country indicated huge losses to property, cattle and crops, especially in Sialkot and Gujranwala regions, due to swelling of nullahs and exceptionally high flood in Chenab and Jhelum rivers.

Incessant rain, accumulation of rainwater in cities, reports of more deaths and floods in the two rivers kept people tense.

In Lahore and Kasur, people were worried about the swelling of Ravi and Sutlej rivers, despite consolation by the Met department that there was no such threat for now.



One piece of good news was that the rain-generating monsoon system weakened on Friday evening and the Met office said the spell was likely to decrease after 24 hours.

Almost entire Lahore was submerged by rainwater which was much more than the draining capacity of the city and weather combating preparations or will of the Punjab government.

Life in the city and other rain-hit towns remained paralysed for the second day running. Supplies of essential items too were badly affected. People were confined to their homes, unable to reach their workplaces. Educational institutions remained closed.

According to Rescue 1122, eight people, women and children among them, were killed and several others injured in rain-related incidents. Houses were levelled by rain, which was heavier around the Lahore airport.

The Met office reported 299 mm of rain at the airport and 185 mm at its Jail Road observatory over the past 24 hours. It recorded 237 mm of rain at the airport and 136 mm on Jail Road only from 8am to 5 pm on Friday.

According to Rescue 1122, five people were killed in Narowal, five in Sheikhpura, three each in Sialkot and Okara and four in Pakpattan when their houses collapsed.

Eleven people were killed in Rawalpindi and one in Chakwal in rain related incidents.

Six bodies of the people who went missing after a bridge collapse in Dina were recovered on Friday.

In Azad Kashmir, another 27 people were killed by torrential rains, which triggered landslides and flash floods in the rugged mountainous region. Thirteen people were killed in Sudhnoti, six each in Kotli and Havellan and two in Rawlakot.

Three soldiers and seven civilians were killed in landslides and flash floods in the region on Thursday.

The Met office said Planadri, in AJK, was the worst-hit town. It received 660 mm of rain over the past 24 hours.

Islamabad airport received 260mm and Zero Point 212mm, Rawalakot 248 mm, Okara 165 mm, Murree 158 mm, Kakul 111 mm, Mangla 106 mm, Kasur 82 mm, Mandi Bahauddin 74 mm, Gujranwala and Garhi Dupatta 73 mm each, Balakot 70 mm, Astore, Muzaffarabad and Skardu 63 mm each, Chakwal 59 mm, Sargodha 49 mm, Sialkot Cantt 47 mm, Jhelum and Sialkot 30 mm each, Chillas 29 mm, Gujrat 27 mm and Saidu Sharif 23 mm. FLOODS: The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) reported exceptionally high flood in river Jhelum at Mangla, with a discharge of 650,000 cusecs. It expected release of water from Mangla Dam and as a result exceptionally high flood at Rasul at midnight. The expected peak at this point was 500,000 cusecs.

A peak of 452,000 cusecs which crossed river Chenab at Marala on Friday morning started falling. According to the FFD, the peak was moving towards Khanki and Qadirabad, where the flow was likely to range between 514,000 and 600,000 cusecs (very high flood) during the night.

## Saturday, September 06, 2014 (Dawn)

RAWALPINDI: As many as 45 people 27 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and 18 in the Rawalpindi region were killed in separate rain-related incidents on Friday.

Officials based in different areas of AJK told Dawn that 13 deaths had been reported from the Sudhnoti district, six each from Kotli and Haveli districts and two from the Poonch district due to house collapse, land sliding and drowning. Prior to that, 14 people were killed since September 1.

In Namb Pariyan village of Sudhnoti district, six members of a family Hafiz Imtiaz, his wife Bilgees Akhtar, daughters Saiga, Rawaiga, Saira

and son Mumtaz died and three others injured after their house was struck by a huge rock.

In Ain Pana village of Sudhnoti district, Javed Iqbal, his wife Abida Begum and brother-in-law Fayaz and Javeria lost their lives in two incidents of house collapse.

Also in Sudhnoti, Halima Begum died in Mang village due to house collapse while Husn Jan and Saiga died in Bata Kot village after their house was struck by a landslide.

In the Kotli district, two-year-old Uzma Kosar died in Jangpur Khwaz village, Farah, 4, her sister Noor, 2, and Mohammad Fayyaz, 14, died in Nain Sukh village, all due to house collapse. Sartaj Khan, 30, a resident of Mohmand Agency, was swept away by Nullah Ban, while Nabila, 17, was swept away by another torrent in Sehnsa. Some 13 people were injured in different areas of district.

In Rawalakot, Mohammad Yousuf and Mohammad Mustafa were killed by landslides in Hajira and Thorar areas, respectively.

In Haveli district, three brothers Tasawwar, 14, Tuseef, 11, and Taufeeq, 8, were killed in the dead of night after their house was struck by a landslide.

In the same district, three other persons were swept away by flash floods but only one of them could be identified as Azmat Bibi after her body was retrieved.

Mohammad Irfan and his wife Bushra, who were settled in the UK, were travelling in a car from Gujar Khan to their native village of Mohrah Adrian in tehsil Kallar Syedan on Thursday night when they were swept away while crossing a bridge over a flooded stream near Smote.

The body of Irfan was recovered by local volunteers after 12 hours while his wife was still missing.

Three milkmen were killed when a landslide triggered by rains buried their mud house along the Adiala Road in Rawalpindi. The deceased were identified as Jamal Ahmed, 24, Zaheer Abbas, 28, and Farhan Ahmed, 45.

Another man, Mohammad Tanveer, was killed when the roof of his house collapsed on him in the limits of the Chontra police.

Bilal Khan, 45, the employee of a CNG station, was killed while his two co-workers Azeem Ahmed and Suleman were injured after the wall of the filling station fell on their house at Morgah.

Mohammad Usman, a former policeman, drowned in a stream near the Manaka village of Gujar Khan tehsil while Aleema Bibi, 35, was killed and her seven-year-old son Saim injured when the roof of their house caved in at a village in Mandra.

In separate roof collapse incidents, a teenage boy, Atif Rasheed, and a woman, identified as Tasleem, lost their lives in the limits of the Jatli police.

The bodies of six people, who drowned in a nullah after the collapse of a bridge at G.T. Road in Dina, Jhelum, on Thursday, were recovered on Friday.

Five of the deceased were identified as Naveed Tariq, Mohammad Nadeem, Mudasar Sajid, Mahjabeen and Sambreen, while the body of an identified man has been kept at the district headquarters hospital Jhelum.

In the Chakwal district, one person was killed when a pickup van was swept away in the flooded water of Nullah Bhinao near Takia Shah Murad village. Six other people travelling in the vehicle were rescued by Rescue 1122. The deceased was identified as Atif Manzoor, 18.

Fiza Bibi, 16, was killed after a wall collapsed on her near Murree. The rain also damaged many houses and blocked roads in the hilly resort town.

The Rawalpindi-Murree-Kashmir highway was blocked due to a heavy land sliding at Takiya Mehram Shah. The Islamabad-Murree dual carriageway has been damaged at various places but it was still open to traffic with diversions at various places.

Meanwhile, the roof of the Chontra police lock-up collapsed during the rain on Friday. `No suspect was held in the lock-up when it caved in. All the officials in the police station remained unhurt,` SHO Malik Rafaqat told Dawn.

Meanwhile, a road also collapsed in Kotli Sattian after the heavy rain, resulting in the suspension of traffic in the area.

## Saturday, September 06, 2014 (The News)

### **Flood water inundates several areas in Wazirabad**

GUJRANWALA: Several localities of Wazirabad city were inundated as Nullah Palkhu swelled due to intermittent rains. Those localities were inundated include Jinnah Colony Model Colony Haji Pura and Gondalpur.

The flood water has accumulated 4 to 5 feet in the localities forcing the people to take shelter at rooftops of their houses. The flood water is also hitting Skindarpur locality and Dhonkal road. While Khanki headworks is facing very high flood as a deluge of 660,000 cusecs water is passing through the headworks. Dozens of localities including Dhabeti Hassanwali and Gorai railway track have submerged in flood water.

The civil administration along with army personnel is carrying out rescue operation in flood hit areas. It has also been reported that dyke of Merajke Chathha and Bahu Manga had broken and the flood water is hitting Rasool Nagar locality where rescue operation is in progress.

## Monday, September 08, 2014 (Express Tribune)

MUZAFFARABAD: The death toll in the flood-hit areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has reached 62 and has left 1,600 people homeless, causing damages worth Rs6 billion to infrastructure across the region .

The flood and landslides have affected roads, bridges and other road links. The AJK prime minister on Sunday visited the most affected areas of Haveli and Bagh along with AJK Chief Secretary Khyzer Hayat Gondal and the disaster management authority chief Akram Sohail.

AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed has announced Rs 500,000 per person for the families of those who have lost their lives in the flash floods, saying it is a natural calamity and we should use all available resources to help flood-victims.

Responding to a question, the premier rejected the relief offer of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who on Sunday in Srinagar offered relief for the people of AJK. "If Modi really wants to give relief to the people of Kashmir then he should give them the right of self-determination which is the biggest relief they need right now," he said.

### **Dozen law violators nabbed**

Meanwhile, police have arrested 13 people for violating Section 144 on collecting wood from the flooding Jhelum River near Ambore, on the suburbs of Muzaffarabad.

Secretariat SHO Rashid Habib said all 13 people were arrested near Jhelum River while trying to collect logs from the flowing river. The police have registered the case under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The SHO said the police will continue to monitor both Jhelum and Neelum rivers to discourage people from risking their lives for the sake of salvaging useable wood.

## Monday, September 08, 2014 (The News)

### Floods continue to play havoc in Punjab

LAHORE/SIALKOT/GUJRANWALA: Heavy rains and water released by dams in the Chenab river in India have flooded vast areas and caused widespread destruction in Sialkot, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Azad Kashmir and other areas. The death toll in rain- and flood-related incidents has crossed 200 as 33 more were killed on Sunday while some protective embankments also had to be broken to protect major cities.

The Punjab government has declared a flood emergency in the province. Over 700 villages have been inundated across Punjab, and standing crops on thousands of acres of land have been completely destroyed. Floods wreaked devastation in Hafizabad, Sialkot and Gujranwala districts of Punjab, leaving several areas cut off from the rest of the country.

Nearly 200 villages in Hafizabad and over 80 villages in Chiniot have been inundated as floodwaters entered Jhang city. While water started receding in many parts of Lahore and other districts, a “red alert” has been issued in Punjab’s four districts - Jhelum, Sialkot, Nankana Sahib and Narowal - where the situation was still precarious. In Jhelum, Shanti Nagari locality has been completely devastated by the rain and victims are staying out in the open.

Heavy rains and water released by India in Chenab river have flooded vast areas in Sialkot, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and other areas. The Punjab government has declared a flood emergency in the province. According to a handout issued in Lahore, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif directed the authorities and departments to speed up the relief and assistance activities for the flood and rain-hit people. He also directed provincial ministers, commissioners and DCOs to remain in the field to facilitate the flood victims.

Flood in the river Chenab caused massive destruction and according to reports 36 villages in Gujrat have come under water. Water entered in

200 villages of Hafizabad and Mandi Bahauddin and four were washed away by the gushing water. District officials said more than 200,000 people have been affected by the floods and 3,000 have been shifted to safer places.

**GUJRANWALA:** Twenty villages were inundated after the Irrigation Department officials broke protection culverts on Chenab river along Kot Nath to lessen the burden on Khanki Headworks due to the high flood on Sunday.

After the passing of high flood through the headwork, rescue teams, including the army, started shifting the people to safer places. Army teams had so far rescued over 1,000 people stranded in the floodwaters. Water level had started receding in the river. Gujranwala Corps Commander Lt-General Salim Nawaz took an aerial view of the flood-hit areas. Meanwhile, Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan also visited the areas hit by floods and ordered to expedite rescue operations. Talking to newsmen, the minister appealed to the protesters belonging to the PTI and the PAT to work for the flood affectees. He said the government would not rest till the rehabilitation of all flood affectees.

**MANDI BAHAUDDIN:** Flood in the Chenab and Jhelum rivers played havoc with the district on Sunday.

About 500,000 cusecs water passed through the Rasool Barrage in Jhelum River while over 900,000 cusecs was passing through Qadirabad Barrage in the Chenab River till the filing of the report. Flood in the Chenab river played havoc with Phalia tehsil where almost 100 villages, including Bahri, Saida, Farrukhpur, Jago, Bhoa Hassan, Tariqabad, Makhdoompur, Thatta, Bahoo Manga and Chakari, were under four to five feet water. People had taken refuge on the roofs of their houses and trees and were waiting for rescue operation. Sial interchange road was also inundated by the floodwater.

Meanwhile, flood in the Jhelum River inundated more than 12 villages of Mandi Bahauddin and Malakwal tehsils. The affected villages included Mong, Kotli and Khewa. Two brothers - Rehmat Ali and



Mehmood Ali - who drowned in Jhelum River on Saturday night, were buried in a graveyard at Mong. The district administration had started rescue operation and rescued more than 1,000 people.

**NANKANA SAHIB:** Two villages were inundated as the Ravi river swelled near Mandi Faizabad.

The affected villages were Hiray and Jattan Dawera. There was medium flood in Ravi river at Balloki Headworks. Meanwhile, Nullah Dek overflowed, inundating several villages, including Khiaray Kalan, Kanwanwali, Kot Dewan, Kot Mintan, Thattha Amir, Khairpur Khuni and Chak Chur Shah. The floodwater had also entered the Government High School at Khiaray Kalan. Walls of several houses also collapsed in the village.

**JHANG:** The district administration has decided to breach Athara Hazari protective embankment to save Jhang and the Trimmu headworks from floods. High flood is reported at Trimmu Headworks and at Rivaz Bridge near village Chund on the Jhang-Sargodha road. The Jhelum and Chenab are both in high flood and they join at Trimu Headworks to move into district Multan. Light traffic has been banned on the Jhang Sargodha road and at least 70 villages of Jhang and Athara Hazari tehsils have been inundated by floodwater. Athara Hazari town has been vacated and flood alert has been issued.

The protective embankment would be blasted in any kind of emergency. The army is also busy in the rescue operation. Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Tahir Khalil said the district government had completed arrangements at the flood relief camps and started rescue operations in the flood-hit areas around Chenab and Jhelum rivers.

**HAFIZABAD:** The situation at Qadirabad Headworks became alarming when 909,000 cusecs flash floodwater passed through it at noon Sunday. The headworks has designed capacity of 900,000 cusecs. However, there was no imminent danger to the headworks and Hafizabad city.

However, a flash flood has inundated all the villages located on the left bank of river Chenab or inside the protective embankment. There are 334 villages in the district of which 166 are situated on the left bank inside the protective embankment. The high flood roared down in the Model village Vanike Tarar where three to five feet water is still standing. The water also gushed into the Relief Centre Vanike Tarar.

The army has been called in to assist the civil administration and army Jawans led by Brig. Kamran and Col. Shahid have been vigorously evacuating marooned villagers by helicopters and boats and shifting them to the relief centres and other safer places. The Rescue-1122 squads and police were also evacuating the flood stricken people and shifted them to the nearby relief centres.

As many as 3,340 marooned villagers and scores of livestock have been evacuated by the joint efforts of Pakistan Army, Rescue-1122 and the police. According to villagers, four persons have fallen prey to the flood waters while dozens of others were missing.

**BAHAWALPUR:** A flood warning was issued to hundreds of villages of tehsil Ahmadpur East by Bahawalpur district government on Sunday and evacuation was started from possible flood-hit areas falling in riverine belt of river Chenab. The district government set up Flood Control Room in DCO office for the rescue and relief of the flood hit areas people.

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Also, 174 people went missing in heavy snowfall and storm in the Deosai plain and Kala Pani areas of the Gilgit-Baltistan. 452 people got struck in the snowstorm along with their livestock. Local authorities on information by their relatives managed to reach 280 people and shifted them to safer places. However, the administration said 174 people with their livestock were still missing.

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AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed has declared district Haveli as calamity-hit area. He told the media 22 people were killed due to destructive rains in the district. He announced Rs5 lakh compensation for each family who lost any member during rains and floods.

Spokesperson National Disaster Management Authority Ahmad Kamal said the flood situation was being monitored round the clock and District Administration and other concerned departments were ready to meet any emergency.

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Pakistan Army relief work has also continued in flood and rains affected areas throughout Punjab. According to the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR), Pakistan army has rescued 970 people in its flood rescue operation so far.

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Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday directed the administration to expedite the relief activities in all flood-hit areas of Punjab. The CM also directed to send mobile filtration plants to the flood-affected areas.

Punjab Chief Relief Commissioner Nadeem Ashraf said the Punjab chief minister had immediately released Rs 100 m for each flood-hit district administration for relief activities.

In Sindh, the flood is expected to pass Guddu Barrage and Sukkur Barrage on Indus river on September 15. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah met former President Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House

in Karachi and briefed him about looming threat of floods in the province.

Zardari made it clear to Shah that no negligence will be tolerated in this regard. He cancelled the leaves of all Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and District Councils staff and ordered them to return to their duties.

The Co-Chairman of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) ordered all the provincial ministers to visit their respective districts and present reports in a meeting on Monday. Zardari has given the responsibility to Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani and Nisar Ahmad Khuhro for dealing with the possible flood situation in Kashmore and Larkana whereas the situation in Dadu will be looked after by Murad Ali Shah.

Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman will supervise the flood situation in Matiari, similarly Jam Khan Shoro and Nasir Shah are assigned to oversee the conditions in Hyderabad and Sukkur, respectively.

LAHORE/SIALKOT/GUJRANWALA: Heavy rains and water released by dams in the Chenab river in India have flooded vast areas and caused widespread destruction in Sialkot, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Azad Kashmir and other areas. The death toll in rain- and flood-related incidents has crossed 200 as 33 more were killed on Sunday while some protective embankments also had to be broken to protect major cities.

The Punjab government has declared a flood emergency in the province. Over 700 villages have been inundated across Punjab, and standing crops on thousands of acres of land have been completely destroyed. Floods wreaked devastation in Hafizabad, Sialkot and Gujranwala districts of Punjab, leaving several areas cut off from the rest of the country.

Nearly 200 villages in Hafizabad and over 80 villages in Chiniot have been inundated as floodwaters entered Jhang city. While water started receding in many parts of Lahore and other districts, a “red alert” has been issued in Punjab’s four districts - Jhelum, Sialkot, Nankana Sahib

and Narowal - where the situation was still precarious. In Jhelum, Shanti Nagari locality has been completely devastated by the rain and victims are staying out in the open.

