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## Trail of Tragedy-4

Chronology of Disaster in Pakistan 2012  
(25<sup>th</sup> August - 15<sup>th</sup> October)





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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 2012 has been compiled using the online archives of two major national newspapers: Dawn at [www.dawn.com](http://www.dawn.com) and The News at [www.thenews.com.pk](http://www.thenews.com.pk). 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 covered by the media from 25 August 2012 to 15 October 2012. 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. SPO acknowledges the contribution of compiler and Editor Nusrat Zehra and Roohi Gyaas who pains takingly traced the trail of disaster chronology.

## Background

Monsoon rains in 2012 resulted in flooding incidents across Pakistan. Populations in southern Punjab, northern Sindh, and eastern Balochistan were the worst affected. Heavy monsoon rains fell from 7 to 11 September and caused widespread losses to life, livelihoods and infrastructure.

The NDMA's latest situation report indicates 571 deaths, 2,902 injured, 4,849,841 people affected, 636,438 houses damaged or destroyed, and extensive losses sustained by crops, irrigation and road infrastructure.

The worst-affected districts include Dera Ghazi (DG) Khan and Rajanpur in Punjab; Jacobabad, Kashmore, Qambar Shahdadt, Ghotki and Dadu in Sindh; and Jaffarabad, Naseerabad and Jhal Magsi in Balochistan.

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.

Although Government of Pakistan did not launch the humanitarian appeal this year, NDMA stressed the needs of flood effectees, and asked UN Agencies and partners to distribute available stocks in WASH, Food, Shelter and Health in the worst affected areas including DG Khan, Rajanpur, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Jaffarabad and Naseerabad.

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**

25th August - 15th October





## August 25, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Govt responds promptly over Thar drought**

The Sindh chief minister declared Tharparkar a calamity-hit district last week with a promise to mitigate the sufferings of people and livestock by making available grain and fodder at subsidized rates.

The official machinery has come into action and Haleem Adil Shaikh, adviser to the chief minister on relief, briefing journalists at the Circuit House said that the scale of disaster was so huge that it was impossible for the government to tackle the situation alone, hence international relief agencies, NGOs, concerned departments and philanthropists should launch a collective drive for overcoming its impact.

Deputy Commissioner Makhdoom Shakil Zaman told the adviser that scanty rainfall this year has created food and water shortage thus forcing impoverished families to migrate to greener pastures. He called for making provision of essential commodities to such families.

The adviser immediately responded to the DC's request by seeking a list of required items and ordered arrangements for provision of fodder, water and treatment of livestock on roads from Nagarparkar to Mithi, Umerkot to Chhachhro, Diplo to Badin and Mithi to Naokot.

Earlier, he chaired a meeting with the officers of different departments, besides representatives of various NGOs and called for devising a strategy to cope with Thar drought.

He also asked for keeping functional the reverse osmosis plants of the Sindh Coal Authority for provision of water in relevant areas and availability of anti-snake venom in hospitals.

However, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority has described Thar's drought as a normal one. Besides, it is also being assumed that the underground water level can't stop as low to make it brackish keeping in view the last two years' rainfall.

August

## August 26, 2012 (DAWN)

### High flood forecast for Chenab

The Flood Forecasting Division forecast medium-to-high flood in the Chenab River at Marala during the next 24 hours because of heavy rains in its catchments.

Medium flood is expected in nullahs of rivers Chenab and Ravi in the Sialkot region and in Kabul, Swat, Kurram and Gambila rivers and their tributaries during that period.

There are strong indications of more rains in areas near the rivers over the next 48 hours because of a westerly wave and the monsoon current which is penetrating upper parts of the country up to 5,000 feet.

Meanwhile, it continued to rain in different cities in upper parts of the country and north and northeast Punjab. Downtown Lahore received 11mm of rain in the afternoon.

Low-lying areas were inundated and traffic was disrupted. The weather remained partly cloudy to cloudy throughout the day. Maximum temperature was recorded at 33.2 degree Celsius and the minimum at 27 degree. The Met office reported heavy rain in Islamabad – 83mm at the airport.

Sialkot Cantt received 54mm of rain, Islamabad Zero Point 46mm, Balakot 36mm, Sialkot airport 34mm, Muzaffarabad 27mm, Mandi Bahauddin 7mm, Saidu Sharif 6mm, Malamjabba and Jhelum 4mm each and Dir and Kotli 3mm each. Scattered to fairly widespread thunderstorm/rain with isolated heavy falls was expected over Kashmir, north and northeast Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the next 24 hours. There are also chances of scattered thunderstorm/rain over Gilgit-Baltistan, Faisalabad and Sargodha divisions, and isolated thunderstorm/rain over south Punjab and northeast Balochistan.

August

About 24 villages in tehsil Pasrur were inundated because of an overflowing Nullah Dek. People moved to safer places along with their cattle and other belongings.

Traffic on Daska-Pasrur and Pasrur-Zafarwal-Narowal roads remained suspended. There was a shortage of food items for the stranded people and fodder for the cattle in flood-hit villages. Rescue 1122 officials were busy in relief work and shifting people to safer places.

## August 27, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rain spell continues**

Heavy rain continued in different cities and towns of Punjab and upper parts of the country on Sunday, causing storm water channels to overflow in many areas.

The Chenab at Khanki and Qadirabad and river Kabul at Nowshera were in low flood.

Several villages around Sialkot were cut off from ten cities when Nullah Dek overflowed and submerged vast tracts of land.

The water level in Dera Ismail Khan has started receding but streams in Dera Ghazi Khan were in medium flood following heavy rain in Suleiman Range.

Violent currents of Soori Lound and Wador hill torrents inundated farmland in a large area in D.G. Khan. People in rural areas have left their homes and moved to other areas.

Floodwater was receding from villages in Sialkot and Pasrur and a relief operation continued.

Overflowing Chenab and Tavi rivers have inundated 11 villages in Bajwat and Nullah Dek has submerged 25 villages in Pasrur. Some people returned to their homes on Sunday after spending two days at other places.

DCO Zahid Saleem Gondal visited the flood-hit villages and said the situation was under control and all rivers and seasonal drains were flowing normally.

A breach occurred in the repaired embankment of Nullah Palkhu near Chitti Sheikhan and Kotli Loharaan villages in Sialkot tehsil.

It was the second breach at the same place in three days.

Five villages, including Chitti Sheikhan, Kapoorwali and Khansaarpur, were inundated and standing crops over hundreds of acres of land were damaged.

According to the Met Office, Mandi Bahauddin received 103mm rain, followed by Kotli with 42mm, Parachinar 25mm, Murree and Kakul 16mm, Jhelum 14mm, Mangla and Balakot 8mm, Islamabad Zero Point 6mm, Garhi Dupatta and Dera Ismail Khan 5mm, Lower Dir 3mm, Hunza, Bunji and Bhakkar 2mm and Mianwali, Gilgit, Sahiwal and Sargodha 1mm each.

The weather in Lahore remained partly cloudy. It was pleasant early in the day but turned muggy in afternoon.

## August 27, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Flood brought out the best in Sindh's people**

Speakers at a seminar on “Kot Aalimo breach and its repercussions” have said that although the floods of 2010 caused a havoc but it also provided an opportunity to rebuild lower Sindh.

They praised the courage, unity, responsibility, brotherhood and sympathy for each other demonstrated at that time.

The Deputy Commissioner of Thatta, Dr Hafeez Siyal, was the main speaker at the seminar which was organised by the Sindh Radiant Organisation at Makli.

The after-effects of the devastating floods and the Kot Aalimo breach were discussed in detail.

Dr Siyal said that out of 1.7 million people, over 800,000 were directly affected and displaced by floods. Over 400,000 internally displaced people had to be shifted to Makli.

With the assistance of over 100 international and local NGOs, he said, the administration had led and rebuilt the infrastructure.

He particularly mentioned the courage displayed by former Assistant Commissioner Captain (rtd) Anwar and his un-tiring services during the flood.

He remained in the town and kept looking after people's property despite being ill, the DC added.

He said that after the situation stabilised, the government machinery was made functional and reconstruction of roads was taken up.

So far 100,000 million affected people have obtained Watan Cards and Nadra has launched the process to deliver these cards to an equal number of people.

A representative of SRO said that World Food Programme had distributed food worth Rs1 billion. He said local and international NGO's had provided 15,000-20,000 houses to affected people of the district.

Farooq Ahmed said that over 300,000 acres had been inundated in Sujawal sub-division.

Mehboob Ali of "Hands" and Jamshed Jokhio said that flood affected people, who owned cattle distributed milk among others on the occasion of Eid.

A city of love and harmony was built at Makli hill, he added.

Marvi Zour said she would never forget the services rendered by

international donors who, despite security concerns, mixed with villagers and women in tattered clothes and bare-footed children.

Speakers were of the view that the people braved floods of 2010 with courage and spirit.

They thanked all those who had helped the displaced people during and after the devastation.

## August 28, 2012 (The News)

### **Drought: hundreds of families start migrating from Thar**

Hundreds of families from the arid zone of Thar have started migrating to safer canal-irrigated areas of Sindh with their only asset — cattle — as drought looms large over the Tharparkar district having a population over 1.5 million.

The current condition of drought, which many believe to be the worst in recent years, emerged due to insufficient rainfall. The weather forecast for the days to come gives no room for optimism.

The seriousness of the situation could well be gauged from the fact that even water from the wells has also become brackish. The monsoon ends by mid-September. Sensing the gravity of the situation in Thar, the Sindh Relief Department has already declared 161 dehs (95 percent of Tharparkar) as calamity affected.

The area people are still waiting for relief in the shape of subsidized wheat for them and fodder for their cattle. The adviser for relief work to the chief minister of Sindh, Haleem Adil Sheikh, during a visit to Tharparkar, termed the situation as worst in the last two decades and also warned that if necessary steps were not taken, a human tragedy might occur in the desert area because the government alone could not cope with the situation.

“We have asked the PDMA and the NDMA to help the famine victims. We have also told the federal government to contact the international

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community for assistance,” the adviser said. The district, spread over 19,639 square kilometers, is not connected with an irrigation system. It is solely dependent on monsoon rainfall for its farming needs.

Zaffar Iqbal Junejo, CEO of the Thar Rural Development Programme, an NGO, told The News that drought had been wreaking havoc and if concrete steps were not taken its consequences would appear by early next year when the peasants missed their yearly cultivation.

He suggested to the government to ensure price control on essential commodities in the area as the prices of basic items had already gone up by 30 percent. Junejo said availability of the staple diet like the wheat must be ensured.

“Prices of animals have fallen drastically as more and more people are bringing their animals for sale to satisfy their basic need of food,” he said. Krishan Sharma, an agricultural expert, said a normal season in Thar entailed receiving two to three spells of rainfall with an interval of three to four weeks during the monsoon.

“An amount of 200 to 300 millimeters of rain is required to turn the area arable by the end of July at the latest,” he said. According to the historical trend of droughts in Tharparkar district, the region was declared a drought-hit area in 1968, 1978, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005 and in 2007. The normal migration rate in time of mild drought is about 20 percent.

August

## August 29, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Umerkot receives rain**

A number of villages and towns in desert part of Umerkot received the first shower of monsoon for half an hour that turned weather pleasant.

Local people termed it fruitful for grass but not for cultivation.

Umerkot, Kunri, Nabisar, Pithoro, Ghulam Nabi Shah, Dhoronaro,



Chhor, Khokhrapar and other villages, including Sadhar, Chaonaro, Sajan Jo Par, Soomran Jo Par, Parchi Ji Veri and Bandho received rain shower with dust in the winds.

People said the rains would help grow fodder for livestock.

## August 29, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Thar is fear the worst if rains fail this year**

Population of Thar desert would wait for another fortnight or so in anticipation of monsoon rains. Then pace of migration would accelerate as people living in Thar fear that it might be a repeat of the drought witnessed in 1999-2000 when people died, many cattle head perished and arid region was hit by cases of tuberculosis.

Met record shows that 10mm rain was recorded in Mithi and 23mm in Chore from July 11 till now.

“Technically and normally monsoon season starts retreating in the first week of September from Pakistan and even from India. Then we can only expect post monsoon activity. Record shows floods coming in October but you know this is only rare and post monsoon rains are only a chance,” said a Pakistan Meteorological Department official from Lahore.

The met office earlier predicted 15 per cent above than average rainfall in this monsoon.

It was in 1999-2000 when inhabitants of Thar were hit by severe drought because of dry spells in the preceding years of the new millennium and that increased the severity of drought. But then people were ready for drought because there were no rains on the other side of border in Rajasthan state of India too.

This year residents have been expecting heavy rains in Sindh in view of super floods of 2010 and last year’s monsoon heavy rains and because of repeated forewarnings by the meteorological department that Sindh

would receive more rains than average downpour. So they opted for staying in their abodes. They either exhausted or sold reserved stocks of food. Until now reports indicate that that only 50 to 100 out of around 2,500 villages have received rains, leading to internal migration as well.

Migration, though on lesser scale, takes place in Thar that is considered seasonal migration. Thar's residents (daily-wage earners) usually leave for irrigated areas to work in fields in Rabi season and especially after Diwali celebrations. In wet year a family head or adult leave for barrage areas to work in fields or get associated in other chores like hotels, tailoring, etc. But when drought sets in entire families travel to barrage areas with livestock because they run out of fodder for cattle and grain for them.

"People along with their cows have shifted to these villages that received rains in search of fodder. But those having goat and sheep are in a state of wait-and-see and they will leave in September in case there is no rains," said an elderly NGO activist who is also working in a government hospital.

This time government declared Thar calamity-hit on time, otherwise it was not witnessed previously and according to a local journalist, Khatau Jani, those migrating from Thar will even travel up to areas as far as Kambar-Shahdadkot braving difficulties of journey.

"The population is under severe stress and it is just the beginning of drought. I am foreseeing a severe drought like that of 1999-2000 and only rains can only lessen their psychological pressure," he said and added that seasonal migration took place but not more than 10 per cent.

Drought would affect population socio-economically. Livestock sector would be hit badly. Cattle become prone to diseases for malnutrition. Their prices would drop which would be serious blow to village population ahead of Eidul Azha. Sheep and goat – being major source of livelihood – become vulnerable to these diseases due to severe malnutrition.

The road infrastructure, which was non-existent in 1999-2000, has been laid in some areas, although three-fourth of the villages are yet to be connected with road infrastructure in arid region. Roads like Chachhro-Umerkot, Diplo-Badin and Mithi-Naukot built over the years may lessen time of journey of migrating population.

“In last year’s rains people had shifted their cattle to Thar because of availability of fodder in Thar,” said Dr.Sono Khangrani of the Sindh Rural Support Programme (SRSP). He said that peacocks’ death was a strong indicator of impending drought but people did not take note of it.

“Peacocks died in 1999-2000 before the drought set in due to prolonged dry spell and this happens this year again, which is a major indicator of drought,” he recalled.

Main crops of Thar is guar and millet.

“They usually grow millet and guar which is cultivated on around one million acres in Thar as these are their main crops. Even if they don’t get the required yield, but it will still give them seed and fodder for their livestock,” said Abdul Majeed Nizamani, president of the Sindh Abadgar Board.

The very population which mostly belong to Kohli and Bheel communities usually migrates to barrage areas only after Dewali celebrations and for labour purposes ahead of sugarcane crop in winter and then wheat harvesting.

“I spoke to a number of Kohli women who came to hospitals and they told me that they are migrating right now, otherwise they usually leave the area after Diwali,” said the activist

## August 29, 2012 (The News)

### **Flood threat is over in many areas: NDMA chief**

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Dr. Zafar

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Qadir has said that though flood threat is over in many areas, yet western rivers including Sindh, Jhelum and Chenab are still under threat in case of rains or ice-melting.

While giving an exclusive interview to 'The News' he said that twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi are also under threat of local flash flood in case clouds burst, but all the departments are ready to face any situation.

The NDMA chairman said that now there is no threat of flood in eastern rivers but there is still chance of flood in Sindh, Jhelum and Chenab in case of rains in KP and AJK. He said PDMA are fully equipped and ready to face any worst situation and have faced flood in Nowshera and provided relief on time to the effectees.

He said that NDMA is in contact with all the PDMA to assist them but this time PDMA have learned from their past and are following the guidelines and making their own arrangements to provide relief activities in case of any worst situation.

Dr. Zafar Qadir said there is threat of local flash flood in case of cloud burst in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat and Faisalabad. "Areas along Nallah Leh would affect in case of flash flood but local administration is ready and in contact with Meteorological office and NDMA," he said and added that the government has released the budget for federal capital and in case of any worst situation we would use it for relief activities.

"This time not only the forecasts of Pakistan Metrological Department are proved wrong but forecasts of other countries are also bounced back because of climate change," he said.

Talking about the water level in dams, he said that water level has increased in dams because of rain but there is still some shortage in Rawal Dam and Khanpur Dam, which may create water shortage in twin cities in future.

He said that water supply to Islamabad city would be very difficult in future with the same sources and there is a need to make new

reservoirs. In this regard Planning Commission has been asked to make plan for the future supply of water to Islamabad.

He said unfortunately we don't have concept to recycle water not in houses and even in factories. He said we could reuse water in gardens and lawns after using it in kitchens. "There is need to create awareness about the importance of water among the public," he added.

## 31st August, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Heavy rain batters parts of Thatta**

Almost entire low-lying areas in and around Thatta town were submerged under knee-deep water as heavy rains with stormy wind lashed the district.

The strong winds flew away huts and tin-covered roof tops.

Rains brought a sigh of relief after a prolong spell of hot weather which had made life of people miserable amid frequent failure of electricity for the last couple of days.

Three motorcyclists received injuries when their bikes slipped near the bypass roundabout.

Many other towns of the district, including a major part of Kohistan, received showers.

Our Mirpurkhas Correspondent adds: The city and its adjoining areas received rains here on Thursday with thunder storm and decreased the temperature.

Sanitary staff of the defunct TMA cleared the main roads of the city till evening with hectic efforts.

Shops in different markets were closed while traffic was remained off the road during the rainfall.

Rainwater again accumulated on the main roads and streets of the city and submerged the low-lying areas.

## September 1, 2012 (The News)

### **Sindh says water shortage likely to end in a fortnight**

With the Himalayan glaciers melting and rainfall in Sindh, the water shortage in the province is likely to be over within 10 or 15 days, putting to rest concerns about an emerging crisis, a government official said on Friday.

“The water level is constantly improving in Tarbela Dam and it is expected that within the next 10 days, it will be filled to the maximum level,” Irrigation Secretary Babar Hussain Effendi told The News.

“The water level in another major reservoir, Mangla Dam, will not be filled to the maximum level. But it is expected to fill up to 38 feet, helping to reduce the shortage of irrigation water in the province, predicted between 30 and 50 percent, to around 10 percent.”

Effendi said the rainfall in the province, especially in the coastal areas, during the last few days had helped reduce the requirement of water. He also said the melting of the Himalayan glaciers had started, increasing the water flow in the rivers.

Agriculture Secretary Agha Jan Akhter told The News that Sindh had received water over a month late; adversely affecting the cultivation of paddy crop (Irri-6 variety). “Therefore, the provincial government is encouraging farmers to cultivate other types of paddy crops, which can be sown late.”

### **Looming crisis**

The meteorological and climate affairs office had warned about a water shortage crisis a few days ago.

In his communiqué to the provinces, Meteorological and Climate Affairs Adviser Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry had warned about the water level in the major reservoirs reducing to dangerous levels.

He had advised the provincial governments to take urgent steps to manage the situation, especially for the Kharif (winter) crops.

In his letter, he had warned that there was little likelihood of the country's reservoirs filling up to the required capacity.

He had noted that the maximum storage of Tarbela Dam was 6.73 million acre feet (MAF), while at present (August 15), the water level in the dam was 3.637 MAF, a mere 54 percent of its capacity.

In the case of Mangla Dam, it was stated that its maximum storage capacity was 7.392 MAF, but the water presently available in it was just 2.66 MAF, only 36 percent of its capacity.

It was pointed out that the Simly, Khanpur and Rawal dams were filled up to 24 feet, 10 feet and 28 feet, respectively, and the water level in three dams fell short by 58 feet, 28 feet and 16 feet.

Chaudhry had observed that the water level in most of the reservoirs was down by 50 to 70 percent, indicating a dangerous situation.

The meteorological and climate affairs adviser had predicted that some rains were expected in the remaining period of the monsoon season, but hardly any dramatic improvement expected in terms of water availability in the reservoirs.

"The present water levels in the reservoirs are at their lowest in the last several years. An alarming situation has resulted due to the abnormally low temperatures during April, May and part of June this year as well as the less rainfall during the current monsoon season."

### **Drinking water shortage**

It was predicted that the current reservoirs situation, coupled with the climate outlook and the depleting underground water levels, would not only cause an extreme water shortage of irrigation, particularly for the winter crops, but also cause a dearth of drinking water in some areas of the country.

The meteorological and climate affairs adviser had apprehended that the residents of Islamabad Capital Territory might experience an extreme water crisis in the coming months, further shifting their dependence on the already depleting underground water.

“This critical situation demands an extraordinary response at all levels of water management. Water management agencies in the country are, therefore, advised to further beef up their plans and strategies to deal with the emerging water crisis.”

The Sindh government had held a meeting on Thursday, during which the irrigation secretary had claimed that the water situation in the reservoirs had improved significantly and the water shortage crisis averted.

## September 1, 2012 (The News)

### **Minority flood victims get shelter homes**

Governor Sindh Dr Ishrat-ul-Ebad handed over ownership documents of shelter homes to 30 minorities’ families affected by recent floods, at a ceremony held at the Governor House.

These shelter homes have been constructed in Jhirk, District Thatta, by a missionary organization St. Elizabeth.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that the minorities enjoy full protection in the country as enshrined in the Constitution and they have been playing significant role in the development of Pakistan and Sindh province. Dr Ebad said that the recent reports of migration of Hindus from Sindh have been proved as wrong.

## September 2, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rs3.3bn development package for Umerkot**

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has announced Rs3.3 billion development package for the rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged



last year's heavy rains in Umerkot.

He made the announcement after chairing a meeting of his cabinet. Last year's rains damaged buildings, roads, water supply schemes and hospitals, he said.

He announced installation of two reverse osmosis water filtration plants in Kunri and Chhore to supply safe water to residents because the underground water has turned brackish in the area.

He said that he had written a letter to the prime minister asking him to distribute enemy property (left by Hindus during 1965 war) among local farmers.

He said the PPP provided jobs to the jobless youths directly or indirectly and helped develop their technical and vocational skills to enable them to earn a decent living.

He said that each MNA and MPA of Umerkot would be given development schemes worth Rs80 million and Rs40 million, respectively. Farmers would be provided small grants and allocation had been made for the development of irrigation system to improve production of crops and quality of drinking water. Growers would be given 15,000 tractors on subsidised rates.

Elected representatives, leaders of business community, minorities and notables urged the CM to declare 25 Dehs of desert part of Umerkot district as calamity-hit but he did not.

He did not answer a query about widening and repair of Umerkot-Mirpurkhas road whose tender had been invited four years ago.

Additional chief secretary of planning said that funds for Umerkot this year were four times more than previous allocations.

In ADP 2012, over Rs1700 million were allocated besides extra funds of Rs500 million for the development of the district and Rs1, 100 million for foreign funded development schemes this year.

Mirpurkhas correspondent adds: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has said that the Rs400 million development package announced for Mirpurkhas would be utilised for repairing and renovating only city's roads, drainage system, schools buildings and other development works.

He told this to delegations of Mirpurkhas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sindh Abadgar Board and Sindh Chamber of Agriculture after chairing a cabinet meeting.

## September 2, 2012 (DAWN)

### Light rain expected today

The Meteorological Department forecast chances of light rain in Karachi.

According to a Met office report, Mithi and Badin of lower Sindh got 20 millimetres (mm) and 1mm, rain respectively in the last 24 hours. There were reports of rain from Thando Muhammad Khan district, but there was no observatory to report the measurement of rainfall, he added.

The districts of upper Sindh, which includes Ghotki, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Sukkur, Khairpur and Nawabshah, could receive rain during the next 24 hours, he said.

## September 3, 2012 (DAWN)

### Breach in canal floods crop

Paddy crop over 200 acres in Goth Chatto came under water when a 30-foot breach developed in Shah Minor (canal) in RD-10 near Dad Leghari in Mirpur Mathelo.

