



ORSAM WATER BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin by ORSAM Water Research Programme

Events-News-Politics-Projects-Environment-ClimateChange-Neighbourhoods-Cooperation-Disputes-Scarcity and more



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29 November 2016 – 05 December 2016

'Int'l cooperation minister did not say Egyptian water and electricity companies will be privatized': Ministry

Egypt's international cooperation ministry has dismissed reports that its minister said that certain state-run utility companies, specifically water and electricity companies, will be privatised.

The ministry's statement, issued earlier this week, aimed to clarify comments made by minister Sahar Nasr in an article published in the Wall Street Journal that were interpreted as meaning that water and electricity companies will be publically traded.

In the 23 November article titled 'Egypt is charting a new economic course,' Nasr aimed to “address the international community to explain the government's economic and social programme approved by the parliament”, according to the ministry.

“Through public offerings, Egypt will be partially divesting from several state-owned enterprises and banks. For the first time, this will cover public utility companies, which have historically been excluded from divestiture as a strategic sector,” the article by Nasr read.

The ministry said that Nasr did not mention water and electricity companies in her article.

A number of megaprojects, mainly in infrastructure, are being carried out in Egypt as public-private partnerships. The objective is not only to keep the private sector as a main stakeholder, but also to ensure a crowding-in rather than a crowding-out effect.

The ministry said that the article aimed to explain that the government “encourages private sector participation in the service sector, including the financial sector and state-owned enterprises, and that the government is interested in implementing development projects through public-private partnerships.”

Nasr's article, which went viral over the week, led to several responses by the cabinet and parliamentary members.

Egypt's parliament speaker Ali Abdel-Al said during a heated debate at the House on Nasr's article that there will be “no selling of banks or utility companies.”

He added that the opinion article might have been mistranslated or that any “selling” may be of shares owned by the state in such companies.

29/11/2016 online at:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/251023/Business/Economy/Intl-cooperation-minister-did-not-say-Egyptian-wat.aspx>

Israel Mulls Reversing Water Flow Into Shrinking Sea of Galilee

The Water Authority may set up a system to bring water from the central areas to Lake Kinneret, reversing the direction of the national carrier, which channels water from the lake to the center and the Negev. The reason is the ongoing trend of low precipitation in the Kinneret basin, which has seriously reduced the quantity of water in the lake.

The plans to bring water to the Kinneret were presented yesterday during the first meeting of the Public Water Forum, held at Tel Aviv University. The meeting was attended by current and former senior Water Authority officials, scientists and engineers, water company managers from the north and representatives of environmental groups.

The Water Authority's planner in the north, Ehud Kitai, noted that to deal with the crisis in the Kinneret region, the Water Authority had begun to examine various plans for streaming water from the national water system into the lake. Suggestions include the "reverse" pipeline, which, if there are a number of dry years, could channel some 100 million cubic meters of water into the lake annually, raising its level by around 70 centimeters. This water would be obtained from the desalination plants along the coast, which can produce 580 million cubic meters of water annually.

The water shortage in the Kinneret basin has become increasingly severe in recent years. During the past three years the amount of water added to the Kinneret (taking into account what evaporates from it) has been considerably less than the multiyear average. Two years ago a negative record was set, when the water that evaporated from the lake was greater than what had fallen or was streamed into it.

To prevent too sharp a drop in the lake's water level, pumping from the lake into the National Water Carrier has been drastically reduced. "This year a total of 25 million cubic meters will be pumped, compared to an average annual amount of 230 million," said Tammy Shor, who is responsible for regulation at the Water Authority. "The reason water is being pumped from the lake at all is to maintain the [national] carrier and to continue operations at Mekorot's central filtering facility, which we will need in the future."

Amir Givati of the Water Authority said that precipitation in the Kinneret region is likely to continue to drop due to climatic change. "The region isn't what it once was," he said.

One challenge facing water officials is how to provide 50 million cubic meters of water Israel is meant to supply to Jordan annually under the most recent bilateral water agreement.

To make water available to all sectors of the economy, farmers in the Jordan Valley region have started to pump water from the Jordan River at night, to allow the water to flow freely during the day so that tourism activities, like kayaking, can continue. The Water Authority has also reduced farmers' water consumption in the Upper Jordan region, the primary source of the Kinneret's water.

"The farmers asked to be allotted an additional 40 million cubic meters," said Givati. "We told them it wasn't going to happen. "There isn't enough water to meet all the needs and requests."