Heavy rains and water released by India in Chenab river have flooded vast areas in Sialkot, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and other areas. The Punjab government has declared a flood emergency in the province. According to a handout issued in Lahore, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif directed the authorities and departments to speed up the relief and assistance activities for the flood and rain-hit people. He also directed provincial ministers, commissioners and DCOs to remain in the field to facilitate the flood victims.

Flood in the river Chenab caused massive destruction and according to reports 36 villages in Gujrat have come under water. Water entered in 200 villages of Hafizabad and Mandi Bahauddin and four were washed away by the gushing water. District officials said more than 200,000 people have been affected by the floods and 3,000 have been shifted to safer places.

**GUJRANWALA:** Twenty villages were inundated after the Irrigation Department officials broke protection culverts on Chenab river along Kot Nath to lessen the burden on Khanki Headworks due to the high flood on Sunday.

After the passing of high flood through the headwork, rescue teams, including the army, started shifting the people to safer places. Army teams had so far rescued over 1,000 people stranded in the floodwaters. Water level had started receding in the river. Gujranwala Corps Commander Lt-General Salim Nawaz took an aerial view of the flood-hit areas. Meanwhile, Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan also visited the areas hit by floods and ordered to expedite rescue operations. Talking to newsmen, the minister appealed to the protesters belonging to the PTI and the PAT to work for the flood affectees. He said the government would not rest till the rehabilitation of all flood affectees.

**MANDI BHAHAUDDIN:** Flood in the Chenab and Jhelum rivers played havoc with the district on Sunday.

About 500,000 cusecs water passed through the Rasool Barrage in Jhelum River while over 900,000 cusecs was passing through Qadirabad Barrage in the Chenab River till the filing of the report. Flood in the Chenab river played havoc with Phalia tehsil where almost 100 villages, including Bahri, Saida, Farrukhpur, Jago, Bhoa Hassan, Tariqabad, Makhdoompur, Thatta, Bahoo Manga and Chakari, were under four to five feet water. People had taken refuge on the roofs of their houses and trees and were waiting for rescue operation. Sial interchange road was also inundated by the floodwater.

Meanwhile, flood in the Jhelum River inundated more than 12 villages of Mandi Bahauddin and Malakwal tehsils. The affected villages included Mong, Kotli and Khewa. Two brothers - Rehmat Ali and Mahmood Ali - who drowned in Jhelum River on Saturday night, were buried in a graveyard at Mong. The district administration had started rescue operation and rescued more than 1,000 people.

**NANKANA SAHIB:** Two villages were inundated as the Ravi river swelled near Mandi Faizabad.

The affected villages were Hiray and Jattan Dawera. There was medium flood in Ravi river at Balloki Headworks. Meanwhile, Nullah Dek overflowed, inundating several villages, including Khiaray Kalan, Kanwanwali, Kot Dewan, Kot Mintan, Thattha Amir, Khairpur Khuni and Chak Chur Shah. The floodwater had also entered the Government High School at Khiaray Kalan. Walls of several houses also collapsed in the village.

**JHANG:** The district administration has decided to breach Athara Hazari protective embankment to save Jhang and the Trimmu headworks from floods. High flood is reported at Trimmu Headworks and at Rivaz Bridge near village Chund on the Jhang-Sargodha road. The Jhelum and Chenab are both in high flood and they join at Trimu Headworks to move into district Multan. Light traffic has been banned on the Jhang Sargodha road and at least 70 villages of Jhang and Athara Hazari tehsils have been inundated by floodwater. Athara Hazari town has been vacated and flood alert has been issued.

The protective embankment would be blasted in any kind of emergency. The army is also busy in the rescue operation. Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Tahir Khalil said the district government had completed arrangements at the flood relief camps and started rescue operations in the flood-hit areas around Chenab and Jhelum rivers.

**HAFIZABAD:** The situation at Qadirabad Headworks became alarming when 909,000 cusecs flash floodwater passed through it at noon Sunday. The headworks has designed capacity of 900,000 cusecs. However, there was no imminent danger to the headworks and Hafizabad city.

However, a flash flood has inundated all the villages located on the left bank of river Chenab or inside the protective embankment. There are 334 villages in the district of which 166 are situated on the left bank inside the protective embankment. The high flood roared down in the Model village Vanike Tarar where three to five feet water is still standing. The water also gushed into the Relief Centre Vanike Tarar.

The army has been called in to assist the civil administration and army Jawans led by Brig. Kamran and Col. Shahid have been vigorously evacuating marooned villagers by helicopters and boats and shifting them to the relief centres and other safer places. The Rescue-1122 squads and police were also evacuating the flood stricken people and shifted them to the nearby relief centres.

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## Monday, September 08, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE: Hundreds of thousands of people were marooned, their houses submerged and livestock washed away as the river Chenab

in `super flood` hit 600 villages in Gujranwala and Sialkot regions on Sunday.

The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) predicted high to very high flood in river Indus at Guddu between Sept 13 and 14 and at Sukkur on Sept 15. It urged the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to avert losses to life and property.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Sialkot and Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif several flood-hit villages in the region, but there was little help for the affected people who were left at the mercy of the raging river and its nullahs.

A Dawn reporter saw people having taken refuge at the roof of houses and buildings and other higher places in Wazirabad, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin and Chiniot and waiting for help. Eight people were killed and there were apprehensions about many more deaths in the areas. Floodwater damaged crops over hundreds of acres and washed away livestock in many villages.

It appeared that people were neither evacuated nor asked to move to safe places before the peak entered the river from India, despite warnings issued by the Flood Forecasting Bureau.

There was immediate need to rescue the marooned families and provide them food and potable water. There were no visible rescue and relief efforts in Gujranwala and Sialkot regions.

According to the FFD, a peak of 881,000 cusecs crossed Head Marala on Saturday night. The peak later moved to Khanki where the discharge was recorded at 947,000 cusecs on Sunday morning. The level later started falling and the discharge was 442,000 cusecs at 9 pm.

The peak briskly moved to Qadirabad where the discharge was 942,000 cusecs at 12 noon. The water started falling afterwards with the discharge reduced to 774,000 cusecs at 9 pm.

The authorities feared a peak of 675,000 cusecs at Trimmu between Sept 9 and 10 and warned of a disaster in areas around river Chenab because the design capacity of the barrage ISLAMABAD: Another round of talks between the government and the protesting Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf was held in the capital on Sunday. While both sides claimed that `progress had been made`, they admitted that there were still certain `core issues` that needed to be resolved.

During a brief conversation with reporters following the three-hour meeting held at the residence of PTI secretary general Jehangir Tareen PTI vice chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi declared that `meaningful dialogue has begun` and that both sides were making `serious efforts to rescue the nation from the prevailing impasse`.

This was the first time the PTI expressed such positive sentiments about the fate of the talks.

On nearly all previous occasions, its negotiators accused the government of stonewalling or being non serious about the negotiations.

## Tuesday, September 09, 2014 (Dawn)

SARGODHA/JHANG/CHINIOT: The swollen river Chenab continued to wreak havoc along its path and inundated over 400 villages in Sargodha, Chiniot, Khushab and Jhang districts on Monday.

Jhelum, also in flood (over 150,000 cusecs), also hit villages along its banks in Sargodha and Khushab, but the damage was not as severe as the devastation caused by Chenab which had a flow of over 800,000 cusecs.

The two rivers at their devastating peaks will meet at Trimu headworks in Jhang in `24 to 48 hours`.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department`s website, the barrage will have exceptionally high flood level until Sept 12.

At 6 pm on Monday, it had a flow of 224,000 cusecs.

Arrangements have been made to breach the protective dyke of Athara Hazari to take some pressure off Trimu headworks and protect it and Jhang city.

The headwork(s) can sustain up to 700,000 cusecs.

The dyke breach is feared to flood 250 villages in tehsil Athara Hazari, including Athara Hazari town.

At their present level, Chenab and Jhelum rivers have already started inundating Massan and Chela areas of tehsil Jhang.

Sixty villages have come under six to 10 feet of water and people have shifted to higher places.

A small dyke recently constructed by the people of Kharora Bakir village succumbed to the pressure of floodwater, inundating several villages on the left bank of Chenab.

Jhang-Sargodha road between the Jhang protective dyke and Chound Bharwana and Jhang-Chiniot road between Jamiaabad and Chiniot toll plaza remained closed for the second day running.

The entire Athara Hazari tehsil presented a deserted look with people having moved to safe places.

Most of the 160 villages in Sargodha were under five feet water. According to unconfirmed reports, five people, including a student, have drowned.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif visited the flood-hit Kot Momin area in Sargodha and directed the administration to estimate the losses so that immediate relief could be provided to the affected people.

Displaced people complained that rescue and relief efforts were nowhere in sight and they had left their villages on their own.

In Chiniot, 140 villages have been submerged. Flood damaged thousands of houses and crops on thousands of acres on both sides of Chenab.

Floodwater also affected the Chiniot Sargodha road, near Ahmad Nagar village, which was closed to traffic.

Although the administration had been making announcements about evacuation for three days, people were not ready to leave their homes and when flood reached their areas on Monday morning, most of them were left stranded. An army helicopter and 21 boats are trying to rescue them.

Hundreds of people in adjoining villages are still waiting to be evacuated or trying to get out by wading through waist-deep water, along with their cattle.

Chiniot police chief Abdul Qadir Qamar said that 125 villages had been affected and there was no road access to about 30 villages. He said police had shifted some 3,000 people to safe places, adding that there were reports that two people had drowned, but these were yet to be confirmed.

Amir Shahzad, of Pir Kot village, said people were not expecting such a huge flood. It suddenly came and gave them no time to save their belongings.

Amir Shahzad, a stranded villager, told this correspondent by telephone that they had neither money nor food.

Meanwhile, the army said on Monday that troops had rescued 1,500 people by helicopters and boats from flood-hit areas of Jalalpur Bhattian, Pindi Bhattian, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Wani Tarar, Rasoolnagar, Chiniot, Kot Momin and Mandi Bahauddin.

According to the ISPR, 10,000 food packets were air-dropped for people trapped in various places. Army troops have also been moved to Multan, D.G. Khan, Liyyah, Sahiwal and Trimu headworks to meet the crisis situation. In Gilgit, 33 people, along with their livestock, have

been evacuated from Deosai. They were trapped at the 16,000 feet height plateau because of heavy snowfall

## Tuesday, September 09, 2014 - Updated 725 PKT (The News)

### Flood water enters Jhang areas

JHANG: A high flood is passing through the Trimmu Headworks as the water level has been recorded 300,000 cusecs.

The district administration was expecting that 700,000-800,000 cusecs water will pass through the head on Monday night.

Arrangements were made to breach the protective 18-Hazari to save the Trimmu Headworks and Jhang city.

The shifting of people from the affected areas to safe places has almost been completed by the police, Rescue 1122 and the army.

All types of traffic have been banned through Trimmu Headworks due to which the road link of Jhang with Bhakkar, Layyah and Dera Ismail Khan has been cut off. Meanwhile, several villagers are resisting to leave their homes.

The DCO said the situation was under control and a rescue, relief operation was going successfully. He said 18 relief camps had been set up in the district to provide shelter, food and medicines to flood-affected people.

He said emergency had been declared in the district to cope with the situation.

According to reports, flood water inundated many villages near Jhang on late Monday night.



## Tuesday, September 09, 2014 (The News)

### LAHORE

#### **18,000 evacuated from flood-hit area**

Over 18,000 flood-affected people including women and children have been evacuated and Rescue 1122 conducted night operations in these districts.

The major flood search and rescue operations on Monday were conducted in Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Sargodha, Jhang, Chiniot and Khushab, where over 4,500 rescuers of Water Rescue Teams conducted major rescue operations and evacuated over 10,000 flood-affected people. On the directions of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Rescue 1122 boats have already been deployed in vulnerable districts, particularly along the Chenab River. Resources have been augmented, especially in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Khanewal and Rahim Yar Khan.

Punjab Rescue DG Dr Rizwan Naseer was informed by the Provincial Monitoring Cell of Rescue 1122 that Disaster Response Force and Water Rescue Teams have rescued over 18,000 flood-affected people from vulnerable districts of Punjab including 5,155 from Mandi Bahauddin, 4,245 from Hafizabad, 1,790 from Sialkot, 1,481 from Sargodha, 1,415 from Narowal, 842 from Khushab, 900 from Gujranwala and 403 from Jhelum.

The Disaster Response Force headed by Dr Farhan Khalid and assisted by Mian Muhammad Ahsan has also been moved to Jhang to provide backup support to Emergency Services, Jhang.

## Wednesday, September 10, 2014 (Express Tribune)

### BAHAWALPUR/MULTAN:

Authorities are on high alert in Rahim Yar Khan as a flood wave is

expected to reach Head Panjnad in Indus River on September 11.

Over 800,000 cusecs peak flood is also expected to reach Chachran Sharif around on midnight September 10.

On the orders of the district administration, police and army personnel have started evacuating high-risk areas.

Rahim Yar Khan DPO Sohail Zafar Chattha has ordered Taranda Muhammad Panah, Shidani, Zahirpir Rukanpur, Abadpur, Bhong and Machka police to evacuate their areas.

So far 546 men, 473 women and 433 children have been taken to safer places.

Motorboats have been sent to areas where floods are expected. Police will operate these boats.

A police control room has been set up under the supervision of DSP Abdul Rahim Leghari.

Police have established 11 check posts in the areas to stop people from returning and to deal with any criminal activity.

The Livestock Department has established 22 relief camps between Noorwalay and Machka, where free vaccination and medicines are being provided.

District Livestock Officer Dr Syed Sibtain said that each camp had two veterinary assistants. He said that 20 union councils on both sides of the Indus River were most vulnerable to flood damage.

Flood relief camps have been set up at government schools in Taranda Muhammad Panah, Gul Muhammad Langah and Bana Royia.

Similar camps have been set up in Sadiqabad, Rukanpur and Chachraan Sharif.

**Multan:**

The army has been put on high alert in Southern Punjab.

Multan Corps Commander Lt Gen Abid Pervez inspected arrangements in the Multan and Sahiwal divisions from the air and reviewed the safety measures being taken by the army in collaboration with the district governments.

He expressed satisfaction over the steps.

Pervez also chaired a meeting of military and civil officials to review the rescue operation.

Around 200,000 people have left their homes for safer places in four districts of Multan division.

Authorities have also ordered the closure of 84 schools located in high-risk areas and set up relief camps there.

The Multan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education has cancelled the supplementary examinations for the matriculation candidates.

Multan DCO Zahid Saleem Gondal said that the administration would divert the flood waters in two directions to save Multan city.

He said the first flood wave would enter Multan division on Wednesday evening in Kabeerwala.

Authorities are planning to protect the urban areas of Kabeerwala, Khanewal, Abdul Hakeem, Talamba and Rangpur from flooding in the Chenab River.

MNA Jamshaid Dasti has criticised the plans to breach dykes to save Multan, saying such a step would inundate Muzaffargarh district. "The government is planning to save only the areas where people voted for it," he said.

## Wednesday, September 10, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE: The super flood tormenting central and north-eastern Punjab was rushing towards Trimu on Tuesday night after causing widespread devastation, inundating over 1,400 villages, endangering the head works and posing severe threats to its five adjoining districts.

The design capacity of the head works is 645,000 cusecs and a peak of 600,000 cusecs was expected to cross it by Wednesday. The real threat is expected after 48 hours when the water level was feared to rise between 700,000 and 800,000 cusecs.

Authorities said breaching of the right bank of the river, Athara Hazari, could not be ruled out to protect the head works because the peak would be much more than it could withstand.

They said that districts of Multan, Muzaffargarh, Khanewal, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh could be directly hit by the flood. Therefore, a warning had been issued to the administration to adopt precautionary measures to minimise threats to life and property.

Punjab has already declared emergency in 21 districts that are directly hit by the floods in the river Jhelum and especially in the Chenab.

Addressing a news conference, Minister Shuja Khanzada and Punjab government spokesman Zaeem Qadri said the government had started using police for forced evacuation of people. Such evacuations were being made from areas already hit by the floods or were extremely vulnerable.

They said that many people were reluctant to leave their homes or property, including livestock, despite warnings.

Mr Khanzada said there were chances that the right embankment of Chenab at Trimu would be breached. There was no decision yet but it would be taken after assessing the situation on the ground.

According to the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), there was now no flood in river Chenab from Marala to Qadirabad.

Punjab government officials said floodwater that had entered villages and cities at these points was now receding.

But reports from districts said that several towns and villages from Sialkot to Sargodha were still under deep water that had affected nearly 200,000 acres of land.

According to Mr Khanzada, 156 people lost their lives during rains and floods in Chenab(in Punjab).

Another 287 were injured. As many as 400,000 heads of cattle were affected and 215 were killed.

He said the exact losses to human life and property would be assessed only after a few days.

Mr Zaeem Qadri feared outbreak of gastroen-teritis, fever and skin diseases in the flood-hit areas, saying the affected persons were being provided with proper medical care.

Meanwhile, people continued to suffer hardship in the flood-hit areas despite relief measures taken by the provincial government and Pakistan Army.

Reports pouring in from districts indicated that a large number of people, including women and children, were marooned from Sialkot to Sargodha, awaiting evacuation and were in need of food, medicines and water.

A large number of people have taken refuge at the top of their houses or at higher places.

Reports said floods damaged crops in a vast area of land and also swept away a large number of fish farms in the Gujranwala and Hafizabad regions.

Mr Khanzada and Mr Qadri said 12 helicopters, two each of the Pakistan Navy and the Air Force, and one each of the prime minister and the chief minister, were carrying out relief operations and shifting people to safe places.

The navy had given three heavy-duty boats and 20 operators. A total of 250 boats were being used for relief work.

## Thursday, September 11, 2014 (Express Tribune)

ISLAMABAD: As floodwaters move downstream through Punjab, Multan and Muzaffargarh are under serious threat of flooding in the next 24 hours, Express News reported.

To save the cities from the swollen Chenab River, explosives have been planted to blow three strategic dykes to divert the floodwater away from Muzaffargarh and Multan.

The army is monitoring important installations and head works in Multan while the city's Corps Commander is directly overseeing the situation. All schools in the area are also closed for the next two days.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also visited flood-hit areas of Forward Kahuta in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, where he was informed that rainwater has not caused any damage to basic infrastructure of Neelum Jhelum hydel project, however, trade and bus service to Indian-administered Kashmir is suspended due to the calamity.

The premier was told that floods have destroyed 15 big and 175 small bridges in the area while Muzaffarabad-Chakothi road is temporary closed. Turkish Prime Minister Ahmed Dawood Oglu also spoke to PM Nawaz and expressed grief over the losses caused by floods.

Announcing the release of relief packages worth Rs 100 million to each district affected by the monsoon rains, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said that it was the government's prime responsibility to evacuate stranded people. He said people were removed from most of the flood-hit areas.