The breach, which developed in morning kept widening and damaged the crop.

Talking to reporters, affected growers said they immediately informed officials of the irrigation department but no one turned up to plug the breach. It was plugged by people after eight hours of struggle, they added.

They demanded compensation for the losses caused by the breach.

SDO Sachal Naich said a team of engineers had been sent to the site but it could not reach there as the area was flooded.

## September 3, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Sindh seeks federal help to cope with drought in Thar**

Federal Minister for Climate Change Rana Farooq Saeed Khan was informed on that the provincial government needed funds to solve problems being faced by the people owing to a drought in certain parts of the province.

During a meeting at the residence of Haleem Adil Shaikh, adviser to the Sindh chief minister on relief, he was briefed about the situation and offered federal assistance in tackling it.

Later, speaking to the media Mr Khan said that the federal authorities after knowing about a drought-like situation prevailing in Tharparkar felt the need to extend cooperation to the provincial government in this regard.

“After knowing about the situation, we were more inclined to talk to the Sindh government so that we can find out what is needed in the drought-hit district,” he said.

He said he discussed the issues with Mr Shaikh and other provincial ministers, adding that the federal and provincial authorities agreed to join hands and provide relief to the drought-affected communities of Tharparkar.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) chairman Zafar Iqbal

Qadir, who was also present at the meeting, told the media that the government would ensure a better coordination among government agencies, humanitarian organisations and philanthropists to provide assistance to the affected people.

The ministers and the NDMA chairman also told the media that the federal and provincial authorities while planning relief and rescue operations focused on an emergency situation that was likely to arise out of heavy rains and floods in Sindh. However, they said, the situation dramatically changed as Tharparkar was now facing a drought. Describing drought as 'slow poison', they said "we have to ensure relief measures for the people of Tharparkar in order to mitigate the effects of the drought.

## September 3, 2012(The News)

### **Climate change minister briefed about Thar drought**

Adviser to the Sindh Chief Minister for Relief, Haleem Adil Shaikh, has said that the entire Pakistan looks towards Thar coal but when drought and calamity hit the area it was totally ignored.

He made this observation in a video briefing to Federal Minister for Climate Change Rana Farooq Saeed Khan at the camp office in Karachi, established by the adviser on relief. Chairman National Disaster Management Authority was also present on the occasion.

Rana Farooq Saeed Khan lauded the efforts being made by Shaikh to mitigate the problems confronting the drought-hit areas of Tharparkar, saying that the Sindh Relief Department would be included in the cluster of Ministry for Climate Change so that the entire country could benefit from its experiences.

In his video briefing, Shaikh said that the Sindh government took prompt action to lend a helping hand to drought-hit people and approved about 200 million rupees subsidy for them under which every family would get Rs 750 but it was insufficient. He said the relief commissioner has written a letter to the National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA) about his requirements and urged the United Nations to play its role in collaboration with NDMA.

Shaikh said that keeping in view the 2011 heavy rains and the current drought, letters should be written to the United Nations so that the world forum could play its role in collaboration with the Sindh government.

He said he was keen to go for rainwater harvesting and construction of ponds and canals in Nagarparkar area of Tharparkar that would transform the desert because sweet water would be made available to the impoverished people. He, however, added that huge funding would be required to translate this idea into a reality.

Shaikh showed a video to the guests about the situation before and after rains.

Climate Change Minister Rana Farooq Saeed assured all cooperation by the federal government in relief efforts. He said if all the departments continue coordination as they were doing in Sindh other provinces would learn from their experiences.

He said Sindh would not be left in isolation and NDMA and the United Nations would have to make joint efforts to fight the drought.

Meanwhile, a source in Tharparkar told The News that the Sindh government has started providing 50kg subsidized wheat to every drought-hit family.

## September 3, 2012 (The News)

### **Call to set up national drought fund**

The Centre for Environment and Development has called for establishing a permanent national drought fund to finance government's obligations of food security, agriculture, livestock development and water supply in drought-hit areas.

In a statement, the centre representatives, including Prof Qalandar Shah, Nasir Ali Panhwar, Badar Abro, Dr Ali Murtaza Dharejo and Aziz Ranjhani said that Nara, Kohistan and Kachho should also be declared as calamity-hit areas and relief measures should be undertaken in all such areas including Thar.

They said that continuous shortage of fodder and water due to the current drought has caused losses of livestock and has adversely affected the life of the pastoral communities. "The impact of the present drought is much harder than the past, and only new strategies can help the pastoral communities in combating droughts. It is imperative that efforts should be made for water harvesting, support for diversification of income sources, fodder development, tree plantation, restocking, food aid and vaccination for livestock," they said.

They stressed the need for preparing a drought combating plan for all arid zones of Sindh in consultation with the stakeholders representing government, NGOs, community and experts. "The government should also adopt ways to support individuals and communities living in drought-prone areas."

## September 4, 2012 (The News)

### **Rain inundates roads, causes traffic jams**

Torrential rain that lashed the provincial capital Peshawar turned weather pleasant and lowered the temperature, though it caused severe traffic jams at various points.

The heavy rain inundated almost all main roads in the city and caused traffic blockade for hours. Rainwater was flowing on roads in Saddar, Hashtnagri, Shabistan, Faqirabad, Gulbahar, Charsadda Road and other areas due to which long lines of vehicles were seen.

Pools of water on roads exposed the efficiency of civic bodies as rainwater choked the drains. Commuters faced great difficulties as they had to reach destinations in hours, which normally take 10 to 15 minutes.

A local journalist, Qudus Khan had to cover three to four kilometer distance from Gulbahar to Peshawar Press Club in three hours that normally takes him 15 minutes.

He said there was a long queue of vehicles from Gulbahar to Balahisar. The newly inaugurated Gulbahar Flyover also failed to help decrease traffic mess, he said, adding people were fearing collapse of the flyover because of heavy load of vehicles stranded over the bridge. Main reason of the blockade was flowing of water on the road as drains were chocked, he added.

Another journalist, Zulfiqar Chitrali said he reached the Press Club in two hours and too by hiring a rickshaw and using streets instead of main road. Same was the situation on Charsadda Road. However, the rain turned the weather pleasant and provided the residents a relief from the scorching heat.

There were reports of rain from other areas of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other parts of the country. The Met Office forecast scattered rain and thundershower in Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar and Kohat divisions during the next 24 hours.

## September 4, 2012 (The News)

### **It never rains but it pours for Kohati dwellers**

The rains usually inundate many areas of the provincial capital. However, for the residents of Karimabad and Kohati localities, it never rains but it pours.

Every time there is a rain shower, the area becomes a no-go zone for motorists as the roads are occupied by youngsters playing in the freshwater...fresh in the sense that it is not stagnant but running like a river or canal with lots of garbage and other dirt.

However, if it rains a lot, it is not possible for many youngsters to stand in it as it can wash someone away if he is not strong enough to face the water flow. Monday's heavy rain also proved troublesome for the

residents as several people were found cleaning their houses of the floodwater.

The flooding of Kohati locality is an incident older than many residents of the area. There are people who do not even remember a time when this problem never existed.

The first reason is that the place is a low-lying area and rainwater usually flows from three different directions towards the Kohati locality. The problem could not be solved over the past several decades. Though an underground nullah in the area was widened recently, the problem remains unsolved.

The only solution, in view of certain local elders, is that the water flow of the upper localities is diverted to somewhere else and not let flow towards the low-lying Kohati. However, diverting the drains of the upper localities is a task that could not be accomplished by the authorities over the past many years despite public moaning and complaints.

Area residents, most of whom park vehicles in the nearby National Bank Colony, also have to wait for the subsiding of the floodwater as they cannot take their cars to drive to work amid the flood. On the other hand, several residents of the colony are troubled by the flood when their homes are inundated.

September

## September 5, 2012 (DAWN)

### **\$4m for flood-hit schools**

The United States will give another four million dollars to the Pakistan government for rehabilitating around 450 schools which were damaged by floods in four districts of southern Sindh.

Sindh's education secretary, Mukhtiar Hussain Soomro, and the deputy mission director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Edward Birgells, signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The provincial education minister was present at the occasion.



Schools in four southern districts of Sindh – Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Umerkot and Tando Allahyar – will be restored under the project. The education department is working to identify the schools in need of repairs.

Sindh Education Minister Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq appreciated the USAID for consistently providing aid and announced that the provincial government’s Sindh Basic Education Programme has been approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council.

## September 6, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Thatta gets highest rainfall in Sindh**

Thatta district received 77.4 millimetres (3.04 inches) of rainfall — the highest amount of rainfall any district of Sindh has received during this monsoon — as the Met office forecast more heavy showers for the southeast part of the province during the week.

Met officials said the Sindhri area in Tharparkar district received 43 millimetres (1.69 inches) rainfall, followed by Nawabshah with 25.3mm (0.9 inch), Jam Nawaz area in Sanghar district 20mm (0.7 inch), Mohenjodaro and Tando Jam 19mm (0.74 inch) each, Chhor in Mirpurkhas district 19.5mm (0.7 inch), Umerkot 16mm (0.6 inch) and Sakrand with 11mm (0.4 inch) rainfall.

The officials forecast that the sky in most part of the province would remain overcast for a few more days that could also cause flooding in ‘vulnerable’ areas.

“Heavy downpour would generate urban and flash floods in the vulnerable areas during the period. There is also a probability of riverine floods, particularly in eastern rivers,” said the Met office’s advisory issued on Wednesday.

Tauseef Alam, the chief meteorologist, said that under the new rain system entering Sindh late Wednesday, the southeast part of the province would keep receiving heavy showers till next two days.

“These parts mainly include areas under Mirpurkhas division, Mithi, Umerkot and Chhor. We may witness a gap of hours between rains but the system would remain there to stay till next two days,” he added.

## September 6, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Countrywide rains cause flash floods; more rains forecast**

It rained in different parts of the country and a fresh forecast indicated intensification of the spell almost all over the country, causing urban or flash flooding and swelling of eastern rivers in Punjab.

The rains are being generated by a combination of a westerly wave persisting over northern parts of the country and the monsoon currents being sent by a well-marked monsoon low in India.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the monsoon low that has developed over the Bay of Bengal was located over Madhya Pradesh (India) and adjoining areas.

This special rain generating system was likely to move northwestwards (towards Pakistan). Strong monsoon currents from this system will start penetrating Pakistan and bring, in conjunction with awaiting cold westerly, fairly widespread monsoon rains in the country for at least three days. The rains will be heavy at isolated places.

The rains are likely to generate urban and flash floods in some areas with chances of flooding in rivers Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum.

The Met department forecast widespread rain/thundershowers with isolated heavy falls in Sindh from Thursday to Saturday.

Scattered rains/thundershowers with isolated heavy rains are expected in Azad Kashmir, Islamabad, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in next two days. In Dera Ghazi Khan division and adjoining areas in Punjab and lower KP, including Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu and Kohat divisions, floods are likely from Thursday to Saturday.

Scattered rain/thundershowers, with isolated heavy rains, are expected in eastern parts of Balochistan from Thursday to Saturday. Heavy rains are likely to cause floods in north eastern parts of the province, especially Zhob, Sibbi and Nasirabad divisions, from Thursday to Saturday. Gilgit-Baltistan will receive scattered rain over the period.

Meanwhile, different cities in the country received moderate to heavy rains during last twenty four hours. Balakot was the worst hit as it recorded 152mm of rain in just 12 hours. Garhi Dupatta received 54mm of rain, Muree 42mm, Badin 38mm, Nawabshah 33mm, Shorkot 31mm, Karachi 30mm, Saidu Sharif and Sahiwal 25mm each, Rawlakot 22mm, Chorr and Faisalabad 19mm, Khuzdar 18mm, Jhelum 14mm, Sialkot airport 13mm, Sibi 11mm, Mirpur Khas and Bunji 10mm each, Lasbela, Rahim Yar Khan and Malamjabba 9mm each, Dera Ghazi Khan 8mm, Mangla, Moenjodero, Kotli and Hunza 7mm each, Astore 6mm, Chilas, Gujranwala, and Mandi Bahauddin 5mm each.

Parts of Lahore received considerable rain whereas it merely drizzled around the airport. The Met office recorded 15mm of rains.

Karachi received the first spell of its monsoon showers while in some other parts of Sindh it was the third consecutive day of downpour.

At least three rain-related deaths were reported in the province, including one in Karachi. Power outages in the interior of Sindh were frequent and prolonged. Karachi, too, received its share of power breakdowns soon after it began raining.

Thousands of motorists in the metropolis remained stuck for hours in traffic jams, mainly caused by the accumulation of water on roads as most sewers along the roads were clogged. Low-lying areas in several rain-hit areas were flooded. Rain disrupted flights schedule also. The Met Office in Karachi forecast rain for another three days.

## September 6, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Monsoon rain hits drainage, traffic in Karachi**

The first spell of the year's monsoon in the city mainly hit the drainage and traffic with complaints of power outages in different parts of Karachi, as the Met Office warned that the trend could continue for three more days.

Though the number of fatal incidents, including electrocution and road traffic accidents, remained lower than past years' trend during monsoon, motorists emerged as the worst-hit by the rain that began in the first half of the day in east district.

Though a large number of major roads escaped flooding, traffic remained clogged for hours at many places. However, residents of the city's low-lying areas underwent the usual rain-related ordeal. A few of them told Dawn that water had entered their houses and was ruining their household appliances and furniture.

Though traffic moved at a snail's pace on major roads, including Shakra-i-Pakistan, Shaheed-i-Millat Road and University Road, the situation was the worst on Sharea Faisal, where hundreds of vehicles remained stuck in traffic for hours mainly on the key artery's track leading from the Metropole Hotel to the airport.

"It's nothing to do with traffic management or mismanagement," traffic DIG Khurram Gulzar told Dawn when asked about the reasons behind the mess. "It's because of a drainage problem. Key spots along Sharea Faisal, including the FTC building, Nursery, Baloch Colony, Karsaz, PAF base and Drigh Road, had severe drainage problems which, on the one hand, slowed down traffic and, on the other, caused vehicles' malfunctioning, adding to traffic woes."

In Hijrat Colony, a 20-year-old girl died from electrocution in her home. The family of the deceased Tasneem Bibi disallowed medico-legal formalities of the body at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre. An official of the Chhipa Welfare Trust, which retrieved the body

and transported it to the JPMC, confirmed the victim had died from electrocution in her home.

The city's municipal administration and the Karachi Electric Supply Company claimed to have controlled the situation, which has a history of below-par performance in monsoons. "The highest rainfall was recorded in the Sharea Faisal area with 35 millimetres (1.37 inches)," said Tauseef Alam, the chief meteorologist. "Other areas followed with University Road 30.6mm (1.20 in), Landhi and North Karachi 26.7mm (1.05 in) each, the areas around Pehlwan Goth 26mm (1.02 in) North Nazimabad 21mm (0.8 in), PAF Masroor base 17mm (0.6 in) and our observatory at the airport recorded 9.4mm (0.3 in) rainfall."

Rain was likely to continue overnight with gaps of a few hours and might continue till next 48 hours, he said. All institutions of rain administration, such as the KESC, municipal services and traffic management, were being given weather updates, he said.

"Tuesday's well-marked low-pressure area is located over Madhya Pradesh (India) and the adjoining areas. This low pressure is likely to move towards Pakistan and under the influence of this weather system strong monsoon rains are expected mainly in the southeast areas of Sindh for two to three more days," added the chief meteorologist.

## September 6, 2012 (The News)

### **Tarbela touches its capacity level, Mangla Dam still far below**

The country's largest water reservoir, Tarbela Dam, is all set to reach full capacity point within the next four days whereas the second largest dam, Mangla, may not reach its peak water storage level in the current monsoon season.

"Tarbela is about three months late as compared to previous years in average availability," official sources at Indus River System Authority (Irsa) told The News.

The sources attributed the present water availability position to a fast

melting of glaciers besides heavy monsoon rains in the catchment areas of Tarbela dam.

The officials reveal that the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), having operational command, has turned down the Irsa directives for fill up the said dam, speedily, because of available water.

“The Wapda responded to Irsa in an official communication that a quick filling could be dangerous for dam’s safety and it is safe to raise the level by only one to two feet daily. After this argument, the Irsa did not insist for the compliance of its orders.”

Tarbela dam’s current level has touched to 1,544 ft. against the maximum height of 1550 ft. Thus merely six more feet is required amid fast increasing inflows and less water requirements of the provinces as rains have met the needs of the standing crops.

The second largest reservoir Mangla Dam is still to reach its highest level. Its current level stands at 1,183.65 ft against 1,242 ft, hence it is 60 ft below its peak point. The Mangla inflow is 26,500 cusecs against 12,000 cusecs outflow, so 13,000 cusecs are being stored in it.

## September 6, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Two die as rain batters parts of Sindh**

One old woman and a youth died in a rain-related incident as parts of Sindh received mild to heavy rains.

Umerkot received moderate rains on the third consecutive day. Strong winds uprooted trees and electricity poles, affecting the power supply.

The rains started on Monday evening with a heavy dust storm that continued on Wednesday for one hour.

A grower of Pithoro, Mumtaz Arisar, said the rains had affected cotton picking and damaged chillies crop.

SDO Imtiaz Ahmed Memon of Hesco sub-division Umerkot told

Dawn that over 76 poles uprooted in the rains in Dharonaro had been rehabilitated and power in some villages restored. But a main pole of 66kv line supplying power to Pithoro grid station would be rehabilitated in 12 hours.

Heavy rains hit twin towns of Thatta and Makli and coastal towns Mirpur Sakhro, Ghorabari and Jati, Mirpur Bathoro, Sujawal, Jhoke Sharif, Bannu and Laiqpur in the morning.

In Thatta, an old woman, Nooran Baloch, was killed when the roof of her small room collapsed in ward-3 in the morning.

Traffic on the National Highway between Thatta and Hyderabad remained suspended for over an hour when hill torrents from both sides of main Nai Baran overtopped the highway at various places from Hameed agricultural farm to Jherruk site.

Hundreds of buses, trucks, cars, vans, motorbikes and other vehicles remained stranded waiting for receding of rainwater coming from Khirthar range of mountains.

Crops of sugarcane and paddy were submerged under water. Growers said that if rainwater did not remain stagnant, it would benefit some short-duration crops in the area.

Villagers of Kohistan were happy because the rains filled wells and people believe that overfilling of wells and ditches would help decline graph of growing hyper salinity and brackishness of underground water in hilly areas.

In Sanghar, moderate to heavy rains were recorded. A young man died, when his katcha house collapsed in strong winds near Maqsoodo Rind.

Rains started early in the morning in Sanghar, Tando Adam, Khipro, Sinjhor, Shahdadpur, Shahpur Chakar, Khadro, Jhol, Jam Nawaz Ali and other adjoining towns and continued intermittently till filing of this report.

Again rains lashed Sanghar and adjoining towns of Sinjhor, Gujri, Rawtiani at 6pm for 40 minutes.

Rains with thunderstorm lashed parts of Mirpurkhas, inundating low-lying areas.

The shower continued for one hour and water accumulated at main roads and in the streets. Suspension of power supply forced shopkeepers to close bazaars and markets.

A number of trees and signboards were uprooted in different towns. Youths and children enjoyed rains in streets and on roads.

Met office recorded 20mm of rains and did not rule out chances of more rainfall.

Rainwater entered shops, forcing traders to close business.

Press secretary of the Sindh Abadgar Board, Syed Ali Mohammed Shah, said that at least 25pc of standing crop of cotton in various parts of the district was damaged and rain destroyed vegetables.

Badin city and its adjoining areas received heavy rains which began at 1pm and continued for one hour.

It was the second spell of the recent monsoon rains. The rains also lashed towns of the district, increasing water level in waterways.

## September 6, 2012 (The News)

### **Rain brings mirth and misery to city**

As is usually the case whenever Karachi gets its share of water from the skies, massive traffic gridlocks made life harder for the city's commuters as moderate to heavy rainfall lashed the metropolis, testing its faulty drainage system.

Vehicles were seen stranded for hours in traffic jams as rainwater, with the absence of an exit passageway because of the choked storm-water



drains, accumulated on major thoroughfares.

It took an average of two hours for most commuters to reach their destinations. The patients being transported in ambulances were among those who suffered the most..

### **Two people were in killed in rain-related mishaps.**

Sixteen-year-old Tasleema Bibi was electrocuted while she was operating a washing machine in the veranda of her house in Hijrat Colony, Sultanabad. The rain caused a deadly short-circuit in the machine and she died on the spot.

Separately, a 40-year-old man was killed in Baldia Town, Saeedabad when the wall of an under-construction building collapsed on him due to rain. The victim was a laborer.

### **More rains expected**

The rain fell at several intervals since 7am. "Initially, the rain started in several pockets and later it covered the whole city," A Met department official told The News.

"Strong monsoon currents are penetrating most parts of the country, including Karachi, and it is expected that the city will receive more rains in the next two or three days at intervals."

According to the meteorological department, 35mm of rainfall was measured on Sharea Faisal, 34.5mm in North Karachi, 26.7mm at the Model Observatory on University Road, 21mm in Saddar, 17mm in PAF Base Masroor, 15mm in North Nazimabad, 9.4mm at the airport and its surroundings areas and 6mm rain in Landhi. No data was available from Gulshan-e-Hadeed.

### **The bane of flyovers**

Most flyovers, constructed without proper drainage systems, became a bane for the commuters when the raindrops started falling.

University Road, a major thoroughfare of the city, was among the roads most affected by this problem.

"I was shocked to see knee-high water accumulated at the ramp of the flyover constructed outside the NED University. Many vehicles were stuck there," said a student of the university.

A resident of Rizwan Society, located off University Road near Jauhar Complex, said both sides of the road as well as its median belt were submerged and motorists had no idea where the driveway was.

The downpour also caused chaotic traffic jams at various points on Sharea Faisal including Wireless Gate, the exit point of Jinnah Terminal, Star Gate, Natha Khan Goth, Drigh Road, Baloch Colony Bridge, Nursery and FTC Bridge. Vehicles were also seen stuck in the areas of Saddar, particularly Lucky Star.

### **KMC's failure**

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and Rangers had installed a rain emergency camp under the FTC Bridge to deal with rain-related issues, but failed to make a difference. The authorities were unable to drain out rainwater accumulated under the bridge and a major traffic jam continued there by the time this report was filed.

Plastic bags and other solid waste materials, which have choked the drains, were seen floating on the roads. The drainage system was also blocked due to the waste dumped at roadsides. In some low-lying areas of the city, rainwater gushed into houses.

### **Widespread power outages**

The heavy downpour that started in the metropolis in the morning and gained strength in the afternoon caused tripping of some 80-90 feeders of the Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) in addition to creating technical faults including breaking of wires and burning of PMTs, causing power breakdowns in many areas of the city.

The worst-affected areas included various localities of Defence and

Clifton, old city areas of Garden, Golimar, Lyari, West Wharf, Saddar, Lines Area, PECHS and some areas of Malir, Landhi and Korangi.

There were also reports of rain-related power outages from parts of Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, F.B Area, New and North Karachi, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad and some adjoining areas where feeder tripping and localized faults caused power breakdowns in the morning and after noon.

The KESC claimed that only 8-10 percent areas of the city were affected due to tripping of the feeders as only 80-90 out of over 1,300 feeders got tripped due to heavy rain, and over 75 per cent of them were restored within hours.

The power utility officials, however, admitted that of the 10 per cent areas where electricity problems were faced, 25 per cent remained affected by 8:00 pm but added that special operation and maintenance teams of the KESC were continuously working to restore power supply in affected areas.

Interestingly, there were several areas of the city from where people claimed that they faced no power breakdown during or after the rain, even for a second, which included some blocks of Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Gulistan-e-Jauhar.

In addition to tripping of feeders, burning of PMTs, breaking of electricity wires and burning of electricity meters of some apartment buildings also caused power outages in some parts of the city including old city areas and although these faults were removed by the KESC staff, some areas were still without electricity.

In its statement, the KESC claimed that it raised “red flag” immediately after the start of heavy rains across the city after midnight and its central and regional nerve centers swiftly came into action to handle the situation under the already prepared rain emergency plan.

KESC’s top management has directly been monitoring the rain emergency and fault repair situation and receiving hourly reports while keeping a strict vigil over the weather update, it said.