29/11/2016 online at: <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.756100>

Water reservoirs receive protection in Saudi Arabia from Minnesota company

The Saudi Kingdom and Sinopec, the world's largest oil refining company, have awarded Industrial and Environmental Concepts, Inc. of Lakeville, Minn., a contract in the Al Khobar region of Saudi Arabia. The project is managed by the Saudi government and its agency, Hassa Irrigation and Drainage. The government recognizes the importance of water and is employing leading organizations in the water industry to assist in the development and preservation of their country's resources and agricultural industry.

Industrial and Environmental Concepts has designed an innovative Evaporation Mitigation Cover System that not only reduces evaporation, but also traps rainwater and keeps wind-blown debris from entering water reservoirs. The water conserved by IEC's system will be piped approximately 165 miles to an agricultural area, where it will be used to grow crops. Approximately one-third of the cover materials have been shipped from Minnesota, with estimated completion scheduled for Spring 2017.

The continued exchange of products and management practices between the Saudi Government and the United States is an example of countries using their best resources to improve overall economic and environmental conditions of both participating countries. Assistance from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the U.S. Commercial Service and their Saudi offices were essential to making this project possible. The U.S. Commercial Service is the trade promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

30/11/2016 online at: <https://www.environmental-expert.com/news/water-reservoirs-receive-protection-in-saudi-arabia-from-minnesota-company-683898>

Water supply cut off for half of Mosul

Fighting between Iraqi forces and ISIL fighters has cut water supplies across a large part of Mosul, affecting 40 percent of residents in the city where poorer families are already struggling to feed themselves.

Water was cut to 650,000 people when a pipeline was hit during fighting between ISIL and the Iraqi government forces trying to crush them in their northern Iraq stronghold.

"We are facing a humanitarian catastrophe," said Hussam al-Abar, member of Mosul's Nineveh provincial council, adding that 1.5 million people were still inside Mosul.

"Basic services such as water, electricity, health, food are non-existent."

Barely more than a third of the 200,000 displaced that the UN had expected in the first few weeks of the Mosul offensive have fled their homes so far.

The lack of clean drinking water could now make it difficult for residents to remain, however.

"There is no water, we drink water from the well. It's very salty and we have to boil it before we drink it," Umm Ahraf, a 45-year-old woman, told AFP news agency in the Khadraa neighbourhood on Tuesday.

The battle for Mosul has already raged for six weeks. Iraqi commanders said around 40 percent of the eastern half of Mosul has been retaken from ISIL since the huge offensive began on October 17.

The forces have told civilians to stay at home to avoid massive displacement from the city, which was believed to have a population of a million-plus before the operation started.

Al Jazeera's Hoda Abdel-Hamid, reporting from eastern Mosul, said the city was "becoming one big urban battlefield.

"The large presence of civilians is slowing the military operations down," she said. "But among those who managed to get out of the city, there is a feeling that this offensive should have started much earlier."

Aid workers say a full siege is developing and fear that the longer the conflict drags on, the more civilians will suffer.

"Key informants are telling us that poor families are struggling to put sufficient food on their tables," UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, Lise Grande, told Reuters news agency.

"This is very worrying. In a worst case, we envision that families who are already in trouble in Mosul will find themselves in even more acute need. The longer it takes to liberate Mosul, the harder conditions become for families."

The capture of Mosul, ISIL's last major urban stronghold in Iraq, is seen as crucial towards dismantling the caliphate which the group declared in Iraq and Syria.

A spokesman of the coalition, US Airforce Colonel John Dorrian, said there was "a sense of urgency" to capture the city, without giving a target timeframe.

A fleeing seven-year-old child was among dozens more civilians allegedly executed by ISIL in Mosul in recent weeks, the UN said on Tuesday.

Since the battle to retake Mosul began, the UN rights office has reported hundreds of alleged execution-style killings by ISIL.

The most recent allegations include a November 22 killing of "a seven-year-old child who was running towards the Iraqi Security Forces in Adan neighbourhood in eastern Mosul".

In a November 25 incident, 27 civilians were reportedly shot dead in Mosul's northern Muhandiseen Park, possibly for "leaking information" to the Iraqi Security Forces, the UN added.

On Tuesday, Iraqi forces assaulted villages far south of Mosul in the Nineveh province, attempting to clear rural areas of ISIL fighters who stayed behind to hinder their advance.