The provincial chief minister, while speaking to media in Chiniot, said three helicopters were being used for carrying food and medicines to flood victims.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar also directed National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to start assessment of damages in the flood-affected areas and told all concerned authorities to provide realistic estimates of the damage caused before any rehabilitation work is undertaken.

He further told NDMA to inform the public about losses caused to life and property in Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and Punjab to direct relief efforts to places where it is most required.

Further, NDMA said 257 people were killed and more than 1.1 million affected — a figure that includes both those stranded at home and those who fled after the floods hit.

### **Pakistan Army's rescue efforts**

Pakistan Army troops have rescued 22,000 people stranded by floodwaters around Punjab and Azad Kashmir.

The ISPR said that the army is continuing with its relief work in Athara Hazari, Jhang, Chiniot, Ahmadpur Sial and Pir Kot, adding that the army is using seven helicopters and 100 boats for rescue operation. Further, the army has distributed 35 tonnes of food among the flood victims.

## **Thursday, September 11, 2014 (Express Tribune)**

### **FAISALABAD:**

Hundreds of villages have been submerged as the flow of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers at Trimmu Headworks exceeded the limit. More than 300 villages in Athara Hazari and Ahmad Pur Sial tehsils were inundated by over 20 feet of water. Garh Maharaja and other tehsils were also affected and standing crops on more than 100,000 acres of farmlands were destroyed. Locals said four people were killed in Billi Habib and Patowana localities on Tuesday.

An estimated 500,000 inhabitants of Jhang district have been affected

by the deluge, with many scrambling for shelter on roadsides, in schools and other buildings. A significant number of those affected are without any shelter.

On Wednesday, the flow of water at Head Trimmu was more than 594,000 cusecs whereas over 810,000 cusecs water was heading towards the headworks from the Chenab River and over 427,000 cusecs water from the Jhelum River.

With the help of the Pakistan Army, the administration breached Athara Hazari bund (protective wall) at three points through controlled dynamite blasts. However, areas including Rodu Sultan, Kut Faryad and Garah Marhaaja Basti have been evacuated as the water is still at very high levels.

While a major part of Jhang city has been saved through the breach, an alert has been issued for inhabitants of the city. Road links from Jhang city to Chiniot, Sargodha, Shorkot, Multan, Bhakkar, Layyah, Dera Ghazi Khan, Dera Ismail Khan, Khushab and Mianwali have been destroyed. Ahmad Kamal, the spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), said that threat to Trimmu Headworks has been averted. "Trimmu has been saved at a high cost. Five districts of Punjab — Sialkot, Gujranwala, Jhelum, Hafizabad and Narowal – have been swamped where a population of 150,000 has been affected," Kamal told the BBC. He added that over 1,100,000 people have been affected by the deluge across the country.

### **Protecting Trimmu Head Works**

While Trimmu headworks was at severe risk due to the floods, engineers proposed a breach in the protective wall near Athara Hazari Tuesday evening, but the breach was not made in time. Due to the delay, the protective wall near Malhoana Mor was broken and more than 50 villages were inundated. Irrigation experts believe further breaches are needed to save Trimmu headworks even as six breaches have been made from outside Trimmu to save it from unprecedented water pressure.

Locals here staged a demonstration against the administration as



government officials were not planning to breach the protective wall near Athara Hazari in order to save two sugar mills belonging to ruling party leaders located here. Following the protest, the protective wall was dynamited to save Jhang city and Trimmu. Thus more than 100 villages were flooded.

Engineer Trimmu Headworks Chaudhary Muhammad Aslam Kamboh said standing crops of rice, sugarcane and fodder on 88,895 acres of farmlands were destroyed in Jhang and adjacent areas.

“According to its design, the total capacity of Trimmu is 640,000 cusecs but this was reduced to 600,000 cusecs as de-silting of the headworks was not carried out for several years,” he said. “At present, about 531,000 cusecs floodwater is passing through the headworks and it is feared that the flood water will damage Trimmu severely.”

A torrent of 810,000 cusecs water in the Chenab River is heading towards Trimmu after devastating Marala, Khanki and Qadirabad. Kamboh said the flood situation at Trimmu will persist until Friday.

An emergency has been announced at local hospitals and army troops are coordinating with rescue officials. A flood emergency has been announced in the surrounding localities of Jhang towards Multan. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has urged people living along the riverine belt of the Chenab to evacuate as floodwater approaches Multan. Thousands of villagers from Muhammadpur Ghoti, Qasim Bela, Basti Jhok Shajra, Nawabpur, Ponta (Shujabad), Tahirpur, Basti Shahpur and other areas have been asked to evacuate. PDMA said 509,400 cusecs of water is flowing from Trimmu to the area.

### **Second breach**

Another breach occurred in the Jhang protective wall near Vialhalna village on the Jhang-Multan-Bhakkar Road about five kilometres away from the city, in front of the Ali Abad police post. The water flooded the Jhang-Shorkot railway line and inundated crops in areas including Vialhalna, Kot Kharriaran, Luck Bathar, Gilmala, and Bagh.

In the urban areas of Jhang, the flood headed towards Bagh Town

Shakargang Sugar Mills owned by former federal minister and chairman Privatization Commission, Altaf Saleem, and Galaxy Textile Mills on the outskirts of Jhang city before entering the city itself.

After the breach in the Jhang protective dyke, the advance of water Jhang City Bagh Town and the two mills was slowed to a great extent. "Had the Trimmu dyke been breached by midnight on Tuesday, citizens could have been saved and a vast area around the city – Multan Road and Railway Line – would not have been deluged," said Rao Amir Khan, a resident of the area.

After the Athara Hazari protective wall was breached, the water level dropped by approximately 1 foot along the Thata Mala dyke and by six to eight inches along the Jhang city protective dyke. Experts said the level at Trimmu is likely to reach 750,000 to 800,000 cusecs by this evening (Thursday).

Any increase in the water level at Trimmu would not have any effect on the urban population as the headworks is 30km downstream from the city area, experts said. But the increased water levels will have a devastating effect on areas beyond Trimmu in Athara Hazari, Ahmad Pur Sial and Shorkot tehsils.

### **Emergency measures**

Bahawalpur district is divided into three sectors – Sutlej, Chenab 1 and Chenab 2 – and eight relief camps have been set up in these three areas.

DCO Bahawalpur Imran Sikandar Baloch said 600,000 to 700,000 cusecs of water is expected to pass through Bahawalpur from today (Thursday) until Monday next week (September 15th). In Chachran Sharif SI Irrigation Saeedul Hassan said an estimated 900,000 to 10,00,000 cusecs of water is expected to pass through the area today (Thursday). Due to an increase in the water level of the Sutlej River, 19,822 cusecs of water is expected to arrive at Islam Headworks, which has a capacity of 18,000 cusecs.

## Thursday, September 11, 2014 (Express Tribune)

QUETTA:

Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch has announced Rs10 billion for the flood victims of Punjab province. "People of Balochistan are equally grieved over the human losses caused by calamity in Punjab," Balochistan government's spokesman Jan Buledi said quoting the CM. He said that Dr Abdul Malik would soon visit the flood-hit areas.

Meanwhile, former president and co-chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Asif Ali Zardari has directed the Sindh government to release Rs 100 million for the relief of flood victims in Punjab.

According to a hand out issued on Wednesday the former president directed the Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah to release the amount at the earliest for timely assistance of the flood victims.

He also directed the party workers to visit the flood affected areas and help the victims.

## Thursday, September 11, 2014 (The News)

**Over 33,000 flood victims evacuated**

LAHORE

The Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) has evacuated over 33,000 flood-affected people from vulnerable inundated districts of Punjab whereas Rescue 1122 Water Rescue Teams have been conducting search, rescue and evacuation operations in flood-hit districts.

The major rescue operations were conducted in Jhang on Wednesday where 96 Rescue Boats are participating in rescue operation and

7,754 flood affectees have been evacuated so far. Likewise, major rescue operations are being conducted in Hafizabad, Chiniot, Jhang, Multan and Muzaffargarh Districts. On direction of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Punjab Rescue DG Dr Rizwan Naseer reached Jhang of Wednesday and started monitoring rescue operations. The head of Disaster Response Force Dr Farhan Khalid said Dr Rizwan Naseer participated in several rescue operation, besides monitoring overall evacuation situation and evacuated the flood victims.

As part of flood preparedness, the vulnerable districts of north, middle and southern Punjab were identified by special rescue teams and as part of flood contingency plans, Rescue 1122 extra staff was deployed in most sensitive districts of Punjab to avert any untoward incident. As a result of this comprehensive planning, Rescue 1122 has evacuated over 33, 000 flood affectees in all 26 flood-hit districts of Punjab including 5,205 in Hafizabad, 7,754 in Jhang, 5,721 in Mandi Bahauddin, 2,352 in Chiniot, 2,084 in Sargodha, 1,939 in Sialkot and 1,749 in Narowal. The Disaster Response Force headed by Dr Farhan Khalid and Mian Muhammad Ahsan is moving along with riverside and providing backup support to the concerned districts.

ACCIDENTS: Around 463 road accidents were reported in Rescue 1122 Provincial Monitoring Cell in all 36 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Seven people lost their lives and 380 serious injured people were shifted to different hospitals of relevant districts.

## Thursday, September 11, 2014 - Updated 930 PKT (The News)

### **Pakistan Floods: 150 villages in Multan inundated**

**MULTAN:** Flash floods in the Chenab River have led to 150 villages in the area being inundated. Several people remain trapped in their homes and are being rescued by boats.

The water level is also increasing in the Chenab River near Muzaffargarh. Residents of Hussainabad village have been evacuated

and the area now bears a deserted look.

People are trapped in the Athara Hazari area of Jhang as the Pakistan Army continues its rescue and relief activities in the flood affected areas of Punjab. Residents of Athara Hazari said the water level is as high as 10 feet in several areas.

According to an ISPR press release, the army is continuing relief work in Jhang, Chiniot, Athara Hazari, Sial and Pir Kot. Seven helicopters and 100 boats are being used, while the army has also distributed 35 tonnes of food amongst the flood affectees.

Other civil organizations are also working beside the army to help the flood victims. Local administration in Multan said that the flood had affected more than 100,000 people, submerging dozens of villages.

Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif visited Multan and assured those affected that he would not rest until they were resettled in their homes.

## Friday, September 12, 2014 - Updated 624 PKT (The News)

### **Flood inundates hundreds of Multan villages**

MULTAN: Hundreds of villages in Multan district have been submerged as the river Chenab gauge showed an unabated rise in the water level on Thursday, slowly reaching near its highest level.

In view of the rising water level in the river Chenab, the administration was prompted to speed up the ongoing evacuation process which is likely to conclude by Thursday evening.

ADC Focal Person District Flood Control Cell Ali Annan Qamar said that 25 relief camps were functioning to provide shelter, food and other facilities to the affected people.

The district administration was providing food hampers and mineral

water to the affected people.

He said that a majority of the people had been evacuated from the riverine and low-lying areas of Multan district with the help of Pakistan Army Jawans, personnel of Rescue 1122, the police and staff from other departments.

He, however, added that some people were still stranded but hoped their evacuation to safer places would be completed on Friday.

Meanwhile, the flood level has reached just 6.5 points below the highest level at the Muhammadwala headworks.

The water level is just 3.6 points below the highest level at Sher Shah Bridge, Irrigation Department officials said.

They said that the flood from the Trimmu headworks was expected to reach Multan on Friday.

They added that the floodwaters in the Chenab river had reached 411.90 feet at Muhammadwala headworks and the highest level was 417.50 ft.

“If the water reaches the highest level, two security dykes might be breached at Muhammadwala headworks and Duaba dyke in Muzaffargarh,” they said, adding that the high level of 600,000 cusecs of water might persist for the next 24-48 hours with a likely peak discharge of 800,000 cusecs by Friday.

They feared that major areas of Multan, Muzaffargarh, Khanewal, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh were likely to be inundated.

The barrages report indicated that high flood had been observed in the River Ravi at Balloki and 592,000 cusecs of water was flowing from Trimu Headworks, 131,546 cusecs from Punjnad Headworks and 37,551 cusecs from Sidhnai Headworks on Thursday afternoon.

Floodwater, after leaving a trail of devastation in upper and central Punjab, is passing through southern Punjab.

Around 100 villages in Multan have been evacuated by the authorities. These areas include Band Bosan, Nawabpur, Muhammadwala Headworks, Basti Garewal, Basti Langrial and Sher Shah.

Over 100 villages have been roughly estimated to inundate across the River Chenab in Multan and Muzaffargarh.

Meanwhile, explosives have been planted in the dykes of Shershah, Garay Wahan in Multan and Doaba in Muzaffargarh to save Multan city and Chenab Bridge from what authorities called 'total collapse'.

Suffocation has increased in the flood-hit areas and people are feeling difficulty in breathing. The next areas at risk are Multan, Khanewal and Toba Tek Singh.

The rescuers are using boats and helicopters to drop food for the stranded families and evacuate the victims.

Over 10,000 people of flood-hit areas have taken refuge on the railway track between Multan's Chenab Bridge and Muzaffargarh city and they are lying in the open without tents, food and water.

On the other hand, the administration is repairing all the dykes and the Multan commissioner is supervising the work. However, there are no satisfactory arrangements to provide food, medicines, drinking water, tents and other essential items to the flood victims.

Many people have taken refuge on dykes or railway track. They used tractors to escape the rising water, carrying ropes, beds and blankets.

Meanwhile, Flood Forecasting Division has issued the super flood warning in Sindh as the water level is rising in Guddu Barrage with 2,3000 cusecs discharge.

According to officials of the Flood Forecasting Division, the water level at Sukkur Barrage was recorded at 85 thousands and 500 cusecs on Thursday.

According to Flood Forecasting Division, peak flood wave is expected

to pass through Guddu Barrage on September 15 to 16.

In Kahsmore, Kandhkot and Ghotki the district administrations have been put on high alert in view of expected flood situation in the River Indus. The district administrations have already received the directives from the Sindh CM to evacuate the katcha (riverbed) communities cautioning them to establish the relief camps at some distance from the embankments thereby allowing the irrigation officials to work without any hindrance.

However the district administrations of Sukkur, Jacobabad, Shikarpur Kashmore, Kandhkot and Ghotki districts have directed the authorities concerned to start evacuation of the people on emergency basis from the Katcha area of Guddu and Sukkur Barrages to safer places.

According to Commissioner Sukkur Muhammad Abbas Baloch the government has made full preparations with the support of Army, Navy and Air Force to face the challenges of coming flood in the regions.

Chief Engineer Sukkur Barrage Ahmed Junaid Memon said that more than 150,000 katcha residents from Khairpur, Kingri, Gambat and Sobho Dero talukas would be affected by the flood.

He said that the law and order situation prevented the irrigation officials from patrolling the embankments freely and request has been made for the establishment of police pickets for their protection.

Meanwhile, Rescue operation is in progress in the riverine and low-lying areas of the district Multan as Rescue 1122 has rescued about 3,000 flood-hit people so far. According to spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Abdul Jabbar, the rescue operation was going on at Muhammadpur, Ghot Basti, Langrial, Muhammadwala Bridge and other areas to evacuate people from the riverine areas.

He said 48 boats including 14 of Rescue 1122 were being used to shift people from flood-hit areas to safer places. He said two teams of Rescue 1122 were busy in tehsil Shujabad and two in tehsil Jalalpur Pir Wala.



## Friday, September 12, 2014 (Express Tribune)

LAHORE / FAISALABAD / BAHAWALPUR / MULTAN:

Up to 125 villages in the Multan district were inundated on Thursday as ferocious floodwaters let loose by monsoon rain made their way southwards.

The floodwaters are moving downstream through Punjab, inundating vast tracts of farmland.

A huge torrent measured at around 500,000 cusecs is expected to pass through Multan over the course of the day, according to the head of Flood Control Cell Multan Irrigation zone, Chaudhry Muhammad Zahid. Despite being hit by a second deluge, the water level at Trimmu headworks has actually fallen, lowering the flood threat in certain places.

The focal person of the district's flood control cell, Ali Annan Qamar, insisted that Multan city itself was clear of any immediate danger. But the same could not be said about adjoining areas where as many as 125 villages were said to be submerged. Multan is a major agricultural centre and the main hub for the country's cotton industry.

Hafiz Shaukat Ali, a senior administration official in Multan, said all schools in the area would be closed for the next two days.

Administration officials planted explosives in preparation for breaching three strategic dykes to divert waters away from Muzaffargarh and Multan.

A senior government official said the dykes were likely to be blown in the evening, but the blast may be put off if the waters abate.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said seven more people had died in the flood, raising the death toll to 264 with more than 1.1 million affected — a figure that includes both those stranded

at home and those who fled after the floods hit.

Most of the residents, however, had been evacuated from riverine and low-lying areas of the district as authorities anticipated heavy flooding. Although some people were stranded in the flood-hit areas of the district, Qamar said they would be rescued by the end of the day. A rescue operation was also in progress in the Shujabad and Jalalpur Pirwala tehsils, he added.

Qamar said a committee of experts had identified sections of dykes at the Shershah Protective Bund and the Head Muhammad Wala Road which would be breached only in case of emergency. Talking to reporters, Flood Control Cell In-charge Muhammad Zahid said bunds in Multan were in satisfactory condition and pointed out that the Akbar Bund – the main safety wall between Multan and Chenab River – and the Shershah Bund have a capacity of bearing one million cusecs.

A torrent of around 200,000 cusecs or below was recorded at the Akbar Bund, Zahid said. Likewise, the water level at Shershah stood at around 389.5 feet as opposed to its critical point of 393.5 feet.

Meanwhile, the flow of water at Trimmu headworks – which was expected to be hit by a second deluge after Wednesday – exceeded 600,000 cusecs on Thursday.

According to Zahid, a flow of 636,000 cusecs was recorded at the headworks between late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning. By 9am, however, the flow had dropped to 592,000 cusecs and was holding steady at this level, the official said.

On the other hand, the water level of Chenab River at Panjnad was rising consistently with the water flow reaching 131,500 cusecs on Thursday. The situation prompted the local administration to declare a high alert in the region and set up relief camps. Army teams also reached the area in anticipation of an adverse situation.

Residents of Uch Sharif's lower plain areas were directed to migrate to safer locations and Wapda had started to disconnect electricity in

areas more likely to be flooded.

According to officials, water flow of more than 700,000 cusecs at Panjnad Headworks would break the Mudwala bund, resulting in inundating large swathes of Mudwala, Damarwala, Azmatpur, Bait Mulanwali, Makhan Bela.

Assistant Commissioner Alipur Mirza Qayum said a massive torrent was likely pass through Panjnad Headworks today (Friday).

