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NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 21ST TO JANUARY 27TH 2019

PRCS TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

RECORDER REPORT January 26, 2019

LAHORE: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in collaboration with the German Red Cross is initiating country-wide awareness drive for raising awareness about threats associated with the climate change.

Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Dr Saeed Elahi said this while speaking at a workshop organized by the Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab at a two-day capacity enhancement session under its climate change adaptation programme in Lahore.

The speakers and experts who convened the technical sessions covered the basic climate science, the environmental problems faced by Punjab, local adaptation measures, Pakistan's climate governance, advocacy and campaigning, youth for volunteerism and green entrepreneurship in their modules.

Dr Saeed Elahi highlighted that the brunt of global climatic change is being faced by Pakistan being the 7th most vulnerable country of the world and immediate adaptation initiatives should be initiated to address the issue with all stakeholders across all tiers and levels.

Provincial Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab Lt Gen Khalid Maqbool (R) in his address said the youth needed to play a key role in creating awareness about impact of climate change.

The representative from German Red Cross encouraged the participants of the workshop, to replicate the trainings with their immediate social circle and assured full assistance in supporting their local climate advocacy campaigns.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/01/26/5-page/760313-news.html>

SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA HEATWAVE SMASHES RECORD TEMPERATURES

AFP Updated January 25, 2019

ADELAIDE: Temperatures in southern Australia topped 49 degrees on Thursday, shattering previous records as heat-stressed bats fell from trees.

The Bureau of Meteorology reported temperatures of 49.5 Celsius (120 Fahrenheit) north of Adelaide, while inside the city temperatures reached 47.7 Celsius, breaking a record that had stood since 1939. More than 13 towns across South Australia have smashed their own heat records.

The state's health authorities early Thursday reported that 44 people had received emergency treatment for heat-related illnesses in the past 24 hours. "Remember to check on elderly friends, relatives and neighbours, and those who are unwell," the state emergency services tweeted.

Health authorities were also forced to issue a public warning to avoid contact with hundreds of heat-stressed bats falling from trees in parkland areas.

Authorities in central Australia said they had to cull more than 50 feral horses, after they found 90 dead or dying wild brumbies near a dried-up water hole. Shocking images of dozens of dead horses strewn across the dry ground began to circulate on social media this week.

“With climate change well and truly upon us, we expect these emergencies to occur with increasing frequency and nobody is truly prepared and resourced to respond to them,” David Ross, director of indigenous representative body the Central Land Council, said in a statement.

Emergency services are on the alert as more than 13 districts are under threat of possible bushfires. Meanwhile, a total fire ban was issued further south in the island state of Tasmania, where authorities continued to battle blazes.

The soaring temperatures follow a heatwave last week that saw Australian towns among the hottest places on Earth.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1459672/southern-australia-heatwave-smashes-record-temperatures>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 14TH TO JANUARY 20TH 2019

CAN CLIMATE CHANGE PAKISTAN?

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh January 20, 2019

The climate beast is hitting Pakistan far more often and at far too many places than we know: extreme climate events have become a regular phenomenon. The heatwave that took more than 1,200 lives in Karachi only two years ago has since been visiting us with greater frequency and intensity. At 50.4°C, Nawabshah in Sindh recorded in April 2018 the highest temperature ever recorded globally. Floods and hydro-disasters since 2010 — when 20 million Pakistanis were directly affected — have become an annual feature. Riverine communities routinely get wiped away without even a mention by media. And if it is not the floods, the calamity of drought is afflicting misery in Tharpakar and several other regions particularly in Balochistan.

In one end of the country we are fast losing our coastline to seawater intrusion, while at the other, glaciers are fast melting, resulting in permanent reductions in water flows in our rivers. With the changing cropping calendar, and more erratic and unpredictable monsoon season, Pakistan’s food insecurity is also under increasing threat of climate change. The swelling unpredictability in river flows has made planning for hydro-energy much more difficult and unreliable. As environmental degradation takes place, livelihood options shrink, forcing people to migrate to cities in search of economic opportunities. Climate-induced migration has already made Pakistan one of the most urbanised counties in South Asia.

A World Bank report, Pakistan’s Hotspots — The Impact of Temperature and Precipitation Changes on Living Standards, released in July 2018, claims that by 2050, annual average temperatures are projected to increase to 2.5°C under the climate ‘sensitive scenario’ (which represents a future in

which some collective action is taken to limit greenhouse gas emissions) and up 3.0°C under the carbon ‘intensive scenario’ (in which no serious actions are taken). Approximately 49 million, or 25 percent of Pakistan’s total population, lives in locations that will become ‘moderate hotspots’ by 2050 under the carbon intensive scenario. Containing the temperature is essential to prevent major areas of Pakistan from becoming uninhabitable in a future not too far away.

The impact from global climate change has the potential to threaten our security as well. But in order to meet the challenges, the country will first have to learn how to negotiate and follow words with action...

Climate change poses a serious threat to the living standards of the vast population of Pakistan. The report further indicates Sindh province as the most vulnerable hotspot. With a GDP per capita of US \$1,400, Sindh is the second-largest economy of Pakistan and contributes 30 percent to the national GDP. Its economy is highly diversified, ranging from heavy industry and finance centred in and around Karachi to a substantial agricultural base along the Indus River. Changes in precipitation and temperature threaten to impede the future growth of this region. According to the report, Hyderabad district in Sindh emerges as the top hotspot, followed by Mirpur Khas and Sukkur districts.

The second most vulnerable hotspot is the densely populated province of Punjab. Punjab has the largest economy, contributing 53.3 percent to Pakistan’s GDP, and is known for its relative prosperity with the lowest poverty rate of all the provinces. However, its wealth is unevenly distributed, with the northern portion being relatively well off economically and the southern portion being one of the most impoverished areas in the country. Long-term climate vulnerability thus carries implications for both shared prosperity and poverty reduction of this province.

Interestingly, some of the most densely populated cities — including Lahore, Multan, and Faisalabad — emerge among the top 10 hotspot districts. This indicates the importance for preparing not only the more impoverished areas for the adverse effects of climate change, but also protecting the economic hubs of the province. With a limited and fast-closing window of opportunity to tackle this global challenge, it is more important now for Pakistan to engage in global climate change discourse and accordingly adjust its development agenda. There is no better place than international climate negotiations to learn what’s really at stake for us and our society.

The world climate has changed fundamentally since the Earth Summit that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1991 where the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted, together with two other conventions — the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and Convention on Combating Desertification (CCD). Both CBD and CCD stand, but the thrust of their work now focusses on mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. The UNFCCC has emerged as the centrepiece of global action on climate and development, or climate compatible development, through the annual Conference of the Parties, or the COP as it is generally called now.

The COPs offer the most important platform for global climate negotiations in which thousands of experts and interested stakeholders congregate to negotiate ways and means to managing the threats of climate challenge. The participants organise tens of dozens of parallel or side events that bring diverse institutions and individuals together on a wide range of issues that have a bearing on, or are impacted by, climate change — such as the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the Sendai Framework, private-sector engagement, or involving women, youth, minorities, district and city governments and others in the development discourse. The COPs have become an annual global festival where partnerships are forged, alliances formalised, technologies and ideas

marketed, success stories showcased, capacities and competences leveraged and, most importantly, new initiatives launched and the seeds for new ideas and initiatives cultivated.

Yet, the history of COPs is littered with unimplemented agreements and assurances. Most COP delegates return home frustrated and disappointed after two weeks of intense negotiations. Yet they participate in the next one with renewed hope and optimism. In effect, COPs are the culmination event of a series of far more important three or four preparatory meetings called ‘intersessionals’ that take place at regular intervals between two COPs. A country that does not or cannot meaningfully engage at the intersessionals can hardly expect to fully benefit from the COPs. For most negotiators, the COPs continue to be the best — perhaps the only — hope for the world to undertake coordinated climate actions at local, national and international levels. It is against this backdrop that the 24th Conference of the Parties was held in Katowice, Poland in December 2018.

It is hard to assess the outcomes of such a large and complex negotiating table in definitive terms as there are always some winners and losers. The fact that no country walked away from the cumbersome negotiating process and its imperfect results is in itself remarkable. Reaching a consensus between almost 200 countries is not easy. This negotiation process is, by its very nature, slow, multi-tiered and nuanced, made harder by technical, scientific and economic considerations and political imperatives.

The Group of 77+China was a traditional negotiating bloc where all the countries and China aligned their negotiating position. It began to crumble at the COPs during the last 10 years as the negotiating agenda started to become more complex to include adaptation costs, flow of international climate finance, extreme weather events and seawater rise, Loss and Damage, and the economic cost of climate change to the developing country economies. The principle of ‘shared but differentiated responsibility’ that was first adopted in Rio has been tinkered with and diluted and this has made the conventional North-South divide archaic in climate negotiations. There are smaller formal and informal blocs and coalitions now that attract better traction.

It is a country’s active engagement in specialised interest groups, informal blocs, ad hoc groups or standing committees that determines its standing in negotiating arenas. China and India have come closer in negotiations as the world’s fastest growing economies with the fastest rate of increase in emissions. They are now in direct competition with the US, Europe and Japan — historically the world’s worst polluters in both absolute as well as per capita terms. Both are often joined by Brazil and Russia, the so-called BRIC countries. Middle-income countries like Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and Philippines, who have stunted growth rates but potential to become major emitters in coming decades, presently are not significant players in negotiations — even while Indonesia and Mexico have hosted important COPs. Many of these countries have rarely demonstrated the technical capacity to develop their own negotiating positions or form their own negotiating blocs or interest groups. They usually end up setting up their pavilions to showcase projects from their respective countries.

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It has become almost impossible for developing countries like Pakistan to prepare for complex COP processes that are subservient to divergent national interests and influential interest-group priorities.

The success and failures of most developing country negotiating parties can best be determined by understanding their defined interests and immediate political objectives.

At another level, the COP in Katowice was marred by four specific challenges. The first was finalising a Rulebook for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It was a hard ask as the Paris Agreement was purposefully constructed to be ambiguous and aspirational. The second was to control the damage caused by climate-deniers and populist leaders such as President Donald Trump and newly-elected President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil who argue that climate change is merely propaganda. The American administration has already communicated its intent to withdraw from the UNFCCC and the notice period will be completed in 2020. The third was to accept or — to put in negotiator's lingo — 'acknowledge' the urgency for action highlighted by the Special Report that was commissioned by the UNFCCC to determine the difference in impact on the planet of temperature rises of 1.5°C or 2.0°C. The study was undertaken by several thousand scientists on behalf of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's most respected scientific entity. The report has given the world governments 12 years to reduce their overall net emissions by 45 percent if the global temperature is to be stabilised at less than 2°C. Ironically, three close friends and allies of Pakistan — United States, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and a new-found friend, Russia — were the only four countries in the world who were willing to accept the report to serve as the basis for negotiations. The fourth was to rapidly increase and streamline Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and their implementation mechanisms, particularly financing, reporting, and monitoring to stabilise global temperature increase.

As if these were not daunting challenges, the host government categorically backed the continued use of coal, a highly polluting fossil fuel. Considered 'black gold' in Poland, coal is directly connected to its culture, sense of economic security and autonomy within the European Union as a cultural symbol of national unity. One could not miss the strong message in Katowice, a city not very far from the coal miner's city of Gdansk that gave birth to the anti-communist movement Solidarity.

The COP was co-sponsored by several fossil fuel companies and lobbyists did not hesitate from becoming louder than the youth groups who were chanting for a better and fairer planet for them.

Yet, the global mood at Katowice was to keep the ambition and optimism of the Paris Agreement alive. This is reflected in some of the key outcomes of the COP.

COP succeeded in giving a Rulebook for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The purpose of having the Rulebook is to have an instrument that lays out how the Paris Agreement would be implemented and monitored when it takes effect in 2020. The NDCs, already submitted by all countries, including Pakistan, will be updated and re-submitted every five years. Like the Five Year Development Plans that Pakistan used to have, the revised NDCs will set new 5-year ambitions for emissions by undertaking low carbon and climate compatible development. For this to be done globally by all, nations will require explicit procedures to monitor and evaluate progress towards meeting the national commitments and global goals.

The Rulebook encompasses three processes: 1) the framework for transparency 2) the mechanism for compliance and 3) the yardstick for global stocktake or stocktaking. The Rulebook will provide guidelines that will ensure that countries provide complete, comprehensive, reliable and detailed information necessary to build confidence in the Paris Agreement's five-yearly cycles.

An agreement on the Rulebook also covers the guidance of what and how reporting should happen — including how to report emissions and record them. The first generation NDCs are notoriously poor

quality documents, hastily submitted by national governments. They have varied quality in terms of content, length and format, and ambition, making any comparison and evaluation virtually meaningless. Many countries have placed conditionalities, particularly the availability of international finance for their actions. Also, the focus of the developing country NDCs was, for the most part, on the adaptation and development-related issues and not as much on mitigation or reduction of emissions. The Rulebook guidance adopted in Katowice has, however brought the focus on mitigation, as the developed countries had wanted. The developing countries, on the other hand, failed to ensure space for adaptation and financial support in the final agreement.

A moot point of the negotiations was the extent to which developing countries should have more flexibility compared to the developed countries in their reporting. In light of the limited capacities of developing countries, the final agreement has allowed the interested developing countries the requested flexibility. The reporting period for the interested developing countries can begin later when they join the reporting system. Some countries are more likely to postpone reporting for one reason or the other. India has already announced that it will not request postponing the reporting by invoking limited capacity. But countries wanting to avail this facility would need to state why, and for how long they wish to avoid reporting and, also, how they will improve their reporting capacity. Many developing countries like Pakistan will need to strengthen their reporting capacity or else will need to plan their negotiating position before the next COP scheduled for December 2019.

In Katowice, the processes were agreed for the five-yearly ‘global stocktake’ of progress towards curbing global emissions to remain within the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. To the dismay of many developing and most-vulnerable countries, the issue of Loss and Damage was parked. Oddly, in the last-minute negotiations, it was included in the scope of the global stocktake as well as in the transparency framework. The latter gives the developing countries a chance to report on the adverse impacts of climate change, if they wish to, but removed reporting on permanent environmental Loss and Damage completely from the finance and support sections of the transparency framework. Under the victory stands of Katowice is buried all the progress, negotiated mechanisms, and plans of action on Loss and Damage.

Some of the most densely populated cities — including Lahore, Multan, and Faisalabad — emerge among the top 10 hotspot districts. This indicates the importance for protecting the economic hubs of the province.

These rules are now the key to the climate game for some decades to come. The Rulebook has thus ushered a new era of climate negotiations that, in coming years, will focus on ramping up climate action, culminating at COP 26 in 2020 — a time by when all countries, including Pakistan, are scheduled to update their climate pledges. In all, the Rulebook delivers more of what was possible and less of what was necessary. In other words, there will be so much more to negotiate at the future COPs.

There were no commitments at the COP for scaling up of the long-term finance goal of mobilising US\$ 100 billion per year to the developing countries, as was committed earlier in Copenhagen at COP 15 in 2009. There was also no new commitment to enhance financial transparency ; the lines between the climate finance commitments and government aid continue to be blurred as they are between public and private-sector financing. Therefore, the availability of climate finance, or its absence, will continue to cast a long shadow on the viability and implementation of NDCs. No country can afford to miss this stark message. Pakistan’s NDC submitted to UNFCCC in 2016, for example, had calculated

the need for US\$ 40 billion for reducing its emissions by 40 percent. A new calculation will be in order for submission in 2020.

Some developed countries or multilateral development banks made additional commitments, but outside the negotiation rooms. Hence, these were not part of the negotiations at the COP. Since these commitments are outside the UNFCCC process, these are subject to different rules and accountability parameters. The World Bank, for example, announced to double its climate change commitments to US\$ 40 billion a year between 2021 and 2025. Likewise, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development announced to halt its funding for coal projects and decrease lending to fossil fuels. Germany announced to double its commitment to the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund. Such pledges, however, did not indicate any progress within the negotiation corridors. In all, while the expectation is to ramp up the ambition and commitments, the developed countries did not come forward with any climate finance proposals. Countries like Pakistan are expected to mobilise private-sector funds and investments from domestic and international markets and this will require mainstreaming climate change or climate compatible development across all sectors and planning departments.

In all, for some negotiators, the COP was less about agreeing on the rules and more about showing the international spirit and ensuring that the process was not sidetracked by populists, climate deniers and science sceptics. The spirit survived and no country walked away from the negotiating table. For more negotiators, it was important to have an agreement even if it meant bending the principles of equity, fair play and inclusivity. We have the agreement now as the negotiators did not allow perfection to become enemy of the possible. For many more negotiators, it was important to protect the process as a valuable asset. The process has survived and the world now has a Rulebook, imperfect as it may be, to guide our actions into the future. The spirit, the agreement and the process, all can serve as a wake-up call for the countries to undertake concerted efforts between now and 2020.

As one of the most climate vulnerable countries, Pakistan needs to embark on low carbon and climate compatible development. A recent UNDP study, undertaken by the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan, has shown that the federal and provincial governments are already spending more than eight percent of their budgets on climate change-related interventions and projects. Sadly, these investments are fragmented and uncoordinated. Climate Compatible Development will require a coherent strategy and investment plans that the ministries of climate change and planning, development and reform can develop in consultation with others. An early capping of emissions is in Pakistan's interest. In fact, an early capping will attract direct foreign investment, bring new technologies, generate additional jobs and spur growth rate. It is in Pakistan's interest that the IPCC's Special Report on 1.5 degrees Celsius serves as the basis of urgent climate actions by Pakistan's neighbours as well as its development partners. This needs to be an important plank of Pakistan's external relations and international diplomacy as climate change has emerged as the most immediate non-traditional threat to our security.

Finally, as countries need to put in place compliance mechanisms in their national settings, Pakistan will also need to undertake immediate actions before the key messages are blurred or forgotten. For this, the Prime Minister needs to convene on a priority basis the first meeting of the recently constituted Pakistan Climate Change Council.

After all, protecting the planet is important for everyone. COP 24, as an event, will not protect the planet — only our actions can.

The writer is CEO Lead Pakistan and attended the 24th Conference of the Parties in December 2018.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1458694>

CHINESE COTTON SEED SPROUTS ON MOON

AFP Updated January 16, 2019

BEIJING: A small green shoot is growing on the moon in an out-of-this-world first after a cotton seed germinated on board a Chinese lunar lander, scientists said on Tuesday.

The sprout has emerged from a lattice-like structure inside a canister since the Chang'e-4 lander set down earlier this month, according to a series of photos released by the Advanced Technology Research Institute at Chongqing University.

“This is the first time humans have done biological growth experiments on the lunar surface,” said Xie Gengxin, who led the design of the experiment.

The Chang'e-4 probe — named after a Chinese moon goddess — made the world's first soft landing on the moon's “dark side” on Jan 3, a major step in China's ambitions to become a space superpower.

Scientists from Chongqing University— who designed the “mini lunar biosphere” experiment — sent an 18-centimetre (seven-inch) bucket-like container holding air, water and soil.

Inside are cotton, potato, and arabidopsis seeds — a plant of the mustard family — as well as fruit fly eggs and yeast.

Images sent back by the probe show a cotton sprout has grown well, but so far none of the other plants has taken, the university said.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1457844/chinese-cotton-seed-sprouts-on-moon>

SINDH SHOULD TAKE A LEAF FROM PUNJAB'S BOOK TO FIGHT DROUGHT

Mohammad Hussain Khan Updated January 14, 2019

Droughts and famines are a regular feature of life in Tharparkar. Barring a few pockets that received rainfall in 2017, the rest of the area has not been getting any rain for the last four years. Locals believe droughts usually come to an end with enough rainfall that enables the farming community to grow seasonal crops and produce sufficient fodder for livestock, which is their prime asset.

Thar's agro-pastoral life revolves around water and fodder. Provincial and federal governments tend to address the issues faced by the local population using a relief-based approach. A sustainable, institutional oversight has so far eluded this least developed region where people endure harsh conditions regularly. This is despite the fact that Thar is blessed with a fascinating landscape that mesmerises tourists after every monsoon rainfall.

Climate change has also affected the rainfall cycle in Thar, which receives the annual drizzle around August-September. But the May-July period is considered ideal for the sowing of crops as farmers hope to have better per-acre yields in the seasonal crops like bajra. Late sowing in September leads to lower yields.

No permanent arrangement to ensure fodder availability exists in Thar, although livestock plays a central role in sustaining economic life in the area

Every drought triggers migration among communities. This migration is in addition to the seasonal ones that take place at the time of cotton-picking or sugar cane and wheat harvesting. Groundwater levels drop considerably in the absence of rainfall. Livestock, which is the community's only source of livelihood, forces them to leave their area in search of fodder and water in canal command areas.

No permanent arrangement for fodder availability, like fodder banks, exists in Tharparkar during the drought. This is despite the fact that livestock plays a central role in sustaining economic life in the area. It provides them with milk and butter, but animals suffer a loss of immunity during every drought. As a result, milk production drops considerably, causing undernourishment especially among expecting mothers. This makes the survival of malnourished newborns difficult.

Based on the projected animal population number and the human population of 1.6 million as per the latest census, one individual maintains around four animals in Tharparkar. Immunity loss necessitates preventive vaccination among animals, but its coverage is hardly 20pc in Sindh for want of resources, an official admitted.

The livestock sector has a share of 58.92pc within the country's agriculture sector, which contributed 18.9pc to GDP as per the 2017-18 Economic Survey of Pakistan. The estimated livestock population in 2017 was 41.68m in Sindh. About 6m of them were in Tharparkar, according to Sindh's livestock department. It makes Thar the district with the highest livestock population.

"We get hardly 25pc vaccination coverage in Sindh and the same goes for Thar," said a senior livestock department officer. "But there has luckily been no major disaster as the livestock department has hired additional manpower and resources from other districts for vaccination. That's why the department didn't draw the ire of the chief justice of Pakistan," he added.

Changing climatic conditions are causing multiple challenges for Tharparkar, which calls for a paradigm shift at the policy level. The Sindh government needs to look beyond hurried livestock vaccination, wheat distribution and reverse osmosis plants. An increase in livestock's budgetary allocations — currently Rs1.3bn — is badly needed.

The Punjab government's initiatives in the arid region of Cholistan offer a cue. As opposed to Thar, Cholistan seems relatively better managed. This is why it has not had any disaster of the kind that Thar has witnessed. The Cholistan area, consisting of 29,000 square kilometres, is spread over Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur and Rahimyar Khan. The Punjab government has also established the Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Bahawalpur, which is affiliated with Glasgow University.

Cholistan, however, had a smaller estimated human population of roughly 220,000 in 2017 along with 1.6m heads of livestock. The Punjab government's Cholistan Development Authority (CDA) deals with this area exclusively. Within the provincial livestock department, a directorate looks after the affairs of Cholistan.

Dr Ali Raza Abbasi, CDA's directorate head, considers the drought an opportunity. "We provide livestock farmers with wanda (feed supplement) on a cost-to-cost basis throughout the year at fixed entry/exit points," he said. He added that ponds are built in the area for human and livestock populations in addition to an old natural waterway that is connected with pumping stations.

Since 2018, he said, his department has been buying camel milk for Rs42 per litre and keeping it in chillers. It is then sold for Rs120 per litre in Lahore. He said that the department also purchased cattle milk in 2010. But the private firms' intervention jacked up the market price, which benefited farmers. "The animal vaccination coverage in 100pc," he remarked.

Around 17 chillers (out of 153 in Sindh) were set up in Thar. But those were part of the foreign-funded Sindh Agriculture Growth Project (SAGP). Reportedly, only three of them are functioning. Since a large number of livestock left Thar for want of fodder, milk could not be collected in the rest of the chillers. The provincial livestock department has provided three livestock farmers with solar-powered submersible pumps to lift groundwater and grow fodder on an experimental basis.

India's Rajasthan and Pakistan's Thar and Cholistan are part of the same region, said former chairman of the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Dr Mohammad Ashraf. He said reverse osmosis plants are not a solution to Thar's woes. "Managing these plants is difficult even in urban areas. The Sindh government needs to focus more on rainwater harvesting projects in Thar," he said.

A draft of the Sindh Drought and Disaster Mitigation Policy 2014 was prepared following the 2014 drought. It proposed that a Thar Development Authority be set up in the area along the lines of CDA. The Sindh Assembly's relevant committee has okayed the policy, but it still needs the legislature's nod.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1457312/sindh-should-take-a-leaf-from-punjab-book-to-fight-drought>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 7TH TO JANUARY 13TH 2019

US TOP COURT REJECTS EXXON IN CLIMATE CHANGE DOCUMENT DISPUTE

RECORDER REPORT | JAN 8TH, 2019 | NEW YORK

The US Supreme Court on Monday cleared the way for the attorney general of Massachusetts to obtain records from Exxon Mobil Corp to probe whether the oil company for decades concealed its knowledge of the role fossil fuels play in climate change.

The justices declined to hear Exxon's appeal of a ruling by the top court in Massachusetts holding that state Attorney General Maura Healey, a Democrat, had jurisdiction to seek records to probe whether the company misled consumers and investors.

The high court's action marked the latest setback for Exxon in its efforts to halt the Massachusetts investigation and a similar one by New York's attorney general, who in October filed a lawsuit against the company.

New York's lawsuit accused Exxon of engaging in a systematic scheme to deceive investors about the impact that future climate change regulations could have on its business. Exxon has called the claims "meritless."

The Massachusetts and New York investigations were launched following 2015 news reports that Exxon's own scientists had determined that fossil fuel combustion must be reduced to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Those news reports, by InsideClimate News and the Los Angeles Times, were based on documents from the 1970s and 1980s. Exxon said the documents were not inconsistent with its public positions.

Healey in 2016 issued a civil investigative demand to Exxon seeking documents to investigate whether it had violated the state's consumer-protection law through its marketing and sale of fossil fuel products.

Exxon said that because it is incorporated in Texas and New Jersey, Healey had no basis to seek documents to conduct a Massachusetts-based investigation.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in April held that jurisdiction existed because of Exxon's control over advertising conducted for about 300 franchise gas stations operating under the Exxon and Mobil brands in Massachusetts.

Exxon has called the Massachusetts and New York investigations politically motivated.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/01/20190108437984/>

DEATH TOLL FROM PHILIPPINE STORM, LANDSLIDES CLIMBS TO 126

AFP January 07, 2019

MANILA: The death toll from a storm that devastated the Philippines shortly after Christmas rose to 126, authorities said on Sunday, adding landslides caused by torrential rain were the top cause.

The storm hit central and eastern Philippine islands on Dec 29 and caused massive flooding and landslides. More than 100 people died in the mountainous Bicol region southeast of Manila, regional disaster officials said.

While the Bicol region is often hit by deadly typhoons, many people failed to take necessary precautions because the storm was not strong enough to be rated as a typhoon under the government's storm alert system, according to civil defence officials. Officials also said that many residents were reluctant to leave their homes during the Christmas holidays.

"In two days alone, Usman poured more than a month's worth of rainfall in the Bicol region," national disaster agency spokesman Edgar Posadas told AFP, using the local name for the storm which had weakened into a low pressure area. "Our search and retrieval operations are ongoing but the sticky mud and the unstable soil are a challenge."

The death toll was likely to climb further with 26 people still missing, Posadas added. More than 152,000 people were displaced by the storm and 75 were injured, according to the national disaster agency.

President Rodrigo Duterte visited the storm-hit areas on Friday and urged officials to build evacuation centres instead of using schools as shelters for the displaced.

About 20 typhoons and storms batter the Philippines each year, killing hundreds of people.

The deadliest in recent years was Super Typhoon Haiyan which left more than 7,360 people dead or missing across the central Philippines in 2013.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1455948/death-toll-from-philippine-storm-landslides-climbs-to-126>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 31ST TO JANUARY 6TH 2019

CARBON EMISSIONS IN PAKISTAN LIKELY TO RISE ABOUT 300% BY 2030

By MUHAMMAD AWAIS UMAR / Dr Vaqar Ahmed Published: December 31, 2018

ISLAMABAD: The rise in temperatures due to anthropogenic activities is a reality. By the end of this century, the situation is likely to worsen drastically if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced significantly.

At the CoP 21 (conference of the parties), the member countries pledged to restrict the rise in temperature well below two-degree Celsius compared to pre-industrial times and even reduce it to 1.5-degree Celsius.

The 5th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment report suggests that the cumulative carbon budget should not exceed 1,000 gigatons, if we want to keep the rise in global temperature below two degrees.

About 65% of the cumulative carbon budget has already been used since 1750. In view of current emission levels, we may end up exhausting this budget by 2045. This will lead to increase in average global temperature beyond three degrees by 2100, which will have far-reaching implications.

Pakistan's contribution to global emissions is less than 1% while it is among the most vulnerable countries facing threat of climate change. According to the German Watch Global Climate Risk Index (2018), Pakistan is at the seventh position with a death toll of 523.1 lives per year – ie loss of 10,462 lives in 20 years – and economic losses worth \$3.8 billion.

During this time, Pakistan has suffered from 141 extreme weather events (cyclones, storms, floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), heat waves, etc). These recurring events affect Pakistan's economy by destroying infrastructure and altering cropping patterns, which also have implications for food security on many agrarian hotspots in the country.

The country's emission trend reveals that energy and agriculture sectors are responsible for 90% of its total greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), Pakistan's total greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 123% in 21 years (1994 to 2015).

In light of GDP growth targets set in vision 2025 and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) investment, infrastructure development and energy demand, the country's total emissions are expected to increase by about 300% for the projected period (2015-2030).

Such statistics give countries such as Pakistan cause to take implementation of the Paris Agreement very seriously. Its implementation requires that all relevant stakeholders (countries and other actors) should work individually and collectively to adopt policies and mobilise resources that help advance action on climate change.

In this respect, developing countries, owing to their limited capacity, require support (financial, technological and institutional) to implement mitigation and adaptation actions and address climate change in a just and holistic manner.

In line with the Paris Agreement commitments and compliance mechanism at the country level, Pakistan needs to remain determined to reduce emissions to the maximum extent possible. However, we do understand that financial and technical constraints may hinder the realisation of full mitigation potential.

It is likely that these challenges will continue to feature prominently in future national discourse and would only be effectively addressed with financial grants and technical assistance from the international community. If Pakistan intends to reduce up to 20% of its projected greenhouse gas emissions for 2030, the total abatement cost amounts to about \$40 billion at the current price.

The Ministry of Climate Change acts as the focal agency in Pakistan for preparation, update, coordination, implementation and supervision of the Pakistan-INDC. A high-powered body comprising key stakeholders from the national government, sub-national governments and private sector steers the process.

This institutional arrangement would continue, leading up to the review and revision of Pakistan-INDC and its implementation during the period 2016-30. This institutional arrangement will also help improve national development planning processes.

At the same time, the ministry may continue to look into ways to make such institutional arrangements both inclusive and participatory and compliant with climate-related and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the sharing of costs and resources.

So far, Pakistan has managed to access three funds under the UNFCCC to support its adaptation efforts which include the Special Climate Change Fund, Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. However, the cumulative amount is much less than what is required to take appropriate measures.

By improving institutional capacity and putting proper fiduciary standards in place, Pakistan can leverage a bigger pool of climate funds from multilateral institutions. It can also benefit from increased international access to affordable low carbon technologies, especially given its development needs and priorities.

The allocation for climate change adaptation by Pakistan itself seems very low as in the 2015-16 budget, it was only Rs39 million and in 2017-18, it was Rs815 million. There are poor allocations at provincial levels. The federal government expects to get a few international grants to be able to adapt to climate change. The Senate passed a law in 2017, which called for the creation of Pakistan Climate Change Authority to manage the funds.

Furthermore, climate legislation and policy frameworks at national and local levels have been introduced to address climate change issues and integrate climate considerations into development planning. Private sector can play a role in the realisation of SDGs in order to achieve the goal of sustainable economic growth.

To better align public-private partnerships for sustainable development, the SDG Fund has established the Private Sector Advisory Group, formed by business leaders of major companies from various industries worldwide. There is a need to connect our private sector to this UN-led mechanism to get it involved in achieving the SDGs.

The writers are associated with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute as researchers

Published in The Express Tribune, December 31st, 2018.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1877884/2-carbon-emissions-pakistan-likely-rise-300-2030/>

February 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 18TH TO FEBRUARY 24TH 2019

HEC CHIEF CALLS OUT GOVT'S 'WEAK' CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

By Our Correspondent Published: February 23, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's climate change policy and its implementation strategy were slammed by the head of the apex higher education body for being weak, inconsistent, incoherent, and reactive. Instead, he called for devising an integrated approach to deal with climate change.

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Tariq Banuri was delivering a lecture on 'Climate Change and its Implications for National Security' at the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS) in Islamabad on Friday.

An expert on sustainable development and climate change, Dr Banuri regretted that the current national policy on climate change looks like a "long list of un-prioritised measures and agencies" and without any "rationale and targets".

Hence, he said that it was not surprising that the set targets were not met.

"Pakistan Climate Change Act recognises the (policy) failure and tries to overcome the weak structures," he conceded, but cautioned that it was futile to expect a "weak and inconsequential institution" to contribute to the creation of a "stronger one".

In the past, he said, the tacit objective of all action on climate change was to secure foreign aid.

"That was the only purpose of making this policy," Dr Banuri said, adding, "There was no interest in doing anything about climate change."

To make things worse, Dr Banuri said that those who made and implemented the policy even failed in their solitary task of attracting funds.

However, he pointed out that measures such as the mass tree plantation drives, mass transit systems, improving public health and creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Meteorological Department have helped with attending to the impact of climate change.

But with these steps originally taken for reasons other than tackling climate change, they became “unconscious policy implementation”.

He cited the Global Climate Risk Index 2018 by German Watch, the Bonn-based research institute that studies Climate Change, Dr Banuri said that it had rated Pakistan amongst the top 10 countries most affected by climate change.

He warned that the projected temperature rise for Pakistan in the current century was a degree higher than the global average of about 1.4 °C– 4.6 °C. The northern parts of the country, he warned, would be the most affected by climate change than the southern parts owing to the presence of glaciers and impact on them.

Symptoms of climate change, he recalled, was that over the past two decades, there has been a significant increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather changes in Pakistan which have caused floods, droughts, heat waves, and cyclones due to increased monsoon variability and sea level rise.

Moreover, he emphasized that climate change directly affects national goals such as economic development, eradication of poverty, security and sovereignty, water scarcity, food insecurity, floods, droughts, mass migrations etc.

Of these, water insecurity could become a major cause for conflict in local, regional, and international disputes in the near future.

Published in The Express Tribune, February 23rd, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1916614/1-hec-chief-calls-govts-weak-climate-change-policy/>

A THREAT. ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY.

February 20,2019

As glaciers melt, Swiss see potential to increase hydropower production

For hikers looking for a daylong outing in central Switzerland, the Trift Glacier footbridge is a popular destination. It’s a short gondola ride from the village of Gadmen, followed by a trek of a few miles up a rocky path overlooking a granite gorge.

Those who successfully fight off a case of nerves — the slender cable-andplank bridge is more than 500 feet long and 300 feet in the air — are rewarded with spectacular views of the Trift Valley. But the glacier itself is hardly to be seen. Because of a warming atmosphere, it has retreated rapidly this century.

The Trift is a casualty of climate change, one of tens of thousands of glaciers around the world that are shrinking as the earth warms because of greenhouse gas emissions. But the Swiss have a plan to

make use of the valley the ice left behind — by adding to hydropower production, which itself is threatened by glacial melting.

Worldwide, shrinking glaciers are adding to rising sea levels and causing floods and will eventually mean less water for people and crops. But this great melting will also have an effect on the generation of electricity, as glaciers shrink to the point where meltwater flows start to decline. That will strain energy supplies, since about 16 percent of power worldwide is generated by flowing water.

The potential impact is far greater here in Switzerland, in the heart of the Alps, which has more glaciers than any other Alpine country and where hydropower accounts for nearly 60 percent of electricity.

Rain and melting snow are often the main sources of water for hydropower, but in Switzerland and many other countries, the melting of glacier ice is an important contributor. And the glaciers are melting fast.

In Switzerland, where the Alps are warming faster than the global average, most of the country's 1,500 glaciers have retreated every year since 2001; many are expected to all but vanish by 2090. The melting was especially bad in 2017, when 20 monitored Swiss glaciers lost about 3 percent of their volume because of a dry winter and an extremely hot summer.

Last year was bad as well, according to Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland, which tracks changes.

As warming continues, plants like one in Bitsch, deep inside a mountain near the Rhone River, will most likely see a decline in power production this century.

At the Bitsch plant, electricity is produced by generators attached to three turbines that are spun by water from a reservoir 2,000 feet higher up the mountain. The reservoir, behind the 50-year-old Gebidem arch dam, is fed by the Aletsch Glacier, the longest in Europe.

But the Aletsch, 14 miles long and up to 3,000 feet thick, is shrinking year by year. It could lose 90 percent of its ice by 2100.

“When we designed the first power plants in Switzerland in the middle of the last century, we didn't talk about climate change,” said Florian Widmer, an executive with Alpiq, a Swiss power company that is the largest shareholder in the Bitsch plant. Now, he said, companies like his must plan for a future of little or no glacial meltwater.

For now, accelerated melting in many glaciated regions, including the Alps, is increasing stream flows and filling reservoirs faster, leading to greater electricity generation. In Switzerland, for example, a recent study showed that loss of glacial mass because of the warming climate had increased hydropower production by 3 percent to 4 percent since 1980.

“Today, we benefit from glacial melting,” Mr. Widmer said.

But eventually the ice will retreat so much that stream flows will decline and power production will drop. Although climate forecasts suggest that, in coming decades, Switzerland might make up for some of its lost ice with increases in rain and snow, retreating glaciers are expected to lead to as much as a 5 percent decline in electricity production in some regions of the country.

Already, the need for environmental flows — releasing some water from dams to maintain the ecological health of a river — cuts into hydropower production. And Switzerland faces another

problem of its own making: Amid widespread public opposition to nuclear power following the 2011 Fukushima accident in Japan, the Swiss government has pledged to gradually phase out the country's five reactors. Those reactors provide nearly all the rest of Switzerland's power, and they are especially important in winter, when hydropower production drops and energy demand increases.

The government's energy strategy calls for increases in wind, solar and geothermal power, which currently make up a small share of electricity production. The Swiss are also counting on hydropower companies to expand their output, even though glacial meltwater will eventually decline.

For Alpiq and other companies, the land left behind by retreating glaciers offers opportunities.

When glaciers grow and advance, their abrasive power — the weight of massive ice flows mixed with rock debris — carves valleys in the landscape. As glaciers shrink, these valleys are exposed. Some of them may be ideal sites to collect and store water for hydropower.

Swiss researchers have studied the country's glaciers and, using radar, the underlying bedrock, with an eye to locating potential new reservoirs. "We're looking at what is going to be the future topography," said Robert Boes, an engineer and director of the Laboratory of Hydraulics, Hydrology and Glaciology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Other criteria are evaluated as well, including potential construction costs, how much energy could be generated and whether the quantity of sediment — retreating glaciers leave a lot of that behind as well — would harm turbines or cause other problems.

One suitable spot is at the Trift. Another is at the Oberaletsch, a smaller glacier near the Aletsch.

A quarter-century ago, the Oberaletsch had about half a cubic mile of ice. It lost about 7 percent of that by 2000, and by the middle of this century the ice loss could be 70 percent of the original volume.

Although the Oberaletsch's leading edge, or tongue, is still covered by up to 650 feet of ice, by the middle of the century the ice is expected to be gone and a long, thin lake will appear in its place. That will collect meltwater from what remains of the glacier, as well as runoff from rain and melting snow.

Engineers with Alpiq have proposed building a new generating plant at the existing Gebidem dam reservoir and tunneling up to a spot under the Oberaletsch where the lake will form. Everything, including the plant, would be inside the mountain to reduce the visual and environmental impact. Mr. Widmer said that the company was in discussions with government agencies about the project.

Water from the Oberaletsch would generate electricity at the new plant and then flow to the existing plant at Bitsch and make more electricity there.

At the Trift, the ice that once filled much of the valley is already gone, replaced by a natural lake. Another hydropower company has plans to make it even larger.

"We saw 10 years ago that it was a lake," said Daniel Fischlin, chief executive of the company, Kraftwerke Oberhasli, or KWO. "That started the idea — there's a really narrow place, and there you can build a dam."

The dam would be built in the narrow gorge at the outlet of the lake, and would be higher than the existing footbridge. As with the Oberaletsch project, the water would travel by tunnel to a new generating plant farther down the mountain.

The reservoir and plant would serve as backup power, in effect, for periods when electricity shortages threaten to destabilize the power grid. “It will be like insurance that you can operate for several days,” Mr. Fischlin said.

Such sources of additional power will increasingly be needed as Switzerland moves away from nuclear power and as climate change alters precipitation amounts and patterns.

After four years of discussions with environmentalists, ending with an agreement, KWO has begun the permitting process. Construction could start by 2022 and be finished by 2030. By then, even less of the glacier will remain.

<http://iht.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx?issue=10032019022000000000001001&page=1&article=9ac864a8-1cf2-45dd-918d-601df09188ac&key=qaQ9zdSUjti%2FTKrzQfooUg%3D%3D&feed=rss>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 11TH TO FEBRUARY 17TH 2019

UOP PROPOSES CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

By Our Correspondent Published: February 13, 2019

PESHAWAR: University of Peshawar (UoP) is speeding-up efforts for establishing National Climate Change Research Institute at University of Peshawar.

The institute will be an alliance of the departments of environmental sciences, geology, geography and Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management to better combat climate change challenges and build research reservoir for real time assessment of natural and man-made hazards.

UoP Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Asif Khan said this at the two-day International Conference on Disaster Management 2019.

Centre for Disaster Preparedness & Management has organised the conference at SSAQ Hall of UoP where around 43 papers will be presented during the deliberations.

Vice Chancellor Asif Khan said the climate change hazards are occurring faster than our projections and expectations, he said.

Prof Noor Jahan implored students of university to broaden their understanding of environmental challenges posed to country as a whole.

International Committee for Red Cross sub-delegation head at Peshawar Giovanni Trambaiolo said that globally, challenges and stakes are rising up due to climate change hazards including droughts, floods, and unseasonal happenings.

Published in The Express Tribune, February 13th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1909206/1-uop-proposes-climate-change-research-institute/>

GLACIER SURGE CREATES ARTIFICIAL LAKE IN HUNZA

Jamil Nagri Updated February 11, 2019

GILGIT: The continuing Shisper Glacier surge and subsequent creation of a dammed lake has created the fear of another Attabad lake-like disaster in Hunza.

An assessment report prepared by the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA) has warned that the dammed lake might burst any time and cause immense damage to the local people, critical infrastructure and installations situated downstream.

The Shisper Glacier, a few kilometres from Hasanabad village in Hunza, started to surge in May last year.

Possible lake burst may wreak havoc in Hasanabad area

The unusual surge has blocked water flow from a stream originating in nearby Muchuhur Glacier, which normally falls into Hunza river at Hasanabad, thus forming an artificial lake.

A GBDMA official told Dawn that expanding day by day, the dammed lake was now spread over 700 metres, with a depth of 300 feet, and the glacier was surging at a speed of seven metres per day towards Hasanabad.

The official said that according to the GBDMA assessment, the possible lake burst had the potential to submerge a portion of Karakoram Highway, a bridge, over 100 houses in Hasanabad, two powerhouses, a Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) camp office and hundreds of kanals of fertile land, while it might block the flow of River Hunza also.

He said that the GBDMA was monitoring the glacier surge and the dammed lake on a daily basis and experts had visited the area and assessed the possible damage in case of the lake burst.

He said an early warning system had been installed in the area with the support of satellite cameras and local residents had been advised about measures to be taken in an emergency situation.