Some 74,000 civilians have fled Mosul so far, and the UN is preparing for a worst-case scenario which foresees more than a million people made homeless as winter descends and food shortages set in.

30/11/2016 online at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/11/water-supply-cut-iraq-mosul-161129202802305.html>

'Iran could face severe water crisis in 2017'

Historically low rainfalls have raised concerns that Iran will have an arid year in 2017.

Iran's Tasnim news agency in a report said the average rainfalls in the country dropped this autumn by 74 percent compared to last year.

This was the lowest drop the country had seen for the past 47 years, Tasnim added.

"Overall rainfalls measured from 22 September 2016 to 30 November 2016 stood at 29.6 million cubic meters. This is while the figure for the same period last year stood at 112.6 million cubic meters," it added.

The report further emphasized that water reservoirs of Iran's dams during autumn had dropped by above 50 percent compared to last year.

"If the conditions remain like this throughout winter, Iran will face severe problems over its drinking water during the next [Persian calendar] year," Tasnim warned.

Iran's calendar year begins on 21 March 2017.

Iran's Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian had earlier announced that Iran is in a critical situation in terms of its water resources.

To the same effect, Iran's Energy Ministry - which is in charge of regulating the water sector - had earlier warned that above 500 cities of the country are struggling with the shortage of drinking water.

Officials blame Iran's water crisis on the changing climate and frequent droughts. However, they have also warned that reckless consumption is already deteriorating the situation.

Last week, Sattar Mahmoudi, Iran's deputy energy minister, was quoted by media as saying that the country working on a project to look for water from underground resources.

Mahmoudi added that the project envisaged looking for underground water resources as deep as 2,000 meters, stressing that the country will use Russia's help for this.

02/12/2016 online at: <http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2016/12/02/496120/Iran-could-face-severe-water-tensions-in-2017>

Pakistan 'reminds' India of obligations under water treaty

Pakistan has reminded India of its obligations under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and cautioned that New Delhi's own credibility would suffer if the accord was violated, an official said in Islamabad.

"India has to abide by its international obligations, if it wants to be taken seriously by the international community," Pakistan's foreign Office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria said at the weekly media briefing.

Zakaria was referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that the water that "rightfully belongs to India" could not be allowed to go to Pakistan. He said the treaty was a binding agreement under the Vienna Convention.

India's indication to revisit the accord came on the heels of the Uri militant attack that claimed lives of 18 Jawans.

02/12/2016 online at: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pakistan-india-water-treaty/1/825637.html>

Tehran University to host intl. conference on water and environment

Tehran University will host the "International Conference on Water and Environment in the New Millennium: Education and Capacity Building" on December 3 to 5.

The conference is co-organized with German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Dutch and German universities as well, Khabaronline reported.

The event which is comprising of various workshops and panels is hoped to help improve Iran's water and environmental status, the conference secretary Masoumeh Malek said.

The workshops will be specifically focused on developing a new curriculum for training water policy makers with cross-disciplinary knowledge in the fields of hydrology (surface and groundwater), water engineering, water law, water and environment economics, socio-hydrology and eco-hydrology, Malek explained.

"We believe educating the public and policy makers about water would help resolve great deal of [water-related] problems," she said, stating, "Raising public awareness about [efficient] water usage and introducing water-related issues into school curriculums is what we need to tackle water shortage."

The media can also play a key role in addressing the water issues as well, she added.

According to ISNA news agency, the conference is also revolving around issues such as adapting to climate change, stepping towards sustainable development, recycling water, informing the public about the concept of virtual water, managing trans-boundary water resources, and learning from European Union drought management projects.

Experts from the U.S., Germany, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Nigeria, China, Tunisia, Pakistan, and Iran will attend the event and deliver speeches.

02/12/2016 online at: <http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/408705/Tehran-University-to-host-intl-conference-on-water-and-environment>

Iran, Russia coordinate efforts on Caspian Sea legal regime

Diplomats from Iran and Russia discussed the latest results of five party talks on drafting a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, and coordinated efforts for success of an upcoming Caspian Sea summit meeting, due to be held in Kazakhstan.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpour, who is also the country's special envoy for Caspian affairs, held a meeting with Igor Bratchikov, head of Russia's delegation to the multilateral talks on the Caspian Sea, in Russia. The two diplomats reviewed the latest achievements of the political talks among the five Caspian Sea littoral states –Iran, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan- on a final convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea. They also discussed the agreements reached at the most recent ministerial meeting of the Caspian states in Astana, and weighed plans for successful holding of the summit meeting of Caspian Sea littoral countries, due to be convened in Kazakhstan.