He said that Rescue 1122 teams have arrived at Panjnad Headworks and relief camps have been established at Alipur tehsil. The army has established a medical centre in Rural Health Center Saitpur.

A massive flood wave is also expected to pass through Chachran Sharif today (Friday), before entering the Guddu Barrage.

Jhang district's Shorkot tehsil was also under serious threat, as a torrent of flood water from Trimmu Headworks headed towards the area.

Meanwhile, floodwaters have started to recede from areas lying upstream of Trimmu Headworks in Jhang district and water levels had dropped by a considerable extent. Rescue operations, however, were still under way with army, police and Rescue 1122 officials shifting over 5,000 people to safer locations.

A similar rescue operation also continued in Chiniot district where more than 2,314 people were rescued.

Mangla Dam at max capacity for first time

In what can be termed as historic development, the Mangla reservoir attained its maximum storage level of 1,242 feet above mean sea level for the first time after the completion of Mangla Dam Raising Project.

The dam was raised by 30 feet in 2009 to increase water storage level of the reservoir up to 1,242 feet above sea level. Thus, water storage capacity of the Mangla reservoir increased to 7.4 million acre feet

(MAF) with an addition of 2.88 MAF.

The raised Mangla Dam has not only stored additional water but is also playing a pivotal role in mitigating the current flood by trimming peak water inflows.

As a result of the raised Mangla Dam, the additional 2.88 MAF of water will irrigate another 1.314 million acres of land, and generate 644 million additional units of electricity per annum from the existing Mangla Hydel Power Station. Monetary benefits of Mangla Dam Raising Project are estimated to be about Rs111 billion in terms of enhanced agriculture produce, additional electricity generation and flood mitigation.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 12th, 2014.

## Friday, September 12, 2014 (Dawn)

### Accidents / Murders/ Disasters

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday said flood-related death toll in Punjab mainly in Sialkot district had increased to 264.

Sialkot has become the worst hit district from the floods with 32 deaths, followed by district Haveli of AJK with 29 deaths.

In Lahore 27 persons perished while 68 others injured in flood related incidents.

As information starts to pour in from the remote and isolated parts of the country, the latest NDMA figure shows that 582 houses have been damaged in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). Furthermore, 2,454 houses were damaged in AJK and 1,722 in Punjab.

In district Chinot alone, 843 houses were damaged by the floods.

The districts with high number of deaths due to floods includes 17 in Kasur, 15 in Narowal, 13 each in Jhelum and Rawalpindi, 12 in

Faisalabad, eight in Okara, seven in Gujranwala and six in Gujrat.

Meanwhile, after Haveli, the districts Sudhnoti and Kotli of AJK have suffered the most in recent floods, with death counts at 14 and eight respectively, and five persons died in Rawalakot.

The flash floods also damaged 27 water mills in AJK, with 21 in Neelum district, followed by five in Hattian and one in Muzafarabad.

## Saturday, September 13, 2014 ( The News)

### **No world aid to be accepted for flood victims**

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet decided on Friday that any international assistance would not be accepted for the people affected by the current floods in the country, while Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif made it clear that no unconstitutional demand made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) would be considered for even discussion sake.

Addressing the federal cabinet in its meeting here at the PM's Office, the prime minister said that their constitutional and legal demands had been discussed and the government was prepared to consider them. He said the government was firmly committed to the dialogue process and believed that all issues could be resolved through talks.

The members of the cabinet were earlier briefed on the talks with the two groups currently staging the sit-ins in the federal capital. Some cabinet members raised the issue of overbilling of electricity charges and Prime Minister Nawaz took a serious notice of it. The ministers reported about the overbilling during the last two months across the country.

The prime minister directed the Ministry of Water and Power to redress the genuine grievances of consumers, if any. In this connection, he constituted a committee, chaired by Adviser Mussadiq Malik, which will submit its report within a week and shall come up for discussion in the next cabinet meeting.

The prime minister earlier reiterated the resolve of his government to leave no stone unturned and take all possible measures to mitigate the suffering caused to the people affected by the recent floods in the country. He issued directives to the authorities concerned to evaluate the damage caused by the floods and make an estimate as early as possible. He also directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to take necessary preventive measures to protect the province of Sindh where floodwaters are expected to arrive in the next few days.

Earlier, NDMA Chairman Major Gen. Muhammad Saeed Aleem briefed the cabinet on the flood situation and the relief and rescue efforts being carried out in the affected areas. The premier directed the NDMA to present a comprehensive disaster management plan before the cabinet in next meeting.

A total of 274 persons died due to the recent floods and heavy rains across the country and 43,000 houses were damaged, according to preliminary estimates. A total of 1.9 million persons in 10 districts and 3,000 villages have been affected by the floods. The Pakistan Army is also helping in rescue and relief activities in the flood-hit areas, the cabinet was informed.

The cabinet was also briefed on the law and order situation in Islamabad by Interior Secretary Shahid Khan. The cabinet gave its formal approval to a protocol between Pakistan and Turkey on disaster management. It also granted approval for starting negotiations and signing of an MoU between Pakistan and the United States on joint efforts to enable the economic empowerment of women and to promote women entrepreneurship.

The cabinet also approved the draft MoU between the Department of National Defence of Canada and the Canadian Forces (as represented by the Directorate of Military Training and Cooperation) and the Ministry of Defence of Pakistan concerning the Canadian Military Training and Cooperation Programme.

The cabinet approved to start negotiations on the cultural agreement with the Afghanistan government for the period 2014-2018.

The cabinet considered and approved signing of an agreement on Re-Admission of Persons Residing without Authorisation and Implementing Protocol to the Re-Admission Agreement between Pakistan and Russia. It granted permission to enter into negotiations on an “Extradition Treaty” between Pakistan and Tajikistan. It approved signing of a negotiated agreement on transfer of persons sentenced between Pakistan and Iran and approval for ratification of the agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons. The federal cabinet discussed 37 international agreements and accorded their approval.

## **Saturday, September 13, 2014 - Updated 1130 PKT (The News)**

### **Flood rages outside Multan**

MULTAN: Water level is at peak in the Chenab river in Multan as 600,000 cusec water is flowing through Head Muhammadwala and Shershah which is likely to reduce considerably within next 24 hours.

Flood Control Cell head Chaudhary Zahid told on Saturday two breaches at Head Muhammadwala and three at Shershah embankment had been made to ensure maximum flow and save the urban population of Multan.

He said that Saturday was the most crucial day for Multan as water level was at peak. He said 234,000 cusec water was flowing from Head Trimmu. About the condition of embankments he said they were being monitored continuously and their condition was satisfactory.

Water has inundated hundreds of villages of riverine areas. However the urban areas are safe due to the breaches.

The road link between Multan and Muzaffargarh is suspended due to the breaches. Water level at Head Marala was at 58,542 cusec, Khanki 67,799 cusec and 61,427 cusec at Head Qadirabad.

However citizens of urban areas expressed concern over playing up of flood news especially related Multan city by the electronic media.

Saad Qureshi a resident of MDA said he had received many phone calls from his relatives in other cities urging him to leave Multan as early as possible. He stated that undue panic was being created by private TV channels.

The life in Multan city is normal as there is no threat to the city by the flood. An old man Abdul Sattar Qamar of Azmat Wasti Road said that there was nearly 1 m cusec water in 1992 and the city remained safe.

## Sunday, September 14, 2014 ( The News)

### **Multan's flood-hit areas wear 'festive look'**

MULTAN: Thousands of people, including women and children, thronged the flooded areas to see flash flood and its flow in Chenab River and at Head Muhammadwala Bridge, the most vulnerable places.

Both the places have become picnic resorts for the people, reflecting curiosity of people to come and visit the flood and both the places were found fully packed from all directions. The crowds trudged around the Chenab Bridge near Shershah, some pushing strollers or holding their kids' hands while others toting cameras around their necks.

The people gathered under a sunny sky on pedestrian and vehicle bridges to see the river, which has swollen to the historic level after heavy flood. The river has inundated hundreds of villages and millions of acres of crop. The flood has become a source of income for transporters, vendors and cart riders to sell their products at their own demand. On the road, food vendors had set up kerb sides to sell food items to the masses. Many of them came from far-flung areas to visit the flood water. Families with children were coming from different locations to see the flood water. A group of three bearded people told The News that they had come from Basti Malook just to see the water level in Chenab River. Dozens of people who met at Shershah Bridge confirmed that they had come from far-flung areas to see the flood water.



Psychologists say curiosity is an unusual or interesting object or fact. It is a strong desire to know or learn something. A large number of vehicles had been parked along the road at Shershah Bridge, completely blocking the two-way traffic in the presence of police and traffic wardens. Bike riders were also found in hurry, running bikes with open silencers speedily in the traffic mess. The bike riders parked their bikes at any spot and at any time. The army men were guarding the dykes and warning the people to remain away from the danger zone. Hundreds of families formed a long queue along the river road. Muhammad Arshad of Multan snapped some photos from that bridge with his cell phone as his family remarked about the river's height. "It's tragic, it's like all these people are affected, and I work for the civil society," Sarwar Bari, a civil society activist, said.

## Sunday, September 14, 2014 (The News)

### KARACHI

#### **Climate change scientist offers to improve flood warning system**

Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry, who was appointed by the United Nations' World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) as its special envoy on disaster risk reduction and climate services for Asia earlier this year, has submitted a proposal to the Pakistani government for improving the present hydrological (river flow and reservoir level) data exchange system between India and Pakistan to improve our flood warning system with added warning lead time.

"Presently our data exchange system is based on the last century's fax-based communication system. Indian flood authorities forward the river flow data to the Indian Water Commission, which then faxes it to the Pakistan Indus Commission, which then faxes it to the Pakistani flood authorities if the fax is readable," Dr Chaudhry told The News on Saturday.

In the context of Indian and Pakistani prime ministers' flood aid diplomacy, Pakistan's top climate change scientist has proposed to establish a system for real-time exchange of hydrological data between

both the countries.

Dr Chaudhry said the WMO's international data exchange policy requires that "members shall provide on a free and unrestricted basis essential data and products which are necessary for the provision of services in support of the protection of life and property and the well-being of all nations". Both India and Pakistan are members and signatories of the WMO.

The Indus Waters Treaty's article on data exchange also requires hydrological data exchange daily (or as observed or estimated less frequently).

"The United Nations Development Programme and WMO have made a number of attempts in the past five to six years for the establishment of a regional (satellite-based communication) real-time hydrological data exchange system in this region. At that time I was proactively involved in this initiative in my capacity as the vice president of the WMO Asia Region. However, in spite of funding assurance from the United States Agency for International Development, the initiative could not be materialised because of India's lukewarm interest," said Dr Chaudhry said.

It may be pointed out here that the floods essentially caused by climate change and the changing weather pattern have wreaked havoc in Pakistan.

After devastating vast swathes in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Southern Punjab started bearing the brunt of flood on Friday when a vast area of Multan was inundated after the authorities blew up parts of embankments of River Chenab to save two vital bridges and Multan, according to media reports.

"Availability of such information on real-time basis can significantly enhance Pakistan's flood forecasting and warning capabilities. Pakistani experts, instead of waiting for delayed information through the Indus Water Commissions of India and Pakistan, can easily interpret the imminent release of water from Indian dams and rivers with enhanced

precision along with a relatively larger reaction time. This will result in greater ability to save lives and properties of the people in the region, particularly on the Pakistani side – it being a lower riparian,” said Dr Chaudhry.

“Taking note of the present flood diplomacy initiative of the prime ministers of India and Pakistan, I would like to recommend the above-mentioned initiative, which will provide long-term benefits to the people of Pakistan. If the prime minister of Pakistan approves the concept, then a detailed proposal can be prepared for submission to the Indian government,” he added.

## Monday, September 15, 2014 (Dawn)

RAWALPINDI: More than 37,000 people have been rescued by the army during its ongoing rescue and relief work in flood-affected areas of Multan, Muzaffargarh, Uch Sharif, Bahawalpur and Athara Hazari.

According to Inter Services Public Relations, a Naib Subedar died while rescuing people stranded in floodwaters near Multan.

Seven helicopters and 300 boats have been taking part in the rescue operation since Sept 5, says an ISPR press release.

Ration packs weighing over 80 tons have been airdropped and 18 medical camps established by army doctors.-APP

## Tuesday, September 16, 2014 (Express Tribune)

MULTAN/ ISLAMABAD: As water entered Muzaffargarh city on Monday morning, the National Disaster Management Authority said the death toll due to floods has reached 312 in the country. While an estimated 2.3 million have been affected by the devastating floods, roughly 1.9 million acres of crops have also been damaged, the NDMA said.

After passing through Punjab, the floodwater is now moving towards

Sindh and the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a fresh flood flow forecast for Guddu and Sukkur Barrages on River Indus, according to which the Indus at Guddu and Sukkur may attain medium to high flood discharge ranging between 400,000 cusecs to 500,000 cusecs from tomorrow (Tuesday) until Thursday this week.

On Monday, all roads connecting the city to Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Mianwaali, Multan and Layyah, as well as other sub-districts, were submerged. The water entered Muzaffargarh city after Taliri canal was breached completely due to the water pressure. The Muzaffargarh-Dera Ghazi Khan national highway was also submerged. The water has been decreasing at Head Muhammad Wala and by Monday evening, the water level was at 412 feet, just three feet down from the limit of 415 feet.

An estimated 100 villages have been submerged in the last 24 hours in district Multan and one body was recovered in the Shujabad sub-district of Multan, where six relief camps were set up. The death toll so far after the water entered Multan division on Friday stands at 15. The water level at Trimmu headworks on Monday evening was 153,000 cusecs, 27,000 at Head Sidhnaayi and at Sher Shah dyke the water level stood at 394 feet, just one foot down from the limit of 395 feet.

The flow of water at Head Punjnad crossed 500,000 cusecs on Monday morning, indicating a very high pressure on all supporting dykes. In district Rajanpur, 10 villages were submerged and water from the River Indus also entered the home of a wanted gangster Chotu, who heads a gang in Dera Ghazi Khan division.

Former DCO Muzaffargarh Tahir Khursheed took command of relief activities after continuous protests over a reported lack of arrangements for the flood victims by the district government. Twenty-one protests were held against the provincial government at different spots over the absence of adequate food and shelter in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalpur and Khanewal districts in the last 48 hours. More than 1,100 protestors taking shelter in the Government Post Graduate College Muzaffargarh protested on Sunday night due to lack of food for the last 24 hours.

The NDMA stated that 232 people have been killed in Punjab, 66 in AJK and 14 in Gilgit-Baltistan since September 4. The floods have also damaged 32,243 houses and affected 2,852 villages, the authority said. In AJK, as many as 66 people have been killed and 46,486 affected due to the heavy rains and flash floods. The floods have also damaged 2,731 houses and affected 2,048 acres of crops.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, 14 people have died and 1,976 affected. An estimated 127 villages were also affected. According to the PMD, isolated thundershowers are expected over Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Lahore and D.G. Khan Divisions along with Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir.

As per PMD reports, the risk of high to very high flood level at Guddu and Sukkur has reduced due to hydrological conditions and the breaching of bunds between Qadirabad and Punjnad on River Chenab.

The government of Sindh has directed people living along River Indus to move to safer places including Larkana, Shikarpur, Kashmore-Kandhkot district.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 16th, 2014.

## **Tuesday, September 16, 2014 (Express Tribune)**

### **BAHAWALPUR:**

An unparalleled rescue and relief operation is underway in Punjab to deal with the biggest floods in the history of the province, said CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif on Monday.

He said this during a visit to Panjnad Headworks in Bahawalpur district.

“The Punjab government is doing all it can for the flood-hit people without any political consideration. We will not rest until all the flood-affected people have been rehabilitated,” the chief minister said. He said that he would return to the area within weeks to deliver cheques

to the affected people. “The government will compensate the flood victims for their losses. We will provide pesticides, seeds and fertilisers and rebuild damaged homes,” he said.

Referring to the political situation in the country, Shahbaz said the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) had ignored the flood victims. “The PTI won 33 seats in the Punjab Assembly. However, at a time when the people of the province need them, PTI leaders are celebrating in Islamabad instead of touring the flood-hit areas. I appeal to Imran Khan to take part in the rescue and relief efforts. Otherwise, the people will never forgive him,” Shahbaz said.

He directed the officials to ensure the provision of food and other facilities at the relief camps. He said that evacuation of people from high-risk areas should be completed immediately.

He visited Basti Balla Jhallan Ahmadpur East.

Bahawalpur District Coordination Officer Imran Sikandar Baloch briefed the chief minister about the rescue and relief efforts. He said more than 27,000 people had been shifted to safer locations.

He said that 375,000 cusecs water was passing through Panjnad Headworks. “Areas around Panjnad Headworks have been evacuated 100 per cent. Cattle have also been shifted to the safer locations,” Baloch said. He said around 9,000 flood-affected people are provided meals by the government at relief camp set up at the Manchan Embankment.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 16th, 2014.

## Tuesday, September 16, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE/MUZAFFARGARH/BAHAWALPUR: After inundating over 60 per cent area of Muzaffargarh tehsil, the violent waves of Chenab River are now posing a threat to rural areas of Jatoi and Alipur tehsils in Muzaffargarh district.

The water discharge at Panjnad headworks in Bahawalpur district was rising, but the flow of 413,000 cusecs recorded at 9 pm on Monday was stated to be within manageable limits. Irrigation authorities posted at the headworks said that a breach in the right marginal dyke, as anticipated earlier, might not be required.

'We expect that the peak will not be more than 450,000 cusecs before the water falls into the Indus River. And in Indus, there will be a maximum flood of about 500,000 cusecs that will pass Guddu and Sukkur barrages on Tuesday and Wednesday,' a senior official at the Flood Forecasting Division (Meteorological Department) told Dawn.

He said the danger of high flood in Guddu and Sukkur had subsided after dykes were breached between Qadirabad and Panjnad. Since the designed capacities of the two barrages were 1.2 million and 900,000 cusecs respectively, the flow of 500,000 cusecs, and even more, would not be a problem, he added.

According to the official, the Trimu barrage (in Jhang), which saw a peak of 600,000 cusecs, was now in low flood (150,000 cusecs).

The flood water in Muzaffargarh started touching the Ring Road near Tulheri after inundating Bhuttapur, a suburb. The Shehr Sultan dyke was under threat and the administration ordered evacuation of people from rural areas of Alipur and Jatoi.

The people of Muzaffargarh city and the villagers of Dalewala and Langar Sarai clashed at Dalewala when the former tried to plug a breach on the road to stop the water from reaching the city. The villagers resisted the move because it would have inundated their areas.

Over 2,000 villagers attacked MNA Jamshed Dasti, prompting a baton charge from police. Mr Dasti reached the area to see the breach and reportedly supported its plugging, angering the villagers. They beat him up and broke his jeep's windows. Mr Dasti saved his life by fleeing on a motorcycle.

