



# ORSAM WATER BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin by ORSAM Water Research Programme

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



## **ORSAM WATER BULLETIN**

*20 June 2017 - 03 July 2017*

### **KRG threatens to cut Iraq's water if Iran does same to Kurdistan**

Kurdistan's agriculture minister has threatened to cut off water to central and southern Iraqi provinces if Iran continues to stem the flow of water into the Kurdistan Region's border town of Qaladze.

"We have warned Iraqi high-ranking authorities that if Iran stems the flow of any two cubic meters water into the Kurdistan Region for whatever reason, we will in return stem a cubic meter water into southern Iraq in order to provide necessary water to the Kurdistan Region," Abdulstar Majeed, minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Agriculture and Water Resources, has told Turkey's state-run Anadolu agency.

Majeed explained that reduction of water flow into Qaladze town has "damaged more than 80,000 people of Qaladze town. It has also materially been detrimental to many projects including fish-raising projects, livestock, tourism, and many other projects. We do not know precisely the full level of the damage, but it's very huge."

Iran has recently constructed a dam on Zei Bchuk river in the Kurdish city of Sardasht to produce hydroelectric power. This resulted in an 80 percent reduction of water flow across the border into the Khas water project in Qaladze. The river also feeds Dukan Lake.

Compared to last year, Dukan Lake's water level has dropped by some 18 percent, according to figures from Hama Tahir Jalal, manager of Dukan Dam.

The reduction is due to both reduced water flows from Iran and less rainfall.

Majeed said that the waters of Dukan Lake benefit southern Iraqi provinces as well as the Kurdistan Region.

"Therefore stemming the flow of water into Zei Bchuk river is not only detrimental to the Region, but also the rest of Iraq," he asserted.

Majeed lashed out at Baghdad accusing it of being "silent" against Tehran's dam construction project.

The Kurdish minister said that if Iran continues the stop of flow of water into Qaladze, "a delegation from the Region will visit Tehran."

"We know it is Iran's right to benefit from its water as long as it does not damage the water of the neighboring country, as is enshrined in international laws."

In his comments to Anadolu, Majeed stated that part of the reason motivating Iran to take this action against the Kurdistan Region is associated with the Kurdistan Region's independence referendum bid.

The minister had previously told Rudaw that the Kurdistan Region has 17 small and medium sized dams to preserve water for irrigation and drinking, and that they will hopefully prevent any water shortages in the future.

The Region will have nearly twice as much irrigation and drinking water once the construction of the dams is complete, Majeed told Rudaw.

Nearly 80 percent of the projects have been completed, the minister revealed.

This is not the first time Iran has built other dams that have affected the flow of water into the Kurdistan Region.

Garan Dam in the city of Mariwan has significantly impacted Lake Darbandikhan and storage facility in Sulaimani province.

The Kurdistan Region has several small rivers and the two major lakes of Dukan and Darbandikhan that produce most of the country's electricity.

01/07/2017 online at: <http://www.rudaw.net/english/business/010720171>

### **New dam in Iran reduces water supply in Kurdish border town**

The construction of a dam by Iran on a river that flows across the border into the town of Qaladze in the Kurdistan Region has led to a major reduction of water and the Kurdish minister of agriculture says that he plans to raise the issue with the Iranian authorities on a visit.

“Iran has constructed a dam in Sardasht, leading to a decrease in water flowing from Khas river into Qaladze,” Zana Othman, the Khas Water Project operator told Rudaw.

Othman said the reduction in water supplies has affected his project to provide potable water for the city.

“The Khas water project is constructed on this water which provides drinking water to Qaladze residents,” he reported. “Unfortunately since June 23, the water has decreased by 80 percent.”

“We cannot provide necessary drinking water to the residents of Qaladze,” he warned.

For this purpose, Abdulstar Majeed, the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Agriculture and Water Resources minister has decided to visit Iran to discuss the Qaladze water shortage with the authorities of the neighboring country.

“I will be visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran and that I have set out a plan to deal with this issue,” Majeed told Rudaw.

The minister said that the Kurdistan Region has 17 small and medium sized dams to preserve water for irrigation and drinking and that they will hopefully prevent any water shortages in the future.

The Region will have nearly twice as much irrigation and drinking water once the construction of the dams is complete, Majeed promised.

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24/06/2017 online at: <http://www.rudaw.net/english/business/24062017>

### **US-backed forces cutoff water to over 1 million people in Aleppo City**

The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have obstructed water to over 1 million residents of Aleppo City, today, a Syrian government source reported.

The Syrian Democratic Forces reportedly blocked the water from the Euphrates Dam that feeds into the Khafsa Pumps, halting the supply to people of Aleppo City.

While no reason was given for SDF's actions, it is likely due to the recent tiff between their forces and the Syrian Arab Army in the southwestern countryside of the Al-Raqqa Governorate.

SDF units alleged that Syrian Air Force was targeting their positions in southwest Al-Raqqa, prompting the US Coalition to shoot down an Su-22 fighter jet that was bombing the Islamic State (ISIL) near the key town of Resafa.

The pilot safely ejected from the aircraft, but landed in SDF-controlled territory; he is still held captive by the latter.

26/06/2017 online at: <https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/us-backed-forces-cutoff-water-1-million-people-aleppo-city/>

### **Solar solution brings water to besieged Syria town**

Solar panels on wheels make for a strange sight on the streets of Syria's besieged Douma, but the makeshift generator is helping local residents secure water.

Douma lies outside the capital Damascus, in the rebel stronghold of Eastern Ghouta, and has been under a suffocating government siege since 2013.

Residents have had no electricity for four years, relying instead on generators for everything from lighting to refrigeration.

But the siege also means generator fuel is expensive and increasingly rare, which is where the solar panel generator comes in.

It trundles around the city, powering the water pumps residents use to draw supply from underground wells, and helping fill the electricity supply gap.

"The most important thing for a family is to secure water. A house without water is a house without life," said Abu Mohammad Ahmad, an engineer and local council member who supervises the project.

The generator is a simple set-up, just 12 solar panels and six batteries mounted on an iron cart.

The panels each have a capacity of 100 watts a day, and are also used to power the batteries, which serve as a back-up on days when the panel supply is low.

The project supplies local schools, as well as mosques and communal water tanks.

As the cart is pushed and pulled to its next destination, residents weave around it on bicycles, which have become a favoured mode of transport in the city because of the fuel shortages.

Arriving at a blue communal water tank, one of the generator's operators unfurls a cord from the device and connects it to an electric pump.