The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed water body on earth by area, variously classed as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea. The Caspian Sea Convention will determine the territorial rights of littoral states as well as other matters related to the world's largest landlocked body of water. The Caspian Sea legal regime is based on two agreements signed between Iran and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1921 and 1940. The three new littoral states, established after the collapse of the Soviet Union, have not recognized the prior treaties, triggering a debate on the future status of the sea.

02/12/2016 online at: <http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/408699/Iran-Russia-coordinate-efforts-on-Caspian-Sea-legal-regime>

Israel Reuses Nearly 90% of Its Water

Whether it's building out five desalination plants to pre-empt and overcome water scarcity, to recycling over three quarters of its wastewater for irrigation, Israel has always been progressive in building a solid water sector.

A senior figure from the Middle East nation's government has indicated that the amount of wastewater reused has actually reached a staggering high 90%.

Israel's Minister of Strategic Affairs & Public Diplomacy, Gilad Erdan, said: "Today, nearly 90% of our waste water is recycled."

Speaking at the CSR Experience Conference held in Israel, the minister said: "That's around four times higher than any other country in the world. It is a remarkable achievement and this benefits not only Israel. Israeli companies are helping save water around the world, from Africa to California to India."

Previous data from Israeli water company Mekorot suggested that 630 million cubic meters of effluent were reused for agriculture, comprising 75% of total wastewater produced.

However, last year a survey conducted by the water authority showed that 85.6% of the country's wastewater is reused so the figure quoted by Minister Erdan suggests this has increased.

Earlier this year WWi magazine interviewed lawyer and activist Seth Siegel about the topic of wastewater reuse in Israel, covered in his book 'Let there be water'. The full interview can be seen below:

Drip and Irrigation Company Netafilm and Mekorot were noted during the event for their sustainability and innovation.

Israel has been credited with being a top innovator in the field of clean technologies by the Global Cleantech 100 Index.

"Israel is innovative, creative and dynamic and has more high-tech startups per capita than anywhere else in the world," Erdan added. "And these startups in large part are not only focused on creating high profits, but also finding ways to solve the world's most pressing problems."

Elsewhere, water reclamation is well established in Namibia, China and Singapore. In the latter, reused wastewater is expected to provide 55% of total water demand by 2060.

Meanwhile, across Europe Cyprus and Malta reuse more than 90% and 60% of their wastewater respectively, while Greece, Italy and Spain reuse between 5 and 12% of their effluents, according to data from the European Commission.

02/12/2016 online at: <http://www.waterworld.com/articles/wwi/2016/12/israel-reuses-nearly-90-of-its-water.html>

Water consumption doubled in five years in Oman

Oman is consuming twice as much water now as it did five years ago, according to new data available.

According to Public Authority for Electricity and Water (PAEW), water consumption has increased by 20 per cent annually during the last five years.

In 2015, hotels consumed 12 per cent of the Sultanate's water. The average amount used by tourists reached 11,488,562 cubic meters, which is enough water to fill more than 5 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

One third of the hotels' water usage (33 per cent) went to meet the needs of the rooms.

A number of ways have been suggested to save water and money.

Closing taps while brushing teeth or shaving can save 3 gallons per minute. Filling bathtubs half full can save 18 gallons per use while fixing a leaking water tap can save 5 gallons every day.

Similarly 1.6 gallons can be saved by avoiding flushing trash in toilets. Re-using towels more than once can save 4.5 gallons and operating washing machines on full load can save 20 gallons per wash. Using dishwasher only when fully loaded can save 1,000 gallons per month.

03/12/2016 online at: <http://timesofoman.com/article/97792/Oman/Environment/Water-consumption-doubled-in-five-years-in-Oman>

Water situation in Gaza growing worse

As the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip approaches two million people, the water crisis is growing more serious. A new report by the World Bank finds that if no measures are taken by 2020, Gaza will no longer have usable water.

Currently, most of Gaza's water comes from the underground aquifer that runs below Israel, Egypt, and Gaza. But over-pumping has led to high levels of salinity and nitrates in the water that make drinking it dangerous.