When DCO Hafiz Shoukat Ali went to the area with his team and

police, the villagers chanted slogans and also tried to attack him. Police sprang into action and dispersed them.

Earlier, the district government made a breach in the Doaba bund, diverting the water towards areas where it had never reached earlier. Besides Alipur and Jatoi, towns of Khangarh and Sher Sultan were also under the threat of flood.

DCO Karim Bukhsh said Muzaffargarh city was out of danger because the floodwater had turned towards Sher Sultan and Alipur.

Camped at Panjnad, Bahawalpur irrigation zone's chief engineer Malik Khursheed Zaman said 'we are trying to avoid making a breach in the right marginal dyke'. He said strong water currents had eroded a two-acre mound in Chenab upstream Panjnad, easing pressure on the dyke.

Like Muzaffargarh, people along the right marginal dyke were also opposed to its breach. MNA Sardar Gopang, along with a large number of villagers, visited Panjnad and said that the authorities should wait and take a decision after a thorough deliberation.

Meanwhile, the ISPR said army troops carried out rescue and relief operation in the villages of Makhan Baila, Bakhtiari and Bella Jhallan of Ahmedpur East tehsil and shifted the flood-affected people to camps and other safe places.

The Met department forecast isolated thunderstorms in Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore and D.G. Khan divisions and Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir.

It said Tarbela Dam had 1547.37 ft of water on Monday, with inflow recorded at 84,300 cusecs and outflow at 54,700 cusecs. The water level at Mangla was 1242 ft, with inflow 79,979 cusecs and outflow of 79,979 cusecs.

The National Disaster Management Authority said that 312 people had lost their lives till September 15, because of rains and floods 232 in Punjab, 66 in Azad Kashmir and 14 in Gilgit-Baltistan.



Over two million people have been affected. About 500,000 people have been rescued and shifted to safe places in Punjab alone.

## Wednesday, September 17, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHOR E/MUZAFFARGARH/BAHAWALPUR: The weakened peak in Chenab River crossed Panjnad on Tuesday without harming it, but wreaked havoc deep into the heart of southern Punjab.

The discharge in the river at Panjnad was about 450,000 cusecs because of breaches made at several points upstream and downstream Trimu, diverting the floodwater to human settlements to reduce the fury of the river.

The discharge was earlier estimated at 700,000 cusecs.

The Flood Forecasting Division also revised its earlier warning of `high to very high flood` in the Indus River at Guddu and Sukkur because of the weakening of peak in Chenab. Now there were chances of `medium to high flood` in the Indus at the two bridges by Thursday, it added.

Torrential rain and floods in Chenab and Jhelum rivers have so far claimed 239 lives in northeastern and southern Punjab.

According to the Punjab government, most deaths were reported in Sialkot, where driving rain and flooding of Chenab and its nullahs wreaked havoc for several days. Thirty-four people have died in Sialkot, 28 in Lahore, 18 in Multan, 17 in Kasur, 14 in Faisalabad and 13 each in Jhelum and Rawalpindi.

The flood in Chenab was diverted to Alipur and Jatoi tehsils on Tuesday evening because of breaches at Zamindara and Sarki embankments, forcing hundreds of families to leave their homes in the two tehsils.

According to district officials, 65 per cent area of Muzaffargarh was hit by the flood and its outskirts were still under water.

The river's embankment at Shehr Sultan was under threat and the residents were asked by the administration to move to safe places.

There was a shortage of food, milk and petrol in Alipur town as all its links with Muzaffargarh remained suspended. Milk was being sold at Rs 100 per litre and people were waiting for government relief.

The administration and people in surrounding areas heaved a sigh of relief after the peak of 453,000 cusecs smoothly crossed the 82-year-old Panjnad headworks. The peak nevertheless spilled over to 35 villages of Ahmedpur East.

Officials deputed at Panjnad and people moved to relief camps around it spent a sleepless night, praying for safe passage of the peak from the headworks.

Earlier, the administration and the army had shifted 35,000 people of the villages around the headworks to safe places and nine relief camps. But most people preferred to stay at protective dykes.

## Wednesday, September 17, 2014 (The News)

### **Sindh not under threat of super flood: CM**

KASHMORE: Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah said that the province is not under the threat of a super flood.

The chief minister visited Guddu Barrage on Wednesday and told reporters that 400,000 to 500,000 cusecs of water will pass through Sindh. Qaim Ali Shah added that the condition of protective embankments was satisfactory.

According to the chief minister people living in makeshift housing were being shifted to safer locations. The chief minister further said that the performance of the Sindh and Punjab governments was in front of everyone to see.

## Wednesday, September 17, 2014 (The News)

### **Catastrophic Chenab floods: Pakistan's economy may suffer \$15 billion loss'**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has experienced 22 floods in 67 years, each causing devastating blow to its economy with mammoth loss to human lives, livestock, properties, cash crops and infrastructure. Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) in the recent flood-affected areas to ascertain the exact damages in collaboration with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) and provincial governments has started, and the preliminary report about the damages is expected to be unveiled by end of September.

So far death toll on account of flood and rains stands at 289, 2.4 million people have been affected while 44,597 houses have been damaged. Crops (rice, sugarcane and cotton) spread over 1,544,653 acres on irrigated lands have been damaged and 3116 villages have been badly hit. The loss of life and property is feared to escalate manifold.

Pakistanis have braved raging floods in 1950, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1995, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and now again in 2014. The scale of damages and losses remains the same but this time, according to independent economic experts, the disastrous flood mainly in Chenab River has severely hit Punjab - the food basket of the whole country. Top officials in ministries of national food security and research, finance and some economic experts fear that losses to Pakistan's economy could be as high as \$14-15 billion. The damage to cash crops (rice and cotton) and livestock will adversely impact export of leather goods and textile. Besides, the price of milk will also surge as a result of damage to livestock. The damage caused to the infrastructure is also colossal and would require billions of rupees for reconstruction. The main challenge will be to cope with the outbreak of water-born diseases after the floodwater recedes.

In 2010 floods, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank had estimated \$9.7 billion loss to Pakistan's economy. It had reduced the GDP growth of the country to 2.6 percent against the target of 4.5 percent.

Though Pakistan has suffered colossal damages due to floods no concerted efforts seem to have been made to minimise the losses and the authorities, instead of admitting failure, have always blamed India for suddenly releasing additional water to cause floods in Pakistan.

Every one knows that India cannot control water flows into Pakistan's river under the 1960

Indus Water Treaty. Chenab and Jehlum rivers belong to Pakistan on which India is building run-of-the-rivers hydropower projects, so India cannot control or manipulate flow of water into Pakistani rivers.

Whenever the catchment areas receive huge rains water flow in both the rivers causes floods that hit Pakistan. Pakistan has one main reservoir of Mangla dam on Jehlum River while on Chenab river it failed to develop any structure for flood mitigation. However, Sutlej, Ravi and Beas, which were handed over to India under the Indus Water Treaty have many dams on them owing to which these rivers do not wreak havoc in their command areas in India. Pakistan faced flood in Ravi river not because of the water releases by India, but on account of heavy rains in Pakistan's areas.

When contacted Mr Mirza Asif Beg, Commissioner of Pakistan's Commission of Indus Water (PCIW) said that India kept on informing Pakistan about the floods status on time. He said both countries have bilateral agreement on exchange of flood information and India gives information every four hours when there is low flood in Chenab and Jehlum rivers. India exchanges information every three hours when it comes to medium flood and shares information on hourly basis when there is high flood.

"And kept on sensitising the flood forecasting division we on time about the floods." When asked about the impression in Pakistan that

India has suddenly released water in Chenab and Jehlum river, Asif Beg said it is baseless propaganda since Chenab is Pakistan's river and India cannot build dams to store water. However, it can build hydropower project on the run of the river without affecting the flow of water.

A top official of Flood Forecasting Division also confirmed that India had informed the Pakistani authorities on time about the unprecedented rains that will turn into huge floods. The official said India had even informed about more devastating flood. Pakistan Met Office had also warned the government on August 08, 2014 about the expected huge rains in the catchment areas that might cause high flood.

Senior official of the Punjab Irrigation department said that Head Marala received 8,64,000 cusecs of floodwater on September 5-7 and the same quantum of water was received in 1929. Starting from Head Marala to South Punjab, Pakistan received 400 mm rains that also escalated the magnitude of the devastation. He said that the nullahs of Palkhu, Dek, Aek, and Ura within the range of Chenab River also played havoc. Likewise, nullahs of Basanter, Dek, Chak Amru and Bein in the range of Ravi river also exacerbated the situation.

To a question he said that the Punjab Irrigation Department has made a plan to rehabilitate and upgrade its barrages and head works to enhance their capacity to absorb and discharge water. "We have structures like Head Marala, Khanki, Qadirabad, Balluki, Trimmu and Punjnad to mitigate the flood damage and we are working on upgrading them."

Asjad Imtiaz, chairman Federal Flood Commission told The News in detailed briefing that FFC is just a coordinating agency and it has no role in building the structures in all the provinces to mitigate the flood. We have pre-flood role under which we sensitise all the stakeholders including the four federating units about the forthcoming floods in the monsoon season so that provincial government could strengthen dykes, embankments, evacuate the masses and establish mobile hospitals. He said that FFC has the mandate to prepare flood

protection plan for the country. Our consultant is in the process of make the 10-year flood protection plan in consultation with provincial governments, AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan and FATA. However, he said, we have no role in implementing the plan as the powers to implement the projects rest with provincial irrigation departments. “We just provide technical support and ensure no adverse impact of any flood mitigating project on other provinces,” says Imtiaz.

FFC under its mandate recommends regulations for water reservoirs for flood control; reviews damage to flood protection works and also reviews plans for restoration and reconstruction works. He said that FFC also suggests improvement in flood forecasting and warning system. He said that FFC is also supposed to prepare a research programme for flood control and protection. Mr Imtiaz said that FFC has no funds enough to initiate R&D activities. Besides, FFC evaluates and monitors progress of implementation of flood protection plan. He said that preparation of schemes (PC-1s), tendering, awards of contract, execution, disbursement of funds, and maintenance of flood works is the total responsibility of provinces and the federal agencies and FFC has no significant role in that.

The official at ministry of water and power says that FFC has an annual budget of Rs 160 million and Rs4,50,000 daily expenditures, while Prime Minister House’s daily expenditures stand at Rs 1.6 million. He said that Punjab government has announced Rs 10 million fiscal help for 2.5 million, which means Rs 50 per person. He said the priorities of the government are quite different. The Punjab government should have allocated Rs 23 billion for making dam on Chinioate to reduce the adverse impact of flood in Chenab but instead it focused on metro bus tracks in Lahore, Multan and in Islamabad.

The top officials of the ministry of water and power are of the view that Pakistan can make dams on Indus to store 22 MAF water by building Diamer-Bhasha dam, Akhori Dam and Kalabagh dam at a cost of \$25 billion, but corporate-dominated politics is the main cause for not initiating the projects. They said: “We need to de-silt Mangla and Terbela dam to regain 35 percent storage capacity. This will not only increase water availability in Pakistan, but will also enhance the role

of both the dams in flood mitigation. The flood in Jehlum river did not cause severe damage just because of the raising of Manga Dam owing to which 3 million acre feet of additional water was stored. Because of this very reason the flood in Jehlum river did not play as much havoc as caused by flood in Chenab river.

## Thursday, September 18, 2014 (The News)

### Flood affectees plunder relief goods in Multan

MULTAN: Following the visit of Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, flood affectees plundered relief goods in the Shujabad area of Multan.

The affectees stormed a truck of relief goods and fought each other over the supplies. Due to this incident, women, children and elderly were not able to receive relief goods.

Earlier, during his visit Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif announced that the first installment of compensation for flood affectees would be disbursed prior to Eid.

## Thursday, September 18, 2014 (Express Tribune)

LAHORE:

More than 2,000 school buildings across the province have been damaged in recent floods, according to School Education Department (SED) officials.

They said the school buildings had been affected by floods in nine districts. These are Jhang, Jhelum, Chiniot, Sialkot, Hafizabad, Muzaffargarh, Narowal, Sheikhpura and Sargodha.

“The repair work has been started at some of the damaged school buildings,” SED Additional Secretary (general) Hassan Akhtar said.

“Safety comes first. We are ensuring that children do not go to the

schools damaged by the floods,” Akhtar told The Express Tribune.

The SED issued a report on September 12 saying that 1,941 school buildings, including 1,700 primary schools, had been affected by floodwater. “The figure has swelled as the floods are not over yet,” said Akhtar who is supervising the repair and renovation of the damaged school buildings.

The SED report said alternate schooling arrangements had been made.

It said 211 school buildings had been damaged in Sialkot, 174 in Hafizabad, 151 in Jhelum and 182 in Sargodha. Classes in these areas are being arranged at nearby schools or makeshift schools.

The report said 144 school buildings had been damaged in Chiniot. Students in the district have been sent on leave. It said 121 schools in Narowal and 238 in Sheikhpura had been affected. The report said the maximum 280 school buildings had been damaged in Jhang. No alternate classes have been arranged in the district. Authorities have decided to set up tent schools once the floodwater recedes.

Akhtar said Jhang, Sargodha and Hafizabad had been worst hit by floods. He said the repair was ongoing in collaboration with local school councils.

The SED said classes at more than 1,400 schools had been suspended owing to rains and floods. While the SED report of September 12 calculated the damage of Rs 4.8 billion, district authorities estimate the amount can go up to Rs6 billion. “The exact amount has not been calculated yet,” Akhtar said.

“The problem we face is not that of funds but that of accessibility to these schools as connecting roads and other infrastructure are damaged and flooded,” he said.

He said the department would intensify the repair work by October.

“We hope to carry out 80% of the repair and renovation work in the next two to three months,” Akhtar said.



## Friday, September 19, 2014 (The News)

### Floods in Kashmir were unprecedented

RAWALPINDI: Director General Meteorological Department Hazrat Mir said that they had already informed the government about the impending floods as in such cases forecasts of three kinds are made.

Chief Meteorologist Muhammad Riaz said that floods come in monsoon season which in Pakistan is from June 15 to October 15. This they said while talking to anchor Hamid Mir of Geo News programme 'Capital Talk'. Chairman Jihad Council Syed Salahuddin, and Minister of State for Health Ms Saira Afzal Tarar also took part in the discussion.

Syed Salahuddin said that this flood was the wide spread in the history of Kashmir. It had jolted the entire valley and particularly the capital, Srinagar. Although water had started receding still it would take some time to make estimates of losses suffered by all areas.

Minister of State for Health Ms Saira Afzal Tarar said that there should be a permanent strategy to help the flood victims. She agreed that they could not command floods and floods came in many countries the world over.

Chief Meteorologist Muhammad Riaz said that floods usually come during June 15 and October 15 which is the monsoon season in this region. Floods are generated due to a special system.

Director General Meteorological Department Hazrat Mir said that they had foretold the government about the floods. "We make three types of forecasts: seasonal, weekly and 24-60 hours. We tell about floods in the weekly forecast. We issued a press release on August 29 that we see good monsoon rains in the beginning of September. We issued an advisory on September 1. Credit must be given to Punjab government that keeping in view our advisory and flood forecast and flood alert, they shook all stakeholders. We had told about the intensity of the flood."

Answering a question about India and Pakistan warning each other

about the floods, Salahuddin said that there was no harm as the matter related to 1.75 billion people of the Subcontinent. "If such a step can be taken, we can minimise the losses caused by floods," he maintained.

## Saturday, September 20, 2014 (Dawn)

SUKKUR: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that it is better to spend the huge amounts of money meant for the strengthening of embankments before the arrival of floodwaters in the Indus than spending a higher amount on the rehabilitation of affected areas and population.

The prime minister was speaking at a briefing given to him by Sukkur barrage officers and irrigation officials during his visit to the installation along with Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah on Friday.

He said the provincial governments were supposed to take all preventive and flood control measures in advance in order to save citizens and their properties from getting damaged by any natural disaster.

He directed the officials concerned to ensure the strengthening of both banks of the Indus and all protective dykes across Sindh with the funds allocated for the purpose.

During his briefing on flood situation, the Sindh irrigation secretary informed the prime minister that the flood peak passing through the Sukkur barrage posed no threat to embankments and dykes as it had lost pressure.

He said that a total of 87,585 people had been affected by flooding in the kutch areas of Sindh. He said 800 tents had been pitched for them while 23,920 people shifted to safe places, including relief camps. The prime minister was informed that although the flood threat was over, the government machinery had been kept on a high alert to meet any unexpected situation. The alert would not be withdrawn until the flood water crossed the Kotri barrage, he was told. During the

visit PML-N leaders Saleem Zia and Ismail Rahu, PPP MPAs Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Syed Awais Shah and officials of relevant departments were present at the briefing. Earlier, Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, along with several members of the Sindh Assembly, received Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif when he arrived at the Sukkur airport.

According to him, flooding affected 251 villages in the kutchha areas of Sindh as a total of 146,625 acres came under water.

Mr Sharif expressed his pleasure over the fact that Sindh and its people remained safe from flood devastation, and held out the assurance that the federal government would never leave Sindh alone in difficult times.

Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah briefed the prime minister about relief measures taken by the provincial government to ensure safety and security of citizens and provision of food, medicines and other facilities to the affected people.

The prime minister also inspected the gates of Sukkur barrage and also reviewed the flood situation.

Almost half the city was closed due to road blockades carried out as part of the PM`s security. Thousands of vehicles were stuck along arterial roads for several hours before and during his visit. The worst-affected areas included Sukkur bypass, Military Road and Lab-i-Mehran.

## Saturday, September 20, 2014 (Dawn)

GUJRANWALA: Corn crops and vegetables on 41,000 acres were swept away in 118 villages of Wazirabad and Kamoki tehsils due to breaches in dykes along the River Chenab and nullahs Pulkho and Deg in recent floods, says District Coordination Officer (DCO) Azmat Mahmood.

At a meeting, the DCO directed the health authorities to survey flood-hit villages and collect water samples as in many areas water was contaminated.

The DCO took up the issue after reports that hand pump water samples collected from 40 Wazirabad and 30 Kamoki villages turned out to be contaminated. The health authorities sent 63 samples of water to a Lahore laboratory where of the m 40 were declared unfit for human consumption. The health authorities said the installation of filtration plants and water supply motors in flood affected villages were imperative to avoid epidemics.

Also, the officials said, flood affected villages were being sprayed to cull dengue larvae. District Health Officer Dr Ehsanullah said the health department had already set up medical camps in flood-affected areas where senior medical officers were treating the people.

The livestock department fielded 14 teams to vaccinate animals in flood-hit areas of Wazirabad.

