

Pakistan Heat Wave 2015: Death Toll Exceeds 1,200 As Karachi Struggles With Continued Extreme Weather During Ramadan

- 1) The death toll from a weeklong heat wave in Karachi, Pakistan, has risen to 1,233, officials told the Associated Press Saturday. Some 65,000 people flooded the city's hospitals to be treated for heat stroke, and about 1,900 patients were still receiving medical care as the country began to cool off.
- 2) "The government quickly responded by making arrangements for the treatment of heat stroke patients, and the situation has improved now," said Nazar Mohammad Bozdar, operations director at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority.
- 3) The heat wave started in earnest June 20, with temperatures climbing to 113 degrees Fahrenheit -- the hottest it's been since 2000, CNN reported. The extreme weather came at the same time as Ramadan, a holy month most Muslims observe by fasting. Karachi's power grid also collapsed, leaving thousands without air conditioning in a city already facing power cuts and water shortages.
- 4) The elderly and the poor were most affected, and they went to hospitals in droves for heatstroke and dehydration. The dead soon overflowed the city's morgues. "They are piling bodies one on top of the other," hospital official Seemin Jamali told Al Jazeera this week. To Dawn, he added, "We are continuously receiving people in a critical condition or dead."
- 5) Pakistan's laws forbid people from drinking and eating in public in daylight during Ramadan. As the heat wave has continued -- and worsened -- some Muslim religious leaders departed from tradition and encouraged followers to break the fast for health reasons.
- 6) The heat started to subside Saturday, with sea breezes and clouds taking temperatures to the mid-90s. But authorities in the Meteorological Department told Samaa Karachi could see



104-degree temperatures Sunday. "It has never been this bad," meteorologist Farooq Dar told Time magazine this week.【June 27 2015/IB times】

←Men and children stand together as they look at the bodies of people who died due to an intense heat wave, during a mass burial at Edhi Foundation graveyard in Karachi, Pakistan, Friday. Sea breezes brought slightly lower temperatures, temporarily easing the heat that has killed more than 1,200 people during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

death toll: 死者数 struggle: もがく、闘う Ramadan: ラマダン(イスラム歴の第9月。この月中教徒は日の出から日没まで断食する)

flood: どっと押し寄せる heat stroke: 熱中症 in earnest: 本格的に temperature: 気温 Fahrenheit: 華氏 power grid: 送電網 collapse: 崩れる affect: 影響を及ぼす in droves: 群れを成して dehydration: 脱水症 overflow: あふれる morgue: 死体公示所 pile: 積み上げる body: 遺体 continuously: ひっきりなしに fast: 断食 meteorologist: 気象学者

★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. What are some reasons of having so many heat stroke patients in Pakistan?
2. Have you ever seen people who experienced heatstroke or dehydration?
3. What are the effective measures to avoid heat-related illnesses?
4. Recently, summer is getting hotter and winter is becoming colder as well. What do you think is the cause of this?
5. Japan experiences extreme temperatures in summers. How do you handle it?
6. Which do you prefer, an extremely hot or a freezing cold temperature? Why?
7. Make sentences using the following words: death toll, power grid, collapse dehydration, fast, meteorologist and in droves.

夏に気温が著しく上昇し持続する現象を heat wave(熱波)という。パキスタン最大の都市、カラチでは、気温が45度を超えた6月20日以降、最高気温が40度を超える日が数日続き、病院に運び込まれる患者が急増した。97%がイスラム教徒のパキスタンだが、聖職者らは高齢者などに、暑さが収まるまでは断食を行わないように呼びかけた。