"I would say that 96.5 percent of the water in Gaza is far from international standards," Rebhy al-Sheikh, Deputy Head of the Palestinian Water Authority in Gaza, told The Media Line. "A safe yield from the aquifer is 55 – 60 million cubic meters per year, while the demand for both domestic and agricultural use is 200 million cubic meters per year. We over-extract the aquifer and that affects the water quality."

Most Palestinians in Gaza, he said, do not trust the water quality from their taps and so buy water from tankers, a solution that is expensive and has its own health risks.

"There are some 150 operators who provide some kind of desalinated water that has been filtered to make it acceptable for drinking and for cooking," Adnan Ghosheh, a senior water and sanitation specialist with the World Bank told the Media Line. "It's more expensive and not an improved source of water, according to our definitions of water clean enough to drink."

That water can have bacteria, Al-Sheikh says, and the bacteria can grow as the water sits in people's homes.

"It can affect their digestive systems," he said. "Sometimes people go to the hospital and they don't even know what caused their illness."

But the population in Gaza has grown significantly, and the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Water Committee has not met in years. Israeli officials say the Palestinians are not interested in meeting, while Palestinian officials say they will not approve more water for Jewish communities inside the West Bank, which already receive large allocations.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the Islamist Hamas movement, which both the US and Israel see as a terrorist organization.

Palestinians in Gaza say the solution must be both desalination plants and wastewater treatment facilities. There are already three small desalination plants in Gaza under construction that will supply 13 million cubic meters of water per year, which will bridge the gap short-term.

“The priority is to secure resources and supply, and of course improve wastewater management,” Ghosheh of the World Bank said. “We have a wastewater treatment project in North Gaza. It started as an emergency response project, but is currently working on a long term solution where the treated water will be used for irrigation, saving potable water for drinking and other uses.”

Israel is one of the world’s leaders in using treated wastewater for agriculture and al-Sheikh says that Israel has provided technical support and advice.

Ghosheh says that a wastewater treatment plant will benefit Israel as well as the Palestinians.

“Everyone agrees that environment does not have boundaries,” he said. “When a wastewater treatment plant is developed, this will serve the interests of all parties because otherwise the wastewater is going to flow to the other side.”

The long-term solution, both agree, is for a large desalination plant to be built in Gaza, called the Central Gaza Desalination Plant. It will cost half a billion dollars, and Arab states have already given a commitment to cover half of the cost. Israel will also have to give its approval to allow the necessary construction materials into the Strip.

03/12/2016 online at: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4887813,00.html>

Mosul: Thousands facing 'catastrophic' water shortages

A growing water crisis in Iraq's Mosul is affecting up to 650,000 civilians in the city.

It is also preventing thousands of displaced families from returning to their homes and hampering efforts to completely clear the city of ISIL fighters.

"Even in areas retaken by Iraqi forces there is no water," Al Jazeera's Imran Khan reported from east of Mosul.

"Without running water, areas near here that have been cleared of ISIL fighters still remain uninhabitable."

Earlier this week, water was cut for 40 percent of Mosul residents when a major pipeline was hit during fighting between ISIL and the Iraqi government forces trying to crush the group.

The UN children's agency UNICEF said the break was located in an inaccessible part of the city controlled by ISIL.

"Unless running water is restored in the next days, civilians will be forced to resort to unsafe water sources, exposing children to the risk of waterborne diseases such as severe diarrhoea and the threat of malnutrition," it added.

The water shortage has forced thousands of displaced Iraqis, who should have returned home after their towns and villages were retaken by Iraqi forces, to remain in camps.

But with limited space available in the already overcrowded camps, many families have to stay in Mosul's uninhabitable outskirts, without clean drinking water.

"Desperation has forced some to use sewage water," said Al Jazeera's Khan.

"The government and the aid agencies are sending in tankers of water as a temporary measure but it's not enough. Hundreds, who cannot stay in Mosul but don't have any place to stay in the camps either, queue for water every day."

The battle for Mosul has already raged for six weeks. Iraqi commanders say around 40 percent of the eastern half of Mosul has been retaken from ISIL since the huge offensive began on October 17.

The forces have told civilians to stay at home to avoid massive displacement from the city, which was believed to have a population of a million-plus before the operation started.

Aid workers say a full siege is developing and fear that the longer the conflict drags on, the more civilians will suffer.