## Saturday, September 20, 2014 (The News)

### **Sindh flood situation not alarming: Qaim**

SUKKUR: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has said there is not an alarming flood situation in Sindh and the floodwaters will easily pass from the Indus river through Guddu, Sukkur and Kotri Barrages.

Speaking to media men here on Friday he said unlike Punjab, where the floods played havoc, the situation in Sindh was not out of control. He said the Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was satisfied with the precautionary measures taken by the provincial government to manage the floods. He said the party chairman had directed the Sindh government to ensure relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims.

The CM said he had ordered the authorities concerned to shift the flood victims to safer places and added that he would not tolerate any negligence in the patrolling of the dykes. He informed that he had suspended the SIDA director over negligence. He said the stone pitching of the Loop Embankment had been completed and there was no news of a breach in it. Meanwhile, the water level at the

Guddu Barrage on Friday was recorded as 366,764 cusecs upstream and 360,864 cusecs downstream, while at the Sukkur Barrage it was recorded as 260,423 cusecs upstream and 217,810 cusecs downstream.

Responding to a question, the chief minister said MQM leader Altaf Hussain was his brother and he (Altaf Hussain) was a Sindhi as he himself admitted that he was born in Sindh; however, he said he did not know why the MQM chief had demanded the administrative division of the province. He said not a single Sindhi would ever want the division of Sindh.

Replying to another question, the chief minister said the sit-ins of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and the Pakistan Awami Tehreek should be tackled through negotiations because, he said, any other option will only make the situation worse.

Qaim said, "We are against the VIP culture but the security protocol for the prime minister and the chief ministers was important because if any mishap occurred it could cause the deformation of the country." The chief minister informed that he had taken notice of the alleged police torture on the citizens under the pretext of security measures and the subsequent protest by the people. He said the responsible policeman had been suspended and an inquiry committee had been constituted to carry out further investigation in the matter.

Earlier, Qaim Ali Shah presided over a meeting here in connection with the promotion of the historical and cultural sites of Sindh. He said the provincial government was trying its best to promote the Gorakh Hill Station, one of the highest plateaus of Sindh. He said the Sukkur Barrage, the Lansdowne Bridge and other historical sites existed here which enjoyed the international and national recognition.

## Sunday, September 21, 2014 (Dawn)

### Accidents / Murders/ Disasters

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

said on Saturday that rescuers with boats and helicopters had evacuated about 50,000 people from south Punjab after raging floods in undated hundreds of villages there.

The NDMA in a statement said that death toll from rains and flooding in Punjab and other parts of the country had reached 346.

It said floodwaters wreaked havoc in the Punjab province and were now passing through remote areas in Sindh, but so far no deaths had been reported there.

Medical teams in flood-hit areas have so far treated more than 300,000 patients, it said. The statement said that authorities were busy in what is one of the country's biggest relief and rescue operations in recent years.

They are using 19 army helicopters and hundreds of boats to transport people to safe places.

The floods have affected 1.7 million people apart from damaging standing crops in vast areas. Officials say they are still trying to assess the extent of damage caused by floods and rains to schools and other infrastructure.-AP

## Monday, September 22, 2014 (Dawn)

LAHORE: There is no adequate grass roots arrangement for minimising loss to human life and property before a natural calamity like rain or flood hits the country as successive governments have concentrated mainly on spending billions of rupees on rescue and relief measures only after such misfortunes badly hurt people.

This sad state of affairs has been going on since the creation of Pakistan and the latest example is the recent torrential rains and the floods they generated in the river Jhelum and especially the Chenab.

People appeared to be at the mercy of the driving rains and monumental flood peaks that claimed well over 200 lives in Punjab

and damaged public and private property and crops worth billions of rupees. The loss to public-sector infrastructure has initially been estimated at over Rs 10 billion, showing the magnitude of devastation.

The help from the government came when people were already marooned in north-eastern Punjab especially in Sialkot region.

There were rescue operations but teams could not timely reach at many badly hit areas due to rain and subsequent Hood peaks.

Many people preferred to stay at homes to protect their cattle, stored food grains and valuables. A good number of people died in the line of (private) duty.

Downstream the Chenab, the government started forced evacuations to protect lives but the river continued to rampage settlements on its journey towards Sindh.

## Monday, September 22, 2014 (Dawn)

GUJRANWALA: Hundreds of flood victims, belonging to various villages of Kamoki, held a protest against non-payment of compensation announced by the chief minister for them on GT Road, blocking traffic for many hours.

According to the report, protesters belonging to village Gunna Uur, Shadikhanwala, Kuri Kot, Nangal Dona Singh, Chakian, Hayatian, Rana Saich gathered on GT Road near Tehsil Municipal Office Kamoki and blocked it for traffic.

The protesters also alleged that the departments concerned had changed the direction of Nullah Dek on behalf of former MNA of PML-N Rana Nazir Ahmad, father of sitting MNA Rana Umar Nazir Khan and MPA of ruling party Qaisar Mehmood Sandhu, to save their crop fields which destroyed their protesters crops and incurred heavy losses. They said floodwater was still standing not only in their villages but also village Nathoke, Shadikhan and Aminpur Sayedan. Kamoki Assistant Commissioner Mohsin Bilal and former MNA-N Rana Nazir Ahmad tried

to negotiate with protesters but they refused to talk to them.

Later, MPA Rana Shamshad Ahmad Khan negotiated with protesters and assured them that they would get the compensation amount by Sept 27. At this, the protesters ended their protest.

**SHEIKHUPURA:** Scores of flood victims from village Noorpur and adjoining localities protested against the district and tehsil municipal administration against non-payment compensation and non-provision of relief goods and medicines on Sunday.

Talking to the media, they said a TMA Muridke official, named Iqbal, had collected their CNICs some days back, assuring them that compensation announced by the chief minister would be paid to them shortly. But after that no government official approached them in this connection, they said.

The flood victims demanded the government provide them with relief goods and compensation.

## Monday, September 22, 2014 (Dawn)

**BAHAWALPUR:** The district administration taking a lead in the province, has introduced a computerised system to monitor the functioning and to support the flood relief camps and track down the flood-affected people in Uch Sharif area of Ahmedpur East Tehsil.

During the flood, as many as 35,000 people of 35 villages and localities were dislocated. Of them, about 16,000 had moved to the flood protection dykes and other nearby safer places. Prior to the flood, the provincial government had directed the district administration to arrange cooked meal three times a day, clean water and shelter to all the dislocated people irrespective of their registration at the flood relief camps and location in the area. Anticipating this challenge, the district administration had tasked the Punjab Urban Unit, an organisation of the department of planning and development (P&D) of the Punjab government, with developing an android app, which could track the flood-affected people.



According to District Coordination Officer (DCO) Imran Skindar Baloch, it was a joint effort of the Bahawalpur Service Delivery Unit (BSDU) and Punjab Urban Unit.

The DCO said under the system the application was fed in android phones and handed over to Monitoring Evaluation and Assistants (MEAs) of the education department. Three MEA teams twice a day during flood days travelled across 40 kilo metres on the Good protection dykes and fed data wherever they found the affected people looking for shelter. The data along with a photograph was sent through MMS to the BSDU control room in Bahawalpur.

The control room with the help of the system showed the exact position and number of victims twice a day. The information was viewed by the district administration officials present in the flood-hit areas and immediate supplies of meals were dispatched to the localities.

Using the system, the DCO claimed, the officials successfully provided meals to 18,000 people over six days and there was no major complaint about food not reaching out to the flood-stricken.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif during his visit to Bella Jhallan flood relief camp near Uch Sharif not only appreciated the concept but also directed the authorities concerned to share the system across Punjab.

## Monday, September 22, 2014 (Express Tribune)

UNITED NATIONS / ISLAMABAD:

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon praised the government's efforts in providing relief to flood-affected people across Pakistan and offered assistance.

"I wish to assure you that the United Nations is ready to provide assistance, if requested by your government," Ban said in a letter to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

“I would like to extend my condolences to you and to the people of Pakistan for the loss of life and my deep regret for the destruction caused by recent floods,” he said.

Lauding the government’s efforts, Ban said the UN will play its role in extending assistance to people affected by the natural disaster. He assured the government that the UN stands ready to assist in responding to the needs created by the floods.

Roughly 1.84 million people across Pakistan have been affected by floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains. At least 346 people have been killed and 620 others have been injured in flood-related incidents, according to the latest figures released by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Some 269 deaths have been reported from Punjab alone. Another 64 people have been killed in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) while 16 deaths have been reported from Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B).

According to the NDMA, floods have ravaged crops spread across 2.344 million acres of farmlands in Punjab, 2,048 acres in AJK and 712 acres in G-B. As many as 41,388 houses have been damaged in Punjab while another 6,281 have been damaged in AJK. Around 3,090 villages in Punjab, 187 villages in AJK and 127 villages in G-B have been affected, the NDMA data showed.

As many as 617,774 people have been evacuated from the flood affected areas in Punjab, where 62,706 camps have been established, according to NDMA. Another 65,583 people have been evacuated from 263 flood-hit villages in Sindh.

Published in The Express Tribune, September 22nd, 2014.

## **Monday, September 22, 2014 - Updated 1535 PKT (The News)**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif took stock of the widespread devastation caused by the

recent floods besides the current political situation in the country.

### **Rs 25000 Eidee to each flood-affected family**

The Federal Cabinet decided to distribute Rs 25000 as Eidee among each of the 600,000 flood-affected families before Eidul Azha.

The Punjab Revenue Department also gave a briefing to the Premier over losses caused by the floods.

During the briefing it was informed that the initial estimates show that more than 600,000 families were affected by the floods across Punjab while efforts for their rescue and relief were made day and night by Pak Army, rescue services and provincial administration.

### **Ban on employment lifted**

The Cabinet decided to lift the ban on employment and to give legal protection to the right of labourers to get the minimum salary of Rs 12,000.

### **Adjustment for inflated electricity bills**

The meeting also decided to compensate the electricity consumers against the over-billing through adjustment in the upcoming bills and to initiate action against the officials responsible for the issuance of inflated bills.

The meeting was also apprised about the demand and supply gap of electricity and steps being taken to improve the situation.

### **PM upcoming visit to US**

On the occasion, the Prime Minister took the cabinet members into confidence over his upcoming visit to US and participation in United Nations General Assembly meeting.

## Monday, September 22, 2014 (The News)

### **Flood-hit people being vaccinated against epidemic**

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister on Health Khawaja Salman Rafique has said that the recent heavy floods badly affected 269 union councils of 18 districts, where 274 mobile medical teams were administering vaccination to women and children against seasonal and epidemic diseases.

He said so far 118,129 children had been vaccinated against measles whereas 97,231 children had been administered anti-polio drops. The target had been fixed to vaccinate 144,991 children against measles while 169,156 would be given anti-polio drops till 30 September.

According to a handout issued here on Sunday, Salman Rafique said 261,079 flood victims had been treated by the health mobile teams and at medical relief camps set up in the flood-affected union councils. Moreover, on the direction of the chief minister, 30 teams of 11 medical colleges/teaching hospitals are conducting third party validation in 16 districts.

He said these special teams had been monitoring the EPI coverage and medical relief activities carried out by the health department teams. Every team has an ambulance for shifting serious patients to nearby health centre. He said provision of safe drinking water to the flood-hit people was a big challenge for which the health department had distributed 934,000 tablets for purifying the drinking water. These tablets were sufficient for nine million litres of water. He disclosed that the health department had a sufficient stock of Aquacura tablet. However, he said, UNICEF and WHO had been requested to provide additional two million tablets. Salman Rafique said 48,330 pregnant women had been vaccinated against tetanus. He said the chief minister was personally monitoring all relief and rehabilitation activities by paying hectic visits to the flood-affected areas.

September

## Monday, September 22, 2014 (The News)

### **NDMA initiates assessment of flood loss**

Islamabad: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has initiated work on the Multi Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) for the flood affected districts in collaboration with the UN system.

The assessment would be carried out in most of affected districts, including Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Chiniot, Jhang and Multan as identified by the PDMA Punjab, said a statement issued here Sunday.

The main purpose of the assessment is to identify damages to the community infrastructure, recovery needs and restoration requirements. The NDMA would coordinate and facilitate the PDMA in carrying out this assessment. The assessment report will be finalised jointly by NDMA and UNOCHA. The NDMA is regularly and constantly coordinating with all departments concerned to ensure timely precautionary evacuations and rescue and provision of relief to the rain and flood-affected people. The heavy water flow after passing through head Marala, Khanki, Qadirabad and Trimmu on River Chenab is now steadily heading towards the Punjnad Headworks.

The provincial, district and local civil administration are taking all necessary precautionary measures to ensure effective strategy to cope with eventuality which may arise with the entrance of flood discharge.

The NDMA teams are also in the field and coordinating with local administration in rescue and relief efforts to avert damage to life and property. Aerial monitoring of flood is also being carried out through army helicopters.

## Monday, September 22, 2014 (The News)

### **NDMA initiates work on flood loss assessment**

#### **Islamabad**

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## Monday, September 22, 2014 (The News)

### UN offers relief to flood-hit people

NEW YORK: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has expressed willingness to assist Pakistan in its efforts for the relief and rehabilitation of flood-hit people.

He conveyed this in a letter to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Ban Ki-moon lauded the efforts of the Pakistan government in providing relief to the flood-affected people across the country.

He also extended condolences to the prime minister and the people of Pakistan over the loss of life and property in the flood. Meanwhile, the Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that presently the river Indus

is flowing in low flood in the Guddu Sukkur reach while the other main rivers, including the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej, are normal.

According to the daily FFC report, the actual river flows and reservoir elevations indicate that the Tarbela and Mangla dams have attained their maximum conservation levels of 1,550 feet and 1,242 feet respectively. The combined live storage capacity of the Tarbela, Chashma and Mangla reservoirs is 14.079 MAF as compared to last year's 13.328 MAF.

According to the Flood Forecasting Division, Lahore, a seasonal low continues to prevail over northwestern Balochistan. As predicted by the Flood Forecasting Division Lahore, mainly dry weather is expected over most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. However, isolated thundershowers may occur over DG Khan, Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Malakand & Hazara divisions besides Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and upper catchments of rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej during the same period.

In Punjab, water is gradually receding in the flood-hit areas of the province and the flood-affected people have begun returning to their homes. This has been stated by Director General Punjab Disaster Management Authority Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi in Lahore. He said the government is providing relief to the flood-hit people with national spirit. He said medical facilities have been provided to 299,953 persons so far.

Ahmed Javed Qazi said a report regarding losses caused in flood-hit districts is being prepared so that the process of distributing financial assistance among affected could be initiated at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has directed the concerned departments to initiate rehabilitation work in the flood-hit areas at the earliest. In a statement in Lahore, the Punjab chief minister said he himself is monitoring the relief and rehabilitation work in the flood affected areas.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army sent a consignment of five trucks

containing 40 tons of relief goods for the flood-stricken people Sunday. The relief goods included ration, bedding, utensils, medicines and other essential commodities. According to ISPR, the army has set up 29 relief goods collection points in major cities, including three in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Authority has initiated work on assessment of losses in flood-affected districts in collaboration with the United Nations.

The assessment will be carried out in worst hit districts of Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Chiniot, Jhang and Multan as identified by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority Punjab.

The main purpose of the assessment is to identify damages to the infrastructure and rehabilitation of flood victims. The assessment report will be finalised jointly by NDMA and UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The electricity Transmission and Distribution network suffered considerable damage during the recent rains and floods across Punjab that resulted into outages and substantial loss in the affected areas. However, the Ministry of Water and Power remained in constant touch with the distribution companies where areas were affected and maintained coordination for quick restoration where the water receded.

Sources in the Ministry of Water and Power said the damage caused to grid stations/installation is still being assessed and the information received is preliminary and the distribution companies are working on compiling the data on daily basis. The total monetary loss suffered due to the damage done to the installations would be assessed once the distribution companies compile the entire damage data.

## Tuesday, September 23, 2014 (Dawn)

SIALKOT: The people displaced by the flooding in the River Chenab three weeks ago have returned to their villages only to see the fast



current of the river is eroding their farms along 20 Bajwat villages.

The farms being eaten up by or on the verge of the fast current of the river include Papeen, Khanu Bhau, Papeen, Saddarpura, Gangwal, Kaliyaal, Ghazipura, Kaliyaal, Khundo Chak, Belly, Tadyalla, Papeen and Wadgraan.

‘About three weeks ago, we faced devastating floods in the River Chenab and now we are in the face of erosion,’ said a villager from Papeen-Bajwat, saying the pace of the erosion was fast and it was a matter of time before Papeen became part of the river course.

Muhammad Shafi, alias Chief Sahib, and Sufi Ahmed Khan told Dawn 10,000 fertile acres had been eroded in Bajwat villages in the last few years. The Sialkot agricultural department also admitted the erosion in the last six years has eaten up more than 10,000 acres in bordering villages.

They demanded that Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif to announce early financial compensation for them.

Three years ago, they said, villagers had constructed three unpaved embankments near Bajwat to save their acres from erosion but they failed to withstand the faster flow of water in Chenab.

They said a good stock of stones was lying near Head Marala which the irrigation department should have provided for village embankments.

Sufi Ahmed Khan, Kissan Mazdoor Ittehad of Phookaliyaan president, said with the erosion of 10,000 acres in the six years, several local farmers had been deprived of their land and livelihood. He invited the chief minister to visit the villages and see the devastation which had made dozens of farmers landless and homeless. Progressive farmer Muhammad Suleman Ghuman said there was no strategy by any government to give financial compensation to these farmers.

The affected people alleged local politicians and the government did nothing to protect their source of livelihood.

Non-governmental body Community Development Concern Director Abdul Shakoor Mirza said low water level of the River Chenab had increased erosion.

## Tuesday, September 23, 2014 (The News)

### LAHORE

DIRECTOR General Provincial Disaster Management Authority Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi has said the supply of essential items to the flood affectees is continuing with the mutual cooperation of district administrations and PDMA. About 85600 tents, 230000 mineral water bottles, 384000 water purifying tablets, 180500 food hampers, 12400 flour bags, 430 life jackets, 10 water filtration plants and 9500 mosquito nets have been distributed among the flood-hit people.

Ahmed Javed Qazi further told the media that 77 large motor boats had also been provided to the administrations of different districts with the help of which 618072 marooned people had been shifted to the safer areas. He said the quality food was being provided to 52195 flood-hit people three times a day at 457 relief camps. He said the medical facilities had been provided to 372110 flood affectees while 16977959 cattle had been vaccinated. He said the instructions had been issued to administrations of all the flood-hit districts to accelerate the process of drainage of floodwater from low-lying areas so that calamity-stricken people could return their homes. He said the instructions had also been issued for the spray against the viral diseases in all the union councils of the province.

