

Water Disaster

## The Coming Water Disaster

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The 'Waterless Moon' was a book written on Pakistan by Elizabeth Baineaves in 1955 after her prolonged visit to the newborn country. In her intuitive work she made some prophetic observations to the utter dislike of the majority of Pakistanis who were then merrily basking in the sunshine of the hard won independence from the twin yoke of the British and the Hindu domination. The title of the book was itself menacingly scaring. Did it mean that the country was destined to run dry like the moon with the passage of time? Our short-sighted and small sized pigmy leadership dismissed it as a revengeful prejudice of a foreigner. They boasted of the existence of five rivers of the country running full capacity and a canal network that was the largest in the whole world. In addition the existing water potential, they argued, was enough to keep the country green and surplus in foodgrains. They further took solace in the Five Years Development Plans under which the primitive tilling practices were gradually becoming mechanized. The increasing use of fertilizers and pesticides was improving the yield per acre enormously. These efforts were also leading to agricultural based industrial revolution. The country was destined to become prosperous, great and strong in course of time. What the above named ignorant lady observed and said was thus no more than a lunatic's outcry.

### **Pakistanis will cry for every drop of water**

Her prophecy, however, did not take more than 47 years to come closer to the bitter truth. On 14 Jun 2002, the Indian minister for Power and Water Mr Chakravarty shamefacedly declared in a formal meeting of Indus Water Treaty (IWT) Council held at Delhi that, "When we abrogate IWT Pakistan will be in a state of drought and Pakistanis will cry for drops of water." Another significant statement came in 2003 from the COAS of the Indian Army who said, "The rejection of Kalabagh Dam by some elements in Pakistan will enhance the insecurity of Pakistan.

Had there been true representatives of the people at the helm of affairs they would have taken serious notice of India's vicious intents and reacted violently

with equally dreadful preemptive measures. But they instead took the warning lying down, They paid little heed to the damage that the abandonment of Kalabagh Dam had in store for the future generations of Pakistan which our enemy was happily well aware of it. Every successive government that came in to power was of those feudal lords whose only passion was to protect their own vested interests. They took criminal shelter behind the need for consensus of all the stakeholders in respect of the Dam, knowing full well that in Pakistan's heterogeneous society consensus on even a minor issues was hard to obtain. With sincerity of purpose and initiative of a genuine leader if the Dam had been built on time, even against the heaviest possible odds, eventually consensus would have followed as a matter of course. But with Generals, feudals, parochialists, provincialists, regionalists, racialists and ethnic groups in power, that was not to be. Pakistanis have already started paying for the sins of the quacks of counterfeit democracies. Rivers have run dry, existing dams have touched the dead levels, generation of electricity has dwindled menacingly and the nation is waiting for the arrival of the doomsday. The government in power appears to be least worried about the coming disaster. It has so far done nothing to avert it.

#### The Jugular vein

With major part of Jammu/Kashmir in hands of India, the conclusion of Indus Water Treaty was a blunder of himalayanal magnitude. President Ayub ignored the Quaid's caution that Kashmir was the jugular vein of Pakistan. It was the watershed of Pakistan. It was the mainspring of our rivers. Yet he surrendered rights of three eastern rivers ie Sutlej, Ravi and Beas to India who, under the provisions of the Treaty, lost no time in diverting their courses to turn them into rivers of sand for Pakistan.

The Treaty gave exclusive rights of Jhelum, Chenab and Sind to Pakistan but since their upper reaches lay in Indian held Jammu-Kashmir, therefore in blatant violation of the provisions of the Treaty. India started building Dams on them denying the provision of their water to Pakistan. Thus India won the heads and made Pakistan to lose the tails. The Treaty could have been meaningful to some extent had it been concluded under the precondition of fair settlement of the State of Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

India is playing another dirty game in this regard. Taking advantage of its close relations with Afghanistan it is all out to deny waters of river Kabul to Pakistan. River Kabul is one of the major tributaries of Indus River and India has convinced Afghanistan to build a reservoir on it. Perhaps financial and technical help is also being offered.