He said that the experts feared that if the glacier surge continued at the present speed, it might hit 2MW Hasanabad power station downstream of the glacier in two weeks.

Meanwhile, a meeting held at the Chief Secretary House in Gilgit on Saturday discussed steps to be taken to cope with any emergency, said a press release. The meeting was chaired by GB Chief Secretary retired captain Khurram Agha and attended by officials concerned.

The meeting was told that during the coming summer season, the speed of glacier melting and surging of the lake could trigger a disaster. However, the GBDMA had evolved a mechanism to cope with any emergency.

It was told that the Army had conducted a survey in the area and, after completion of data processing, a report would be sent to the authorities.

The chief secretary directed the GB works department to erect protective walls along Hasanabad Nullah by Feb 15 to protect houses and installations situated along the stream. The food department was directed to store food and medicines for five months in the upstream areas.

The chief secretary asked the National Highway Authority to take measures to divert vehicular traffic from the area if Hasanabad bridge on Karakorum Highway was submerged. An alternative bridge would be constructed by the FWO.

The meeting constituted a committee, headed by GB Home Secretary Jawad Akram, to review the situation and send recommendations to the chief secretary. The committee was assigned the task of proposing measures for evacuating affected people in case of an emergency.

Meanwhile, the residents of Hasanabad have expressed dissatisfaction over the measures taken by the administration to protect local people and infrastructure in case of an emergency.

The Hasanabad Youth Organisation president Tariq Jamil said that the situation was alarming in the area, but the administration was not serious about protecting the vulnerable.

He said that no steps had been taken to protect the locals in case the lake burst.

“The surging glacier is merely five kilometres away from Hasanabad,” he said. A possible lake burst could submerge houses in the village and also block flow of Hunza river, creating an Attabad lake-like disaster, he feared.

Amjad Hussain, a social activist, expressed similar views and said that the early warning system was not effective and no resettlement measures had been taken yet.

He called for emergency measures to protect lives in the event of an unforeseen situation.

Published in Dawn, February 11th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1463111/glacier-surge-creates-artificial-lake-in-hunza>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 4TH TO FEBRUARY 10TH 2019

HEAVY SNOWFALL IN GALYAT BREAKS 35 YEARS OLD RECORD

APP February 10, 2019

ABBOTTABAD: Heavy snowfall on Saturday has broken the record of last 35 years in Galyat as more than 12 feet snowfall has been recorded during 20 days of the current winter season.

Heavy snowfall not only stopped the tourists but also stuck hundreds of thousands of the natives in their houses. Main Murree road, Ayubia, Khanuspur, Nathiagali and dozens of other link roads are blocked by snow or due to land sliding which has created havoc.

A severe shortage of food items, petrol, oil, firewood, medicines and other necessities of life and days long electricity breakdown pushed the people of Galyat into great trouble where neither district government Abbottabad nor Galyat Development Authority (GDA) tried to lessen the miseries of the people.

Two day back at Kundla two tourists cars were buried under the glacier where the locals have rescued four tourists from the cars but their vehicles are still buried under the debris.

In many areas of Galyat glaciers and land sliding has been reported while in the latest incident land sliding blocked the road at Charayin. People of the Galyat are waiting for road clearance and provision of food items, firewood and medicines.

They have also demanded to impose emergency in the area.

While talking to APP the spokesperson of GDA Ahsan Hameed said that three KP government departments are working in Galyat for snow clearance including GDA, KPHA, and C&W which has created confusion and the issue of jurisdiction. He further said that we have written a letter to the provincial government to hand over the task of road clearance to any one of these three departments to end the mix-up.

After the two days break a new four days long spell of heavy snowfall is also expected in Galyat which was forecasted by the metrology department.

Three more spells of snowfall are also expected in Galyat during the remaining days of February which needs quick action by the local and provincial government.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/430011-heavy-snowfall-in-galyat-breaks-35-years-old-record>

MELTING ICE SHEETS MAY CAUSE ‘CLIMATE CHAOS’: STUDY

AFP Updated February 08, 2019

PARIS: Billions of tonnes of meltwater flowing into the world’s oceans from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets could boost extreme weather and destabilise regional climate within a matter of decades, researchers said on Wednesday.

These melting giants, especially the one atop Greenland, are poised to further weaken the ocean currents that move cold water south along the Atlantic Ocean floor while pushing tropical waters northward closer to the surface, they reported in the journal Nature.

Known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), this liquid conveyor belt plays a crucial role in Earth’s climate system and helps ensure the relative warmth of the Northern Hemisphere.

“According to our models, this meltwater will cause significant disruptions to ocean currents and change levels of warming around the world,” said lead author Nicholas Golledge, an associate professor at the Antarctic Research Centre of New Zealand’s Victoria University of Wellington.

The Antarctic ice sheet’s loss of mass, meanwhile, traps warmer water below the surface, eroding glaciers from underneath in a vicious circle of accelerated melting that contributes to sea level rise.

Most studies on ice sheets have focused on how quickly they might shrink due to global warming, and how much global temperatures can rise before their disintegration — whether over centuries or millennia — becomes inevitable, a threshold known as a “tipping point.” But far less research has been done on how the meltwater might affect the climate system itself.

“The large-scale changes we see in our simulations are conducive to a more chaotic climate with more extreme weather events and more intense and frequent heatwaves,” co-author Natalya Gomez, a researcher in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at McGill University in Canada, said.

“By mid-century,” the researchers concluded, “meltwater from the Greenland ice sheet noticeably disrupts the AMOC,” which has already shown signs of slowing down.

This is a “much shorter timescale than expected,” commented Helene Seroussi, a researcher in the Sea Level and Ice Group at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, who was not involved in the study.

The findings were based on highly detailed simulations combined with satellite observations of changes to the ice sheets since 2010.

One likely result of weakened current in the Atlantic will be warmer air temperatures in the high Arctic, eastern Canada and central America, and cooler temperatures over northwestern Europe.

The Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets, up to three kilometres thick, contain more than two-thirds of the planet’s fresh water, enough to raise global oceans 58 and seven metres, respectively, were they to melt completely.

Besides Greenland, the regions most vulnerable to global warming are West Antarctica and several huge glaciers in East Antarctica, which is far larger and more stable.

In a second study published Wednesday in Nature, some of the same scientists offered new projections of how much Antarctica will contribute to sea level rise by 2100 — a hotly debated topic. A controversial 2016 study suggested the continent’s ice cliffs — exposed by the disintegration of ice shelves that jut out from glaciers over ocean water — were highly vulnerable to collapse, and could lead to sea level rise of a metre by century’s end.

That would be enough to displace up to 187 million people around the world, especially in populous low-lying river deltas in Asia and Africa, research has shown.

Published in Dawn, February 8th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1462558/melting-ice-sheets-may-cause-climate-chaos-study>

TEMPERATURES LAST YEAR FOURTH HOTTEST; MORE HEAT FORECAST

Reuters February 07, 2019

OSLO: Last year was the fourth warmest on record and the outlook is for more sizzling heat approaching levels that most governments view as dangerous for the Earth, a UN report showed on Wednesday.

Weather extremes in 2018 included wildfires in California and Greece, drought in South Africa and floods in Kerala, India. Record levels of man-made greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from burning fossil fuels, trap ever more heat.

Average global surface temperatures were 1.0 degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times in 2018, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said, based on data from US, British, Japanese and European weather agencies.

"The long-term temperature trend is far more important than the ranking of individual years, and that trend is an upward one," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement. "The 20 warmest years on record have been in the past 22 years."

To combat warming, almost 200 governments adopted the Paris climate agreement in 2015 to phase out the use of fossil fuels and limit the rise in temperatures to 2C (3.6F) above pre-industrial times while "pursuing efforts" for 1.5C (2.7F).

"The impacts of long-term global warming are already being felt — in coastal flooding, heat waves, intense precipitation and ecosystem change," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Last year, the United States alone suffered 14 weather and climate disasters with losses exceeding \$1 billion each, led by hurricanes and wildfires, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said. NOAA and NASA contribute data to the WMO.

This year has also started with scorching temperatures, including Australia's warmest January on record. Against the global trend, parts of the United States suffered bone-chilling cold from a blast of Arctic air last week.

In WMO records dating back to the 19th century, 2016 was the hottest year, boosted by an El Nino weather event in the Pacific Ocean, ahead of 2015 and 2017 with 2018 in fourth.

The British Met Office, which also contributes data to the WMO, said temperatures could rise to 1.5C above pre-industrial times, for instance if a natural El Nino weather event adds a burst of heat.

"Over the next five years there is a one in 10 chance of one of those years breaking the (1.5C) threshold," Professor Adam Scaife of the Met Office said of the agency's medium-term forecasts.

"That is not saying the Paris Agreement is done for ... but it's a worrying sign," he said. The United Nations defines the 1.5C Paris temperature target as a 30-year average, not a freak blip in a single year.

The United Nations says the world is now on track for a temperature rise of 3C or more by 2100. The Paris pact responded to a 1992 UN treaty under which all governments agreed to avert "dangerous" man-made climate change.

A UN report last year said the world is likely to breach 1.5C sometime between 2030 and 2052 on current trends, triggering ever more heat waves, powerful storms, droughts, mudslides, extinctions and rising sea levels.

US President Donald Trump, who has cast doubt on mainstream climate science and promotes the coal industry, plans to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement. He did not mention climate change in his State of the Union speech on Tuesday.

Patrick Verkooijen, head of the Global Center on Adaptation in the Netherlands, said that the WMO report showed "climate change is not a distant phenomenon but is here right now".

He called for more, greener investments, ranging from defences against rising seas to drought-resistant crops.

Published in Dawn, February 7th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1462354/temperatures-last-year-fourth-hottest-more-heat-forecast>

33PC OF ICE IN REGION TO MELT BY 2100: STUDY

Reuters Updated February 05, 2019

KATHMANDU: At least a third of the ice in the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush will thaw this century as temperatures rise, disrupting river flows vital for growing crops from China to India, scientists said on Monday.

Vast glaciers make the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region — which is home to the world's highest peaks topped by Mount Everest and K2 — a “third pole” behind Antarctica and the Arctic region, they said.

“This is the climate crisis you haven't heard of,” said Philippus Wester, who led the report.

“Global warming is on track to transform the frigid, glacier-covered mountain peaks of the HKH cutting across eight countries to bare rocks in a little less than a century,” said Wester of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

The report, by 210 authors, said that more than a third of the ice in the region will melt by 2100 even if governments take tough action to limit global warming under the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

And two-thirds of the ice could vanish if governments fail to rein in greenhouse gas emissions this century.

“To me this is the biggest worrying thing,” Wester said on the sidelines of an event to launch the report in Kathmandu.

Glaciers have thinned and retreated across most parts of the region since the 1970s.

Ice in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region would push up sea levels by 1.5 metres if it all melted, Eklabya Sharma, deputy director general of ICIMOD, said.

The region stretches 3,500km across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

The study said the thaw will disrupt rivers including the Yangtze, Mekong, Indus and Ganges, where farmers rely on glacier melt water in the dry season.

About 250 million people live in the mountains and 1.65 billion people in river valleys below.

Changes in river flows could also harm hydropower production and cause more erosion and landslides in the mountains.

But more research is needed to gauge exactly how glaciers affect distant crops, said Wouter Buytaert of the Imperial College in London, who was not involved in the study.

Published in Dawn, February 5th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1461867/33pc-of-ice-in-region-to-melt-by-2100-study>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 28TH TO FEBRUARY 3RD 2019

12 DEAD AS ARCTIC FREEZE SPREADS INTO US NORTHEAST

Reuters February 01, 2019

THE blast of Arctic air that brought record-breaking cold, causing at least a dozen deaths and cancelling or delaying thousands of flights in the US Midwest, spread eastwards on Thursday, bringing frigid misery to the northeast.

A forecast for warmer weather by the weekend offered little comfort to those enduring icy conditions, brutal winds and temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 34 Celsius).

“This morning is some of the coldest of the temperatures across the Upper Midwest, and we still have some dangerous wind chills,” Andrew Orrison, a forecaster for the National Weather Service, said in a phone interview.

In Minnesota and Upper Michigan, temperatures will be at minus 20F (minus 29C) on Thursday and parts of North Dakota can expect minus 30F, forecasters warned.

The bitter cold was caused by displacement of the polar vortex, a stream of air that normally spins around the stratosphere over the North Pole but whose current was disrupted. It pushed eastwards and states including Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania experienced bitterly cold temperatures. The overnight low in Boston was at minus 5F (minus 21C), according to the National Weather Service.

“This morning is the worst of the worst in terms of the cold,” Orrison said. “It’ll be the coldest outbreak of Arctic air [so far this winter] for the Mid-Atlantic and the northeast.” It has been more than 20 years since a similar Arctic blast covered a swath of the Midwest and Northeast, according to the weather service.

The cold has caused at least 12 deaths since Saturday across the Midwest, according to officials and news media reports. Some died in weather-related traffic accidents, others from apparent exposure to the elements.

Videos this week showed boiling water freezing as it was tossed in the air in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and transit workers in Chicago setting fire to train tracks to keep them from locking up.

Even parts of the South, such as the mountains of Kentucky, Tennessee and upper Georgia, will be in the single digits, the weather service said.

More than 30 record lows were shattered across the Midwest. Some areas only saw a high of minus 10F (minus 23C) on Wednesday.

The lowest temperature recorded that day was minus 40F (minus 40C) in International Falls, Minnesota, just south of Canada. The city, dubbed the “Icebox of the Nation”, saw temperatures drop another 5 degrees Fahrenheit early on Thursday.

US homes and businesses used record amounts of natural gas for heating on Wednesday, according to preliminary results from financial data provider Refinitiv.

But the picture was set to change. By the weekend, Chicago, which experienced near-record cold of minus 23F (minus 30C) on Wednesday and minus 21F (minus 29C) on Thursday, was expected to bask in snow-melting highs in the mid-40s to low 50s Fahrenheit. So will other parts of the Midwest.

“It’s going to feel quite balmy in comparison,” Orrison said.

The weather caused hundreds of traffic accidents, including a chain-reaction collision of about two dozen cars in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during a whiteout on Wednesday, local media reported.

More than 2,500 flights were cancelled and more than 3,500 were delayed on Thursday morning, most of them out of Chicago’s O’Hare International and Midway International airports, according to the flight tracking site FlightAware.com.

Published in Dawn, February 1st, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1461155/12-dead-as-arctic-freeze-spreads-into-us-northeast>

THOUSANDS SKIP SCHOOL FOR CLIMATE MARCH IN BRUSSELS

AP Updated February 01, 2019

BRUSSELS: Tens of thousands of teenagers in Belgium skipped school for the fourth week in a row on Thursday in an attempt to push authorities into providing better protection for the world’s climate.

Police say the march through Brussels drew at least 12,500 students, and another march in eastern Liege had at least as many protesters as the youth movement spread further across the country. In Leuven, close to Brussels, there were more than 3,000 protesters, including many primary school pupils.

The sustained success of the marches comes despite some school measures to dissuade students who continue to stay away every on Thursday. It started with a few thousand four weeks ago and swelled to 35,000 last week.

The protests have kept a focus on climate change as a political pressure point before national and European Union elections, after 70,000 demonstrators held a climate march through Brussels on Sunday.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1461142/thousands-skip-school-for-climate-march-in-brussels>

COLDER-THAN-ANTARCTICA TEMPERATURES GRIP US MIDWEST

Reuters Updated January 31, 2019

CHICAGO: Frozen Arctic winds brought record-low temperatures across much of the US Midwest on Wednesday, unnerving residents accustomed to brutal winters and keeping them huddled indoors as offices and schools remained closed and even mail carriers halted their rounds.

Classes were cancelled on Wednesday and Thursday in many cities, including Chicago, home of the nation's third-largest school system, and police warned of the risk of accidents on icy highways.

In a rare move, the US Postal Service appeared to temporarily set aside its credo that "neither snow nor rain... nor gloom of night" would stop its work: it halted deliveries from parts of the Dakotas through Ohio.

Temperatures in parts of the Northern Plains and Great Lakes plunged to as low as minus 42 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 41o Celsius) in Park Rapids, Minnesota, and minus 31oF in Fargo, North Dakota, according to the National Weather Service. The frigid winds were bound for the US East Coast later on Wednesday into Thursday.

Andrew Orrison, a meteorologist with the service, said that some of the coldest wind chills were recorded in International Falls, Minnesota, at minus 55oF (minus 48oC). Even the South Pole in Antarctica was warmer, with an expected low of minus 24oF (minus 31oC) with wind chill.

The bitter cold was caused by a displacement of the polar vortex, a stream of air that normally spins around the stratosphere over the North Pole, but whose current was disrupted and was now pushing south.

An Illinois police department found a fictitious cause for the icy blast, posting on Facebook that its officers had arrested Elsa, the frosty character from the Disney movie Frozen, for bringing the arctic air to the Midwest.

Officials opened warming centres across the region, and in Chicago, police stations were open to anyone seeking refuge from the cold. Five city buses were also deployed to serve as mobile warming centres for homeless people.

At least five deaths relating to cold weather have been reported since Saturday in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, local media reports said.

Hundreds of flights, more than half of those scheduled, were cancelled on Wednesday out of Chicago O'Hare and Chicago Midway international airports, according to the flight tracking site FlightAware.

Train service Amtrak said it would cancel all trains in and out of Chicago on Wednesday.

Most federal government offices in Washington DC opened three hours late on Wednesday due to the frigid weather.

Published in Dawn, January 31st, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1460898/colder-than-antarctica-temperatures-grip-us-midwest>

SUFFICIENT BUDGET TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE SOUGHT

By Our Staff Reporter | 1/31/2019 12:00:00 AM

KARACHI: Highlighting the threats and risks posed by climate change, speakers at a dialogue organised on Wednesday at a local hotel emphasised the need for collaborative efforts to combat the adverse impacts of climate change and implement relevant policies.

The programme was organised by Oxfam-Pakistan in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The policy debate covered the extent and quantum of efforts required to counter climate change and identified the gaps in the current set-up.

It focused on the risks and threats faced by the most sensitive areas to climate change in Sindh, ie mangroves, fisheries, women development and climate migration.

Speaking at the event, Oxfam-Pakistan country director Mohammed Qazilbash expressed concern over the destruction caused by sea intrusion and loss of mangroves.

‘Sea intrusion has rendered arable land barren while mangroves that have long sheltered marine life and provided livelihoods to coastal communities are being cut down.

‘These coastal forests are already under threat due to deforestation and climate change, leaving women, children and other vulnerable groups disproportionately affected,’ he said.

He suggested that protecting mangroves as an adaptation to climate change could strengthen sustainable livelihoods along the coast and lessen migration from the Sindh coast to other parts of Pakistan and across borders.

Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, IUCN-Pakistan country representative, noted that rising sea levels coupled with land degradation due to saltwater intrusion posed a significant threat to the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities.

Referring to Oxfam’s assessment on climate change, he said that this continuing situation would lead to food, income and residential insecurity and subsequently to climate-induced migration.

Former senator Javed Jabbar said that all sectors of government, civil society and non-governmental organisations need to work together to combat the negative impacts of climate change.

‘Even after we establish climate change policies, we must ensure that those policies are implemented. We need to establish mechanisms that guarantee that the issues raised at this event are not only included in the climate change policy, but are executed as well,’ he said.

During the programme, a report titled Climate Induced Migration in Pakistan by Oxfam was launched, which was followed by screening of a documentary on climate migration.

The report suggested that Pakistan’s government needed to adopt a climate change financing framework and to integrate climate change in budgeting and planning to ensure a more meaningful and result-oriented approach.

https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=31_01_2019_116_002

PAKISTAN SEVENTH-MOST AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE: OXFAM REPORT

By Jaza Aqil Published: January 31, 2019

KARACHI: Climate change is a reality that has already begun showing its disastrous affects in various regions. It threatens human lives, ecosystems and even sovereignties of entire low-lying nation states, according to a report published by Oxfam in January 2019.

Despite the stubbornly ignorant insistence of some global leaders – looking at you Donald Trump – that climate change is a myth, fortunately most of the global community has finally woken to the dangers of climate change that scientists have been harping about for decades.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change has approximately 197 signatories to date and aims to limit the global rise in temperature to 1.5°C. As a consequence of climate change, people across the globe are being forced to migrate as their existing areas of residence become increasingly uninhabitable.

The worst affected by climate change, however, are countries that have contributed disproportionately less towards the emission of greenhouse gases, which is the largest human factor contributing towards climate change.

According to a World Bank report published in 2018, Groundswell-Preparing for Internal Climate Migration, more than 140m people are expected to move within their countries by 2050, with most climate migration anticipated to be concentrated in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, if the effects of climate change are not recognised and dealt with adequately.

The aforementioned Oxfam report, Climate Induced Migration in Sindh, Pakistan, claims that of these 140m, more than 40m people are anticipated to migrate within South Asia alone by 2050. Pakistan, a signatory to the Paris Agreement, is the seventhmost affected country impacted by weather-related events, as calculated through available data from 1997 to 2016, according to the 2018 Long-Term Climate Risk Index Pakistan.

During this 20-year period, the country saw 141 extreme weather-related calamities, taking the annual average death toll to 523 and causing an economic loss of USD3,816.82 million. In 2016 alone, there were 566 climate-induced casualties in Pakistan and the nation suffered a loss of USD47.31m.

The country saw 1,800 people displaced due to natural disasters in 2017. Sindh in particular has faced the consequences of climate change with living patterns and livelihoods of people being adversely affected.

Droughts in Thar, floods and cyclones in Badin, Sajiwal and Thatta in 2010 and 2011, heat waves in Karachi in recent years, particularly in 2015, are some of the affects that have already been felt. Furthermore, sea intrusion near the Indus Delta has triggered coastal floods and caused large scale inland migration.

Oxfam's report cites rising sea levels, flooding and storms, inland sea water inundation, droughts, famines, extreme weather conditions, the ability of soil to support agriculture, loss of tourism and

fishing as some of the reasons why inhabitants have been and will be forced to flee their existing settlements.

Internally displaced migrants generally come from the least financially stable sections of society and are often required to evacuate areas in a state of emergency. This results in them leaving behind most of their assets and belongings.

The report points out that when these migrants arrive to host communities, they are stripped entirely of their livelihood and prized belongings and hence impose an additional burden on the host community and potential aid providers.

“The cyclical nature of poverty is fed when internally displaced migrants leave their agricultural lands and source of income to migrate into labour saturated areas where employment opportunities are already limited,” states the report.

This can exacerbate tensions between the host community and the migrants as competition for employment, food security, health and educational resources, among other factors, is heightened.

Farming and fishing communities which have relied on these professions for generations to support their livelihood find themselves disrupted by the changing climate.

The Indus Delta Degradation, rise in sea levels and the inundation of saline water on land has resulted in entire communities being forced to abandon their ancestral profession.

Some communities are reluctant to leave the lands they have occupied for generations while others find themselves ill-equipped to enter other professions as agriculture, livestock breeding or fishing for instance was what they had prepared for their entire lives.

For some, rural to urban migration comes with a multitude of cultural and linguistic barriers which impede their rehabilitation.

Cultural reliance on male counterparts for financial support and security means that women are often further disadvantaged due to climate change.

Whether they have been left behind while male members of the family migrate to urban areas in search for livelihood, or they have accompanied the men, the patriarchal structure ensures that their decision making power is significantly disproportionate to their male counterparts.

Many women who work on agricultural land alongside their men are affected when weather extremities disrupt farming practices. Others find that the responsibility to find potable water for the family falls on them.

As Oxfam points out, the disruption of livelihoods due to climate change can incite skirmishes and tensions between families which subjects women to increased domestic violence.

Moreover, migrating increases stress and discomfort for women more so than men as they are also assigned the responsibility of caring for the old and young while traveling.

An alarming truth remains that most nations are not sufficiently equipped to deal with the looming disasters of climate change.

Along with legal, social and economic frameworks, even the language needed to combat climate change, is still being developed globally. Language, it must be noted, is crucial when it comes to implementing legal frameworks and establishing laws for the protection of those being affected by climate change.

Oxfam's report points out that although the Paris Agreement mentions the need to accord protection to climate migrants thereby acknowledging that such a group exists, the term itself disputes a clear definition.

According to the International Organisation for Migration, semantically, climate migrants are best described as 'persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their territory or abroad'.

Oxfam's report highlights that this definition showcases importune reductionism where climate migrants cannot be classified as refugees and therefore are accorded no legal or protection rights under the Refugee Convention of 1951.

That is to say that the protection offered to safeguard the rights of those people who are displaced due to conflict and war by the 1951 convention does not apply to people displaced because of climate change.

As their rights are not safeguarded internationally the protection of climate induced migrants is susceptible to national and regional laws. Oxfam suggests the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement which are based upon existing international humanitarian laws as a reference point for nations dealing with climate induced migration.

Oxfam's report focuses on internal climate induced migration in Sindh. What follows below is a brief summary of their research conducted in Thar, Badin, Sajiwal, Thatta and Karachi. Entire communities from Badin, Sajiwal and Thatta districts migrated to Karachi permanently after cyclones and floods of 2010 and 2011.

These communities expressed the absence of potable water for drinking, irrigation and livestock as their biggest problems in their original districts.

After migrating, they were compelled to settle on the outskirts of Karachi and their settlements consisted of congested households with little or no access to utilities.

They continue to live in squalor without access to bathrooms or proper villages. However, according to Oxfam, the migrants claim that the city provides them with better medical facilities than their villages had to offer and more opportunities for employment particularly for women who often work as domestic help.

One community, the report states, mentioned language as a barrier to their rehabilitation process. They had difficulty learning Urdu which affected their prospects in the city adversely, they said.

Although geographically susceptible to natural disasters, Pakistan did not have a permanent body to deal with disaster management till the October 8, 2005 earthquake, when the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority was founded.

In August 2018, the National Disaster Management (Amendment) 2017 bill was passed by the Senate leading to the formation of the Natural Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). It is responsible for disaster preparation, mitigation, risk reduction, relief and rehabilitation.

The federal authority works alongside provincial and district disaster management authorities and collectively the system is supposed to reduce risks and disaster induced vulnerabilities in the country.

A group of United Kingdom based non-governmental organisations commissioned a study and pointed out some shortcomings in Pakistan's existing relief mechanisms.

"Whereas the NDMA and provincial authorities have improved their relief efforts in the past few years, it is mandatory that they include adaptation interventions within their ambit as well," it stated. It also pointed out the need for greater funding, political support and co-ordination among stakeholders for more effective work.

On Wednesday, Oxfam along with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, organised a dialogue on climate change in Sindh.

Some of the recommendations and policy initiatives included the allocation of finance nationally and internationally, better planning for climate induced migrating communities, sensitising national climate change policies and laws for this purpose, addressing drainage and irrigation issues in order to improve agriculture and the introduction of climate resilient techniques within the agricultural sector, among others.

The provision of potable water, addressing scarcity of water and ensuring food and fodder for rural communities and livestock were highlighted as crucial areas which need attention.

Oxfam's complete report and a documentary on climate migration were presented and screened at the event. The dialogue focused on risks and threats faced by areas sensitive to climate change in Sindh and discussed major crises that await.

These included the protection of mangroves and fisheries in addition to climate-induced migration and its effect on women's development, among other things.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1900665/1-pakistan-seventh-affected-climate-change-oxfam-report/>

CLIMATE COUNCIL YET TO HOLD FIRST MEETING

By Shabbir Hussain Published: January 31, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Even though the environment is stated to be a priority of the government and one of its flagship programmes is to plant 10 billion trees over the next five years, the government though has failed to activate its climate council even a month after creating it.

The Pakistan Climate Council had been formed by the Ministry of Climate Change on December 26, 2018, after Prime Minister Imran Khan approved a summary. It was established to meet Pakistan's obligations under international conventions relating to climate change and to address its effects.

A notification for the council, a copy of which is available with The Express Tribune, the council includes 46 members.

The prime minister, or a person he nominates, will be the chairperson of this council and will include the ministers for climate change finance, food security, planning, science and technology, water resources, energy and foreign affairs as ex-officio members. It will also include the chief ministers of all four provinces along with the chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (to be invited when needed).

Ministers-in-charge of the environment at the provincial level, along with the chairpersons of national assembly and senate standing committees, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Higher Education Commission, Pakistan Climate Change Authority, National Commission on Status of Women, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council along with the engineer-in-chief of the military will be part of it.

Others included in the council include a host of experts, representative of think tanks, former ministers, lawmakers, and officials of associated government departments.

The Act to form council was approved in parliament by the previous government in 2017. The Act proposed to form Climate Change Council, Climate Change Authority and Climate Change Fund.

Sources disclosed that the climate change ministry has sent the matter to the finance division for the establishment of the climate change authority and to deploy its members and employees.

The Climate Change Authority will develop policies, projects, programmes and take other necessary measures, including studies, research as well as oversee agreements with international agencies and firms regarding climate change.

Further, the council will design a strategy to include awareness campaigns against climate change in the syllabus while it would also develop a yearly report consisting of progress, difficulties, future plans as well as an audit report and other information.

A fund in this regard will also be created called ‘Pakistan Climate Change Fund’.

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<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1900567/1-climate-council-yet-hold-first-meeting/>

‘FIVE-YEAR PLAN MUST INCLUDE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS’

By Our Correspondent Published: January 31, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Joint Secretary and Planning Commission’s Climate Change and Energy Section chief Arshad Ali Chaudhary has underlined the need for moving towards cleaner, greener and affordable energy solutions and incorporating them into the 12th five-year plan, which is at the finalisation stage.

“In Pakistan, power generation alone is not an issue, but also power distribution, transmission and affordability with minimum theft and line losses, which are major challenges and require due attention of the policymakers,” he said.

Chaudhry was addressing the inaugural session of a training workshop titled “Evidence-based policies for sustainable use of energy resources in the Asia-Pacific region”, organised by the Sustainable

Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Unescap).

He emphasised that the challenge for the country was to achieve a clean and green energy mix with negligible environmental impact and more economic dividends.

Unescap Chief of Energy Division Michael Williamson said “the choices we all have made in the past to use oil and biomass for power generation now lead to dire consequences in the form of climate change.”

“We have to change our priorities towards the energy mix. For that, there is a need to strengthen capacities of the policymakers in developing evidence-based policy and planning for sustainable use of energy resources at national and regional levels. Pakistan has wonderful opportunities and potential in solar and wind energy,” he said.

SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri pointed out that the current primary energy mix was dominated by traditional biomass, oil and natural gas with coal, whereas nuclear, hydel and other renewables were playing a limited role.

He said the government, in its recent economic reform package, removed all sorts of taxes and duties on the import of renewable energy products – a positive step forward towards green energy commitment.

The SDPI executive director said the institute was now collaborating with the Energy Research Institute of China for evidence-based research and assessment of the energy-sector challenges faced by Pakistan and the region.

“SDPI continues to extend its research in the energy sector on topics including Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), Pakistan’s perspective and bioenergy, and sustainability in South Asia,” he added.

SDPI Joint Executive Director Dr Vaqar Ahmed said planning departments of federal and provincial governments were currently in the process of finalising long-term growth strategies where the Planning Commission was also formulating the 12th five-year plan.

As part of the five-year plan, he said, it was important that Pakistan put in place and follow an integrated energy plan. “It is also important to remember that the policies being proposed are based on scientific evidence. For this purpose, the SDPI, Planning Commission and Unescap have joined hands to develop energy planning models, which can develop alternative scenarios of Pakistan’s future energy demand and supply needs,” he added.

These exercises will also forecast investments, which may be requested to meet future energy demand.

Ahmed said such models would also outline how to protect the environment, which could be ensured through the use of cleaner energy fuels. “This exercise will also involve collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change,” he added.

Published in The Express Tribune, January 31st, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1900414/2-five-year-plan-must-include-clean-energy-solutions/>

GLOBAL WARMING CONCERNS RISE AMONG AMERICANS IN NEW POLL

“I’ve never seen jumps in some of the key indicators like this,” the lead researcher said.

By John Schwartz 22nd Jan, 2019

A record number of Americans understand that climate change is real, according to a new survey, and they are increasingly worried about its effects in their lives today.

Some 73 percent of Americans polled late last year said that global warming was happening, the report found, a jump of 10 percentage points from 2015 and three points since last March.

The rise in the number of Americans who say global warming is personally important to them was even sharper, jumping ninepercentage points since March to 72 percent, another record over the past decade.

The survey is the latest in a series from the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication. It was conducted online in November and December by Ipsos, which polled 1,114 American adults.

The results suggest that climate change has moved out of the realm of the hypothetical for a wide majority of Americans, said AnthonyLeiserowitz, director of the Yale program.

“It is something that is activating an emotion in people, and that emotion is worry,” he said. The survey found that 69 percent of Americans were “worried” about warming, an eight-point increase since March.

“People are beginning to understand that climate change is here in the United States, here in my state, in my community, affecting the people and places I care about, and now,” Dr. Leiserowitz said. “This isn’t happening in 50 years, 100 years from now.”

Asked whether people in the United States were being harmed by global warming “right now,” 48 percent of the respondents agreed, an increase of nine percentage points since March. And 49 percent said they believed they would be personally harmed by global warming, a seven-point jump over the same period.

While public opinion on climate issues has fluctuated over the years, many of the recent changes were large enough to fall outside the margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. “I’ve never seen jumps in some of the key indicators like this,” Dr. Leiserowitz said.

Americans’ growing understanding of global warming is part of a long-term trend, he said. But he attributed the recent increases to a number of extreme weather events with plausible connections to a warming planet, and to the publicity that surrounded two major scientific reports on climate change last year.

Those reports, from the United Nations’ scientific panel on climate change and the United States government, laid out grim prospects for the future if action is not taken to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that warm the planet.

The changes in public opinion over the last year were also tied to politics, Dr. Leiserowitz said, and to the efforts of President Trump to deny the scientific evidence of climate change.

“Every time he talks about climate change he drives more media attention to the exact issue,” Dr. Leiserowitz said.

Political party affiliation is strongly associated with acceptance of the overwhelming scientific consensus on global warming, with Democrats tending to accept it and Republicans tending to reject it. But Mr. Trump’s approach to politics is so divisive, Dr. Leiserowitz said, that when he takes a strong stand on climate change and other issues, “he tends to drive a majority of the country in the opposite direction.”

In the poll, a record 62 percent of respondents understood that humans are the main cause of climate change, a four-point rise since March; those attributing it mostly to natural causes were at a record-low 23 percent, a drop of five points over the same period.

About two-thirds of those surveyed believed global warming was affecting weather in the United States, with about half saying that warming made last year’s wildfires in the West and Hurricanes Florence and Michael worse. The realm of attribution science — which studies how climate change influences individual weather events — is still evolving, but it has been well established that warming can make wildfires more frequent and hurricanes more destructive.

Disasters like these have brought once-abstract concepts home, said Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech University who was not involved in the survey. “Today, nearly everyone can point to a way that they are personally witnessing and are being personally affected by the impacts of a changing climate in the places where they live,” she said.

Global warming and its effects are increasingly part of the national discussion, said Sunshine Menezes, an expert in climate communication at the University of Rhode Island and executive director of the Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting.

She noted that 41 percent of respondents in the poll said they talked about global warming with family and friends “often” or “occasionally,” and 56 percent said they heard about the topic in the news media at least once a month, a 13 percent increase since 2015. “It’s becoming harder and harder to avoid conversations about climate change,” she said.

Though it is impossible to attribute shifts in public opinion like this to any one factor, Dr. Menezes said, “I’m just thrilled that it’s happening.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/22/climate/americans-global-warming-poll.html>

DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SINDH, BALOCHISTAN WORSENING

Amin Ahmed Updated January 29, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The drought situation in Sindh and Balochistan is rapidly developing into one of the worst disasters in the country. To mitigate the situation, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is setting up a Disaster Emergency Relief Fund.

A case has been sent to the regional office of the International Federation of Red Cross Society in Kuala Lumpur to set up an initial fund of Rs30 million. Appeal for international assistance would be considered at a later stage, PRCS operational coordinator Mohammad Abaidullah Khan told Dawn on Monday.

The PRCS has completed its rapid assessment early this month in six most vulnerable districts in Sindh and Balochistan. The three districts in Sindh were Tharparkar, Umerkot and Badin, while those in Balochistan included Noshki, Kharan and Pishin.

To start the operation, the PRCS has targeted Tharparkar in Sindh and Noshki in Balochistan and intends to expand the operation to other areas for completing the detailed need assessment during the disaster emergency relief operation. In these two districts, the PRCS has its presence in addition to security, operational feasibility and public acceptance, Abaidullah Khan said.

Official says Red Cross office in Kuala Lumpur has been urged to set up Rs30m fund

A report submitted to the IFRC says upland Balochistan and Sindh in south are the most heavily affected by severe drought. These affected areas have been prone to water shortages and rainfall and has touched record low, measured over the last many years with minimal or sometimes no rainfall.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department said in its alert that severe to extreme drought-like conditions have emerged over most of the southern parts of Pakistan due to lack of summer rain.

The abrupt decline in rainfall in most of the upland areas of the province has caused a complete drying up of the surface drinking water resources and has decreased water output from springs and tubewells. This has caused the water table to drop in most of the valleys and low-lying areas.

This prolong period of drought badly affected food production systems hence the health of community members, especially women and children. During the severe drought conditions, there is scarcity of nutritional food and potable water, which leads to the spread of disease.

Recent drought, caused by less than average and erratic rainfall and long dry spell, led to out-migration of rural population to barrage areas to seek food, water and gain employment. In the face of no feasible alternatives, communities resort to seeking food, water and gainful employment. In the face of no feasible alternatives, communities resort to drinking saline or unfit water and suffer from abdominal diseases and discoloration or teeth over time.

According to the Pakistan National Drought Monitoring Centre, severe drought is prevailing in most parts of Sindh.

The provincial government of Sindh has declared Tharparkar, Umerkot, Dadu, Thatta, Sanghar, Kambar Shadadkot, Jamshoro and Badin as worst drought-affected districts where the total population affected by drought has been estimated to be 184,244.

The detailed assessment was conducted early this month to assess the impact of drought on agriculture, including crop cultivation, production, water availability and livestock, livelihoods, food security, access to water and sanitation and hygiene practices of the households and communities.

After the rapid drought need assessment, the Balochistan government has declared Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Noshki, Chaghi, Kharan, Washuk, Panjgur, Kech, Jhal Magsi, Awaran, Zhob, Jaffarabad,

Barkhan, Quetta, Killah Saifullah, Kohlu, Naseerabad and Kachhi as the worst drought-affected districts where affected people has been estimated to be 216,806.

The assessment aims to understand the current drought phenomenon in Balochistan and its impact on agriculture, livelihood and water resources and to identify the existing coping-mechanisms adopted by rural households in the drought-affected areas.

The response and rehabilitation directorate — the operation wing of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) — has been declared as “Drought Secretariat” for effective coordination of efforts.

The NDMA at the request of the PDMA has submitted a summary to the Prime Minister Office for approval and support for the drought-affected population in 26 severe drought-affected districts of Sindh and Balochistan.

The NDMA has also approached the United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors to augment government’s efforts and support the ongoing response to the affected population.

Published in Dawn, January 29th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1460484/drought-conditions-in-sindh-balochistan-worsening>

March 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 25TH TO MARCH 31ST 2019

PAKISTAN NEEDS \$14B ANNUALLY TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

By XINHUA Published: March 31, 2019

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan needs around \$14 billion annually to adapt a comprehensive strategy to deal with climate change issues, as the country is one of the most vulnerable nations impacted by it, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative Maleeha Lodhi told a high-level meeting at the UN on Friday.

The meeting on ‘Climate and Sustainable Development for All’ gathered together high-ranking government officials or representatives. The participants pledged that their governments would continue to take more practical actions to cope with the fast-paced climate change.

“Around 90% of all natural disasters that have hit Pakistan have been triggered by climate change, putting enormous burden on our development capabilities and our ability to achieve sustainable development,” Lodhi said.

“In this backdrop, we have developed a comprehensive strategy to address climate change,” she said, adding, “Our adaptation needs are around \$14 billion per annum. We therefore urge our partners to fulfil their pledges of mobilising \$100 billion a year by 2020.”

New Zealand’s climate change ambassador, Stephanie Lee, told the meeting that her country “has identified climate change as one of the defining issues of this generation”. To combat climate change,

the country has already banned new offshore oil and gas exploration and has pledged transition to 100% renewable energy by 2035. “We will plant one billion trees over the next decade.”

Noting that at the current emission pace, the world will surpass the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius around the year 2040, Eva Svedling, state secretary to minister for environment and climate of Sweden, said that “we must act based on what science tells us and make more efficient use of energy, increase the use of renewable sources and phase out the use of fossil fuels.”

As for African countries, climate change is also a matter of great concern. Patricia Appiagyei, deputy minister for environment, science, technology and innovation of Ghana, said that her country is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

“The challenge of climate change in Ghana is real. Rainfall patterns have changed and become less predictable. The warming of the sea is also affecting fishing,” she said. To cope with the dire situation, 11 programmes covering seven priority economic sectors are being proposed for implementation in the next 10 years, she added.

“We are already implementing climate change programmes on the ground, aimed at promoting renewable energy, supporting adoption of clean cooking, sharing sustainable consumption and production, and pursuing a low carbon electricity supply,” she said.

Dang Dinh Quy, Vietnam’s permanent representative to the UN, while recognising the real threat of climate change like all other speakers, called for making efforts to reinforce the national capacity “by enhancing effective cooperation” with all relevant stakeholders. “International cooperation in terms of capacity building, transfer of technologies for climate adaptation, etc will play a critical role in this endeavour,” he said.

Patrick Suckling, Australian Ambassador for the Environment, brought some good news to the meeting. “While the Australian economy has experienced 27 years of economic growth, we have driven our emissions per unit of GDP to its lowest level in 29 years,” Suckling said.

“Emissions in our electricity sector are falling, driven by unprecedented investment in renewable energy—Australia has one of the highest rates of uptake of residential solar in the world,” he said. “In February, our government announced A\$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package to tackle climate change in Australia and to build momentum toward achieving our target under the Paris Agreement,” he added.

The objectives of the two-day high-level meeting, which kicked off on Thursday at the UN headquarters in New York, included highlighting the inter-linkage between climate and economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development for present and future generations.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1940674/1-pakistan-needs-14b-annually-combat-climate-change/>

THOUSANDS OF GERMAN TEENS JOIN THUNBERG’S CLIMATE FIGHT

AFP March 30, 2019

BERLIN: Thousands of German youths went on strike from school on Friday, joining Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg who has taken her protest against climate change to Berlin.

Armed with homemade posters bearing slogans like “It’s getting hot in here” or “Our house is on fire” or “You’re never too small to make a difference”, the teenagers packed into a park in central Berlin to sound the alarm about global warming.

From the park in front of the economy ministry, they were to march to Brandenburg Gate, where Thunberg is due to address the crowd. Police said they have dispatched 300 officers to the protest which is expected to draw around 15,000 people.

“We’re going to continue skipping classes every Friday because we can’t keep going like that with the climate. We have to pull the emergency brakes,” vowed Franziska Wessel, one of the organisers of the protests in Berlin. Since December, teenagers across Germany inspired by the 16-year-old Thunberg’s climate fight have been marching weekly instead of sitting in classes.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/450635-thousands-of-german-teens-join-thunberg-s-climate-fight>

OCEAN HEAT HIT RECORD HIGH LAST YEAR: UN

AFP Updated March 29, 2019

GENEVA: Ocean heat hit a record high in 2018, the United Nations said on Thursday, raising urgent new concerns about the threat global warming is posing to marine life. In its latest State of the Climate overview, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) reaffirmed that the last four years had been the hottest on record — figures previously announced in provisional drafts of the flagship report.

But the final version of the report highlighted worrying developments in other climate indicators beyond surface temperature.