## Friday, September 26, 2014 (The News)

### Improved disaster reporting critical to flood mitigation

#### Islamabad

A well-prepared community could bring a new synergy in flood management activities. The time has also come now to change the perspective of disaster coverage; besides reporting on disasters, there

is need of reporting on the lines of disaster risk reduction (DRR) so the vulnerability and risk factor could be reduced.

This piece of advice was given by Dr. Tariq Mehmood, principal of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (SCEE), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), while speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day international workshop on 'Capacity-building of community elders and media towards flood vigilance and disaster reporting.' Organised by Unesco in partnership with NUST, the workshop aimed to strengthen the potential role of community elders and reporting on floods by the media.

The recent flood in Pakistan further increases the workshop's significance, building on Unesco's efforts to strengthen flood forecasting, early warning system and information dissemination through media to the local communities for reducing the human and socio-economic impacts of flooding. In collaboration with NUST, the workshop will help streamline the standard operating procedures for the media on disaster reporting.

Dr. Tariq acknowledged the support made available by Unesco, HEC, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and partner organizations in organizing the workshop. The workshop is providing an in-depth understanding of floods to transform the perspective of disaster and disaster risk reduction reporting and coverage through timely warning dissemination to an informed community through local media to minimize vulnerability and risk factors.

Speaking on behalf of Unesco, Zafar Hayat Malik explained that Unesco's flood warning and management capacity project helped in achieving better capacity to mitigate floods in the country and stressed the role of media in reaching local communities with timely warnings and alerts to minimize the human and property losses due to natural disasters, particularly floods. "Let's make the people of Pakistan safe from natural disasters and improve the social, economic, and ecological benefits of floods to foster safer human settlements near flood plains," he added. National and international experts from Indonesia, Pakistan Meteorological Department, Federal

Flood Commission, Flood Forecasting Division, National Disaster Management Authority and universities, attending the workshop, would be sharing their expertise and experiences to help strengthen flood early warning systems and disaster management capacity of key government institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

During the two-day workshop, training on the use of hand crank radios will be imparted to the participants. Unesco will be handing over 1,565 radio sets to NDMA for distribution in the local communities residing in the flood plains for receiving flood warnings and information during the monsoon season.

## Tuesday, September 30, 2014 (The News)

### **Pesa slams govt over poor flood management**

**RAWALPINDI:** The Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Association (Pesa), expressing the hope that the government would live up to its promises in assisting resettlement of the people affected by the floods, on Monday condemned the failure of the government departments in issuing timely warnings and properly managing the floodwater to minimise the loss of life and property.

In a meeting presided over by Pesa President Lt Gen (ret'd) Ali Kuli Khan and attended by Vice Admiral (ret'd) Ahmad Tasnim, Lt Gen (R) Naeem Akbar, Air Marshal (R) Masud Akhtar, Brig (R) Mian Mahmud, Brig (R) Arbi, Brig (R) Simon Sharaf, Col (R) Dalel Khan, Maj (R) Farouk Hamid Khan, Ahmad Anwar Ali, Muhammad Fazil, Brig (R) Masud ul Hassan expressed deep anguish and sorrow at the losses of flood victims.

While criticising the concerned departments, the Pesa members claimed that relief efforts also appeared to be in total disarray. Hilal-e-Ahmer (Red Crescent) should have been at the forefront of relief work and medical support but has not been seen anywhere. The biggest culprit is the department responsible for repair and maintenance of flood protection bunds. These bunds were made to withstand high floods but could not face the first wave of not very high floods. Lack of maintenance of these bunds became apparent when flood warning

was given to the Jhang city due to a weak bund. They questioned why that important bund was weak. The Pesa members strongly urged for a judicial enquiry to bring the guilty to book.

The Pesa noted that a document namely, Post-Election Review Report - General Elections 2013, dated December 9, 2013, has appeared on the website of Election Commission of Pakistan.

It is a draft report, prepared in December 2013 but due to unknown reasons, it was not finalised and released. There can be no doubt in its being authentic because all officers of the ECP, except the CEC, have contributed to the preparation of this report. It highlights some very serious flaws that put the entire election process in doubt, they noted. Scrutiny of candidates is the basic step towards ensuring fairness of elections.

The report clearly states that NAB, SBP, FBR and NADRA did not perform the verification effectively. In the absence of the required information from these organisations, the scrutiny of candidates under articles 62 and 63 was also carried out according to personal views of the Returning Officers.

The report belies news reports about the shortage of magnetic ink. It states that magnetic ink was there but the polling staff used ordinary inkpads on its own. The report points out many other irregularities that put the entire election process in doubt.

The Pesa members comprehensively discussed political environment in the country. They lauded the courage and perseverance of men, women and children facing all the discomforts and sitting at D-Chowk in the hope of change for the better. They are not alone in their struggle. One of the biggest gatherings in Karachi last week gave tremendous boost to their cause. A large gathering in Lahore will clearly show mood of the nation and how things are changing.

Report of the ECP also places doubts on fairness of the last elections. Members were, therefore, strongly of the view that status quo could not continue any longer. The government must go for fresh elections

under Article 58 (1) of the Constitution. That will be a more democratic way for the ruling party to reassert its authority and prove its popularity to continue its rule, they opined.

It is being alleged that quite a number of government leaders are continuing to run and look after their private businesses also. Some are doing this in the name of their spouses. Such activity must stop and strict laws should be enacted to prevent conflict of interests with a view to ensuring unbiased governance, they suggested.

This month also marks completion of one year for providing free-of-cost armed security services to churches in Pakistan. All members highly appreciated and paid tribute to the selfless services being rendered by the owner and staff of these private security companies. They have set an example of the true spirit of Islam that enjoins security and safety of all faiths without distinction, the members asserted.

## Thursday, October 02, 2014 ( The News)

### 'Compensation for 50,000 flood-hit before Eid'

#### LAHORE

PROVINCIAL Minister for Excise and Taxation Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman has said the government is utilising all available resources for compensating the losses of flood affectees. In the first phase, financial assistance of 25000 rupees each is being given to 50000 such families before Eid whose houses have suffered damage up to 40 percent. In the second phase, from October 20, compensation for the losses of crops will be paid and a transparent survey has been conducted for this purpose. He said the payment of compensation would be made through Nadra and The Bank of Punjab.

The minister was talking to the media during his visit to facilitation centres for the flood affectees at Ferozewala and Muridke, according to a handout issued on Wednesday. He also inspected the counters of Nadra and The Bank of Punjab.

Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman told the media that a transparent system had been evolved for the payment of financial assistance to the flood-hit people. He said the process of payment of first installment of relief assistance under the package of billions of rupees announced for the flood-hit people had been started and 78 centres had been established in the affected districts. He said that necessary facilities were being provided to the flood affectees at these centres while a control room had also been established at the provincial level for supervising the process of distribution of relief assistance. Secretary Agriculture Punjab Ali Tahir Zaidi, Senior Member Board of Revenue Nadeem Asharf, DCO Ali Jan Khan, Additional District Collector Syeda Kalsoom Hai, Assistant Commissioners Maleeha Rasheed, Sundas Irshad, Sub-Registrar Ferozewala Maqbool Ahmed Ijaz and EDO Agriculture Ch. Abdul Gafoor were also present.

October

## Thursday, October 02, 2014 ( The News)

### LAHORE

On the instructions of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, distribution of financial assistance among flood affectees has started.

On the first day, Rs 34.61 crore was distributed among 13,845 flood affectees which is a record. The CM personally visited five districts and supervised the payment of financial assistance to the flood affectees. According to the spokesman of PDMA, Rs 25,000 each have been distributed among 13,845 flood affected families without any discrimination as first installment. Timely payment of relief assistance to flood affectees in accordance with the announcement of the CM in a record short period is marvellous achievement of the Punjab government, he added.

notice: Shahbaz Sharif has taken notice of attack on anti-polio team in Khanpur, Rahim Yar Khan and sought a report from DPO.

He issued instructions for immediate arrest of the elements involved in the attack and action against them under the law. He directed that injured workers be provided best treatment facilities in the hospital.

CONDOLENCE: Shahbaz Sharif has expressed grief over the death of the mother of former President Farooq Leghari.

In a condolence message, the Chief Minister prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and strength to the members of bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has expressed grief over the deaths of a woman and two children in a fire incident in Muzaffargarh.

He issued instructions for the investigation into the matter and also sought a report. The Chief Minister directed that the best treatment facilities be provided to injured children in the hospital. He also sympathised with the families of deceased children

## Friday, October 03, 2014 ( The News)

### **Relief items despatched for IDPs, flood affectees**

A consignment of 20 truckloads of 274.358 tons of relief items was despatched, on Thursday, for internally displaced persons of North Waziristan and flood affectees, from Army Relief Camp set up at Fortress Stadium Lahore.

The Lahore Garrison has so far contributed 1,270.6 tons of relief goods, while cash donation of Rs 145.16 million has been collected since the establishment of relief camps.

The consignment dispatched Thursday included 96,516 kg atta, 9,040 kg rice, 6,709 kg sugar, 4,019 kg ghee, 6,896 kg pulses, 113,240 kg mix ration, 4,551 packs of medicines, 12,090 litre water and 5,634 tents.

A welfare organisation has also donated 57 goats for the forthcoming Eid.



The students of Lahore Garrison Education System donated 150 family packs and cash donation of Rs 1.2 million. Army has established 11 relief camps in Lahore and surrounding areas for the IDPs during the ongoing Operation Zarb-e-Azb against militants in North Waziristan and flood-affected people of the country.

October

## Editorials / Articles

## Trail of Tragedy - 5

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Chronology of Disaster in Pakistan 2014

## Friday, September 12, 2014 (Express Tribune)

The tragic collapse of the roof of a mosque in the Daroghawala area of Lahore on September 10 has taken the lives of at least 24 and injured another nine. The DCO Lahore has said that there are no more dead to be found under the rubble, and Pakistan adds yet another incident in which suspect construction standards lead to fatal accidents. The mosque was built in a congested area, with narrow lanes and encroachments making it difficult for rescue services to get to the scene. Although it is too early to say it is possible, as in with many other structures in recent days, that torrential monsoon rains had weakened it. Coupled with possible sub-standard building materials and methods this adds up to a recipe for disaster.

There is a national epidemic of building collapses. Many of them fail to make the headlines and it is only when there are large numbers of casualties that they gain any prominence. The numbers of collapses are certain to grow as badly made buildings thirty or forty years old (but some much younger than that) reach the end of their structural integrity and simply fall down. There is little or no oversight, such building regulations as there are, are imperfectly enforced if at all and widely flouted. Additional storeys are built atop approved structures, stressing the floors below beyond their designed load-bearing capacity. New structures are erected in areas — such as the one in which the Daroghawala mosque was situated — that are completely unsuitable and present a danger not just to those who use the unsafe buildings, but to anybody who happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time when they cave in. Memories tend to be short — a factory collapsed in Lahore in 2012 killing 16 women and four children. Poor construction blamed. The Margalla Towers apartment tower fell in the 2005 earthquake killing 78. Again faulty construction was to blame. There will be more. President Mamnoon expressed his condolences; he would have done better to call for better standards of building nationally.

## Sunday, September 21, 2014 (Express Tribune)

If Pakistan were to be assessed by an educational psychologist he or she may conclude that as a nation it was a slow learner. 'Slow learner' describes students that have the ability to learn, but do so at a rate and depth that is below the average of their peers of the same age. They need more time, frequent repetition and more resources from their teachers to be successful. Their reasoning skills are delayed making new concepts difficult to grasp, and they may have an impairment of perceptions of self worth, as well as presenting behaviours that are 'acting out' and a form of denial. There is also a tendency to repeat the same mistakes, and the floods of 2014 and the collective response to them at the federal and provincial level conforms broadly to the slow learner model outlined above.

Over the last five years Pakistan has suffered a succession of weather events which in and of themselves were not necessarily 'extreme', but which for a complex nexus of reasons had extreme consequences. All are associated with an annual event — the monsoon — and all involved large bodies of water moving down the Indus River system in both India and Pakistan. All have produced catastrophic floods whose effects are now cumulative, with ample empirical evidence that communities are taking longer to recover each time they are inundated, poverty indicators rise as does food insecurity, and homes destroyed are not replaced on a 'build back better' basis where they are replaced at all. The cycle of flooding is not going to abate and is going to continue year-on-year, and in all likelihood worsen as the effects of global warming begin to massively affect the countries of the subcontinent.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), based in Islamabad, has recently looked in detail at events that occurred in the floods of 2010. Officials both federal and provincial opined that 'poor planning' lay behind much of the dysfunctionality and bad decision-making which magnified rather than mitigated the effects of the flood. There was insufficient temporary shelter with families waiting days

under open skies before getting any relief. When the IDPs eventually returned to their homes or what was left of them and approached local NGOs and government departments, they found there was minimal coordination between the public and private sectors with the consequence that many fell through the gaps in service provision. Humanitarian services in some places were 'influenced' by major landowners, causing some NGOs to decide to withdraw. Disaster management committees that had Plan A and a backup Plan B, found themselves undercut when 'higher authorities' imposed Plan C — for which they were unprepared.

Despite the floods Pakistan is rapidly becoming a water-poor nation, and responses to both flooding and water management generally tend to be reactionary and tokenistic, driven by short-term political expediency rather than the joined-up thinking so desperately needed. The dams that should have been built were not; the ones that were built are poorly maintained. The challenges presented by climate change are cross-generational and transcend cycles of electoral governance. Slow-learning Pakistan is going to be repeatedly struck by disasters that are essentially the same every time, only varying in magnitude.

Earthquakes are unpredictable, the monsoon and its effects entirely predictable and with considerable accuracy, and the response to them can and should be better than it is. Services such as Rescue 1122 which is now well established in Punjab need to be rolled out and appropriately equipped and trained nationally. The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in response to the 2010 floods issued in 2013 a National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy that details how to respond to future extreme events by reducing the risks associated with them, and is an excellent building block in what needs to be a much larger planning and implementation process. Slow learners do — eventually — learn, but it can be a painful process for all concerned.

## Thursday, September 18, 2014 (Dawn)

AS reports pour in of the havoc wrought by this season's flood of lives lost, property washed away, livestock drowned, crops damaged and infrastructure destroyed -unbearable is the feeling that this is less due to nature's wrath than human folly. Much of the misery caused to the people could have been avoided.

This despite the fact that some significant steps have been taken over the past few decades to improve the country's disaster management capacity. Gone are the days when disasters were addressed by a tiny desk in the Cabinet Division and all that was required was waiving of land revenue/irrigation charges for the affected farmers.

Now we have disaster management authorities at the centre and in the provinces. The defence forces, the army in particular, are still largely responsible for rescuing the marooned people. But one notices that Rescue 1122 is also quite active to the extent its resources permit though one misses the civil defence and municipal rescue services that used to be active up to the 1960s.

Yet all the departmental expansion and claims to modernisation of disaster management notwithstanding, Pakistan has suffered far greater losses than an efficient husbanding of resources would have permitted.

The authorities have an excuse to hide their incompetence that the onrush of raging waters was unexpected. The meteorologists maintain they had given clear warnings. Even in the absence of warnings, nobody who had seen the floods of 2010 and 2011 could have bought such fiction. After what has been done over decades to block the natural water courses and ancient drains across the land, especially in Punjab, heavy precipitation in the catchments areas, even in the northern parts of the country alone, will cause large-scale flooding.

Nor can anyone underestimate the growth in the size of losses floods are likely to cause. There was a time when farmers, particularly in barani areas, welcomed the annual flooding. The swollen rivers

deposited alluvial soil on their barren lands and they could harvest a bumper rabi crop. In those days, farmers lived at a distance from riverbeds and built their mud houses on raised ground.

Now agriculturists have moved closer to the riverbeds, indeed into the riverbeds, and are directly in the path of floodwaters. Likewise, rural people have acquired possessions more valuable than what they had 50 years ago. The device of breaching canal/river embankments to save urban property by accepting the smaller cost to rural communities can no longer be accepted, for the villages are now competing with suburban settlements, if not cities themselves.

Ever since Pakistan's rivers began to dry up nobody has talked of dredging their beds. The term is mentioned neither in official plans nor in media reports. No responsible authority that would wish to utilise as much land for productive use as possible will ignore the need to dredge riverbeds and reduce their width, and regulate the flow of water through deeper beds and between firm embankments.

While dredging has been ignored, riverbeds have risen to the level of adjacent fields and the smallest increase causes water to spread over large tracts.

And embankments have provided some of the juiciest stories of corruption. It was after more earth had been collected for Mahmood Booti Bund than was needed to bury the whole city of Lahore under yards of mud that Lahore had its pukka embankment. Elsewhere, embankments look good only until they are tested by furious waters.

While we have ignored the dangers of floods the world has been moving towards a phase of severe climate change. The entire humankind has been talking for years of changes in rain cycles, melting of polar ice, increase in atmospheric temperatures and rise in sea levels and the threat of large populations going under water. Pakistani policy makers and planners cannot be unaware of these apprehensions they never overlook the prospects of increase in foreign aid.

Everybody is too busy rescuing marooned communities and extending



them relief to notice that no plan is in place to benefit from the large volume of water that is flowing down to the sea. Off and on there has been talk of building storage tanks so that excess rain/floodwater could be used for irrigation in periods of drought.

A serious plan to store floodwater in natural reservoirs along the Indus was made in early 1970s.

The idea was to store floodwater over large fields during summer, release it into rivers in winter and sow crops in the reservoir soil. Once a reservoir got silted up another reservoir could be built further downstream.

The scheme was killed by blind politicians. This may not have been the brightest of plans but the way is clear for the country's civil engineers and hydraulic experts to plan small dams and storage tanks to tame the floodwaters that now only cause death and destruction and harness them for increase in economic prosperity.

What all this means is that there is more to water management in Pakistan than inter-provincial squabbles over water theft and diversion or blocking of water courses. A scientific water conservation and utilisation policy has long been overdue.

That should solve a good part of the problem posed by perennial floods, which are now likely to be more frequent phenomena than in the past.

The other part of the problem, disaster management, also requires a well-thought-out master plan.

The task is important enough to demand the creation of separate ministries at both the federal and provincial level. An early warning system should be developed by linking the meteorological organisation to local relay services.

Local governments can do flood management and relief better than provincial governments and this is another argument for their immediate revival.

Once the mission to save people from the fury of floods is taken up earnestly many people might come forward to join the search for solutions.

All disasters can be managed except for the disaster that an incompetent and insensitive authority always is.

## September 21, 2014

### **To dam or not to dam? Pakistan experts ponder flood strategy**

ISLAMABAD: Energy-starved Pakistan relies on a multitude of dams and barrages to prevent Himalayan rivers from flooding and help meet its power needs, but their failure to prevent disaster four years running is making some experts question their utility.