The power utility maintained that during the heavy rains across the city since midnight the power supply situation mostly remained under control and the system reflected general stability.

Public safety messages have been announced through mosques by regional offices which identified and pasted safety warning tapes on unsafe and critical poles in affected areas.

Safety leaflets have been distributed amongst regions for public consumption.

The security network has also been monitoring the situation on a point to point basis.

## September 7, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rain continues to lash Karachi**

The city received monsoon rains for a second consecutive day. East district received a heavier rainfall than other parts of the city, where the residents of low-lying areas suffered as sewage overflowed and streets became submerged by rainwater.

The Met Office has said that the rains are likely to continue till next 48 hours and intermittent heavy rains are expected across the city.

On Thursday, the spell of rain began in the evening at around 5:30pm.

“On Thursday, East district remained received the heaviest amount of rain. The areas included the entire Malir Town, airport and its nearby areas, Shah Faisal Colony, parts of Gulistan-i-Jauhar and Gulshan-i-Iqbal. Our observatory at the airport recorded 63.4 millimetres (2.50 inches) of rainfall,” said Tauseef Alam, the chief meteorologist.

“Around 48 millimetres (1.88 inches) rainfall was recorded in Pehlwan Goth, 42 millimetres (1.65 inches) in Landhi, 33 millimetres (1.2 inches) in Faisal Base, and the observatory at our Met complex recorded 38 millimetres (1.50 inches) of rainfall.”

The condition of traffic flow was horrible as it was the other day and vehicles were snarled up at most of the major roads and intersections of the metropolis.

Meanwhile, all the 3,000 traffic wardens were called for duty under the rain emergency plan, said Traffic DIG Khurram Gulzar. "More force has been deployed on crucial intersections where there were there were massive traffic jams on Wednesday," he said.

"However, stagnant water on Sharea Faisal near Drigh Road bottlenecked the vehicles' flow."

Besides Drigh Road and various spots on Shahrea Faisal, severe traffic jams were observed on Stadium Road, Qayyumabad Chowrangi, parts of the University Road and at a few places on Sir Shah Muhammad Suleman Road.

The number of complaints about power cuts also declined to some extent as Karachi Electric Supply Company claimed to have fixed the faults which emerged after the first spell of rain.

According to a statement issued by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), it designed a joint strategy with the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) to handle the post-rain situation.

"All human resources and machinery are being shared with the KMC," said the KWSB statement. "More staff has also been deployed at sewerage pumping stations and the number of staff tasked with manual operation has also been increased. The plan managed to keep the situation under control and no major flooding has been witnessed."

Similarly, a statement issued by the KMC also claimed to have dispatched the required staff and machinery to the areas where rainwater had accumulated and rain emergency plan was in place.

In Korangi, the body of an unidentified man was found lying abandoned. The doctor believed that the man died from electrocution. An official at the medico-legal section said that the body was brought

from Korangi 2½ area by volunteers of a charity organisation. The police remained unaware about the incident.

## September 7, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Met Office warns of flash floods**

The current forecast on rains has become a reality and the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) issued flash flood and urban flood warnings.

With many localities in various cities of the country already submerged, the Met Office has said: "All concerned authorities are advised to remain alert during the current week." This warning includes the twin cities and parts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

As the presence of thick and heavy clouds are visible all over Sindh, parts of central Punjab and almost all of KP and Northern Punjab, strong monsoon currents will continue to penetrate most parts of the country, during the current week.

As a result widespread rains/thundershowers with scattered heavyfalls is expected in Punjab, KP and Kashmir, while scattered rain/thundershower with isolated heavyfalls in Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan and eastern parts of Balochistan, including Zhob, Kalat, Sibbi, Nasirabad and Makran divisions.

A meteorologist at the PMD has said that due to the low-pressure development in areas of central India, moisture laden clouds from the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are moving closer.

These heavy clouds are currently located over west Madhya Pradesh state of India and adjoining areas.

"This well marked low is likely to move further north-westward, during next two days and under the influence of this weather system, strong monsoon currents are continuously penetrating Pakistan," the meteorologist said.

The country is expected to have widespread monsoon rains with scattered heavyfalls from Friday to Sunday, which could generate urban and flash floods in vulnerable areas.

The Met Office has said that during Friday and Sunday areas including Rawalpindi, Islamabad and KP could face widespread rains and thundershowers.

Heavy rains would cause flash floods in D.G. Khan division; its adjoining areas, central and lower parts of KP including Kohat, Peshawar, D.I. Khan and Bannu.

Almost the whole of Sindh and Kashmir are vulnerable to serious flash floods from Friday to Sunday.

During The day, Rawalpindi received 10 millimetres (mm) rainfall, Peshawar 88 mm, Toba Tek Sindh 52mm, Jhang 38mm, Sialkot 34mm, Murree 29mm, Balakot 28mm, Benazirabad 27mm, Larkana 26mm, Lower Dir and Dir 23mm, Sibbi 22, Rawalkot 21mm, Multan, Kakul and Khuzdar 19mm, Rahimyar Khan, Barkhan, Sahiwal, Drosh 9mm.

## September 7, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Two die in roof collapse as rain continues**

Two persons were killed and another two injured in rain-related accidents in Nawabshah on Thursday. Land route communication in the Kachho area remained disconnected as heavy rains continued to lash different districts of Sindh for a second consecutive day.

Shahrukh, son of Abdul Sattar, 12, and Parveen, daughter of Khalil Ahmed, 6, died while Akbar aka Mamul was seriously injured when the roof of a shop collapsed near Nishat Cinema in the Old Nawabshah area.

The two victims used to collect garbage and sell it.

They were at a shop to sell it when it started raining and the children

took shelter in the shop. The rain caused the roof to collapse and both died.

Rainwater inundated roads and markets forcing traders to close their business and go back home. An official at the local Met office said that the city received 30mm of rain Thursday and a total 60mm in two days. More rains over the next three or four days have been forecast.

Electric supply to Nawabshah city and adjoining towns discontinued immediately after rainfall and there was no electricity in any part of the city till the filing of this report.

Rains also lashed Hyderabad for about 45 minutes in the evening and caused power breakdowns in many localities. "Hyderabad received 35 mm of rain and more moderate rains are expected for the next two-three days," chief meteorologist in Karachi Mohammad Tausif Alam said.

Low-lying areas were submerged. Commuters and residents of many areas including Latifabad units No.4, 12, Pakistan Chowk, Liaquat Colony, Dadan Shah, Station Road, Paretabad, Pathan Colony and Hussainabad had to wade through standing rainwater.

As prolonged power breakdowns made lives of people miserable, a spokesperson for the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco) said that a T2 power transformer caught fire in 220-kV grid station of the National Transmission Dispatch Company (NTDC) at Hala Naka which disrupted power supply through nine 11-kV feeders of the district and 132-kV high

transmission line of other districts. The fire was extinguished but power supply was suspended in a couple of areas for safety reasons. He said that a cause of fire could not be ascertained immediately.

He said that electricity in the affected areas would be restored soon, he said.



## September 7, 2012 (The News)

### **Rain causes traffic mess on city roads**

A significant amount of rain fell on the eastern part of the metropolis as showers continued for the second consecutive day, leaving hundreds of motorists stranded on major roads. The maximum amount of rain, measuring 63.6 millimeters (mm), was reported at the Karachi Airport and its adjoining areas.

One of the model observatories situated at Pehlwan Goth received 48mm rainwater, while 45mm and 38mm of rainfall was recorded in Landhi and on University Road, respectively. The Saddar area received comparatively less rain at 6mm.

Brief spells of heavy rain on University Road, Karachi Airport and Sharea Faisal caused severe traffic jams. The flooding on Sharea Faisal caused the traffic police to redirect commuters to alternate routes. However, one of those routes, the Korangi Industrial Area, also witnessed gridlocks due to the diversion.

Hundreds of vehicles were stranded near Karachi Airport as the rainwater inundated streets. The under-construction Jinnah Flyover at the exit of the Jinnah International Terminal also caused major inconveniences for commuters.

Similarly, major traffic jams were reported from Quaidabad, Wireless Gate, Star Gate and Natha Khan Goth Bridge on Sharea Faisal. Other gridlocks were witnessed near the Meteorological Department, Safoora Goth Roundabout, Hassan Square and Central Jail on University Road.

The Chief Meteorologist, Muhammad Tauseef Alam, told The News that the current spell of wet weather was likely to continue for next two days. The amount of rain reported in the east of the metropolis was far greater than other parts, he said. The areas of Saddar, Malir, Landhi, some blocks of Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Gulistan-e-Jauhar as well as University Road, PECHS, and a couple of phases of Defence also received rain, Alam added.

“The clouds which arrived from the southern side of the country caused rainfall, while further development is in progress. As a result, more rain is expected between Thursday night and Friday morning,” he concluded.

Having experienced problems, commuters tried to rush back to their homes with the first drops of rain right after 5:30pm to avoid the traffic. However, despite all precautions, hundreds of motorists were stuck on various roads for the second consecutive day.

The virtual submergence of major roads caused massive traffic jams as motorists had to wait for hours to find their way through the blockage on Sharea Faisal and University Road.

According to reports, a number of vehicles were abandoned by the roadside as the accumulated rainwater caused them to stall and this resulted in further congestion on some parts of Sharea Faisal and University Road.

While most of the standing water from Wednesday was cleared, Thursday’s rain in several pockets negated the efforts of municipal agencies. The staff of the KMC and other cantonment boards was busy dealing with emergencies in the affected places, while traffic police and city wardens were also deployed to guide commuters.

It was learnt that pavements were broken at several places to clear the water that accumulated on University Road and Sharea Faisal.

“Although a drainage system exists on these roads, it could not absorb such a large amount of standing water, so we had to break down some portions to avoid a flood-like situation,” a sweeper working near NED told The News.

The concerned departments also used suction machines to clear the water as the situation became more difficult.

### **Power outages continue**

Following a heavy but brief spell of rain on Thursday, many areas of

the city once again plunged into darkness after several feeders of the Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) tripped. Additionally, tripping of circuit breakers and faults in Pole Mounted Transformers (PMTs) and a High Tension Line (HTL) added to peoples' miseries.

The worst hit areas were, once again, Gulistan-e-Jauhar and Defence. The residents of these two areas have been without electricity since Wednesday afternoon. Meanwhile, a number of consumers complained of receiving low voltage from areas in which electricity was still being supplied.

However, KESC has claimed that only 32 out of total 1300 feeders tripped following Thursday's rains and that no major complaint was received from any part of the city.

Officials of the power utility conceded, however, that some localised faults in addition to problems in a HTL caused low voltage problems in the Defence View area and power breakdowns in some parts of the city. He stressed that their staff was working hard to remove the faults. The KESC officials blamed poor vehicular traffic management as a big hurdle in removing electricity faults and restoring electricity in affected areas. "Owing to traffic jams, our maintenance vehicles could not reach the troubled spots on time," one official said.

Residents of Block 16 of Gulistan-e-Jauhar told The News that they had been without electricity from Wednesday evening and that KESC had not resolved this issue despite repeated complaints. "We have had no electricity since Wednesday afternoon following yesterday's rain and despite having called lodging numerous complaints, KESC staff did not arrive to resolve the problem," claimed Junaid, a resident of Gulistan-e-Jauhar Block-16. A similar situation was experienced in Defence Phase 6, where residents said they had electricity for only 10 minutes after every three-four hours since Wednesday afternoon. "We have been without electricity for the whole of Thursday in hot and humid weather" a resident of Nishat commercial of Defence Phase-VI told The News.

Reports from some other parts also indicated intermittent power

outages since Wednesday after heavy rains caused tripping of feeders, burning of PMTs and other faults in the electricity's transmission Network. Despite these reports, KESC has claimed that all major problems related to electricity had been resolved by Wednesday night.

## September 7, 2012 (The News)

### **Three killed in rain-related incidents**

Three people were killed and 15 injured as rain and windstorm wreaked havoc in various parts of the provincial capital early morning.

Three persons were killed as the roof of a house collapsed in Gulberg locality near Peshawar Saddar. Roofs of several houses in Kotla Mohsin Khan, Salar Serai in Nauthia Jadeed, Falcon Society, Shaheen Camp and Landi Arbab areas also collapsed causing injuries to the inmates.

According to the Lady Reading Hospital administration, 15 people including three women and two children injured in rain-related incidents were brought to the hospital for treatment. There were reports that more than 50 persons sustained largely minor injuries.

The heavy downpour and windstorm started during the night and became fierce around 4 am. It continued for almost one and a half hours, bringing down walls and billboards and uprooting trees. Telephones and Internet also remained disconnected and drains choked. The residents faced acute water shortage due to suspension of power supply.

The windstorm paralyzed the communication system and caused suspension of electricity for over 12 hours. The suspension of electricity supply was even longer in certain localities, including parts of Peshawar Saddar as it stretched to almost 18 hours after getting restored for a few minutes in the evening. Officials of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) said about 37 feeders were affected and electricity supply disrupted following the windstorm but 26 feeders were put back into operation by the morning and the remaining by the evening. They said trees fell on transmission lines

causing the disruption. They complained that the authorities in the Cantonment Board localities wanted Pesco to cut and remove the fallen trees instead of doing their job. Besides, they said Pesco crews needed permission to do repair work in the Cantonment area and in sensitive places such as the Pakistan Television station and it took time and delayed the repairs.

The floodwater inundated many localities including Bara Road, Gulberg, Nauthia, University Road, Tehkal, Landi Arbab, Kohat Road, Charsadda Road, Suray Pul, Hashtnagri, Nishtarabad, Khyber Bazaar, Jangi Mohalla, Qissa Khwani, Kohati, Bilal Town, Lahori, General Bus Stand, Chowk Yadgar, Namak Mandi, Khyber Road, Warsak Road, Gulbahar, Afghan Colony and Cantonment.

Residents said up to five feet water swept the streets and entered scores of houses in Gulberg and other localities and damaged household goods. Dozens of houses were badly damaged near the Bihari Colony in Tehkal.

Rainwater inundated the computer laboratory of the Peshawar Press Club and basement of the office of the Tribal Union of Journalists damaging computers and other gadgets. Rainwater entered many basements and shops in different localities of the provincial capital.

The heavy shower inundated almost all the low-lying areas as streets and roads turned into pools. Trees and walls collapsed on Bara Road, University Road, Mall Road, Sher Shah Suri and some other roads. The walls of Cantonment Railways Station, Peshawar Club, Army Officers Colony on Bara Road, a bungalow near Governor's House and many other houses in University Town also collapsed.

The Bara Road remained closed for all kinds of traffic till afternoon and a portion of the Sher Shah Suri road near the Cantonment Railway Station was also blocked due to uprooting of trees. The rain badly affected routine life and caused road blockade and suspension of communication and power system for hours. Some of the flights from the Bacha Khan International Airport and the trains from Cantonment Railways Station were delayed.

Rain was reported from other districts of the province as well. Peshawar Cantonment received 88 millimetres rain, Peshawar city 39 millimetres, Balakot 58, Upper Dir 23, Lower Dir 21, Kalam in Swat 12 and Drosh in Chitral nine millimetres.

The Met Office forecast scattered rain and thundershower with isolated heavy rainfall in the Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan divisions during the next 24 hours.

## September 7, 2012 (The News)

### **Businessmen suffer huge losses**

Heavy rain that caused flash flood in the provincial metropolis inflicted huge losses on the businessmen when the rainwater entered the basements and shops in most of the shopping plazas in the Cantonment and city markets.

The overnight heavy rain and windstorm caused substantial losses in the Saddar area where the Markazi Tanzeem Tajiran President Sharafat Ali Mubarak estimated the damage to the shops selling groceries, silk, crockery and other items at Rs600 million.

“This is the rough and initial estimates. It will surely go up as only in the Shafi Market the rainwater submerged all the goods in the basements of nine plazas,” he said. He said the rainwater flooded the basements of Peshawar Plaza and Silver Plaza while it also entered shops on the Jinnah Street, Saddar Road, Bilour Plaza and Falaksair Plaza causing millions of rupees losses to the businessmen.

“At least in one basement of a shopping plaza in the Shafi Market, the bundles of silk worth Rs40 million were submerged by rainwater,” he added. The tables of tailors and unstitched and stitched suits were seen floating on the surface of the rainwater till late in the afternoon.

The shopkeepers were also seen draining rainwater by using plastic buckets apparently in a bid to save some of their goods or retrieve those damaged by rainwater. Sharafat Ali Mubarak appealed to the

authorities to launch the post-calamity assessment so that the damage to the businesses and properties in the commercial areas of the Saddar area could be recorded.

District Coordination Officer Javed Marwat also confirmed huge losses to the businesses in the city, its suburbs and the University Road areas. He said that rainwater inundated houses, shops, basements and workshops in Tehkal, Landi Arbab, Kohat Road, Shaheen Camp, Dabgari and Khattak Colony causing huge losses to businesses and properties.

However, he said any assessment to quantify these losses at the moment would be premature. "Yes, we will definitely assess the losses inflicted by rain and windstorm so that those having suffered could be compensated accordingly," he said.

"It is around 8pm and I am still in the office working on the same besides supervising the rescue and relief work in the city and elsewhere in the district," Javed Marwat said. He also acknowledged that the unplanned extensions and constructions in the city were a big factor that led to subsequent flash flood in the downtown areas after the overnight rain.

The official said some vested interests had encroached upon the drains in the city due to which many areas were inundated by the rain last night. The windstorm following the rain also uprooted around one hundred trees on the Mall Road, GT Road and the University of Peshawar Campus.

It also flattened maize, sugarcane and other crops in rural areas in the district. However, as put by Masal Khan, a farmer in Khazana village, these crops would stand again if there was no more rain.

## September 8, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Flash floods forecast for upper Sindh**

The Met Office warned that urban flash floods could occur in parts of upper Sindh as it continued to rain in the province.

An official said that a westerly wave was located over Afghanistan and its trough was extending up to western parts of the country which were causing thunderstorms and rain in Sukkur and Larkana regions of upper Sindh.

He said that there was a threat that urban flash floods might occur in upper Sindh.

Rain continued across the province with Dadu receiving the heaviest rainfall — 82 millimetres or 3.23 inches — in the past 24 hours, said the official.

Heavier rain was expected in Sukkur and Larkana divisions while some parts of lower Sindh might also receive torrential rain.

According to the official, well-marked low pressure now lay over eastern Rajasthan and its adjoining areas and was likely to move towards the north-west in the next 24 hours. Consequently, strong monsoon currents will penetrate central parts of the country.

In other areas which received rainfall, Mithi received 29 millimetres (1.14 inches), Badin 7 millimetres (0.27 inches), Thatta 20 millimetres (0.78 inches), and Hyderabad 4 millimetres (0.16 inches).

Jacobabad received 17 millimetres (0.67 inches) of rain, Shaheed Benazirabad 10 millimetres (0.39 inches), Sukkur 1 millimetre (0.03 inches), while it did not rain in Larkana in the last 24 hours.

## September 8, 2012 (DAWN)

### **More rain expected today**

The city has received over 49 millimetres (1.92 inches) of rain in the past 24 hours, said Met officials.

Since last morning, around the city has received around 4.5 millimetres (0.17 inches) of rain and more is expected this evening.



According to the Met Office, Nazimabad received 4.5 millimetres (0.17 inches) of rain, the maximum amount of rain since Friday morning.

On the other hand, the other areas received around 2 millimetres (0.078 inches) of downpour. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) base at Masroor received only a slight drizzle while the Faisal base also received 2 millimetres (0.078 inches) of rain.

The model observatory at Karachi University received 2.2 millimetres (0.086 inches).

## September 8, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rain continues to lash Sindh towns**

A little girl died and at least five other people suffered injuries in different rain-related incidents as heavy rain continued to lash parts of Sindh, causing breaches in rainwater drains and inundating fields.

The rain battered Larkana, Qambar-Shahdadkot districts and their adjoining areas on Thursday and Friday. Power supply system developed faults with first drop of rain and three grid stations tripped.

All low-lying areas were flooded with rainwater and the North Sindh Urban Service Corporation miserably failed to clear them of water in time.

Ms Sawera Barecho, 12, was buried alive under the debris and four of her relatives suffered injuries when roof of their house caved in on them in Allahabad locality in Shahdadkot. The injured identified as Sudheer, 8, Baby Gullabee, 6, Nazeer Ali and Wazeer Ali (brothers) were taken to Chandka Medical College Hospital.

In Kharani locality, one Murad Bibi, 30 was injured when a wall of her house collapsed on her. She was admitted to Taluka Hospital.

A rainwater drain near Koor Dattoo developed 20-foot breaches at two places near Seelra village, submerging about 20 acres of standing paddy crop and Khan Seelro village.

Heavy rain continued to batter Umerkot district and adjoining areas on the sixth consecutive day on Friday. Rainwater pooled in low-lying areas in Umerkot, Chhor, Sadhar, Dhoronaro, Ghulam Nabi Shah, Pithoro and Samaro.

Electricity supply plays hide and seek with consumers since it has started raining, causing many household electrical appliances to develop faults.

Siddiq Sand, a farmer of Pithoro, said the continuous rain would have bad impact on cotton and chillies which were ready for harvest.

More rains would do harm to crops because two to three feet of rainwater had already accumulated in fields, he said.

In Dadu, heavy rain in the district its Kachho belt comprising 2,000 square kilometres of Khirthar range of mountains on the second consecutive day caused water level in Nai Gaaj nullah to rise 18 feet, intensifying fears among inhabitants of more than 300 small and big villages near the Nai.

Other nullahs like Nai Angai, Nai Khandani, Nai Naing and Nai Sole are also flowing to the brim.

Fishermen of Manchhar Lake have welcomed the rainwater flowing into the lake from mountains through Nai Gaaj and other nullahs because it would reduce levels of contamination in the lake and multiply number of fish.

Provincial secretary of irrigation Babar Hussain Effendi said that Manchhar Lake rose to 107.7 feet RL (Reduced Level) on Friday after rise in water level in the Nai Gaaj and other nullahs. If the level crossed 118 feet RL then it would be dangerous. The lake could withstand water level to 122 feet RL, he said.

He said that all embankments of Nai Gaaj and flood protective bund had been repaired and were strong enough to withstand the pressure. Even if water level rose to 30 feet in the Nai it would not harm its dykes, he said.

Heavy rain lashed Naushahro Feroze and its adjoining towns including Padidan, Phul, Bhirya, Moro, Tharushah, Kandiaro, Halani and Mehrabpur on Thursday evening.

Sewerage system developed chokes and rainwater mixed with sewage inundated roads and streets.

**RAIN EMERGENCY:** Tando Mohammad Khan's Deputy Commissioner Syed Barkat Ahmed Rizvi declared rain emergency in the district.

Talking to journalists during a surprise visit to pumping stations, the official said that 55 pumping machines had been installed in the district and a district disaster cell set up in his office and the talukas of Tando Mohammad Khan, Bulri Shah Karim and Tando Ghulam Hyder.

## September 8, 2012 (DAWN)

### Flash floods forecast for upper Sindh

The Met Office warned that urban flash floods could occur in parts of upper Sindh as it continued to rain in the province.

An official said that a westerly wave was located over Afghanistan and its trough was extending up to western parts of the country which were causing thunderstorms and rain in Sukkur and Larkana regions of upper Sindh.

He said that there was a threat that urban flash floods might occur in upper Sindh.

Rain continued across the province with Dadu receiving the heaviest rainfall — 82 millimetres or 3.23 inches — in the past 24 hours, said the official.

Heavier rain was expected in Sukkur and Larkana divisions on Saturday while some parts of lower Sindh might also receive torrential rain.

According to the official, a well-marked low pressure now lay over eastern Rajasthan and its adjoining areas and was likely to move

towards the north-west in the next 24 hours. Consequently, strong monsoon currents will penetrate central parts of the country.

In other areas which received rainfall, Mithi received 29 millimetres (1.14 inches), Badin 7 millimetres (0.27 inches), Thatta 20 millimetres (0.78 inches), and Hyderabad 4 millimetres (0.16 inches).

Jacobabad received 17 millimetres (0.67 inches) of rain, Shaheed Benazirabad 10 millimetres (0.39 inches), Sukkur 1 millimetre (0.03 inches), while it did not rain in Larkana in the last 24 hours.