“2018 saw new records for ocean heat content in the upper 700 metres,” a WMO statement said.

The agency said the UN had data for heat content in the upper 700 metres (2,290 feet) of the ocean dating back to 1955.

Last year also saw new heat records for the ocean’s upper 2,000 metres, but data for that range only goes back to 2005. The previous records for both ranges were set in 2017.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described the latest findings as “another strong wake-up call” for governments, cities and businesses to take action.

“It proves what we have been saying that climate change is moving faster than our efforts to address it,” he said at UN headquarters in New York.

The United Nations is hosting a major summit on September 23 that is billed as a last-chance opportunity for leaders to tackle climate change, which Guterres has described as the defining issue of our time.

The UN chief has urged world leaders to come to the summit with concrete plans, instead of speeches, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent over the next decade and to net zero by 2050.

Published in Dawn, March 29th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1472587/ocean-heat-hit-record-high-last-year-un>

COUNTRY RECEIVED 48 PERCENT ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL

RECORDER REPORT | MAR 28TH, 2019 | KARACHI

Over 48 percent of rainfall above normal the country received between Jan 1 and Mar 27, the Met Office said on Wednesday. During March 2019, the country received rainfall an above normal. In February 2019, Pakistan recorded the rainfall above normal by 61 percent. In January 2019 rainfall in the country was above normal, it said.

In the next 24 hours mainly dry weather is expected in the most parts of the country. But, parts of Sindh are likely to sizzle. A light rain-thunderstorm is expected in Malakand Division and Gilgit-Baltistan. "Continental air is prevailing over most parts of the country," it said. In the past 24 hours a dry weather prevailed over the most parts of the country with temperature ranging up to minus 2 degrees Celsius in Kalam and minus 1 in Astore.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/03/20190328459054/>

CALL FOR URBAN FORESTRY, MINI DAMS TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Tariq Naqash Updated March 25, 2019

MUZAFFARABAD: With the reduced water flow in the once roaring Neelum River hardly able to contribute to containing the temperature in Muzaffarabad in the coming summer, a conservationist has come up with some 'affordable and practicable' remedies to the consequences of climate change.

"We are not far away from the remedy, if we think and work together, without further loss of time, to combat climate change," said conservationist Ghulam Muhammad Butt, who has been serving in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Forests Department at senior positions since 1997.

He pointed out that the increased concentration of carbon dioxide, emitted by multiple sources, created a crust some 100-150 feet above, which prevented hot air from going beyond.

Trees act as air purifiers by absorbing carbon dioxide but sadly very few people realised to the core the importance of plantation of trees in as high a number as possible, he said.

Mr Butt said plantation of trees required soft soil surface which was rapidly decreasing in urban areas due to the construction of concrete buildings and roads.

"In such a scenario, we have to promote urban forestry by covering the concrete surface with lush green potted plants, as well as by doing plantation along both sides of roads, canals and riverbanks running through the cities and towns," he said.

In this regard, he said every household in urban areas should place potted plants on their rooftop and lintels, "for dramatically positive impact on the climate".

The government, he said, should not only task the forest department to establish strong and sustainable units of urban forestry but also ensure that each household received potted plants from those units at their doorsteps.

He told that there were certain species of plants especially recommended for urban forestry nurseries.

Mr Butt said soil erosion and land sliding posed great threat to soil mass and vegetation cover in Kashmir, which if not treated timely and properly could become a permanent factor of climate change.

The government should allocate a budget for soil bioengineering works for slope stabilization and soil conservation as environmental mitigation measures to treat critical slopes, specially the roadsides and hill slopes, he said.

Similarly, he said, the construction of mini dams for rainwater harvesting and water reservation is also a must to maintain hydraulic cycle.

“Since almost all of Muzaffarabad sits on slopes, rainwater naturally drains into [Neelum and Jhelum] rivers from all neighbourhoods and that water can be stored by constructing mini dams on empty space on either side of the rivers,” he said.

This would help save watercourses from encroachment, avert flood threats and maintain the temperature of the town, he said.

Mr Butt said the government should also expedite measures for proper and timely disposal of solid waste and garbage to control water and air pollution.

“When un-disposed of garbage accumulates in the riverbeds, it becomes a hurdle to rainwater harvesting and also reduces water in rivers and dams... This is a serious threat to normal hydraulic cycle and leads to climate change,” he said.

Published in Dawn, March 25th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1471749/call-for-urban-forestry-mini-dams-to-mitigate-climate-change-impact>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 18TH TO MARCH 24TH 2018

‘2019 WILL BE THE HOTTEST YEAR SINCE 2015’

By Rija Fatima Published: March 23, 2019

KARACHI : According to Chief Meteorologist of the Pakistan Meteorological Department Abdul Rashid, 2019 will be the hottest year since 2015. Temperatures will rise in the coming days, he said adding that May and June will be extremely hot. The chief meteorologist said that efforts were being made to control the rising temperatures in Pakistan.

He was speaking at a ceremony organised to celebrate the World Meteorological Day on Saturday at the Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics (IMG). The ceremony was titled ‘Sun, Earth and Climate’ and attended by Chief Meteorologist Abdul Rashed, IMG Director Sardar Sarfaraz, former chief meteorologist Tauseef Alam and former director Muhammad Salahuddin as the chief guest.

“We ourselves are responsible for many things including climate change. We have cut our forests in great numbers without thinking and it has severely affected the environment,” said Saluhuddin.

Sarfaraz explained that the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) was created on March 23, 1950 and the World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on March 23 to mark the occasion. Meteorological and marine organisations world over highlight their services and performance on this day, he said. And in the same vein, Saturday's ceremony was organised to commemorate the services of WMO and other related organisations around the world, he added.

The director said that the use of solar energy was rapidly increasing in the world and the Sun was the most important alternative source of energy. Life on Earth is indebted to the energy provided by the Sun which affected the weather, oceanic circulation and the water cycle, he said. The Sun also affects our mood, daily activities and routine, as well as arts like music and painting, added.

The Sun, which is at a distance of 150 million kilometres from the Earth, is the centre of our solar system, and its distance from the Earth keeps the temperature maintained at an adequate degree to sustain life on Earth, he explained.

The burning ball made up of luminous material has been generating weather patterns and the atmosphere on Earth for around 4.5 billion years, he said. The director informed the participants that planetary observations and surveys of the last 23 years have shown that there has not been any significant increase in the heat produced by the Sun and hence it could not be declared the cause of rising temperatures on Earth.

Addressing the ceremony, Chief Meteorologist Abdul Rasheed said that according to scientists, the temperature could increase by three to five degrees by the end of this century. Efforts were being made to control rising temperatures in Pakistan, he added. According to Rasheed, no increase could be seen in the number of tropical cyclones.

Rasheed informed that predictions by the Met office were being made through other instruments till their radar was made functional. "We strive for the best instruments to be brought here so the organisation can perform better," he said adding that observatories could not be established in five districts of Karachi but the organisation will be successful in the coming years. "We have installed rain gauges at the houses of our staff members so that rain in different areas could be measured," said Rasheed. According to Rasheed, Japan has given two more radars to the organisation and one will be installed in Karachi and the other in Islamabad. He informed that negotiations with the World Bank were underway for a soft loan of Rs10 billion for a new project. He said that a radar was to be installed in Sukkur as well and although the resources at Pakistan's disposal were limited, the organisation was working towards development.

An exhibition showcasing instruments of measuring temperature, atmosphere, earthquakes and the amount of water was on display in three rooms. The retired director, Salahuddin, cut the ribbon and inaugurated the exhibition later. The exhibition named 'Sun, Earth and Climate' will continue till tomorrow (Monday).

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1935860/1-harshest-summer-cards-met-office-warns-heatwave-karachi/>

PM AIMS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE BY PLANTING TREES ON STATE LAND

Reuters Updated March 22, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is aiming to fight climate change and pollution by planting trees on government land clawed back from politically connected landlords who have illegally profited from it for years.

Last month, Mr Khan inaugurated the first nature reserve and wildlife park on such reclaimed land at Balloki Headworks on the River Ravi in Nankana Sahib district, about an hour's drive from Lahore.

On Feb 9, he planted the first of 652,500 saplings, mainly local species, to be put in by April on 1,500 acres (607 hectares) which had previously been turned into farm fields.

The prime minister has pledged that 10 billion trees will be planted across the country over the next five years. He hopes to scale up the success of the "Billion Tree Tsunami" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where his party, which runs the province, has been protecting existing forests and planting new trees since 2013.

His climate change adviser, Malik Amin Aslam, said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa push had won out against the timber mafia groups responsible for illegal logging in an area with abundant natural forests, which suck planet-warming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it.

"Now we want to succeed with the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami by taking on the land mafia in Punjab which does not have many surviving forests," Mr Aslam added.

In the Balloki Nature Reserve, which will soon have legal protection, a forest will be planted on 1,500 acres and a wildlife sanctuary with hog deer and partridge established on about 1,000 acres.

The British built the headworks there in 1906 to provide irrigation water to farmland in nearby districts.

But in the last 20 years, the state-owned land was grabbed by powerful locals, including National Assembly members from all major political parties, Mr Aslam said.

Water volumes in the River Ravi has shrunk over the years, due to increasing demand for irrigation from a growing population.

Since the early 2000s, landlords and politicians began turning areas previously set aside for river flooding into fields, while the Irrigation Department turned a blind eye, Mr Aslam said.

Almost 2,500 acres were planted with crops such as rice and sugarcane, bringing in an estimated income of almost Rs100 million per year to those who had parcelled up the land.

The illegal takeover of government-owned floodplains was quite widespread in Punjab and Sindh, said Hammad Naqi Khan, CEO of WWF-Pakistan.

In many cases there are influential politicians behind it who take over the land and give it to tenants to farm, he said.

Published in Dawn, March 22nd, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1471141/pm-aims-to-fight-climate-change-by-planting-trees-on-state-land>

SENATE BODY TOLD SEA INTRUSION COULD WREAK HAVOC IN FUTURE

Imran Ayub Updated March 21, 2019

KARACHI: Echoing warning of ‘super flood’ by the National Assembly’s standing committee, Senate’s Standing Committee on Science and Technology cautioned on Wednesday that if sea intrusion was not stopped it could wreak havoc in coming decades as one-third of the area of Badin and Thatta districts had already been inundated by seawater.

The warning came during a meeting of the Senate’s standing committee held at the National Institute of Oceanography. Senator Mushtaq Ahmad chaired the meeting.

“The sea intrusion has significantly altered the geography of Badin and Thatta as one-third of the territorial area of the districts has been inundated by seawater,” said a statement issued after the meeting.

“The committee was briefed by experts that sea intrusion has caused drastic ecological disturbances which, if not [addressed], could wreak havoc in coming decades. The coastal area has become highly vulnerable to wind patterns because of eradication of mangroves which act as a natural barrier between the sea and land,” it said.

The fast emerging repercussions of climate change have raised serious challenges before the government as it needs to fight at several fronts apart from the sea intrusion to save agricultural economy of the country and natural resources.

Only on Tuesday, senior government officials informed the National Assembly’s standing committee that the chances of a big flood were relatively higher this year due to higher than normal snow deposits on mountains and catchment areas of major rivers.

The committee was briefed in detail about sea intrusion and fast disappearance of mangroves from coastal areas and called for immediate measures before it was too late. It urged all institutions concerned to make concerted efforts to take the challenge head on, it said.

“The chairman of the committee has called for taking into confidence all the departments concerned, that is, ministry of climate change, provincial irrigation department, flood forecasting department and coastal development authority over the hazards of sea intrusion and climate change in the next meeting,” said the statement.

“A comprehensive report along with the committee’s recommendation will soon be sent to the federal government for implementation in order to cope with the menace,” it said.

Published in Dawn, March 21st, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1470843/senate-body-told-sea-intrusion-could-wreak-havoc-in-future>

SPEAKERS FOR IMPROVING WATERSHED PRACTICES IN SOUTH ASIA

RECORDER REPORT | MAR 20TH, 2019 | ISLAMABAD

Speakers at a seminar have stressed the need for implementing and improving watershed practices in South Asia to effectively deal with climate change associated risk.

Speaking at an event titled 'Improving Skills on Sustainable Watershed Management practices in South Asia,' organised by Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), they said Pakistan is situated in the worst climate change zone and has been ranked among the top ten countries at risk to climate change. They said sustainable watershed management brings the management of water, land, crops and energy together for sustainable agriculture and improved livelihood of watershed communities.

The main objective of the project is capacity building of professionals on improved site specific technologies for promoting sustainable watersheds according to climate change scenarios of Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

PARC chairman Dr Munir Ahmed speaking on the occasion welcomed all the guests from Nepal and Sri Lanka and said workshop on sustainable watershed management practices in South Asia will be a source of effective skill development on improved watershed management practices and strengthening regional linkages, especially with Nepal and Sri Lanka.

He said the project is focused on sustainable watershed management practices which will ultimately increase the farming community resilience to climate change through stimulated adoption of improved practices. He also appreciated the international participants from Nepal and Sri Lanka for their interest in sustainable watershed management interventions and Asia Pacific Network (APN), Japan, for providing Pakistan with financial resources for this important project. The PARC chairman also added that this project has provided an opportunity for strengthening linkages and further avenue of research collaboration among the three South Asian countries and donor country Japan.

While addressing to the participants, National Agriculture Research Council (NARC) DG Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali said Pakistan is fast becoming a water-scarce country owing to various reasons such as climate change induced risks, improper water management at all levels, rapid population growth rate and urbanisation.

The PARC being an apex agricultural research and development (R&D) body of Pakistan fully realises the significance of technological advancements in water sector for improved land and water productivity as well as human resource development for effective utilisation of such technologies. He further added that PARC has envisaged both technological demonstrations to improve overall water productivity, watershed sustainability and more importantly on human resource development aspect to make efficient use of advanced water-smart technologies. He also expressed that climate change as well as degradation of natural resources is a regional issue which can be more effectively addressed through strengthening cooperation, linkages and research collaborations among the regional countries, especially Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Japan.

Project leader of Climate Energy and Water Research Institute (CEWRI), NARC, Dr Ghani Akbar presented project overview and its achievements.

The distinguished delegates including Sewa Lamsal, envoy of Nepal, Noordeen Mohamed Shaheid, Sri Lankan envoy, Madan Lall Shrestha from Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), and Dr SHSA De Silva from Natural Resources Management Centre, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka, also addressee on the occasion and expressed their views on the objectives and outcomes of the project.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/03/20190320456915/>

RAW MATERIALS BEHIND HALF OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS: UN

RECORDER REPORT | MAR 18TH, 2019 | NAIROBI

Extracting and processing materials, fuel and food contributes as much as half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, the UN said Tuesday, as experts gathered in Kenya to find ways to rein in exploding global consumption. Using dozens of data sources, the authors of a major new report presented lawmakers and businesses with a stark choice: drastically reform the global economy to get more from less, or risk the collapse of global infrastructure. With countries already committed under the Paris climate deal to curb emissions to fend off the worst impacts of global warming, experts said there was little hope of meeting that goal without an “urgent and systemic transformation” in how we use Earth's resources.

The Global Resources Outlook 2019 said that worldwide consumption of basic commodities such as water, minerals and fossil fuels had tripled since 1970.

With high-population nations such as China and India rapidly expanding their economies, the team behind the report called for a drastic overhaul in how that growth is fed.

“Nobody is claiming that the countries which are on the lower level of development should not have the right to develop,” said Janez Potocnik, co-chair of the International Resource Panel. “The question is, is it possible to do it differently to how we have done it, with fewer consequences than we see today?”

The report paints a grim picture of relentless demand for resources as the global population ticks towards eight billion people. The use of climate-warming fossil fuels has increased worldwide from 6 billion tonnes in 1970 to 15 billion tonnes in 2017 despite decades of efforts to steer nations towards greener energy. Water use for agriculture and industry outstripped population growth in the second half of the 20th Century. In 2017, 3,900 km³ of water was withdrawn for commercial purposes – 70 percent of which went to farming. “The bad use of natural resources has a big impact on our quality of life and environment,” said Bruno Orbele, Swiss former environment minister and one of the report's co-authors. In line with most economic measurements, the study found that per capita consumption of raw materials in high-income nations was more than double the global average.

Richer nations use 27.1 tonnes of raw material per person per year, compared to just two tonnes a head in low income countries. The “Towards Sustainability” scenario boosts policy measures to slow the growth of resource use, leading to reduced pressure on food and water supplies and boosting global economic growth by 8 percent. Conversely, the “Historical Trends” projection – which assumes a business-as-usual approach to resource use – would see greenhouse gas emissions shoot up 43 percent by 2060.

The corresponding agricultural pressure to feed a global population expected to tip 10 billion by mid-century would see land given over to agriculture increase by 20 percent, reducing forest cover by 10 percent and other habitat such as grasslands and savannah by a fifth. Such a trajectory would shatter any remaining chance mankind has of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit), as countries committed to achieving in the landmark 2015 Paris accord. “The way we are currently organised, it isn’t simply enough,” said Potocnik.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/03/20190318456250/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 11TH TO MARCH 17TH 2019

COUNTRY RECEIVED 72 PERCENT MORE RAINS THAN NORMAL: MET OFFICE

RECORDER REPORT | MAR 16TH, 2019 | KARACHI

The Met Office (MO) on Friday said that the country received 72 percent accumulatively more rains than the normal between Jan 1 and Jan 15, 2019. Nearly all provinces also recorded individually above normal rainfall over the period. Over the last 15 days between Mar 1 and Mar 15, 2019, the country received above normal rainfall as well. However, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir received below and close to normal rainfall respectively while the four provinces accumulated normal rainfall over the last past 15 days.

In February 2019, country rainfall was above normal by 61 percent and above normal over all provinces. In January 2019 rainfall was above normal over the country as well as over Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh but below usual over Balochistan. In the next 24 hours mainly cold and dry weather is expected in the most parts of the country with a light rain at a few places in Quetta division. “Continental air is prevailing over most parts of the country,” the Met said.

Over the past 24 hours weather remained cold and dry in the most parts of the country with an isolated, rain-thunderstorm with snowfalls over the hills accompanied by gusty winds in Malakand, Hazara and Rawalpindi divisions and Kashmir. Maximum rainfall was recorded in Malamjabba 11mm, Murree 5mm, Kakul 4mm and Rawalakot, Garhidupatta and Chakwal 3mm, each. Malamjabba received 3 inches of snow and Murree 2. Kalam witnessed minus 7 degrees Celsius, Parachinar minus 4, Malamjabba, and Astore minus 3, each, Gupis and Bagrote minus 2, each and Hunza and Murree minus 1, each over the past 24 hours.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/03/20190316455764/>

FIRST-EVER ISLAMIC DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE INKED

RECORDER REPORT | MAR 15TH, 2019 | LAHORE

With a view to raise awareness among the general public about threats associated with climate change, the first-ever Islamic declaration on climate change was signed at a ceremony held at Governor House Lahore.

Governor Punjab, Ch. Muhammad Sarwar was the chief guest while Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent, Dr. Saeed Elahi, Provincial Chairman PRC Punjab, Lt. Gen Khalid Maqbool (Retd), a large number of religious scholars from different sects and people from different professions were present.

The declaration was signed by Governor Punjab, Muhammad Sarwar, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent, Dr. Saeed Elahi, Provincial Chairman PRC Punjab Lt-Gen. Khalid Maqbool (Retd), and religious scholars from different sects.

While addressing the ceremony, the governor said that the priority remains to enhance climate change resilience by building adaptive capacity and the most imperative is to launch awareness drives for behavioural change. He further said that role of religious scholars in spreading awareness about climate change during Juma sermons is highly significant. He appreciated the initiative of Pakistan Red Crescent and pledged to provide assistance to Pakistan Red Crescent.

Dr. Saeed Elahi said that air pollution is currently the leading environmental cause of premature death. He sought cooperation of religious scholars to spread awareness among public about how to tackle the issue of climate change.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/03/20190315455505/>

‘AIR POLLUTION DEATHS ARE DOUBLE EARLIER ESTIMATES’

By AFP Published: March 12, 2019

PARIS: Air pollution causes 790,000 premature deaths every year in Europe and 8.8 million worldwide, more than doubling recent assessments, according to a study released Monday.

Between 40 and 80 per cent of those excess deaths are caused by heart attacks, strokes and other types of cardiovascular disease underestimated up to now as a driver of smog-related mortality, researchers reported.

On average, a toxic cocktail of pollutants from vehicles, industry and agriculture shortens the lives of those who die prematurely by 2.2 years, they calculated.

“This means that air pollution causes more extra deaths a year than tobacco smoking, which the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates was responsible for an extra 7.2 million deaths in 2015,” said senior author Thomas Munzel, a professor at the University Medical Centre Mainz in Germany.

Small and larger particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and ozone (O₃) have likewise been linked to drops in cognitive performance, labour productivity and educational outcomes.

The new study, published in the European Heart Journal, focused on Europe, but the updated statistical methods were also applied to the rest of the world.

“The revised number for China is 2.8 million deaths per year,” more than two-and-a-half times current estimates, lead author Jos Lelieveld, a researcher at the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany, told AFP by email.

Findings for non-European countries will be published separately, he said.

The scientists applied the new Global Exposure Mortality Model to a much-expanded epidemiological database — with updated figures for population density, age, disease risk factors, causes of death — to simulate the way in which natural and man-made chemicals interacts with the atmosphere, itself composed of gases.

By far, most deaths were attributed to microscopic particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter, known as PM_{2.5}.

By comparison, the average human hair is 60-to-90 microns thick.

“New data has become available for fine particulate matter indicating that the hazardous health impact of PM_{2.5} are much larger than assumed previously,” said Lelieveld.

The WHO has recommended that the density in the air of these dangerous microscopic particles should not exceed, on average, 10 microgrammes per cubic metre (35 mcg/m³) per year.

European Union standards are far more lax: 25 mcg/m³. But even at this level, several European countries regularly exceed this limit.

“The WHO standards over the last decades have become stricter,” said European Environment Agency executive director Hans Bruyninckx, who was not involved in the study.

“We used to speak primarily about carcinogenic effects, or immediate impacts on the respiratory system,” he told AFP. “But now we understand the link with cardio issues, brain related issues, and some reproductive issues.”

Worldwide, the study found that air pollution causes an extra 120 deaths per year per 100,000 people.

In Europe, despite more stringent pollution controls than in most other regions, the figure is higher — 133 deaths per 100,000 people.

“This is explained by the combination of poor air quality and dense population, which leads to exposure that is among the highest in the world,” said lead author Jos Lelieveld, a researcher at the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry, also in Mainz.

Even steeper rates of excess death in eastern Europe — over 200 per year per 100,000 people, for example, in Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania — were attributed to less advanced health care.

“Since most particulate matter and other air pollutants in Europe come from the burning of fossil fuels, we need to urgently switch to other sources for generating energy,” said Lelieveld.

The 2017 Global Burden of Diseases study found that PM2.2.5 and ozone pollution caused some 4.5 million deaths in 2015, while European Environment Agency estimates, also based on 2015 data, calculated 422,000 premature deaths — due to all forms of air pollution — in the European Union.

The new study “suggests earlier models underestimated the cardiovascular risk associated with air pollution, and we tend to agree,” said Holly Shiels, a researcher in the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Manchester.

“The call for reassessment of current UK and EU air quality regulations seem highly warranted.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1927937/3-air-pollution-deaths-double-earlier-estimates/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 4TH TO MARCH 10TH 2019

NA PANEL CLEARS RS16.6B BUDGET FOR CLIMATE MINISTRY

By Shabbir Hussain Published: March 7, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Climate Change has unanimously approved recommendations for allocating Rs16.613 billion for seven ongoing and new projects, including Prime Minister Imran Khan’s 10 Billion Tree Tsunami, in the budget for the fiscal year 2019-20.

This was approved in the committee meeting chaired by MNA Munza Hasan.

As part of its budgetary proposals, the ministry of climate change had proposed to allocate Rs14 billion for forestry under the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Project while Rs.1.6 billion had been allocated for the protection of wildlife under the programme.

A further Rs280.6 million had been allocated for the conservation and promotion of forests under the Green Pakistan Programme, while Rs120.7 million had been set aside for wildlife protection under the programme.

Some Rs20.4 million had been allocated for a survey by the Geological Survey of Pakistan for the protection and preservation of endangered wildlife,

Moreover, Rs10.6 million had been allocated for the establishment of the climate resilient urban human settlement unit.

During the meeting, State Minister for Climate Change Zartaj Gul said that their government was working on a massive scale to preserve and protect forests and wildlife.

She further said that the federal government intends to take over control of the Islamabad zoo soon, arguing that the ministry can better manage the Margharzar zoo, adding that the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board already operated under her ministry.

Climate Change secretary told the committee that the billion tree tsunami project launched in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) under the previous term of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had improved rain there by a percentage point.

He added the government was working on a comprehensive tourism policy while taking provinces on board, adding that the policy was expected to be ready by the mid of 2019 after which five eco-tourism resorts will be created across the country.

In the meeting, the departments and subsidiaries of the ministry including the Zoological Survey of Pakistan, the Institute for Protection Environment, the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, and the Global Change Impact Study Centres gave detailed briefing regarding their goals, importance and nature of work.

In the past two years, the Pakistan-Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applications and Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) of some 360 projects, including new highways, high-rises, housing societies, factories, compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and fuel pumps in Islamabad

Around 49 project applications were rejected during this period.

According to the documents available with Daily Express, the EPA received some 86 and 114 (EIA) and (IEE) applications respectively from different government and private organizations for construction of different projects.

The documents added that of the 143 IEE applications, the EPA approved some 51 applications while 19 were under consideration whereas 15 were rejected.

Similarly, the EPA in its initial environmental review had approved some 91 EIA applications while 22 applications were under observation and a further 27 have been rejected.

The EPA received around 136 applications for the opening of CNG stations which were all approved. Moreover, 62 out of 99 applications to open fuel pumps were approved while 10 are under consideration and seven were rejected by the department.

An official of EPA said that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) topped the list of project initiators for which EIA and IEE applications were rejected. Most of these projects, the official said, were supposed to be built in or around the Margalla Hills National Park.

He added that CDA's EIA and IEE applications to construct an underpass near Zero Point were also rejected because numerous old trees were likely to be cut down for the construction of the project.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 7th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1924547/1-na-panel-clears-rs16-6b-budget-climate-ministry/>

*NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 25TH TO MARCH
3RD 2019*

EXPERTS CALL FOR MEASURES TO CONSERVE SHARKS IN NORTH INDIAN OCEAN

By Our Correspondent Published: February 27, 2019

KARACHI: Regional collaboration, research, monitoring and sustainable tourism need to be promoted to conserve the shark species in Northern Indian Ocean (NIO). The population of many shark species are declining due to unsustainable fishing practices.

This was stated by speakers on the first day of three-day workshop on ‘Shark Conservation in the Northern Indian Ocean’ organised by World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) at a local hotel in Karachi.

They urged that National Plan of Action (NPOA) and Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) need to be developed in line with the Food and Agriculture Organization’s International Plan of Action (IPOA) and should be based on robust scientific data. Such instruments should be formulated based on comprehensive consultation process with all stakeholders.

They discussed that NPOA and RPOA should focus on conservation and management of sharks with particular emphasis on improving species-specific landings and other data, such as on species’ movements. This plan will help underline the status of sharks and rays in the region and articulate realistic actions for by-catch mitigation, they said.

Sindh Environment and Coastal Development Minister Muhammad Taimur Talpur said that the Sindh government would take all possible efforts to conserve the dwindling population of sharks in Pakistani waters and support such steps at national and regional level. He deplored that many shark species have started vanishing from Pakistani waters due to various threats. “We need to stop illegal catch of sharks and introduce sustainable fishing practices,” he said.

WWF Shark Leader Andy Cornish shared that despite international concerns about the over exploitation of sharks and rays 20 years ago, the latest estimates show that now 25% are threatened with extinction. He shared that international shark experts have reached the conclusion that lack of species specific data and reluctance to set science-based catch limits are the key challenges in this regard. “This requires immediate corrective measures and close regional collaboration,” he said.

WWF-Pakistan Conservation Director Dr Babar Khan said that sharks are often termed as fearful marine animals, however, in reality they have much more to fear from us. It was because of our actions that many shark species are on the verge of extinction, he said. He also said that recent report by International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Group shows that one-third of open-ocean shark species were in danger of extinction in the next few decades while, many others have had population declines of over 90% in the last few decades. “We need to control and eventually stop unsustainable shark fishing by putting a ban on shark fin soup or implement by-catch reduction policies,” he said.

Muhammad Moazzam Khan said that it was high time that Pakistan develop a national plan of action and also contribute to regional plan of action for shark conservation. He said that 144 species of sharks and rays have been found in Pakistani waters and added that WWF-Pakistan was working in close collaboration with provincial fisheries departments to help promulgate legislation for protection of sharks, mobulids, guitarfishes and other endangered and threatened species. “Under its Observer

Programme, WWF-Pakistan has safely released a number of elasmobranchs including 98 whale sharks, 79 mobulids and nine rays', he said.

Published in The Express Tribune, February 27th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1918907/1-experts-call-measures-protect-sharks-north-indian-ocean/>

GLOBAL WARMING IMPERILS CLOUDS THAT DETER HOthouse EARTH

AFP February 26, 2019

PARIS: Marine clouds that protect us from hothouse Earth conditions by reflecting sunlight back into space could break up and vanish if CO₂ in the atmosphere triples, researchers warned Monday.

“Our results show that there are dangerous climate change thresholds of which we were unaware,” Tapio Schneider, a scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California and lead author of a study detailing the findings, told AFP.

So-called stratocumulus clouds cover about 20 percent of subtropical oceans, mostly near western seaboard such as the coasts of California, Mexico and Peru. “When they disappear, Earth warms dramatically, by about eight degrees Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit) — in addition to the global warming that comes from enhanced greenhouse concentrations alone,” according to the study. A temperature increase of that magnitude would melt polar ice and lift sea levels tens of metres.

The last time the planet was that hot, some 50 million years ago during the Eocene Epoch, crocodiles roamed the Arctic. Even half that much warming would overwhelm humanity’s capacity to adapt, scientists say.

A barely one-degree increase since the mid-19th century — mostly in the last 50 years — has been enough to worsen heatwaves, droughts, and flooding, along with cyclones engorged by rising seas.

The 2015 Paris climate treaty enjoins nations to cap the rise in temperatures at “well below” 2C. A major UN report published in October, however, showed that even a 2C hike over the preindustrial benchmark will have dire impacts, such as the demise of shallow-water coral reefs that sustain a quarter of marine biodiversity.

Since manmade global warming began, CO₂ concentration in the air has gone up nearly 45 percent, from 285 to 410 parts per million (ppm). Using an innovative approach to modelling the behaviour of the stratus clouds, Schneider and his colleagues calculated that protective cloud cover could break up if CO₂ levels reached 1200 ppm, though the “tipping point” might be somewhat higher.

Passing that threshold — three times present levels — may not be as far-fetched as it seems, scientists caution. Even after 30 years of dire warnings about the consequences of climate change, global greenhouse gas emissions are still climbing year-on-year.

At current rates of CO₂ pollution — known as the “business as usual” scenario — “the 1200 ppm value will be crossed by 2104,” Malte Meinshausen, director of the Climate and Energy College at the University of Melbourne, told AFP, citing a study to be published later this year.

A second worry is that manmade global warming may trigger the release of CO₂ and methane — another powerful greenhouse gas — from natural sources such as permafrost, overwhelming our efforts to reduce emissions.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/437178-global-warming-imperils-clouds-that-deter-hothouse-earth>

CLIMATE CHANGE: TIME TO PANIC?

By Shahid Javed Burki Published: February 25, 2019

The question posed above is about climate change; the age of climate panic is here wrote The New York Times in a special report on the subject of what mankind faced if it did not urgently address the issue of global warming.

The heatwave in 2018 that produced the fourth hottest year in the history of the United States killed dozens from Quebec in Canada to Japan. There were the most destructive wildfires in the Californian history that turned more than a million acres to ash. Pacific hurricanes forced three million in China to flee and wiped away almost all of Hawaii's East Island.

There are many other climate-related stories from around the world. We are experiencing a world that has already warmed one degree Celsius since the late 1800s when records began to be kept.

Scientists have determined that we are adding Earth-warming carbon dioxide to the atmosphere at a rate faster than any other point in history since the beginning of industrialisation.

Scientists no longer quarrel about their findings. In October 2018, the United Nations Panel on Climate Change issued what has come to be called the 'Doomsday' report — a deafening, piercing smoke alarm going off in the kitchen, as one United Nations official described the document — outlining climate consequences at 1.5 and two degrees Celsius of warming.

They have also begun to examine the consequences of temperatures moving beyond three to four degrees Celsius. In the latter case, the world as we know today would cease to exist. There is no one in the already crowded Democratic field for the presidential poll of 2020 in America who does not endorse an agenda concerning climate change. Panic has hit the Democrats in the United States. Panic has also hit the American youth.

An initiative taken by Alexandria Villasenor, a 13-year-old girl from New York has grown into a global movement. She is one of a group of young, mostly female, activists behind the 'School Strike 4 Climate' campaign.

On March 15, with the support of some of the world's biggest environmental organisations, tens of thousands of kids in at least two dozen countries and possibly 30 states in the United States plan to skip school, come out in the streets and march, and demand action.

"Their demands are uncompromising: Nations must commit to cutting fossil fuel emissions in half in the next 10 years to avoid catastrophic global warming," wrote The Washington Post in a front-page coverage of the movement. "And their message is firm: Kids are done waiting for adults to save their world." Said Villasenor: "My generation is really upset.

The deal struck at COP24, the United Nations climate meeting in December 2018, was insufficient. We are not going to let them hand us down a broken planet."

A United Nations report produced to help the COP24 delegates address the issues governments faced found that humanity has until 2030 to achieve rapid and far-reaching transformation of society if it wishes to avoid the dire environmental consequences of warming 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. The story is well known.

Humans keep emitting greenhouse gases, temperatures keep increasing, and the outlook for the future keeps growing more and more bleak. Yet the agreement reached in December's climate gathering by the conferees fell far short of what scientists say is urgently required.

Government action will only come if there is willingness on the part of policymakers. That may have begun to happen in the United States, the country that under Donald Trump has retreated a great distance. There was a dramatic change in the United States' political climate as a result of the mid-term elections of November 2018.

In early February 2019 Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez sponsored the Green New Deal that has the support of four leading Democratic contenders for the presidency. The ideas they laid out aspired to power the US economy with 100 per cent renewable energy within 12 years and called for "a job guarantee programme to assure a living wage to every person who wants one," "basic incomes programmes" and "universal healthcare," financed, at least in part, by higher taxes on the wealthy.

But some on the left of the political spectrum were not supportive of the Green New Deal agenda. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic Speaker of the House, waved off the initiative as impractical. But those who supported the effort were of the view that it had not been fully explained by its sponsors.

For instance, Jedediah Britton-Purdy, the author of *After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene*, made a case for the Green New Deal's approach. "In the 21st century environmental policy is economic policy. Keeping the two separate isn't a feat of intellectual discipline. It is an anachronism," he wrote in a newspaper article. He argued that carbon emissions are basically about infrastructure.

For every human being, there are about 1,000 tonnes of built environment: roads, office buildings, power plants, cars, trains and trucks. Human beings have created an artificial world which cannot survive unless far-reaching policies are adopted.

What role should Pakistan play in the renewed effort to address the problem posed by climate change? The government headed by Imran Khan should operate at three different levels — local, regional and international. At the local level there is an urgent need to improve the quality of air in the country's large cities.

This will require the removal of brick kilns that burn soft coal; the banning of burning of crop residue after harvests; and strict regulation of motor vehicles, including rickshaws, pertaining to the fuels they use.

At the regional level, Prime Minister Imran Khan should seriously consider convening a conference involving all the countries that receive river waters from the Himalayas.

This would mean inviting Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal to a well-prepared regional policy document to discuss and take action on.

This effort would contribute to Pakistan playing a major role at the international level. Imran Khan has the name recognition and charisma to pull off such an initiative.

Published in The Express Tribune, February 25th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1917620/6-climate-change-time-panic/>

April 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1ST TO APRIL 7TH 2019

OCEAN HEAT HITS RECORD HIGH: UN

RECORDER REPORT | APR 1ST, 2019 | GENEVA

Ocean heat hit a record high in 2018, the United Nations said on Thursday, raising urgent new concerns about the threat global warming is posing to marine life. In its latest State of the Climate overview, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reaffirmed that the last four years had been the hottest on record – figures previously announced in provisional drafts of the flagship report. But the final version of the report highlighted worrying developments in other climate indicators beyond surface temperature.

“2018 saw new records for ocean heat content in the upper 700 metres,” a WMO statement said. The agency said the UN had data for heat content in the upper 700 metres (2,290 feet) of the ocean dating back to 1955. Last year also saw new heat records for the ocean’s upper 2,000 metres, but data for that range only goes back to 2005. The previous records for both ranges were set in 2017.

About 93 percent of excess heat – trapped around the Earth by greenhouse gases that come from the burning of fossil fuels – accumulates in the world’s oceans. Research published earlier this year in the US journal Science showed that warming in the oceans is on pace with measurements of rising air temperature.

Some models predict the temperature of the top 2,000 metres of world’s oceans will rise nearly 0.8 degrees Celsius by the end of the century if nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to Science. Oceans are also not warming evenly across the planet. The WMO report said the highest rates of ocean warming are occurring in the southern ocean, where warming has also reached the deepest layers.

This could result in sea levels being substantially different in different places, experts have previously said. The thermal expansion – water swelling as it warms – is expected to raise sea levels 12 inches (30 centimetres), above any sea level rise from melting glaciers and ice sheets, according to the research published in Science.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who launched the WMO report in New York, said its findings confirmed “the urgency of climate action”. “There is no longer any time for delay,” he warned, stressing that nations needed to come to his Climate Action Summit in September with “concrete, realistic plans” to reduce emissions.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/04/20190401460292/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 8TH TO APRIL 14TH 2019

ALASKA RELIES ON ICE. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT CAN'T BE TRUSTED?

By Julia O'Malley, April 10, 2019

ANCHORAGE — It's not springtime now in Alaska, it's "break-up" — the end of safe travel on ice.

And in an era of climate change, break-up has been coming too soon, especially this year. The ice has become unpredictable, creating new, sometimes deadly hazards and a host of practical problems that disrupt the rhythms of everyday life.

The ice roads that carry freight in winter and spring have been going soft prematurely. Hunters cannot ride safely to their spring camps. Sled-dog races have been canceled. People traveling on frozen rivers by A.T.V. or snowmobile are falling through; some have died. Rescuers trying to reach them have been stymied by thin ice.

Alaskans are not just accustomed to hard-frozen winters, they depend on them — for essential transportation, subsistence hunting, industry and recreation. Frozen rivers connect rural villages the way highways connect the rest of the country.

But Alaska is the fastest-warming state in America, heating up along with the rest of the Arctic at twice the global average rate, according to the Fourth National Climate Assessment. Springtime temperatures are averaging 2 to 5 degrees higher now than 50 years ago, and record highs were set across the state in March.

"I don't know anyone in Alaska who questions whether things have changed," said Brian Brettschneider, a climatologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "Everyone sees it. Everyone feels it."

Mark Leary is part of a team that builds an ice road each winter along 200 miles of the Kuskokwim River, connecting 13,000 people in small communities in a region of Southwest Alaska that lacks ordinary roads.

When the ice road is open, trucks can haul supplies to the villages, and people can drive to Bethel, the biggest town in the area, for shopping and medical appointments. School basketball teams can travel to away games without having to fly in small planes.

"The river is our highway," Mr. Leary said. "It's everything to us."

Later freeze-ups and earlier thaws over the last decade have kept the ice on the river from getting as thick as it once did, so his team has switched to using a lightweight plow that can safely clear thinner ice.

"The river is always teaching us," he said. "The more respectful and observant you are, the more you learn."

Mr. Leary, who is also a volunteer team leader with Bethel Search and Rescue, said poor ice quality was a persistent public safety concern. People drive snowmobiles or A.T.V.s over routes they have used for many years without thinking about the changing ice conditions, he said, and when people are drinking, they take more risks.

Five people have died falling through ice this spring in Mr. Leary's region alone, including two on March 31.

The effects of climate change are amplified in Alaska because the warming ocean holds less sea ice, according to Rick Thoman, a climate researcher at the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Ice reflects sunlight, he said, while open water absorbs it, warming the air above. Decreasing snow cover is having a similar effect on land, he added.

Many people in rural Alaska supplement their food supply by hunting and fishing. Charles Wright, who lives in Tanana, a village on the Yukon River about 100 miles west of Fairbanks, has hunted geese and trapped beaver with his family since he was a boy.

The family aims to make the annual 30-mile journey to their spring hunting camp by snowmobile in mid-April, Mr. Wright said, but this year the ice is too thin. So they now must wait for the rivers to clear, and then hunt by boat.

"We used to be able to predict the weather and know what time to go out and do certain things," Mr. Wright said.

He said he has had so many close calls snowmobiling on river ice that he wears a life jacket when he rides.

Vanishing sea ice is the issue for people in Kivalina, a finger-thin barrier island in the Chukchi Sea. Janet Mitchell, a former city administrator in Kivalina, said that when she was growing up, hunters would walk out on the sea ice to find bearded seals sunning themselves.

These days, though, stable sea ice rarely freezes all the way to the shore, Ms. Mitchell said, so "now we have to hunt in the open water." She said her nephews have learned to scan the sea from a boat for animals popping up in the waves.

Without sea ice to calm the water, Ms. Mitchell said, winter storms do more damage, eroding an island that is also shrinking because of rising sea levels. There has been talk of relocating her village to the mainland.

In Utqiagvik, the northernmost community in the United States, churches held services in late March to bless the crews who hunt bowhead whales, a vital food source for the community. Then the whalers began building a trail on the coastal sea ice between the village and the open water of the Arctic Ocean.

The ice looks decent this year, according to Frederick Brower, a fourth-generation whaling captain. But he said it was hard to find old ice left over from the previous winter, which used to be common. The migrating whales come north sooner when there is less sea ice, he said, so the villagers now hunt them two weeks earlier than they used to.

When they get a whale, the hunters haul it onto the ice, and scores of townspeople go out to the water's edge to help break the carcass down. That's when Mr. Brower worries.

"Not only are you concerned about ice thickness holding the bowhead," which can weigh 30 tons, he said. "It's when you get an influx of 300 people," plus their snowmobiles.

The streets of Anchorage are clear for biking and the crocuses are blooming weeks sooner than usual this spring. A few weeks ago, Paxson Woelber, who runs an outdoor recreation website, was helping

his girlfriend, Cori Graves, a photographer, with a bridalwear shoot out on the smooth, skater-friendly ice of Portage Lake south of the city when they had a serious scare.

A huge chunk of the Portage Glacier, seven stories high and 100 feet wide, broke off and fell into the lake, causing waves that rolled and heaved the ice where they were standing.

“We could see the swells coming,” Mr. Woelber said. “As they push up the ice, it kind of sprays water between the plates. The model was faced with the absurd prospect of fleeing the glacial calving event in a wedding dress.”

When the Bering Sea is frozen, he and other miners from Nome set up camp on the sea ice and dive beneath it to collect gold-bearing sediments. The ice usually stays solid until May, but in early March, while he was at a basketball game, he got the alarming news that it was breaking up.

He said that he and some colleagues dug their boat out of the snow, motored out to the ice raft where their camp was now adrift, and walked onto the ice to recover their equipment, only to see more slushy breaks open up between them and their boat. They couldn't get back.