Soon the chug of the pump is accompanied by the splashing of water filling up the tank.

A boon for locals

Local residents arrive with buckets and big plastic bottles to fill up.

Nearby stands Abu Akram, 52, who once owned a minimarket but lost his livelihood when the shop was destroyed in bombardment.

"This is the most successful project in the Ghouta region," he told AFP over the gush of water.

"We used to draw water by using generators, but we're besieged, and fuel is hard to find and very expensive," he added.

He and his neighbours would sometimes club together to buy a single litre of fuel so they could pump up enough water to fill a tank.

"But this project is free and it has helped us a lot," he said.

The project grew out of the failure of a previous local council initiative, under which 13 schools were provided with solar panels.

"Some of the panels were stolen, so we ended up removing them and putting them in storage," said Ahmad, as an employee cleaned the panels behind him.

When the idea was born for a mobile solar generator, they were dug out of storage and strapped to the iron cart, which was built out of the remains of vehicles damaged in bombardment.

A single panel costs \$200 and each battery \$240, but the set-up also requires an inverter device that costs around \$600.

"The more solar panels we could have, the better," said Ahmad, adding that the cart was designed to carry up to 24.

'God will reward them'

Ahmad would like to see the project which began about a month ago expanded to help Douma's approximately 50,000 residents, though costs and availability so far have made it impossible.

"If we get the capacity, we have plans for between 20 and 50 vehicles, which would cover 22 neighbourhoods and secure about 70 percent of the city's water needs," he said.

At a local school, headmaster Bashar, 54, describes the project as "a major improvement".

"Before we used to run the generator and it made so much noise," he said, standing by a wall with a tree painted on it.

"It was really exhausting. Sometimes the generator would work, sometimes it wouldn't. Sometimes we'd have fuel, and other times not."

"Now the solar panel cart comes in and we fill up the water tank, and no one even knows it's here. It's great."

At a local mosque, Abu Mohammad Badran, who calls believers to prayer, is delighted by the project.

Muslims perform ablutions before prayer and mosques are usually outfitted with taps to allow them to do so.

"We were really struggling to have water in the mosque. It was so expensive," he said.

During the holy month of "Ramadan we need even more, because the number of people coming to pray is much greater," he added.

"If they fill us up with enough water for a day or two, God will reward them."

21/06/2017 online at: <https://phys.org/news/2017-06-solar-solution-besieged-syria-town.html>

### **Syrian Deir ez-Zor May Be Left without Water Over Daesh Dam Construction**

The Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor may be left without fresh water over the construction of a dam on the Euphrates River by Daesh terrorist group (IS/ISIS/ISIL) and face a terrible humanitarian catastrophe, a diplomatic source told Sputnik on Saturday.

"The residents of the city, who have already been under the siege of terrorists for a long time, are under a new threat. As soon as terrorists finish the construction of an improvised dam, the town will face a full-scale humanitarian catastrophe. People will be left without water," the source said.

The source noted that the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies should pay special attention to the situation in the besieged city.

"Unfortunately, we do not see a relevant reaction from international community and, in particular, from the participants of the Humanitarian Access Task Force [of the International Syria Support Group]. It is necessary to unite not only for accusations of barbaric actions of IS, but also to find a solution to this humanitarian problem," the source concluded.

Deir ez-Zor had been encircled by the Daesh terrorists since 2014 with its residents living in conditions of humanitarian catastrophe. However, the Syrian government forces were able to regain control over a half of the city this year. The Syrian forces continue an offensive aimed at lifting the siege and creating supply lines for the city's residents.

01/07/2017 online at: <https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201707011055143990-syria-deir-ez-zor-without-water/>

### **300 Cities on Verge of Water Tension**

The high level of water behind dams cannot guarantee the supply of potable water in the long run, as long as the overworked water utilities are not overhauled, a deputy energy minister for water and wastewater affairs said.

"Some 300 major cities across Iran are on the verge of water tensions. Part of the plight comes down to aging and insufficient water processing and supply facilities, and budget constraints to expand infrastructure," Rahim Meydani was also quoted as saying by ISNA on Sunday.

Highlighting the importance of annual maintenance and repair works on installations, including pumps, Meydani noted without elaboration that proposals have been suggested to tackle potable water shortage in the country, but as long as new initiatives are not developed, even the rise in precipitation cannot redress the problem.

According to the official, due to financial constraints, major water projects, including wastewater treatment plants, are not implemented as scheduled and "that is why stable water supply has turned into a formidable challenge."

Pointing to water woes in the central Isfahan Province, Meydani noted, "Located in an arid region of Iran with minimal annual precipitation, the province has struggled with drought for nine years. Various problems such as limited water resources in the central parts of Isfahan, Zayandehroud in particular, challenge the metropolis."

Asked about consumption peaks, he said that during the week, water use reaches a high point between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m., but on the weekend (Thursday and Friday), consumption peaks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Analysts say Iran's water reserves are adequate to supply the needs of its 80-million population, but poor management and excessive consumption have made things difficult.

“Fortunately, precipitation has been above expectation in the present water year (ending in September). However, wasteful and imprudent consumption patterns should be corrected,” he added.

Meydani noted that excessive water use in the agriculture sector must be addressed, as more than 14% of water transferred through the water grid are wasted due to wear and tear of pipelines.

--- Low Tariffs

Hamidreza Janbaz, managing director of Tehran Water and Wastewater Company, said despite the significance of expanding water infrastructure, low water tariffs have made people oblivious to the fact that they must consume water judiciously and help mitigate the effects of water shortages.

According to Janbaz, per capita water consumption has decreased to less than 200 liters per day.

Nonetheless, as Iran is in one of the world’s most water-stressed regions, that is “still a considerable amount” and plans should be devised to further curb consumption.

Environmentalists and experts have for years appealed to the masses to cut water consumption and urged officials to undertake meaningful reforms. But as the worsening water situation demonstrates, their appeals have fallen on deaf ears.

There is a strong consensus that should water consumption patterns not change in the near future, many parts of the country will turn into huge swathes of barren land and vast deserts.

03/07/2017 online at: <https://financialtribune.com/articles/energy/67521/300-cities-on-verge-of-water-tension>

### **Israeli company that extracts water from air launches Florida pilot**

Large parts of Florida are suffering from severe drought, and hurricane season threatens to make things worse.

Enter Water-Gen, an Israeli company, whose technology captures humidity to extract drinking water from the air.

On Monday, the South Florida city of Miami Gardens announced it was launching a pilot program with the company to address its water problems — the first US city to do so.