## September 9, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Thar rain too little to grow guar, millet, says growers**

Thar growers have dismissed recent spell of rains as non-seasonal, overly delayed and unsuitable for sowing semi-arid crops like millet and guar because the crops require at least two more spells of rains after an interval of three weeks to reach maturity.

They say the ongoing rain will benefit the crops that had been sown a couple of weeks ago in some areas of Mithi, Nagarparkar and Chhachhro talukas.

It had been raining off and on in most parts of the desert, including Mithi, Islamkot, Diplo, Nagarparkar, Chhachhro, Danodhandhal, Chelhar, Kantio and adjoining towns and villages till Friday. There are no reports of rain in any part of the desert on Saturday.

Mithi has so far received 55 mm downpour.

Although sand dunes and plains will take a few days more to put on green the nature has already poured forth in abundance its gifts like mushroom (khunbhi), amaranthus (mariro) and 'Pipoon' ( a green fibred wild fruitage) and visitors have started pouring in.

Babar Ali, a landlord and his son has come from Nawabshah to visit the desert. "We have come to enjoy natural beauty of the desert after

rains, buy embroidered garments, mushrooms and amaranthus,” they said while visiting a bazaar in Mithi on Saturday morning.

Water pooled in ditches, depressions and low-lying areas called tarai and tobha in local parlance in the wake of rains lasts for a few weeks or a few months and is the main source of drinking water for desert people.

But the recent rain has not filled many tobhas and not helped growth of much grass either.

It will, however, help overall growth of vegetation.

Most farmers are reluctant to use the little rainwater to cultivate their farmland but a few stubborn souls were seen ploughing their fields in different areas.

The rain has, however, slackened the pace of migration of impoverished and drought-hit Thari families who had started moving to urban areas in search of water, food and fodder for their cattle. Those who had already migrated are seen returning, driving their enfeebled cattle heads back home.

Answering a question why their cattle had grown so enfeebled, a group of Tharis returning from Tando Jan Mohammad to their village Dedvero in Nagarparkar taluka, said that fodder in irrigated areas lacked necessary nutrients because of severe shortage of irrigation water.

Therefore, their cattle could not put on fat, they said. Contrary to general perception that miseries of Tharis should end after recent rains, the reality is the drought conditions have left desert people in so impoverished a state that they can barely keep body and soul together.

Flour is being sold for Rs1,450 per 40 kg and most of the poor Tharis have reportedly sold their precious assets and cattle at throwaway price to feed their families.

Most poor souls are seen wandering from pillar to post, inquiring

about when the government will start supply of wheat on subsidised rates.s

## September 9, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rain forecast for south Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan**

Rain, heavy at places, lashed the country on Saturday and weathermen said there were chances of heavy downpour in south Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan.

Flash floods are expected in nullahs and hill channels of Dera Ghazi Khan, Nasirabad, Sibi and Zhob divisions. And landslides are feared in Azad Kashmir.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department said the weather system would become quite intense in the next 24 hours, generating widespread thunderstorm/rain with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall over south Punjab's Bahawalpur, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Sahiwal divisions, northeast Balochistan, and upper and eastern Sindh.

Scattered thunderstorm/ rain with isolated heavy rainfall were expected over Kashmir, north and northeast Punjab. Isolated thundershower was expected over Gilgit-Baltistan.

Heavy rainfall was also forecast for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday and Monday which could cause flash floods in lower parts of the province, including Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan divisions.

On Saturday, temperatures dropped considerably in most parts of the country and there were reports of light snowfall from Astore and a couple of other places in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Rain, which continued till late in the night, was light but persistent in Lahore. The maximum temperature plunged to 28 degrees centigrade which was just two degrees higher than the minimum temperature the previous night. It was a bit cold for motorcyclists.

The Met Office reported that Larkana received 56mm of rain, Multan 54mm, Mithi 53mm, Thatta 43mm, Peshawar city 34mm Moenjodaro 26mm, Murree 25mm, Saidu Sharif 24mm, Mirpurkhas 22mm, Badin, Bahawalnagar and Islamabad Zero Point 21mm (each), Pattan and Lahore airport 20mm, Hunza, Bunji and Peshawar airport 18mm, Faisalabad 17mm, Lahore city 15mm, Toba Tek Singh, Bahawalpur airport, Gilgit 14mm, Gujranwala, Islamabad airport, Parachinar, Chilas 10mm, Nawabshah and Dera Ghazi Khan 9mm, Mandi Bahauddin, Dir, Khanpur and Sahiwal 8mm, Okara and Kakul 7mm, Balakot, Padidan and Jacobabad 6mm, Lower Dir and Jhelum 5mm, Mirkhani, Karachi airport, Khuzdar, Rawalakot, Mangla, Bahawalpur city and Astore 4mm.

Our Staff Reporter adds from Hyderabad: There were reports of devastation from some parts of Sindh, including Thatta and Nawabshah where three people died in rain-related incidents.

The rain also caused disruption in electricity and water supply and about 75 per cent of Hyderabad, including Qasimabad and Latifabad, went without electricity for many hours.

A man and a woman were electrocuted when a live wire fell on them when they were passing under a high-transmission power line on their motorbike in the limits of Sakhi Pir police station.

The deceased were identified as Abid, 30, and Sanubar, 35, who lived in Latifabad.

Mehboob Ali Soomro, 15, drowned in a drain in Fateh Mohammad Soomro village of Thatta district. Eyewitnesses said he had slipped into the drain.

Heavy rain was also reported from Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar and Dadu districts.

Two people died in Nawabshah when roof of their house caved in on Friday night.

## September 9, 2012 (DAWN)

### Rain lashes most Sindh towns

Most parts of Sindh, from Jacobabad and Sukkur in the north to Mithi in the south, received rains on Saturday with the highest amount of rainfall (80 millimetres, or about 3.2 inches) falling on Chhor, a small town bordering the western Indian state of Rajasthan, in the past 24 hours, said Met officials.

They forecast more rains, which might cause flash floods in some areas on Sunday. Chief weatherman Arif Mehmood told Dawn that Friday's well-marked low pressure now lay over Rajasthan (India) and adjoining areas of eastern Sindh which was likely to move further west and northwest in the next 24 hours and was likely to enter upper Sindh and adjoining areas of southern Punjab on Sunday.

He said under the influence of this weather system strong monsoon currents were penetrating central parts of Pakistan. He said a westerly wave was also located over western parts of Pakistan. Widespread rains with scattered heavy rain falls were expected in upper Sindh, northeastern Balochistan and southern Punjab and lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday, which could cause flash floods in the vulnerable areas.

He said widespread rains/ thundershowers with scattered heavy rain falls were expected on upper Sindh on Sunday, which might cause urban flooding, particularly in Sukkur and Larkana divisions. Scattered rains / thundershowers with isolated heavy rain falls were expected in lower Sindh on Sunday also.

Some of the cities and towns that received rainfalls in Sindh on Saturday were: Chhor, 80mm; Sukkur, 70mm; Larkana, 57mm; Mithi, 53mm; Thatta, 28mm; Moenjodaro, 26mm; Badin, 21mm; Nawabshah, 13mm, and Jacobabad 7mm.

Weather in these areas was expected to remain partly cloudy to cloudy with thundershowers. Some other areas could receive isolated heavy rain falls.



## September 9, 2012 (The News)

### Four die in Qila Saifullah flood

Torrential rains played havoc in different parts of Balochistan inundating several areas, while four members of a family, including a woman and girl, died in floods in district Qila Saifullah.

Floodwater in the Mach stream situated in Qila Saifullah surged to a high level due to the recent rains, and different parts of Balochistan were inundated. Sources said that the surge of floodwater in the Mach stream had washed away gas and water pipelines.

Flash floods also caused severe damage to standing crops and orchards while countless mud houses collapsed forcing the people to shift from many areas including Loni Abad, Kali Kanobi, Kali New bower and Kali Maghol.

Katch Ammaq Dam is overflowing and water has started discharging from the spillway due to heavy showers.

Commissioner Zhob Division, Ikhtiyar Khan Bangalzai, said that situation in the area affected by the recent flood was under control and no loss of life was reported in the Amakzai Dam area. He said the spillway of the Amakzai Dam was expanded for the smooth outflow of the floodwater.

He said that no damage was caused to the dam in the recent floods, adding that the Tatai area of Loralai had been affected and rescue teams were also moved to the area to help the locals.

Meanwhile, rain in Sindh lashed Nawabshah and its suburbs for the third consecutive day. Heavy rain lashed Thatta as well. The city was inundated in knee deep water. The power supply broke down with the first drop of rain. Most shops in the main Shahi bazaar were inundated.  
— INP/Online

Our correspondent adds from Lahore: Widespread rain and thunderstorms are expected in the country in the next 24 hours.

Friday's well marked low-pressure area now lies over west Rajasthan (India) and adjoining areas of eastern Sindh. This well marked low is likely to move further west-northwest in the next 24 hrs and enter upper Sindh and adjoining areas of southern Punjab on Sunday.

Under the influence of the weather system, strong monsoon currents are penetrating central parts of Pakistan. A westerly wave was also located over western parts of Pakistan. Widespread rains with scattered heavy falls are expected in upper Sindh, northeast Balochistan, south Punjab and lower KP on Sunday, causing flash floods in vulnerable areas.

The day was punctuated with spells of rain which were mostly drizzles at scattered places. The Met office measured only 5 mm of rain at Lahore airport while the rain in the city was 8mm till 2000 PST, while it is surely to grow overnight. Other parts of the country where it rained were Dadu 82 mm, Karachi 49 mm, Muzaffarabad 36 mm, Mithi 29 mm, Ziarat 25 mm, Cherat 23 mm, Thatta 20 mm, D.G Khan 19 mm, Sibi 18, Jacobabad 17, Balakot 14, Parachinar 13, Padidan 11, Benazirabad and Murree 10 mm.

## September 9, 2012 (The News)

### **Seven die as rain wreaks havoc in Sindh**

Seven people died in rain-related incidents in many areas of the province in the last four days.

Most of the victims, including children, died as a result of the Katcha houses collapsing under the pressure of rain.

Four people died in the limits of Jam Sahab, including an eight-year-old girl, Perveen. Another child, Sawaira, died in Khairpur. Lightning struck Sukhio Bheel in Panghrio, killing him on the spot.

Rain also paralyzed communication and power systems. Improper sewerage and drainage system increased the miseries of the people.

Reports said that a 30-foot breach developed in the outfall saline nullah in Kety Bandar, inundating several villages.

## September 9, 2012 (The News)

### Heavy rain likely

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has asked the residents of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to remain alert as heavy downpour is expected today.

The low-lying areas of Rawalpindi included Jan Colony, Garibabad, New Katarian, Dhoke Naju, New Paghwari, Nadeem Colony, Arya Mohallah, Zia-ul-Haq Colony, Javed Colony, Muslim Colony, Dhoke Chiraghdin, Dhoke Elahi Bukhsh, Gawalmandi, Amarpura, Ratta Amral, Dhoke Ratta, Angatpura, Dhoke Hassu and Raheemabad could face flood like situation during next 24 hours.

The city district government, Rawalpindi, was high alert and cancelled all kinds of leave of concerned staff members. District Officer (DO) Municipal Services Dr. Mazhar Azeem told 'The News' people should remain on high alert during next 24 hours as twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad could face heavy rain. "All of my sanitation staff is busy removing garbage from nullahs to avoid flood like situation," he claimed.

Chief Meteorologist Dr. Muhammad Hanif said that recent monsoon spell is still active throughout the country including twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. "Rain will continue in Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Baluchistan including twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, he said. "Low-lying areas particularly Nullah Leh might be affected due to heavy rain," he warned.

District Flood In-charge Saif Anwar Jappa said: "We have set-up 10 flood relief camps in the city to monitor and deal with any untoward situation. We are in touch with the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) for removing rainwater from low-lying localities."

He said that the Pakistan Meteorological Office predicted more rain during next 24hours “so we are fully equipped to face any situation.”

## September 9, 2012 (The News)

### **Continuous rains damaging standing crops**

The incessant rains in Sindh are damaging standing crops in many districts, especially cotton, chilli, onion and tomato, and there are also fears that the high tides in the province’s coastal areas will cause breaches in the weak embankments of drains.

The continuous downpour has inundated plains and low-lying areas. Influential landlords have bought dewatering machines to save their crops, but the poor growers cannot afford them.

Besides, the growers living along the Indus downstream are resisting the diversion of rainwater to their crops. The growers in Sanghar, Matiari, and the green belt of Umerkot are facing similar troubles. The urban parts of Sindh have also been badly affected because of the poor drainage systems in towns and major cities.

“We have not received any ‘dangerous’ report related to the damage caused by the rains. We are waiting to see if there is a need for issuing a warning to certain vulnerable areas,” Adviser to Sindh Chief Minister on Relief Haleem Adil Sheikh told The News. He said the district governments were watching the situation closely. “Surely, they will report if there is an emergency.”

### **Coastal areas**

The irrigation department has closed major canals, but according to some reports, its officials have diverted the water in canals to artificial drains, increasing the water level in the latter.

Following this move, the Left Bank Outfall Drain and other minor waterways near the coastal areas of Badin district might receive more water within two days from the upper parts of the province.

Fishermen have predicted that high tides in sea would start after a week, damaging the weak embankments of the drains.

Information gathered by The News has revealed that the disrupted communication system due to the continuous rainfall is affecting the supply of food and daily-use items to the communities living in the far off coastal areas.

In small towns, rains have forced shopkeepers to shut their businesses.

“There is no visible planning by the government to avoid losses in case of high tides, said Noor Mohammad Thaimor from Jatti.

“If that happens, it can be disastrous. There is no effective warning plan by the government to keep the people in the coastal areas aware on a daily basis. People are unaware as to what is happening and what steps they should take to avoid loss of life and property.”

Allah Bachayo Mallah from the Kalankar Lake in Umerkot said the rainfall has destroyed crops and panicked the people living in makeshift abodes in the Thar desert. “It is pouring continuously since the last three days.”

The fishermen in Karachi, Thatta and Badin have stopped their boats, but several vessels, which had gone on weeklong trip, are still out in the open sea. There are also reports of outbreaks of various diseases among the residents of rural areas after consuming rainwater in drains as well an increase in snake bites.

## September 9, 2012 (The News)

### **Two die in rain-related incidents**

A soldier and a woman died and two other people sustained injuries in rain-related incidents in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the adjoining tribal areas.

The sources said that a soldier, Javed Iqbal, died after the roof of a

bunker collapsed in Yakh Kandao area in Orakzai Agency early in the day.

An elderly woman died and another suffered injuries when the roof of their mud-house collapsed in Khan Garhi in Takht Bhai tehsil in Mardan district.

The locals said that the mother of one Wahab died and his wife sustained injuries in the roof collapse incident.

It was learnt that a shopkeeper, Anwar Khan, suffered wounds when the roof of his shop situated on the Takkar Road in Takht Bhai caved in. He also suffered financial losses.

## September 10, 2012 (The News)

### **Rain pushes up fruit, veg prices**

After two days of torrential rains in different parts of the province, prices of fruits and vegetables have increased in the provincial metropolis despite an ample supply.

Rates of almost every vegetable and fruit have increased by Rs 5 to 20 per kg. Despite the rain which continued in the city with intervals, good cleanliness arrangements were witnessed in Shadman Sunday bazaar this week as compared to the past when filthy conditions prevailed there after rain. However, poor managements were observed in other Sunday bazaars, including Islampura, Tajpura, Model Town and Green Town.

The staff of these bazaars was absent from duties while unhygienic conditions prevailed there with muddy areas and rainwater. Official price of potato, new, was raised by Rs 5 per kg and fixed at Rs 30 to 35 per kg, potato, store, at Rs 14 to 15 and potato, sugar-free, at Rs 20 to 25 per kg but sold at Rs 35 per kg.

Price of onion was increased by Rs 2 to 3 per kg and fixed at Rs 30 to 35 per kg while rotten and rain-affected onion was sold at Rs 35 per

kg. Despite arrival of a huge quantity of Indian tomato, its rate was increased by Rs 5 to 8 per kg and fixed at Rs 40 to 48 per kg and sold at Rs 50 per kg.

Garlic, china, rate was fixed at Rs 100 to 110 per kg and garlic, Desi, at Rs 60 to 70 per kg but sold at Rs 120 per kg. Ginger price was fixed at Rs 55 to 60 per kg and sold at Rs 80 to 100 per kg. Spinach price was increased by Re 1 to 2 per kg and fixed at Rs 10 to 14 per kg but sold at Rs 20 to 30 per kg.

Brinjal price was fixed at Rs 25 to 30 per kg and cucumber at Rs 35 to 40 per kg with an increase of Rs 5 per kg and sold at Rs 50 per kg. Cabbage price was fixed at Rs 20 to 26 per kg and sold at Rs 40 per kg. Cauliflower rate was fixed at Rs 40 to 50 per kg while rotten cauliflower was sold at Rs 80 per kg. Bitter gourd rate was fixed at Rs 35 to 40 per kg and sold at Rs 50 to 60 per kg.

Pumpkin rate was fixed at Rs 15 to 20 per kg and sold at Rs 30 per kg. Luffa price was fixed at Rs 35 to 40 per kg but was not available in majority of the bazaars, where available, it was sold at Rs 50 to 60 per kg. Peas rate was increased by Rs 10 per kg and fixed at Rs 90 to 100 per kg and sold at Rs 120 per kg.

Capsicum price was fixed at Rs 55 to 60 per kg, registering an increase of Rs 10 per kg but sold at Rs 80 per kg while green chili price was fixed at Rs 20 to 25 per kg and sold at Rs 40 per kg. Lemon, Desi, rate was fixed at Rs 100 to 120 per kg and lemon, China, at Rs 50 to 60 per kg but sold at Rs 120 per kg.

Ladyfinger rate was fixed at Rs 45 to 50 with an increase of Rs 5 per kg but not sold in Sunday bazaars while outside it was sold at Rs 60 to 80 per kg.

Arum price remained stable at Rs 30 to 35 pr kg but sold at Rs 40 per kg. Coriander price was increased by Rs 40 per kg and fixed at Rs 230 to 240 per kg and sold at Rs 300 to 320 per kg. Prices of different varieties of apple were fixed at Rs 24 to 75 per kg while average price of B-category apple was Rs 75 per kg. Just outside the bazaars, good quality apple was sold at Rs 100 to 120 per kg.

Peach, special, rate was fixed at Rs 70 to 80 per kg but normal quality peach was sold at Rs 80 per kg against the price of Rs 50 to 55 pr kg.

Pomegranate, Desi, rate was fixed at Rs 70 to 80 per kg with an increase of Rs 10 per kg and its lower quality was sold at Rs 70 per kg. Grape, Gola, price was fixed at Rs 80 to 90 per kg and Sunderkhani at Rs 120 to 130 per kg but both were not available there. Rate of banana, A-category, was fixed at Rs 70 to 75 per dozen and B-category at Rs 45 to 55 per dozen but sold at Rs 75 per dozen.

## September 10, 2012 (The News)

### **Governor takes notice of rain damage**

Governor Sardar Latif Khosa took notice of the damage caused by the recent rains in Punjab. He directed the irrigation department to take all necessary measures to prevent floods. Besides, the governor directed the DCOs of the different districts to take emergency measures to meet any untoward situation after rains.

## September 10, 2012 (DAWN)

### **More rains, power cuts paralyse life in interior of Sindh**

Most areas of Sindh received heavy to moderate rains, causing flooding and aggravating the water, power and sewage problems. Five more people died in different districts of the province raising the toll over the past three days to 10.

In Hyderabad district, two students were electrocuted in Latifabad unit No. 7 when they tried to switch on a pumping machine installed by a sanitation agency to clear rain water accumulated on roads and in lanes. They were identified as Aamir Qureshi, 22, and Abdul Mateen Qureshi, 18. They were residents of Latifabad the same locality.

A woman, Jannat Khatoon, 35, died when roof of her room collapsed in Gahi Chang village, Husri.



A late night spell of downpour continued for 40 minutes.

People in large numbers took to the streets in various localities against failure of the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco) to control power breakdowns. They burnt old tyres and garbage to block the main thoroughfares of their areas, including Katcha Qila (Shah Faisal Colony), Makki Shah Road, Latifabad units No. 7 and 8 and American Quarters.

The work to flush out water from roads could not be carried out in many areas as 84 pumping stations of the district could not be operated due to the outages. Rainwater entered houses in Railway Colony, Liaquat Colony, Sarfaraz Colony, Pathan Colony, Dadan Shah Colony, Barrage Colony, Latifabad Unit Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 12, Qasimabad, Makki Shah Road and other localities.

Hesco said that 15 feeders in the district went out of order soon after rain, which started at 4pm on Saturday and intermittently continued till late in the night. Electricity in many localities went off at 1.30am on Sunday and could not be restored till 5pm.

Hyderabad Division Commissioner Ahmed Bux Narejo has declared rain emergency in the entire division due to monsoon rains.

He told Dawn that the district administrations concerned had been informed of the declaration.

In Mirpurkhas, rain caused damage to a residential quarter at the local civil hospital and the falling debris injured a woman, identified as Ms Aslam. Roof of another house located in Pak Colony partially collapsed injuring a man, Arshad Baloch.

Trade and business activities in the district were disrupted and major markets and shops remained closed.

Electricity in many areas continued to play hide and seek as Mirwah Gorchani, Digri, Tando Jan Mohammad, Jhuddo, Naokot, Kot Ghulam Mohammad, Khaan, Sindhri and many other areas received more rain on Sunday.

Reports from Sanghar said that lightning struck a house in Khipro killing a man and his son. Yousuf Dars and his son, Jamal Dars, were sitting in the veranda of their home in Bakherji village of Khipro, some 57 kilometres from here, on Sunday night when lightning struck the house.

Rains in Sukkur city and its adjoining areas including Thull and Kashmore paralyzed routine life and caused closure of all markets and shops.

A heavy spell of rain started lashing the areas on Sunday night and continued for an hour inundating roads and streets. It was continuing in Thull and Kashmore when last report came in late in the night.

Reports said that standing crops and farmlands in Sukkur district had suffered considerable losses.

In Badin, heavy rain caused great hardship to the residents of low lying areas as a large number of huts in katchi abadis submerged in rainwater. Rain started at 4.30pm and was continuing till filing of this report.

Standing crops of cotton, rice and sugarcane on over 100 acres also submerged when a 30-ft wide breach developed in 1-R Tando Bago sub-drain of Kadhan subdivision. Villagers along with the irrigation staff plugged breach.

In Jacobabad, intermittent rains over the past three days caused flooding of thoroughfares, collapse of the city's drainage system and disruption in power supply. However, no major incident was reported.

All four talukas of the Umerkot district — Umerkot, Samaro, Kunri and Pithoro — received intermittent rain on Sunday raising the water level in the major canal but inundating the cotton and chillies crops. While up to three feet high water accumulated in the agricultural fields, knee-deep water in the low-lying areas paralysed the routine life.

## September 10, 2012 (DAWN)

### Flooded again

The monsoon rains are back in Pakistan and along with them, the flooding. At least 78 people have been reported dead and thousands left homeless within a week of heavy rainfall. The National Disaster Management Authority has declared a state of emergency in several districts and is expecting more rainfall in the coming days.

The picture is all too familiar for Pakistan, as the country has been dealing with some of the worst years of monsoon, where thousands of lives have been lost and millions stranded. The rains have been hitting the same regions and creating another natural crisis.

It was reported earlier in the year that Pakistan's flood forecasting system is inaccurate and may have been a major hindrance in preparing for the disaster.

The government authorities have, it seems, been unable to foresee the disaster the third year running and precious lives have been lost in a matter of days. It remains to be seen what the levels of preparedness will be should the onslaught continue and the role of NDMA will be highlighted in the weeks to come.

Having seen the worst in the last two seasons, should the government and concerned authorities have been better prepared for this monsoon season?

How can the government ensure the losses are curtailed in this year's flooding?

Will the government be able to show a better response after experiencing two deadly seasons?

## September 10, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Caretakers helpless as rain batters Moenjodaro ruins**

The rainwater gathering in corridors, lanes and rooms of the 5,000-year-old structures of Moenjodaro and unprofessional and unscientific methods to drain it out pose a serious threat to the ancient ruins of the Indus Civilisation.

It has been raining in and around Larkana since Thursday. The Moenjodaro Met Office recorded 25.5mm rainfall on Saturday and 53.5mm since Sept 5.