The miners had to be rescued by helicopter; by then the current had pushed their ice raft five miles from shore. “Had no one called it in,” Mr. Rode said, “we would have been at the mercy of the sea.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/10/us/alaska-ice-melting.html>

HEATWAVE CENTRES PLANNED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter April 10, 2019

KARACHI: As many as 118 first response heatwave management centres will be set up across the city between May and June in anticipation of sizzling weather.

Informed sources told Dawn that participants in a high-level meeting presided over by city Commissioner Iftikhar Ali Shallwani decided to chalk out well-coordinated steps to save people from effects of the heatwave.

They said that it was decided in the meeting that 24 response centres would be set up in district South, 25 in Central, 19 in East, 19 in West, 15 in Malir and 25 in district Korangi.

The sources said that all deputy commissioners had been directed to prepare heatwave management plan in their respective districts and establish first response heatwave management centres.

Besides, they said, the meeting participants also decided to seek cooperation from Pakistan Disaster Management Authority, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, district municipal committees, provincial health department, police, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, K-Electric and other civic agencies to save people from heatstroke.

The sources said that it was also decided that K-Electric would not disconnect the electricity supply to consumers for non-payment of bills during the two months.

They said that essential articles such as towels, cold drinking water, ORS, ice and other first aid items would be available at the first response centres.

The sources said that the city administration also decided to seek assistance from different non-governmental organisations and ambulance services, including Aman Foundation and Edhi Foundation so that the affected people could be moved to hospital immediately.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1475066/heatwave-centres-planned-for-public-safety>

CITY ADMINISTRATION GEARS UP IN WAKE OF HEATWAVE FORECASTS

By Our Correspondent Published: April 10, 2019

KARACHI: The city administration has decided to establish 118 first response heatwave management centres in Karachi as part of arrangements to deal with heatstroke cases in the wake of forecasts for May and June. Karachi Commissioner Iftikhar Shalwani chaired a meeting at his office on Tuesday to review the plans for heatwave management. Deputy commissioners are to formulate a heat management action plan for their respective districts and set-up first response management centres in different areas.

There are to be 24 first response heatwave centres established in South district, 25 in Central district, 19 in East district, 10 in West district, 15 in Malir and 25 first response centres in Korangi district.

The meeting was informed that centres will also be established at 13 different hospitals across the city to deal with heatstroke cases. At Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, 50 beds have been reserved for the treatment of heatstroke patients.

Besides, the cooperation of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), district municipal corporations, health department, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), K-Electric (KE), police and other departments will also be sought to tackle heat conditions.

It was decided that KE will ensure uninterrupted power supply in the city during May and June and will take measures against power breakdowns and load-shedding. It was also stressed that the power utility will not disconnect supply to any subscriber in case of non-payment of bills during May and June.

PDMA Sindh Director General Salman Shah informed the meeting that his department would provide the necessary training to the staff deployed at the first response centres.

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<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1947053/1-city-administration-gears-wake-heatwave-forecasts/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 15TH TO APRIL 21ST 2019

LONDON CLIMATE PROTEST ARRESTS TOP 700

Agencies Updated April 21, 2019

LONDON: London police say more than 710 people have been arrested and some 28 have been charged since climate change protests began earlier this week in the British capital.

“As of 10am on Saturday ... more than 718 people have been arrested since Monday. Twenty-eight people have been charged,” London’s Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

The Extinction Rebellion protests started on Monday and have at times paralysed parts of London, with peaceful demonstrations at Waterloo Bridge, Oxford Circus and other key landmarks.

Demonstrators were continuing to block Waterloo Bridge in the city and the central Oxford Circus junction despite the removal by police of the pink sailing boat which had acted as a natural focal point for the movement.

The protests are organised by the campaign group Extinction Rebellion, which was established last year in Britain by academics and has become one of the world’s fastest-growing environmental movements.

Campaigners want governments to declare a climate and ecological emergency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2025, halt biodiversity loss and be led by new “citizens’ assemblies on climate and ecological justice”.

London police have taken a cautious approach rather than a massive show of force to remove the demonstrators, saying they respect the right to peaceful protest.

They still had to ask neighbouring forces for some 200 additional officers to help cope with the situation, and many officers had their weekend leaves cancelled.

Police have also been trying to confine the protests to one site in London, at Marble Arch on the corner of Hyde Park, but the protesters have ignored the threat of arrest and continued to block other sites.

The police have not said if or how they will clear the hundreds of demonstrators from other locations.

“We are trying our best to give the businesses a chance to return to ‘business as usual’,” police said. “One thing that is unusual about this demonstration is the willingness of those participating to be arrested and also their lack of resistance to the arrests.”

The large number of arrests has created a “logistical problem” for the police in terms of cell space and also the “wider criminal justice system”.

On Friday star Emma Thompson joined activists at Oxford Circus, at the heart of one of the capital’s most popular shopping districts, to read poetry praising Earth’s bounties.

Published in Dawn, April 21st, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1477468/london-climate-protest-arrests-top-700>

GOVT LIKELY TO BRING ‘COMPREHENSIVE PLAN’ FOR DROUGHT

By Irshad Ansari Published: April 21, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to introduce a comprehensive plan to deal with a possible drought like situation in the country. The plan will be discussed during the Tuesday meeting of the federal cabinet.

According to the document available with Daily Express, the meeting will take up a 16-point agenda. One of the agenda items is the Drought Plan 2019. The plan, expected to be approved, has been prepared by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to deal with a possible drought.

The cabinet will also examine recommendations for changing the mechanism to compile facts and figures regarding prices of different items to determine the percentage of inflation and to control inflation.

It will examine recommendations of a subcommittee headed by Defence Minister Pervez Khattak regarding a formula to determine increase in prices of commodities and control inflation.

According to the agenda, the meeting will approve a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to make Pakistan a member of the Belt and Road Initiative's tax administrator cooperation mechanism.

A report on implementation of the cabinet's earlier decision regarding the use of freight trains by government departments for the movement of items and equipment will be presented in the meeting.

After the examination of the report, a decision will be taken regarding use of freight trains to transport items and equipment of the government departments.

The federal cabinet will also review MoU for bilateral cooperation between the China international Development Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Planning and Development for forming the joint working group of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for social and economic development.

A summary for transferring the National Endowment Scholarship for Talent (NEST) from Ministry of Planning will also be examined. The meeting will also examine the cases of former members of the board of governors of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation.

The summary sent for the appointment of an officer on deputation on the post of member finance of the National Highway Authority (NHA) will also be examined. The meeting will also approve decisions taken on March 13 by the cabinet's committee on CPEC; the decisions taken by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on April 8 will also be endorsed.

The meeting will get a briefing on the revamping of the country's current educational system. A summary regarding procedural delays and loopholes in clemency appeals will also be examined.

The meeting will also examine a summary regarding appointments of 21-grade judicial members in appellate tribunals and Inland Revenue while the summary for repatriation of a judge of Peshawar banking court 1 will also be examined.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1955479/1-govt-likely-bring-comprehensive-plan-drought/>

EXPERTS WARN OF POSSIBLE HEAT WAVES IN SUMMER

KALBE ALI Published Apr 20, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Heat emergency is a new challenge for urban areas and all cities should start preparations to mitigate the impact if there is a severe heat wave, especially in Ramazan.

Speakers at a discussion session titled ‘Preparing communities and hospitals for heat waves – lessons learnt from Karachi’ called upon the authorities concerned as well as private hospitals to prepare for any emergency during the upcoming summer months due to possible heat waves.

The session was organised by Lead Pakistan in collaboration with Aga Khan University (AKU), Johns Hopkins University and Aman Foundation.

The speakers said temperature variations and severity of weather were becoming a regular occurrence due to climate change and Pakistan was a vulnerable country.

Experts, including medical practitioners, also called upon the provincial governments to spread heat-related awareness among the citizens as well as religious circles as a heat wave could arrive in Ramazan.

Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change Chairperson Senator Sitara Ayaz criticised the attitude including that of politicians for ignoring threats of climate change.

“The threats are there such as severe heat, faster melting of glaciers, unexpected heavy rainfall that cause flooding and even damage to agriculture sector,” she said.

Ms Ayaz said the whole region was facing threats of climate change and there was a need for cooperation between India, Pakistan and other countries of South Asia.

“But the condition is the same internally as we, parliamentarians, are busy all the time in petty politics, ignoring the greater threat to the citizens.”

Other speakers said 1,200 people died due to a heat wave in Karachi in 2015 and several other cities, including Sibi, Larkana, Lahore and Hyderabad, were equally vulnerable due to urbanisation.

Dr Junaid Razzak, professor of emergency medicine at Johns Hopkins University, said the mercury level was 5-7 degrees Centigrade higher in downtown during summers compared to suburbs.

“Besides, traffic signals are always 1-2 degrees higher than the temperature of the city. People walking in that area or on motorcycles are vulnerable to heat waves.”

He said the most vulnerable class included people at lower segment of social economic class, elderly, those suffering from diabetes, heart problems and asthma and they have to be extra careful in summers.

Dr Nadeemullah Khan, associate professor at AKU, said hospitals should not only prepare themselves in advance but their managements should also keep an eye on weather predictions too.

Zaheer Chand of Aman Foundation called for heat preparedness at the community level.

Published in Dawn, April 20th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1477240/experts-warn-of-possible-heat-waves-in-summer>

LONDON CLIMATE PROTESTS ENTER FOURTH DAY

RECORDER REPORT | APR 19TH, 2019 | LONDON

Climate change activists on Thursday brought parts of the British capital to a standstill in a fourth consecutive day of demonstrations that have so far led to more than 400 arrests. Hundreds of protesters continued to rally at several spots in central London, where they have blocked a bridge and major road junctions this week as part of a Europe-wide civil disobedience campaign over the issue.

The Metropolitan Police said, as of 0830 GMT on Thursday, that 428 people had been arrested since the protests began on Monday, with reports of further detentions during the day.

Meanwhile, a judge denied bail to three people who appeared in court charged with obstructing the transport system at financial hub Canary Wharf on Wednesday.

District judge Julia Newton ordered the trio, who allegedly glued themselves to a train, be held in custody until their next court appearance on May 16.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/04/20190419465787/>

PAKISTAN MUST LEARN FROM DEVELOPED WORLD'S CLIMATE MISTAKES

By By News Desk Published: April 19, 2019

The traditional capitalist development model of the western world has pushed the world into environmental chaos creating global climate change issues such as global warming and loss of biodiversity loss. Hence, there is a need for a paradigm shift, especially in the advanced capitalist economies to switch to the alternative 'eco-socialist' development model.

This was stated by Professor Dr Pritam Singh from the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies while delivering a special lecture on 'Sustainability implications of the spatial shift in global capitalism: An eco-socialist perspective'.

The lecture had been organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Thursday.

Dr Singh said there is evidence of a significant spatial shift taking place in global capitalism, especially from the relatively-less populated countries but with advanced capitalist economies of the developed world.

Even the massively populated countries of the developing world with emerging capitalist economies are looking to shift to more eco-friendly measures.

From 1980 to 2017, he said that there was a downward trend from developed economies in their share of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), such as the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany and Japan, whereas, there was an upward trend in the global share of GDP from developing emerging economies, such as Brazil, India and China.

He warned that further expansion and deepening of capitalism could bring unprecedented environmental and social destruction.

The proposed eco-socialism development perspective, which visualises a true eco-friendly economy and society, can be built only by replacing capitalism with a classless society, he remarked.

Dr Singh warned about the dire consequences and irreversible changes caused by climate change, especially if the global temperatures rose beyond the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030.

He painted a stark situation by stating that the world only had less than 11 years to take serious action to avert that tragedy or at least mitigate it to some degree.

“It is the collective responsibility of individual consumers, institutional practices, collective organisational initiatives, government targets and policies, and global agreements such as the Paris Agreement, to help mitigate the dire consequences of climate change,” he said.

In Pakistan’s context, he said that it should not blindly follow the model of the developed world.

He added that developing economies need to learn from the mistakes of the developed countries and should strive to build a self-sufficient economy.

To achieve sustainable development, he suggested that every individual take the responsibility of adopting environment-friendly and sustainable consumption behaviour.

SDPI Director Policy Dr Shafqat Munir, while moderating the session, said that the economic policies and development model of the developing economies, such as of Pakistan should be environmentally friendly.

“Without protecting the environment, we cannot achieve sustainable development,” he added.

Published in The Express Tribune, April 19th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1954183/1-pakistan-must-learn-developed-worlds-climate-mistakes/>

CLIMATE-CHANGE PROTESTERS SAY THEY WILL TARGET LONDON’S HEATHROW AIRPORT

Emily G Roe, David Milliken APRIL 18, 2019 / 8:57 PM

LONDON (Reuters) – The Extinction Rebellion group of climate change campaigners said it planned to hold a protest at London’s Heathrow Airport on Friday, opening a new front in its demonstrations that have caused transport snarl-ups in the British capital.

Extinction Rebellion has blocked several locations in central London in recent days after it staged a semi-nude protest in parliament earlier this month.

More than 500 people have been arrested this week and 10 charged so far, police said.

London’s police force said it had canceled some officers’ leave and was calling in assistance from other forces to deal with protesters who were causing “unacceptable” disruption.

Extinction Rebellion sent a message to media titled “Statement on the Extinction Rebellion Heathrow Action Tomorrow” but the body of the message did not give further protest details.

The group has called for non-violent civil disobedience to push the British government to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2025 and to stop what it says is a global climate crisis.

“If we don’t do something now it’s going to have a catastrophic effect,” said 23-year-old media student Fflur Harman, who had traveled from central England and spent the night at one central London protest site.

The pace of reduction in emissions called for by Extinction Rebellion is far faster than that urged by the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which last year recommended they be cut to zero on a global basis by 2050.

Britain has lowered net emissions by 42 percent since 1990, and currently aims to cut emissions by 80 percent by 2050. Government advisors will suggest new targets next month.

Heathrow said it was working with authorities to address any threat of protests which could disrupt the airport on one of the busiest travel days of the year as the Easter getaway begins.

“While we respect the right to peaceful protest and agree with the need to act on climate change, we don’t agree that passengers should have their well-earned Easter Break holiday plans with family and friends disrupted,” the airport said.

London’s Metropolitan Police said it had “strong plans in place that would enable it to deploy a significant number of officers to Heathrow and take firm action” if needed.

Interior minister Sajid Javid said he wanted police to “take a firm stance and use the full force of the law”.

However, police said they were limited in the action they could take as the protests were disruptive, rather than violent.

“The question really is can we arrest our way out of this issue, given there are several thousand people in London who are willing to be arrested,” Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Nick Ephgrave told broadcaster Sky News.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-protests-climate-change/climate-change-protesters-say-they-will-target-londons-heathrow-airport-idUSKCN1RU1XU>

STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSS SINDH’S DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

Faiza Ilyas Updated April 17, 2019

KARACHI: Stakeholders at a consultative meeting held on Tuesday discussed in detail a draft of the province’s first climate change policy and shared a number of suggestions that could help prepare a more focused and integrated policy.

The meeting, presided over by Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Nawabzada Mohammad Taimoor Talpur, was held at the old Sindh Assembly building.

Presenting an overview of the climate change policy draft prepared by Lead Pakistan with the support of the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa), senior environmentalist Shahid Lutfi said that climate change affected every field and required a multi-sectoral approach.

He emphasised the need for getting the latest update on global warming, its impact on life, environment and resources and moving towards adaptation and mitigation accordingly.

Pakistan, he pointed out, contributed very little to the overall greenhouse gas emissions but remained severely impacted by the negative effects of climate change.

“Being a predominantly agriculture economy and vulnerable to extreme weather conditions, Pakistan has a great challenge of protecting itself from the adverse impacts of climate change,” he said, while mentioning the challenges posed by climate change, including droughts, floods, sea intrusion, heatwaves and cyclones.

The draft, he said, was an effort to mainstream this important subject in infrastructure development and planning, particularly in the economically and socially vulnerable sectors of economy.

He also referred to international agreements requiring countries to make progress on climate change and sustainable development and said that there were many examples around the world which had proved that climate-compatible development was very much possible.

The presentation was followed by a discussion in which representatives of non-governmental organisations, environmentalists, government officials and academicians participated and highlighted gaps in the climate change policy draft.

Some participants were of the view that the draft contained old data and had missed out situation analysis as well as important sectors/areas, for instance, Ramsar sites, wetlands, health sector, biodiversity and forestry. It also lacked a strategy on its implementation mechanism, they said.

There was also an opinion that the geographical diversity Sindh boasted of required a region- or area-wise climate change strategy.

Seconding the opinion that the subject of climate change required an integrated approach, the minister said that the government would ensure that a comprehensive policy was prepared keeping in view the province’s high vulnerability to climate change.

“We understand that there are grey areas in the proposed climate change policy and that’s why we have called this consultative meeting,” he said, while directing the staff concerned to set up a subcommittee to rectify the draft and finalise it within two weeks.

Concluding the meeting, Sepa director general Naeem Ahmed Mughal thanked the participants for their feedback and said that this would help finalise an improved policy.

Published in Dawn, April 17th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1476540/stakeholders-discuss-sindhs-draft-climate-change-policy>

THOUSANDS BLOCK LONDON ROADS TO DEMAND ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Reuters Updated April 16, 2019

LONDON: Thousands of environmental activists paralysed parts of central London on Monday by blocking Marble Arch, Oxford Circus and Waterloo Bridge in a bid to force the government to do more to tackle climate change.

Under sunny skies, activists sang songs or held signs that read “There is no Planet B” and “Extinction is forever” at some of the capital’s most iconic locations. Roadblocks will continue night and day at each site and the demonstrators say the protests could last at least a week.

The protests are being led by the British climate group Extinction Rebellion and will involve demonstrations in 33 countries around the world over the coming days.

“I realised that signing petitions and writing letters was not going to be enough. Real action is needed,” said Diana McCann, 66, a retired wine trader from south London, holding a banner in the middle of a traffic-free road. “It’s like a world war. We have to go on to a war footing.” Extinction Rebellion, which generated headlines with a semi-nude protest in the House of Commons earlier this month, has warned its members that some of them could be arrested for taking part in non-violent civil disobedience.

The group is demanding the government declare a climate and ecological emergency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025 and create a citizens assembly of members of the public to lead on decisions to address climate change.

At the Shell building near the River Thames, two protesters scaled up scaffolding writing ‘Shell Knows!’ in red paint on the front of the building and three protesters glued their hands to the revolving doors at the entrance.

Activists said they smashed the glass of a revolving door and caused more than 6,000 pounds (\$7,900) worth of damage. At least one person was arrested by police for criminal damage.

At Oxford Circus, protesters unveiled a pink boat that says “TELL THE TRUTH” and on Waterloo Bridge demonstrators brought trees, hanging baskets and skate ramps.

The protest had a festive atmosphere, with many families in attendance, and a low police presence.

Extinction Rebellion wrote to Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday outlining their demands and asking for face-to-face talks, warning that they will escalate their disruptive actions over the coming weeks unless the government acts.

“Make no mistake, people are already dying,” the letter states. “In the majority world, indigenous communities are now on the brink of extinction. This crisis is only going to get worse Prime minister, you cannot ignore this crisis any longer. We must act now.” Organisers of the protests circulated legal advice to anyone planning to attend, requesting they refrain from using drugs and alcohol, and asking them to treat the public with respect.

London’s police have advised people travelling around London in the coming days to allow extra time for their journey in the event of road closures and general disruption.

The disruption follows similar action last November when thousands of protesters occupied five central London bridges. Police arrested 85 people that day.

Rowan McLaughlin, 47, a teacher, said this week’s protests were more important than the huge pro and anti-Brexit protests in London recently.

“In Europe, out of Europe, it makes no difference if we have no liveable habitat,” he said. “We’re just going to get bigger and more annoying until the government speaks to us.”

Published in Dawn, April 16th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1476458/thousands-block-london-roads-to-demand-action-on-climate-change>

GOVERNOR CALLS FOR EFFORTS TO LIMIT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

RECORDER REPORT | APR 16TH, 2019 | KARACHI

Fighting climate change is the most important war that we need to fight right now. This was stated by Imran Ismail, Governor Sindh while speaking as the chief guest at the Climate Change, Summer & Monsoon Safety Awareness Seminar organized in Karachi, in collaboration with NDMA, PMD, JPMC and K-Electric.

The governor also said that the focus needs to be on precaution and prevention as peak summer approached. He lauded the initiative by K-Electric to partner with key stake-holders for summer preparedness and appreciated the fact that the awareness drive is on an even bigger scale this time. Ismail also said that Green Pakistan initiative is a part of the government’s efforts to limit the impact of climate change in the country and in Karachi. He appealed to civil society to come forward and become a partner in this initiative by adopting a tree.

The Climate Change, Summer & Monsoon Safety Awareness Seminar brought together participants from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC), K-Electric (KE) as well as members of civil society who engaged in a series of panel discussions to highlight the issues facing the country and its economic hub, Karachi and also tried to come up with possible solutions.

The guest of honor at the seminar Lieutenant General Omar Hayat, Chairman NDMA said that Pakistan is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. “From 1947 to 2010 we lost USD 19 billion to floods. From 2010 to 2019, we have lost USD 19.5 billion to floods alone. We have faced all kinds of disasters, both natural and man-made and will mostly likely face them again. Our preparedness is better but nowhere close to where we need to be and our urban centers are particularly at risk because of unplanned growth,” he said. “There can never be too much awareness about disasters, and we must make Karachi resilient, to make Pakistan resilient.”

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has always been at the forefront on any initiative related to climate change said Abdur Rasheed, Chief Meteorologist Karachi and highlighted the imminent threat to Pakistan with regards to global warming. He said that Pakistan is ranked 135th in generation of greenhouse gases but 8th in the rank of countries that are at risk from climate change. “This basically means that the people of Pakistan in general, and the citizens of Karachi in particular will have to be more prepared than ever to minimize the impact of environmental degradation on the quality of life and economic growth.”

“Among the most severe threats we face is water shortage. According to the UNDP we can save only 9% of our floodwater and the impact of this will continue to become worse until 2025. Rise in

temperature, air pollution and water shortage are the three key issues we will face because of climate change,” Rasheed also said.

Ikram Sehgal, Chairman, K-Electric welcomed the collaboration towards increased and improved summer and monsoon preparedness. He said KE would extend full support to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Rangers and various NGOs who will be setting up heat protection camps across the city. He further said that KE would also act as facilitator in first aid capacity building workshops in Karachi for around 1,000 volunteers in collaboration with The Youth Parliament.

Earlier, Fakhar Ahmed, Chief Marketing and Communication Officer of KE spoke about the power utility’s summer preparedness through the strengthening of its network and system and by beefing up the on ground work force through capacity building and technological advancement. He expressed the hope that the presence of key stakeholders under one roof would result in better inter-agency coordination and help in providing effective support to combat the impact of climate change.

Iftikhar Shalwani, Commissioner Karachi; Dr. Seemi Jamali, Executive Director, JPMC; Amir Zafar, Chief HSEQ, KE and Azmat Hayat, Additional DG, PMD also spoke on the occasion and briefed the participants about the threats from climate change and preventive and protective measures to take in the peak summer months. The speakers also highlighted the collective role of civic and government bodies as well as the citizens of Karachi to not just highlight and report cases of power theft but to also conserve electricity consumption during peak hours.—PR

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/04/20190416464918/>

CENTRAL AMERICAN FARMERS HEAD TO THE U.S., FLEEING CLIMATE CHANGE

By Kirk Semple April 13, 2019

CORQUÍN, Honduras — The farmer stood in his patch of forlorn coffee plants, their leaves sick and wilted, the next harvest in doubt.

Last year, two of his brothers and a sister, desperate to find a better way to survive, abandoned their small coffee farms in this mountainous part of Honduras and migrated north, eventually sneaking into the United States.

Then in February, the farmer’s 16-year-old son also headed north, ignoring the family’s pleas to stay.

The challenges of agricultural life in Honduras have always been mighty, from poverty and a neglectful government to the swings of international commodity prices.

But farmers, agricultural scientists and industry officials say a new threat has been ruining harvests, upending lives and adding to the surge of families migrating to the United States: climate change.

And their worries are increasingly shared by climate scientists as well.

Gradually rising temperatures, more extreme weather events and increasingly unpredictable patterns — like rain not falling when it should, or pouring when it shouldn’t — have disrupted growing cycles and promoted the relentless spread of pests.

The obstacles have cut crop production or wiped out entire harvests, leaving already poor families destitute.

Central America is among the regions most vulnerable to climate change, scientists say. And because agriculture employs much of the labor force — about 28 percent in Honduras alone, according to the World Bank — the livelihoods of millions of people are at stake.

Last year, the bank reported that climate change could lead at least 1.4 million people to flee their homes in Mexico and Central America and migrate during the next three decades.

The United States has allocated tens of millions of dollars in aid in recent years for farmers across Central America, including efforts to help them adapt to the changing climate.

But President Trump has vowed to cut off all foreign aid to Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador because of what he calls their failure to curb the flow of migrants north.

Critics contend the punishment is misguided, though, because it could undermine efforts to address the very problems that are driving people to abandon their farms and head to the United States.

“If Donald Trump withdraws all the funds for Honduras, it’s going to generate more unemployment, and that’s going to generate more migration,” said María Esperanza López, the general manager of Copranil, a coffee-growers cooperative here in western Honduras. “And that’s going to result in more abandoned farms.”

Coffee cultivators in the region are at particular risk of disruption because the crop is highly sensitive to weather variations.

Fredi Onan Vicen Peña, the coffee farmer whose brothers, sister and teenage son have already given up and joined the exodus north, reached over and tore a leaf off one of his plants.

It was a mottled yellow and brown: signs of coffee rust, a disease whose spread has been influenced by climate variability. As much as 70 percent of his crop, planted across five acres in a pine forest, had been affected, he estimated, and there was little chance he could salvage it.

Beyond that, some of his healthier plants had begun to blossom nearly two months ahead of schedule because of a heavy unseasonable downpour, throwing the entire growing cycle into doubt.

Average temperatures have risen by about two degrees Fahrenheit in Central America over the past several decades, making the cultivation of coffee difficult, if not untenable, at lower altitudes that were once suitable.

That has forced some farmers to search for land at higher altitudes, switch to other crops, change professions — or migrate.

“Some very fine families that have been producing quality coffee for a long time are now facing the decision of whether to stay in coffee,” said Catherine M. Tucker, a professor of anthropology at the University of Florida who has done research in Honduras for more than two decades.

Some climate scientists say that in the absence of long-term meteorological data, it is hard for them to say with certainty whether the increasing variability is caused by long-term changes in the region’s climate. But, they say, they are leaning in that direction.

“It’s becoming so unusual, it’s almost certainly climate change,” said Dr. Edwin J. Castellanos, dean of the Research Institute at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, a university in Guatemala City, and one of Central America’s leading scientists in the field of climate change.

Climate change is rarely the sole factor in the decision to migrate. Violence and poverty are prime drivers, but climate change can be a tipping point, farmers and experts say.

“Small farmers are already living in poverty; they’re already at the threshold of not being able to survive,” Mr. Castellanos said. “So any changes in the situation may push them to have enough incentives to leave.”

The outlook for the region seems bleak. Reduced yields of coffee and subsistence crops like corn and beans could significantly increase food insecurity and malnutrition. By some predictions, the amount of land suitable for growing coffee in Central America could drop by more than 40 percent by 2050.

The number of coffee producers in the area where Mr. Vicen lives has dropped by a quarter in the past decade — to about 9,000 from about 12,000 — partly because of pressure from climate change, said Marlon Danilo Mejía, the regional coordinator for the Honduran Coffee Institute, an industry trade group.

A vast majority are small producers, managing less than about nine acres each, he said.

José Edgardo Vicen, 37, one of Mr. Vicen’s brothers, had weighed migrating for years. He had worked in the coffee fields since he was a boy, continuing the family tradition. In this part of Honduras, coffee is a major crop, with an increasing amount bound for North America, Europe and Asia.

But after a rust outbreak and other pressures in recent years, including plunging commodity prices, the younger Mr. Vicen said he could no longer earn enough from his harvest to cover production costs.

He headed north with his 14-year-old son last August, crossed the border illegally and settled in Texas. A brother and a sister, driven by similar circumstances, left Honduras soon afterward and also sneaked into the United States.

“For the small producer, I promise you, there’s no way to get ahead,” said Mr. Vicen, who now works in construction and sends remittances home to support his wife and daughter.

When he was younger, harvest time “was like a party,” he recalled. Now, “there are only losses, no profits.”

Fifteen producers from the Vicens’ coffee cooperative — more than 10 percent of its members — have migrated to the United States in the past year, said Ms. Esperanza López, the general manager of the cooperative. They have joined thousands of others from villages in Honduras’s western highlands.

Stephanie Leutert, director of the Mexico Security Initiative at the University of Texas at Austin, said that government statistics on apprehension of migrants at the southwest border of the United States in recent years reflect a sharp increase in people from western Honduras.

After large caravans of migrants arrived last fall in Tijuana, Mexico, a United Nations survey found that 72 percent of those surveyed were from Honduras — and 28 percent of the respondents had worked in the agricultural sector.

The exodus of farm workers has worsened already serious labor shortages in western Honduras. Some industry leaders in the region joke that if the caravans in recent months were “the laborer caravans,” the next wave will be “the grower caravans.”

Coffee farmers have been scrambling to adjust to the changes, learning which species are more resistant to plague and drought, and branching out into other crops — like cacao, avocados or trees that produce construction-grade wood.

Nongovernmental and public-private initiatives have also taken root in coffee-growing regions of Central America and around the world to help guide farmers. Some have received the backing of the world’s biggest coffee sellers — like Starbucks, Tim Horton’s and Lavazza — trying to ensure their future supply.

Yet even the application of best practices is no guarantee that everything will be fine.

“The weather is crazy,” said Carlos Peña Orellana, 58, a farmer and member of a local coffee cooperative. “Everything’s out of control.”

He owns 12 acres of land but can afford to farm only about five. He gets by with income from a tomato greenhouse he built with the cooperative’s help, and with remittances from two sons who migrated to the United States after struggling through the rust crisis of 2012-13.

“They’re helping to revive the farm,” he said at his ramshackle ranch one recent afternoon. “It’s really difficult now.”

He turned to his youngest son, Carlos, 12, and saw a future migrant. Pointing a leathery finger, he said: “You’re next, right?” Mr. Peña chuckled. The boy squirmed, saying nothing.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/13/world/americas/coffee-climate-change-migration.html>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 22ND TO APRIL 28TH 2019

MET DEPT WARNS OF POSSIBILITY OF HEATWAVE FROM MAY 1

By Aftab Khan Published: April 28, 2019

KARACHI: Several parts of the country are likely to experience a heatwave over the coming two months, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has warned.

According to PMD officials, the formation of a tropical cyclone and other expected weather conditions may suspend the flow of winds from the sea, leading to extreme temperatures in May and June.

In an advisory issued on Saturday, PMD warned the citizens of Karachi about the possibility of heatwave beginning from May 1. The temperatures during the three-day heatwave are likely to increase as the winds from the sea will remain suspended.

The advisory said the expected heatwave will continue for three days in Karachi. The temperature of Karachi will vary between 40 to 42 degrees centigrade during these three days. The winds blowing from the sea will also be suspended while hot and dry winds could blow from the north and north-west.

Weather conditions that typically give rise to heatwave include temperature exceeding 40 degrees Celsius, humidity as high as 65% and suspension of winds from the sea for several days, the officials said.

“Chances of heatwave are highest during May-June,” said Karachi Chief Meteorologist Abdul Rasheed. “In winter, the Sun covers the Earth from the south and is not exactly perpendicular to the surface,” he explained, adding that this is not the case in June in particular.

“In June, the Sun is directly on top of the surface of the Earth, leading to extremely hot afternoons and longer periods of the day at peak temperature,” Rasheed said. He added that the direction of wind is also reversed due to conditions that also increase chances of cyclone formation. “Instead of getting cool winds from the sea, the country gets warm winds from the east and northwest, increasing humidity to the point that 40 degrees Celsius feels it is five degrees higher.”

Following the 2015 heatwave, PMD established a dedicated cell to monitor abnormal weather conditions in summer and alert relevant departments of heatwave likelihood at least three days in advance. This year, the cell was activated on April 1 and will remain operational till the end of October, which also tends to be extremely hot. The cell shares daily reports on temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction with all relevant government departments.

“After the 2015 heatwave, we learnt an important lesson on the value of weather monitoring plans,” said Rasheed. “The crisis prompted all relevant institutions to enhance coordination and prepare for extreme weather accordingly.”

The chief meteorologist added that since 2015, all stakeholders have been fully alert during summers and have been prepared to deal with any untoward situation arising from extreme weather conditions.

Experts, meanwhile, stress that cities need to increase the number of trees and green belts to combat the devastating effects of heatwaves. They say rapid urban developments have turned metropolises into concrete jungles with little open space and ventilation. They also warned that Ramazan this year would coincide with a potential heatwave and urged people to exercise caution.

Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) emergency department head Dr Seema Jamali advised people to remain indoors between 11am and 4pm, or to cover their heads with wet towels if they absolutely must be outside. She also recommended frequent baths or showers, regular consumption of water and avoiding physically demanding tasks.

According to her, JPMC has made necessary arrangements to help people suffering adverse effects from extreme heat.

“We have set up a special 50-bed ward with a cooling system in addition to the already air-conditioned emergency department. The health facility has also made arrangements for mineral water at various points,” Dr Jamali said.

Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Media Management Director Bashir Sadozai also said the likelihood of a repeat of the 2015 summer is unlikely. “We have arrangements at 13 hospitals in the city,” he said.

Published in The Express Tribune, April 28th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1960975/1-met-dept-warns-possibility-heatwave-may-1/>

UN AGREES TO HELP DROUGHT-HIT AREAS

The Newspaper’s Staff Reporter April 25, 2019

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and a United Nations delegation led by resident coordinator for Pakistan Neil Buhne on Wednesday agreed to provide urgent help to drought-hit areas of Thar, Kohistan and Kachho and reduce their vulnerability to future droughts.

The delegation, which called on the CM, included Unicef chief of field Office Cristina Brugiolo, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) head of sub office Genevieve Hussain and Imran Leghari.

The CM and the UN team discussed the work of the UN in Sindh and how cooperation with the provincial government could be strengthened to benefit more people.

Published in Dawn, April 25th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1478173/un-agrees-to-help-drought-hit-areas>

UNTIMELY RAINS

Marwah Maqbool Malik April 23, 2019

THE worthy climate change minister must be eating her words right now. Quick to claim credit for untimely rainfall, she has since disappeared after the same rainfall became tragic. The statement did not suit a public office holder, much less of the climate change portfolio, and her absence after devastating floods only makes it worse.

Recent thunder and hail storms have claimed dozens of lives and left many more injured. The agricultural impact is huge: some estimates are that at least 150,000 tonnes of wheat crop have been destroyed. Other crops affected include mustard, cotton, tomatoes, mango and citrus. Will the minister now come forward and claim ‘credit’ for what now looks like God’s wrath?

What we witnessed recently is not new, and will happen again. We have had early rains, often called ‘pre-monsoon’ rains, for at least four consecutive years now. Floods have been a regular occurrence, close to or during monsoon, for over a decade now. On average, our summers are now warmer, and droughts more frequent. These changing weather patterns are local manifestations of a warming planet that is causing a global change of climate.

Our urban citizens remain largely immune to any observable changes in climate, barring the occasional outcry about increasingly hot summers. Talk to farmers instead, and they will describe in lucid detail how shifting weather patterns have brought on new challenges including diseases, untimely and erratic rains, lower yields, change of cropping cycles, and droughts.

In the face of recent crop losses, the economy must now prepare for shortages and the associated rise in prices. An impending shortage of our staple, wheat, means food security for the poorest will be negatively impacted, further adding to the burdens inflicted by an already ailing economy. Farmers are demanding compensation for their losses, which the government should reasonably provide.

What next though? Must we wait for another year, only to repeat the cycle of weathering crises without preparation, followed only by cash-based remedies?

Our weather systems are already changing and will continue to do so, arguably with greater severity, affecting agriculture in the country (among many other sectors) and bringing forth new challenges for food security. To address these challenges, we need to shift from 'reactive' to 'proactive' approaches that try to predict and prepare for impacts, reduce risks, and allocate required resources to respond when crises strike.

To begin with, it is important to understand the full breadth and scope of climatic change impacts to agriculture. We know that rain patterns have shifted, as have seasonal temperatures. Is the conventional rice-cotton-sugarcane-wheat mix still viable? Can our agricultural practices survive changes to type and availability of inputs such as water?

While farmers across the country have already started adapting their agricultural practices to changing weather patterns, decisions about what crops to grow and how to grow them are still driven by government policies that incentivise (or disincentivise) certain crops and technologies. We need to conduct research on climate-resilient crop varieties, and subsequently encourage their uptake among farmers. For small farmers, such adoption requires a push that only the government can provide.

While natural phenomena like storms cannot be averted, preparing for them in advance can help reduce losses to the farmer, as well as the government. Innovations like parametric insurance, that indemnifies farmers against certain events, are being tested around the world (with mixed success). This is not to say a solution that has worked for farmers in India or Mexico will work for farmers in Pakistan. But we need to start thinking of innovative solutions, contextualised to Pakistan, which can help us prepare better for -climatic impacts.

Knowing better (predicting) helps to prepare better, which eventually helps deliver effective responses. Warnings issued before disasters must be accurate and effective in what they communicate, and also able to reach the people they are meant for. It is also not enough to warn people and prescribe actions without having adequate facilities for those preventive actions to take place — eg advising farmers to shift crops to safe storage when such storage spaces have not been created or facilitated for small farmers beforehand.

Ultimately, we should realise that untimely rains and storms are not 'divine blessings' for unprepared politicians to claim. Responding to one of the biggest challenges of our time requires recognition of what we haven't been doing and preparations for what, going ahead, we can and absolutely must do. Most importantly, it requires that our leaders, especially those tasked with handling climate change affairs, are educated on what climate change actually is.

The author is a climate change consultant.

Published in Dawn, April 23rd, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1477851/untimely-rains>

CLIMATE CHANGE PROTESTERS HALT LONDON STREET BLOCKADE

RECORDER REPORT | APR 23RD, 2019 | LONDON

Some of London's busiest streets re-opened Monday for the first time in a week as climate change protesters regrouped and plotted a new course after police made more than 1,000 arrests. The so-called Extinction Rebellion took over the heart of the UK capital in a bid to focus global attention on rising temperatures and sea levels caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

The grassroots group was established last year in Britain by academics and has used social media to become one of the fastest-growing environmental movements worldwide. But it has abandoned four of five main protests sites in response to a more forceful police response and an outcry from local businesses that claimed a heavy loss in sales.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan also warned Sunday that protests were starting to overstretch the police and limiting their ability to respond to daily crime. "It simply isn't right to put Londoners' safety at risk like this," Khan said. Extinction Rebellion organisers retreated by Monday to Marble Arch – a monument on the edge of Hyde Park that allows limited protests to continue without disrupting traffic.

The site has been sanctioned by the police. About 100 activists also lay day down under the gigantic skeleton of a blue whale hanging from the ceiling of the main hall of London's Natural History Museum for a self-described "die-in". Extinction Rebellion tweeted that the action was meant to deliver a warning about an oncoming "sixth mass extinction".

The police said they had made 1,065 arrests and charged 53 people since the first protests took over a bridge and renowned London intersections such as Piccadilly and Oxford Circus. "We remain in frequent contact with the organisers to ensure that the serious disruption to Londoners is brought to a close as soon as possible and that only lawful and peaceful protests continue," a police statement said. The London campaign has no formal leaders and its future plan remain unclear.

Some organisers want to engage in formal talks with the London mayor and the UK government. The group's list of demands includes a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to a net level of zero by 2025 and a halt to biodiversity loss. It also wants the UK government to "create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice". But it said Monday that strategic issues were still under discussion – and that it may yet decide to resume the street blockades.

"A proposal has been circulated for entering a 'negotiations' phase," a statement said. "Despite being presented otherwise in the media, this idea remains only a proposal," it added. "Where we go with Phase Two is up to us."

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/04/20190423466618/>

LONDON CLIMATE PROTESTERS SEEK TALKS WITH GOVT

AFP Updated April 22, 2019

LONDON: Climate change protesters who have brought parts of London to a standstill said on Sunday they were prepared to call a halt if the British government will discuss their demands.

Some 831 arrests have been made and 42 people charged in connection with the ongoing Extinction Rebellion protests.

On the seventh day of demonstrations that have occupied key spots in the British capital, organisers said they were willing to switch tactics from disruption to dialogue.

“We are prepared to pause, should the government come to the negotiating table,” Extinction Rebellion spokesman James Fox said. “What the pause looks like is us stopping an escalation. “We can discuss leaving if they are willing to discuss our demands. “At the moment, we haven’t received a response from the government... so we’re waiting on that.”

Published in Dawn, April 22nd, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1477647/london-climate-protesters-seek-talks-with-govt>

May 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 29TH TO MAY 5TH 2019

‘NO COUNTRY CAN IGNORE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE’

Shazia Hasan Updated May 05, 2019

KARACHI: Day two of the conference on climate change titled ‘An Existential Challenge for Pakistan’ organised by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) comprised reading of several technical papers focusing on subjects including good governance and conservation, water resources and future projections.

Speaking about good governance and conservation in the context of climate change, architect and town planner Arif Hasan said that climate change had motivated the government here to set up many centralised organisations such as the National Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities. However they did not really have the capacity to deal with disaster situations. Then there are also mitigation and management issues regarding infrastructure and land departments.

“During the 2010 floods, I worked in areas where the floods took place and the volume of water in earlier floods was far more though the disaster was bigger in 2010. It was because the land departments were not functioning well. There was no cleaning of canals, no desilting of drains, deforestation had also taken place with failure of the irrigation department in carrying out its normal functions,” he said.

“Then between 1983 and 2010, there had been much construction on the flood plains with villages and even schools there while under the law there shouldn’t be any settlements there. Then in 2011, too, it was the same story,” Mr Hasan pointed out.

About the heat island effect in Karachi where over a thousand people died when the temperature went up to 42 degrees Celsius for six days in 2015, he said that earlier the city had also witnessed higher temperatures of 48 degrees Celsius and still no one had died. “So what changed? Human settlements and the nature of these settlements changed. Research by Dr Noman Ahmed of NED University

shows that those rushed to hospitals at the time came from high-rises in katchi abadis where there is little ventilation so there is a need for cheap methods of insulation and ventilation,” he said.

He also said that Pakistan had spent lots of money in developing infrastructure but not much for maintenance.

Dr Mohammad Zia Hashmi, head of the water section of the Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) in Islamabad spoke about the ‘Impact of climate change on Pakistan’s water resources from the mountains to the sea’. Looking at the journey of water from the snowy and glacier-rich northern mountainous part of the country to the confluence of the Indus River with the Arabian Sea at the endangered Indus River delta, he said that basically everything was about water. “If we can think of water in a better way, we can handle climate change in a better way, too,” he said.

Dr Mohammad Mansha, director, Earth Sciences, Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, had several climate predictions such as floods, droughts, cyclones, about which he said that they were expected to increase in frequency and severity in the coming decades.

Speaking about priorities in the face of climate change, Dr Shahbaz Mehmood, head of the Climatology and Environment Section at GCISC, said that Pakistan for almost the last decade had consistently been ranked among the top 10 countries most affected by climate change. “The major climate change-related concerns of Pakistan include increased risk of extreme climate events, increased monsoon variability, food insecurity, health risks and rising sea levels. He also said that the mean annual temperature over Pakistan has increased with a greater increase in Sindh and Balochistan.

Adil Najam, dean, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, USA, spoke about ‘Pakistan in the age of adaptation’. “Because the world has been unwilling and unable to respond to the great threat of global climate change in time with appropriate measures of mitigation, we are now condemned to live in what I call the ‘Age of Adaptation’,” he said. “Adaptation after all, is essential. Ignoring the impacts of climate change is no longer a luxury that any country can afford, least of all, Pakistan,” he added.