“As representatives responsible for the quality of life and safety of our communities, preparedness and readiness to counter crises is mandatory,” Mayor Oliver Gilbert III said at a City Hall news conference. “Water-Gen’s pilot will enable us to measure its use for clean

drinking water if needed for hurricane relief and any other emergency water situation that may arise.”

Over the next two weeks, Miami Gardens will use a mid-sized Water-Gen generator to produce drinking water for its residents. Water-Gen officials said they hope the pilot leads to contracts with Miami Gardens and other parts of Florida. The company’s largest generator yields as much as 825 gallons (3,100 liters) of water per day for only 10 cents a gallon, mostly in energy costs, according to the company.

“Miami Gardens is our first significant pilot program in a US city,” Water-Gen USA President Yehuda Kaploun said Monday. “We are ideally positioned to enable communities to tap into a clean and safe drinking water source with a refreshing taste.”

Florida gets much of its drinking water from the Floridian Aquifer and the Biscayne Aquifer, as well as from surface water from Lake Okeechobee and other lakes, but population increases have strained available sources. Because of the drought, Miami-Dade County, where Miami Gardens is located, has put restrictions on water use, including banning residents from watering outdoors between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In addition, Florida is bracing for hurricanes, which hit the state harder than any other, and can cause water contamination. Hurricane season runs from June through November.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez said he sees Water-Gen’s potential to help the state.

“I congratulate Mayor Gilbert and the City of Miami Gardens for its leadership in allowing for the demonstration of water generation technology that could be a game-changer,” he said Monday.

Water-Gen’s ambitions extend beyond Florida and the United States. Earlier this year, the company signed deals, together worth \$150 million, to produce drinking water in India and Vietnam, two countries that have long faced shortages. About 1.2 billion people, nearly one-fifth of the world’s population, live in areas of water scarcity, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Owned by Russian-Israeli entrepreneur and billionaire Michael Mirilashvili, the vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, Water-Gen has Jewish friends in high places. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mentioned it in an interview last December with CBS’s “60 Minutes” about Israel’s high-tech prowess. In March, Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz demonstrated the technology on stage at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee’s annual policy conference in Washington, DC.

He touted the technology as a way to counter worldwide water scarcity and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel.

“There is no weapon more powerful in the fight against BDS than for Israel to develop technologies that the world cannot live without,” he told the crowd. “You cannot boycott products that you can’t live without.”

21/06/2017 online at: <http://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-company-that-extracts-water-from-air-launches-florida-pilot/>

### **Rabbi Calls for Poisoning of Palestinian Water Supply**

The foreign ministry of the Palestinian Authority (PA), Sunday, demanded the arrest of a Jewish Rabbi, who called on Israeli settlers to poison water used by Palestinians in hundreds of towns and villages across the occupied West Bank.

The Palestinian national office for the defense of land and resistance of settlements warned of the dangers and consequences of such calls.

In its weekly report, it explained that Rabbi Shlomo Mlmad, the chairman of the so-called Council of Rabbis in West Bank settlements, called on settlers to poison Palestinians through their water supply, which came to light by the Israeli organization ‘Breaking the Silence’.

Group member Yehuda Shaul said, according to Wafa, that the aim behind poisoning water in the West Bank is to push Palestinians out of their towns and cities in order to allow settlers to take over Palestinian lands.

The ministry of foreign affairs said, in a press release, that Palestinians have grown used to Israelis stealing from their water sources then selling it back to them. Recently, Israeli authorities cut off water supplies from the northern cities of the West Bank during the hottest days of the month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from sunrise till sunset.

While Israel continues to pose multiple restrictions on Palestinians who try to dig water wells, this call by Rabbi Mlmad is considered a crime against humanity because it targets humans, animals, crops and all forms of life in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

The ministry held the Israeli government fully responsible for the consequences of such calls. It demanded the arrest of the Rabbi for inciting murder, and the enforcement of necessary procedures to protect Palestinians from individuals who might attempt to poison water sources.

“What is the international community waiting for to interfere; the death of thousands of Palestinians of thirst? To meet such incident with silence and ignore the war Israel is waging against Palestinians is a cause of shame for the international community.”

21/06/2017 online at: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/rabbi-calls-for-poisoning-of-palestinian-water-supply/5595378>

### **Water flow to Sea of Galilee 'worse than ever**

In a Knesset Science and Technology Committee discussion discussing the natural water reservoirs in Israel, it was revealed that despite the increased efforts at desalination, the state of the natural water reservoirs in Israel continues to deteriorate.

Dr. Yoav Levi of the Meteorological Service reported that "according to the annual rainfall over the past ten years we are in the worst situation since 1921. Models for future precipitation predict even less rain in future than what we have today."

Dr. Amir Givati of the Water Authority added that in the past 4 years the flow of water to the Sea of Galilee has been worse than ever, with dramatic effects on streams and springs drying up.

27/06/2017 online at: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/Flash.aspx/391283>

### **Industrial waste water leaks from Israeli chemical plant**

A leakage of industrial waste water with high acidity occurred on Friday afternoon at the Rotem Amfert plant, causing acidic water to flow into the Ashalim area of the Judean desert, according to the Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

Israel Nature and Parks Authority staff are in the area working to block further contamination and to prevent travelers from going to the area.

Gilad Gabbai, director of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority's Southern Region, said that they were working with all parties in order to minimize damage to plants, animals and travelers in the region.

He further stated that the impact of the spill would be felt long-term as the waste water seeped into the ground, contaminating water and endangering wildlife. Gabbai estimated that the area impacted is about 10 kilometers.

According to the Rotem Amfert chemical plant, the leak occurred at 11:45 a.m. and plant workers immediately began work to stop the leak. The flow of waste water has ceased, according to a company spokesperson.

The public is asked to avoid Ashalim and nearby routes until further notice.

30/06/2017 online at: <http://www.jpost.com/Business-and-Innovation/Environment/Industrial-waste-water-leaks-from-Israeli-chemical-plant-498433>

### **Explosion in Ain al-Hilweh destroys water pipe**

A drinking water pipe was destroyed Monday after unknown assailants threw a grenade in the Ras al-Ahmar neighborhood in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp.

There were no injuries or deaths reported as a result of the incident.

The south Lebanon camp's multifunctional joint security force quickly arrived to the scene.

A source told The Daily Star that all is calm at Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp despite the incident.

26/06/2017 online at: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Jun-26/410842-explosion-in-ain-al-hilweh-destroys-water-pipe.ashx>

### **Most Of The Water Shortage In Lebanon Could Be Solved By 2035!**

The water crisis in Lebanon is not a new issue. While in other countries people depend on the government to supply them with water, Lebanese people have to rely on private companies.