When this correspondent visited Moenjodaro, 30 kilometres from Larkana, untrained employees were seen pumping out rainwater from the DK area and DK North area's structures into an old drain, which was built by Chief Engineer of the Archaeology Department Mohan Lal 10 years ago.

A dewatering machine has been installed to suck water from the lanes and rooms of the area. A number of labourers were seen gathering rainwater in buckets and throwing it from one area to another, protecting one structure and endangering the other.

"By tomorrow we will be able to drain out all rainwater from the structures and fill fissures developed in walls and ruins," said Abdul Haq Bhimbhro, Project Director of Moenjodaro.

He said whatever was humanly possible was being done to save the structures and hoped to clear them of stagnant water by the next day.

The stagnant rainwater had developed fissures in the Stupa's platform which were immediately filled. A small portion of corbel earth corner near the Great Bath collapsed and was left unrepaired, said sources in Moenjodaro conservation staff.

Mr Bhimbhro said if he continued to hold his position for four more years, he would finish the conservation work. He, however, said certain elements wanted to blame him for the collapse of walls in an effort to deprive him of an extension.

The HR areas, Muneer Area, Dr Dale's area, VS area and L area were also battered by heavy rains. The HR area has been neglected for long and has comparatively weaker structures.

He said the Sindh culture department which took over 129 archaeological sites in the province in the wake of enforcement of the 18th amendment had allocated Rs3 million for undertaking pre-monsoon work at Moenjodaro.

"As the work was in progress rains intervened and diverted our efforts to draining out rainwater," he said, adding that his term as project director ended in June 2012 but the department told him to continue to work.

The structures face a serious threat from seeping rainwater from under the foundations of walls to find its own course in the absence of a proper drainage system.

A source in the department of archaeology said that the rains caused expansion in the structures followed by contraction when sunlight would strike it. This would greatly harm the ruins, said the source.

A member of the technical committee on Moenjodaro, Dr Kaleem Lashari, who visited the mound last week, opposed gathering rainwater in buckets from one room and throwing it into another with no drains.

He said the method saved one area at the cost of the other where it was being thrown.

Larkana Met Office measured heavy downpour on Saturday at 47.5mm.

It flooded almost all low-lying areas and submerged a number of roads. It also rained in Qambar-Shahdadkot district and its adjoining hilly areas.

Larkana Deputy Commissioner Asadullah Abro said the city had received 30.4mm rain, Bakrani 30mm, and Dokri 23mm and fortunately caused no damage on Saturday.

## September 11, 2012 (The News)

### **Over 70 die as heavy rains hit country**

Over 70 people were killed and dozens of others were injured as torrential rains and flashfloods continued to wreak havoc across the country. A state of emergency was declared in Shikarpur, Kashmore, Kandhkot, Ghotki and other districts of Sindh while the army was called in for rescue and relief efforts in Rajanpur, Shikarpur, Kandhkot and Kashmore.

A spokesman for the Met office said Jacobabad received 380mm of rain during the last 24 hours, which broke its own 100-year-old record. He said Jacobabad usually received about 11mm of rain in the month of September, adding that all the upper areas of Sindh had received more than 100mm of rain so far.

According to media reports, several DG Khan areas are under rainwater. The intermittent rain paralysed the routine life and disrupted the communication system, with many villages disconnected from the rest of the country.

In Shikarpur, 10 people were killed and 160 houses damaged while 15 people were killed in Ghotki in rain-related incidents.

Reports said Kandhkot and Kashmore districts were severely hit by the monsoon flooding. People in the inundated area said there was a lack of coordination among the authorities to provide relief to the affected population. Meanwhile, as many as 23 people were killed in rain-related incidents in Kandhkot and Kashmore.

In Mirpur Mathello, five people, including three children, were killed when the roof of their house collapsed.

Reports said in Chachro and Talhar, flash floods triggered by the rains claimed 13 lives while in Kot Diji and Thari Mirwah, several roads were submerged. In these areas, relief efforts were dealt a setback as de-watering pumps and heavy motors did not operate properly due

to poor maintenance. Heavy floods caused by rains also destroyed the standing crops on huge agricultural lands. Schools and colleges in the rain-hit areas have been closed and emergency has been declared in hospitals.

In Faisalabad, four people were killed in rain-related incidents, while six houses collapsed. Sajid, a factory worker, was electrocuted while working in a factory near Kamalpur on the Sargodha Road. Nishat Ahmad, another worker, received severe electric shock and fell unconscious in an attempt to rescue his friend. He was shifted to hospital where his condition was said to be stable.

In the second incident, a boy was killed while four of his family members were critically injured when the roof of their house collapsed during the rain in Mohallah Hajiabad, Nishatabad.

In the third incident, two shopkeepers of the Sandal Bar area of Millat Road were electrocuted when they were trying to lock their shop during the rain. In the fourth incident, Ijaz and Saeed were buried under the debris when the roof of their factory collapsed during the rain in Bakar Mandi.

In Pakpattan, three members of a family were killed, while three others were injured when the roof of their house collapsed in Mohallah Eidgah. The roof of the house of Muhammad Abbas Qureshi, son of Khushi Muhammad, also collapsed during the rain.

In Toba Tek Singh, a child was killed and more than 12 others were injured as rain continued on the fifth consecutive day.

Three members of a family were killed in a roof collapse incident in Multan. According to Rescue 1122, Muhammad Faisal, his wife Hameedan Bibi and six-month-old daughter Irsa, were sleeping in their house near the shrine of Pir Roshan Shah when its roof caved in due to heavy rain.

Meanwhile, a boy and his sister were electrocuted near Bosan Road Bypass in Multan. According to Rescue 1122, Ramazan, 6, and his sister Sonia, 5, were playing in their home when they received electric

shocks during rain. They died on the spot.

Also, as many as nine persons died and four others were injured in a roof collapse incidents due to heavy rain in Gadoon Amazai Industrial Estate, Swabi. The injured were shifted to hospital.

**MUZAFFARGARH:** Heavy rains caused havoc across the Muzaffargarh district. As many as 35 people were injured due to roof collapses in Kot Addu, Muzaffargarh, Jatoi and Alipur tehsils while rainwater flooded the streets in Shah Jamal, Khangarh, Sher-e-Sultan, Rangpur and Qasba Gujrat. The rainwater also entered the houses in some low-lying areas. Trains were delayed and power supply was disrupted for hours due to the rains. Meanwhile, DCO Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the situation was under control. He said that a control room had been set up in the office of the EDO(CD) to monitor the situation.

**SAHIWAL:** Heavy rains continued in the district on the third day on Monday. The rains disrupted telephone service and power supply in the city and surrounding areas. The telephone lines of the commissioner's office and surrounding areas of Canal Colony, Main Farid Town Road and localities were out-of-order for the last three days. The heavy rains coupled with windstorm also uprooted dozens of trees, which fell on electric poles, disrupting the power supply.

**MANSEHRA:** Almost all the districts of Hazara Division received heavy rain on the fourth consecutive day.

The rain, which started in Mansehra, Kohistan, Torghar and Battagram districts on Friday, continued intermittently on Monday. The mountainous areas remained wrapped in heavy fog and visibility was also affected.

The land-sliding has blocked various link roads in Siran, Konsh and Kaghan valleys in Mansehra and Allai in Battagram and Kundia in Kohistan, which is causing inconvenience to the commuters.



## September 11, 2012 (The News)

### **Jacobabad receives heaviest rain in 100 years, says Met office**

Director of Met, Muhammad Hanif, said that Jacobabad received 380mm rain during last 24 hours, the heaviest in the last 100 years. Talking to PTVs, he said that average rain in Jacobabad was usually about 11mm in the month of September every year, adding that all the upper areas of Sindh had received more than 100mm rains so far. Muhammad Hanif said that this spell of rain was still persisting in Sindh, and all the adjacent areas, including Karachi, would receive heavy rain till Tuesday morning.

Hanif said that this system of rain was on its peak right now in eastern Sindh and Balochistan which would cause heavy rain in seven districts of Balochistan, Sibi, Naseerabad, Mosa Khel, Jhal Magsi, Dera Bugti, Darra Bolan and Kuhlu, during the next 48 hours.

The Met director said that 80 per cent nullahs of Balochistan were feared to have been flooded as eastern Balochistan was to receive an intensified spell of rain in the next few days.

## September 11, 2012 (The News)

### **Sindh government announces rain emergency**

The Sindh government cancelled the leaves of all the officials whose assistance would be needed for the recently declared rain emergency as relentless downpours resulted in the deaths of as many as 40 people across the province and caused substantial damage to properties.

Meanwhile, Rehabilitation Minister Muzaffar Shujra told The News that the continued rains in Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kashmore, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Matiari, Thatta and Badin caused the death of around 40 people and destroyed 250 homes.

He said some families have taken shelter in public schools in Jacobabad

and Shikarpur, while the provincial government released Rs28 million for the rain-hit people of these districts. The minister and his team were personally monitoring relief measures in the affected areas as the met department predicted more rains for Tuesday.

### **Thundershowers predicted**

The Meteorological Department has forecast cloudy weather with rain/thundershowers for Tuesdays in Karachi as warnings of heavy rains loom over the next 24 hours. The predicted downpours could cause flash floods in the Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad districts of Sindh.

An almost 100-year-old record of rainfall for Jacobabad was broken when 305mm fell on the city in 24 hours, a met official said.

During the last 24 hours, Sharea Faisal received 9mm of rainfall, Gulistan-e-Jauhar 7.8mm, Karachi Airport 7mm, North Karachi 5mm, Nazimabad 4.5mm and PAF Masroor 1mm shower.

Data collected by the met office showed that light to moderate and heavy to very heavy rainfall had fallen on a number of places in Sindh and at isolated parts of northeast Balochistan over the last 24 hours.

The amount of rain that game down was Tangwani 372mm, Jacobabad 305mm, Kandhkot 282mm, Kashmore 280mm, Sukkur 164mm, Rohri 152mm, Khairpur Mirs 150mm, Kingri 80mm, Kamber 65mm, Talhar 63mm, Tanbobago 60mm, Larkan 58mm, Jhudo 53mm, Nara, Badin and Diplo 50mm each, Kot Deji 45mm, Chhore 35mm, Digri 28mm, Barkhan 27mm, Moenjodaro 25mm, Kot GM, Mirwah, Sobodero and Faiz Ganj 20mm each, Chachro 17mm, Mirpurkhas 16.8mm, Mithi 16mm, Gambat and Tandoalayar 15mm each, HB Mari 11mm, Chambar and Shaheed Fazil Raho 10mm each, Sindhri 9mm, Zhob 7mm, Sanjhoru 6mm, Padidan 5mm, Nagarparkar 5mm, Sibi 4mm, Kalat 4mm, Dadu 4.4mm, Thatta 4.4mm, Hyderabad 3mm and Nawabshah 1mm.

According to met reports, there is a well-marked low pressure lying in Sindh and its adjoining areas. Strong monsoon currents would

continue to penetrate the central and southern parts of Pakistan, particularly Sindh, the met report said.

## September 11, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Floods triggered by downpour wreak widespread devastation**

Flash floods triggered by heavy rains caused widespread destruction across vast swathes of the country on Monday, breaking a 24-year rainfall record and leaving over 100 people dead in upper Sindh, wreaking devastation in Punjab's Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur areas and leaving five districts of eastern Balochistan cut off from the rest of the country.

In Sindh, over 100 people were reported dead and scores of others injured as rains and flooding destroyed thousands of houses, rendering a large number of families homeless. Some of them have taken shelter at railway stations.

Jacobabad received the heaviest downpour of 305mm (over 12 inches), while Sukkur, Thull, Kandhkot, Kashmore, Khanpur Mahar, Ghotki, Daharki, Mirpur Mathelo, Rohri, Ali Wahan and Shikarpur received five to 282 millimetres of rain.

Widespread damage to standing crops and agricultural land and residential settlements in rural areas was reported from seven districts of the province.

Flooding also hit urban areas, bringing life to a standstill and submerging roads and streets in all cities and towns of upper Sindh.

A rain emergency has been declared and troops have been called in to help the administrations of the worst-hit districts in relief and rescue work.

Suleman Range hill torrents caused havoc in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur districts of Punjab.

The Wadoor, Shoori Lund and Soori Khosa hill torrents coupled with a breach in Dera Ghazi Khan Canal affected a large population. The town was partially flooded while farmland over a vast area was submerged.

A violent Kaha hill torrent was threatening Rajanpur's urban area after inundating Lalgarh town. Gushing water reached the embankment of Mubarak Canal, the last line of defence of Rajanpur town.

Violent currents of 145,000 cusecs in Wadoor, 82,000 cusecs in Shoori Lund and 22,000 cusecs in Soori Khosa torrents breached the under-construction Kachhi Canal and DG Khan Canal.

After the breaches in DG Khan Canal, that is supposed to protect the town from hill torrents, floodwater entered Behari Colony, Railway Colony, Sadeeqabad, Abdulla Town, Indus Colony, Civil Hospital, district government offices, an under-construction medical college, surroundings of Gaddai, the Government Postgraduate College and residential colonies of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Residents of Sadeeqabad, Shamasabad and Abdulla Town took refuge at the platform of the Dera railway station.

Before hitting the town, the torrents inundated areas adjoining Choti Zaireen and Nawn Shehr and destroyed hundreds of acres of standing crop of cotton besides submerging dozens of villages.

According to a preliminary assessment, about 10,000 houses have been affected and 75,000 people displaced in the district.

District Coordination Officer Iftikhar Ali Sahu said the World Health Programme and World Health Organisation would provide medicines and food to the affected people and the revenue department would assess the losses.

He said the engineering wing of the army was plugging the canal breaches.

In Rajanpur, 60,000 cusecs of water in Kaha Sultan hill torrent inundated Lalgarh area inhabited by Gorchani Baloch tribe and dozens of villages, damaging standing crops.

The administration is trying to save Rajanpur town.

Five schools have been declared as relief centers for the displaced people.

There was no electricity in the town and its suburbs since the early hours of Monday.

People also faced problems because of the closure of the Quetta-Dera Ghazi Khan road, but Irrigation Department's Executive Engineer Aabid Rasheed said army teams were working to restore the route.

Meanwhile, rain kept lashing other towns of central and south Punjab.

In Toba Tek Singh, two people died and about a dozen were injured when houses collapsed on the fifth consecutive day of torrential rain.

In Bahawalnagar, one person was killed and three others injured when the roof of a mosque caved in on Sunday night in Macleod Ganj area.

Three members of a family died in Multan when the roof of their house collapsed.

At least five districts of eastern Balochistan were cut off from the rest of the country after floodwater submerged railway tracks and highways in Nasirabad and Jaffarabad.

Hundreds of houses were washed away and thousands of families were rendered homeless in the province.

At least five people were killed and several others injured in rain-related accidents, official sources said.

The administration of both the districts declared an emergency and asked the provincial government to launch a relief operation in the affected areas.

Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani immediately released funds for a relief operation and decided to send tents and food for affected people.

“Eleven districts of Balochistan have been badly affected by the torrential rains over the past four days,” an official told Dawn, adding that the government had decided to call out the army and civil armed forces for shifting the affected people to safe places and providing relief.

Frontier Corps personnel reached the affected areas of Nasirabad, Jaffarabad and Dera Bugti that were cut off from the rest of the country.

As the rains continued, a breach developed in the Pat Feeder Canal in RD238 area because of floodwater coming from streams of Dera Bugti and Kohlu. Source said water gushing from the breach was flowing downstream and might re-enter the canal.

Water flow into the canal was closed at Guddu Barrage on the request of the Balochistan irrigation department. However, over 6,000 cusecs of water was flowing in the canal, an official in Nasirabad said.

Train service between Balochistan and other parts of the country was suspended as the railway track was inundated between Dera Allahyar and Shikarpur.

Thousands of homeless people took shelter along the canal and national highway after losing their mud houses.

“Jaffarabad, Nasirabad and Dera Bugti districts and adjoining areas of Jacobabad and Shikarpur have received around 400mm of rain so far,” officials said.

They said most of the mud-houses in Sui tehsil had been washed away. Sangsilla, Loti and Uch areas of Dera Bugti district were also badly affected.

According to the Met Office, heavy rains were reported in Killa Saifullah, Zhob, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Ziarat, Harnai, Musakhel, Sibi, Bolan, Nasirabad, Jafferabad, Jhal Magsi, Dera Bugti, Barkhan, Mastung, Kalat and Khuzdar.

Over 40 villages were inundated in Loralai and highways in the area remained closed.

Vast areas in Bolan, Bhag, Dhadar, Balanari, Jafferabad, Chatter, Dera Allah Yar, Sobatpur and Usta Muhammad were also inundated.

## September 11, 2012 (The News)

### **Fishing families being driven away as rains fill lakes**

Certain 'influential persons' – with assistance from hired thugs – are preventing fishing families in interior Sindh from catching fish in their local lakes, activists and fishermen have told The News.

One of the activists, Ramzan Mallah, says the armed men were deployed at the water bodies shortly after they were replenished by the recent monsoon rains. "The men have either driven the fishermen away or are forcefully buying their catch at fixed rates."

According to him, there are more than 10,000 families living in scattered villages near these lakes, and nearly all of them are reliant on fishing for their livelihood.

The said fishing families were issued licenses by the government in 2010 to harvest the resources of the 13 natural lakes outside Chotiari Reservoir through a bill passed in the Sindh Assembly.

Only a few of these families possess boats, and a majority of the locals are forced to try their luck in shallower waters with just a net in hand. They wake up early in the morning daily so that can sell the day's catch at the local market.

Abdul Rehman Mallah, a 74-year-old fisherman who hails from the village of Phulel near the Chotiari Reservoir, is the leader of a campaign against the old contract system launched by the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) some five years ago.

Mallah squarely blamed government officials for these activities,

accusing them of not wanting to take action against these ‘powerful persons’.

“These fishing families are the traditional custodians of these natural resources and have the right to catch these fish. But, whenever these waters are fed by rains, these people deploy their armed men and prevent us from fishing,” he said.

Mallah was reminiscent of the community’s struggle against the contract system, and remembered fondly the days after it was abolished. “But now, because of leniency by government officials, we have lost control of these lakes again.”

Meanwhile, Ishaq Meerani, a PFF activist from Kashmir, reported an almost identical situation in his district. Meerani claims that he has been receiving threats from landlords, but has refused to back down because he believes “this is their [the fishing families’ basic right”.

Meerani says these landlords have registered cases against his family remembers, as a pressure-tactic. PFF chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah told The News that his organisation has already announced a province-wide campaign against these activities. He appealed to the provincial government to observe the law, as poor fishermen were facing financial hardship.

“It is the responsibility of the fisheries department to implement the law strictly and protect the fishermen. The government should also assure provision of fish feed from government’s developed fish hatchery farms to benefit the community,” he said.

An official from the fisheries department, on condition of anonymity, has confirmed these reports and regretted that their department was unable to act.

“We cannot take action against these people because they enjoy support from politically powerful elements. Only the Fisheries Minister can talk about the situation,” he said. The fisheries minister was not available to comment on the issue.



## September 11, 2012 (The News)

### **Hub Dam near full capacity after monsoon rains**

The water level in the Hub Dam rose by 8.75 feet – enough to supply Karachi and Lasbela for 10 months – after heavy rains in Sindh and Balochistan on Sunday night. Wapda officials at the Hub Dam told The News that the dam now has enough water to be supply Karachi and Lasbela district of Balochistan for the next 20 months. They also noted that another good spell of rain in the catchment area of the dam could bring it to full capacity. The water level currently sits at 318.75, just 20 ft short of its maximum level of 339 ft.

## September 11, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Over 100 feared dead: Upper Sindh devastated by monsoon downpour**

Heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours devastated upper Sindh region bringing life to a complete standstill in urban areas and flooding agricultural lands in more than half of the province.

The fresh spell of rain that started on Sunday evening continued intermittently on Monday and broke 25-year record in seven districts — Sukkur, Ghotki, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kandhkot-Kashmore, Khairpur and Naushahro Feroze — leaving, according to unofficial sources, more than 100 people dead and rendering hundreds of thousands of people homeless. A large number of people were reported injured.

The sources claimed that 105 people were feared to have died in rain-related incidents reported from Sukkur, Jacobabad, Thull, Kandhkot, Kashmore, Khanpur Mahar, Ghotki, Daharki, Mirpur Mathelo, Rohri, Ali Wahan, Shikarpur and their adjoining areas over the past three days.

Official sources could not confirm the death toll, saying that they were in the process of compiling the data from far flung areas.

Sukkur Commissioner Inamullah Dharejo said that 195mm rain was recorded in the Sukkur region since Sept 9.

More than 70 houses collapsed in Jacobabad, where nine people were reported killed while 13 people were reported killed in Kandhkot and Kashmore and 12 in Thull, Tangwani and Mirpur Buriro. Another 13 people were killed in rain-related incidents reported from Sukkur city, Rohri and Ali Wahan.

Authorities in most districts have ordered closure of educational institutions indefinitely while a rain emergency remained in force on the orders of the Sindh chief minister.

Meanwhile, a shortage of blood, essential medicines and other medical equipment was felt at nearly all health facilities of upper Sindh as patients in large numbers started reaching there to seek emergency treatment.

Sources in Jacobabad, Kandhkot, Kashmore, Ghotki and Shikarpur districts told Dawn that no arrangements had so far been made by the district administrations or NGOs to provide shelter to hundreds of families rendered homeless due to rain devastation and flooding.

In Jacobabad, over 250 families have taken shelter at the local railway station after wading through three-four feet high water to reach there.

Another 150 families have taken refuge under the sheds of the Shikarpur railway station.

Similar was the situation at the Kandhkot and Bakhshapur railway stations where several hundreds of people have taken shelter after their settlements were inundated.

Rains and flooding also played havoc with electricity and telecommunication network as thousands of PTCL landlines went out of order in Sukkur, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kandhkot, Kashmore and most parts of each district in upper Sindh remained without electricity soon after the Sunday night spell of rain began.

Cellphone networks, however, remained operational though most people could not benefit from it because they could not recharge their cellphones because of the absence of electricity, low voltage and unavailability of balance recharge facilities.

Life also came to a standstill in almost all districts as no educational institution, bazaar, market, shop or business establishment was opened amid continuing rainfall.

Upper Sindh districts also experienced a shortage of drinking water owing to electricity suspension that rendered most pumping stations in the region inoperative.

September

## September 11, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rains wreak havoc on upper Sindh**

As torrential monsoon rains wreaked havoc throughout Sindh rendering thousands of families homeless with many homes destroyed and crops devastated, the death toll on Monday rose to 105 in upper parts of the province where Jacobabad received at least 305 millimeters (over 12 inches) of rainfall within one day breaking the 24-year record of heaviest rainfall in the area.

While more showers have been forecast for the next couple of days by the Met Office, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah declared a state of emergency in the rain-hit parts.

Army troops were called out in Shikarpur.

According to unofficial reports, 105 persons have died during the current monsoon rains in Sukkur, Jacobabad, Thull, Kandhkot, Kashmore, Khanpur Mahar, Ghotki, Daharki, Mirpur Mathelo, Rohri, Ali Wahan, Shikarpur and nearby areas of all small and big towns of upper Sindh.

Jacobabad received 305 millimetres of rainfall between Sunday morning and Monday morning, crossing the earlier mark of

251-millimetre rainfall (over 10 inches) recorded in 1988, said a Met official on Monday evening, adding that a total of 442 millimetres (more than 17.7 inches) of rainfall had been recorded over the past 36 hours.

Kandhkot received 282mm (11.2 inches), Kashmore 280mm (11.2 inches) in 24 hours, while Rohri received 197mm (7.8 inches) over the past 36 hours.

In Sukkur, 164 millimetres (6.56 inches) of rainfall was recorded from Sunday morning till Monday morning breaking the Aug 4, 2008 record when the district had received 92mm (3.68 inches) of rainfall. As the rain continued, another 10 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in 12 hours till Monday evening.

The country's chief weatherman, Arif Mahmood, said that the marked low pressure entered Sindh and adjoining areas. Strong monsoon currents would continue to penetrate Sindh where scattered rain and thunderstorm with isolated heavy showers were expected over the next couple of days, he added.

He said that heavy rains could cause urban flash floods in Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad.