Retired General Tariq Waseem Ghazi; chairman emeritus, Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority Jamshed Azim Hashmi; former member Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Javed Iqleem and PIIA’s chairperson Dr Masuma Hasan also spoke.

Published in Dawn, May 5th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1480254/no-country-can-ignore-the-impacts-of-climate-change>

CARBON TAX PROPOSED TO CUT EMISSIONS

By AFP Published: May 5, 2019

WASHINGTON: At \$70 per ton of carbon dioxide, a carbon tax would be the most efficient means of cutting greenhouse gas emissions, according to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) report published Friday. But for the moment, carbon taxes remain unpopular, particularly in France, where plans to increase it to €55 (or \$61.60) from €44.60 recently ignited the Yellow Vest protest movement. The French government was forced to suspend the plan in the face of popular revolt. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 by more than 200 countries, aims to cap overall increases in global temperatures at two degrees centigrade above the pre-industrial era. “The 2C target would require

cutting emissions by roughly a third by 2030 and a global carbon price of around \$70 per ton,” IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Vitor Gaspar, the fund’s head of fiscal affairs, said in a joint blog post. “There is a growing consensus that carbon pricing... is the single most effective mitigation instrument,” they said. It allows for a reduction in energy consumption, favours cleaner energies and mobilises private financing, according to the IMF.

Published in The Express Tribune, May 5th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1965809/2-carbon-tax-proposed-cut-emissions/>

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO KEEP US IN PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD

3rd MAY 2019

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives on Thursday passed legislation that would prevent President Donald Trump from following through on his withdrawal of the United States from the Paris climate agreement.

The Republican-led Senate is highly unlikely to take up the measure, which would bar federal funds from being used to withdraw from the accord.

But the move by House Democrats appears aimed at framing the president as opposed to fighting global warming.

Trump announced in mid-2017 that he was pulling out of the accord, arguing it imposed unfair environmental standards on US firms and government, and that remaining in the deal would pose a threat to the American economy.

The earliest possible exit would be November 2020, the month of the US presidential election, positioning climate action as a campaign issue.

The House voted 231 to 190 to pass the Climate Action Now Act, with three Republicans crossing the political aisle to vote with Democrats.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi described climate action as a moral, economic and national security “imperative,” and said the bill was a step in the right direction.

“It sends a signal to the world that the US isn’t in denial about the overwhelming science about climate,” she said on the House floor.

But Pelosi acknowledged the bill would be “dead on arrival” in the Senate.

The measure would compel the president to develop a plan for meeting US obligations under the Paris agreement, which include cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

Trump, who made withdrawal from the Paris deal a 2016 campaign pledge, has complained that other countries in the pact like China were being asked to do less.

Last year, US government scientists issued a 1,000-page report warning that climate change will cost the United States hundreds of billions of dollars annually unless drastic action is taken to cut carbon emissions.

Earlier this year, Democratic lawmakers unveiled an ambitious Green New Deal, which calls for dramatic steps to address climate change.

Trump has repeatedly mocked the framework, in particular its call for massive boosts in the use of renewable energy.

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/826/house-passes-bill-keep-us-paris-climate-accord-doc-1g44sg1>

HEATWAVE IN KARACHI FROM MAY 1: MET OFFICE

By Our Correspondent Published: April 30, 2019

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department has warned temperatures may rise up to 40 degree Celsius today (Tuesday) and temperatures tomorrow (Wednesday) may be as high as 42 degrees Celsius.

According to Met Office Director Sardar Sarfaraz, the prediction for heatwave between May 1 and May 3 remains in place as per the announcement made on Saturday. The city could experience temperatures between 40 to 42 degrees Celsius during the expected three-day heatwave while the southwestern winds coming from the sea will remain suspended.

The hot winds coming from Sindh and Balochistan will also be directed to the city, he added. “However, there is a considerable difference between the current probable heatwave and the one witnessed in 2015,” said Sarfaraz. “In comparison to 2015, the city will experience only mild humidity in the atmosphere but citizens are advised to exercise extreme caution,” he added.

It would be premature to comment on probable weather conditions such as low air pressure in Arabian Sea during May and June, but there is a high risk of heatwave during these two months, warned Sarfaraz adding that heatwave centres of the met office will issue alerts against any abnormal weather phenomenon three days in advance.

Adviser to Sindh Chief Minister (CM) on Information, Law and Anti-Corruption Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the CM has directed all commissioners and deputy commissioners to take precautionary measures in the wake of the heatwave alert.

He said that the CM had directed to set up heatwave centres in healthcare facilities and establish points across the city where cold water could be provided to citizens. He said that 112 heatwave centres and 185 cold water points have been established while 24 ambulances will remain on standby. He further informed that 18 mobile teams have also been formed to provide first aid to heatwave affectees.

Wahab said that 24 medical support centres and 65 water facilities had been set up in Central district while in Korangi district, 15 heatwave centres, 24 water facilities have been set up. He added that six ambulances would remain standby for shifting of people affected by heatwave to hospitals.

As many as 15 centres and 15 water points in Malir district, 28 centres and 28 water points in West district, 34 heatwave centres and 21 water points in South district and nine centres and 19 water points in East district have been set up, he said.

Published in The Express Tribune, April 30th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1962294/1-heatwave-warning-stands-met-office/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MAY 6TH TO MAY 12TH 2019

GLOBAL CLIMATE JIHAD

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi May 11, 2019

EXISTENTIAL challenges define the state of the world today. They shall determine the global, regional and national contexts in which all countries, including Pakistan, will need to find appropriate and sufficient responses to survive. They will provide the indispensable context for all specific policies, whether domestic or external. The 21st century has already delivered this message.

Climate catastrophe is the greatest global challenge today. The prospect of ultimate doom and death has been part of mankind's experience and philosophical outlook (weltanschauung.) We are born, we live, we die and our children and descendants preserve the species into a distant and unimaginable future, until a time comes when mundane life comes to a natural end, whether with a bang or a whimper.

Accordingly, the prospect of an eventual end to our species is internalised without much anxiety. Death is part of life and possibly a transition to something eternal. But within the last decade attitudes have begun to dramatically change. There is not just an emerging anxiety. There is a developing panic over the prospect of climate calamity.

Until recently, scientists thought climate disaster was still too distant a prospect for ordinary people to personally or politically get concerned about. Today, a near 100 per cent scientific consensus regards climate change as an emerging global catastrophe hurtling towards us at ever-increasing speed. Once in a thousand or hundred thousand-year climate events are now expected to occur within decades, repeatedly, and sometimes simultaneously. Climate change will no longer be cyclical. It will be exponential. Nature will not just become a stranger to mankind. It will be an implacable and pitiless enemy.

There is not just an emerging anxiety. There is a developing panic over the prospect of climate calamity.

Never in human history has such a prospect threatened, except possibly for a while during the Black Death of the 14th century. Moreover, climate change is on the cusp of becoming irreversible — unless mankind can come together in intelligent, innovative and institutionalised cooperation which has also never happened before except — to an important but limited extent — through the UN system.

According to the Bulletin of Atomic Sciences, there are three major existential challenges confronting mankind today: climate change, nuclear conflict and democratic governance (ie the exact opposite of what passes for it today). Success with regard to any of these challenges will make success on the others more likely. But failure on one front will ensure failure on the other two. This triple failure will

render organised human existence on the planet increasingly difficult, and eventually impossible. Moreover, climatologists now say this can happen much sooner than what was assumed as recently as a decade ago. These forecasts could change yet again.

They could change for the better if at international, regional and national levels a climate emergency is declared and leaders and societies begin to do a range of things recommended by the experts but which have never been done before. Unfortunately, it is far more likely that, with the available leaderships, climate change will become progressively worse — forever. If by the end of the century the global temperature rises by more than two degrees Celsius above what it was before the Industrial Revolution, climatologists believe irreversible damage to the global environment will begin to increasingly exceed the capacity of human society to either mitigate or adapt to. We are already halfway there with the global temperature today estimated at roughly 1°C above what it was 200 years ago, and rising faster and faster.

The window of opportunity to take the thousands of measures needed to control and maybe reverse this immensely complex process is fast closing. Most scientists are convinced that if carbon emissions are not effectively reduced to zero by 2030 — a mere decade away — irreversible processes will ensure global temperatures of 3°C or 4°C above the pre-industrial baseline well before the end of the century. This alone would have innumerable calamitous consequences for human and other plant and animal life-supporting ecologies on earth.

Irreversible climate change will inevitably limit mitigation capacities and progressively render adaptation strategies dysfunctional. Unimaginable nightmare scenarios for our children and grandchildren will unfold. In order not to unforgivably betray them we must begin to do the impossible, starting NOW. No other issue, however critically important in itself, can be appropriately addressed in any forum or even properly analysed outside this overwhelming context.

Nuclear disaster, if it happens, will be sudden and terminal. It will telescope extreme climate catastrophe into a relative instant. Democratic governance — not the phony stuff — provides the essential context for a foreign policy that can minimise the prospect for nuclear holocaust. As suggested, it is also the political condition for urgent, sustained and effective resistance to climate death.

Democratic governance does not necessarily equate to Western models of governance. They are by and large no longer democratic in the West largely due to the rise of populism and racism on the one hand and the excesses of corporate capitalism, militarism and extreme inequalities on the other. The Chinese model, despite its many obvious flaws, is more inclusive and participatory and offers a better guide to transformational governance and a better ordered world.

While it does not accept the norms of Western governance it also rejects the wretched norms of soft-state, corrupt, short-term and class warfare governance that blight the prospects of so many developing countries, including our own. Nor can the world afford a psychologically challenged liar at the global helm who knows, but publicly denies and criminally ignores, the facts of climate catastrophe.

Unlike nuclear disaster, which can be avoided any time before it actually occurs, climate change beyond a rapidly approaching point insidiously becomes an irreversibly fatal catastrophe. Similarly, genuine democratic governance is always possible. However, irreversible climate change, if not averted, will make it impossible. This is why climate catastrophe is the single most comprehensive, and now immediate, existential threat.

The question beckons: are we human beings or lemmings rushing to jump off the cliff? Only a global climate jihad or climate crusade will provide an answer.

The writer is a former ambassador to the US, India and China and head of UN missions in Iraq and Sudan.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1481615/global-climate-jihad>

CLIMATE CHANGE BADLY AFFECTS MANGO PRODUCTION

RECORDER REPORT | MAY 10TH, 2019 | KARACHI

Climatic changes have posed serious challenge and leading to 30 percent reduction in mango production this year. Export season of mango would commence from 20th May 2019 and an export target of 100,000 metric tons has been fixed for this year. According to Waheed Ahmed, Patron-in-Chief of All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable, Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA) the Pakistan total production of mango is likely to decline 30 percent to 1.2 million tons this year compared to actual production of 1.8 million tons last year due to severe impact of climatic changes.

“Severe storms, unexpected heavy rains and hail storms have caused damage to the mango crops in Sindh is about 10 percent and some 35 percent in Punjab”, he mentioned. Favourable season, support and co-operation from Shipping and Airline companies, Quarantine department, ANF and Customs is necessary to achieve the export target of 0.1 million tons this year.

With increase in prices of petroleum products, the cost of domestic transportation and logistics have also been revised upward, while devolution of Pak rupee, the freight charges have also been raised by Airlines & Shipping companies making it further difficult for the exporters to remain competitive in the international markets, Waheed elaborated .

Last year some 75,000 tons mango was exported while the country is anticipated to earn foreign exchange of \$80 million by exporting 100,000 tons mango during the current season.

China and the USA, in particular would be focus of attention for an additional export volume during this year while special mango promotions campaigns would also be conducted in EU countries, he said.

Pakistan major mango exports are by sea route, while 15 percent would be exported by land routes and some 15 percent by air.

With reduction in frequency of flights this year from Pakistan announced by the Emirates Airlines, it would further multiply the problems of mango exporters, he pointed out.

He expressed concerns that climatic changes have emerged as the biggest challenge for the produces of agriculture and horticulture sectors. “Thirty percent reduction in production of mango crops during the current season reinforces our concern about serious potential threat of the climatic changes”, he added.

However, no clear and well-defined policy has so far developed to safeguard agriculture & horticulture sectors from this severe threat, Waheed said.

Pakistan being an agriculture country, the export sector has substantial part in total national production in agriculture & horticulture sector but no policy for betterment & uplift of the agriculture has so far been formulated.

While pressure of inflation is mounting due to reduction in production of crops leading to financial losses, on one hand possibility of acute shortage of food cannot be ruled out which is likely to have severe impact on food security and any country engulfed with food shortage, inflation and the downfall of the sector being backbone of a country can lead to serious threat to its existence as well which subsequently poses serious threat to national security of the country, he cautioned.

Keeping these major challenges in view, PFVA formulated policy for the rapid development of horticulture sector termed "Horticulture Vision-2030 (HV-2030) which has proposed short, medium and long-term solutions and the road map. In light of recommendations proposed in the HV-2030, a national policy on the Horticulture can be developed which can encounter the serious challenges in the Agriculture and Horticulture sectors, he concluded.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/05/20190510471173/>

CLEAN GREEN PAKISTAN INITIATIVE: PEPSICO SIGNS MOU WITH MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

RECORDER REPORT | MAY 9TH, 2019 | ISLAMABAD

PepsiCo here on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Climate Change to play a leading role in Prime Minister Imran Khan's Clean Green Pakistan Initiative through increase access to safe water among community members. Under the investment programme, PepsiCo has made a US \$700,000 investment with leading non-profit partner WaterAid to enable access to clean, safe water to more than 140,000 beneficiaries in Pakistan by 2021.

The signing ceremony was held here on Wednesday to implement PM's Clean Green Pakistan Initiative, launched in October 2018 to tackle pollution and increase environmental sustainability for Pakistan's citizens. PepsiCo's partnership on this initiative aims to increase access to safe water among community members.

Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor to the Pakistan Prime Minister for Climate Change and Krista Pilot, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Government Affairs and Communications for PepsiCo Asia, Middle East and North Africa signed the MoU. "We welcome PepsiCo in joining the nationwide drive for a Clean Green Pakistan launched under our Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision," said Malik Aslam, Advisor to the Pakistan Prime Minister for Climate Change.

"As a responsible corporate entity, I believe this can be a solid first step for building an even stronger relationship in the future. We also urge PepsiCo to assist us in beating the challenge of plastic pollution through waste recycling."

The PepsiCo-supported water programme will focus on providing sustainable solutions in underserved areas of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad among selected communities, schools and healthcare facilities. Community level institutions will be established, and local service providers will be trained to ensure proper operations and maintenance of water supplies. Activities to inform community members of proper hygiene practices will also be conducted at schools and healthcare facilities.

PepsiCo aspires to help build a more sustainable food system, from seed to smile, through next generation agriculture, circular system for plastics, and positive water impact,” said Krista Pilot, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Government Affairs and Communications for PepsiCo Asia, Middle East and North Africa.

“PepsiCo has a global commitment to providing safe water access to 25 million people by 2025 and as part of that, we are pleased to be partnering with the Ministry for Climate Change to support their mission of providing access to clean and safe water to families in Pakistan. We strive to enable long-term, sustainable water security for the communities where we operate and for our business.

Siddiq Khan, CEO, WaterAid Pakistan, present on the occasion said that WaterAid Pakistan is committed to support Clean and Green Pakistan initiative taken by the Government of Pakistan and is happy to partner with PepsiCo and Ministry for Climate Change. PepsiCo and WaterAid will take initiatives to provide safe water as part of the Clean Green Pakistan Movement. This contribution will forge a step towards the sustainable supply of water for the people of Pakistan.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/05/20190509470924/>

IMPENDING DISASTER

Noman Ahmed May 06, 2019

ADDRESSING the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Initiative in Beijing on April 26, Prime Minister Imran Khan identified climate change as a key challenge faced by developing countries, including ours. The observation was spot-on. A climate change profile of Pakistan shows that the country’s annual mean temperature has increased by 0.5 degree Celsius, and likely to increase by a further 3°C in the next 70 years. Annual precipitation rates have increased slightly and displayed substantial variation. The sea level, which increased by 10 centimetres in the last century, will increase by 60cm by the end of this one. It is adequately proven that climate change is not a myth, but a reality.

Pakistan is affected by various climate change fallouts caused by global and local actions. Besides common global factors such as carbon emissions and rising oceans, issues specific to Pakistan include droughts, unpredictable precipitation rates and monsoons, acid rains, depletion of water aquifers, spread of water-logging/salinity, melting glaciers, flash floods, and depletion of forest cover and marine pollution. Thus, sizeable damage has been done as a consequence of nascent development processes and locally induced factors.

It is vital to note that these impacts are a visible cause of losses in productivity, livelihoods and redundancy of precious ecological assets. Pakistan ranks 135th in terms of per capita greenhouse gas emissions, but is the seventh-most affected by climate-related impacts. While it is wise to take a proactive stance in global climate change initiatives, mitigating local causes is as important and urgent.

Institutional responses towards the challenges are not promising.

Pakistan’s coastal marine environment is facing a catastrophe — ironically at the hands of its very users, through deforestation of its mangroves in southern Karachi and nearby islands, mainly due to large real-estate developments. Researchers have also found that local people uproot and plunder

budding plants for mundane utilisation such as for firewood. Uneven land reclamation by ambitious developers has cut the water flow, leading to the mangroves' demise.

Marine ecology is also impacted by raw sewage inflow. At present, 400m gallons of sewage is pushed into the Arabian Sea from Karachi on a daily basis, constantly degrading the coastline's micro environment. Oil spills from ships are another source of pollution. About 0.09m tons of used oil is discharged along Karachi's coast annually. All of these contribute to the various climate factors that need to be scientifically analysed for proper prevention, mitigation and adaptation plans.

The Indus delta's precious ecosystem is another case in point. It is spread across 0.6m hectares between Korangi and Sir Creek. This habitat relies on freshwater outflows from the Indus. Research has shown that 35MAF water flows down the delta, only three months in a year. Despite interprovincial conflicts and claims, it is found that the estuaries run dry for most of the year. The sea's ingress and its impact on soil quality are two principal hazards faced by local communities. High salinity adversely impacts aquatic life. Overharvesting of marine resources, natural meandering of creeks and grazing by livestock are some of the concerns.

In Pakistan, institutional responses towards climate change challenges are slow and not promising. Planned, sustained actions are immediately needed to ensure existing cropping patterns, water conservation, protection of life and people's assets, combating vulnerabilities to lesser income groups and, eventually, curtailing social dislocations. Meteorologists and other professionals have already predicted impending droughts and reduction in water availability.

For food production and conservation of settlements, it is vital to prepare a mitigation and adaptation strategy with political consensus. If food prices soar, it can lead to social and political upheavals. It is also likely that the country may suffer a greater scale of climate-induced migration syndrome. For a country that is already grappling with security- and conflict-based dislocations, a further wave of population displacements will prove quite harmful.

Some climate change responses have been launched. The prime minister mentioned his government's flagship tree plantation drives. This is a step in the right direction, but we still need a national spatial strategy for scientific planning of land uses. National and regional land utilisation must be documented with an objective of conserving existing forest cover, identify and preserve biodiversity, indicate impending environmental threats due to mega developmental projects, and spell out mitigation measures. A national debate on curbing energy intensive consumption patterns is also necessary. By returning to low-carbon lifestyles, we may stem the damage.

The writer is chairman, Department of Architecture & Planning, NED University, Karachi.

Published in Dawn, May 6th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1480581/impending-disaster>

ADB EMPHASISES CLIMATE CHANGE

Khaleeq Kiani Updated May 06, 2019

Amid concerns over trade disputes and challenges posed by climate change, Asian Development Bank's (ADB) 52nd annual meeting of the board of governors concluded in Fiji on a positive note: fighting the challenges and achieving prosperity through unity.

Among the issues discussed at the event were sustainable tourism and its potential to boost national and regional development efforts, the role of private-sector financing for disaster risk management and climate resilience, and the importance of actions to improve ocean health.

In one of the sessions, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms Dr Ishrat Husain proposed a single visa for tourists to travel through the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (Carec) member countries without multiple immigration challenges.

He also suggested common marketing strategies as well as tourist operators well versed in different languages.

Unless immediate action is taken, about 90pc of Asia and the Pacific's coral reefs will be dead by 2050 and all commercially exploitable fish stocks will disappear

In the backdrop of ADB President Takehiko Nakao linking \$1 billion additional budget support this year to a successful conclusion of the IMF programme, Dr Husain explained to a separate international audience that Pakistan's debt challenges were not caused by Chinese loans as they were no more than 11.5 per cent of the total \$100bn loans and liabilities.

ADB launched a \$5bn fund and an action plan to fight climate change challenges and ensure healthy oceans and sustainable blue economies. President Takehiko said the action plan would expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects from 2019 to 2024 through co-financing from partners.

It will focus on four areas: one, to create inclusive livelihoods and business opportunities in sustainable tourism and fisheries; two, to protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems and key rivers; three, to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution, including plastics, wastewater, and agricultural runoff; and four, to improve sustainability in port and coastal infrastructure development.

Asia and the Pacific is at the epicentre of a major crisis in marine plastic pollution, threatening the productivity of the region's marine economies, which are crucial to poverty reduction. For example, among the 10 rivers transporting 88-95pc of plastics into the sea worldwide, eight are in the region.

Ocean ecosystems have been pushed to the brink of collapse by the threats of climate change, pollution and illegal and unregulated fishing. Unless immediate action is taken, about 90pc of Asia and the Pacific's coral reefs will be dead by 2050 and all commercially exploitable fish stocks will disappear.

This will significantly threaten food security, the global economy and livelihoods, especially among millions of poor and vulnerable communities in the region.

The ADB president noted that economic growth in Asia and the Pacific remained solid although there was much discussion about a slowdown in the global economy. Domestic consumption and investment have provided a strong growth foundation. In some countries, growth is even accelerating.

Countries need to continue to pursue prudent macroeconomic policies, implement structural reforms and invest in human capital and infrastructure. He warned that trade tensions remained a concern, which could seriously undermine consumer and investor confidence and weaken growth in the region.

ADB's future operations will be based on Strategy 2030. First, the priority will be to address remaining poverty and reduce inequality by supporting the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the region.

The second operational priority is to accelerate progress in gender equality. By 2030, ADB will ensure that at least 75pc of its operations will integrate gender equality designs into a wide range of operations, including transport, energy and urban infrastructure.

Third is climate change. For ADB, 2018 was another strong year for climate investments, reaching almost \$3.6bn in approvals for climate change adaptation and mitigation. By 2030, at least 75pc of operations will support mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Fourth, ADB will continue to foster regional cooperation and integration. Building on ADB-led sub-regional cooperation platforms in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, it will further enhance regional connectivity through transport, energy and trade facilitation.

ADB will also promote regional public goods such as tackling communicable diseases as well as helping strengthen cooperation in the financial sector and prudential policies. It will encourage knowledge sharing in areas such as education and agriculture.

The meetings also focused on sustainable tourism that has graduated from a luxury to an industry as the number of tourists have jumped, thanks to a growing middle class, more leisure time, budget airlines, influence of social media, better-quality tourist infrastructure and policies to promote the tourism industry.

In 2018, about 350 million international tourists arrived in Asia and the Pacific countries. This number has more than doubled since 2005.

Going beyond the usual meetings, Fijian Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama presented his island country as a tourism hotspot while warning the over 2,000 delegates about the seriousness of climate change.

From the disappearing coastlines of Bangladesh to water scarcity across the Mediterranean, the desertification of arable farmland in land-locked countries in Africa, worsening super-typhoons wreaking havoc across the Philippines, Japan and China, and the communities slipping beneath the rising seas in the South-east of the United States, all people are vulnerable. All nations must unite in taking decisive action to address this threat, he pleaded.

Published in Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, May 6th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1480495/adb-emphasises-climate-change>

HALF OF GLACIERS IN WORLD HERITAGE SITES TO DISAPPEAR BY END-CENTURY

RECORDER REPORT | MAY 6TH, 2019 | GENEVA

Nearly half of the glaciers in World Heritage sites will disappear by the end of this century if greenhouse gas emissions continue unchecked, a report said on Tuesday.

The new study from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) focused on the 46 World Heritage sites where glaciers are found, including Grosser Aletschgletscher in the Swiss Alps, Greenland's Jakobshavn Glacier and Khumbu Glacier in the Himalayas.

Using a variety of data and advanced modelling, the authors “predict glacier extinction by 2100 under a high emission scenario in 21 of the 46 natural World Heritage sites where glaciers are currently found,” IUCN said in a statement. That “high emission scenario” refers to the status quo, where the commitments made under the 2015 Paris climate pact are not met.

Sites likely to see the most severe ice-loss are Los Glaciares National Park in Argentina and Waterton Glacier International Peace Park, which straddles the Canada-US border. The disappearance of small glaciers in the Pyrenees – Mont Perdu World Heritage site could happen before 2040, according to IUCN projections.

Even if nations deliver on the terms of the Paris agreement, eight of the 46 World Heritage sites analysed in the report will still be ice-free by the year 2100, IUCN added. “Losing these iconic glaciers would be a tragedy and have major consequences for the availability of water resources, sea level rise and weather patterns,” Peter Shadie, director of IUCN’s World Heritage Programme, said in the statement. IUCN, widely-known for its “red list” of endangered species, has developed the first ever inventory of the 19,000 glaciers spread across 46 World Heritage sites.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/05/20190506470259/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MAY 13TH TO MAY 19TH 2019

415.26 PARTS PER MILLION: CO2 LEVELS HIT HISTORIC HIGH

RECORDER REPORT | MAY 14TH, 2019 | PARIS

Scientists in the United States have detected the highest levels of planet-warming carbon dioxide in Earth’s atmosphere since records began, sounding new alarm over the relentless rise of man-made greenhouse gas emissions..26

The Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, which has tracked atmospheric CO2 levels since the late 1950s, on Saturday morning detected 415.26 parts per million (ppm). It was also the first time on record that the observatory measured a daily baseline above 415 ppm.

The last time Earth’s atmosphere contained this much CO2 was more than three million years ago, when global sea levels were several metres higher and parts of Antarctica were blanketed in forest. “It shows that we are not on track with protecting the climate at all.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/05/20190514473272/>

UN KICKS OFF MAJOR CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORT

AFP Updated May 13, 2019

WELLINGTON: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has kicked off a major United Nations push for progress on what he calls the defining issue of our time: climate change.

Guterres travelled to New Zealand on Sunday, from where he is set to visit several Pacific islands where rising sea levels are threatening the very existence of those small countries.

The stepped-up diplomacy will culminate with a climate action summit at the UN in September, an event billed as a last chance to prevent irreversible climate change, three years after the Paris agreement went into force.

“We are seeing everywhere a clear demonstration that we are not on track to achieve the objectives defined in the Paris agreement,” Guterres said on the failure to limit rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial revolution levels.

In a strong message for action on climate change, Guterres said international political resolve was fading and it was the small island nations that were “really in the front line” and would suffer most.

In Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, Guterres will meet families whose lives have been upended by cyclones, flooding and other extreme weather events.

Pacific island countries face an especially dire risk from climate change because of sea level rise. In some cases, low-lying countries could disappear completely.

Fiji is working to build a coalition of more than 90 countries from the Caribbean, Africa and Asia facing climate crisis.

“We hope that the secretary-general will draw far more inspiration from his first visit to go further, faster and deeper with the climate summit,” Fiji’s UN Ambassador Satyendra Prasad said.

“We are very hopeful that the climate summit will mark a turning point.”

Guterres on Sunday praised New Zealand’s “extremely important” leadership on climate change — Wellington has introduced legislation to become carbon neutral by 2050 — but warned that international political resolve was fading.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, speaking at the joint press conference in Auckland, called climate change “the biggest challenge” facing the global community and said it would be “gross negligence” to avoid the issue.

But the UN push on climate change is shaping up amid geopolitical shifts: the United States under Donald Trump has decided to pull out of the Paris agreement to combat global warming, giving China more space to assert its views.

“The Trump administration’s disdain for climate diplomacy has left China looking like the main guarantor of the Paris agreement,” said Richard Gowan, UN director for the International Crisis Group.

“While China is increasingly active across the UN, other states are suspicious of its stances on human rights and development. But it is the indispensable power in climate talks now.”

Trump announced in 2017 that the United States would exit the Paris agreement, but under the terms of the deal the withdrawal will only become effective in 2020.

The US administration is not taking part in summit preparations but has not said it will skip the event, according to UN officials.

Published in Dawn, May 13th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1481996/un-kicks-off-major-climate-change-effort>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MAY 20TH TO MAY 26TH 2019

YOUTHS HOLD CLIMATE PROTEST ACROSS EUROPE

AFP Updated May 25, 2019

BERLIN: Hundreds of thousands of young climate activists rallied across Europe on Friday ahead of EU Parliament elections as part of protests worldwide demanding action against global warming.

In Germany alone, wrote the Fridays for Future group on Twitter, “320,000 people have gathered on the streets for today’s #ClimateStrike — our biggest strike yet!” From Lisbon to Oslo, children and youths skipped school and voiced their anxiety about inheriting a warming planet with melting ice caps and worsening storms, floods and droughts.

“You are running out of excuses, we are running out of time,” read one message in Berlin directed at politicians, while another demanded: “The climate is changing, why aren’t we?” In Warsaw, around 1,000 students lay down on a major city intersection in a brief “die-in” that, an organiser said, was meant to “symbolise what will happen to us in the future”.

“We are all in the same boat,” read a protest sign in Madrid, expressing the shared sentiment of youngsters who rallied in cities across more than 120 countries.

Some 15,000 activists marched in Paris, while a roughly equal number demonstrated at Berlin’s iconic Brandenburg Gate, chanting “What do we want? Climate justice!”

Published in Dawn, May 25th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1484431/youths-hold-climate-protest-across-europe>

OCEANS COULD RISE SIX FEET BY 2100, UPROOT MILLIONS, NEW STUDY WARNS

AFP Updated May 22, 2019

WASHINGTON: Global sea levels could rise by two metres or 6.5 feet and displace tens of millions of people by the end of the century, according to new projections that double the UN’s benchmark estimates.

The vast ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica contain enough frozen water to lift the world’s oceans dozens of metres. The expansion of water as oceans warm also contributes to sea level rise.

But predicting the rates at which they will melt as the planet heats is notoriously tricky.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said its 2013 Fifth Assessment Report that under current emissions trajectories — a “business-as-usual” scenario known as RCP8.5 — would likely rise by up to one metre by 2100.

That prediction has since been viewed as conservative, as the levels of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise year on year, and satellites showing accelerated rates of melt-off from massive ice sheets atop Antarctica and Greenland.

A group of the world's leading ice scientists this week released a expert judgement on the situation, drawing on their own experience and observations.

While there was still a significant margin of error, they found it “plausible” that under the business-as-usual emissions scenario, sea-level rises could exceed two metres by 2100.

The authors said the area of land lost to the ocean could be equivalent to that of France, Germany, Spain and Britain combined and would displace more than 180 million people.

“A sea-level rise of this magnitude would clearly have profound consequences for humanity,” they said.

The Paris climate deal, struck between nations in 2015, aims to limit global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), and encourages countries to work towards a 1.5C cap.

In October the IPCC released a landmark climate report that called for a drastic and immediate drawdown in coal, oil and gas consumption in order to arrest the rapid rise in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

That report, however, did not include revised estimates of sea level rise.

The authors of the new study, released on Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, argue that the IPCC's sea-level rise prediction was too constrained by focusing on what was “likely” to happen.

Published in Dawn, May 22nd, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1483808/oceans-could-rise-six-feet-by-2100-uproot-millions-new-study-warns>

June 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MAY 27TH TO JUN 2ND 2019

THE CLIMATE-MIGRATION NEXUS

BR Research May 29, 2019

An oft ignored side of climate change is its impact on local migration. The regular environmental degradation facilitates migration from one place to another, but the rapidly changing climate has exacerbated this trend in human mobility as their vulnerabilities cross thresholds.

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, and ranks in the top 10 most effected countries on the Long-Term Climate Risk Index. At the same time, the rural to urban

migration is also rampant; and while not all human mobility is climate driven, its share is not insignificant. This climate change – migration nexus is complex and needs to be tackled as it is imperiling human development.

According to Global Climate Risk Index 2019, Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries that are recurrently affected by catastrophes. And because it is so densely populated, these events have much more resounding impact on the population displacement. Not only significant weather events like floods, droughts, and heat waves, but also slow changes in temperature and precipitation have affected the living standards and means of people in the rural areas; and more than half of the population of Pakistan lives in the rural areas. Moreover, it is the increasing frequency of these events that is accelerating the adverse impact on humans.

Hence, climate related migration from peri-urban and rural to urban areas is thriving. Key environmental reasons for rural to urban migration include degradation of land, crop failure, falling yields, food insecurity etc. from changes in the climate over time. The eventual motive for even climate-driven migrations is better standard of living and better earnings in the urban areas. However, with unchecked and rising urbanisation and no national policy on internal migration comes a mounting burden on the already questionable health, sanitation, housing, security, education, infrastructure, city capacity and other utilities in the urban areas.

With so many other demanding issues, allocating resources to climate changes is a struggle for countries like Pakistan. But the authorities will have to fish out means because the impact of harsh climatic conditions is not just limited to a few thousand people moving from rural to urban areas. The ultimate goal should be to address environment as well as protect livelihoods of a huge population residing in the rural areas.

Apart from working on reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment to slowdown climatic ageing, a key globally acknowledged strategy is the mainstreaming migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change. This can be done through aggressive disaster risk management, urban planning, infrastructure and resource planning, housing planning etc. There is a need to address issues that can be controlled like poverty, healthcare, food shortages, and lack of job opportunities in the rural areas through institutional support, which could help the population become more adaptive to rapidly changing climate.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/05/29/499854/the-climate-migration-nexus/>

2-METRE SEA LEVEL RISE ‘PLAUSIBLE’ BY 2100: STUDY

RECORDER REPORT | MAY 27TH, 2019 | WASHINGTON

Global sea levels could rise by two metres (6.5 feet) and displace tens of millions of people by the end of the century, according to new projections that double the UN’s benchmark estimates. The vast ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica contain enough frozen water to lift the world’s oceans dozens of metres. The expansion of water as oceans warm also contributes to sea level rise.

But predicting the rates at which they will melt as the planet heats is notoriously tricky.

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A group of the world's leading ice scientists this week released an expert judgement on the situation, drawing on their own experience and observations. While there was still a significant margin of error, they found it "plausible" that under the business-as-usual emissions scenario, sea-level rises could exceed two metres by 2100. The authors said the area of land lost to the ocean could be equivalent to that of France, Germany, Spain and Britain combined and would displace more than 180 million people.

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In October the IPCC released a landmark climate report that called for a drastic and immediate drawdown in coal, oil and gas consumption in order to arrest the rapid rise in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

That report, however, did not include revised estimates of sea level rise.

Earth has already heated 1C since pre-industrial times, contributing roughly 3mm to sea levels each year. The authors of the new study, released Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, argue that the IPCC's sea-level rise prediction was too constrained by focusing on what was "likely" to happen. At wider probabilities – 5-95 percent likelihood – they found that under 2C of warming seas could rise 36-126 cm by 2100.

In world that has warmed by 5C – unlikely but certainly not impossible given projected fossil fuel demand in the coming decades – they calculated a five percent risk of sea levels surpassing two metres higher, topping out at 238 cm.

Willy Aspinall, from the University of Bristol's School of Earth Sciences, said he hoped the study could provide policymakers with a more accurate worst-case scenario "crucial for robust decision making."

"Limiting attention to the 'likely' range, as was the case in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, may be misleading and will likely lead to a poor evaluation of the true risks," he added.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/05/20190527481048/>

ILLEGAL OZONE-DEPLETING GASES TRACED TO CHINA: STUDY

RECORDER REPORT | MAY 27TH, 2019 | PARIS

Industries in northeastern China have spewed large quantities of an ozone-depleting gas into the atmosphere in violation of an international treaty, scientists said Wednesday.

Since 2013, annual emissions from northeastern China of the banned chemical CFC-11 have increased by about 7,000 tonnes, they reported in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature*.

“CFCs are the main culprit in depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, which protects us from the Sun’s ultra-violet radiation,” said lead author Matt Rigby, an atmospheric chemist at the University of Bristol.

Chlorofluorocarbon-11 was widely used in the 1970s and 1980s as a refrigerant and to make foam insulation. The 1987 Montreal Protocol banned CFCs and other industrial aerosols that chemically dissolve protective ozone 10-to-40 kilometres (6-25 miles) above Earth’s surface, especially over Antarctica and Australia.

Following the ban’s entry into force, global concentrations of CFC-11 declined steadily until about 2012. But last year startled scientists discovered that the pace of that slowdown dropped by half from 2013 to 2017.

Because the chemical does not occur in Nature, the change could only have been produced by new emissions.

Evidence pointed to East Asia, but could not nail down the exact origin.

“Our monitoring stations were set up in remote locations far from potential sources,” explained co-author Ron Prinn, a professor at MIT.

Reports last year from the Environmental Investigation Agency fingered Chinese foam factories in the coastal province of Shandong and the inland province of Hebei, which surrounds Beijing.

Suspicious were strengthened when authorities subsequently shut down some of these facilities without explanation.

To probe further, an international team of atmospheric scientists gathered additional data from monitoring stations in Japan and Taiwan.

“Our measurements showed ‘spikes’ in pollution when air arrived from industrialised areas” in China, said another lead author, Sunyoung Park from Kyungpook National University.

The team also ran computer simulations that confirmed the origin of the CFC-11 molecules.

“We didn’t find evidence of increased emissions from Japan, the Korean peninsula or any other country,” added Luke Western, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Bristol.

The findings also has implications for the fight against climate change.

“Perhaps even more serious is the role of CFCs as long-lived greenhouse gases,” Joanna Haigh, a professor at Imperial College London, noted last year in reaction to the initial report.

Two decades ago, CFCs – more potent by far as greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide or methane – accounted for around 10 percent of human-induced global warming. Pouring more CFC-11 into the air could also prevent ozone from returning to normal levels, scientists warn.

“If emissions do not decline, it will delay the recovery of the Antarctic ozone hole, possibly for decades,” said Paul Fraser, an honorary fellow the CSIRO Climate Science Centre in Australia.

CFC-11 persists in the atmosphere for about half a century, and still contributes about a quarter of all chlorine – the chemical that triggers the breakdown of ozone – reaching the stratosphere.

At its most depleted, around the turn of the 21st century, the ozone layer had declined by about five percent.

Today, the “hole in the ozone” over the South Pole is showing clear signs of recovery.

But a study last year found that the ozone layer is unexpectedly declining in the lower stratosphere over the planet’s populated tropical and mid-latitude regions.

Up to now, CFCs and other molecules have mainly eroded ozone in the upper stratosphere, and over the poles.

That study identified two possible culprits: industrial chemicals not covered by the Montreal Protocol called “very short-lived substances” (VSLs), and climate change.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/05/20190527481050/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JUN 10TH TO JUN 16TH 2019

GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS ROSE AN ‘UNSUSTAINABLE’ TWO PERCENT IN 2018: STUDY

Agencies June 12, 2019

LONDON: Global carbon emissions grew by 2.0 per cent last year, the highest rate since 2010-2011, a closely-watched review by energy giant BP said on Tuesday, calling the trend “unsustainable”.

“There is a growing mismatch between societal demands for action on climate change and the actual pace of progress, with energy demand and carbon emissions growing at their fastest rate for years,” said BP chief executive Bob Dudley. “The world is on an unsustainable path,” he said.

The BP Statistical Review of World Energy is viewed as an energy industry standard, pooling data on everything from the size of countries’ oil reserves to their production of renewable energy and various consumption rates.

It found that global energy demand grew by 2.9 per cent. Part of that rise was met by booming shale rock reserve exploitation in the United States, which recorded the fastest rise of oil and natural gas production in the world, the report said.

Governments across the world are coming under intensifying pressure from campaigners to set deadlines by which they will cut their net greenhouse emissions to zero.

Britain’s top advisory body on climate change has recommended that the government target 2050, the same date eyed by some other European governments.

The progressive wing of the US Congress is pushing for 2030, although most analysts view the target as unattainable and prohibitively expensive to reach.

The BP report found that while the use of renewable forms of energy grew by 14.5 per cent in 2018, it still accounted for just a third of the total rise in power generation last year.

This meant that a focus on “green” forms of energy would not be able to achieve net-zero targets, with governments instead having to do more to cut the use of polluting coal and oil, Dudley said.

“This is not a race to renewables, but a race to reduce carbon emissions across many fronts,” Dudley said.

Extreme temperatures around the globe drove a sharp acceleration in energy demand and carbon emissions last year, the oil giant said, issuing a stark warning that the world risks losing the battle against climate change.

The 2.9 per cent rise in energy demand in 2018, the fastest rate since 2010, deals a blow to global efforts to meet the 2015 UN-backed Paris climate agreement to limit global warming by sharply reducing carbon emissions by the end of the century.

China, India and the United States accounted for around two-thirds of the growth in energy demand. In the United States, demand rose by 3.5 per cent, the fastest rate in 30 years following a decade of declines.

And as energy consumption grew, greenhouse gas emissions caused by burning of fossil fuels, which account for around two-thirds of total emissions, rose last year by 2 per cent.

“It’s clear we’re on an unstable path with carbon emissions rising at their fastest rate since 2011,” Dale said in a briefing ahead of the release of the report.

London-based BP and its rival oil and gas companies have faced growing pressure from investors and climate activists to meet the Paris climate change goals.

Earlier this year, BP agreed to increase its disclosure on emissions, set targets to reduce them and show how future investments meet the Paris goals. But investors and activists say it needs to do more.

Energy consumption has historically been closely linked to economic growth.

But while global economic activity cooled last year, energy demand growth was driven by a sharp increase in abnormally hot and cold days around the world, particularly in China, the United States and India, which in turn led consumers to use more energy for cooling and heating.

Parts of the northern hemisphere were hit by freezing cold weather fronts last winter, only to face record temperatures in summer that resulted in vast fires and droughts.

The BP review showed an increase in oil and gas production, driven largely by a break-neck expansion of US shale output.

While OPEC, Russia and other producers continue to cut back oil production in an effort to boost prices, US drillers are rapidly increasing output, particularly from the prolific Permian basin in west Texas and New Mexico.

As a result, global oil supply rose 2.2 million barrels per day, more than double its historical average.

The US boom also accounted for nearly half of an unprecedented increase in global natural gas supplies, which increased by 5 per cent in 2018.

The increase in US oil and gas production was the largest-ever annual increase by any country, BP said.

Renewable energy grew by 14.5 per cent, nearing the record increase in 2017. The share of renewables in power generation nevertheless remained mostly unchanged, accounting for around one third.

Published in Dawn, June 12th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1487749/global-carbon-emissions-rose-an-unsustainable-two-percent-in-2018-study>

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

BR Research June 11, 2019

If there is one sector where the current government has shown more fervour than its counterparts, it's the focus on environment and climate. The argument that Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries when it comes to drastic climate changes is well acknowledged now. And apart from the climatic changes, environmental pollution adds to the agonizing situation in the country.

What work has actually been done on ground to support Imran Khan led government's enthusiasm for environment? The Economic Survey of Pakistan 2018-19 released yesterday shows some concrete steps taken by the government in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Effective implementation of National Climate Change Policy and its Frameworks through regular meetings, expediting establishment of Pakistan Climate Change Council and Pakistan Climate Change Authority; preparation of Pakistan's first Biennial Update Report (BUR) – that describes the status of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and mitigation measures taken by the countries – by the Ministry of Climate Change; and revival of Federal Forestry Board (FFB) to rehabilitate forests and forest cover are some policy initiatives.

