

## Second phase of monsoon rains begins in AJK:

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Published: July 16, 2025 04:41:57 am Snippets  
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MIRPUR (AJK): July 16 (APP): The second phase of monsoon rains in various parts of Azad Jammu Kashmir begun on Tuesday after the area lashed with torrential rains which played havoc in various areas including Mirpur district causing partial loss to the material – especially in kachi abadis in various parts of this district, official sources said.

Mirpur is in the grip of heavy rains since the wee hours Wednesday breaking the hot spell to a greater extent besides turning various low-lying areas into ponds and seasonal nullahs flooded with rain water.

The rains affected the electricity, roads and telecommunication system in certain various areas of the Mirpur division comprising Kotli, Mirpur and Bhimbher districts, according to the reports. There are also reports of uprooting of trees at several places in Mirpur city and adjoining areas because the continual heavy rainfall as several kacha houses were affected as well.

According to details the torrential rains started in the early morning Wednesday that hit various parts of the city partially affecting the daily life. The low-lying Mirpur-Kotli Highway and other city streets inundated with heavy rainy water that badly disturbed the vehicular traffic for several hours. The rainy water also entered the road-side buildings in thickly populated Sector F/1, F/2, Sangoat and other areas located close to Mangla lake. Besides, seasonal nullahs were flooded following heavy rains in the catchments in the district.

The rains badly affected the electricity, roads and telecommunication system in certain various areas of the Mirpur division comprising Kotli, Mirpur and Bhimbher districts, according to the reports. There are also reports of uprooting of trees, hoardings and electricity poles at several places in various rains hit upper reaches of AJK besides the ground parts of Mirpur division and adjoining areas because of the heavy rainfall which was continuing till the filing of this report.

The laborers engaged in the construction work as well as the kiln owners were also considered to be the most affected community because of the heavy downpour. More rains are expected to continue in the ground as well

as the upper reaches besides catchment areas of the liberated territory.