The amount of rainfall recorded in other parts of Sindh between Sunday morning and Monday morning were: Qambar (65mm or 2.6 inches); Talhar (63mm); Tando Bago (60mm); Larkana 58mm; Judho 53mm; Badin 51mm; Diplo and Nara 50mm; Chhor 35mm; Digri 28mm; Moenjodaro 25mm; Kot Ghulam Mohammad 20mm; Sobho Dero and Mirwah 20mm; Chhachhro 17mm; Mirpurkhas 16.8mm; Mithi 16mm; Tando Allahyar 15 mm; Khairpur and Gambat 15mm; Chamber and Shaheed Fazil Rahu 10mm; Sindhri nine millimetres; Kingri eight millimetres; Sanghar 6.5mm; Sinjhor six millimetres; Padidan and Nagar Parkar five millimetres.

In Karachi, Faisal Base received 9mm; Gulistan-i-Jauhar and airport received seven millimetres; North Karachi received five millimetres; Landhi three millimetres and PAF Masroor base one millimetre.

Declaring emergency across the province, the chief minister directed commissioners and deputy commissioners to ensure evacuation of people to safer places and provision of relief facilities there.

Mr Shah directed the officials concerned to provide shelter, food and medical treatment to the rain-affected people. He asked the livestock department to make arrangements for the treatment and the provision of fodder for the cattle.

## September 12, 2012 (The News)

### Four electrocuted in latest rain spell in Sindh

Breaches wreak havoc in several cities, villages; govt announces Rs0.2m compensation for heirs of rain victims.

After a lapse of some 12 hours, heavy rains again hit most parts of Sukkur, Khairpur, Thari Mirwah, Sallih Patt, Pano Aqil and Choundiko on Tuesday.

Four more people were electrocuted, three in Jacobabad and one in Khairpur while 29 union council secretaries were suspended on charges of negligence in rain-hit areas. The army has once again been called in for a rescue operation in Jacobabad and Choundiko.

Reports said that a village in Shikarpur was submerged due to the overflowing of a Nullah, forcing the people to the rooftops of their houses. Meanwhile, breaches in canals and Nullahs have inundated thousands of acres of irrigation land and villages across the province.

Reports said that in Ghotki, a wide breach submerged several villages and damaged crops. Breaches also wreaked havoc in Badin, Kot Diji and several other areas. The people in those areas complained over the lack of relief activities in those areas.

Meanwhile, the Sindh government will pay a compensation of Rs200,000 to each heir of those who died in the province during the current rain spell. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah

while talking to the media at the Sukkur Airport on Tuesday before departing for Shikarpur, Jacobabad and other rain-hit areas.

Shah said that the province suffered from unexpected rains. The chief minister said that the victims of the rain would be soon shifted to camps. He said that five districts of the province had been declared calamity-hit areas.

Shah regretted the NDMA's performance and said that the meteorological department had predicted low rains in most parts of the province. The chief minister said that rains were a means to test the steadfastness of the people, advising them to be patient instead of being angry. He said he had been giving his utmost attention to providing the best means of rehabilitation to the rain-hit people.

## September 12, 2012 (DAWN)

### **More rains in lower Sindh forecast**

Though the rain system has weakened in Sindh, some areas will continue to receive downpour on Wednesday, said Met officials.

Areas in southern Sindh and southeast Balochistan might receive more showers on Wednesday.

Jacobabad, usually one of the hottest cities in the country in summer, has received the most amount of rainfall in the ongoing spell. During the past five days, Jacobabad has received more than 481 millimetres (over 19 inches), said Met officials.

Jacobabad received around 144 millimetres (just short of six inches) of rainfall, they added.

Larkana received the second highest amount of rainfall in the past five days with 215 millimetres (almost nine inches) while Sukkur received the third highest with 206 millimetres (more than eight inches) of rainfall.

Larkana received the second highest amount of rainfall on Tuesday as well: 58 millimetres (about three inches).

In other cities, Rohri received 49 millimetres (about two inches), Nawabshah 41 millimetres (1.6 inches), Sukkur 36 millimetres (1.4 inches), Moenjodaro 19 millimetres, Mithi 16 millimetres, Badin 11 millimetres, Dadu and Hyderabad both five millimeters, Paddidan three millimeters while Thatta received two millimeters of rainfall.—  
Staff Reporter

## September 12, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rain system rapidly weakening**

The monsoon low pressure is rapidly weakening over Sindh after causing devastating rain for three days and inflicting heavy losses of life and property in the province and adjoining areas of Balochistan and Punjab.

Several more people died in the regions in rain-related incidents.

“The system over Sindh is quickly weakening and is likely to dissipate over the next 24 hours,” the meteorological department announced.

It nevertheless said the system would produce some more scattered thunderstorm and rain with heavy falls at isolated places in Sindh, eastern Balochistan and Bahawalpur, Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan divisions before dissipating.

Isolated thunderstorm and rain are expected in upper Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The five-day spell that began late last week produced unprecedented rains in south Punjab, Sindh and eastern Balochistan which earlier were facing a threat of drought because of dry weather in the monsoon season.

The situation is reversed now because there has been much more than average rainfall at some places in the three low monsoon rain regions.

The most affected area is Jacobabad which received 481mm of rain. Its average rainfall for September is just 11mm.

Khanpur has received 291mm of rain, Rahim Yar Khan 236mm, Larkana 215mm, Sukkur 206mm, Shorkot 152mm, Chhor 137mm, Multan 136mm, Toba Tek Singh 130mm, Mithi 121mm, Dera Ghazi Khan 120mm, Badin 108mm, Sahiwal 107mm, Okara 103mm and Hyderabad and Dadu 90mm.

On Tuesday, Nawabshah received 47mm of rain, Larkana 24mm, Rohri 22mm, Moenjodero 18mm, Mithi 16mm, Dir 13mm, Badin 11mm, Karachi airport 7mm, Sibi 6mm, Hyderabad 5mm, Kalat and Lasbela 4mm, Padidan 3mm, Zhob 2mm and Samungli and Muzaffarabad 1mm each.

Iftikhar A. Khan adds from Islamabad: With the monsoon spell set to phase out, the government said there was no threat of massive floods in any part of the country.

Addressing a press conference along with the chiefs of the meteorological department and the National Disaster Management Authority, Climate Change Minister Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed Khan said that although the monsoon had brought intense rains in different areas, there was no major threat because the spell was phasing out.

He praised the Pakistan Meteorological Department for forecasting the recent spell of rains, making it possible for provincial government departments to take timely measures to minimise losses.

He said that although half of Dera Ghazi Khan was under water there was no danger to sensitive nuclear installations in the area.

He said the disaster management authorities at the national, provincial and district levels were coping with the post-rain situation.



Talking to Dawn, NDMA Chairman Dr Zafar Iqbal Qadir said 100 people had been reported to have died and 77 injured in rain-related incidents across the country. Damage to 8,661 houses had been reported, most of them in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said breaches in canals in rain-hit districts of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had flooded agricultural land and urban areas.

Troops have plugged several breaches and are working in other areas.

The rainwater which had flooded various urban areas would retreat in seven to 10 days, the NDMA chief said.

**CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY:** Mahmood Alam, Secretary of Climate Change Ministry, said a national policy had been prepared to cope with changing harsh weather patterns and their impact.

“I hope the ‘roadmap’ climate change policy which focuses on mitigation and adaptation will be approved by the cabinet soon.”

He said Pakistan accounted for a little over 0.5 per cent of the global carbon emissions but was among top 10 countries highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

He said extreme weather events such as heavy rains, droughts and floods were becoming increasingly frequent because of deepening impact of global warming on the country.

The secretary said rising sea level was another threat that was eating away fertile land in coastal areas and damaging underground water resources.

## September 13, 2012 (DAWN)

### Historical fort further damaged in rains

Pucca Qilla, a magnificent red-bricked 17th century edifice and a protected site under the Antiquities Act of 1975, is giving in to human invasion brick by brick and wall by wall in the absence of an adequate

defence by the authorities concerned.

Big portions of three houses built along the edge of the fort's fortification wall collapsed, bringing down with them a fairly large portion of the fort's wall early on Wednesday. Luckily, no one was hurt.

Portions of the fort's decaying wall start collapsing with the onset of rainy season. The wall fell in the area facing Goods Naka and in the Qilla's area called plot No-4.

Inhabitants of the damaged houses told Dawn that they had lost precious household items. "One of our rooms and kitchen went down," said a woman who is resident of the house.

"We can not even salvage the remaining articles from the house because it is now half hanging in the air with the fort's wall and mud slipping from under its floor," said wife of Imran, a labourer, who bought this small space for Rs250, 000.

The passage to the damaged houses goes through street No-1 of the Qilla, which is thickly populated and forms part of UC-8 of the city taluka.

The Sindh Building Control Authority fulfils a formality each year ahead of monsoon season by issuing warning notices to the residents living along the fort's wall. "Notices were issued this year and published in newspapers as well," said regional director of the authority, Tazmir Asim.

The area near the fort's wall was categorised as 'dangerous' and the area along the wall was described as "very dangerous zone" by the department, he said.

The residents of the very dangerous zone have built rooms by using the fort's wall as one of the four walls and also dug it out for ventilators, windows and drains.

Mr Asim said that former president Gen Pervez Musharraf had promised to release Rs50 million for the relocation of these families

during a visit to Hyderabad in August 2003 but the amount was never released.

“The department had also submitted a Rs1 billion scheme to the government in 2007 which included proposal for relocation of families but the authorities concerned have since been sitting on it,” said Sindh archaeology director Qasim Ali Qasim.

At least 300 families would have to be relocated if the fort was to be preserved, he said.

To handle incidents of encroachment in the fort, the role of archaeology department is restricted to merely issuing notices to Hyderabad Development Authority and defunct Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, which had issued entitlement slips (fard-e-haqiyat) to Qilla residents in 1978, declaring the area as katchi abadi.

Recently, work started in the fort on the construction of a gymnasium under development funds of the area’s MNA. The department did issue notices to the administration and provincial works department but in vain. The work on the gymnasium continues.

Besides a katchi abadi, there is a police station, residences of frontier constabulary personnel and a school inside the fort in clear violation of the Antiquities Act.

A large number of refugees had made the fort their temporary residence after arriving from India in the wake of partition. Now, their third and fourth generation is living there.

Pucca Qilla, spread over 38 acres, was constructed by Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro around 1768 when he founded Hyderabad and made it capital of Sindh.

## September 17, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rs2bn package for rain-hit areas of Sindh**

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf announced a special package of Rs2 billion for rain-affected areas of Sindh and directed the finance ministry to immediately release the first instalment of Rs710 million to enable the local administration to launch rescue and relief work in the worst-affected districts.

(He also announced approval of similar grants for the flood-affected areas of Southern Punjab and Balochistan, according to APP.)

He made the announcement during a meeting at Shahbaz airbase in Jacobabad on devastation caused by heavy rains and remedial measures.

From the first instalment, he said, Rs200 million each would be given to Jacobabad and Kandhkot-Kashmore districts, Rs100 million to Shikarpur and Rs70 million each to Sukkur, Khairpur and Ghotki.

He directed district administration officials and elected representatives to rescue people marooned by accumulated rainwater, shift them to safe places and provide them food, medical aid and basic amenities.

He directed the authorities concerned to give tax exemption to farmers in the districts. The prime minister directed the home ministry to place two additional helicopters at the disposal of the local administration to drop ration packets for the stranded people, adds APP.

He directed the National Disaster Management Authority to rush 25,000 tents to the affected districts.

Earlier, he took an aerial view of the rain-ravaged areas from a helicopter, met some affected people and distributed relief goods.

The prime minister also visited Jacobabad where he chaired a meeting attended by Federal Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Interior Minister Rehman Malik, Minister for National Disaster Management

Rana Farooq, Minister for Inter-provincial Coordination Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, MNAs Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani and Aftab Shaban Mirani and Gul Mohammad Jakhrani, Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Saifullah Dharejo, Minister for Disaster Management Mustafa Ali Sutra and senior civil and military officials.

The prime minister announced that in the second phase Rs2 billion would be given to the Sindh government for rehabilitation of the affected people.

He said: "We will have to depend on our own resources to meet the challenges posed by floods. There is no dearth of funds for providing succor to the affected."

He said this was the third consecutive year that floods had hit Sindh causing massive devastation and loss of precious lives, besides damaging property and standing crops.

Briefing the meeting, Divisional Commissioner Seed Ahmed Magnejo said that floods this year were more severe than last year.

He said that the magnitude and gravity of the devastation could be determined from the fact that so far 73 people had lost their lives, 3,000 had been injured and 75 per cent of standing crops and 150,000 houses damaged.

"This is more than the losses suffered during the floods last year," he added.

Nearly three million of the nine million in the six districts had been affected," he said.

## September 17, 2012 (DAWN)

### **High flood likely in rivers: Met Office forecasts heavy rain**

It rained in different cities of the country on Sunday, with the Met Office forecasting heavy rain for Monday or Tuesday in the catchment

areas of eastern rivers, leading to the possibility of high flood in Chenab and Jhelum.

Lahore received rain in the morning and again in the evening. And it was raining when this report was being filed.

Last week, torrential rain played havoc in south Punjab and parts of Sindh and Balochistan, claiming a number of lives, destroying houses and crops and washing away embankments of at least three major canals.

However, the coming rain spell is likely to hit northern and north-eastern parts of the country. The reason is a westerly wave over northern areas and a strong monsoon current penetrating upper parts of the country.

Scattered thunderstorm/ rain with isolated heavy rain is expected over Kashmir, north and northeast Punjab in the next 24 hours. Scattered thunderstorm/rain is also likely over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, northeast Balochistan and south and central Punjab.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, widespread thunderstorm/ rain with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall, at times extremely heavy rain, will pound upper catchments of Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum rivers along with north and northeast Punjab (Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Sargodha and Rawalpindi divisions) over the next 36 hours.

As a result, Chenab and Jhelum rivers are likely to cross the high flood mark after 36 hours. Urban flooding and hailstorm (in some cities) are also likely.

According to the local Met office, Mianwali received 65mm of rain, Toba Tek Singh and Faisalabad 26mm (each), Sargodha 20mm, Jhang 17mm, Kotli 16mm, Peshawar city 10mm, Islamabad airport, Jhang and Mandi Bahauddin 6mm, Lahore city and airport 5mm, Shorkot 4mm, and Joharabad, Bahawalnagar and Bannu 3mm.

## September 18, 2012 (DAWN)

### Call to save rain-hit crops from more damage

Although the recent rains have already dealt a severe blow to the agricultural economy of Sindh by washing away standing crops, growers and their representative organisations fear more losses to them if rainwater is not flushed out from their cultivable lands within a fortnight.

The paddy, cotton and sugarcane crops on both banks of the Indus River sustained great damage, Gada Hussain Mahesar, senior vice president of the Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB) told Dawns.

Paddy in the province is cultivated on more than 2.4 million acres and almost half the crop has been washed away, according to experts' estimates.

The 30/32-day-old paddy crop can withstand stagnant water in the fields but it was 15/20-day-old when it started raining.

"They crop is at a high risk of getting damaged if immediate measures are not taken to flush out stagnant water," Mr Mahesar warned.

Reports from the upper and lower areas of Sindh say that that all vital crops — rice, cotton and sugarcane — have been badly affected, though not destroyed.

Expressing his concern over the extent of damage, the SAB leader said that it was already very late when irrigation water reached the paddy crop areas and unfortunately rains hit the immature crop.

Similarly, he added, the cotton and sugarcane crops started turning grey because of untimely rains.

Reports from Dokri, Mirokhan, Shahdadkot, Qambar, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Kandhkot, Garhi Khairo and some other parts of the province speak of natural or deliberate breaches in saline water drains and backflow of water causing further damage to crops.

The drains and waterways not de-silted or cleared of obstructions for years blocked the flow of rainwater towards its natural course. Moreover, the officials concerned of Wapda and Scarp (Salinity Control and Reclamation Project) are widely blamed for the situation turning dangerous because of their indifferent attitude. Cuts inflicted in the banks of various canals at different points caused flooding while overtopping of water due to obvious reasons inundated hundreds of acres of paddy crop land.

At the moment, up to one foot high rainwater is standing in paddy fields, according to Mr Mahesar.

Fertiliser has lost its effectiveness and pesticides do not work in such a situation, he says.

Most growers in Sindh fear that rainwater flowing down to Qubo Saeed Khan and Jacobabad from Balochistan would definitely cause further harm to crops in Ratodero, Garhi Yasin, Garhi Khairo, Shahdadkot, Kashmore and certain other areas on its way.

Sindh Chamber of Agriculture (SCA) Larkana president Siraj Rashdi puts damage to the paddy crop in Larkana division alone at 60 per cent.

Sharing his views with Dawn, he said that paddy in Larkana was cultivated on around 200,000 acres besides 250,000 acres in Qambar-Shahdadkot district. He held floodwater from Balochistan hitting Qambar-Shahdadkot district responsible for more damage to the crop.

According to an SCA assessment, sugarcane and cotton crops have sustained 40pc damage while guava orchards in Larkana district have suffered damage to the same extent.

Criticising the government, Mr Rashdi said that the entire province should have been declared the calamity-hit area.

Subscribing to his views, Larkana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) president Khair Muhammed Shaikh, who is also the PPP Larkana district vice president, said the government should take extraordinary measures to cope with the extraordinary situation.



Farmers, growers, daily wage earners and khatedars (tillers) all had been badly affected one way or another, he said while commenting on the paddy crop damage.

Larkana division alone exported rice worth Rs50 billion every year, he observed, and estimated the damage to the paddy crop in the division at Rs20 billion.

“We export 1.78 million tonnes of rice and earn \$2 million in foreign exchange,” said Mr Mahesar, who feared a heavy loss if prompt action was not taken to meet the rice export target.

September

## September 18, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Floodwater flowing towards Jacobabad diverted**

A flood threat to Jacobabad was averted when rainwater surging down the hilly areas of Balochistan was diverted.

Pakistan People’s Party MNA Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani along with officials of the district administration made a cut near the village of Jatoi located at the bypass of Jacobabad adjacent to Balochistan and laid four-foot-diameter pipes to divert the flow of floodwaters towards the Heer-uddin drain.

According to reports reaching here, from the drain the floodwaters, passing through Khanpur Road and Jhal Magsi in Balochistan, would reach the Hamal lake in Qambar-Shahdadkot district before finding its way into the Manchhar Lake.

It was said that the cut would reduce the pressure of rainwater as well as of floodwater released due to breaches surging towards Jacobabad.

Mr Jakhrani told reporters that the cut had been made at the bypass of Jacobabad, bordering Balochistan, due to the floodwaters rushing towards it.

He said Jacobabad was now safe. He said it was essential to give way to

the floodwaters. He also said it was the moral responsibility of elected representatives to serve people in this difficult situation, otherwise they would be held accountable in the next general elections. He said he would appeal to the party leadership to take action against those elected representatives who were not taking care of people of their constituencies in this crisis.

Road communication between Jacobabad and Balochistan was cut off as the Jacobabad-Dera Allah Yar road was closed to all kinds of heavy and light traffic due to an increase of floodwater pressure. The rainwater was around the Jacobabad city due to which road communication between different villages could not be restored and thousands of villagers were facing problems. The administration did not start operation to shift them to safer places and supply them relief goods, ration and medicines.

Deputy Commissioner of Jacobabad Rafique Ahmed Buriro visited the city areas and issued strict directives for pumping out stagnant water from the city after which heavy machinery was installed in different localities which started working in the evening.

A large number of men and women held a demonstration on the old college road in protest against non-supply food and other relief goods from the administration. The angry protesters pelted police mobile vans with stones and broke their window screens.

Protesters dispersed peacefully when Mr Jakhrani reached the spot and held out the assurance that relief goods would be supplied.

## September 20, 2012 (DAWN)

### **President orders relief efforts in flood-hit areas**

President Asif Ali Zardari has directed all the federal and provincial government departments to undertake every possible effort in a concerted manner for providing relief to the flood-hit people and to ensure that the outbreak of various water-borne diseases was also kept in check.

He said that comprehensive plans should be chalked out immediately to provide necessary assistance for the rehabilitation of the affected people and farmers.

He said this while chairing a meeting held to review emergency relief readiness in Sindh at the Bilawal House.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, provincial ministers Pir Mazharul Haq, Murad Ali Shah, Agha Siraj Durrani, Sharjeel Memon, Adil Siddiqui, Muzaffar Shujrah, Ali Nawaz Shah Rizvi, Jam Saifullah Dharejo, Federal Minister for Climatic Change Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed Khan, National Disaster Management Authority chairman Zafar Iqbal Qadir, the chief secretary and others.

President's spokesperson Senator Farhatullah Babar said that the CM briefed the president about the latest flood situation and devastation caused by the floods in various districts of Sindh including Sukkur, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Kashmore and Shikarpur.

He also informed the president about relief efforts being undertaken so far for the flood-hit people by the provincial government and district authorities.

The NDMA chairman briefed the meeting about the preparations that were made by the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) to meet any emergency situation and also about efforts undertaken in providing basic necessities to the affected people including transporting them to safer places and providing them with tents and ration.

Expressing grave concerns over the devastation caused by the floods, the president directed the authorities to ensure that the affected persons were provided with tents, ration and safe drinking water on a priority basis in view of the fast approaching winter season.

He directed the authorities that medical camps should be set up for the affected people to provide medical assistance in case of any water-borne disease.

The president said that all efforts should be made to cater to the needs of women, children and the elderly.

He said that the federal government would be providing all possible assistance to the provincial government in the relief and rehabilitation activities.

He also directed the CM and his cabinet members to personally monitor the relief activities and maintain close coordination with the district officials concerned.

The president further said that he would also be monitoring the situation and would be interacting with the district officials and representatives through video-conferencing.

### **Meeting on law and order**

The president's spokesperson said that the briefing on the flood situation was followed by another meeting on law and order situation in the province, especially in Karachi.

During the meeting, the president was briefed about law and order situation and various measures that had been taken for keeping the law and order situation under control.

The spokesperson said that the president reiterated that maintaining law and order in the province especially in the metropolis was the top priority of the government and no effort should be spared in this regard.

He was also briefed about a video surveillance system that had been operational in Karachi.

Participants of the meeting were informed that 960 cameras at 164 locations had been installed besides 100 mobile vehicle mounted cameras and 300 data supported hand-held PDAs for the surveillance purposes.

The president expressed his concern over the recent incidents of killing of innocent people and terrorist activities in the metropolis.

He said that the terrorists and miscreants would never be able to shake the resolve of the government and all efforts would be undertaken to bring the culprits to justice.

The president also inquired from the CM about the well-being of the people who sustained injuries as a result of Tuesday's explosions in the Hyderi Market.

He directed the CM to ensure that best medical assistance would be provided to the injured.

The CM also briefed the president about the details of the Baldia Town garment factory fire incident.

The president while expressing sympathies with the bereaved families inquired about the well-being of the affected people.—**APP**

## September 21, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Sindh hit hard by floods: NDMA**

Among the provinces, Sindh appears to be the worst victim of floods caused by monsoon rains, with the affected population reaching 2.88 million.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) statistics revealed around 370 flood- and rain-related deaths across the country. A total of 188 people died in Sindh, 60 in Punjab, 49 in Balochistan, 39 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 31 in Azad Kashmir and three in Islamabad.

Furthermore, 1,197 people sustained injuries, with 743 in Sindh, 272 in Punjab, 115 in Balochistan, 35 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 32 in AJK.

Similarly, the number of houses damaged, either fully or partially, stood at 274,935 with 235,049 in Sindh, 25,526 in Punjab, 8,627 in Balochistan, 4,393 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 1,243 in AJK.

Some 70 houses were damaged in Gilgit-Baltistan.

In total some 13,335 villages faced flood and rain wrath with 11,141 in Sindh, 1,512 in Punjab and 682 in Balochistan while the total affected area came to 1.76 million acres with merely 1.4 million acres in Punjab, and the rest in Sindh.

Crops on 7,66,818 acres were reportedly hit which included 4,73,998 acres in Punjab, 1,45,459 acres in Sindh and 47,361 acres in Balochistan.

Some 7,818 livestock perished with 5,094 in Balochistan, 1,826 in Sindh and 898 in Punjab.

The number of persons currently based in relief camps established in two provinces had reached to 2,82,526, of them 2,77,462 people were living in 444 relief camps established in Sindh and 5,064 in 40 camps set up in Punjab.