There are 15 rivers coming from the mountains of Lebanon, which is a big number for a small country. Yet, Lebanese households are suffering from water shortage.

Lebanon is described in French as The Castle of Water (Le Château d'Eau). However, a reportage made by Al Jazeera shows us the gravity of the water situation in Lebanon.

In fact, people have to pay 2 water bills: one for the government and one for a private company. This is not acceptable for a country that is rich in water.

The Lebanese government secured \$600M USD from the World Bank and other sources to build a dam. The project is set to be completed by 2022. An engineer said that this project will solve most of the shortages and supply water to 2 million Lebanese people by 2035.

01/07/2017 online at: <https://www.the961.com/water-shortage-in-lebanon-solved-by-2035/>

### **Water restrictions imposed as heat rises**

As the demand for water increases due to soaring temperatures, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation on Sunday warned the public against using municipal water on gardens and pavements.

Spraying yards and pavements with water is “unjustified and useless” when temperatures are expected to exceed 40°C in many parts of the country this week, Minister of Water and Irrigation Hazem Nasser said in a statement e-mailed to The Jordan Times.

“The water that is pumped to consumers is for drinking, personal and domestic usage only. Cleaning streets, pavements or cars using a hose is a waste of precious water and is penalized,” Nasser said in the statement.

Those who are found wasting water, especially when temperatures are rising and demand for water surges, will be fined, according to the ministry’s Spokesperson Omar Salameh.

“Consumers who waste water will also lose their right to submit objections over the value of their water bills. Water waste cases will be documented with photos and repeat offenders will have their water subscriptions changed, from domestic to commercial,” Salameh told The Jordan Times.

In addition, those who repeatedly waste water will have their water services suspended and will be referred for legal action.

Wasting water is a crime under the amended Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Law, according to Salameh, who noted that the country's water security is jeopardised if people fail to preserve every drop of water and use it efficiently.

As the demand for water is expected to reach a record high this week for the first time since the start of the summer, water directorates, technical teams and pumping stations will be operating around-the-clock to keep up with the surging demand.

The WAJ released a study in 2015 that showed that only 5 per cent of domestic water is used for drinking and cooking purposes, while 45 per cent is used in bathrooms and for garden irrigation.

In the statement, the ministry said that the government's subsidy for every cubic metre of water reaching the consumers exceeds \$2.5, and called on people to carry out regular maintenance on their domestic water systems and rooftop tanks to prevent leakage.

Jordan ranks as the world's second water-poorest country, where water per capita is 88 per cent below the international water poverty line of 1,000 cubic metres annually.

The available water resources in Jordan offer 800-900 million cubic metres of water annually, according to the ministry, which said that the amount caters for the needs of only 3 million people, while the number of water users in Jordan now exceeds 10 million.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture issued instructions for farmers to follow during the prevailing heatwave. The ministry urged farmers to take precautions to prevent crop losses or deaths at poultry and cattle farms during the hot weather.

"Farmers should irrigate crops more frequently during evenings and early mornings in these high temperatures, while animal breeders should maintain certain temperatures and ventilation inside coops and barns, and bee farmers should shade their hives," ministry Spokesperson Nimer Haddadin said on Sunday.

Temperatures until Tuesday are expected to be 7-9 degrees above their annual average for this time of the year, according to the Jordan Meteorological Department.

In Amman, temperatures are forecast to reach a high of 39°C in the coming three days, during which hot and dry conditions will be witnessed around the Kingdom, the department said.

Meanwhile, mercury levels in the Jordan Valley and the Gulf of Aqaba will reach a high of 45°C in the coming days.

The public is advised to avoid direct sun exposure and drink a lot of water and liquids to avoid dehydration.

02/07/2017 online at: <http://jordantimes.com/news/local/water-restrictions-imposed-heat-rises>

## **Egypt's Sisi expected in Uganda for key River Nile talks**

Negotiations between Uganda and its neighbors over an agreement on sharing River Nile waters are scheduled to resume this week during the Nile Basin Heads of State summit, according to a report by APA NEWS.

According to APA, this week's meeting seeks to ensure that all Nile riparian states sign and ratify the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), also known as the Entebbe Agreement.

Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Kenya signed the framework in 2010 while Burundi signed it in 2011.

However Egypt and Sudan have to-date declined to sign the framework citing concerns about its reallocation of Nile water quotas and other provisions.

According to APA NEWS sources Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni is personally involved in talks with his Egyptian and Sudanese counterparts, Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and Omar al-Bashir over issues relating to Nile waters.

AharamOnline reports that Egypt's El-Sisi spoke by phone with Uganda's Museveni on Sunday, discussing the plans for an upcoming Nile Basin summit, the Egyptian presidency announced.

According to the statement by AharamOnline, President Museveni shared with President El-Sisi the latest updates regarding his ongoing talks with Nile Basin country leaders to hold a new summit in Uganda soon.

21/06/2017 online at: <https://www.independent.co.ug/egypts-sisi-expected-uganda-key-river-nile-talks/>

## **Egypt's water security is red line: Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson**

The negotiations that are currently taking place in Uganda between Nile basin countries are aiming to decrease the negative impact of the Ethiopian Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam 'GERD' on the water security of countries such as Egypt and Sudan

The Egyptian Foreign Affairs Ministry official spokesperson Ahmed Abu Zeid asserted on Thursday that Egypt's water security is non-negotiable, saying that it is considered a red line that no one can approach.

Abu Zeid's statements came synchronously with the visit of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to Uganda, after receiving an invitation from his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni to attend the summit of the Nile Basin countries.

He further added through his twitter account that Egypt faced harsh negotiations to turn the summit into a success, stressing the importance of the summit in launching a serious dialogue on the topics of the Nile water that would hopefully bring the views of the Nile Basin countries closer together.

The negotiations that are currently taking place in Uganda between Nile basin countries are aiming to decrease the negative impact of the Ethiopian Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam 'GERD' on the water security of countries such as Egypt and Sudan.

In 2011, Ethiopia started construction on the Renaissance Dam over the Blue Nile River, one of the major sources of the water that forms the River Nile downstream.

The dam is expected to be ready by 2017. Ethiopians see it as is a great national project and a means of overcoming poverty.

Egypt fears the dam will affect its historic Nile water share of 55 billion square meters, which it has had access to since the historic 1959 agreement with Sudan. Ethiopia, meanwhile, has reassured Cairo that its water share will not be affected.