03/12/2016 online at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/mosul-thousands-facing-catastrophic-water-shortages-161203061920333.html>

Dry spell likely to trigger water shortages in Pakistan: Report

The current dry weather affecting most parts of Pakistan is likely to continue till January next year, a top official at the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said on Saturday.

The PMD official also warned that the dry spell would further aggravate the water shortage in the country.

Vice president of the Asia-Pacific region of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Dr Ghulam Rasul said that since September this year, Pakistan has not received a good amount of rainfall.

Neither "good showers" nor "snowfall" is expected in the Northern Areas till January next year. "Though there will be light to moderate rain at isolated places but it will be just enough to fulfil the need," he said.

Pakistan will have a dry winter in which due to clear skies the day will be warmer and nights will be colder, he said.

“Though PMD has been highlighting the possibility of acute water shortage in the country in the coming months, the authorities concerned have largely ignored these warnings. The severity of the situation will have an impact on the economy as it will affect winter crops. In addition, there will also be a rise in health issues,” he said. Rasul said that the situation is “alarming.”

“At present, however, the water shortage is expected to have an impact on winter crops but in the coming months it is expected that people will face a shortage of drinking water also.”

Soon the water being used from reservoirs for irrigation purposes will be over, according to him. “People will then start pumping groundwater in excessive amounts which will result in its depletion and later cause severe drinking water shortage,” he said.

The continuous stability in the weather condition will also result in extreme weather events like smog which plays a major role in causing flu, watery eyes, chest infections, among others, he said.

Rasul said that earlier Pakistan had faced severe drought-like situation in 2001 when it prolonged for a year and then in 2009 which extended for three to six months.

Meanwhile, according to the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) officials considering the current ongoing dry spell in the country and water scarcity in the rivers and reservoirs it is expected that the country will face acute water shortage than the earlier announced 17 per cent for Rabi season.

However, if there is no rain till February the situation might worsen as reservoirs will reach a dead level, according to IRSA officials.

04/12/2016 online at: <http://gulftoday.ae/portal/ed793f8e-057a-4379-91c1-173c5b718684.aspx>

NAB smells a rat in installation of water digital meters by KWSB

Malpractice in installation of imported digital meters for monitoring inflow and outflow of water at pumping stations marred magnitude of conservation and consumption of water in Karachi.

This was revealed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi during an inquiry at water meter division of Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB).

NAB said inquiry in this matter was still going on in order to obtain more financial misuse and mismanagement in the meter project.

NAB also revealed that according to the records of Finance Department KWSB payment to contractor of the meter project has not been mentioned in any head .

166 meters were imported from England at a cost of Rs 660 million during tenure of Mustafa Kamal Ex Nazim Karachi for 52 water pumping stations, 18 Towns and for installation at different water ducts in city.

Besides that meters had also to be installed at Dehbaji Pumping Station, Pipri Pumping Station, Gharo Pumping Station, Hub Dam Pumping Station COD and North-East Karachi Filter Plants, Tariq Lateef head of KWSB Meter Division informed.

Only eight meters were installed at Dehbaji, 12 at COD, 4 Pipri, 4 Hub Dam, 2 Gharo and 12 meters were installed at North East Karachi Filter Plants, KWSB official added.

The money used for the importing of these meters was a leftover chunk of Rs 2.5 billion from K-3 Greater Water 100 million gallon per day Project, Lateef informed.

It is worth mentioning that the City Nazim did not seek permission from federal or the Sindh Government for importing these meters, which is a clear violation of the terms of using government funds, he added.

Later the federal government withheld the rest of the amount of K-3 Project though City Nazim had planned to use this money for plugging of water pipelines and improvement of water supply to city, he added.

Khalid Dar Chief Executive of NPI Construction Engineers Company has revealed to Daily times that his Company was awarded the meters installation work but till date no payment has been made to Company but till on installing 42 meters since December 2008 at the completion of the work. The total contract was of Rs 660 million.

Imran Zaidi, Director Finance KWSB clarified by stating said the entity had paid Rs 103.7 million to said contractor on June 25, 2008 by its own while showing office record. "K-3 Project money was not used for paying the contractor.

These digital water meters had to be installed under Water System Scheme (WSS-21) and scope of contract package-9 (WSS-15 and 17) in major and town areas water pumping stations.

Digital water meters were meant for conduits and large diameter pipelines ranging 72, 66, 54, 48, 36, 33, 24, 18 and 12 inches.