## September 21, 2012 (DAWN)

### **NA committee blames NDMA for flood havoc**

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Climate Change has criticised the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for lack of coordination with provinces to lessen damages from rain and floods. "The reality on the ground is different from the picture you have drawn before the members," MNA Syed Tayyab Hussain told NDMA member Anjum Asad Ameen who was speaking on behalf of her chairman Zafar Iqbal.

"There was zero coordination with the elected representatives or the local communities," said the MNA who explained how he had to fight and use personal influence to get money for diesel for his town in Hyderabad.

MNA Dr Lal Chand seconded Syed Tayyab Hussain who added that the chairman of NDMA never bothered to call back despite repeated attempts to contact him.

Although the NDMA officials tried to explain to the committee that its role was limited to coordination and that Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) were supposed to deliver on the ground, the members said that blame was always shifted to the provinces.

While members insisted that NDMA took elected members on board when it came to distribution of aid to affected areas, was when MNA Haji Rozud Din also criticised NDMA's 'short term' approach to disaster prevention/mitigation.

"It is sad that NDMA's role and planning is limited to supplying tents and ration packs and not thinking long -term. The floods did not just affect the vulnerable areas but crippled the entire country when roads were submerged and bridges were washed away. Why did the disaster management organisations and government not plan how to prevent damages to infrastructure especially when natural disasters were becoming regular phenomenon," said Haji Rozud Din describing NDMA's flood fighting efforts as failure.

However, NDMA maintained that properties were damaged and lives lost only because provinces did not comply with the contingency plans (also available on line).

"Taking it forward from past experiences, the government of Sindh was informed to prepare for possible damages of more than the floods of 2010 and 2011 put together", said Anjum Asad Ameen. She explained that Sindh suffered the most because the province did not take necessary measures including setting aside an amount of Rs5 billion to cope with worst scenario.

In her presentation, Anjum Asad Ameen explained how out of the Rs710 million relief package announced by the PM to supplement efforts in six flooded districts of Sindh Rs200 million had been diverted to Jacobabad that had been hit hard.

Sharing the breakdown from damages caused across the country, Anjum Asad Ameen said, Sindh was the worst hit province with 188

deaths out of a total of 370 (Punjab followed with 60 fatalities and Balochistan with 49 deaths).

The total population affected was 4.4 million compared with 20 million in 2010 and 9 million in 2011. Sindh alone had more than 2.88 million people affected. And as much as 1.7 million acres of land was affected during the floods.

“The NDMA is short of more than 2, 000 tents. We are still waiting for feedback on further needs and requirements from the provinces”, said Anjum Asad Ameen.

## September 23, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Deluge from Balochistan poses serious threat to Shahdadkots**

Strong currents from Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad and Jaffarabad districts of Balochistan triggered a flood-like situation in the Right Bank Outfall Drain at Qambar-Shahdadkot district and posed a serious threat to Shahdadkot town on Saturday prompting the government to declare emergency in the area.

Adviser to the Chief Minister on Relief Haleem Adil Shaikh, declaring emergency in the entire Qambar-Shahdadkot district, said that the deluge was heading towards Shahdadkot.

He told the media at the Circuit House on Saturday that the early arrival of deluge in the RBOD had created a serious situation in the area. He put the flow in a 100-kilometre area at 800,000 cusecs.

The adviser said that the communication link with three union councils falling between the Khirthar area and the Flood Protective Bund (FP Bund) has been severed and the local population had moved to higher places in the mountainous area of Khirthar. To facilitate their shifting, a free ferry service had been started, he said.

Mr Shaikh informed the media that in order to relieve the pressure and save the vulnerable areas, three RBOD gates at RD-116 had been



opened. "The (flood) situation was all right till Friday but suddenly took a serious turn on Saturday," he said, adding that he was rushing to the site to establish a camp and personally monitor the situation.

"The irrigation system in the area has totally collapsed as the deluge has created a natural calamity-like situation," he said and stressed an urgent need for long-term planning to tackle such an extraordinary situation in the future.

He said truckloads of stones had been rushed to the vulnerable points to plug the breaches reported to have taken place in the vulnerable areas. "All the departments concerned have been put on alert," he said. Sindh Food Minister Mir Nadir Magsi had also rushed to the area to monitor the situation, he added.

Mr. Shaikh regretted that it was in 1992 that a fault in the design of LBOD had been identified and the World Bank had also seconded it but the fault had not yet been rectified.

Neither successive governments nor the army had done anything in this regard, he said, and alleged that everyone tasked with the job appeared on the scene, enriched them and left.

He told journalists that the scale of damage in Qambar-Shahdadkot district matched the extent suffered by Ghotki district, which stood at number four. He said he was assessing the damage here on the directives of MNA Faryal Talpur and Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah. "An amount of Rs20 million has been sanctioned for Qambar-Shahdadkot district and an equal amount for Larkana district," he stated.

Giving details of the damage caused by the recent rains and flooding in Shahdadkot, the adviser said that over 1,747 villages had submerged affecting 243,249 villagers.

He said about 60,000 acres of standing paddy crop was devastated and 34,884 houses were damaged. "At least 14 people died, another 31 injured and 573 cattle perished in rain-related incidents in Qambar-Shahdadkot district," he said.

Meanwhile, reports from Shahdaskot revealed on Saturday that three big siphons of RBOD were broken and floodwater was moving towards Chuki village, some 60 kilometres from Larkana. As of Saturday evening, the deluge was gushing towards Hamal Lake which would subsequently be released into the Main Nara Valley Drain (MNV Drain), commonly known as Chandan, at the FP Bund. The Garang Regulator was stated to be under intense pressure.

A senior irrigation officer at the site told Dawn on condition of anonymity that one big siphon with six grills of 13/8 feet under the Khirthar Canal at RD-124 was opened to relieve the mounting pressure.

He said that both RBOD-III and Khirthar Canal were flowing parallel to each other and described this as a 'serious situation'. He said 16 MAF (million acre feet) water was approaching from Balochistan to Sindh and flowing in an area stretched over 100 kilometres in two directions.

When contacted, Shafqat Wadho, the superintendent engineer of Saifullah Magsi Branch, told Dawn from the affected area that after reaching Chukhi, the floodwater would head towards the RD-85 at zero point before entering Hamal Lake. "The situation may become more dangerous," he apprehended.

## September 23, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Sindh lacks resources to cope with floods**

Disaster in the upper Sindh region in the wake of the recent monsoon rains has exposed the capacity of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

The rains have also proved that the basic unit of disaster management — District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) — has either not been formed or stands in urgent need of strengthening.

No pre-disaster preparations are seen at the level of the PDMA with the result that apart from rural areas, floodwaters inundated urban areas in six major districts of Sindh.

The entire focus of the PDMA and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was on providing tents and ration packets.

Districts like Jacobabad, Kashmore in Kandhkot, Shikarpur, Sukkur, Khairpur and Sukkur were hit by floods. Their urban centres had waist-high rainwater and people had to wade through it. Lack of logistics and food compounded the miseries of the rain-hit people in the districts.

It seems that the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) are not functional in Sindh as required under the National Disaster Management Act 2010. DDMAs, earlier headed by DCOs and now led by DCs, apparently lack resources. It has been witnessed that whenever disaster hits districts, their administrations face serious issues of mitigating sufferings of people.

“All DCs are heading DDMAs, but they need to be strengthened as independent institutions, otherwise relief work has always been done by the senior member of the board of revenue who is also relief commissioner by virtue of his post under the 1958 Act,” argued Haleem Adil Sheikh, adviser to the Sindh chief minister on relief.

He said the required coordination was not seen. “This is a serious issue and needs attention. The president, the chief minister and ministers are in the field, but lack of coordination with all other line departments is missing,” he said.

It was in the wake of an earthquake in 2005 in Azad Kashmir when the NDMA was formed. It primarily coordinates with PDMA in each province. According to its chairman Dr Zafar Iqbal Qadir, the NDMA steps in when its intervention is sought by the PDMA. The NDMA coordinates at the international level with donor agencies and disseminate information regarding weather advisories.

According to Sindh Rehabilitation Minister Haji Muzaffar Shujra, Sindh’s six districts received record rainfall and this is something nobody can stop. “We are now able to dewater 95 per cent areas in those districts,” he said and conceded that Jacobabad was the worst-hit district.

“We suffered badly due to heavy flows of water from Balochistan; that’s why we have requested the president to direct the Balochistan government to put some system in place in their own area to avoid problems,” said Mr Shujra.

The PDMA always prioritises the availability of tents and ration packets among the rain-hit people. Sindh has been hit by three successive disasters since 2010. It was super floods in 2010, then heavy monsoon rains in 2011 mainly in districts located on the left bank of the River Indus and now heavy rains in upper Sindh’s districts located on the right bank of the Indus.

In the time of disaster, the PDMA argues that disaster is beyond imagination.

“Rains this time are historic as these districts never received such rainfall; so we are trying to cope with the situation. We are procuring ration for rain victims and machines to dewater areas,” PDMA Director-General Hashim Raza Zaidi told Dawn from Kashmore during his recent visit.

“Provision of relief is basically the function of the revenue department but we are talking about disaster management and it needs strengthening. Sitting DCs are heading it with no paraphernalia and staff, so they just head this body,” the relief adviser commented.

He said the threat of climate change was looming large over the region and, therefore, a new approach was needed. “The coordination among all the departments is to be ensured essentially for an effective response to disaster and pre-disaster arrangements are to be put in place,” he contended.

There have been reports that even funds by the finance department are released with a delay of one week to 10 days after any disaster hit the area. Ultimately, their disbursement in rain-hit districts is delayed by the relief department.

Mr Shujra says: “It is basically Wapda’s fault that it can’t keep electricity system working. Grid station of Jacobabad is located in

a low-lying area and whenever there are rains, they shut it down, leaving pumping machines ineffective. I had to tell Wapda officials to ensure provision of electricity, otherwise I will put them behind bars in Jacobabad,” said the rehabilitation minister.

## September 24, 2012 (DAWN)

### **35 Thar buffaloes die of contagious disease**

More than 35 buffaloes died of a contagious disease within 10 hours in five villages and over 200 more contracted the disease, according to Thar villagers.

Given the large number of mortality in just five villages the toll from the disease in the desert may be staggeringly high.

A cattle breeder Moula Bux of Hoondo Arisar village near Pithoro town said the disease took barely three days to cause an animal to die. “Just a day before, I saw 20 of my 150 buffaloes getting dull and sick with fever. And today, within hours their throats swelled, they suffered breathing problem and died,” he said, adding the villagers called it ‘Ghoghri’ disease in local parlance.

When asked how the villagers would treat the sick animals, he said that they would tie a Taveez (amulet) round the animal’s neck and sprinkle on it holy water prescribed by faith-healers.

He said that he did not know about any government department responsible for providing treatment to and vaccinating their ailing cattle. Four buffaloes and two calves had died of the disease, causing him a loss of about Rs1 million, he said.

He said that he knew of people who had suffered a similar loss in nearby villages of Abdul Wahid, Anwar Sand, Saleh Sand, Ghulam Rasool Arisar, Din Mohammad, where over 35 buffaloes had died and more than 200 had contracted the disease.

Noor Ahmed Soomro, disease investigation officer of the Directorate

of Animal Husbandry, Hyderabad, said that it was Hemorrhagic septicemia caused by *Pasteurella multocida* bacteria which inflicted buffaloes during rainy or harvesting season.

It started with high fever of 104 to 107 degree, making the animal lazy and restless. As the condition worsened the buffalo had respiratory distress and excessive accumulation of fluid from mouth and nose called profuse salivation, he said.

He claimed the department released disease forecast report through newspapers, television channels and radio after every three months but cattle breeder (most of whom are illiterate) did not pay attention to it.

The deputy director of livestock department, Abdul Ghani Bajeer, said that no farmer had complained to the department about the outbreak of the disease, still he had sent teams to the affected villages.

## September 26, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Floods killed 370 people, says NDMA**

A total of 275,000 houses and shops were destroyed and at least 370 people killed in the recent floods in various parts of the country, said a report of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Of the 275,000 houses and shops destroyed, 235,831 were in Sindh, 25,442 in Punjab, 8,626 in Balochistan, 4,392 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,243 in Azad Kashmir and 70 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

A total of 155,662 houses and shops were damaged partially in the flood-hit areas of the country, including 132,282 in Sindh, 16,440 in Punjab, 4,289 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,564 in Balochistan, 1,017 in AJK and 70 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

As many as 370 persons died due to roof collapse and drowning and 2,796 were injured as a result of recent flash flooding in some areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh, the report said.

Giving details of the relief operation, the NDMA said a total of 32,570 ration bags, 15,000 tents and 29 de-watering pump were distributed in the affected areas.

The country has been facing devastating floods for the last three years during which property worth billions of rupees has been damaged and hundreds of lives lost.

The report said that more than 4,474,341 persons were affected by the current year's floods. The number of villages badly affected by the floods is stated to be 13,465.

September

## September 26, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rain-hit people stage protests**

Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) took out a rally in Jacobabad for a fourth consecutive day on Tuesday against the government's failure to provide relief to rain-hit people of the town.

The rally led by Sher Muhammad Panhwar, Haji Lakhmir Chachar, Muhammad Shaban Dayo, Liaquat Ali Panhwar, Bahadur Chandio and others started from Shaheed Allah Bux Park and ended at the local press club, where they staged a demonstration and observed a token hunger strike.

The leaders told the media personnel no relief goods and assistance had been provided to the rain-affected families of Jacobabad despite their protest rallies over the past four days. Neither the government nor the local administration was paying heed to their distress calls, they complained. They said that scores of families had been rendered homeless by the recent rains and floodwater and they were left at the mercy of nature.

"We are living under the open sky and starving," they said. Another rally was organised by the Jamot National Movement in Jacobabad against government's apathy towards the rain-hit people.

After marching through the streets of Jacobabad, the participants in the rally staged a sit-in outside the deputy commissioner's office and demanded immediate provision of food, water, tents and essential commodities to the affected families.

Speaking to the protesters, Mohib Ali Sial, Waris Abro, Waqar Solangi and others said that the first relief consignment was yet to reach the affected families' weeks after the natural calamity devastated the upper Sindh region.

## September 26, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Rainwater draining to take 45 days, meeting told**

Sindh Minister for Irrigation Jam Saifullah Dharejo has said that Hairdin Drain is the only route to release rainwater into Hamal Lake and then into Main Nara Valley Drain (MNV).

Maximum capacity of Hairdin Drain is 1700 cusecs while that of MNV drain is 1000 cusecs and the water would take one-and-a-half months in completely draining out, he told a meeting presided over by MNA Faryal Talpur at the camp office of President House at Naudero on Tuesday.

The meeting took stock of the post-rain situation in Larkana division. Those attending the meeting included Sindh ministers for Local Bodies Agha Siraj and for Law Ayaz Soomro, and Senator Dr Karim Khawaja, MNA Shugfta Jummani, MPA Haji Munwar Ali Abbasi, Secretary Irrigation Babar Hussain Effendi and other officials.

Ms Talpur said the Sindh government would be asked not to recover land revenue from the rain-affected areas. She said a survey about damages to crop and property would begin as soon as relief activities would be over.

In the wake of regular heavy rains due to climate change, she said, the government was devising a plan to face any future onslaught on permanent basis. The plan would protect cities and contain damages, she said.



She asked officials of the irrigation department and other institutions concerned to ensure a safe route to flush out the accumulated rainwater into MNV Drain without causing any losses or damages. She asked Senator Dr Karim Khawaja to remain in the affected areas and ensure provision of medical assistance to the marooned people.

The irrigation minister said rains in Kashmir, Jacobabad and Shikarpur districts had broken the record of 100 years, adding that “we don’t have any flood protective bunds in the areas. Also there is no system of drainage existed in Kashmir and Jacobabad”.

He advised media personnel to refrain from spreading rumours, saying that there was no threat to any city.

Secretary Irrigation Sindh Babar Hussain Effendi told the meeting that the volume of water coming from Balochistan was 3.4 million acre feet while the capacity of Hamal Lake was lesser than it. He claimed that half amount of the water would be absorbed in the ditches and depressions coming in its way and the remaining would reach Hamal Lake to further drain it out in the MNV drain.

He said: “We are planning to pass ‘controlled’ water safely from another RBOD siphon passing underneath the Saifullah Magsi branch so as to avoid damages. The vital part of strategy is to pass water safely from Hairdin drain near ‘Chukhi’ and onward to Hamal Lake.”

Chief of Chandio tribe Sardar Khan Chandio pointed towards weak banks of MNV drain which he said had been ignored for years. If the existing volume of rainwater was flowing into it (MNV drain), it might overtop and cause breaches in the banks.

He called for putting the vulnerable points of MNV drain under tight security and watch while Shahdadkot drain was flowing above its capacity.

The minister irrigation said WAPDA had no interest in MNV drain’s improvement. Ms Talpur said she would talk to WAPDA in this context and asked the divisional administration to mount security on MNV drain.

Later, she visited the villages of Jammu Agham, Warisdino Mashi, Kadrani, Wasayo Bhutto, Nanda Bossan, which fall in her constituency.

She also visited the medical camps set up by Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiatives (PPHI) and distributed relief goods among the affected people. She appreciated the efforts of the PPHI.

## September 28, 2012 (DAWN)

### Plan for flood-hit people

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has assured flood victims of full support. During meetings with the people and speaking on different occasions, the prime minister correctly said that it is the government's duty to extend full support to needy people, particularly those hit hard by flash floods in different parts of the country.

Mobile teams of the National Database Registration Authority will visit parts of the affected localities, mainly in Rajanpur, to facilitate people. The prime minister said that the government is taking all steps possible for the wellbeing of the people without seeking support from other countries.

It is worthy of appreciation that the government has devised a plan to take precautionary measures for the protection of people in case of floods in future and that facilities will be provided on the basis of merit, irrespective of their political affiliations.... The prime minister said that his party was determined to bring about positive change in the people's lives. ... The PPP, he claimed, was the largest political party that has roots in the masses equally in all the four provinces, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and the federal capital. That is why it was the only hope of the common people. He urged his party workers to serve the masses and start preparations for mustering public support in the next general elections....

The flood victims are in dire need of government support almost in all the low-lying areas. The rulers are duty-bound to play their role in facilitating people and minimising their agonies. The people of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa have also faced numerous problems due to the flash floods of 2010. Many of them are still waiting for official support. Many of the bridges, culverts and other infrastructure are yet to be given proper attention.

## September 29, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Flood death toll rises to 422, says NDMA**

The National Disaster Management Authority said on Friday that 50 more deaths had been reported from flood-hit areas of Sindh.

NDMA chairman Zafar Iqbal said after visiting the affected areas that 422 deaths had been caused by floods. In some villages, water is three to four feet higher than roofs of houses.

He claimed that because of the lessons learnt from disasters of the past two years, situation relating to epidemics and child mortality was under control.

“Everything is in place, including vaccines to fight malaria and even against snake-bites. There were several deaths from snake-bites after the last floods.”

Mr Iqbal Qadir said that in Wazirabad lives of over 400 people bitten by snakes had been saved.

He said water was likely to recede in 15 to 20 days in Sindh and Punjab.

He said that a majority of deaths took place in Sindh where 239 people died and 2,300 people were injured. Sixty people were killed in Punjab and 272 were injured. In Balochistan 51 people were killed and 115 injured.

The number of affected people, he said, had also increased.

According to figures updated on Sept 28, about 4.7 million people had been affected – 3.12 million in Sindh alone, 887,345 in Punjab and 704,822 in Balochistan.

## Trail of Tragedy - 4

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Chronology of Disaster in Pakistan 2012 (25th August-15th October)

At least 393,733 houses have been completely or partially damaged. The number of affected village is 15,212 – 13,018 in Sindh, more than 15,00 in Punjab and 682 in Balochistan.

The floods also killed 7,800 head of cattle.

September

## October 1, 2012 (The News)

### **PRCS medical cover provided to 32,000 flood victims**

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) will extend medical cover to victims of flood-affected areas for three months. Over 16 medical teams of PRCS have thus far treated over 32,000 patients suffering mostly from scabies, diarrhea and malaria.

The chairman of PRCS Chaudhry Muhammad Nawaz Khan shared this information while briefing journalists after conclusion of a visit to flood-affected areas in Dera Ghazi Khan. He said, six water filtration plants are being arranged for DG Khan, Rajanpur, Jacobabad, Qamber Shadad Kot, Nasirabad and Jaferabad.

Three mobile health units are functioning in DG Khan and Rajanpur in Punjab and seven in Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Khairpur, Sukkur and Qamber Shadad Kot in Sindh. In Balochistan, six mobile health units are working in Qila Safiullah, Loralai, Sibbi, Dera Murad Jamali, Dera Allah Yar and Jhal Magsi. Each unit consist of a Doctor, a lady medical officer, a dispenser, a lady health visitor, 2 health promoters, and an EPI technician. Medicines worth Rs. 1 million have been provided to each unit

## October 1, 2012 (The News)

### **EU to give more funds for victims of conflict, flood**

The European Union has announced additional funding of 15 million Euros in order to continue delivering immediate relief to the victims of two humanitarian crises in Pakistan.

These funds will provide assistance to those affected by the ongoing conflict in the north of the country as well as to the victims of three successive years of major flooding in the south. The additional funding brings the European Commission's 2012 humanitarian contribution for Pakistan to 70 million Euros.

Food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly in Sindh province, have been giving rise to serious concern for some time and there is a risk that the new flooding, which has occurred over the last two weeks will mean an even more drastic deterioration of the situation.

## October 1, 2012 (The News)

### **Khalifa Foundation reaches southern Punjab to help flood victims**

A team from Khalifa Foundation of the United Arab Emirates has arrived in Pakistan to initiate relief operation in the flood-affected areas of southern Punjab.

UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan has ordered the foundation to take immediate steps for provision of relief to the affected people of the area.

According to the UAE mission here and foundation sources, the team inspected the worst-hit flooded areas in Rahimyar Khan, Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rojhan immediately after arrival last week.

The team of Khalifa Foundation immediately initiated the purchase of foodstuff and tents from local markets and made sure that the humanitarian assistance will benefit several thousand families. In its ongoing operation, the team in coordination with the UAE embassy and the local authorities distributed food baskets and tents.

UAE Ambassador Essa Abdullah Abdullah Al Basha Al Noaimi has said that the humanitarian assistance has been initiated by the UAE leadership to meet such an emergency caused by floods in Pakistan.

## October 1, 2012 (The News)

### **PCRWR chlorinates 0.4 million litres of water in flood-hit areas**

The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has chlorinated more than 0.4 million litres of tank water in the flood hit areas.

The PCRWR recently dispatched 13 teams in the flood affected areas for provision of safe drinking water to flood victims. Balochistan, districts Jacobabad, Kashmore and Shikarpur, and district DG Khan. These teams are performing relief activities in coordination with local administration of the respective districts.

Spokesperson PCRWR Lubna Naheed said the relief activities include water quality monitoring of drinking water sources, chlorination of water tankers and distribution of chlorine tablets/sachet packs for the household chlorination of the drinking water. She said the other activities for the provision of safe drinking water are also in progress, in collaboration with the national and international agencies.

Spokesperson PCRWR said the people in the flood affected areas are forced to drink unsafe water thereby making them prone to water borne diseases. If these diseases do break out, cramped conditions make it possible to spread those very quickly, she said, adding camps where people take shelter are therefore potential breeding grounds for diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, malaria and gastrointestinal diseases.

As the flood recedes, the danger of infection amongst the flood victims rises due to horrible environment created by decay of organic material and dead animals, contaminants, debris and sediments deposited in the damaged water supply schemes add further to these miseries.

Lubna Naheed said the preventive measures are considered more effective and economical than corrective and curative ones, the supply of safe drinking water to the flood victims is one amongst those. "PCRWR also provided commendable services for the provision of safe drinking water to the flood victims of 2010 and 2011 and is also commencing its interventions in flood affected areas of Punjab, Sind and Balochistan during recent floods 2012."

## October 1, 2012 (The News)

### **Many flood-hit areas still inundated**

Even after passage of three weeks many parts of Sindh, Balochistan

and Punjab affected by the recent floods continue to remain inundated.

Houses under many feet water have started to collapse and the displaced residents are forced to take shelter under the open sky alongside the roads.

Nasirabad and Jaffarabad, which were hit by flash floods originating from Koh-e-Suleman and Dera Bugti's mountainous areas, continue to remain submerged.