23/06/2017 online at: <http://www.egyptindependent.com/egypts-water-security-red-line-foreign-affairs-ministry-spokesperson/>

### **Al-Sisi calls upon Nile Basin leaders to adopt vision to use common water resources**

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi called upon leaders of the Nile Basin states to adopt a vision to use the common water resources depending on modern technology in order to reach the optimum way to benefit these resources, state-owned media reported on Thursday 22 June.

Al-Sisi asserted that the common interest of the Nile Basin countries is more important than any differences in views. During his attendance of the summit of Nile Basin countries in Uganda, the president called upon the leaders to work on avoiding the negative impacts of drought, assure water security for all basin states, and not negatively affect the life of the Nile River's banks.

Also, Al-Sisi expressed Egypt's readiness to host the upcoming summit next year, saying that the Egyptian people are proud of their African roots and support the exerted efforts to boost stability, peace, and development in the Nile Basin countries, asserting Egypt's commitment to work for achieving peace and welfare for the region's people.

"Egypt suffers from a water shortage recorded at 21.5 billion square meters annually. To fill this gap, we reuse water with 80% efficiency; this percentage is one of the highest in the world. For this, the Egyptian people deal carefully with any potential negative impact regarding Egypt's water security," Al-Sisi said.

The summit was to be held on 25 May, but Ethiopia said that it needs time to study the Egyptian proposal about the Entebbe Agreement.

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi headed to Uganda on Wednesday 21 June to participate in the long-awaited presidential summit of the Nile Basin countries, after three times of adjourning it in June and after the Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni's repeated attempts for mediation and inviting presidents to the summit.

01/07/2017 online at: <https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/07/01/al-sisi-calls-upon-nile-basin-leaders-adopt-vision-use-common-water-resources/>

## **Upstream politics: Egypt's play for control over Nile present and future at Uganda summit**

Amid President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's calls for unity among Nile Basin countries at the presidential summit held in Uganda, Egypt attempted to shore up its ability to control the technical process at the heart of the Grand Renaissance Ethiopian Dam — a pressing concern for the upstream country's immediate and future ability to lay claim to water sovereignty in the region.

A government source says that, in the first instance, Cairo submitted a draft of a general statement to the wider summit — which was not officially issued — and which would have formalized Ethiopia's earlier proffered commitment to fill the dam's reservoir over a period of five years.

The delegation submitted the draft statement despite the fact that the Egyptian government sees the five-year period as less than ideal. According to sources at Egypt's Foreign Ministry, the real battle in the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam talks will be fought over the timeframe in which the dam is filled. It is a battle, the sources say, that Egypt has to win decisively by pushing the time period to seven years, if it hopes to minimize expected damage.

According to diplomatic sources, the draft of the formal statement submitted in Uganda was only part of Egypt's wider aims to intervene in the political process surrounding the dam's construction.

Earlier this year, Ethiopia sought to persuade Egypt to sign a bilateral agreement that would have cemented terms to fill the dam over a five-year period. It was a proposal that Cairo had initially judged to be sensible, before the majority of concerned parties agreed that Cairo should not go forward with an agreement that would have stemmed any remaining legal right to contest Ethiopia's lack of commitment to the cooperative framework on the technical procedures of the construction of the dam and the test filling of its reservoir.

Ethiopian sources, as cited in the privately owned Al-Shorouk newspaper, state that Addis Ababa is preparing to begin to fill the Renaissance Dam's reservoir next July over a five-year period, without waiting for the completion of the technical study conducted by the French consulting companies, which is trained on testing the dam's effect on the water flow from the Blue Nile to the High Dam lake.

This decision has not gone unaddressed by the Egyptian government. A source at the Foreign Ministry tells Mada Masr that deputy Foreign Minister Hamdy Loza summoned Ethiopia's ambassador to Cairo, Taye Atske-Selassie, in early June to send a "sharp and clear" message regarding Egypt's anger at Addis Ababa's retreat from its commitment to postpone filling the dam until after an understanding has been reached on a number of technical issues related to the construction of the dam, its capacity and storage mechanism details.

According to the source, the decision to summon Atske-Selassie was meant to serve two goals: First, it intended to send a clear message that Cairo is alarmed by Ethiopia beginning the trial phase; and second, it aimed to prevent Cairo from shifting its position from containment to escalation, which is the reason the issue was not tackled in the media through the Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

According to a Foreign Ministry authority working on the Renaissance Dam file who spoke to Mada Masr on condition of anonymity, Foreign Minister Sameh Shokry is also aiming to prompt a realignment in the Nile Basin, by affecting change in the position of a sufficient number of member states in the Nile Basin Initiative to re-launch the initiative on a new basis that would see members agree on two issues: First, that none of the member states can start a project on the banks or the pathway of the river without the “consensus” of member states; and second, that any projects launched by a member state without prior warning will be suspended.

The points which Cairo believes it can garner support from its Nile Basin neighbors remain general, and include seeking to maximize the benefit of Nile resources through joint projects, and talk of “the right of all people on the banks of the Nile to life, development and mutual benefit.”

The proposal was met with “strong support” by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, according to the Foreign Ministry source familiar with the Renaissance Dam file, and the result of Shoukry’s communication with the Nile Basin countries. The source says that Museveni spoke directly with Sisi days before the summit, promising continued support until an agreement that ensures Egypt is immune to an acute water crisis is reached before Ethiopia begins the process of filling the reservoir in the summer of 2018.

The ministry source, however, says that Museveni’s efforts in support of Egypt’s proposal amounted to little, as the majority of the Nile Basin countries stand behind Ethiopia, for reasons that range from the possible benefit they might secure through favorable electricity export prices the new dam will facilitate to setting a precedent that they could cite if they wanted to pursue water projects on the Nile in the future without having to notify Egypt.

Official figures indicate that Egypt’s annual per capita water consumption has fallen from 2,526 cubic meters in 1947 to 663 cubic meters in 2013, placing the country below the United Nation’s water security line. The UN forecasts that Egypt will be in a state of water scarcity by 2025, when average consumption will fall to 500 cubic meters per capita.

Egypt announced its decision to freeze its membership in the Nile Basin Initiative in 2010 after five upstream member states signed a Cooperative Framework Agreement that would reallocate Nile water quotas without Egypt’s involvement. The parties to the agreement asserted that the framework by which Egypt is allocated 56 billion cubic meters of water per year was signed in the 1950s, before most of the concerned states gained their independence.