04/12/2016 online at: <http://dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/04-Dec-16/nab-smells-a-rat-in-installation-of-water-digital-meters-by-kwsb>

Jordan raises \$400 million for water transfer Project

Jordan announced on Saturday that it had raised another \$400 million of the \$1.1bn needed to build the first phase of its Red Sea to Dead Sea water transfer pipeline.

The project aims to pump water from the Red Sea into the Dead Sea in order to save the Dead Sea from destruction, as its water level is currently shrinking by around a metre a year.

"In addition to the already raised funds, several other donor countries and international agencies and institutions showed interest in this mega water project and revealed that they are studying the possibility and the mechanism of financing it," an unnamed official at the Ministry of Water told The Jordan Times.

The funds were gathered at a conference held on Thursday at a location near the Dead Sea in Jordan.

The "Dead-Red" project was first tabled by the World Bank in 2013 and started to accelerate once a historic agreement between Jordan and Israel was reached in 2015.

Israel's water minister, Silvan Shalom, called the deal "the most significant agreement since the peace treaty with Jordan".

Construction on the project's first phase is scheduled to start in early 2018 and is expected to take up to three years to build.

Five contractors have been short-listed for its construction.

The US government alone has pledged \$100 million to the project, saying that it is committed to preserving the water supply for the desert region.

04/12/2016 online at: <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/12/4/jordan-raises-400-million-for-water-transfer-project>

Egypt signs three cooperation agreements with Kuwait

International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr signed on Sunday three agreements of cooperation with Abdel Wahab Badr, general director of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development at a value of LE1.25 billion (US\$135 million).

The agreements included two grants to support Syrian refugees, establish a solar energy station with capacity of 1,000 megawatts and a factory to produce solar energy panels, in addition to a fund to carry out a project of desalination of seawater east of Port Said.

Nasr said she "focused that the projects funded by these agreements have the biggest developmental and social impact through improving the services offered to citizens, providing jobs and improving the infrastructure to boost the local and foreign investments."

She added that around 500,000 persons will benefit from the agreements.

The first agreement, according to Nasr, is a grant from the Kuwaiti fund to contribute to a water desalination station with capacity of 150,000 cubic meters per day. The work on the project will start at the beginning of 2017. Construction will end in 2019.

The project is the second to be financed by the Kuwaiti fund. The first involved the establishing of five desalination stations in South Sinai, funded with around US\$100 million.

The second agreement is for a fund to finance several projects in the sectors of health, sanitation, removal of solid waste, water and drainage in areas which have a high number of Syrian refugees especially in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria and Damietta.

Funds allocated to health projects are estimated at around US\$ eight million, while funds allocated to water and drainage projects reach around US\$ six million.

Projects of sanitation and removal of solid waste will get only US\$ one million.

“It has been agreed that we will carry out a project that raises the quality of services in areas that have a high density of Syrians in Giza,” Nasr added.

The third agreement is a grant to finance technical and economic feasibility studies for two projects.

The first one is establishing a solar energy station at capacity of 1,000 megawatts and the second is establishing a plant to produce solar energy panels (silica).

The projects come within the national labs to develop the solar energy sector in Egypt, thus contributing to the renewable energy by 20 percent in 2020.

04/12/2016 online at: <http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/egypt-signs-three-cooperation-agreements-kuwait>

KSA outlines privatized future on water treatment

Saudi Arabia will tender desalination projects to private investors in the future, reports Saudi-US Trade Group (SUSTG).

The move was confirmed in comments made by officials from Saudi's Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, and Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC), at the Water Investment Forum in capital city Riyadh on 27 and 28 November 2016.

Ali Al-Hazmi, head of SWCC, reportedly said that desalination plants will, in future, be tendered to the private sector, and "everything is ready" for SWCC itself to be privatised. SWCC operates 28 desalination plants, and is the world's largest producer of desalinated water.

Minister of environment, water and agriculture, Abdul Rahman Al-Fadli, added that recycled water will be used in the future for industry and agriculture.

Overall, Saudi wants to attract SAR 200 billion (\$53 billion) in private investment in its water sector. "We are envisaging that the capital requirements in the next five years will reach up to SAR 200 billion," said deputy minister of environment, water and agriculture, Mansour Al-Mushaiti.

04/12/2016 online at: <http://www.utilities-me.com/article-4648-ksa-outlines-privatised-future-on-water-treatment/>