

Death Toll from Pakistan's Heavy Storm Hits 45



Islamabad, April 28 (RHC)-- The death toll from heavy storms and flooding in northwest Pakistan has risen more than twofold compared to initial figures, according to local officials.

Mushtaq Ghani, the information minister for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, announced Monday that the latest toll from the severe storms that hit the region a day earlier has climbed to at least 45. Police sources said earlier that at least 20 people had been killed while 100 were reported to have suffered injuries.

Ghani updated the number of those wounded, saying almost several hundred have been hospitalized. He said the flooding has also caused serious damage to the farms in the region with crops completely washed away in many fields.

Heavy rains and winds up to 120 kilometers per hour have swept through parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, inflicting considerable losses on many homes and utility structures in the area. Meteorological officials have called the storm "unusual," saying that it caused massive tornadoes.

Heavy rains and flash floods hit the Pakistani province of Punjab and the disputed Indian-administered Kashmir in September 2014, claiming the lives of hundreds of people, destroying agricultural products, damaging tens of thousands of houses, and affecting a total of over a million people.

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