Two key projects here are the Clean Green Pakistan that involves revival of forestry and wildlife resources, and the extension of The Billion Tree Tsunami campaign of KPK to Ten Billion Tree Tsunami throughout the country, phase 1 of which is an 8-year program (2016-2024) with a total cost of over Rs110 billion.

Another key theme for the current government is rightly the air pollution. This year, June 5, this is celebrated as the World Environment Day was also themed air pollution. The government's attempts to control smog last winters have been visible. While a lot more needs to be done in terms of long term planning, the Economic Survey highlights a study carried out on smog that can set some direction as to the steps needed in the coming winter season.

Economic Survey reports that it was found in a study that 65 percent of the sources were detected within Pakistan, which means fixing this 65 percent can seriously bring down smoggy conditions in the country. Also, it reports that the transport sector is the biggest contributor to air pollution in Punjab with a share of 43 percent, while the rice crop burning only adds 20 percent. In terms of sectors, industry and power sectors account for 25 percent and 12 percent, respectively. What is also of importance is the key pollutant responsible for smog; emissions of nitrogen oxide are the main pollutant responsible for smog formation largely coming from the transport sector with a share of 58 percent, whereas industry and power collectively hold around 34 percent share in nitrogen oxide emissions, and crop burning only has a share of 9 percent. Hopefully these results will help the government come up with a comprehensive smog policy this winters.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/06/11/501796/combating-climate-change/>

CLEAN AND GREEN CITIES RANKING TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

By Our Staff Reporter | 6/15/2019 12:00:00 AM

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malil(Amin Aslam on Friday announced that it will launch a `Clean and Green Pakistan Cities Ranking` soon.

He was chairing a consultative meeting regarding the Clean and Green Pakistan Cities Index (CGPI) with representatives from the provinces, experts and officials of the Ministry of Climate Change.

CGPI is a city and neighborhood level index that aims at ranking cities and neighbourhoods according to their cleanliness and greenery.

According to the adviser, the key indicators in the index included water supply, sanitation, hygiene, solid waste management, street conditions, parks and tree cover in the area.

Initially, 20 cities will be ranked according to the index which is planned to be launched in Aug this year.

The draft of the methodology and functionality of the index was presented at the meeting where inputs and suggestions were given by representatives and the adviser.

Mr Aslam suggested to the participants to further improve the methodology by taking all stakeholders on board.

He said the purpose of the index was to create a healthy competition among cities which would also serve as an incentive for local government budget allocations. The cities that performed better will benefit and it will be an incentive for others to improve cleanliness and plantation in their areas.

The adviser said Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking keen interest in the Clean and Green Pakistan movement and the index was another step towards a cleaner and greener Pakistan.

https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=15_06_2019_152_008

UN CHIEF CALLS ON EU TO RAISE 2030 CLIMATE GOAL TO 55 PERCENT

RECORDER REPORT JUN 16TH, 2019 BRUSSELS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the European Union to aim for a 55% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, far more than the bloc's current target for a 40% reduction. In a letter to European Council President Donald Tusk, seen by Reuters, ahead of a summit of EU leaders, Guterres said the world's largest economic bloc should lead by example to avert the worst effects of global warming and limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Next week's gathering of the 28 EU heads of state is the last before a UN meeting on global climate talks in September. "I am counting on you, once again, to demonstrate the leadership of the European Union," Guterres said in the letter to Tusk dated May 23.

An announcement “aiming for a target of 55% reduction in emissions, would send a powerful message,” he said. He also asked leaders to phase out burning coal, ending approval of new coal-fired power plants beyond 2020. Despite a French-led push by eight capitals for more ambitious action on climate, notably by striving to go carbon neutral by 2050, leaked draft summit conclusions make no mention of ramping up the bloc’s commitment under the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

With China and India seeking to take centre stage at the UN meeting after President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris pact, some EU diplomats fear the bloc may become increasingly sidelined on the global deal.

EU states such as Poland, which relies heavily on coal-fired power, and Germany, with its powerful automotive sector, balk at deeper emission cuts for industry, while the “yellow vest” protests have dented France’s climate drive. However, growing climate concerns marked by protests across the continent helped propel Green parties to their strongest showing yet in the recent European Parliament elections.

The European Parliament and the EU’s climate chief Miguel Arias Canete have called for the bloc to aim for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, saying legislation passed since the Paris deal already puts it on track to overshoot its current target. Climate campaigners, however, say action taken by the EU so far is as yet far from consistent with the transformative change scientists say is needed to avert the bleakest scenarios.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190616486789/>

HEATWAVE KILLS 49 IN INDIA’S BIHAR STATE

AFP June 17, 2019

PATNA: Severe heat has left several dead over a 24-hour period in India’s Bihar state, as the country enters a third week of searing temperatures, officials said on Sunday.

The deaths occurred in three districts of the poor northern state, where temperatures have hovered around 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in recent days, senior health official Vijay Kumar said.

Forty-nine people died in three districts of the Magadh region that has been hit by drought, he said.

“It was a sudden development on Saturday afternoon. People affected by heatstroke were rushed to different hospitals,” Kumar added.

“Most of them died on Saturday night and some on Sunday morning during treatment.” Kumar said about 40 more people were being treated at a government-run hospital in Aurangabad.

“Patients affected by heat stroke are still being brought, the death toll is likely to increase if the heatwave continues.” Most of the victims were aged above 50 and were rushed to hospitals in semi-conscious state with symptoms of high fever, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Twenty-seven people died in Aurangabad district, 15 in Gaya and seven in Nawada district, officials said.

State Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced a compensation of 400,000 rupees (\$5,700) for the family of each victim. Harsh Vardhan, India’s health minister, said people should not leave their homes until temperatures fall.

“Intense heat affects brain and leads to various health issues,” he said.

Large parts of northern India have endured more than two weeks of sweltering heat. Temperatures have risen above 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in the desert state of Rajasthan.

In 2017, researchers said South Asia, which is home to one fifth of the world’s population, could see heat levels rise to unsurvivable levels by the end of the century if no action is taken on global warming.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1488682>

CLIMATE CHANGE ON TRACK TO REDUCE OCEAN WILDLIFE BY 17PC

Jun 17,2019

PARIS: Climate change is set to empty the ocean of nearly a fifth of all living creatures, measured by mass, by the end of the century, researchers have calculated. In a world that heats up three to four degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, 17 percent of marine biomass — from minuscule plankton to 100-tonne whales — will be wiped out, they reported in the US Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

To date, Earth’s surface has warmed a full degree (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit). Bigger fish and marine mammals already devastated by overfishing, pollution and ship strikes will see especially sharp declines due to rising temperatures.

Even in a “best-case” scenario of limiting warming to 2C — the cornerstone target of the Paris climate treaty — the ocean’s biomass will drop off by five percent. Shallow-water corals, which harbour 30 percent of marine life, are forecast to disappear almost entirely under these conditions. Every additional degree will see the ocean biomass shrink by another five percent. Earth is currently on course to be around 4C hotter by 2100. “The future of marine ecosystems will depend heavily on climate change,” said Junne-Jai Shin, a biologist at the French Institute for Development Research and one 35 experts from a dozen countries contributing to the study.

“Measures to protect biodiversity and fisheries management will need to be revisited.”

Fortunately for life on land, oceans — which cover 70 percent of Earth’s surface — consistently absorb more than 20 percent of the greenhouse gases humanity spews into the atmosphere. But the accumulation of all that carbon dioxide has also made ocean water more acidic, threatening to upset the delicate balance of the marine food web.

Some regions will be hit much harder than others, the study found. Climate change will reduce marine biomass by 40 to 50 percent in tropical zones, where more than half-a-billion people depend on the ocean for their livelihood, and two billion use it as their main source of protein.

At the same time, the concentration of life at the poles would likely increase, potentially offering new sources of food.

The global population is set to expand from 7.3 billion today to nearly 10 billion in 2050, and to 11 billion by 2100, according to the United Nations.

“Up to now, the biggest threat has been overexploitation and the use of destructive fishing gear,” said Callum Roberts, a marine conservation biologist and oceanographer at the University of York in England.

“But now, the biggest impact is switching over to climate change, and that is playing out in the sea.” The number of damaging marine heatwave days has increased by more than half since the mid-20th century, according to a recent study in Nature Climate Change.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/06/17/10-page/786848-news.html>

AJK PRESIDENT CALLS FOR SOLUTIONS TO MITIGATE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

Tariq Naqash June 20, 2019

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has exhorted scientists and agriculturists to gear up research activities to find solutions to mitigate the negative impact of climate change and global warming on biodiversity, apart from creating awareness among people in this regard.

He was speaking at the opening session of the 6th international science conference on ‘Sustainable Agriculture in Changing Climate: Strategies and Management’ organised by the University of Poonch (UoP) Rawalakot on Wednesday.

The climatic change and environmental issues, noted the president, had affected agriculture, forests, food and livestock not only in Pakistan and AJK but almost in all regions and countries.

Says climatic change and environmental issues has affected agriculture, forests

He maintained that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations General Assembly included effective handling of climate change effects and agriculture development and added that the relevant government agencies needed guidelines from the scientists so as to frame comprehensive policies in this connection.

“Our scientists and agricultural experts will have to identify which technology can help overcome food shortage caused by climatic change,” he said, but warned that the use of any new technology must not affect the local ecosystem.

Mr Khan pointed out that majority of the AJK people relied on agriculture and forests to meet their own food requirements as well as the feed for their cattle.

“Therefore, we will have to adopt a strategy whereby the use of latest technologies enhances our per acre produce without casting any adverse impact on our forests and environment,” he said.

Apart from protection of natural forests in AJK, he suggested, cultivation and development of fruit trees in their owned land should also be promoted and encouraged with a view to improving the economy of growers on the one hand and ensuring supply of fresh organic fruit in local markets on the other.

The president claimed that the AJK government had adopted a policy to use technology for mining and mineral exploration that was less harmful for the environment.

Referring to the serious problem of water scarcity in many areas, he said small dams should be built at local level and big reservoirs at the national level so as to ensure availability of abundant water for both drinking and irrigation purposes.

He expressed the hope that the three-day conference would come up with important recommendations for short-term, medium-term and long-term planning as well as guidelines to the government and the people for proper use of available resources.

The opening session of the conference was also addressed by UoP Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rasool Bakhsh Jan, Dean Prof Dr Abdul Hameed and former director (technical) Pakistan Atomic Energy Agency (PAEC) Dr Shafqat Farooq.

The president was told that more than 600 scholars from Pakistan and abroad, including UK, Turkey and Nigeria, would present their papers on crop genetics and biotechnology, soil and water resource management, food security and safety, fruit and field crop production, integrated crop production and livestock production.

Later, the president inaugurated stalls of different agricultural products. He was also given a briefing on the occasion on modern agricultural technologies and the seeds of hybrid crops.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1489196/ajk-president-calls-for-solutions-to-mitigate-effects-of-global-warming>

HIMALAYAN GLACIERS MELTING TWICE AS FAST AS 20-40 YEARS AGO

AFP Updated June 21, 2019

WASHINGTON: Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast now as they were before the turn of the century, according to a new study that relied on recently declassified Cold War-era satellite imagery.

The **study**, which appeared in *Science Advances*, is the latest indication that climate change is eating the Himalayan glaciers, threatening water supplies for hundreds of millions of people downstream across South Asia.

“This is the clearest picture yet of how fast Himalayan glaciers are melting over this time interval, and why,” said lead author Joshua Maurer, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University in New York.

Scientists combed 40 years of satellite observations spanning 2,000 kilometres across India, China, Nepal and Bhutan, and found that the glaciers have been losing the equivalent of a foot-and-a-half of ice each year since 2000.

Many of the 20th-century observations came from recently declassified US spy satellite imagery.

The figure is double the amount of melting that took place from 1975 to 2000.

Past research has found similar trends, but the latest work is bigger in its geographic and historic scope.

It concluded that rising temperatures are the biggest factor. Though temperatures vary from place to place, average temperatures were one degree Celsius higher between 2000 to 2016 than they were between 1975 and 2000.

Other factors the researchers blamed were changes in rainfall, with reductions tending to reduce ice cover, and the burning of fossil fuels which lead to soot that lands on snowy glacier surfaces, absorbing sunlight and hastening melting.

“It shows how endangered [the Himalayas] are if climate change continues at the same pace in the coming decades,” said Etienne Berthier, a glaciologist at France’s Laboratory for Studies in Geophysics and Spatial Oceanography, who was not involved in the study.

A separate study found Greenland’s ice sheet may have completely melted within the next millennium if greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current rate.

“If we continue as usual, Greenland will melt,” said lead author Andy Aschwanden, a research associate professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Geophysical Institute.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1489497>

CLIMATE ACTIVISTS RALLY, SEEK TO OCCUPY COAL MINE IN GERMANY

JUN 22ND, 2019 VIERSEN

Tens of thousands of climate activists noisily rallied in Germany Friday to demand action against global warming, now one of the hottest issues on the European political agenda. While anti-coal activists tried to reach and occupy a massive open-cast lignite mine, elsewhere the "Fridays for Future" student movement staged their biggest international rally so far.

At least 20,000 young activists from 17 countries flocked to Aachen near the Dutch and Belgian borders for a huge show of force of the school-strike movement launched by Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg.

"Climate justice without borders," read one banner at the head of the colourful and festive rally. Another demanded: "Raise your voice, not the sea level."

Many of the young activists planned at the weekend to join the "Ende Gelaende" (EG) anti-coal protest, whose members were already playing a cat-and-mouse game with police as they tried to reach the Garzweiler mine.

The German phrase "Ende Gelaende" means that something is irrevocably finished - similar to "end of story" - which is how the protesters feel about the fossil fuel age.

"We are unstoppable, another world is possible," the EG protesters chanted as they walked toward the 48 square kilometre (19 square mile) mine where building-sized excavators churn through what resembles a moonscape.

Many of them were temporarily stuck when police shuttered the train station at Viersen near their tent city protest camp to stop them from reaching the mine some 20 kilometres (12 miles) away.

The EG protesters warned that they would try to block coal operations from Friday and through the weekend, when Greenpeace, Campact and other environmental groups were also planning large rallies in the area.

Police warned the protesters that entering the mine area was dangerous, while RWE also cautioned that anyone caught on its property would be prosecuted for trespassing.

The rallies were closely watched in Germany, where surveys suggest global warming is now the public's top concern, and where the Greens party is for the first time polling neck-and-neck with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives.

Especially since last year's scorching summer - when drought slashed crop yields, forest fires raged and shipping was halted on dried-out rivers - many voters agree with the protesters' demand on carbon fuels, to "keep it in the ground".

Germany, Europe's biggest economy, has long promoted clean renewables such as solar and wind while phasing out nuclear power - but it is still missing its climate goals because of a reliance on

cheap coal.

Merkel's government has pledged to phase out coal by 2038 - a deadline which the protest movement rejects as far too distant given global warming is melting ice caps and glaciers, raising ocean levels and exacerbating extreme weather events.

"Today we are taking the coal phase-out into our own hands because the government is failing to protect the climate," said EG spokeswoman Nike Malhaus.

One of the activists, Doerthe, 19, said she had "always been a good citizen" but was now ready to demonstrate and "go further" in non-violent demonstrations.

"It's exciting and it's great to see that so many people feel the same way. It comforts me because I know I'm not alone."

Another activist, Guenter Wimmer, 76, charged that Merkel "has been patting young protesters on the head, saying 'it's great what you're doing', while continuing with policies that are depriving them of their future".

Wimmer said he was heartened by the passion for change of the youngsters around him. "This is about our children and our children's children, and it gives me hope."

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190622489358/>

CLIMATE ACTIVISTS OCCUPY GIANT GERMAN COAL MINE

JUN 23RD, 2019

Several hundred climate activists evaded police to enter an open-cast mine run by energy giant RWE in western Germany Saturday, a day after tens of thousands campaigned against the use of coal. The activists, many dressed in white overalls and carrying sleeping bags, got into the vast Garzweiler lignite mine after a cat-and-mouse game with police, an AFP journalist said.

They ignored earlier police warnings that the site was not safe and a caution from RWE that they would prosecute trespassers. The activists, using blankets to protect against the sun, were quickly encircled by police and their vehicles to prevent them advancing further. The action was part of a series of protest planned over the weekend. Garzweiler, which covers 48 square kilometres (18 square mile), supplies lignite, or brown coal, to power stations in the region.

The declared aim of the "Ende Gelaende" (EG) protests is to shut down its operations. On Friday, 500 activists cut off the supply of coal to the Neurath plant, one of Germany's main coal-fired power stations, by sitting down on the rail tracks the supply trains use. The German phrase "Ende Gelaende" means that something is irrevocably finished - similar to "end of story" - which is how the protesters feel about the fossil fuel age.

With this new generation of protesters, the authorities must contend with large numbers of activists who are committed to - and often trained in - non-violent civil disobedience. A few kilometres from Garzweiler, some 8,000 people protested Saturday in the town of Keyenberg, which is threatened by plans to expand the mine. "This day is a reason to hope," said EG spokeswoman Kathrin Henneberger.

"Despite the unprecedented failure of the politicians faced with the climate crisis, thousands of people are today sending a clear signal for climate justice. "Whether it is a demonstration, a school strike or a blockade, this movement is determined to put an end to the era of fossil fuels," she added. Many of those who took part in the protest were school pupils and students who were part of the "Fridays for Future" demonstrations the day before.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190623489787/>

HIMALAYAN GLACIERS MELT TWICE AS FAST

Recorder report jun 24th, 2019 washington

Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast now as they were before the turn of the century, according to a new study that relied on recently declassified Cold War-era satellite imagery. The study, which appeared in *Science Advances* on Wednesday, is the latest indication that climate change is eating the Himalayan glaciers, threatening water supplies for hundreds of millions of people downstream across South Asia.

"This is the clearest picture yet of how fast Himalayan glaciers are melting over this time interval, and why," said lead author Joshua Maurer, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University in New York. Scientists combed 40 years of satellite observations spanning 2,000 kilometers (1,243 miles) across India, China, Nepal and Bhutan, and found that the glaciers have been losing the equivalent of a foot-and-a-half (45 centimeters) of ice each year since 2000.

Many of the 20th-century observations came from recently declassified US spy satellite imagery. The figure is double the amount of melting that took place from 1975 to 2000. Past research has found similar trends, but the latest work is bigger in its geographic and historic scope.

It concluded that rising temperatures are the biggest factor. Though temperatures vary from place to place, average temperatures were one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) higher between 2000 to 2016 than they were between 1975 and 2000.

Other factors the researchers blamed were changes in rainfall, with reductions tending to reduce ice cover, and the burning of fossil fuels which lead to soot that lands on snowy glacier surfaces, absorbing sunlight and hastening melting.

"It shows how endangered (the Himalayas) are if climate change continues at the same pace in the coming decades," said Etienne Berthier, a glaciologist at France's Laboratory for Studies in Geophysics and Spatial Oceanography, who was not involved in the study.

Greenland ice melt A separate study also published on Wednesday found Greenland's ice sheet may have completely melted within the next millennium if greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current rate. The Greenland ice sheet holds the equivalent of seven meters (yards) of sea level.

"If we continue as usual, Greenland will melt," said lead author Andy Aschwanden, a research associate professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Geophysical Institute. It is the most recent warning about warming in the world's coldest regions.

"What we are doing right now in terms of emissions, in the very near future, will have a big long-term impact on the Greenland ice sheet, and by extension, if it melts, to sea level and human society," Aschwanden said.

The study, which used data from NASA's Operation IceBridge airborne campaign and was published in *Science Advances*, is the latest to suggest a much greater rate of melt than was estimated by older models. The model relies on more accurate representations of the flow of "outlet glaciers," river-like bodies of ice that connect to the ocean.

"Outlet glaciers play a key role in how ice sheets melt, but previous models lacked the data to adequately represent their complex flow patterns," NASA said in a statement about the study. "The study found that melting outlet glaciers could account for up to 40 percent of the ice mass lost from Greenland in the next 200 years."

As ocean waters have warmed over the past two decades, they have melted the floating ice that once shielded the outlet glaciers. As a result, "the outlet glaciers flow faster, melt and get thinner, with the lowering surface of the ice sheet exposing new ice to warm air and melting as well." In the next 200 years, the ice sheet model shows that melting at the present rate could contribute 48 to 160 centimeters (19 to 63 inches) to global sea level rise, 80 percent higher than previous estimates.

In October, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) reported that avoiding global climate chaos will require a major transformation of society and the world economy that is "unprecedented in scale," and warned time is running out to avert disaster.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190624490604/>

SAUDI ARABIA ACCUSED OF NIXING EMISSIONS MENTION AT UN CLIMATE TALKS

Published on 25 Jun 2019 11:00AM

SAUDI Arabia has moved to block mention of the findings of a landmark report on global warming from decisions taken at United Nations' climate talks, said delegates and sources close to the negotiations.

Nations are gathered in the German city of Bonn for their annual discussion on how to proceed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with some of the most dire warnings yet of the risks posed by rising temperatures still ringing in delegates' ears.

<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/s/163346>

IN 'CLIMATE APARTHEID', RICH WILL SAVE THEMSELVES WHILE POOR SUFFER: UN REPORT

RECORDER REPORT JUN 26TH, 2019 GENEVA

The world is on course for "climate apartheid", where the rich buy their way out of the worst effects of global warming while the poor bear the brunt, a UN human rights report said on Tuesday. The report, submitted to the UN Human Rights Council by its special rapporteur on extreme poverty, Philip Alston, said business was supposed to play a vital role in coping with climate change, but could not be relied on to look after the poor.

"An over-reliance on the private sector could lead to a climate apartheid scenario in which the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflict, while the rest of the world is left to suffer," he wrote. He cited vulnerable New Yorkers being stranded without power or healthcare when Hurricane Sandy hit in 2012, while "the Goldman Sachs headquarters was protected by tens of thousands of its own sandbags and power from its generator".

Relying exclusively on the private sector to protect against extreme weather and rising seas "would almost guarantee massive human rights violations, with the wealthy catered to and the poorest left behind", he wrote.

"Even under the best-case scenario, hundreds of millions will face food insecurity, forced migration, disease, and death." His report criticised governments for doing little more than sending officials to conferences to make "sombre speeches", even though scientists and climate activists have been ringing alarm bells since the 1970s.

"Thirty years of conventions appear to have done very little. From Toronto to Noordwijk to Rio to Kyoto to Paris, the language has been remarkably similar as States continue to kick the can down the road," Alston wrote.

"States have marched past every scientific warning and threshold, and what was once considered catastrophic warming now seems like a best-case scenario."

Since 1980, the United States alone had suffered 241 weather and climate disasters costing \$1 billion

or more, at a cumulative cost of \$1.6 trillion.

There had been some positive developments, with renewable energy prices falling, coal becoming uncompetitive, emissions declining in 49 countries, and 7,000 cities, 245 regions, and 6,000 companies committing to climate mitigation.

However, despite ending its reliance on coal, China was still exporting coal-fired power plants and failing to crack down on its own methane emissions; and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro planned to open up the Amazon rainforest for mining, end demarcation of indigenous lands, and weaken environmental protection.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190626491214/>

BRITAIN ADOPTS 2050 NET ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET

by Dmitry Zaks JUNE 27, 2019

Britain on Thursday became the world's first major economy to adopt the tough new target of lowering fossil fuel emissions to a level of net zero by 2050.

Energy and Clean Growth Minister Chris Skidmore signed an order paper enacting the legislation after it passed both houses of parliament without a vote earlier this week.

Britain is already on course this year to make low-carbon sources such as wind and solar responsible for more than half of all its power generation for the first time since the 1800s.

"The UK kick-started the Industrial Revolution, which was responsible for economic growth across the globe but also for increasing emissions," Skidmore said in a statement.

"Today we're leading the world yet again in becoming the first major economy to pass new laws to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050 while remaining committed to growing the economy."

The deadline is more ambitious than Britain's previous policy of cutting emissions by 80 percent over the same period.

The stringent new guidelines will require a fundamental change in how the UK economy functions that some have warned may carry prohibitive costs.

Philip Hammond's finance ministry has reportedly issued a study showing that a shift to net zero from current targets could cost more than £1.0 trillion (\$1.3 trillion, 1.1 trillion euros) over 30 years.

But the top UK advisory body on climate change said the new target could be achieved within a less costly budget of 1.0-2.0 percent of gross domestic product by 2050.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) said this would require the rapid rollout of new policies such as making all new cars and vans electric by 2035 and quadrupling low-carbon electricity production.

Britain is already making some progress.

The National Grid network operator said this month that green sources of energy—including nuclear—would make up more than half of all the power generated across the country in 2019.

National Grid chief executive John Pettigrew said the achievement highlighted the progress Britain has made weaning itself off its past dependence on polluting coal.

Britain was home to the world's first coal-fuelled power plant in the 1880s.

"The incredible progress that Britain has made in the past 10 years means we can now say 2019 will be the year zero-carbon power beats fossil fuel-fired generation for the first time," Pettigrew told reporters.

The CCC said there would be a greater than 50-percent chance of limiting the average global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius—the "safe" limit identified by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—if Britain's move was replicated across the world.

"We're pioneering the way for other countries to follow in our footsteps driving prosperity by seizing the economic opportunities of becoming a greener economy," Skidmore said.

The government definition of "net zero" means that emissions are balanced by schemes to offset them.

These include planting trees or using technology to capture and store carbon emitted from burning coal and oil.

Natural gas is a less-polluting fossil fuel that some economists see as a temporary option industries could adopt towards the net zero target.

Britain is also part of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme—a so-called "cap and trade" mechanism that has come under heavy criticism from environmental campaigners.

It tries to lower emissions by setting a price for carbon. Nations that exceed their emissions "cap" can purchase the non-used portions allocated to low-emitting nations.

Environmental campaigners say pollution has no national borders and that emissions trading does nothing to lower the global amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

<https://phys.org/news/2019-06-britain-net-emissions.html>

FRANCE SIZZLES AT 45 DEGREES CELSIUS AS HEATWAVE ROASTS EUROPE

AFP June 29, 2019

CARPENTRAS: The temperature in France surpassed 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time on record on Friday as Europe sweltered in an early summer heatwave that has caused several deaths.

With France, Spain, Italy and parts of central Europe particularly badly hit by the high temperatures, officials pleaded with people to take common sense precautions.

France's new record temperature of 45.1 degrees Celsius was registered in Villevieille, a village in the southern department of Gard near Montpellier, the same area where a previous high of 44.1 degrees Celsius was set in August 2003, Meteo-France said. Records began at the turn of the 20th century.

The state forecaster said it was likely the record could be beaten again soon.

Earlier, the mercury rose above 44 degrees Celsius in the southeastern town of Carpentras. The town was deserted, with cafe owners contemplating empty terraces, which would normally be packed.

“We have never seen this!” one exclaimed.

The new record makes France just the seventh European country to have recorded a plus 45 degrees Celsius temperature, along with Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece and North Macedonia, Meteo France said.

At least two deaths linked to the heatwave were reported in Spain.

After feeling dizzy while helping harvest wheat in the southern Andalusia region, a Spanish teenager collapsed with convulsions when he took a dip in a swimming pool to cool off.

He was rushed to hospital in the town of Cordoba where he later died, the regional government said.

Elsewhere in Spain, a 93-year-old man collapsed and died on the street in the northern city of Valladolid, police said, giving heatstroke as the cause of death.

Heat-related deaths have also been reported in Italy, France and Germany, mainly among the elderly.

France remains haunted by the memory of the devastating heatwave of August 2003 which exposed the shortcomings of emergency services at the height of the summer holidays.

That year, nearly 15,000 people are estimated to have died because of the heat, many of them elderly people at home.

“I want to appeal to the sense of responsibility of citizens — there are avoidable deaths in every heatwave,” said French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe.

Scientists warn that global warming linked to human fossil fuel use could make such scorchers more frequent.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1491020>

‘CLIMATE CHANGE EXACERBATING NATURAL DISASTERS’

APP June 29, 2019

KARACHI: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) chairman Lt-Gen Muhammad Afzal on Friday said that climate change was exacerbating natural disasters.

Presiding over a meeting at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh, he said that full cooperation would be given to the PDMA Sindh in its efforts to cope with disasters, according to a statement.

NDMA chairman said that the natural flow had been disrupted due to encroachments on canal banks and other places. He asked the officials concerned to keep an eye on areas with major chances of floods and ensure resolution of issues of locals in the said areas.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1490952/climate-change-exacerbating-natural-disasters>

NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE PLASTIC BAGS IN ISLAMABAD AFTER AUGUST 14: ZARTAJ

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD JUN 29TH, 2019 ISLAMABAD

The government has decided to ban use of plastic bags in the federal capital and those violating the ban after August 14 will face a penalty of Rs 0.5 million.

This was stated by State Minister for Climate Change Zartaj Gul while briefing the Sub-Committee of the Senate on Climate Change, which met here under the chairmanship of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

Zartaj Gul informed the panel that anyone who is seen using plastic bags in the capital after August 14 will be fined and also urged for the use of cloth bags instead.

Pakistan is ranked 7th in the list of countries affected due to natural disasters. The state minister had already announced a blanket ban on use of plastic bags in Islamabad from August 14.

The panel also discussed issues related to encroachments on green belts of the capital, slums, nullahs and parking problems in various shopping malls.

The sub-committee, which was mainly focusing on the report on environmental issues pertaining to the federal capital, also discussed the huge space that billboards occupy on the buildings.

In the meeting, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) officials informed the sub-committee that the nullah at F-9 Park will be cleared in 15 days.

The Metropolitan Cooperation Islamabad (MCI) officials also informed the committee that the managements of the private housing societies of E-11 were directed to establish sewerage treatment plants of appropriate technology to give sigh of relief to the residents.

Director General Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Farzana Altaf informed the committee that there is no air pollution in I-19 and I-10 industrial areas as it is being monitored round the clock.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190629492542/>

COTTON ADVISORY ISSUED

RECORDER REPORT JUN 29TH, 2019 MULTAN

Agriculture Department has issued a fresh fortnightly cotton advisory, applicable till July 15, advising farmers to immediately drain out rainwater and take steps to eradicate weeds for better crop growth. In a release issued here, experts said that rainwater should be drained out and weeds be tackled either through hoeing or by applying suitable weedicides.

Experts said that the crop should remain free from weeds during the first 60 days of its growth. In case of areas that received rains, farmers should apply 23-kilogram Nitrogen per acre and spray two kilogram Urea in 100 litres of water. Farmers should not keep crop water stressed at the fruit stage and apply water, preferably in the evening. Good production needed balanced application of fertilizers; experts said adding that Urea be applied along with water application after mixing it in a drum or with the rigger when soil is moist.

Potash must be applied at boll formation stage. Experts suggested per acre spray of 200-gram Potassium Nitrate, 250-gram Zinc Sulphate, and 300-gram Boric Acid in 100 litres of water. Pest scouting done twice a week and pesticides be applied in consultation with officials if pests' incidence reaches or surpass economic threshold level (ETL). To tackle pink bollworm, farmers should apply four pheromone traps per acre and replace the pheromone capsules fortnightly. Spray applied early

morning or in the evening after 5pm. Farmers should also pay attention to weather forecast and consult officials for a proper crop growth strategy.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190629492568/>

CLIMATE ACTIVISTS FORM HUMAN CHAIN AROUND GERMAN PARLIAMENT

RECORDER REPORT JUN 29TH, 2019 BERLIN

Demonstrators formed a human chain to symbolically lock politicians in the German parliament building in Berlin Friday, as calls by schoolchildren for climate action continued into the capital's summer holiday. The group stretched a bolt of red cloth from hand to hand while holding signs with messages like "2038 is too late" - a reference to the government's planned date for ending electricity generation from coal.

"While the politicians are serving their final minutes before the summer holiday, we're outside saying: People who make no climate policy don't deserve a break!" the "Fridays for Future" movement tweeted. "That's why we're forming a human chain and demanding that you continue sitting" in the chamber, the account added. Launched by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, "Fridays for Future" has seen pupils "strike" against school teaching each Friday for months across Europe.

Around 500 people joined a march to the Reichstag parliament building from the Invalidenpark square, close to the city's Natural History Museum which opens its doors to the activists in weekly discussion forums. Friday's protest comes one week after tens of thousands of young people from around Europe rallied in the western city of Aachen to demand faster reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in the movement's biggest German demonstration yet.

Some of those demonstrators later joined the "Ende Gelaende" civil disobedience action in which activists blockaded a massive open-cast brown coal mine. Climate change has become a top public concern in Germany, with the Greens party shooting up to poll neck-and-neck with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives for the first time in recent weeks.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/06/20190629492603/>

July 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 1ST TO JULY 7TH 019

HOTTER THAN DEATH VALLEY: SEVEN DIE AS EUROPE BURNS, SWEATS IN RECORD HEAT

Reuters Updated July 01, 2019

PARIS: Wildfires burned tracts of land in France and Spain at the weekend as Europe sweltered in record-breaking temperatures that pushed the mercury towards all-time highs on Sunday in Germany, killing at least seven people.

Temperatures in France's southern Gard region hit an all-time high of 45.9 degrees Celsius (114.62F) on Friday — hotter than in California's Death Valley — sparking scores of fires that burned 550 hectares of land and destroyed several homes and vehicles.

One man died while competing on Saturday in a cycling race in the southwestern Ariège region, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. The 53-year-old crashed after feeling unwell, local public prosecutor Laurent Dumaine said on Sunday, adding police were investigating the precise cause of death.

The race was called off after several participants were taken sick due to the heat, organisers said.

Another cyclist died in the southern region of Vaucluse, with authorities attributing the man's collapse to the heatwave. Meteorologists say a weakening of the high-level jet stream is increasingly causing weather systems to stall and leading summer temperatures to soar. Five of Europe's hottest summers in the last 500 years have happened in this century.

Some 25 out of around 90 administrative departments in France have adopted limits on water use including for agriculture, which could affect harvest yields for summer crops like maize that are often irrigated.

"The heatwave has also hit the vineyards of Hérault, widespread damage observed," Jérôme Despey, a wine producer in France's southwestern Hérault region and head of the local chamber of agriculture said on Twitter, posting photos of shrivelled grapes. In Spain, 40 out of 50 regions have been put under weather alert with seven of them considered to be an extreme risk, the national weather agency said. Temperatures in Girona, in northeastern Spain, reached 43.9 degrees on Friday — the highest ever recorded in the Catalan city.

Most of the wildfires that hit Spain in recent days were stabilized over the weekend, but firefighters were struggling to control a blaze in the central provinces of Toledo and Madrid, that has burned more than 20 sq km (7.7 sq miles) since Friday.

Temperatures eased slightly on Sunday although the Spanish national meteorological agency predicted the mercury could stay over 40 degrees Celsius in some parts of the country, in particular in the northeast.

At least seven heat-related deaths have been reported in recent days: In addition to the two French cyclists, two people have died in Spain and three in Italy.

Germany's weather service warned of "extreme" heat on Sunday, forecasting peak temperatures of up to 39 degrees Celsius from Saxony in the east to the upper Rhine in the west. That's just below an all-time high of 40.3 Celsius.

In Frankfurt, 3,000 athletes took part in an IronMan endurance race despite the heat. Female race leader Sarah True of the United States collapsed within a kilometre of the finish line of the closing marathon stage.

Published in Dawn, July 1st, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1491440>

UN CHIEF URGES ACTION TO AVERT CLIMATE CHANGE 'CATASTROPHE'

AFP Updated July 01, 2019

ABU DHABI: UN chief Antonio Guterres said climate-related devastation was striking the planet on a weekly basis and warned on Sunday that urgent action must be taken to avoid a catastrophe.

“We are here because the world is facing a grave climate emergency,” Guterres told a two-day Abu Dhabi Climate Meeting to prepare for a Climate Action Summit in New York in September.

Guterres said destructive climate change was moving at an increasingly fast pace.

“Climate disruption is happening now... It is progressing even faster than the world’s top scientists have predicted,” the UN secretary general said.

“It is outpacing our efforts to address it. Climate change is running faster than we are,” he said.

“Every week brings new climate-related devastation ... floods, drought, heatwaves, wildfires and super storms,” Guterres said.

He warned the situation would only deteriorate unless “we act now with ambition and urgency”, but some of the world’s decision-makers still did not realise the dangers.

The meeting in Abu Dhabi, with government and civil society participants from dozens of countries, will select from 100 proposals for protecting the climate, said UN special envoy Luis Alfonso de Alba.

“I think what is important is to identify those proposals that have transformation impact,” De Alba said.

The selected proposals will be submitted to the summit in New York, he said.

The UN chief held out hope that the Paris Agreement could cut harmful emissions and reduce global warming.

Published in Dawn, July 1st, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1491444>

CLIMATE CHANGE MADE FRENCH HEATWAVE ‘MORE LIKELY’ IN HOTTEST JUNE EVER

By AFP - July 4, 2019

The record-breaking heatwave that gripped France last week was made at least five times more likely by climate change, scientists said Tuesday as other data showed that last month was the hottest June worldwide in history.

Compared to weather stretching back more than a century, the three-day temperature peak from June 26-28 in France was four degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than an equally rare June heatwave would have been in 1900, the World Weather Attribution (WWA) team told journalists in a briefing.

Global readings, meanwhile, taken by the EU’s Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) showed European temperatures were around 2C hotter than normal, and globally Earth was 0.1C hotter than the previous June record.

The heatwave last week smashed national records for the hottest single day as scorching weather spread across Europe from the Sahara. It was so intense that temperatures were as much as 10C higher than normal across France, Germany, northern Spain and Italy, C3S said.

Global warming probably amplified France's devastating hot spell by far more than five times, said Friederike Otto, acting director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.

"Models are very good at representing large-scale seasonal changes in temperatures," she explained.

"On localised scales, climate models tend to underestimate the increase in temperature."

The findings, presented as a report and to be published in a peer-reviewed journal, focused on metropolitan France and the southern city of Toulouse, where climate statisticians were coincidentally meeting during the heatwave.

Based purely on temperature records, extreme scorches like the one last week are now 100 times more likely than in 1900, said Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, a senior researcher at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute and co-author of the new report.

"But we are unable to say that this is just because of climate change," he said.

Air pollution, the "urban heat island" effect, soil moisture, cloud cover and a host of other factors can also affect the intensity of heatwaves.

And models designed to work on a different scale are consistently "biased" such that they underestimate temperature peaks.

"Given what we know about the observation data and the biases of the models, this is our most conservative estimate as to the contribution of climate change," Otto told AFP.

<https://www.newsarawaktribune.com.my/climate-change-made-french-heatwave-more-likely-in-hottest-june-ever/>

TRUE COST OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Jul 6, 2019

The PTI government is perhaps the only one that the country has ever had which explicitly recognises the danger that climate change poses to the country. Maybe it does so realising the massive loss that the climate change-induced floods and other natural disasters have brought about in the country. In its latest move, the government approved Rs5 billion for the prime minister's enhanced billion tree project. The project, when it was first introduced in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), helped boost tree cover in the province and now the government hopes that when the billion tree tsunami project is complete, it will help increase the overall tree cover in the province by a percentage. The government is also taking a host of other measures to curb pollution in the country coming from various sources like vehicles and plastic products. Campaigns to replace plastic bags and to eliminate plastic from the federal capital are already underway.

It has, however, emerged that efforts by the government to plant more than 10 billion trees in the country have violated its own financial rules. In clearing Rs125 for the project, it failed to abide by regulations under the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) which stipulates that only those schemes will be approved which are financially viable. The law, which the PTI government bulldozed

through parliament as part of its move to only ensure 'profitable' projects, is put in place as per IMF requirements. Worrying still is that the manner in which the project falls afoul of PFMA, the government has essentially failed to complete a cost-benefit analysis of the project while serious observations over its viability were raised. If anything, this should be alarming.

Ideas may be bulletproof, but projects need to be viable. More importantly, the government must not be ignorant of the hard numbers behind such projects, otherwise they just make for dinner table niceties.

https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201907060222&EN_ID=11201907060079&EMID=11201907060036

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 8TH TO JULY 14TH 2019

CO2 EMITTING FIRMS NOT ON TRACK FOR CLIMATE GOALS

Reuters July 11, 2019

LONDON: Only one in eight of the world's most-polluting companies are on track to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in line with global temperature goals, a study funded by investors with \$14 trillion under management found on Wednesday.

The findings underscore the gulf between commitments made by the private sector and the transformation that scientists say is needed to stop the climate crisis wrecking the planet.

The clock is ticking on irreversible climate change," Adam Matthews, co-chair of the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) and the director of ethics and engagement at the Church of England Pensions Board, said in a statement.

"Investors need to adopt an emergency footing otherwise the window to secure the change we need will be gone," he added.

The study of 274 of the largest publicly-traded, high-emitting companies found that almost half do not adequately consider climate risks in their operational decision-making.

Although regulators and central banks in many industrialised countries are pushing for greater disclosure of climate risks, a quarter of the companies in the study do not report their own emissions, TPI said.

Analysis of 160 of the companies in the study found that only 20 were on track to cut their carbon emissions in alignment with the 2015 Paris Agreement to curb global warming.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1493365/co2-emitting-firms-not-on-track-for-climate-goals>

LANDSLIDE KILLS SIX OF FAMILY NEAR KALAM

The Newspaper's Correspondent July 12, 2019

MINGORA: Six people of a family were killed and one person sustained serious injuries when a landslide struck a house late on Wednesday night at Baatin, a remote area of Matlitan valley near Kalam.

“The house was destroyed by landslide at midnight when the family of one BakhtRawan was asleep. Resultantly, seven persons of the family were buried under the landslide. Two women and four children died on the spot, while MrRawan was seriously injured,” said Bilal, a local resident.

Local people and Rescue 1122 team recovered the bodies and the injured from the debris. MrRawan was taken to the Kalam hospital.

In another incident, Sadiq and his accomplices allegedly opened firing on his sister and brother-in-law Farman after he broke into his sister’s house in Shahdara, Mingora. Farman died on the spot while his wife and daughter were critically injured.

Local people said that the sister of Sadiq had married Farman without her family’s consent and that was the cause of the attack.

Mingora police said the victims and the culprits belonged to Gandigar area of Upper Dir, but lived in Mingora. The police registered an FIR and have started search for the culprits.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1493568>

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS GREENLAND’S ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

AFP July 12, 2019

COPENHAGEN: In Greenland, climate change isn’t just a danger to ecosystems but also a threat to history, as global warming is affecting archaeological remains, according to a study published on Thursday.

There are more than 180,000 archaeological sites across the Arctic, some dating back thousands of years, and previously these were protected by the characteristics of the soil.

“Because the degradation rate is directly controlled by the soil temperature and moisture content, rising air temperatures and changes in precipitation during the frost-free season may lead to a loss of organic key elements such as archaeological wood, bone and ancient DNA,” the report, published in the scientific journal Nature, stated.

The team behind the study, led by Jorgen Hollesen, has been examining seven different sites around the vast Arctic territory’s capital Nuuk, since 2016. In addition to organic elements, such as hair, feathers, shells and traces of flesh, some of the sites contain the ruins of Viking settlements.

Projections used in the study, which are based on different warming scenarios, predict that average temperature could increase by up to 2.6 degrees Celsius, leading to “higher soil temperatures, a longer thaw season, and increased microbial activity within the organic layers”.

“Our results show that 30 to 70 per cent of the archaeological fraction of organic carbon could disappear within the next 80 years,” Hollesen said. This means that these remains, some of which provide a unique insight into the lives of the first inhabitants of Greenland from around 2,500 BC, are at risk.

When comparing their findings with previous surveys of the sites they found evidence of degradation already ongoing. “At some sites we did not find any intact bones or pieces of wood, suggesting that these have disintegrated within the last decades,” Hollesen said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1493608>

GOVT REVIEWS FLOOD PREPARATIONS AHEAD OF HEAVY RAINFALL

KhaleeqKiani Updated July 13, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday said it had taken necessary flood management preparatory measures ahead of heavy rainfall predicted by weather pundits for next week.