The five signatories to the NBI in 2010 were Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya. The following year, Burundi joined the agreement, taking the number of Nile Basin

Agreement members states party to the NBI to six and thereby ensuring a majority that could push for a new framework agreement — a move which Egypt rejects — to come into effect once each country's parliament adopts the international deal.

### Misaligned friends to the south

Egypt has not gotten support from its southern neighbor in its political play in the dam struggle, according to a Foreign Ministry source who participated in a number of meetings with Sudan's Foreign Minister, Ahmed Ghandour, referring to what he describes as "the unfortunate stance of Sudan."

Another diplomatic source that took part in the Khartoum meeting of irrigation ministers of the Nile Basin states in March speaks of "a disturbing situation" in which the Sudanese irrigation minister attacked his Egyptian counterpart and accused Cairo of ignoring delays in water projects in other Nile Basin states or their right to development.

This situation, according to the source, bolstered information Cairo had received through what it considers to be trusted sources regarding discussions between Ethiopia and Sudan of water projects to be implemented in Sudan that would cause the quality of water that reaches Egypt to suffer, and thereby affect the country's agricultural production and soil ecology, among other cumulative environmental factors.

The source adds that Cairo has not succeeded in obtaining a clear message regarding Sudan's position on these potential projects during Shoukry's meeting with his Sudanese counterpart, nor was Cairo able to ascertain Sudan's position on the NBI, despite Shoukry subtle disapproval of Sudan's position on the issue.

However, a Sudanese diplomat currently in Cairo says Khartoum feels Egypt is overestimating the support it can expect from the Sudanese government, especially given what the source says is Egypt's record of "intervention in domestic Sudanese issues."

Egypt and Sudan's relation has been marked by increased tension in recent months, against the backdrop of Sudanese accusations that Cairo is interfering in Darfur, in addition to supporting opposing parties in Libya and engaging in a border conflict over the Halayeb and Shalatin triangle and Abu Ramad.

"Today we are seeking today to exert pressure on Ethiopia and Sudan in parallel through a network of understanding and cooperation with both Eritrea and South Sudan," says a sovereign source speaking on condition of anonymity. "But it's difficult to predict the path the issue will take."

### Historical missteps in the political game?

A retired diplomatic source who was in charge of the Renaissance Dam file in the months after the fall of former President Hosni Mubarak in 2011 believes that the way Cairo has dealt with the crisis from the very beginning has been "unfortunately marked with an exaggerated confidence in its ability to suspend the project by exerting pressure on African states and the

states funding the project, without sufficiently taking into account the diminishing influence of Egypt in the region, after Egypt's presence shrank following the assassination attempt on former President Hosni Mubarak in 1995."

The retired diplomat adds that Egypt "underestimated Ethiopia's diplomatic ability to mobilize sympathy in its favor, not only through Israel, but also through mobilizing western sympathy for Ethiopia's desire for development and heralding the Renaissance Dam as the project that will allow the country to achieve a massive leap in electric power production."

"Those who took charge after the ouster of Mubarak were, without exception, less qualified to deal with the issue," the retired diplomat states. There were several issues in the post-January 25 revolution period, according to the source, punctuated by "a little skit performed by a popular delegation in Ethiopia after 2011, who obtained worthless pledges that do not bind Ethiopia to suspend the project until an understanding has been reached with Egypt; a naïve discussion that took place about the dam during the rule of former President Mohamed Morsi, which was broadcast on air without prior notice being given to the president and most participants; and finally the signing of the Khartoum agreement without a proper understanding, and instead aiming only to secure a quick containment of Ethiopia, a country that had already started construction at a rapid pace."

The three Foreign Ministry sources agree that the presidential decision to sign the Khartoum agreement at the end of 2015 under the banner of "resolving the disputes over the Renaissance Dam" was, to a large extent, a hasty move, and one that took place without sufficient agreement among the president's senior aides.

According to one source, Fayza Abul Naga, the president's national security advisor — who is considered one of the most important Egyptian government experts on African issues — was one of the most prominent voices opposed to the agreement. Naga reportedly perceived it as an official acknowledgment from Cairo of Ethiopia's right to proceed with the project, thus closing the door on international arbitration in the future.

03/07/2017 online at: <https://www.madamasr.com/en/2017/07/03/feature/politics/upstream-politics-egypts-play-for-control-over-nile-present-and-future-at-uganda-summit/>

### **Egyptian firm sets up \$15m water meter plant**

An Egyptian company, El Sewedy Electrometer, is set to establish a \$15 million plant that manufactures domestic and commercial prepaid water meters in Harare.

The company is expected to create over 200 direct jobs for locals, excluding those in the value chain system.

Company chairman Mr Ahmed Sewedy, said plans were afoot to set up the company before year end.

"We are aiming to have a base in Harare before the end of this year," he said. "We have 10 factories in different parts of the world. We have over 20 million prepaid water meters in over

46 countries. “We have capacity to produce five million meters every year. Our meters cost between \$120 and \$150.”

Following the recent enactment of the city’s investment policy, Harare is taking bold steps to attract investors and create employment.

Deputy mayor Clr Enock Mupamawonde recently led a team of city officials and a councillor to Cairo, Egypt, to assess the standing of the company interested in investing in Harare.

The Egyptian company manufactures prepaid and smart water meters.

Addressing delegates after a successful tour of the manufacturing plant located in the industrial zone in 6th of October City, Clr Mupamawonde expressed satisfaction with the capacity of El Sewedy Electrometer. “Once the plant is set in Harare, it will go a long way in transforming our revenue collection, growth and service delivery,” he said.

Director of Harare Water Engineer Hosea Chisango said he was happy with the quality and specifications of the meters.

He said council was worried by its failure to collect all the water revenue from consumers.

Eng Chisango was speaking in response to reports that the Egyptian government had ordered that all households and companies in the country be fitted with prepaid water meters.

There are over 250 000 properties in Harare requiring prepaid water meters.

Council is preparing for the roll-out of prepaid water meters, with the programme expected to begin at the end of this month.

Attracting investors and giving them a conducive operating environment is the responsibility of local authorities.

The city’s building inspectorate recently adopted a one stop shop where building plan approval meetings are conducted by all relevant departments operating in one office in a bid to facilitate speedy approval of plans.

According to World Bank Survey on Ease of Doing Business in Zimbabwe, it took 448 days for one to apply and get a construction development permit.

To correct the situation, Government, with the support of World Bank, embarked on a number of reforms to facilitate the ease of doing business.

03/07/2017 online at: <https://southernafrican.news/2017/07/03/egyptian-firm-sets-up-15m-water-meter-plant/>

### **Water Conservation: EBRD Grants Morocco a EUR 120 Million Loan**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) granted a EUR 120 million loan to Morocco on Thursday to finance the Saiss Water Conservation Project.