There were times when it was said that there was a sea of underground water in plains of the Punjab and Sindh. While the low quality water could be



*dangerous project undertaken by India is its theft of Indus water through a tunnel. Indus river has total length of 3180 km from Tibet to the Arabian Sea. It runs 404km in China and 395km in Ladakh which is in Indian hands. In Leh it is spending around \$200 million on the construction of three more tunnels to divert the Indus waters to the extent that would turn major part of Pakistan in to a barren desert.*

India has gone ahead to build yet another mega project which will be constructed at a cost of Rs 5000 crores on River Chenab after its confluence with Marsudar river which is a tributary of Chenab. India has also planned dozens of more such projects on Jehlum, Chenab and Indus. The biggest ever dam India intends to build on Chenab is called the Bursar project. Bursar is one of the major tributaries of Chenab. The height of this dam will be 252 meters which is comparable to any largest dam in the world. India is all out to turn Pakistan into a desert, easy to run over, occupy it and establish direct links with Afghanistan and CARs. But will Pakistan ever permit India to fulfill its satanic dream? But why Pakistan has so far let the enemy resort to gradual dismemberment of the country? The responsible leadership is answerable to the nation for this negligence that amounts to blatant treachery.

#### **India's Water Bomb**

Majeed Nizami, the Chairman Pakistan Movement Workers Trust and acustodian of its ideology, has termed it a water bomb that is being used by India to create conditions of widespread famine in Pakistan. By now the Pakistani government should have delivered a befitting reply to India's water aggression. But India's every sinister move is being ignored by our elite that holds reins of power. Why? It appears it has a plan. It has amassed enough looted wealth of the nation and stacked in foreign banks to live a happy life there after it abandons the bankrupt country and lets the common man die dog's death with thirst and hunger.. However, the country could be saved if masses wake up under a revolutionary set up to checkmate India's nefarious designs effectively. Some of the possible courses of action could be:

#### **Revenge of the Kalabagh**

However, before we discuss the remedial measures or blame our enemy for what it has planned to ensure the eventual demise of Pakistan, we should first blame our own leadership, that consists of men of means, provincial leaderships, Generals, industrialists, capitalists and the feudal lords who opposed the construction of Kalabagh Dam. The Generals in particular had the power and authority to build the Dam but failed to do so to safeguard personal interests. They, as a class should be stamped as Pakistan's number one enemy. India is only number two.. They are Pakistan's enemy from within and should be regarded much more dangerous.

The historical evidence is there to show that many thriving civilizations, Mesopotamia is one example, have perished when their water potential dried up. The same fate is gradually unfolding in case of Pakistan that is being so viciously engineered by India. But why we in Pakistan are so very apathetic towards our own future interests? Why we are so anxious to commit national suicide? *Why we didn't build Kalabagh Dam?* Today's huge energy shortfall and water scarcity is the revenge of the betrayed Kalabagh. Every successive government has taken refuge behind lack of consensus of the provinces. If India builds its dam on Indus or diverts its waters, will it seek the consensus of the so called provincial leaders of Pakistan?

The fact is that only a farsighted strong government headed by a patriotic leader of substance blessed with a vision would have built the Kalabagh on high priority and sought the consensus of the provinces afterwards. Most of the dams all over the world were built despite protestations of the people who were likely to be affected by the rising waters. Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933 met the same kind of resistance from the affected people of five States in America but government went ahead with its plans in the larger interests of the nation. At home Mangla Dam submerged old Mirpur, while a wholly modern and much better Mirpur city emerged on the banks of the Lake.

**Warn India to settle Kashmir or wait for.....**

The threat of the coming disaster is so real that even a man in the street is conscious of its terrifying consequences, with the exception of the people in power, of course, whose top priority is to save their dollars and get rid of corruption charges. Pakistan can look after itself. Their half-hearted efforts to arrange secretary level talks with India, which they know will be as fruitless as ever, are only to befool the masses and convince them that the government is not sleeping over the problem. That is elitists well tried antic. Every time they have successfully hoodwinked the common man, some time with false promises of roti, kapra and makan and at other with assurance to end the load shedding of power by a certain date which is extended to another date and then to another till they think they will have completed five years term of their misrule and then to stage a come back with a basketful of fresh rosy promises to make bigger buck than before under the false facade of their deceitful democratic system.

However, if they still think so they are sadly mistaken. The coming disaster has shaken the common man out of state of complacency. Now he scornfully laughs at the sham boldness of the President of Pakistan when he declares that he is not afraid of death yet he is mortally afraid of coming out of Aiwan-e-Sadar, which he is using as a life saving trench. Perhaps the moneyed President does not know that fear of death is a sign of piety. Have a look at the

long list of the sins of those bravados who claimed not being afraid of death. They heartlessly committed all kinds of vices, crimes and offenses including high corruption, assassination of their dear and near ones, and indulging in variety of falsehoods etc. Death is ordained. No mortal can avoid it even if he takes refuge behind an iron wall. When the moment arrives it comes. Recall the deaths of Indra Gandhi who died at the hands of her own body guards and the son Rajiv Gandhi cordoned by a strong security staff, was blown to pieces by a frail looking poor woman in a suicide venture.