The countrywide preparatory measures were reviewed at a coordination meeting of the Federal Flood Commission (FFC) that was presided over by Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda and attended by representatives of the federal and provincial agencies relating to flood management.

The meeting was told that the federal government had last year approved 13 flood protection schemes for all the four provinces and they had mostly been completed. It was agreed that all relevant authorities, including the provincial irrigation departments, would remove all the encroachments from the river beds and flood plains to manage possible floods during the current monsoon season.

The federal government also suggested to the provincial governments to expedite the process of legislation to ensure that no future encroachments were possible on the river beds and flood plains.

At the federal level, it was reported that the Pakistan Met Department had made its flood forecasting division in Lahore functional, which was disseminating daily weather forecasts and flood situation to all federal, provincial and district level stakeholders, besides posting them on its website regularly.

To facilitate provision of river discharges, reservoirs data and flood-related information to higher government offices, a dedicated flood communication cell had also been made functional in the federal flood commission, it was reported. The meteorological department told the meeting that “normal to above normal rains” were expected in the northern half of the country during this monsoon.

The FFC reported that all rivers were currently flowing normal except for Indus River, which continued to flow in steady low flood at Chashma and River Kabul in medium flood in Warsak-Nowshera reach.

The combined reservoir live storage was recorded at 3.638 million acre feet on Friday, which is 26.59 per cent of the maximum combined live storage capacity. Thursday’s deep trough of westerly wave over northwestern parts of Afghanistan lied over northeastern Afghanistan and adjoining areas on Friday and moderate moist currents from Arabian Sea were penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan up to 5,000 feet and are likely to intensify.

Seasonal low on Friday lied over northwestern Balochistan and its trough is extending northwards, which is likely to accentuate during the next 24 hours that could lead to moderate-to-heavy thunderstorm and rain with one or two very heavy falls over the upper catchments of Indus River, including Rawalpindi Division, besides over Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and D.I. Khan divisions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Scattered thunderstorm and rain with isolated heavy falls are also expected over the upper catchments of rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej, including Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Lahore and Sargodha divisions of Punjab, during the same period.

During the July 13-19 period, “rainfall of moderate-to-heavy intensity with one or two very heavy falls are expected over the upper catchments of all major rivers, including Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad and Sargodha divisions in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, besides moderate rainfall, including one or two heavy falls over D.G. Khan division along with northeast Balochistan.

As a result of above situation, sharp peaks of high flood are expected upstream Mangla and low-to-medium flood in nullahs (tributaries) of rivers Ravi (Hasri, Bein, Basanter, Ujh, Jhajri, Kather and Deg) and Chenab (Palku, Aik and Bhimber) along with hill torrents of D.G. Khan division.

Urban flooding in Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Gujranwala and Lahore districts could not be ruled out, the FFC said, asking the authorities concerned to remain alert, critically watch the weather situation and take all necessary precautionary measures to avoid loss of precious human lives and damages to public and private properties.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1493771>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 15th TO JULY 21st 2019

ISLAMABAD SEEKS COMPENSATION FOR LOW CARBON FOOTPRINT

Amin Ahmed Updated July 15, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is seeking compensation for its low carbon footprint to meet the estimated \$10.7 billion per year needed for climate adaptation, and \$8bn-17bn for mitigation, reveals a new report submitted to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Pakistan, beset by the adverse impacts of global climate change, faces a huge unbidden and unearned ecological debt, while the country is only thirty-first in terms of global emitters, it is the seventh most affected by the fallout of climate change, says the first ‘**Voluntary National Review**’ of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which outlines the country’s level of preparedness for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to the national review document prepared by the Planning Commission and submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development currently in progress at the UN headquarters in New York, climate adaptation has become a forced reality for Pakistan, and as the country has commenced actions to protect environment and contribute to efforts to minimise the effects of climate change, both adaptation and mitigation are reflected in the country’s policy and implementation approach.

Pakistan’s ‘Billion Tree’ plantation drive across 350,000 hectares was the first ‘Bonn Challenge’ pledge to hit and surpass its commitment, using national resources. This project has now been up-scaled to ‘10 Billion Tree Tsunami’ — a five-year, countrywide tree planting drive to restore depleted forests and mitigate climate change.

Moreover, programmes such as ‘Clean and Green Pakistan’ and ‘Recharge Pakistan’ have been launched. These nature-based solutions for ecosystem restoration are leading examples of climate action among developing countries, with the added benefits of safeguarding biodiversity and generating livelihood opportunities, the document says.

High population growth is most serious threat to Pakistan’s future economic and environmental sustainability. It places additional burdens on the existing resources and production processes, particularly in the agricultural sector. The proportion of the food insecure population is likely to increase in the wake of climate change, especially if anti-poverty measures do not expand access to food. Climate-related natural disasters are another major risk.

As such, the government is working to enhance the resilience of local communities to avert the adverse impacts of natural calamities. A low carbon path has financial implications worth between \$8bn and \$17bn per year towards 2050. Thus, Pakistan is working to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy supply mix. Upgrading technology to this end is the ultimate solution that Pakistan is working towards, with the help of partner countries and international organisations, it says.

The government in its report says that Pakistan plans to reduce its current greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2030. Future mitigation strategies focus on reducing emissions in the energy and agriculture sectors. For the crop production and livestock sub-sectors, the government will take advantage of available technologies to minimise waste and residuals.

The report says that insufficient financing for sustainable development remains a challenge in difficult fiscal conditions and is likely to weigh heavily on the meaningful achievement of the 2030 Agenda's ambitious targets. To this end, there is a need to channelise resources through stronger partnerships with the global community. In this sense, the achievement of SDG targets in developing countries hinges upon progress on target to mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources. A national approach anchored in partnerships, aided by technology and facilitated by finance, will catalyse and scale up implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Pakistan.

The 2030 Agenda has somewhat altered development discourse in Pakistan. Specifically, it has added a new dimension — the understanding that the government alone cannot achieve development objectives, and that every stakeholder has to be encouraged to participate. To optimise the benefits of available resources, Pakistan has to, and is, exploring avenues for cross-sectoral cooperation and developing partnerships. This will be the hallmark of Pakistan's implementation plan for achieving the SDGs, it says.

New and well-thought-out ways for financing needs to be explored — including diaspora funds, impact investments, venture funds for innovative solutions, financial tagging and Green 'Sukuk'. In tandem, Pakistan is aligning its budgetary process, including its development funding, with the SDGs. Efficient, result-oriented investments can be maximised by picking out leverage points which connect with most SDG targets and have a higher multiplier impact, the report says.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1494101>

FLASH FLOOD WASHES AWAY BRIDGES, ROADS IN UPPER DIR

Dawn Report July 15, 2019

UPPER DIR/SWABI: Flash flood washed away two bridges and portions of as many roads in Upper Dir after a torrential rain as an intermediate level flood was observed in the Panjkora River.

Eyewitnesses said that water level increased in streams after rain that caused flood in the Panjkora River. They said that an intermediate level of flash flood was passing through Barikot union council. They said a bridge in Khadgal area in Barikot was completely washed away by the flood and another bridge was badly damaged.

The house and agricultural land of Shamasur Rehman were damaged by flood in Bada stream. The flood also washed away a portion of main Dir-Kumrat Road in Barikot. A number of vehicles and

tourists remained stranded in the area. However, local people repaired the damaged portion of the road after rain was stopped and facilitated the tourists to go to homes.

Likewise, link road of Gawaldi union council remained blocked to traffic for more than 20 hours at various places due to flood. The local people alleged that the executive engineer of the communication and works department refused to clear the road to traffic, saying the officials of the department were busy in clearing various portions of the main Dir-Kumrat Road.

More torrential rains have been predicted in the next days in Upper Dir. Provincial Disaster Management Authority has issued warning of floods and issued directives to district administration to make precautionary measures in that regard.

In Swabi, standing crops and vegetables were damaged and supply of electricity remained suspended for about 10 hours to different areas after heavy downpour coupled with thunderstorm on Sunday.

The boundary walls of various houses collapsed in Razaar tehsil but no casualty was reported. The rain turned various roads into pools. The drains overflowed and some of the low-lying areas were inundated.

The standing crops of maize, sugarcane, vegetables and tobacco were damaged by thunderstorm and trees fell on the road. The supply of electricity remained suspended for several hours to various areas.

Mustafa Kamal of Dagai village said that power supply to their area remained stopped for more than 13 hours.

Rukhsar Ali of Pirtab village said that the power supply remained suspended for more than 12 hours to their area. He said that despite repeated telephone calls, they got no response from Peshawar Electric Supply Company staff.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1494168>

FLASH FLOODS WREAK HAVOC ON AJK VILLAGE; 22 KILLED

Tariq Naqash Updated July 16, 2019

MUZAFFARABAD: At least 22 people, 18 of them from a Tableeghi Jamaat, were killed and seven others injured after a cloudburst triggered flash floods that swept away mosques and houses besides damaging shops and other property in the Neelum Valley of Azad Jammu and Kashmir late Sunday evening, officials said.

In all, around 50 houses and shops were badly damaged and 100 others partially affected by the raging water channel that passes through Lesva Bala village, 70km northeast of AJK's capital, according to Muzaffarabad DIG Sardar Ilyas Khan.

The downpour also left at least 12 vehicles missing, he said.

About the victims, the officer said 18 of the deceased belonging to a Tableeghi Jamaat had come from Faisalabad, while all other victims were local residents. The mosque, where the Tableeghi Jamaat men had been staying, was swept away.

Two other mosques in the area were also badly damaged, he added.

“The area is mountainous and does not have a landline or mobile phone facility, which is why it has been difficult to ascertain the exact details,” said the DIG while speaking to *Dawn*.

Deputy Commissioner Raja Mahmood Shahid and SP Asif Durrani have been overseeing a rescue operation.

None of the bodies was recovered either from the raging Lesva water channel or the Neelum River as chances of the victims’ survival were slim.

In a message from Spain, AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider had expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragedy and had directed the administration to leave no stone unturned to recover bodies and provide relief to other survivors.

According to a statement issued before AJK Minister for Civil Defence and Disaster Management Ahmed Raza Qadri left for the affected area, relief camps will be established for the survivors.

The government-run news agency *APP* quoted the Neelum Valley’s central police control room as saying that 130 houses, 70 shops, six mosques and 15 vehicles were perished following the mammoth landslide, as a big part of the thickly populated Lesva village slid and buried 22 people alive besides injuring at least seven villagers.

Rescue teams from Athmuqaam district headquarters besides from capital town of Muzaffarabad rushed to the area to evacuate the affected people and recover the bodies of the ill-fated inmates, said official in charge of the control room.

Also teams of the disaster management authority, police, health department, civil defence volunteers and locals participated in the rescue work in the Lesva village bazaar that was washed away.

AJK Chief Secretary Mathar Niaz Rana, AJK Inspector General Police Salahuddin Khan, DIG Police HQs, Muzaffarabad commissioner and other senior officials, too, reached the area to assess the situation and supervise the rescue operation.

The seriously injured were shifted to Muzaffarabad Combined Military Hospital and other nearby hospitals where they were being provided with medical treatment, according to the Athmuqaam control room.

Also half a dozen people, including a woman and her daughter, were killed in separate road accidents in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur on Monday.

A Muzaffarabad-bound passenger jeep coming from Sariyan Kutla skidded off the main Neelum Road and fell on the riverbank near Yadgar, leaving four people dead and an equal number of passengers injured. The deceased included a woman and her daughter.

In the other accident, two persons were killed and another was injured in head-on collision between a motorcycle and a car on the outskirts of Mirpur.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1494374>

CLIMATE ACTIVISTS' 'SUMMER UPRISING' DISRUPTS FIVE UK CITIES

Reuters July 16, 2019

LONDON: Civil disobedience group Extinction Rebellion staged protests in five British cities on Monday, aiming to renew pressure on the government to take bolder action to tackle climate change and slow the worldwide loss of plant and animal species.

The movement, which shut down four sites in central London for 11 days in April, said the latest actions in London, Bristol, Leeds, Cardiff and Glasgow aimed to generate momentum ahead of another phase of disruption planned for October.

“Right now we’re in a phase of movement building,” Larch Maxey, one of the movement’s organisers, said outside the Royal Courts of Justice in central London, where several hundred protesters blocked the road.

“We’re going to be doing more disruption in October in major cities around the world,” Maxey said, standing near a sailboat emblazoned with the slogan ACT NOW, one of five brightly-painted vessels towed to protest sites in each city.

Extinction Rebellion said the protests would run all week and include blocking specific locations, bridges and roads.

It will also hold talks, workshops, training in non-violent direct action, family-friendly activities and debates. Modelled on civil disobedience campaigns such as the US civil rights movement and Britain’s Suffragettes, Extinction Rebellion has pushed climate up the agenda in Britain, where parliament declared a symbolic ‘climate emergency’ in May.

Critics of the movement say policing its protests is a major drain on resources at a time when authorities are struggling to contain an outbreak of knife crime in the capital, while its blocking of roads has inflicted losses on businesses.

The group has inspired offshoots in more than a dozen countries, including France, where riot police used pepper spray and riot shields to clear scores of protesters from a bridge over the river Seine in Paris late last month.

Last month, Britain became the first G7 economy to enshrine a legally binding commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1494336/climate-activists-summer-uprising-disrupts-five-uk-cities>

REVIEWING CLIMATE CHANGE

BR Research July 16, 2019

Pakistan stands fairly low on the carbon footprint scale relative to its peers in the region. However, as the monsoon arrives, threat of flash flooding heightens in the country; the country is among those that are severely prone to climatic changes be it the floods or draught; heatwaves or earth quakes – 7th to be exact in global climate fallout.

The adverse impact of climate change is massive; and after a long time, there is some seriousness at policy level to address the impending issue. The latest comes from the review and reflection of policies and initiatives in New York. Pakistan is part of the 2019 Voluntary National Review of the High Level Political Forum (VNR- HLPF) on Sustainable Development, which is United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals currently in progress.

One of the Sustainable Development Goals being reviewed in depth is Goal 13, which is taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. According to the report, Voluntary National Review – Pakistan 2019 prepared by the Planning Commission and submitted to the HLPF, the country's target is take steps to safeguard the environment through large-scale tree planting campaigns as well as extending the forest cover by one percentage point – from 5.1 to 6.1 per cent.

Key efforts that the government highlights in the reports are implementation of Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+); amendment of the Forest Act 1927; revision of National Climate Change Policy; establishment of disaster management authorities at the national, provincial and district levels; revival of the Federal Forestry Board; up-gradation of Billion Tree Tsunami Project of KPK to the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme across the country; initiation of Clean and Green Pakistan campaign; Recharge Pakistan project for better management and utilisation of flood waters to restore and re-charge the groundwater apart from investing in renewable energy projects.

Though the country faces little threat from its carbon emissions right away, a little goes a long way. With coal increasing its share in power generation quite quickly now- be it imported or indigenous Thar coal – carbon footprint is bound to take up a notch; already the main contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the country is the energy sector (51 percent) followed by the agriculture sector (39 percent). Unless climate mitigation and adaptive strategies are implemented in true spirit, this will only burden the country further.

The review highlights that the country plans to reduce its current greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2030. Other planned initiatives include mitigation strategies focus on reducing emissions in the energy and agriculture sectors, minimizing agricultural waste and residuals, introducing vehicular emission standards and adopting Euro 4 standards; incentivising manufacturing sector to produce low-carbon-footprint commodities, reviewing tax policies and exploring the possibility of introducing a 'polluter tax' to generate funds; and opting for green financing to encourage investments in green or sustainable projects.

Here, it should be reminded that climate-related initiatives directed at long-term eradication and adaptation of issues also take long gestation and development period before they start giving the desired results. Unless we commit today, it could get too messy to handle the climate menace.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/07/16/510163/reviewing-climate-change/>

CLIMATE CHANGE AND PAKISTAN

By Editorial Published: July 16, 2019

Pakistan, like much of the world, is vulnerable to climate change. Over the past few years, we have witnessed extreme weather conditions that include floods, heavy monsoons and heatwaves — even

while the country has contributed less to the overall environmental damage than other climate offenders.

According to a new report submitted to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Pakistan ranks 31st in terms of global emitters while it is the seventh most affected by climate change fallout. The increased frequency and intensity of heatwaves which claimed more than 1,200 lives in Pakistan in the year 2015 is a warning sign that the country is a victim of global climate change. Floods and hydro-disasters have also increased in frequency over the past few decades. Small communities near the riverbanks are routinely washed away. And if by any chance, floods spare these communities, they are hit by droughts that cause misery in areas like Tharparkar in Sindh, as well as in Balochistan. To address the growing threat from the climate change phenomenon, the federal government has already launched 'Billion Tree' plantation drive across the country. And this project has now been upscaled with plans to plant '10 Billion Trees' countrywide over a period of five years. The mammoth project is meant to restore depleted forests and perhaps even reduce the impact of climate change.

With low emission levels and environment-friendly policies, Pakistan may be able to reduce the impact of climate change, but it will not be able to stop the process entirely. Faced with a host of issues that have been hampering a robust industrial activity for years, Pakistan is nowhere close to the big climate offenders, who have been involved in strong economic and industrial activity. The world's biggest polluters — in both absolute as well as per capita terms — must now take action over their increasing emissions rates to prevent further damage to the global environment. For Pakistan the challenge is to create national environment-friendly policies that can further lower our emission levels in the future without hurting our economic and industrial growth.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2013981/6-climate-change-pakistan-2/>

ARCTIC HEATWAVE HITS WORLD'S NORTHERNMOST SETTLEMENT

PUBLISHED JUL 17, 2019, 12:13 PM SGT

MONTREAL (AFP) - Temperatures hit a record high of 69.8 deg F (21 deg C) in Alert, the northernmost permanently inhabited spot on the planet less than 966km from the North Pole, the Canadian meteorology service said.

"It's quite phenomenal as a statistic; it's just one example among hundreds and hundreds of other records established by global warming," Dr Armel Castellan, a meteorologist at the Canadian environment ministry said on Tuesday (July 16).

The temperature was recorded on Sunday in Alert, a permanent military base on the 82nd parallel which intercepts Russian communications and which has been home to a weather station since 1950.

In October, a landmark United Nations report warned that time is running out to avert global disaster and that avoiding climate chaos will require an unprecedented transformation of society and the world economy.

Alert's record was marked at 69.8 deg F on Sunday and 68 deg F the following day.

"It's an absolute record; we've never seen that before," said Dr Castellan.

Such highs so far north are "completely staggering", he said, noting that "for a week-and-a-half we have had much higher temperatures than usual".

The previous record of 68 deg F was set on July 8, 1956, but since 2012, there have been several days where the temperature has risen to 66.2 deg F or 68 deg F at the base on the shore of the Arctic Ocean.

The average daily temperature in Alert in July is 38 deg F (3 deg C), with average maximum temperatures of 43 deg F (6 deg C).

"It is not exaggerated to call it an Arctic heatwave," said senior climatologist David Phillips at Environment and Climate Change Canada, a government office.

"The north, from Yukon right to the Arctic islands, saw the second or third warmest spring on record."

Furthermore, Canadian government forecast models "are showing that that is going to continue through July and then into August and early September", he added.

The current heatwave is due to a high pressure front over Greenland, which is "quite exceptional" and feeds southerly winds on the Arctic Ocean, said Dr Castellan.

The Arctic is heating up three times faster than other parts of the planet, said Dr Castellan, stressing the need for a drastic reduction in carbon emissions.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/arctic-heat-wave-hits-worlds-northernmost-settlement>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 22nd TO JULY 28th 2019

150 MILLION AMERICANS SUFFER AS STIFLING HEAT WAVE TIGHTENS GRIP

AFP Updated July 22, 2019

WASHINGTON: The United States sweltered in dangerously hot weather on Sunday, with major cities including New York, Philadelphia and Washington broiling in temperatures rising into triple digits.

An oppressive heat wave stretching from the Midwestern plains to the Atlantic coast had nearly 150 million people struggling to stay cool in the stifling heat.

"We're almost near the end of the heat emergency. Temperatures will start to go back down tonight. But today's heat index could still be as high as 110 degrees (43 degrees Celsius)," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted.

"Please continue to take precautions. Keep hydrated and keep cool." The heat was expected to continue through late Sunday however, as a high-pressure system off the Atlantic coast ushered in steamy, subtropical air.

Around 95 million people were under a heat warning or advisory for Sunday, down from Saturday's 157 million.

The National Weather Service (NWS) predicted “more very hot and humid conditions” for the area from Washington to Baltimore, with highs “close to 100 degrees.” A cold front stretching between the Central Plains and the Great Lakes region could bring cooler weather and thunderstorms by the beginning of the week, the NWS added, bringing a risk of flash floods to some areas.

But for Sunday, people were urged to stay hydrated, watch out for the sick and elderly, stay inside as much as possible and not leave children or animals in cars.

The heat wave has already been blamed for at least six deaths, including two earlier in the week in the eastern state of Maryland.

In Arkansas, 32-year-old former NFL player Mitch Petrus died of heatstroke on Thursday after working outside his family’s shop. The New York City Triathlon, which had been scheduled for Sunday, was cancelled for the first time since its founding in 2001. Life Time, which produces the race, donated more than 12 tons of water and Gatorade Endurance drink meant for competitors to be distributed to New Yorkers in need, CBS reported.

Meanwhile, the two-day OZY Fest — a food, comedy and music festival set for Central Park — was also called off. In Washington, a popular weekly outdoor summer jazz concert at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden was cancelled. New York City opened 500 cooling centers for residents.

At least three public defenders said on Twitter that inmates in New York’s notorious Rikers Island jail complex were suffering with no air conditioning, and that some guards had turned off fans as punishment, resulting in “deadly conditions.” The Brooklyn Defender Services legal aid group said some inmates didn’t have summer clothing, only long underwear provided by the group last winter.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1495471/150-million-americans-suffer-as-stifling-heat-wave-tightens-grip>

CHITRAL GLACIAL FLOOD CAUSES RS330BN DAMAGE

Manzoor Ali July 23, 2019

PESHAWAR: The recent glacial lake outburst flood in Chitral’s Golain valley caused the Rs329.97 billion damage to infrastructure and public property and affected more than 100,000 people, says the initial assessment.

The Glof occurred on the evening of July 7 when a glacial lake in Ragheli area wiped out everything, which came in its way down the valley.

Located around 21 kilometers northeast of the district headquarters, the Golain valley has a population of over 4,000.

A damage assessment report submitted by Chitral’s district administration to the relief, rehabilitation and settlement department shows the risks facing mountains communities due to climate change.

The report declared that the mountains perched high over eight small hamlets of the valley had 53 glaciers, which had developed nine lakes over 261,735sq meters.

It added that at least two lakes were potentially dangerous for Glof.

The Rogheli Gol glacier from where the flood erupted consists of Khundar, Hongyak Gol, Kakeli and Payosadar glaciers, which feed two glacial lakes located 21 kilometers downward.

The report said the vulnerability of Golain to natural disasters primarily stemmed from the presence of a large number of glaciers and glacial lakes in the valley.

“A minor flood in Golain stream can easily destroy the only link road located on the edge of the stream,” it said.

The report said though valley had been prone to natural disasters due to its difficult terrain, the recent Glof had emerged as a potential threat to public life and property in the valley.

The outburst flood affected more than 4,000 people directly, while 98,000 people across the districts were affected by the destruction of water schemes originating from Golain Gol stream and damage to water intake for the major hydroelectric power station.

It also destroyed several bridges and washed away large swathes of road, which is the valley’s only link with the rest of the district.

At least 10 houses were destroyed completely, while 40 others were partially damaged.

More than 10 kilometers long valley roads were washed away, while four bridges were damaged.

The raging torrents also damaged water intake of 108 megawatts Golain Gol hydroelectric station, disrupting power supply to several areas, while at least eight water projects meant for other parts of district, including district headquarters, were damaged.

The damage to Chitral town’s water scheme alone disrupted the supply of drinking water to more than 80,000 people.

The RRS department has sought Rs329.97 million from the government for the early restoration of services.

A breakdown of the sought-after funds shows that the restoration of irrigation channels is likely to cost around Rs43 million, rehabilitation of Chitral town’s water supply over Rs55 million, repair or reconstruction of roads Rs85 million, that of bridges Rs26 million, channelisation of Rogheli stream Rs45 million, flood protection works Rs60 million, and rehabilitation of microhydel stations around Rs15 million.

Meanwhile, officials insist that Golain’s lush green meadows and pastures attract thousands of tourists in the summer season but the destruction of roads by Glof has rendered it impossible for visitors to be there.

They also say the damage caused by the flood to tourism in the area will never be assessed.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1495655>

FEROCIOUS HEATWAVE SMASHES RECORDS ACROSS NORTHERN EUROPE

AFP July 26, 2019

PARIS: Paris on Thursday baked in an all-time high temperature over 42 degrees Celsius as a ferocious heatwave smashed records across northern Europe, sparking concerns about public health and new misery for rail travellers.

Records also tumbled in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany while Paris saw the highest ever temperature of 42.6 degrees Celsius, beating the previous top of 40.4C set in July 1947.

Trains have been slowed in several European countries to avoid damage to the railway networks and French national operator SNCF urged travellers to delay journeys planned for Thursday.

In the sweltering French capital, tourists and locals alike made a beeline for fountains and even pools laid on by the authorities next to the Ourcq canal in the north of the city.

Authorities have warned people to keep an eye on those living alone and also to beware of taking the plunge to cool down after a spike in drownings.

The scorching weather spelled misery for millions of commuters on public transport.

The heatwave, which was expected to ease up on Friday as rain and thunderstorms move in, had again focused public attention on the problems caused by climate change.

In Britain, temperatures reached 36.9C at Heathrow, a record for July but still below the UK's all time high of 38.5C.

The Netherlands, which broke a record dating back to 1944 on Wednesday, hit a new high on Thursday of 40.4C in the south.

On Thursday, Germany again hit a national record of 41.5 C in Lingen, western Germany.

Belgium on Thursday also reached a new record high of 40.6 degrees Celsius, on the Kleine-Brogel military base, in northeastern Belgium.

Hundreds of travellers were stuck on trains in sweltering conditions outside Paris for several hours late on Wednesday after an electrical fire halted traffic in and out of the Gare de l'Est station in Paris.

Eurostar and Thalys services from Brussels to London and Paris also experienced major delays and cancellations after cable failure the day earlier.

"I ask everyone who can avoid or delay their journeys to do so," said French Environment Minister Elisabeth Borne, advising workers who could do their jobs at home not go to their offices.

The northern third of France, including Paris, was under a red alert while the rest of the country had a yellow warning and water-use restrictions were in force.

In Austria, a three-year-old child died of dehydration after going to sleep in a car parked in full sunshine at the family farm, local authorities said.

France remains haunted by the early summer of 2003 when 15,000 deaths were blamed on the heat and the authorities were bitterly criticised for not mobilising fast enough.

"We need to take care of ourselves but above all others especially those who are alone, and be able to detect the first symptoms of heatstroke," said Prime Minister Edouard Philippe.

Local authorities have placed restrictions on water usage in many areas due to drought-like conditions that have seen ground and river water levels fall dramatically.

This summer's second heatwave has amplified concerns in Europe that human activity is heating the planet at a dangerous rate.

The June 26-28 blast of heat in France was four degrees Celsius hotter than an equally rare June heatwave would have been in 1900, the World Weather Attribution (WWA) team said this month.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1496282/ferocious-heatwave-smashes-records-across-northern-europe>

HEATWAVE RELENTS ACROSS EUROPE, BUT TRAVEL CHAOS CAUSES FRESH PAIN

AFPUpdated July 27, 2019

PARIS: A heatwave that smashed temperature records in northern Europe finally relented on Friday but thousands of holidaymakers were snared in travel chaos that followed the hot weather.

At its peak on Thursday, the heatwave broke national temperature records in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands while Paris baked in its highest ever temperature of 42.6 degrees Celsius (108.7 Fahrenheit).

The United Kingdom saw a "provisional" all-time record of 38.7 degrees Celsius (101.7 Fahrenheit) in the university city of Cambridge, the Met Office weather service said.

A band of rain and storms moved in, causing some disruption to air travel, while there were severe delays on railways after scorching temperatures damaged infrastructure.

Some freak weather was also reported, with cyclists in the Tour de France facing a sudden hail storm that forced organisers to call off the day's racing in the French Alps.

Riders were "invited to gather in a tunnel" to shelter from the downpour, the Tour de France said on its website.

The county of Lincolnshire in eastern England saw a "heat burst" Thursday evening, with temperatures soaring from 22C to 32C and then back down again to 22C over the course of an hour.

"This was due to a thunderstorm collapsing and bringing hot air from aloft down to the surface," the Met Office weather service tweeted.

The mercury dived in France with outbreaks of drizzle as state weather service Meteo-France lifted "red" alerts imposed in 20 departments.

--- Travel havoc -

Travellers seeking to make their getaways also faced disruption, with flights at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports were cancelled and delayed — some by over two hours.

Elsewhere in the British capital there was still travel havoc due to rails buckling under the heat and fires breaking out along commuter lines.

At Paris's Gare du Nord, an electrical failure halted domestic and international high-speed trains Friday lunchtime, including Eurostar and Thalys services although traffic gradually resumed.

Thalys — which links Paris to Brussels, Amsterdam and Cologne — also saw disruption with slow trains amid fears infrastructure could overheat.

“Yesterday in the south of France, temperatures on the tracks reached 65 degrees (149 Fahrenheit),” Guillaume Pepy, head of French national rail operator SNCF told BFM TV channel Friday. “You could have fried an egg on the tracks”.

In Switzerland, train engineers painted rails white to reflect the heat of the sun.

Finnish police issued a warning to motorists after a record number of reports of drivers crashing into moose who wandered into the road in search of water.

The heat “makes the animals move further for water, and they may cross roads,” Captain Joonas Tikka said.

While some Finns tried to escape the heat — which could exceed 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) this weekend — others were not deterred from swimming in lakes and the sea, despite an outbreak of poisonous blue-green algae in popular spots.

In Paris, with public swimming pools overcrowded, many locals and tourists sought to cool off in public water features, notably the giant fountains at the Trocadero close to the Eiffel Tower.

“It is too hot to stay in the city in the daytime, there is nothing to freshen with. So for the kids it's very cool to have this place with water,” said Norwegian tourist Yensi.

The heatwave has been particularly brutal in the countryside, aggravating fires which have seen thousands of hectares of crops destroyed in northern and central France.

Thousands of hectares of land went up in flames in northern France on Thursday, with fires still blazing Friday morning in Normandy.

French Agriculture Minister Didier Guillaume said that farmers in worst-affected areas would receive additional Europe-backed funding and the right to graze their animals on land not normally used for agriculture.

“It's catastrophic in terms of heat, so we're hoping the weather gets back to normal so that we can have a few flowers,” said Jason Augusto, a beekeeper in the Sologne region of northern France.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1496500>

SIX KILLED, OVER A DOZEN INJURED IN RAIN-RELATED INCIDENTS ACROSS K-P

By Our Correspondent Published: July 27, 2019

PESHAWAR: At least six people have died and around 18 were injured owing to torrential rains that lashed various parts of the province, a report from the disaster relief and rescue officials said on Friday.

In a report released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) deaths and injuries were reported in various incidents of land sliding and collapsing of houses during rains. As many as 27 cattle heads and houses were also damaged during the rains.

A man was killed in Buner when a wall of his house collapsed on top of him. A child each was killed in Shangla when rocks falling from a mountain struck her. Around 17 people were injured in Kurram when roof and walls of around seven houses collapsed.

As many as 17 cattle heads perished in Torghar.

Meanwhile, the PDMA has set up a control room for quick assistance to people during an emergency in the monsoon season.

The public has been asked to contact PDMA's control room at: 091-9213595, 9213845 and 9223662 for help and assistance during emergency situations such as floods.

People can also contact their respective district administration offices for assistance.

The public has been urged not to throw plastic bags and bottles in rainy watercourses and to keep them clean.

Meanwhile, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Senior Minister Atif Khan and Information Minister Shaukat Yousafzai stated that Shahrah-e-Naran has reopened after being cleared. However, owing to a rush of vehicles on both sides of the blockage, there is a heavy flow of traffic.

At least four people were killed when a landslide near Jhalkand and Burwai in the Naran Valley buried tourist vans.

Owing to monsoon rains in the Naran and Kaghan valleys, there have been landslides on multiple points along the Shahrah-e-Kaghan rendering it impassable for around 24 hours.

On Thursday afternoon, the highway which connects to Babusar Top and Kaghan was closed after heavy land sliding at multiple points between Jhalkand and Burwai.

According to National Highway Authority (NHA) Spokesperson Mukesh Kumar, around 2,000 vehicles were stuck in the area owing to the heavy land sliding. Of this, roads were cleared to allow a thousand vehicles to leave the area.

However, two siblings Mrs Saqlain and Abid Jawad from Layyah were killed when their vehicle was buried under debris from land sliding. However, their brother Baqar survived with injuries.

The survivor said that they were travelling in a convoy of three cars. Two cars which were ahead of them managed to evade the falling rocks but they got caught in the land sliding.

He added that they tried to open the door of the vehicle to escape but the locks did not budge. As a result, his brother and sister got trapped in the car and perished.

Separately, Muhammad Shafique told authorities that his two sons were out grazing their livestock and had apparently been caught in the land sliding.

Their bodies were recovered from the rubble and handed over to their families for performing their final rites.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2022278/1-six-killed-dozen-injured-rain-related-incidents-across-k-p/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 29th TO AUGUST 4th 2019

MONSOON RAINS LEAVE 16 DEAD IN SINDH

Imran Ayub Published on 30 Jul 2019

KARACHI: At least 16 people died — mostly from electrocution — and three others were injured in Karachi and other parts of Sindh on Monday as the first spell of much-anticipated monsoon rain wreaked havoc on the ill-maintained electricity and sewerage systems, causing gridlock and flooding in several districts, officials and sources said.

With the Pakistan Meteorological Department warning that the trend was likely to continue for next 24 hours, the situation in Karachi started to normalise after the sunset, more than 12 hours of raining. The pre-dawn rain continued till late into evening and the highest count in the city was recorded at 69.4 millimetre at 8pm.

“The much-awaited rain system entered Sindh early in the morning,” said Sardar Sarfaraz at Karachi’s Met office. “Due to climate factors the system landed a little late in the region, but since it’s finally here, we are expecting moderate-to-heavy rain to continue in the city for the next 24 to 36 hours. There are two systems currently circulating in the region; one in the Arabian Sea and the other in the Bay of Bengal. Besides, there is the effect of the monsoon weather conditions coming from upper parts of the country.”

After two months of hot and humid weather, the rain brought relief to the Karachiites. However, it also proved to be a source of misery for many. The two major government-run healthcare facilities in the city — Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) and Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) — received nine bodies, including five teenage people. They all lost their lives in rain-related incidents.

Dr Seemi Jamali of the JPMC said most of the people died from electrocution while encountering open wires and electricity poles amid rainfall.

The city administration, which is divided between local and provincial governments led by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan and Pakistan Peoples Party, respectively, came under severe criticism — first for inadequate preparation for the predicted rain and later for poor response to the damage it caused. On their part, both parties said that the situation was not as bad as painted by the broadcast and social media.

“The key roads of Karachi which always become inundated after rain, this time, are not in that bad condition. Traffic is through on major roads. We are only facing challenges in a few areas where the drainage system is not capable of handling this amount of rainwater. But we are going for alternative solution and the situation will turn better within the next few hours,” Sindh Local Bodies Minister Saeed Ghani said.

Seven people were killed in rain-related incidents in interior parts of the province. Four of them died by lightning that struck villages in Badin and Hyderabad districts.

Two people, aged 12 and 16, were killed when lightning struck a village near Matli town. A 22-year-old man and his 12-year-old cousin were killed by lightning in a village near Tando Allahyar town. A youth was killed in a similar incident in Rukan Burirro village of Sanghar district.

In Umerkot district, a villager died when the roof of his room collapsed during heavy rain. The incident took place in Harh village near Dhoronaro town.

In Thana Bula Khan, one of the eight men travelling in a vehicle was swept away by hill torrents. His companions were rescued.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/monsoon-rains-leave-16-dead-sindh>

RAINS, FLOODS CLAIM 10 LIVES IN KP

RECORDER REPORT JUL 30TH, 2019

PESHAWAR: At least 10 persons including five children and a woman have been died and 29 injured in torrential rains and flood in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said information collected from 10 affected districts of the province. 27 cattle have also been swept away in the flood. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), nine houses have been destroyed completely while 16 others were damaged partially. The Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department had directed all concerned authorities for initiating relief operation in the affected districts.

The report said that several roads that were damaged in the recent torrential rains and flash flood in Chitral and the concerned authorities are busy in their rehabilitation. At Naran debris of the land sliding has been removed from 8 spots while National Highway Authority (NHA) and other agencies are busy in the rehabilitation of the road.

The Department of Revenue has been directed for conducting the estimates of the losses in Chitral and other affected districts while Communication & Work (C&W), district administrations and others are also busy in the relief operation.

The concerned authorities have also been directed for early issuance of the compensation cheques to the heirs of those died and injured. According to the spokesman of the KP Relief Department, the concerned authorities are utilizing all energies on provision of services to the affected people and PDMA has provided handsome amounts of funds and relief goods to the district administrations of the affected districts.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/07/20190730501413/>

ZARTAJ GUL URGES MNAS TO PLAY PROACTIVE ROLE FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS DURING FLOOD DISASTER

Umer Jamshaid 2 days ago Mon 30 July 2019

Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Monday urged members of the National Assembly (MNAs) to play proactive role in creating awareness in their constituencies during monsoon seasons owing to the impending threat of disasters

ISLAMABAD, (UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - APP - 29th Jul, 2019) :Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Monday urged members of the [National Assembly](#) (MNAs) to play proactive role in creating awareness in their [Constituencies](#) during monsoon seasons owing to the impending threat of disasters.

Speaking at the National Standing Committee meeting with MNA Munaza Hassan in chair, she said the Ministry of Climate Change was also playing its part in timely awareness of the masses during natural disasters in coordination with other sectors.

She said, "I would request [all](#) the members to keep close contact with their relevant district disaster management authorities, the Commissioner offices, [Rescue 1122](#), Irrigation and [Agriculture](#) Departments and other provincial agencies as they had Department latest data and information regarding the prevailing [weather](#) situation and future prediction for disasters. It will help warning about the risks posed to the population of your electorate." She mentioned that our farmers would have to change their traditional way of cultivation due to the impacts of climate change.

On the occasion, Secretary of the Ministry Hassan [Nasir](#) Jami said that our ministry's [budget](#) had been increased historically and we were working on a number of projects based on environmental conservation and other multi-sectoral initiatives.

The [Billions](#) Tree [Tsunami](#) project in [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#) was successfully completed which was also appreciated by the [UN](#) Secretary-General and moreover it had been nominated for Climate Action Award in COP-24 to be held in [Chile](#).

The ministry, he said was taking part in a nationwide plantation campaigns and was also going to launch the Chilgoza Forest Project, which would help to increase its specie cover and grow huge amount of chilgoza pine nuts.

Chairperson of the standing committee Munaza Hassan said, "The Assemblies play a vital role in timely awareness of natural disasters in their constituencies. At the national level, there is a need for mechanisms that allow organizations to [exchange](#) researches on various topics, whenever awareness campaigns are launched." She hoped that the people would give full support to the [government](#) for eliminating the use of plastic bags [from August](#) 14 in the [Federal](#) capital.

"Natural disasters have caused huge damage to the country due to lack of timely planning in the past," she said.

Munaza Hassan during the meeting said that [Pakistan](#) was an agricultural country and we should be 100 per cent self-sufficient in the [agriculture](#) sector and for this purpose we should provide timely information to our farmers.

She said that the Ministry of Climate Change had started working in this regard which was praiseworthy and it needs to be expanded further.

The chair expressed her concerns over the fact that most of the [wheat](#) and rice and their nutritional value was declining with the increase in our population.

"There has been a lack of research in various institutions, especially of [wheat](#) and rice in our country at the provincial and federal level," she added.

The committee should be briefed at the next meeting on these reports, she said adding, "In our country there is a need for a mechanism by which institutions can [exchange](#) their findings with other agencies," she suggested.

The members of the [National Assembly](#) should be active in their constituencies for timely awareness and play their role in directing the public on timely information pertaining to natural disasters

especially farmers and should keep in touch with the provincial disaster management authorities continuously, she said.

Munaza Hassan said that the public had always supported **government** campaigns for public welfare and the **same** would be observed in terms of ban on plastic bags.

"I hope the climate change ministry would be successful in banning the use of plastic bags since **August** 14 in the federal capital and the public will support it," she noted.

Speaking on the occasion, MNA Engineer Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani said that farmers should have timely information about natural disasters. As due to lack of information they bore huge damage to their crops, the concerned agencies should establish linkages with the farmers to provide timely information, he maintained.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/zartaj-gul-urges-mnas-to-play-proactive-role-680482.html>

DOZENS OF VILLAGES FLOODED AS DAMS OVERFLOW IN DISTRICT WEST

By Sameer Mandhro Published: July 31, 2019

KARACHI: Dozens of small villages near the Northern Bypass were flooded on Tuesday as the first spell of the monsoon rain continued to lash the city for the second consecutive day. The rainwater gushed onto the main Super Highway from the Lat Dam, which overflowed and stopped at the median dividing the two sides of the motorway, which ultimately proved to be the saviour for Saadi Town and its adjacent areas. The Super Highway, meanwhile, was blocked for traffic for hours.

Residents of the residential societies built along the Super Highway panicked as they heard news of the incoming torrent. Meanwhile, dozens of heavy and light vehicles were stranded on the Super Highway, leading from the Northern Bypass to the Toll Plaza. Rescue workers and officials of the district administration reached the site to control the situation, but given the circumstances, the army was requisitioned to assist the rescue efforts.

Dozens of villages, including Shahbaz Goth, Wazir Goth, Rasool Bux Brohi Goth and Gabol Goth, located in the area were flooded, with scores of families moving to safer ground out of fear that the situation could deteriorate in case of a breach in the Thado and Lat dams.

Pointing to the three-foot-high wall that acts as the median on the Super Highway, a villager, Abdul Sattar, said that the water was gushing so fast that it would flood Saadi Town and other residential areas located on the right side of the road. "The water could not cross the wall," he added.

Sattar told The Express Tribune that the roads leading to the villages were submerged in knee-deep water. "We can't even go to our relatives' houses and there is no contact with them," he informed this correspondent, adding that the water was coming from the hilly areas of Balochistan. "It happens when heavy rains fall in the mountains, but there is no planning to handle it." He said that he, along with his friends and other villagers, were engaged in the rescue work since early morning.

A resident of Saadi Town, Danish Rehmani, told The Express Tribune that though the situation was not like that in 2013, there was panic among the residents. "The news of villages flooding is coming

from other side of the road [Super Highway],” he said, adding that some of his friends living near the Thado Dam were in critical situation.

Observing the situation, Rehmani, like other residents, has purchased rations for a week. “Currently, fear exists and residents are not leaving for any safer place but if it [rain] continues, it will certainly bring us good news for residents on this side of the road,” he said.

Another resident of Saadi Town, who had gone to observe the situation around the Super Highway, said that the situation would be critical if the administration failed to take appropriate measures soon. “It [water] is coming to our area but I think the administration will be able to limit its flow,” said Kamran Ahmed.

“At least 15 smaller villagers have been badly disturbed by the recent rains,” Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf’s (PTI) president for Sindh chapter and area MPA Haleem Adil Sheikh said. “I have myself visited these villages and found them flooded.” He said that all these villages were located in the limits of District West.