Every year since 2010, which saw the worst floods in Pakistan's history, the country has experienced catastrophic inundations that kill hundreds and wipe out millions of acres of prime farmland, harming the heavily agrarian economy.

Starting when the country was still a part of British-ruled India, engineers embarked upon ambitious projects to harness the water that flows from Kashmir through the length of the country to the Arabian Sea.

Today Pakistan is home to the biggest earth-filled dam in the world at Tarbela, just north of Islamabad, and more than 150 others classed as "large".

With more than 30 per cent of its power coming from hydro-electric sources, such structures are also crucial to help alleviate a chronic energy crisis which has put a brake on industrial productivity.

But a campaign for non-structural measures to contain flooding is gradually gaining ground — with proponents arguing that man-made interventions can, counter-intuitively, exacerbate the floods.

There are two major arguments — the build up of sediment in a dam shortens its useful lifespan, while the slowing of rivers due to structures mean that silt accumulates, decreasing their capacity.

Kaisar Bengali, a career technocrat who advises the chief minister of Balochistan province, said: “Dams create floods, dams don’t prevent floods.

“When the floods occur, if you have a storage area you can store the water in that area. Dams have a reservoir so they create a lake. Barrages divert the water into canals. They don’t have a reservoir.

“But they don’t just block water, they block silt as well and as a result the river bed rises. So in 2010 the water that passed through the Indus was less than in 1976 yet it created more flooding because the river had risen 6-7 feet.”

A 2000 research paper commissioned by conservation group WWF that looked at various countries warned of similar consequences and further noted the drainage of wetlands as well as deforestation associated with dams led to a loss of natural sponges.

Decisions on whether to release water are also subject to opposing concerns — dam managers may seek to keep reservoirs full for energy generation, whereas an early release could lessen flood impacts.

Mushtaq Gaadi, a water activist and academic at Islamabad’s Quaid-e-Azam university, noted that some of this year’s worst flooding occurred in the Chenab river, where a key structure has lost significant discharge capacity due to the build-up of sediment.

“The most important and critical infrastructure at Chenab is Trimmu (barrage) which was constructed during the British era.

“Its discharge capacity has been drastically reduced. It was not capable of discharging more than 600,000 cusecs. Mainly due to the rising of the river bed level,” due to silting.

### **False sense of security**

Dams and barrages are difficult and expensive to de-silt and maintain, forcing Pakistan to turn to help from multilateral lending agencies such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

With the World Bank's aid, Pakistan completed its renovation of the Taunsa barrage in central Punjab province in early 2010 at a cost of \$144 million — only to see an embankment upstream of the structure catastrophically fail when the floods came in August.

This year, Pakistan was again forced to blow up protective dykes to divert flood waters away from cities to less-densely populated areas — which Gaadi said was another sign of a failing strategy.

Beyond their disposition to fail, dams are also responsible for luring people into harm's way by creating a false sense of security in areas that are naturally fertile flood zones. Many of 2014's almost 300 deaths could have been prevented had villagers not been living in such areas, said Gaadi.

Despite the noted shortcomings, the government believes that more, not fewer dams are the solution, and has vowed to press ahead with new projects — such as the Diamer-Bhasha Dam in northern Gilgit Baltistan, projected to cost some \$14 billion.

Shafiq-ur-Rehman, an environmental sciences professor at the University of Peshawar, said it showed a lack of long-term planning.

“First we build dykes and spend millions of rupees on them and then we blow them up and drown people to save cities or other areas,” he said.

Morning of September 6, 2014 was nightmarish for Hasham Tariq, a resident of village Karamabad, situated near Wazirabad on the bank of Nullah Palkhu. Three days of continuous rain brought down the roof of his old house.

Suspecting danger, he, along with his wife and two children, had moved to a relative's house the night before.

But, the evening proved to be even more nightmarish for Tariq, as the bulging Palkhu flooded the area surrounding it — inundating his house with no less than five feet of water.

Floods have affected almost all of central Punjab and are now heading south. The floods have hit the people of central Punjab, who experienced a medium scale flood last year, more intensely this time.

According to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the death toll has already reached 200 and 400 at least people have been injured. Out of 36 districts in Punjab, 25 have been affected. Approximately, 2,115 villages and more than 6,000 houses have been submerged. Crops on 800,000 acres have been ruined by water with a large number of cattle swept away.

Among the most affected areas are Gujranwala, Sialkot, Wazirabad and Hafizabad. Head Marala faced the largest water magnitude of about 900,000 cusecs. Nullahs linked with the head Marala were over flooded and the water swept everything in its way.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir have faced record disaster, unprecedented in the last 20 years, with 64 people dead, 109 injured and 30,034 affected in 10 districts.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, 14 deaths have been reported.

The floodwater in Chenab has hit southern Punjab and there is exceptionally high flood level, above 600,000 cusecs, at Head Trimmu with a likely peak discharge of 800,000 cusecs, according to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Districts Multan, Muzaffargarh, Khanewal, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh are under severe threat. Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast that River Indus at Guddu and Sukkar is likely to attain a very high flood level, ranging between 600,000 to 700,000 cusecs on September 15 to 16. If this condition persists, districts Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Ghotki and Sukkur will be inundated.

Media reports suggest that early warnings could have averted this disaster. And, NDMA officials defend their lack of preparedness by saying that the PMD had forecast 23 per cent below normal rainfall in September but it rained much more than normal, up to 400 mm in some areas.

However, Chief Meteorologist Flood Forecast Division, Muhammad Riaz says the concerned departments were warned well in time, adding that the warning can be given about 6-24 hours before the danger. “We worked hard to warn the concerned departments well before time. The largest magnitude of 900,000 cusecs passed through Marala on September 7, and we issued the warning on September 3,” adds Riaz.

He says the overall rainfall recorded so far is 23 per cent below average. It poured abnormally in areas like Lahore, Gujranwala and Rawalpindi. But, the current flooding is not due to excessive rains in these areas, he explains, adding, “The flood water came from India and, despite our efficient met system, we could not predict the magnitude of floods,” regrets Riaz.

Experts are of the view that the water management system of Pakistan is incapable of coping with such huge disasters. Urbanisation along waterways has worsened the situation. According to an estimate, the damage caused by the 2010 floods was five times the total budget of Pakistan.

### **Flood on the peaks**

## **Ershad Mahmud September 14, 2014**

The catastrophe in AJK once again underlines the need to conceive a cross-LOC joint mechanism

Disaster knows no boundaries. Like other parts of Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has been through unprecedented devastation by the recent flood.

River Jhelum witnessed the highest ever rise in water level, at some points it reached 25 metres. It runs through Srinagar city, flows through the peaks of AJK and finally drains into the plains of Punjab.

It is reported the Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir faced the worst flood in the last six decades.

Several districts and major towns of AJK were cut off for many days. The flood has hit districts Haveli and Sudhnati hard. According to Muhammad Akram Sohail, Secretary to State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) death toll is 64 so far. Nearly 27,700 people and 120 villages have been affected.

Initial estimate shows that flood damages would be more than Rs 7 billion. Roads, schools and even small hydel-power projects and bridges were razed to the ground. The only road connecting Muzaffarabad to Srinagar came under water at certain places, disrupting traffic cross the LoC.

Azad Kashmir witnessed a shattering earthquake in 2005 wherein nearly 47,000 people died. Life for inhabitants of Muzaffarabad and Bagh has only recently returned to normal.

A small number of people are still struggling to cope with the loss separation of their loved ones. School buildings are still incomplete and children have to study in open sky in harsh weather.

Nine years on, over 200,000 children are studying either in temporary shelters or tents. Large funds provided by the international donor agencies were either misused or diverted to other projects. It has created huge trust deficit between citizens and state.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif rushed to Rawalakot to show solidarity with people of Azad Kashmir.

To the utter surprise of flood-affected people, authorities could not resist to exhibit pompous VIP culture even during the peak of disaster. Locals bluntly told the prime minister that little help came from administration in their trying time. Common people complained that

when they were battling for survival, authorities were nowhere.

It was brought to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's notice that not only Prime Minister Chaudhary Abdul Majeed but also his cabinet colleagues spend most of their time in Islamabad or their respective constituencies.

Following the footsteps of elected leadership, bureaucrats have also shifted their families to Islamabad/Rawalpindi where, unlike AJK, better educational opportunities and healthcare is available. The capital of AJK-Muzaffarabad, remains a deserted city all the year round. In the absence of elected leadership, administration also remains inaccessible to a great extent.

State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) was established in 1996 to handle natural calamities but till now it neither has financial nor human resources to encounter these enormous tasks.

It is a known fact that Kashmir across the Line of Control and Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot are one of the most seismic prone regions. Besides, the region frequently witnesses floods, landslides, cloudbursts and avalanches — but there is little advance preparation to protect citizens from these challenges.

Pakistan Army is at the forefront to provide relief and rescue to the people trapped in the flood and landslides.

Some of the Islamic charity organisations such as Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) subsidiary of the Jamat-ud-Dawa Pakistan and Al-Khidmat Foundation, the charity wing of Jamaat-e-Islami are actively involved in the rescue and rehabilitation operations.

The post-2005 earthquake relief activities paved the way for the national and international non-governmental organisations to make inroads in AJK, which was previously largely a no-go area for the international donors. Fifty two international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) spent a large amount of resources and time in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of AJK.

A number of local organisations came into being and partnered with



the international organisations in the sphere of service delivery, relief and reconstruction.

However, bureaucracy quickly made it almost impossible for international organisations to work in the area. Cumbersome procedures were put in place to discourage INGOs to visit AJK let alone supporting the local community organisations.

All foreigner visitors have to obtain no objection certificate (NOC) from the federal Ministry of Interior which requires intelligence clearance. Even diplomats stationed in Islamabad are not able to get NOC on short notice.

Eventually, AJK got off from the donor agencies priority list. In 2010, flood donor agencies provided huge financial and infrastructural support to people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Punjab and Sindh but AJK largely remained deprived due to undue travel restrictions.

This natural calamity on both sides of the Line of Control once again brought India and Pakistan close to each other when their relations were at the lowest ebb.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered Pakistan help for the rain-affected people of AJK. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif while reciprocating the offer said that his country was ready to help the people affected by rains in Indian held Kashmir in “whatever manner was required”.

Though these offers were symbolic, they have huge value in the context of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly annual session this month where chances of both prime ministers meeting was quite blurry — due to the recent bickering between Islamabad and New Delhi.

It is common perception in AJK that had authorities on the AJK side of the LoC informed before opening the floodgates in Indian administered J&K, it might have lessened the damage.

The current calamity once again underlines the urgent need to conceive a cross-LoC joint mechanism to mitigate the suffering of people in case of natural calamities.

### **When rain breaks loose**

## **Haroon Akram Gill September 14, 2014**

Floods in the country have left hundreds dead and are forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes

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Experts are of the view that the water management system of Pakistan is incapable of coping with such huge disasters. Urbanisation along waterways has worsened the situation. According to an estimate, the damage caused by the 2010 floods was five times the total budget of Pakistan.

### **Ministry and policy**

Pakistan is among the top three countries most vulnerable to climate change. Although the US, China, Canada, India, Argentine, Philippine and other parts of the world face heavy rainfall, flooding and storms, still, due to their resources and better planning, the damage is lesser and the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction is speedy.

Pakistan launched its first National Climate Change Policy in 2013, but unfortunately, it has remained unimplemented. Also, till 2013, there existed a Climate Change Ministry, which has been demoted to the status of a division in the federal cabinet, and its budget has been cut by 60 per cent.

Experts believe that the National Climate Change policy is comprehensive. It recommends additional water storages on main rivers to store floodwater. Also, it states, that by enhancing the capacity of large dams, damages caused by the floods may be avoided.

Experts agree that there is a dire need to restore the Climate Change Ministry and implement the National Climate Change policy.

Chairman Federal Flood Commission (FCC), Asjad Imtiaz, says almost Rs 900 million to 1 billion are allocated annually for water infrastructure development. This amount is for all five provinces, tribal areas and all rivers of the country.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan is among the top three countries most vulnerable to climate change-related disasters and is in a cycle of extreme weather events for the last four years. Therefore, the allocation of funds for water infrastructure is quite insignificant. "Provinces are responsible for water infrastructure. They spot their

vulnerable areas and we evaluate their demands technically and recommend the doable projects,” says Imtiaz.

The finance department releases the funds to the provinces directly, and “FCC is not concerned with the funding,” he adds.

Imtiaz says building small dams on Chenab may help the country avoid huge disasters — besides, “an integrated National Flood Protection Plan for the next 10 years is being prepared in consultation with Nespak. The plan will be presented to the government this year for approval”.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited the flood-affected areas to review the ground situation and show solidarity with people.

Pakistan Army, civil administration and NGOs are carrying out relief and rescue operations through 360 relief camps set up in different areas. Army helicopters are dropping food packs and moving the stranded people to safer places in boats and helicopters.

The heavy monsoon rains mainly cause floods in Pakistan during monsoons, from July to September. Officially, the flood season extends a little further to cater for any possible exceptions and covers the period from June 15 to October 15.

Pakistan stores only 10 per cent of the surface waterflow, whereas the worldwide ratio is 25-40 per cent. India saves 38 per cent of its surface waterflow.

Pakistan stores 65 per cent of water in three months between July and October, while the remaining 35 per cent is gathered in rest of the nine months. We can have small dams on the rivers so that we may be able to store the over-flooded amount of water that ruins our crops, submerges our villages and neighborhoods and sets our economy back.

One positive outcome of this disaster is that Mangla Dam has reached its full capacity for the first time in history which will not only help overcome the power shortage but will also have sufficient water for irrigation and other purposes.

## The News, September 21, 2014

### **“How dams aggravate floods- by Naseer Memon”**

South Asia has seen many natural disasters and human tragedies. Population bulge, poverty, climate change, and poor governance are major contributing factors that exacerbate impact of natural disasters in this region.

According to a report of the Asian Development Bank, Asia has braced more than 1200 disasters during the last 100 years.

South Asia, particularly, has faced most of these disasters. Monsoon in the southwest region in summer and monsoon in the northwest in winter often unleash devastating floods in the region.

Floods affect millions of people every year. India also faces frequent wrath of these floods. Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Punjab, Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are some of the flood-prone states. Over 8 per cent of Indian area (approx. 40 million hectares) is prone to floods. Of the nearly 7,500 kilometres long coastline, approximately 5,700 kilometres is prone to cyclones.

Almost a quarter of the Indian population lives within 50 km of the coastal line. These areas and communities are vulnerable to cyclones and ensuing rain-floods. On an average, annually, 1,588 lives are lost and 7.5 million hectares of land is affected due to the floods.

Between 1953 and 2005 abrasive floods took 84,207 lives in India. The flood damages reported from 1953 to 2010 amount to a staggering Rs 8,125 billion.

India has been taking both structural and non-structural measures to reduce disaster risk. According to the Indian constitution, the primary responsibility for flood control lies with the states. A number of states have enacted relevant laws and have developed localised flood management plans.

Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 each district is supposed to have a disaster management plan and a district disaster management committee. Each state has a disaster management cell.

Major funding for the cell comes from the central government. Each cell is supposed to carry training in disaster management and prepare plans and documents. The National Disaster Management Authority, created in 2005 is responsible and authorised for overall policy framework and implementation of the policies and plans for disaster management along with management of funds for various initiatives.

Under structural measures, India has undertaken construction of reservoirs, detention basins, embankments, river channels, flood water diversion, and watershed management. It is generally believed that dams can prevent floods and reduce intensity of disasters.

After the US and China, India has the highest number of dams, yet disasters refuse to go away. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister encouraged dam construction as a symbol of modernisation and industrial development. India has constructed a total of 5,125 large dams and another 397 large dams were under construction till 2011.

These are multi-purpose dams and flood mitigation is only one of the objectives. However, some of the recent disasters have broken the myth and actually revealed that dams were the major cause of multiplying the impact of disaster.

There are numerous incidents of disasters triggered by dams in India. Panshet Dam, also called Tanajisagar Dam was constructed in late 1950s on the Ambi River, located about 50 km southwest of the city of Pune in western India. Panshet Dam failed in its first year on July 12,

1961, when the dam wall burst, causing massive flooding in Pune. An estimated 1,000 people died from the deluge.

On August 11, 1979, the four-kilometer long Machhu Dam-II on the Machhu River in Gujarat collapsed causing a gushing flood in the industrial city of Morbi situated five kilometres downstream and the surrounding. The flood perished thousands of homes and lives. It resulted in deaths estimated between 5,000 and 10,000.

A more recent incident of a dams-triggered flood happened in Uttarakhand on June 16-17, 2013. According to official reports, the floods killed about 6,000 people whereas survivors and researchers at the Wadia Institute for Himalayan Geology put the death toll at 30,000.

The losses, the cost of rebuilding of the roads and infrastructure were estimated at around Rs 210 billion. The Supreme Court of India took suo mottu notice of the havoc. An expert body was constituted on the court orders to investigate the cause of the disaster.

The committee blamed the series of dams constructed in the area as a reason for aggravating the disaster. The committee also recommended that at least 23 proposed hydropower projects should be dropped because hydropower projects played significant role in the Uttarakhand disaster and that there is an urgent need to improve the governance of hydropower projects.

The court ordered the ministry of environment and forest and Uttarakhand government not to provide any further clearances to any more hydropower projects anywhere in Uttarakhand.

There is a global counter-narrative against damming of rivers as a means to rein in recalcitrant floods.

Disaster risk reduction demands a cooperation mechanism among South Asian countries with shared river-basins. Disasters do not recognise geographic boundaries.



## Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

SPO is a leading rights-based civil society organization with its Citizens Voice and Accountability (CVA) initiative being implemented in over 75 districts of the country. SPO's focus mainly being on state and citizens engagement for strengthening democratic norms, systems and institutions to secure social justice and peace and harmony, and eradicate conflicts, poverty and gender-inequalities, works with over 3500 countrywide civil society entities comprising human rights, women, minority and youth activists, organizations and networks, mainstream political parties, labour organizations, trade unions, teachers and media associations, intelligentsia, and policy-makers at provincial and national levels.

Understanding the gravity of the emergency situations that target communities have to live in intermittently, SPO also deals with humanitarian emergencies resulting from natural and human-induced hazards such as the earthquakes, rain-fed floods and cyclones and internal displacement of communities triggered by conflicts.

UDHR and other international human rights covenants are central to SPO's program philosophy.

Currently, major components of SPO's CVA initiative are supported by BHC and DFID. SPO acknowledges other donors support as well.



**SPO**  
Strengthening  
Participatory  
Organization

اداره استحکام شرکتی ترقی

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