The government headed by our brave President is least worried about the coming water disaster and keeps on begging Indian authorities for talks to settle the water crisis. The question is, why should India listen to the wailings of a weak kneed government. With Jammu/Kashmir, in its firm grip and two headworks of Pakistani canals one at Madhupur at Ravi and the other at Ferozpur to control Sutlej river, in its control, which it can shut off at will, why should it listen to a government which is too busy in saving majority of its cabinet and party members including the President himself from corruption charges. Moreover why should India talk to a government whose credibility at home is at the lowest ebb. Why should India abandon Kashmir which being a high ground would be of great strategic advantage to it in the event of war with Pakistan. Why India should not make use of Kashmir's water as a delayed action cluster bomb which will be much more lethal than a nuclear device. It will neither have a towering mushroom to be condemned by the international community nor will it result in an instant explosion for world power to condemn. Moreover unlike the nuclear bomb it will have no deadly fallout to the detriment of surrounding countries of South Asia.

The nation now demands the elitists in power that either they relinquish the government or realize that the nation has to be saved from extinction and do something about it. Instead of begging for lower level meaningless talks it should send a firm message to India loud and clear, that either it should talk Jammu and Kashmir at summit level after having arrived at an understanding of just and fair solution of the dispute or otherwise be prepared to face the consequences. Pakistan should attach topmost priority to the settlement of the dispute which is the mother of all subsidiary problems. Don't discuss water with India, discuss Kashmir. Pakistan needs to bring about a big, courageous and bold change in its Indo-Pak relations for which it should adopt an equally broad-based, forward looking and a momentous aggressive policy. Time for diplomatic sophistications is long past.

#### **Adopt a fearless aggressive diplomacy**

Such policy should be of careful brinkmanship. India should be kept guessing what Pakistan is really up to. Pakistan should move hell and heaven as and

when India proposes to construct a dam somewhere in Jammu and Kashmir. Indus Water Treaty is already in tatters due to innumerable Indian violations. Pakistan should claim the return of the three Eastern rivers and also demand the handing over of the Madhupur and Ferozpur Headworks. The Line of Control in Kashmir should be declared null and void. The RedCliff Award that gave Muslim majority district of Gurdaspur to India should be revised and lines be redrawn on the map on the principle of Partition of the subcontinent. It is time to correct the past blunders and injustices.

It will, undoubtedly be a gigantic task which can be taken up only by a brave, bold and farsighted leadership. It should be able to mobilize favours of influential Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, Lybia and UAR. China should be approached to help because it has critical stakes in the region due to the Gwadar Port constructed with its own financial support. Pakistan should make maximum use of its strategic position in the region in dealing with the USA. It should hold out veiled threats of following independent policies in dealing with Afghan situation. It should identify anti-India elements working against the interest of Pakistan in Afghanistan and do something to neutralize them.

#### **The Dam Busters**

Kashmiris spearheading Independence movement in the valley should be encouraged to depute teams of Dam Busters just as they blasted Wuller Barrage in its initial stages of construction. They should sabotage the dams already built and make new constructions impossible.

In conclusion the fact may be reiterated that India has not reconciled to the existence of Pakistan even after the passage of so many decades. At inception, it tried to cripple its economy, and afterwards imposed three wars to destroy it. In 1971, however, it succeeded in breaking it up but that was the outcome of the treasonable conduct of Pakistan's own leadership. Now India is poised for the final kill. For Pakistan the issue has become a matter of life and death. It has to fight for its survival. India is gradually cutting off flow of Pakistani rivers that originate from Kashmir which is under its illegal occupation. The brave Pakistani nation is bracing up to fight on two fronts At home it has to demolish the weakling elitist class which holds the reins of power and true to its culture is likely to capitulate easily under Indian aggression. This task, therefore, will be done by our patriotic Army with the backing of the civil power. The world has already declared the region a nuclear flash point. It may become a reality if India does not abandon its wanton wish to decimate Pakistan by depriving it of its water sources. In a nuclear clash, parts of Pakistan may be adversely affected but as Dr Qadeer Khan has confidently declared that Pakistan has a decisive edge over India in this field. In any such

conflict, the extent of destruction in India will be so vast that it will be sent back to the stone age within minutes. India is not unaware of the resultant eventuality of a nuclear bout. Therefore, most probably, it will see reason before it is too late not only for both the countries but the whole of South Asia and will readily concede Pakistan's right to ~~exit with honor~~ which means fair settlement of the disputes of Jammu and Kashmir, Siachin etc and all other matters that India keeps warmed up to earn the title of Bad Man of Asia. The leverage it has over our water resources should soon become a closed chapter of history for ~~war~~. It is time to act bold with a measured and calculated caution.

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