

Pakistan's second-largest city Lahore hit by record rain

August 1 2024



Thursday's rainfall in Lahore breaks a record dating to July 1980.

Pakistan's second-largest city of Lahore was deluged with record-breaking rainfall on Thursday, the national weather agency said, with hospitals flooded, power interrupted and streets in the metropolis

submerged.

The eastern city was lashed by almost 360 millimeters (14 inches) of rain in three hours, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said.

"This was record-breaking rainfall," the agency's deputy director Farooq Dar told AFP.

The previous record dates to July 1980, when 332 millimeters fell over three hours.

"Look at all these buckets and how much water has accumulated. We're exhausted from trying to remove the water," Sadam, a 32-year-old shopkeeper, told AFP as he took stock of his considerable losses.

The PMD had forecast a wetter-than-usual monsoon season this year for Pakistan, one of the countries experts say is most vulnerable to [extreme weather](#) being spurred by [climate change](#).

Over the past three days, 24 people have been killed by rainfall in the country's mountainous northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority said.

In Lahore, a city of 13 million in the eastern Punjab province, one person was killed by electrocution as a result of Thursday's cloudburst, according to local police.

The city's commissioner declared an emergency and said offices and schools would be shut for the day.

Yasir Ali, a 26-year-old resident, said it was a "sad day for the nation".

"For a poor person it is heartbreaking that he's been unable to go to work

today," he told AFP.

'Pay some attention here'

Two government hospitals in Lahore reported flooding in their wards, and there were intermittent power outages continuing into the afternoon.

Roads were also submerged, bringing traffic and businesses to a standstill.

Ahmed Khan, 48, who earns a daily wage, appealed to the government "to pay some attention here and resolve this water issue".

Maryam Sharif, the chief minister of Punjab province, posted on X that "the entire government machinery is in the field" to drain the water.

The summer monsoon brings to South Asia about 70 to 80 percent of the region's annual rainfall between June and September.

It is vital for agriculture, but changing weather patterns that scientists attribute to climate change are putting both lives and livelihoods at risk.

Earlier this year Pakistan—home to 240 million people—was hit by a succession of heat waves and this April was the wettest since 1961.

At least 143 people died from [lightning strikes](#) and other storm-related incidents in April.

In neighboring India, at least 160 people, most believed to be laborers and their families, have been killed by [torrential rains](#) causing landslides in the southern coastal state of Kerala.

In 2022, a third of Pakistan was submerged by unprecedented monsoon

rains that displaced millions of people and cost \$30 billion, according to a World Bank estimate.

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