Signed in Rabat by the Ministers of Finance and Agriculture, Mohamed Boussaid and Aziz Akhannouch, and the head of Morocco's EBRD office, Marie-Alexandra Veilleux-Laborie, this project will help protect the Moroccan agricultural sector from the impacts of climate change, said a statement from the bank.

This important project aims to fill the water deficit recorded in the Fès-Meknes water table, adopt a water-saving irrigation system, develop the amounts of water consumed by the practice of high value-added crops and improve the income of farmers in the region that covers an area of 30,000 ha.

In addition to this loan, the EBRD is also helping speed up the instruction process through a EUR 32 million grant from the Green Climate Fund.

The EBRD noted that the large water deficit in Morocco is exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Moreover, the unsustainable use of groundwater leads to a reduction in corresponding reserves, consequently seriously jeopardizing agricultural production and livelihoods of people in rural areas.

The Bank's investment in the Saïss project will improve resilience to climate change by supporting the construction of a primary adductor canal for water transport. This structure will transport more than 100 million cubic meters per year to irrigate the Saïss plain.

It will also help reduce the overexploitation of groundwater by using sustainable surface water resources as well as promoting access to efficient irrigation techniques in line with best practices, the bank said.

"The preservation of the aquifer of the Saïss Plain and the promotion of sustainable water management are essential to ensure access to water, climate resilience and economic development of the region," said Veilleux-Laborie.

"This investment is therefore essential for the region and the Kingdom of Morocco as a whole to strengthen its infrastructure and ensure sustainable water resources. Through this project, we encourage greater private sector participation, climate resilience and economic inclusion in a sector that accounts for 40 percent of jobs."

With this donation, the EBRD is joining the many national and international donors and funding agencies that have put their trust in the Green Morocco Plan and its projects.

Morocco, a founding member of the EBRD, became a country of operations in 2012. To date, the bank has invested approximately EUR 1.2 billion in 30 projects in the country.

30/06/2017 online at: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2017/06/221674/water-conservation-ebrd-grants-morocco-a-eur-120-million-loan/>

**Mekong River Commission and Morocco Agree to Exchange Experiences in Water Resource Development and Management**

Today, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kingdom of Morocco. As part of South – South cooperation, Morocco is the first Arabic and African partner of the MRC.

The partnership translates the vision of the King of Morocco towards diversifying the cooperation at all levels to achieve a sustainable, active and solidarity-based development.

This partnership will foster exchanges and cooperation in water resource development and management through sharing of available technical expertise and lessons learned by both parties. Some of the common interests of both parties range from energy to agriculture and food security to water quality.

Driven by a shared interest in sustainable water resources development and management, the collaboration aims to ultimately promote and enhance public safety and community welfare by fostering research; promote, encourage, and advance safer, more economical, efficient, and environmentally-sound system for water resource development and management.

The MOU was signed in Vientiane, Lao PDR by Mr. Pham Tuan Phan, Chief Executive Officer of the Mekong River Commission and His Excellency Mr. Abdelilah El Housni, Ambassador of his Majesty the King of Morocco to Thailand. The MOU was agreed to by the MRC Joint Committee in April 2017.

The Government of Morocco will invite the MRC to Morocco for an experience sharing visit and discussion with relevant agencies for the preparation of a concrete set of joint activities in the future to implement the MOU.

30/06/2017 online at: <http://reliefweb.int/report/morocco/joint-press-release-mekong-river-commission-and-morocco-agree-exchange-experiences>

### **Farmers Increase Output with Access to Efficient Water Management Systems in Balkh Province**

It is a partly sunny winter's day and villagers are busy attending to their farmlands or taking a mid-morning break. Abdul Ghaffar, 50, a farmer in Sahilozie village, sits sipping tea with his two young sons as they discuss the weather. Next week is predicted to be sunnier and they are on track to cultivating six hectares of their land this year.

There was a time when Abdul Ghaffar did not have sufficient water to cultivate the amount of land he wanted because of the unpaved village irrigation canal. This is no longer the case and he is a happier farmer for it. "We cultivated less land because of water seepage, which led to water shortage. I could cultivate only two or three hectares of my land every year in the past," he says.

The irrigation canal that has benefited Abdul Ghaffar and so many other farmers like him is the Baghat Irrigation Canal. Located in Sahilozie village in Khulm district in Balkh Province, the canal was paved by the On-Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP) in 2014.

The reconstruction of Baghat canal has truly been a boon to the region. “The unlined canal was inefficient, it absorbed a lot of the water and it took almost three hours to bring water to our farms,” says Abdul Ghaffar. “Now water reaches our farms in half an hour and water wastage is not a problem anymore.”

“Most of canals we rehabilitate have 30 to 45 percent water wastage, especially in summer. Our work ensures that the water wastage is reduced to almost zero. This also enables the farmers to have enough water throughout the year” says Noor Ahmad, an engineer with OFWMP in Balkh Province.

Two kilometers of the 3.5-kilometer long Baghat Irrigation canal was lined under OFWMP. The lined section has increased the irrigated area by 20 per cent, irrigating 300 hectares instead of 240 hectares of farmland. The project built eight culverts to allow people and animals to cross the canal, improving access for more than 100 families of this village.

The project also established an Irrigation Association (IA) in the village. IA have a bank account Farmers and villagers gather together to share their knowledge about farming and solve water-related problems as a community. The association is also tasked with the responsibility to maintain the canal.

The increase in irrigation water and time saved on maintenance have meant that farmers are now able to expand the scope of their activities. “Every year, 30 to 40 villagers had to clean the Baghat canal twice and it took two months of our time,” states Abdul Hashim, 40, who owns and manages grape and pomegranate orchards. “Now that I have more time and enough water, I would like to plant new modified fruit trees. In the past, more than 150 fruit trees would die out and not bear fruit because of the water shortage.”

#### Enhance Efficient Water Use

With a \$70 million grant from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), OFWMP works to improve agricultural productivity in project areas by enhancing the efficiency of water use. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL). The project aims to support on-farm water management investments in five regions—Kabul, Baghlan, Herat, Nangarhar, and Balkh—covering a total of 19,000 hectares.

OFWMP has implemented 35 projects in western Afghanistan, especially in Herat Province, since it began operating in 2011. In the northern region that covers Balkh, Smangan, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, and Jawozjan, OFWMP has worked on 50 irrigation canals to date—18 have been completed, 13 are ongoing and 19 projects are in the survey and design phase.