The displaced people are without food, water and medicines while the communication routes are also blocked.

There are a number of such areas which were worst hit by the recent monsoon floods but remained completely neglected as no relief was provided to the affected people there either by the government or an NGO.

Those areas of Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan where water has receded present a horrible picture of devastation caused by the floods.

The flood affected parts of Jacobabad, Kashmor, Kandhkot and Shikarpur are no longer underwater but are now covered with thick mud and piles of wreckage and are in a grip of strong stinking smell.

The calamity-hit areas of Qambar Shahdadkot in Sindh, which were submerged following the breach of RBOD flood gates, continue to give a look of a river.

## October 3, 2012 (The News)

### **NBP to reach flood victims**

The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is always the first corporate entity to come forward and help the nation whenever a calamity hits its countrymen, according to a statement on Tuesday.

To mitigate the sufferings of people affected by the recent floods, the



National Bank of Pakistan has decided to reach out to the flood victims and has provided them relief goods (eatables) in bags, it said.

The bank has initially distributed around 1,000 bags containing eatables across the affected areas in Kamber / Shahdaskot, Jaccobabad, Kashmore, Shikarpur and Larkana, it said. The bank's regional management teams with the help of local administration will distribute the food items, according to the statement, adding that it is not the first time that the NBP comes forward to help the nation in need.

## October 3, 2012 (The News)

### **Flood affectees still remain stranded**

The floods that uprooted the villagers from their hearths and homes still remain stranded without any relief and help, as promises were made by the visiting dignitaries, but yet to be fulfilled.

Several areas of Jafferabad and Naseerabad are still inundated by the flood, as efforts made for the draining out of standing water by breaching the bypass proved quite insufficient.

Several areas of D.G. Khan and Tehsil Rojahn of Rajanpur are still submerged under flood water, while the railway lines remain damaged and railway traffic suspend causing immense trouble to the people in these areas. The transporters making profit out of the miseries of the people have increased the bus fare.

The situation in scores of the towns of Sindh is not better. Several areas of Jacobabad and Ghotki still remain under 4/5 feet deep standing water. Hundreds of telephone connections remain affected severing all contacts by rail, road or through telecommunication as water stands surrounding telephone exchange also.

## October 4, 2012 (The News)

### **Early flood warning system to be installed**

Taking a step towards installation of an early flood warning and flood forecasting system, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) has approached the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) data on soil physics and hydraulic properties for a field survey to characterise the hydrology of Upper Indus and Kabul watersheds.

“For collection of data, soil and water samples will be collected from as many as 100 sites for analysis within the next four-five months, which will be handed over to the UN agency that aims at early flood warning and flood forecasting system,” a PCRWR official said while talking to The News here Wednesday. In this connection, Unesco has signed an agreement with the council.

He explained that the data collected would be an important factor in developing the system, which was already working in advanced countries and helping those take preemptive measures and making contingency strategies well in time. “The system once installed in Pakistan will avert massive devastation that has occurred here over the years and this is mainly due to change in weather patterns,” he noted.

Meanwhile, a press release said that Unesco in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) was implementing a major project for upgrading the flood forecasting and early warning systems and for the risk mapping of flood plains along the Indus and Kabul River.

This project, it noted, was being implemented by UNESCO in coordination with the Government of Pakistan – including the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and Federal Flood Commission (FFC).

Field investigation and collection of data pertaining to several soil

hydraulic parameters including soil hydraulic conductivity, infiltration rate, water holding capacity and water table depth were required for calibrating the hydrological models of the upper catchments, the release maintained.

## October 3, 2012 (The News)

### **Sindh attacks NDMA saying it is a useless body**

The Sindh government has expressed complete dissatisfaction over the National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) role in the flood-hit areas of the province.

"The NDMA's role is extremely negative and is totally confined to helicopter trips along with the donors," Adviser to Sindh Chief Minister for Relief, Haleem Adil Sheikh, told The News here.

Criticising the UN and other donor agencies, he went on to maintain that neither they, like NDMA or its provincial organization, are seen in the field nor they have contributed in terms of financial support to badly affected people.

Sheikh said NDMA appeared to a redundant and a useless body and had failed in carrying out its primary task, the on-ground disaster management and coordination with international and local donors to provide relief.

"What is the function of NDMA if it does not give an immediate response to deal with a disaster like flood which affected 3 million people in Sindh alone?" the CM's adviser questioned.

"There is no justification of NDMA's existence under these circumstances as it merely facilitated the NGOs for their fund collection while holding photo sessions and organising seminars.

Sheikh said in answer to a question that only Sindh treasury or PM's funds were being spent to lessen the miseries of the people who are bound to live in their homes or tents submerged in water all around.

“We require not only food items and other essentials from non-governmental organizations but also technical assistance from the NDMA or its provincial set up as well as from the foreign donors.”

The NDMA, he said, was allocated Rs5 billion to extend technical assistance with dispatch of technical teams and handle the flood situation. “But, unfortunately, we, the Sindh government, got only a few million in form of utility store items.”

To another question, he said Sindh has spent close to one billion rupees from its provincial resources, which are not enough to meet the needs.

## October 6, 2012 (The News)

### **Minor girl dies after consuming stagnant rainwater in Jacobabad**

A minor girl died after consuming stagnant rainwater to quench her thirst. Four-year-old Sughra, d/o Qurban Sundrani, fainted after consuming water from a pond of rainwater. She died on the way to hospital. A doctor at the Tanghwani Health Unit confirmed the cause of the death.

Villagers complained that there is still around four to five feet of stagnant water in most areas of Tanghwani in district Jacobabad. They said that the administration failed to drain out the rainwater even after 28 days. The rain victims also complained of scarcity of food, medicines as well as clean drinking water. They said that they often drink stagnant rain water.

## October 8, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Flood relief**

The World Food Programme has completed the first phase of flood relief operations by providing 1,131 tons of food to about 140,000 people in the affected districts of Jacobabad, Jaffarabad and Naseerabad.

“The WFP commenced first phase of food assistance response in the three districts on Sept 24, targeting the beneficiaries with one-month rations,” an official said. —APP

October

# **Editorial / Articles-Letters**

25th August - 15th October



## October 10, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Clogged drains**

Come the monsoons and many city dwellers start dreading the prospects of urban flooding. And as a picture published in this newspaper recently— of a storm-drain in Karachi oozing with mounds of garbage — showed, these fears are not unfounded. The picture belies the civic agencies' claims of being prepared for the rains. During the recent spell of wet weather Peshawar and Karachi seem to have borne the brunt of rain-related havoc. Thankfully, the damage was limited, but that was more due to the fact that less rain was received, at least in Karachi. Still, problems were caused which could have been avoided with proper urban planning. Low-lying areas in both cities were flooded, while prolonged power outages due to creaky infrastructure were also reported. Traffic jams were also a major problem, especially in Karachi, mostly caused by panicky motorists in a rush to get home to avoid getting caught in a flood of water. However, traffic officials in the metropolis also attributed the gridlock to drainage issues, as stagnant water caused bottlenecks.

Clearing clogged drains to allow for the proper drainage of rainwater is the best solution to minimise the effects of urban flooding. Yet civic agencies across the country fail to realise this year after year. In Karachi there are spots that are notorious for drainage problems, while Peshawar's sewerage system is also in bad shape. These deficiencies need to be addressed to prevent perennial flooding and the ensuing havoc. The need to clear clogged drains was highlighted several times before the arrival of the monsoons, but these warnings were not taken seriously. And it is not as if the rains came suddenly — the authorities had plenty of time to prepare as this year's monsoons came quite late in the season. If rainwater drainage issues continue to be ignored by the civic bodies, it will only add to citizens' woes.



## September 11, 2012 (The News)

### Rainy days

It was beginning to look as if the monsoon had misfired this year, failing to deliver the annual deluge that is essential for the agricultural sector of our economy and the hydro-power that trickles into the national grid. A late surge has gone some way to rectifying and mitigating the water-shortages that inevitably lie ahead, but as ever rainfall comes with a deadly price in Pakistan. By Monday afternoon at least 78 people were dead as a result of rain-related incidents across the country, with over 70 injured. Both figures are expected to rise. Every province has been affected to a greater or lesser degree. All major, and most of the minor, cities experienced flooding, most of which had subsided by Monday afternoon. The railways, never robust, were badly affected with cancellations and even longer delays than usual, and power supplies were lost as transformers blew or were tripped by the rain. Vital reservoirs have been replenished. The level of Hub Dam, which supplies drinking water to Karachi, rose by eight feet. The Pakistan Meteorological Department is predicting further heavy rain in much of the country over the next 24 hours, with Sindh and South Punjab likely to be hardest hit.

Bad as these reports are, this is not a replay of the catastrophes of 2010 and 2011. There is no vast surge of water moving south through the river systems as in 2010, and flooding is likely to be relatively short-lived. This will be small comfort to those still displaced or homeless and landless as a result of past inundations, but this late monsoon burst is going to prove to be more boon than bane. Until the end of August rainfall was 43 percent down over the country as a whole, and drought conditions, almost certain with an increase in food insecurity in parallel, looked likely in much of the country. This latest rainfall may well have averted a much wider disaster that would have affected many millions. Where there were local emergencies in the last three days the local authorities appear to have managed to deal with them reasonably effectively and there appears to have been nothing beyond their capacity to respond – they were not overwhelmed as they were in 2010-11. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

reports that there have been no requests from the provinces for support funding (Rs5bn is set aside as contingency) – suggesting the provinces have sufficient funds to meet immediate needs. None of this is reason for complacency or self-satisfaction. The reality is that we are particularly vulnerable to extremes of weather. This time the battered – and not fully repaired defences – held. They need to be ready for whatever the rest of the year or the 2013 monsoon throws at them.

## August 30, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Thar drought and migration**

This is apropos the news item 'Absence of rains forcing Tharis to migrate' (Aug 16). Tharparkar district hosts 1.4 million human beings (about 200,000 families) and five million livestock population.

This year, due to lack of monsoon rains, the area is again experiencing a drought and the district government has already recommended declaring the district as calamity-hit. There are indications that the situation might turn out to be more serious than it was in 1985-87 and 1999-2000 when Tharparkar had its worst droughts in the last three decades.

The last year's delayed devastating rains, causing immense runoff (flood-like situation), left more than two-thirds area with no grass/crops.

Even the undamaged parts remained under threat of overgrazing by livestock that escaped from flooded parts of Sindh. The failure of current monsoon rains also caused food and fodder scarcity and dearth in the natural flora productions.

Water availability is also inadequate. A mass exodus is expected if no timely measures are taken.

People are forced to sell off their animals swiftly due to cash needs, fodder scarcity and diseases/mortality of animals.

Some villages complain of a change in groundwater quality. The following steps are recommended to be taken on an urgent basis:

Tharparkar should be declared as a calamity-hit area. The NDMA itself should also call the international organisations and subsequently start the food and fodder relief work.

Local representatives should be engaged to distribute relief goods in their respective areas.

Hand-pumps, water storage tanks and small river osmosis systems should be provided accordingly in areas facing water scarcity.

Animal health camps should be set up and free animal husbandry medications should be provided.

The situation should be monitored strictly. If the situation deteriorates, health camps should be set up accordingly. All the agricultural taxes/levies should be written off in the area.

Special funds in the government annual budgets should be allocated, and the district administration/government must be authorised to utilise the funds.

District disaster management committee should also be authorised, strengthened and well-funded to coordinate and assist all the relevant efforts to cope with drought situation. Groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting schemes should be prioritised as long-term drought mitigation strategies.

The Sindh Calamity Act 1958 must be amended and reformulated as a comprehensive and applicable 'drought and disaster policy' embodied with, inter-alia, all the above-recommended policy guidelines.

ASHOK SUTHAR  
Tharparkar

## September 1, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Famine in Tharparkar: an SOS**

THE Sindh chief minister declared Tharparkar as calamity-hit district, where except for some initial drizzle it hardly rained in the current monsoon and resulted in famine-like conditions.

As a result, the local population started moving towards barrage area districts in search of food and fodder along with their livestock.

Out of 166 dehs in the district only nine are located in the command area of a barrage, while the rest of the 157 dehs are in the desert where people mostly depend on rains to feed their livestock and food.

This year's situation is worse than the previous droughts of 1968, 1979, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2007.

The August 2011 rains completely destroyed mud-houses, killed livestock and damaged crops. That is why Thari people could not store food and fodder in proper quantity.

The drought-like conditions have also lowered the underground water level. Almost all water reservoirs have completely dried up, making people lives more challenging.

According to official sources, 500,000 to 600,000 people have left the area due to shortage of water and food. They have moved to barrage areas in search of food and fodder for their animals. This would definitely impact a lot on barrage areas as they are calamity-hit since the last year's floods and still struggling to come out of the crisis.

The children are also suffering because of lack of education facilities as enrolment/attendance has dropped as families are migrating towards barrage areas.

Tharparkar is hit by drought after every two or three years, which increases malnutrition, poverty, disease and mortality rate of humans and livestock. Owing to food shortages, including animal products in drought times, the malnourishment increases, particularly in children. Pregnant women are particularly affected due to shortage of food.

Many diseases such as viruses and upper respiratory tract infection are affecting humans as well as animals and birds.

I request the government to set up relief activities to provide food, water, health and nutrition and livestock services.

DR SATRAM ROOPANI Mithi

## September 17, 2012 (DAWN)

### **‘Clogged drains’**

Your editorial ‘Clogged drains’ (Sept 10) on the current monsoon has, as usual, exposed once again the incompetence of civic bodies in the metropolis. However, I would like to add that it is not only big cities like Karachi and Peshawar where the otherwise avoidable malady was manifest, but entire Sindh is yet again in the grip of virtual disaster. Like the past two years, this year too downpour has wrought inundation, deaths and extensive damage to properties, standing crops and livestock in almost the entire province of Sindh.

Unfortunately, like earlier years, this time a few days heavy rain has left most of the cities and towns either submerged under knee-deep rainwater and sewerage or under threat of inundation due to the overflow of saline channels. For the public woes, seasonal rains cannot be put to blame as these are obviously manmade. On the one hand, cities and towns have lost the old-age system of rainwater and the sewerage draining through continued inattention, incompetence and politicisation of the local government institution and subsequently through unauthorised occupation of spots by builders’ mafia with the active connivance of local politicians and officials.

Another palpable damage was caused by the heavy silting of channels carrying saline water to the sea. The saline water channel played havoc in the preceding year when their dykes were busted and the entire districts of Sanghar, Badin and Thatta were submerged in the saline water.

The hapless people of these districts have still not recovered from the colossal losses of the preceding year that the current rains have again swelled the channels. These channels have again brought misery to the already sufferers because no significant effort was made by the provincial government to restore and strengthen embankments where required, and desilting of canals despite tall claims.

On the federal and the provincial level — though the Disaster Management Authorities (DMA) established during 2006 — are there, no work worth mentioning has, however, been done by them.

The people heading authorities are just enjoying the best of their time and the pay and perquisites without providing relief to the people for whose services they are being paid from the government exchequer.

Unless DMAs are made accountable, things would deteriorate further. Moreover, unless urgent steps are taken to restore rainwater drains and sewerage, and saline water canals de-silted and their embankments strengthened, people would continue to suffer losses whenever there is even a moderate downpour. The federal and provincial governments must shun politicking and take steps to resolve this grave situation.

DR K.K.Hussain  
Hyderabad

October 2, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Shikarpur after rain**

The recent monsoon rains in Sindh have broken all previous records. On the one hand, daily activities have been paralysed throughout the province and, on the other hand, dozens of people have lost their lives.

The entire province, especially Jacobabad, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Larkana, Sukkur, Ghotki and Khairpur districts, have been badly affected.

Shikarpur was once considered to be the Paris of Sindh. Devastating rains have also paralysed daily activities in Shikarpur district.

Communication and electricity in the city are disrupted, while schools have been shut since all roads and streets are inundated.

Owing to bad administration the rainwater is still standing in the city. A number of houses have collapsed in different areas.

The tall claim of the administration before the onset of the monsoon has now been exposed. In spite of heavy budgetary provisions, the North Sindh Urban Services Corporation has failed to drain out rainwater from Shikarpur and other districts.

People are using boats to commute, passing through submerged rooftops and floating furniture. Meanwhile, dozens of people have been affected in the city and acres of farmland have been inundated, while 70 per cent of the rice crop in Shikarpur district has been destroyed.

The Sindh government has announced a relief package for rain-stricken people but those who suffered earlier in 2010 and 2011 have little faith in the government machinery, as they are still waiting to be rehabilitated.

*DILBAR DETHO*  
*Shikarpur*

October 3, 2012 (DAWN)

**Floods: govt's indifference**

This refers to news report (Sept 23) wherein flood caused Rs18 billion loss in Nasirabad and Jaffarabad districts in Balochistan. This shows the apathy of the provincial government and the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA).

The provincial government ignores allocation of funds for floods even after having bitter experiences in the last three years. We could have averted this disaster if we had strengthened embankments/dykes of the two main canals before the monsoon. There is no logic in visiting areas after floods which have caused a loss to farmers and growers to the tune of Rs18 billion.



The other affected province is Sindh whose six districts are badly affected. I wonder why provinces failed to allocate sufficient funds prior to the monsoon. Lack of coordination is seen at every level whether it is the District Disaster Management Authority or the PDMA. Availability of funds only served the purpose in provisioning of food and tents to the flood victims.

I appeal to all authorities concerned to take necessary steps prior to the monsoon. Availability of dewatering machines must be provided to DCOs/DCs before the monsoon.

The irrigation department of each province must take preventive measures for strengthening of dykes of canals and rivers before the monsoon sets in. It is a futile exercise if we take steps after floods.

I am sure that a loss of Rs18 billion could have been minimised to the lowest limit through timely actions. Water storage in Balochistan is urgently needed so that excessive floodwater does not reach Sindh and cause havoc there.

There is also a need to raise this issue at the Council of Common Interest so that a joint mechanism can be evolved to counter floods.

*RIAZ AKBAR*  
*Wah Cantt*

October 6, 2012 (DAWN)

**Floods: Jacobabad worst-hit area**

Once again the people of Jacobabad district have been left at the mercy of nature to survive through the trauma created by floods. A 40-hour-long record downpour proved more than enough to collapse the entire irrigation and drainage system.

The worst-hit is the region of Jacobabad taluka. This is the part which runs parallel to Rojhan Jamali (Balochistan), with Hairdin drainage canal serving as a boundary between Sindh and Balochistan.

When water gets out of control in Hairdin drain, its banks on both sides start breaching, as a consequence of which the parallel parts of the two provinces are simultaneously inundated.

Ironically, when the floodwater heavily accumulates on the side of Balochistan, it is given downstream passage by providing cuts to the Osta Muhammad Road at Khanpur to be dumped in Hamal Lake, whereas for Sindh there is no such option.

On the contrary, matters get worse because high banks of the Khirthar Canal serve as a barrier to any downstream passage for floodwater.

Topographically also, the level of this area of Jacobabad is low. Hence, the option of ultimately draining out the flood water into Hairdin drain does not work.

Consequently, water is stored in this area comprising about six or seven dehs (a population of about one union council).

To add to the agony of the people, even when water has accumulated here, the authorities concerned do not try to provide it some other route. Hence, a temporary dam is allowed to form, serving the role of Manchar dhand or Hamal Lake for getting rid of excess water.

Why are the irrigation authorities so unaware regarding the discharge of water from the Hairdin drain? If the inflow could be handled successfully by stopping the water here, then it would be good for all. But if we know that there will be no respite in the flow from the breaches of the drain; then it is sheer negligence to keep on letting water accumulate and waiting for nature to take its course. After all, the people living here are also human and they should be protected in every way by taking strong measures.

Why was the bank of the Hairdin drainage canal not properly repaired on the side of Sindh following the 2010 floods? Disaster could have been prevented from repeating itself had appropriate precautionary measures been taken on time.

However, the 2010 floods had one positive factor. Floodwater carried

with its silt from the Indus which improved the fertility of these lands, whereas this time around it is the drainage rain-water which is spreading everywhere. It is going to seriously damage the fertility of all land from where it does not get drained out.

I appeal to the authorities concerned to take urgent measures to sort out the problem for good for the future of posterity's sake.

**FAKHIR HAYAT OSTO**  
*Jacobabad*

October 7, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Floods: NDMA's survey report**

The Natural Disaster Management authority (NDMA) recently published a survey under the caption, 'Flood-affected areas' for the year 2012 across the country. The National Disaster Management team visited and surveyed flood-affected areas in every nook and cranny of the country and gathered a substantial data, as well as provided essential relief commodities to the affected people.

In its statistical report the NDMA revealed that the three units of the federal government — Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan — have been severely hit by the recent torrential rains and floods.

According to the NDMA statistics, 4.7 million people have been hit in the three provinces, with Sindh being the worst-affected with 3.1 million people reportedly hit.

A total of 428 people lost their lives in three provinces, with Sindh's casualties totaling 222 people dead, besides the many seriously injured. A total of 400,000 houses have collapsed in the provinces. Out of these 300,000 houses belonged to Sindh alone.

Besides, cattle and crops cultivated on thousands of acres were washed away with the heavy premature monsoon rain and flood that hit Sindh. Through the 18th Amendment the department of National Disaster Management Authority is transferred from the

federal government to the provincial government. Thus, it is now a constitutional and humanitarian responsibility of the provincial government to provide prompt essential relief to the flood-affected people so that they could lead a normal life.

According to media, the Sindh government is working slowly in providing facilities to the flood-affected people. As Sindh is the most affected according to the NDMA, it is requested of the Sindh chief minister to personally look after the relief arrangements made by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority as the delay in relief assistance may add to the miseries of flood victims.

*ABDUL QAYOON DAL*  
*Hyderabad*

October 8, 2012 (DAWN)

**Monsoon: billboards can be dangerous**

As static media is probably a powerful medium for advertising, it is also the cheapest way of advertising. Hoardings, billboards are the main components of the static media.

However, hoardings are a threat to people's life and property as they may collapse any time during the expected monsoon season and cause dangerous accidents. The government should take steps to prevent such accidents or other disasters.

It should regulate oversized billboards and signboards with weak structures in order to ensure human safety in the event of torrential rains, gusty winds, dust-storm, etc, in the monsoon season.

Oversized advertising billboards or weak structures gravely endanger human lives as well as public and private properties. These signboards should be fortified at the earliest.

*SYED ASAD ALI*  
*Hyderabad*

## October 12, 2012 (DAWN)

### **Disaster, disease and democracy**

Every year an estimated nine million people are affected by drought, disaster and diseases in different parts of Sindh. Pervasive poverty, frequent natural and man-made disasters and droughts and politics of petty interests — not public interests — have ravaged and ruined this resource-rich province.

More than nine districts of Sindh are devastated by monsoon-triggered floods in the province where one can witness doomsday scenarios — people, livestock and animals dying of hunger and disease.

This year drought in various districts contributed to deaths of massive livestock undermining the livelihoods of those who depend on them for economic and food security. It is estimated that some 2.5 million people displaced by monsoon rains are now back to their hearth and homes. But they face a fragile and faulty system of irrigation and public health engineering, as well as criminal negligence by the local administration and insensitivity of our MNAs and MPAs.

*HASHIM ABRO*  
*Islamabad*

## Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)

SPO is one of the largest rights-based civil society organization in Pakistan. It is pursuing various program components presently being implemented in over 75 districts of the country. SPO seeks to address mainly governance, social and political issues in the country through its programmes focussing on democratic governance, social justice, peace and harmony, institutional strengthening, conflict resolution, citizens engagement, gender, electoral reforms and political parties development. Parallel to these activities, SPO deals with humanitarian emergencies resulting from both natural and human-induced hazards. In emergencies, it has been dealing to redress problems of disaster like earthquakes, rain-fed floods, cyclones and rehabilitation of internally displaced communities affected by conflicts.

Protection and promotion of human rights is central to the program philosophy of SPO. Its various citizens voices and accountability initiatives seek to strengthen democratic processes through engagement with and building capacities of civil society and state institutions and harness mutual tolerance, peace and harmony between various political, ethnic and religious groups across rural and urban parts of the country.

Various components of SPO's citizens voices and accountability initiatives are currently supported by Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid), British High Commission (BHC), Embassy for the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN), DFID and USAID. SPO also acknowledges support from other donors for its various program components



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