The scope of OFWMP includes the rehabilitation of irrigation systems, training on efficient water management, as well as leveling of farmlands. “The project laser-leveled one of the farms in our village and when people saw how it improved productivity, they were all eager to laser-level their lands,” says Abdul Mannan, 51, head of the Sahilozie village Community Development Council. The leveling process helps farmers irrigate their lands more efficiently as it assures a smooth water flow and absorption throughout the land. “If agricultural practices

contribute 25 percent to a good produce, the laser land leveling and irrigation rehabilitation ensure an additional improvement of 25 percent,” he says.

The villagers in Sahilozie village are now armed with a better system and knowledge of irrigation. “Backed by improved canals and increased access to efficient water management, thousands of farmers are equipped to do better, earn more, and that is the true essence of development,” engineer Noor Ahmad says.

22/06/2017 online at: <http://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/farmers-increase-output-access-efficient-water-management-systems-balkh-province>

### **Salma Dam attacked by Taliban: Here is all you need to know about the dam**

At least ten Afghan soldiers were killed in an attack by Taliban on Salma Dam on Saturday. The attack took place ahead of President Ashraf Ghani’s Eid al-Fitr address where he reiterated his call for the Taliban to return to peace talks. The Dam is a symbol of India-Afghanistan friendship as the project was undertaken by Indian Government.

Salma Dam is a hydroelectric power project that is built on the Hari River in Afghanistan’s Herat province. Since it was funded by the Indian Government, it is also known as Afghan-India Friendship Dam. The plant has a power generation capacity of 42 MW and is also a major irrigation resource that can irrigate 75,000 hectares of agricultural land. The dam location was connected by a 150-km dirt road to Herat. Nearest human habitation is also at least 50 km away from the dam. However, braving all odds and in extremely difficult conditions, the workers stayed on location for years and finished the work. The Dam was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on June 4, 2016.

India took up the daunting task of building the dam around a decade and a half ago. The capacity was not a challenge in itself but the remote location was. The gross capacity of the dam is 633 Million M3 and has a catchment area of 11,700 sq km. The height of the dam is 104.3 meters, length 540 metres and width at the bottom is 450 metres.

The construction of the dam began way back in 1976 and multiple roadblocks slowed down the process. At times, the people building the projects lost confidence that the dam will be completed. An Afghan firm was given the contract for the construction of the dam in 1976. It further gave the construction contract to Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd (WAPCOS). The company was owned by India’s Ministry of Water Resources. The work on the project was halted after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979. WAPCOS tried to revive construction of the dam almost a decade later in 1988. However, the civil war again left the dam’s construction in the doldrums. In 2006, India made a commitment to funding the project for its completion. The funding was of \$275 million.

The Indian Cabinet revised the cost to \$273.3 million in 2013. A key contributor for the construction was Indian Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited which commissioned two 14 MW units in the dam.

25/06/2017 online at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/what-is-salma-dam-taliban-attack-afghanistan4721346/>

### **Domino effect: Heavy downpour affects Karachi's water supply system**

The metropolis was deprived of 150 million gallons of water as the 72-inch pipeline of Dhabeji Pumping Station was ruptured due to three power breakdowns in 16 hours.

According to the water board spokesperson, the breakdowns suspended electric supply to the pumping station, causing the pipeline to burst in two places. Subsequently, he added, the nearby area was inundated.

However, the staff and machinery to fix the pipe have been dispatched to the pumping station on the orders of the water board managing director, said the spokesperson, adding repair work would start soon.

The pipeline was ruptured after power breakdown due to heavy rain suspended electric supply to the pumping station, along with other places. As a consequence, water that was being carried up in the 72-inch pipeline from the ground floor started flowing in the reverse direction. Since pressure of the backflow was high, it caused the pipeline to burst at two points, depriving Karachi of 150 million gallons of water.

The water supply was recently affected when on June 20 a 72-inch pipeline was ruptured at the same pumping station, which is the most important water supply source for Karachi.

It incident took place over similar reasons – when power failure caused a buildup of reverse pressure in the pipeline.

30/06/2017 online at: <https://www.geo.tv/latest/147517-domino-effect-heavy-downpour-affects-karachis-water-supply-system>

### **NCHR takes notice of contaminated water supply to Islamabad**

The National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR) has taken notice of the shortage of water, the supply of contaminated water and the lack of a water policy for the federal capital.

The commission has also decided to call all stakeholders to find a long term solution for the shortage of water in the capital city.

Last week, the National Institute of Health (NIH) issued an advisory urging concerned authorities to take timely preventative measures to minimise the chances of disease outbreaks before monsoon.

The advisory called for the repair of damaged water lines and the chlorination of water.

In the advisory, the institute said sewerage and water supply lines run side-by-side and are damaged, leading to sewerage water getting mixed with clean water.

“Water-borne diseases, attributed to the consumption of unsafe water and non-observance of proper sanitation and preventative measures, may pose a serious challenge for the health and water and sanitation authorities,” it said.

The institute has suggested careful watch on water supply systems, repair of damaged water pipes, sewerage lines and systems without delay.

Talking to Dawn, NCHR member Chaudhry Mohammad Shafique said due to the shortage of water in the city, it has been decided to call concerned departments within two weeks and ask them to devise a strategy and analyze how the commission can help them make a policy for providing citizens of the city with clean drinking water.

The departments called include the Municipal Corporation, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad District Administration, the managements of Simly and Khanpur dams and the Water and Power Development Authority.

“Everyone has the right to be supplied clean drinking water but the government does not have a policy for this. The CDA has been dealing with water related issues in the urban areas of Islamabad and the Islamabad Capital Territory administration deals with these issues in rural areas but they do not coordinate with one another for this,” he said.

A proposal for bringing water in from the Indus River to Islamabad via a pipeline was made in 2004, Mr Shafique said, and that the proposal was also put forward to the cabinet. The project did not materialize which is why the availability of clean drinking water has become a big problem.

“We need to devise a long term solution and not stop gag arrangements, for which we will play our role,” he said.

The availability of water has become a major issue across the city, especially in the G and I sectors, leading a Jamaat-i-Islami leader and former MNA Mian Mohammad Aslam, to display a number of posters across the city demanding the water problem to be addressed.

Residents of the federal capital have on many occasions held protests against the CDA due to the unavailability of water and though there is a ban on boring, a large number of people have bored as they do not have another option. The CDA also largely ignored complaints of boring as it is aware that the water crisis has become huge.

02/07/2017 online at: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1342896>