The PTI leader blamed the Sindh government for poor infrastructure. “There is panic among the villagers,” he said. “No one from the government has reached them yet.” He said the situation had been created due to the small dams constructed by local PPP leaders. He added that several villagers were disconnected from the city.

For his part, Karachi Commissioner Iftikhar Shallwani, who visited the area on Tuesday, said that there was currently no danger of flooding in Saadi Town, Scheme 33 and their adjoining areas.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2024879/1-dozens-villages-flooded-dams-overflow-district-west/>

11 DEAD, 6,000 HOSPITALISED AS HEATWAVE CONTINUES TO SCORCH JAPAN

31 July, 2019

Eleven people were killed and nearly 6,000 hospitalised in Japan due to heat-related illnesses last week, the government said on Tuesday.

In the week to Sunday, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said that 52.6 per cent of the total people sent to hospital were seniors aged 65 and older.

On Tuesday, temperatures continued to soar, with the agency and weather officials warning people to take preventative measures against heatstroke and other heat-related illnesses.

Across wide swathes of Japan from north to south, temperatures are forecast to remain upwards of 36 degrees Celsius through Wednesday, weather officials said. (Xinhua/NAN)

<https://headtopics.com/ng/11-dead-6-000-hospitalised-as-heatwave-continues-to-scorch-japan-7226232>

62M HECTARES OF PAKISTAN’S TOTAL LAND VULNERABLE TO DESERTIFICATION: ADVISER

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter August 01, 2019

RAWALPINDI: Out of 79.6 million hectares of Pakistan's total land, 62m hectares are vulnerable to desertification, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam said on Wednesday.

At a seminar on 'Combating Desertification in Pakistan' organised by the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) and the Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP), Mr Aslam said the country is facing global warming and desertification is a major challenge to sustainable development.

He said challenges posed by changing climatic conditions have evolved and infiltrated the entire spectrum of human survival and progress.

Combating desertification requires concerned efforts at a wider scale, he said, adding that the climate change ministry is approaching this with a climate smart approach.

Mr Aslam highlighted various steps the ministry is undertaking to tackle climate change.

He said the government has decided to plant at least 10 billion trees across the country, and plastic bans have been banned in the capital to make it a plastic-free zone.

This ban will be extended to other parts of the country, he said.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Dr Qamaruz Zaman spoke about the university's role for an improved climate, adding that such collaborative activities must be strengthened and taken forward to fight desertification.

Earlier, SLMP-II National Programme Coordinator Hamid Marwat told the audience about World Desertification Day and about SLMP approaches and interventions for better land management in Pakistan.

SLMP is a joint programme by the United Nations Development Programme and Ministry of Climate Change.

Mr Marwat said: "Implementation of the programme will bring considerable financial benefits for poor dryland communities through the sustainable management of their land resources."

Dr Sarwat N. Mirza, former dean of the forestry and range management faculty at PMAS-AAUR, spoke in detail about desertification and highlighted the threats, challenges in opportunities in Pakistan's context.

Dr Irfan Ashraf, who coordinated the seminar, gave a technical speech on combating desertification and focused on practical steps to deal with the issue.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1497348/62m-hectares-of-pakistans-total-land-vulnerable-to-desertification-adviser>

DISASTER MANAGEMENT BODIES TO INSPECT CHITRAL'S 17 GLACIERS

Manzoor Ali Updated August 01, 2019

PESHAWAR: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) have decided to carry out physical inspection of at least 17 potentially dangerous glaciers of Chitral district soon.

Talking to reporters at the cabinet room of the Civil Secretariat, NDMA chairman Lieutenant General Mohammad Afzal said the relevant federal and provincial authorities were alert about the melting of glaciers in Chitral.

He said the NDMA and PDMA had agreed on joint physical inspection of at least 17 potentially dangerous glaciers located in Chitral.

Accompanied by secretary of the relief, settlement and rehabilitation department Mohammad Abid Majeed and PDMA director general Pervez Khan, General Afzal said a team would go to Chitral by helicopter at the end of the current week or early next week to check all identified points.

“We will decide whether precautionary measures need to be taken and the issue cannot be tackled with precautions alone,” he said.

Regarding glacial lake outburst floods (glofs), the NDMA chairman said the authority was aware of the situation in Golain but that phenomenon could not be stopped or reversed.

“You have to create early warning system to minimise losses and take steps so that such events do not take place in future,” he said.

General Afzal said he and the chief minister agreed during a meeting that a component of the Billion Tree Tsunami afforestation programme would be implemented in Chitral to minimise the impact of climate change.

He said the plantation would bear results in 10 to 20 years period.

About New Balakot city, the NDMA chairman said money was most critical factor for any project and in addition to legal and social issues has also hampered the work on the city.

He said work on the project couldn't begin in four years due to litigation.

General Afzal said the project would be completed in line with the directions of the Supreme Court's Apex Committee and the government's promises made to the citizens.

He said he had also discussed the Balakot issue with the chief minister and chief secretary.

Regarding Karachi flooding, the NDMA chairman said though the recent rainfall in the city remained below national average, the choking of drains by garbage caused flooding.

He said the local government and provincial government should focus on their civic functions.

General Afzal asked the provincial government and local bodies to remove encroachments in plain areas to prevent urban flooding.

He said cities on the river banks faced the threat of urban flooding.

The NDMA chairman said while cities had been saved by mighty flood protection works from riverine floods, drainage had been reduced by construction and other human activity, which was resulting into flooding of cities.

He appealed to the people to harvest rainwater crops and help districts government clear waterways.

“We are working on a comprehensive disaster response concept by bringing together all institutions working on disaster for prevention, mitigation and relief and rehabilitation after any mishap,” he said.

General Afzal said there were also plans to upgrade the National Institute of Disaster Management as a university, while the Pakistan Disaster Management Council was also on the cards.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1497360/disaster-management-bodies-to-inspect-chitrals-17-glaciers>

HEATWAVE ENSURES RAPID PROGRESS FOR EU WHEAT HARVEST

RECORDER REPORT AUG 1ST, 2019

HAMBURG: The heatwave in the European Union's main wheat producers last week helped farmers to make rapid progress with harvesting, with some crop forecasts being raised, experts said on Tuesday. Record high temperatures in France, Germany and Britain created ideal conditions for wheat harvesting, with the dry, warm weather allowing mechanical combine harvesters to operate at full capacity.

"Rain may interrupt work this week, but confidence is growing that the EU is gathering a fine wheat crop," one German trader said. France, the EU's largest wheat producer, expects this year's soft-wheat crop to be the second-largest on record at 39.17 million tonnes, consultancy Agritel said.

Last summer, France harvested 34 million tonnes after drought damaged crops. Farm office FranceAgriMer estimates 63% of French soft wheat was harvested by July 22, compared with only 33% the previous week, though rain interrupted work in some parts of the country over the weekend. French grain exporter Soufflet said it expects France to harvest 38-39 million tonnes of soft wheat this summer, with quality meeting export standards.

"The crop is looking good, even better than most people expected just a few weeks ago. We have both the quantity and the quality," one French trader said.

In Germany, the EU's second-largest producer, harvesting reached top speed in the heatwave.

"I think about 70% of Germany's wheat has been harvested, which is some of the fastest progress I can remember," one German analyst said. "Usually the harvest is just starting in late July."

"The final 30% is mostly in the northern and northeastern regions producing for export, so they are very important. Rain is forecast for these regions this week; late damage can still occur."

Germany's harvest will rise 17.7% from last year to 23.8 million tonnes, farm cooperatives forecast. British farmers are expected to start wheat harvesting in early August, expecting a larger crop than last year.

Chloe Lockhart, combinable crops adviser at the National Farmers Union, said the recent heatwave did not cause problems for crops, though there was some concern about weekend rain.

The International Grains Council forecasts British production at 14.8 million tonnes, up from 14 million tonnes last year.

In Poland, hot and sunny weekend weather enabled fast harvest progress in recent days, said Sparks Polska analyst Wojtek Sabaranski.

"I would say that we are at least halfway through wheat harvesting in Poland," he said. Sabaranski estimates that Poland will harvest about 10.7 million tonnes, up 8-9% from 2018.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/08/20190801501999/>

CLIMATE CHANGE MAKES JULY HOTTER BY UP TO 3 DEGREES C

AFP Updated August 03, 2019

PARIS: The record-shattering heatwave that baked much of northern Europe last month was likely between 1.5 to 3.0 degrees Celsius hotter due to man-made climate change, an international team of scientists said on Friday.

The three-day peak saw temperature records tumble in Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain while the city of Paris experienced its hottest day ever with the mercury topping out at 42.6C (108.7 Fahrenheit) on July 25.

The ferocious heat came off the back of similar soaring temperatures in June, helping that month to be the hottest June since records began.

Scientists from the World Weather Attribution (WWA) team combined climate modelling with historical heatwave trends and compared it with monitoring data across the continent.

They concluded that the temperatures produced by the climate models were as much as 3C (5.5 degrees Fahrenheit) lower than those actually observed during the heatwave in Europe.

“In all locations an event like the observed would have been 1.5 to 3C cooler in an unchanged climate,” the WWA said, adding that the difference was “consistent with increased instances of morbidity and mortality”.

Global warming also made the July heatwave in some countries between 10-100 times more likely to occur compared with computer simulations.

Such temperature extremes in northern Europe, without the additional 1C centigrade humans have added to the atmosphere since the industrial era, would be expected on average once every 1,000 years.

Michael Byrne, lecturer in Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of St Andrews, said the analysis had “found the fingerprints of climate change all over (last month’s) extreme temperatures”.

“We know without doubt that climate change will bring increasingly severe heatwaves, but also heavier downpours and more flooding,” added Byrne, who was not involved in the research.

The July heatwave caused widespread disruption, prompting train cancellations and emergency measures in many cities.

The June heatwave itself was likely made at least five times more likely by climate change, and was around 4C hotter than an equivalent heatwave a century ago.

Europe has experienced exceptionally intense heatwaves in 2003, 2010, 2015, 2017, 2018 and two this year, peaks consistent with the general warming trend: the four hottest years on record globally were the last four years.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on Friday said that preliminary data showed July may have been the hottest month ever recorded.

Temperature readings and data provided by the European Union's Copernicus monitoring service showed that the first 29 days of July 2019 were equal to or possibly warmer than the hottest month ever, currently July 2016.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1497815/climate-change-makes-july-hotter-by-up-to-3-degrees-c>

SINDH'S FOUR DISTRICTS MAY SUFFER LIGHT DROUGHT

RECORDER REPORT AUG 03, 2019

KARACHI: Some districts in Sindh province are expected to undergo a light drought this week although monsoon rains poured in across the country between July 24 and July 30, the Met Office said on Friday.

According to its report, Sujawal, Sanghar, Umerkot and Tharparkar districts will suffer a light drought.

However, the report also says that rain-thunderstorm is expected in Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, Mardan, Quetta, Zhob, Kalat, Sibbi, Makran, Karachi, Hyderabad, and Mirpurkhas Divisions, besides Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

"Wet conditions are likely to prevail in the northern parts of the country," the Met adds.

Mainly hot and humid weather is expected in the most parts of the country in the next 24 hours.

Isolated rain/wind-thunderstorm is likely in Malakand, Hazara, Mardan, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, D.G Khan, Zhob and Kalat Divisions, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir.

In the last 24 hours: Scattered rain with wind-thunderstorm occurred in Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sargodha, Multan, D.G Khan, Bahawalpur, Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kalat and Zhob Divisions and Kashmir. Weather remained hot and humid in other parts of the country.

Maximum rainfall was recorded in Gujranwala: 68mm, Kasur 57mm, Hafizabad 24mm, Barkhan 22mm, Lahore Airport and Muzaffarabad Airport 13mm, each, Lahore City 10mm, Kotli 9mm and Kakul 5mm. The highest temperature was recorded in Naukandi and Dalbandin 45 degrees Celsius, each and Pattan and Dadu 43, each.

Weather in Karachi is likely to remain partly cloudy with chances of drizzle, as temperature is expected to range up to 28 degrees Celsius and humidity 80 percent. "Seasonal low lies over northwest Balochistan. Monsoon currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are penetrating upper and central parts of the country," the Met said.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/08/20190803503991/>

CLIMATE BATTLE WILL 'SUCCEED OR FAIL' IN ASIA: UN

Aug 03,2019

TOKYO: The battle to combat climate change will "succeed or fail" based on what happens in Asia, where growing energy needs are increasing demand for fossil fuels, UN officials said Friday.

The United Nations will host a key climate summit next month that has been billed as a last chance to prevent irreversible climate change, three years after the Paris agreement went into force.

Commitments from countries in Asia to move towards carbon-neutral economies would be crucial, said Rachel Kyte, a UN special representative for the UN Secretary-General.

“It is really in this region that we will succeed or fail in the energy transition in order to be able to meet our climate change goals,” Kyte told reporters.

The summit hopes to secure commitments to zero net carbon by 2050, but growing demand for electricity in Asia is likely to be one of the key obstacles.

“Southeast Asia is one of the fastest growing economic regions in the world. This is where population and urbanisation mean that electricity demand is expected to triple between 2015 and 2040,” warned Kyte.

“In order to meet this, Southeast Asia is currently turning to fossil fuels, many countries are.”

New coal plant projects continue throughout the region, particularly in Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines, and countries including Japan are funding their construction despite criticism from climate groups.

But Kyte said the sector should be seen as on its way out.

“There is really no future for coal,” she insisted.

“It is not competitive by price... and it has such an extreme impact on human health as well as on the planet.”

In recent months, some private sector firms in Japan and elsewhere have moved away from funding coal, seeing it as a poor long-term investment, a trend that Kyte said was encouraging, along with growing energy efficiency in China and India.

Luis Alfonso de Alba, UN Special Envoy for the Climate Action Summit, also challenged the idea that the transformations needed to combat global warming would hamstring economic development.

“Fighting climate change is fully compatible with the fight against poverty,” he said.

“There are many opportunities, especially for those that will take the lead in this transition, which in any case is going to be inevitable.”

A key part of the climate summit’s success will be China’s commitment, which remains both a leading emitter and also a key financier of coal plants in the region.

Beijing wields significant economic clout throughout the region and beyond thanks to its Belt and Road Initiative, which funds infrastructure projects and more.

“The greening of the belt and road initiative is absolutely essential,” Kyte said.

“We are tentatively positive about the extraordinary hard work that is going on in China to make sure that that happens.”—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/08/03/6-page/794618-news.html>

PDMA GETS RS3.4B TO DEAL WITH IMPENDING DISASTERS

OUR CORRESPONDENT AUGUST 4,2019

ISLAMABAD: The provincial government has allocated Rs3.4 billion to strengthen the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to help it cope with impending disaster risks and improve disaster management during the monsoon season.

According to a Balochstan government official, the PDMA had been directed to take precautionary measures as the country experiences a heavy spell of monsoon rains that have caused damage to life and property across the country.

"The province had been badly affected by disasters in the past and the provincial government has taken various initiatives to improve its response to disasters and disaster-like situation," he said.

The official added that the authority was already providing relief - including food, shelter, medicine and other items - to those affected by such calamities.

The government had already spent Rs1.136 billion for relief and rehabilitation efforts through PDMA in various disaster-hit areas.

He added that the authority was working in line with its mandate to ensure protection of the people, property, infrastructure and material resources in order to minimize the losses.

The government has allocated Rs2 billion for investment under the Disaster Relief Fund, created by the provincial government to manage future disaster, which is a first of its kind initiative in the province.

The official also urged the media to play its role in creating awareness during disasters.

It was necessary for the media to be updated with relevant information so that it could be disseminated in a timely manner and augment PDMA efforts, he added.

According to the authority, the southern parts of Balochistan, including the districts of Turbat and Gwadar, are prone to flash floods during the rainy season, with water in the shadikor Dam near Pasnioften spilling over and wreaking havoc on live and livelihoods located downstream.

At least 83 people have been killed and 74 others injured in separate rain-related accidents across the country during the month of July, the National disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said earlier this week.

Torrential rains and flash floods destroyed 324 houses and left around 66 partially damaged, and rendered hundreds of people homeless, the authority said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/>

August 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 05TH TO 11TH 2019

INCREASING PAKISTAN'S FOREST COVER, ESSENTIAL TO AVERT CLIMATE CHANGE DISASTER: PM

Usama Fayyaz August 6, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said increasing Pakistan's forest cover was essential to save it from the imminent disaster of climate change.

"Plantation is not an option, but a necessity to save the country for future generations," he said at the launch of monsoon plantation campaign 2019 under Ten-Billion Tsunami Tree project, here at Shakarparian.

Addressing a gathering with overwhelming majority of schoolchildren, he said the country needed active contribution by its youth in tree plantation to avert the hazards of climate change including high temperatures, glacier melting and desertification.

The prime minister announced that August 18 would be marked as 'Plant for Pakistan' day where citizens in four provinces, government administration and Armed Forces would plant trees as a gesture of caring for country.

"Together, we will make effort to reverse the ills of climate change by persistently planting trees for next four years," he said.

He asked the schoolchildren to make a pledge with him to plant at least two saplings each on August 18, which they affirmed by loud, enthusiastic cheers.

The prime minister said high pollution in big cities was leading to health risks such as lung infection and mentioned that in Lahore alone, tree cover had been reduced to five percent as compared to that in 1990s.

Prime Minister Khan mentioned that the provincial government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa increased forest cover by six percent during five years, which was also acknowledged by international organizations.

He said plantation in KP was successfully carried out at significant low cost and by defeating the timber mafia which used to cut trees under patronage of corrupt politicians.

Earlier, the Prime Minister planted a pine sapling at the venue next to Parade Avenue in Shakarparian.

Federal Minister and Adviser to PM on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam said for the first time in country's history, the concept of urban forestry was being materialized with collaboration of public-private partnership and civil society organizations.

He said 0.2 million saplings were distributed free of cost at 30 points in Islamabad on Monday under the monsoon plantation campaign, whereas 10,000 were planted at 100 acres in one day.

He said 900 acres of land had been recovered at Maragalla hills for forestation.

Earlier, Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul told APP that steps to counter climate change was a service to humanity.

She said the country's Independence Day on August 14 would be coincided with riddance from plastic bags, adding after its launch from the capital, the campaign would be extended to the entire country.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/08/05/515702/increasing-pakistans-forest-cover-essential-to-avert-climate-change-disaster-pm/>

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISER WARNS OF RISE IN TEMPERATURES

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter August 09, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Temperatures will rise by more than 1°C in Pakistan if there is a 1°C rise in temperatures in the rest of the world, if the effects of global warming are not mitigated, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam said on Thursday.

He explained that this meant that when temperatures rise by 1°C in the rest of the world, the resulting increase in temperatures in Pakistan will be more than 1°C.

“One degree may sound insignificant, but it will have dire consequences especially when Pakistan is already the seventh-most vulnerable country in the world to the impacts of the altering climate,” he said at a press conference.

Mr Aslam was sharing the findings of a new report that warned of rising temperatures in Pakistan in the next 30 to 40 years.

The adviser began the presser by condemning Indian atrocities committed in India-held Kashmir and India’s recent abrogation of the autonomous status of Kashmir in violation of international commitments.

He went on to say: “Indian state terrorism is not limited in Kashmir, but extends to destroying the natural environment also, after Indian fighter aircraft bombed and destroyed forests inside Pakistan earlier on Friday.”

He said a United Nations mission has recommended amendments in the Geneva Convention to include environmental terrorism as a clause.

Mr Aslam said one of the ways to counter the effects of climate change is the government’s 10 billion tree plantation campaign.

He said the international community has already recognised the billion tree plantation campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

“Forest cover in KP has increased by 6.6pc. The plantation campaign is being extend throughout the country. As many as 3.5bn trees will be planted in the first phase at a cost of \$1bn,” he said.

Other measures to counter the impact of climate change include banning single-use plastic bags, he said, adding that 55bn single-use plastic bags are produced in a year and are a major environmental hazard.

“The production of alternative bags has already picked up and the plastic bag manufacturers have reported a decline in the demand for plastic bags,” Mr Aslam said.

He also announced that a policy on electric cars is ready and will be presented in cabinet after Eidul Azha, which will give the transport sector a new direction.

“We have managed to acquire a grant of \$150 million for five projects to improve the status of the environment. The German government has also approved a €12m project for the tree plantation campaign. Another €8m grant has also been approved to promote eco-tourism in Pakistan,” he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1498827>

WORLD MUST CHANGE NOW OR ENDANGER FOOD AND CLIMATE: REPORT

AFP August 09, 2019

GENEVA: Humanity faces increasingly painful trade-offs between food security and rising temperatures within decades unless emissions are curbed and unsustainable farming and deforestation halted, a landmark climate assessment said on Thursday.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that efforts to limit global warming while feeding a booming population could be wrecked without swift and sweeping changes to how we use the land we live off. The report on land use and climate change highlighted the need to protect remaining tropical forests as a bulkhead against future warming.

But it offered a sobering take on the hope that reforestation and biofuel schemes alone could offset mankind's environmental damage, underlining that reducing emissions would be central to averting disaster.

"Land is a source of emissions as well as a sink," IPCC chair Hoesung Lee said.

"Obviously you want to reduce emissions from land as much as possible. But that has a lot to do with what's happening to the other side of the equation: greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from the energy sector."

Land is intimately linked to climate. With its forests, plants and soil it sucks up and stores around one third of all man-made emissions.

Intensive exploitation of these resources also produces huge amounts of planet-warming CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide, while agriculture guzzles up 70 per cent of Earth's freshwater supply.

As the global population balloons towards 10 billion by mid-century, how land is managed by governments, industry and farmers will play a key role in limiting or accelerating the worst excesses of climate change.

Teenage climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, who along with a group of activists presented IPCC co-chairs with a thank you letter in Geneva, said she hoped governments would act on the report's findings.

"Of course if you are a very powerful person in a very powerful position then I think you should definitely read it," the 16-year-old said.

"I just hope that the conclusion of this report becomes in a way common knowledge, so everyone knows the importance of those numbers and facts within a bigger perspective."

The IPCC is the world's leading authority on climate change. Last year it warned that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius — the optimal level aimed for in the Paris climate deal — would be impossible without a drastic drawdown in greenhouse gas emissions.

Its land use report presented a string of looming trade-offs in using land for climate change mitigation.

Forests, an enormous carbon sink, can be regenerated to cool the planet. But with industrial farming covering a third of land today, there's limited space.

Bioenergy in the form of vegetation used to sequester carbon also has potential. But room for that must be carved from crop land, pastures or existing forests.

The report said that a "limited" allocation of land for bioenergy schemes could indeed benefit the climate.

It warned however that deployment at a scale needed to draw down billions of tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere each year "could increase risks for desertification, land degradation, food security and sustainable development".

The 1,000-page report takes a deep dive into the systems we use to feed ourselves and the devastating impacts they are wreaking.

Not only does agriculture and its supply lines account for as much as 37 per cent of all man-made emissions, current industrialised production and global food chains contribute to vast food inequality.

The report noted that while there are currently two billion overweight or obese adults, 820 million people still don't get enough calories.

In addition, a third of all food produced is currently either lost or wasted, adding to mankind's carbon footprint.

The IPCC summary paper mostly steered clear of the controversial call to limit meat consumption, but did burnish the credentials of "plant-based foods" and their ability to mitigate global emissions.

"There's a wide range of food systems that rely on meat, and many people rely on meat for protein," Cynthia Rosenzweig, a NASA climatologist and report author, said.

"But we do need to develop low greenhouse gas meat-producing systems."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1498923/world-must-change-now-or-endanger-food-and-climate-report>

CHINA: AN EMERGING LEADER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

By Zahra Niazi Published: August 10, 2019

The Paris Climate Accord is an agreement uniting the nations throughout the world to combat climate change by taking measures to keep this century's global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius. Some key elements of the agreement are the provision of climate finance to poor nations by rich ones in order to increase their ability to make adjustments according to the agreement, particularly a switch from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy, and limitations on the amount of the emission of greenhouse gases.

In the beginning of his term, President Trump announced the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and cessation of the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and financial contributions. Trump's decision was motivated by domestic politics. He was of the view that the agreement weakens US competitive edge, and damages employment as well as the traditional energy industries, and that it was a delimitation of US sovereignty.

The Paris Climate Accord provided a ray of hope to tackle the growing challenges being witnessed in the age of global warming. But this ground-breaking treaty has faced a setback with the US withdrawal, ultimately leading to a leadership vacuum in the domain of global environmental governance. This, combined with the US removal of climate change policy as part of its national security strategy and hiring of climate change deniers to head the environmental agencies, demonstrates its lack of intent to play a responsible role as the dominant player and a model for the rest of the states. The withdrawal has discredited the hegemonic US role as a norm creator as well as a norm enforcer.

With the US withdrawal from the agreement, the world has started to pin hopes on China to take on a responsible role in mitigating climate change. China's will to fill the void has been demonstrated by its initiatives in the climate change mitigation domain.

China has, in the past few years, adopted various energy efficient measures to decarbonise its economy which was heavily dependent on fossil fuels for decades. China has been advocating the concept of "ecological civilisation" or "green economy", the idea of bringing economic goals in harmony with the goals of mitigating pollution and climate change, and has taken measures accordingly. One of the positive developments in this regard has been a significant shift from the production and consumption of coal to renewable sources of energy, thereby taking a lead in the sector of clean energy. As part of its decarbonisation policy, China's major goals include lowering CO2 emissions per unit of the GDP by 65% of the 2005 levels; increasing the percentage of non-fossil fuels in primary energy to around 20%, and focus on limiting coal-fired power generation capacity, thereby switching to other renewable energy sources and increasing the forest stock volume — all by 2030. Among other schemes, China also announced the carbon emission trading scheme in December 2017 to limit carbon emissions by increasing its cost.

Filling the void left by the US in climate funding, the New Development Bank (NDB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) finance projects related to green energy. The AIIB announced it would no longer fund the development of coal-fired power plants. Similarly, China has been engaging in negotiations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Whereas, Trump's America First policies are putting a strain on its reliability, China seems to be filling the void and has positioned itself as the leader on climate change.

However, to what extent China can abate its dependence on coal-fired power plants to fulfil the eligibility for being called the leader in tackling climate change remains to be seen. In this regard, China also needs to take steps to halt the financing of coal-fired power plants and assist others in shifting to renewable sources of energy.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2032081/6-china-emerging-leader-climate-change/>

SIX DEAD, 23 INJURED IN K-P FLASH FLOODS AND HOUSE COLLAPSES

By Our Correspondent Published: August 11, 2019

PESHAWAR: At least six people died, while over two dozen were seriously injured when torrential rains and flash floods lashed out the villages in Shangla and Chitral, while there is fear of more rains and flood in the upper areas of the province, southern districts in North Waziristan and Khyber and lower Kurram.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has warned the relevant authorities of the districts to take precaution measures to avoid any untoward incident.

The PDMA has recorded rainfall as follows Malam Jabba 131mm, Mardan 59mm, Balakot 50mm, Bannu 31mm, Saidu Sharif 30mm, Kakul 27mm, Dir 21mm, Timergara 17mm, Parachinar and DI Khan 12mm, Peshawar, Cherat & Pattan 5mm.

Drosh 4mm, Kalam & Mirkhani 3mm, while highest maximum temperature recorded during last 24 Hours: was Pattan at 44C.

While widespread rains in the Malakand division last night, inundated several areas which also caused several houses to cave in Shangla, Upper, Lower Chitral and the Chinese CPEC camp site was also damaged while many sections of the Karakoram Highway have been blocked due to the heavy landsliding.

The PDMA has shifted the Chinese workers and engineers who have been engaged in the CEPC projects to a undisclosed location in the Gilgit and lower area, while many families have also been shifted to safe areas in the districts Chitral and Shangla after waters entered their houses while rescue activities have also been beefed up.

In Chitral the camp of the Chinese engineers who had been working on the Lowari tunnel, was also swept away and they were shifted to safer places in the upper Dir, while due to the security situation their location has been remained secret.

The PDMA has started rescue and reconstruction work on the camp site of the Chinese engineers, while heavy machinery using to restored the residential facilities in the camp.

The details report of the PDMA has showed that two houses totally collapsed due to the severe flash flood in the Buner and Shangla districts leaving six people dead, while many others were injured.

The K-P Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has expressed concern over the loss of human lives and directed the PDMA and district authorities to take appropriate measures to provide swift measures to the affected people and also help the rest of the stranded people in the areas.

The PDMA report also indicated that rivers in K-P flow are flowing normally while Kalpani Nullah in Mardan is flowing with 46,823 cusecs in high flood situation.

The PDMA has also shared the next 24 hours weather forecast: which is mainly partly cloudy weather is expected in most parts of the province. However, rain/wind-thunderstorm with isolated heavy rainfalls is expected at scattered places in Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Kohistan, Haripur, Torghar, Malakand, Bunner, Shangla, Swat, Chitral, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Bajaur, Mardan, Swabi, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mohmand, Khyber, Kurram, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, Orakzai, Bannu, North Waziristan, Lakki Marwat, DI Khan, Tank and South Waziristan districts.

Meanwhile the torrential rain and upper areas of Malakand, while scattered rain in few lower are also expected.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2032871/1-six-dead-23-injured-k-p-flash-floods-house-collapses/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 14th TO 18th 2019

DEATH TOLL HITS 27 AS MORE RAIN FORECAST FOR SINDH

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated August 14, 2019

KARACHI: Over two dozen people lost their lives and 46 others suffered injuries in rain-related incidents across Sindh as the monsoon showers that began on Saturday morning wreaked havoc on several areas and their residents during its three-day spell amid prolonged power outages.

Up to nine inches (200.6mm) of rainfall was recorded in Karachi's Surjani Town as the average rainfall recorded at 12 weather stations was over six inches (158.33mm).

The Met Office has forecast yet another spell of moderate to heavy rains with thunderstorm entering Sindh from Rajasthan tomorrow (Thursday).

Most of the victims died from electrocution or when a wall or the roof of their houses collapsed, while at least one drowned when the truck he was driving fell into the Malir River.

According to police, a total of 27 people died in rain-related incidents across the province. Twenty four of them were residents of Karachi. Besides, the mayhem left around 46 others injured including 33 in the provincial capital.

Due to the collapse of roof or walls of buildings, Nasir Khan, 35, died in Keamari and Rashid Khan, 60, in Bin Qasim area, while another man died and around 15 others sustained injuries when the roof of a mosque collapsed and fell on them in Aligarh Society. A driver, Ubaid, drowned when the truck he was driving fell into the Malir River in Memon Goth area. His body was recovered. In Surjani area, a man, Mohsin Salman drowned in a pool of rainwater at Khuda Ki Basti.

Meanwhile, the Met Office has forecast that another system formed in the Bay of Bengal and adjoining eastern India was approaching the country for monsoon showers. "It is likely to move westwards and reach Rajasthan on Thursday."

The weather advisory for Sindh said under the influence of this system rain or thunderstorm of moderate intensity with isolated heavy falls are likely in Thar, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Thatta and Badin districts during Thursday and Friday. "Light or moderate rain may also fall in Hyderabad and Karachi divisions during evening or night of Thursday [that could last] till Friday night," it added.

Earlier, three young men died from electrocution in the Defence Housing Authority near the intersection of Khyaban-i-Seher and Khyaban-i-Shujaat, the police said. SSP (Karachi-South) Sheeraz Nazeer said Faizan Saleem, 25, Hamza Tariq, 20, and Talha Tanveer, 28, left their residences in Defence Garden to lodge a complaint against power failure on Sunday afternoon according to their family statement. Apparently they suffered an electric shock when their motorbike hit an electric pole in the knee-deep rainwater. A video of the incident that went viral on social media shows their bodies lying in the rainwater with onlookers being afraid to go close to them. "Two of them died on the spot. The third man was rescued and shifted to a hospital [Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre] but unfortunately he also died," said SSP Nazeer.

Following the funeral prayer at Tooba mosque in Defence Garden, which was attended by leaders of different political parties and religious groups, the body of one of the deceased was taken away for burial in his native place in Gujrat.

The Darakshan police later registered an FIR (500/2019) against KE's senior officials namely Arif Naqvi, Moonis Abdullah Alvi, Ikram Sehgal and others on a complaint of Tariq Mehmood, father of one of the deceased youths, under Sections 268, 322 and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

JPMC executive director Dr Seemin Jamali said six persons who died from electrocution were brought from different areas to the hospital on Sunday, while police surgeon Dr Qarar Ahmed Abbasi said three persons who died from electrocution were brought at Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi. Abbasi Shaheed Hospital received one such case.

The victims were namely Jawar Khanum, 60, a resident of Pirabad; Abdul Rehman, 50, a resident of Ittehad Town; Hanif Abdullah, 48, who died from electrocution at SITE near Nadra office, Shahbaz, 25, a resident of Sukhan area, Abdul Rehman, a resident of Memon Goth, and Mohammed Omer, 33, who died from electrocution in Kharadar.

Meanwhile, K-E spokesperson said: "KE is also investigating all electrocution incidents."

"Majority of the incidents either occurred inside homes through broken wires and water pumps or due to non-KE infrastructure such as kundas and hanging lights."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1499414>

29 US STATES, CITIES SUE TRUMP OVER CLIMATE PROTECTIONS

Agencies August 15, 2019

LOS ANGELES: A coalition of 22 US states and seven cities on Tuesday sued President Donald Trump's administration to block it from easing restrictions on coal-burning power plants.

Trump has set about systematically dismantling environmental regulations put in place by his predecessor Barack Obama, including the Clean Power Plan, which called for cuts to greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Finalized in 2015, it was put on hold by the Supreme Court and the White House has ordered the Environment Protection Agency to work on a less stringent replacement, known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule.

"This administration has decided to repeal the Clean Power Plan and replace it with a toothless substitute," said California attorney-general Xavier Becerra at a news conference in Sacramento Tuesday.

"It's anything but clean, and it's anything but clean energy. President Trump's attempt to gut our nation's Clean Power Plan is just the wrong way to go," he added.

The ACE rule would allow states to set their own standards for existing coal-fired power plants, rather than follow a single federal standard.

It foresees a far less ambitious overall reduction of power sector carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 than the regulation it would replace.

Tuesday's challenge argues that it violates the EPA's duty under the Obama-era Clean Air Act to address carbon pollution from power plants, and artificially narrows the EPA's authority.

The lawsuit, filed in the United States Court of Appeals in Washington, could end up at the Supreme Court.

California governor Gavin Newsom said the Trump administration was "in the short-term business."

"They are absolutely neglecting the next generation and shame on them," he said.

Trump pulled the US out of the Paris climate change accord committing countries to mitigating global warming in his first year in office.

He has ordered the Energy Department to pour millions into research to boost the performance of coal-fired power plants.

But the US energy mix is quickly shifting away from coal and toward natural gas, as a result of the fracking boom, and renewables.

Coal consumption has plummeted to its lowest level in 40 years, according to the Energy Department, and bankruptcies have abounded, closing dozens of mines, shrinking capacity and idling hundreds of workers.

US voters have rarely considered climate change a top-priority presidential election issue, but that is changing.

An April CNN poll labeled it as the single most important issue to Democratic primary voters, topping health care.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/512337-29-us-states-cities-sue-trump-over-climate-protections>

FLOODS WASH OUT ROADS IN CHITRAL

By Our Correspondent Published: August 14, 2019

CHITRAL: Torrential rains in Upper Chitral have caused flooding many parts of lower Chitral, hampering transportation services in the district, stranding passengers on the two days of Eidul Azha. The district administration has been struggling to resume the flow of traffic to Shandur and Upper Chitral areas, as most of the connected roads have been badly damaged or washed away by flash floods, locals said. The flash floods have also damaged crops and orchards in the area. Meanwhile, a new spell of clouds entered the country and more rains are expected in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa with heavy rains and flash floods expected in the Hazara and Malakand division along with Peshawar division.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2033488/1-floods-wash-roads-chitral/>

RAINS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By Editorial Published: August 14, 2019

The Met office had forecast a heavy spell of rain in Karachi and other cities and regions of Sindh before and during Eid. But the authorities seem to have been caught unawares as their response to the havoc caused by the rains shows. Karachi, Hyderabad, Badin, Mirpurkhas and several other places in the province received heavy rains on Saturday and Sunday. Soon most of the roads in Karachi and Hyderabad had been under deep water. This left vehicles and people stranded on roads and wherever they had been when the downpour became intense. The first spell of rain early on Saturday left the roads leading to the airport under knee-deep water. In many parts of Karachi and Hyderabad, rainwater was still standing on roads. Saturday night presented the scene of urban flooding in many areas of Karachi. Obviously, this was the result of the absence of a proper drainage system in Karachi and other cities of Sindh. In Karachi, during the two days 11 people died in rain-related incidents. Nine of the deaths occurred due to electrocution. There are reports of floods in Badin town and the district.

Many electrocution deaths have occurred during rains in Karachi over the past five years. What happened in the aftermath of rains was wholly expected as most stormwater drains are choked. On Monday, many cattle had been slaughtered and the offal been left scattered at roadsides. The administrative machinery was seen in action at several places, but the work of offal removal was slow.

The whole thing was also a consequence of climate change. In 2018, Karachi did not receive rain. This year it has so far received two spells of heavy rains. Climate change has to be combated by all countries of the world. In spite of witnessing devastating effects of climate change, we have powerful people around who deny this fact. Sarah Palin, a US politician, says she loves the smell of greenhouse gases. The Indian PM says climate change can be successfully combated through yoga. This is absurdity and insanity!

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2033413/6-rains-climate-change/>

MONSOON DEVASTATION

Editorial August 15, 2019

DESPITE repeated warnings of their arrival and expected intensity, the monsoon rains that swept through Karachi and other parts of Sindh over the weekend left a wave of destruction in its path. At least 27 people died due to rain-related accidents in the two days of relentless rainfall, the vast majority of them in Karachi. Most deaths were caused by electrocution or homes collapsing on residents, while one truck driver died when his vehicle fell into the Malir River. Just a little over a week earlier, the first spell of the monsoon led to almost 20 deaths in Sindh — again, largely due to electrocution from poorly maintained electricity poles and fallen wires. The Met department has now warned of even more rain this week. Are the governing authorities and various municipal boards prepared?

Following the first bout of rain, the PTI government grandiosely launched a ‘Clean Karachi’ drive, taking on the task of de-silting the city’s drainage sites before the Eid holidays. However, they too quickly learnt of the difficulties in cleaning this sprawling, largely unplanned urban jungle. The flooding inside homes and streets witnessed right before and during Eid was blamed on solid waste

dumping inside the over 40 documented drainage sites of Karachi, while informal settlements built on top of them and along waterways were blamed for blocking the natural flow of the water into the rivers. Nearly half of Karachi's population lives in these katchi abadis; they simply cannot be uprooted after living there for decades and having no other land or property to speak of. It would be inhumane. The failure of anti-encroachment drives has also pointed to that. This was also more recently acknowledged by Sindh's chief minister, who said that demolishing the colonies built on waterways is not the solution and will only create more problems in the future. Instead, he suggested conducting a hydrographic survey and building new drains. He might be right, but creating a new network of drains could take years to materialise. For now, especially in light of the prediction of more rain, the provincial government must fix the existing problems. Cleaning drainage systems is not a one-off job; it is something that has to be done on a regular basis. All stakeholders with allegiances to different political parties must show more maturity than they have so far displayed, and work cohesively for the sake of the city.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1499614>

TEENAGE ACTIVIST GRETA TAKES CLIMATE CAMPAIGN TO HIGH SEAS

AFPUpdated August 15, 2019

PLYMOUTH: Teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg set sail for New York on Wednesday, heading for a UN summit on a zero-emissions yacht skippered by a member of Monaco's ruling family.

The 16-year-old Swede, whose school strikes have inspired children across the world to protest against global warming, refuses to fly because of the carbon emissions caused by planes.

But she has been offered a lift on the Malizia II racing yacht, along with her father Svante and a filmmaker to document the journey, that will allow her to attend the UN talks in September with a clear conscience.

The voyage will take about a fortnight, a daunting prospect for someone who has never sailed before this week, but Thunberg said she was willing to accept a bit of seasickness and a lack of comfort.

"I am one of the very few people in the world who actually can do this, and I think I should take that chance," Thunberg told reporters in the English port of Plymouth, wearing her black Malizia branded sailing kit.

A few minutes later she taxied out for the Malizia on an electric motorboat and stepped onto the yacht as a group of people on a passing sail boat applauded her.

The 60-foot (18-metre) yacht is skippered by Pierre Casiraghi, vice president of the Monaco Yacht Club and a member of the principality's ruling family, and German round-the-world sailor Boris Herrmann.

It can travel at speeds of around 35 knots (70 kilometres an hour) but will be heading into the wind for much of the time so will be slower, and the captain wants a smooth ride.

"The objective is to arrive safe and sound in New York," Herrmann said ahead of their departure.

Ahead of the UN summit on September 23, Thunberg will take part in youth demonstrations, before heading to Canada, Mexico and then to Chile for another UN conference in December. It is not clear how she will be travelling. “I don’t know yet how I will get home,” she said.

Thunberg has become a figurehead for climate action with her stark warnings of catastrophe if the world does not act now to cut carbon emissions and curb global warming.

She has received criticism and abuse for her uncompromising attitude, but shows little concern at how she might be received among climate change deniers in the United States.

“I will just ignore them because I’m only acting and communicating the science, and if they don’t like that, what have I got to do with that?” she said.

“I’m not concerned about the reactions. What I’m concerned about is whether we will do something or not, whether the people in power will react and act with necessary force.” Thunberg said she had seen some cause for optimism in how many children have joined her school strike to demand action.

“The mindset of many people is changing, even if that is not enough and even if it’s not fast enough it’s at least something,” she said.

But she says she has nothing to say to US President Donald Trump.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1499648>

ANOTHER UN ALARM ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

AUGUST 15,2019

In its recent report on land use and climate change the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlights the little recognised fact that global warming is linked not only to fossil fuels but also how humans use the land. Prepared by 107 scientists, the report says intensive exploitation of land resources produces huge amounts of planet warming CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide. As the global population balloons towards 10 billion by mid-century, the manner in which land is managed by governments, industry and farmers will play a crucial role in limiting or accelerating the worst excesses of climate change, warn world’s leading scientists. At present, as much as 37 percent of all man-made emissions come from agriculture and its supply lines. This could increase the risks for desertification, land degradation, food security, and sustainable development. It could also change natural world as up to one million species are in danger of becoming extinct.

It is a daunting challenge but one which needs to be met. The land resources must be protected and preserved for future generations. As the IPCC chair, Hoesung Lee, pointed out: “land is a source of emission as well as sink.” Hence the way forward suggested by the panel of scientists is to safeguard natural forests, particularly in the tropics; maintain and restore peat lands; promote agro-forestry, and improve crop varieties. Pakistan already facing the effects of global warming in the form of recurring floods, which have been badly impacting its agricultural economy and food security, ought to take notice and make the necessary changes towards sustainable development. The report also makes the attention-grabbing disclosure that consumption of dairy produce, especially red meat, contributes to emissions and also vast food inequality. It notes that while there are currently two billion overweight or obese adults (mostly in the developed Western countries from eating meat for protein) 820 million people still don’t get enough calories. Besides, a third of all food produced is currently either lost or wasted, adding to mankind’s carbon footprint. The part about red meat has evoked considerable

public interest in changeover to vegan diets. The report though mentions the need to develop low greenhouse gas meat production, which means cow meat is replaceable with poultry or fish protein. Much depends, however, on what governments do to deal with greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. In its last year's report, IPCC had warned that limiting global warming to 1.5 C of pre-industrial levels — the target the Paris climate deal aimed for — would be impossible without a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. US President Donald Trump, whose country is one of the world's biggest polluters, has pulled out of the Paris agreement calling climate change a 'hoax.' Nonetheless, the issue has been attracting a lot of public attention. Many states and private enterprises in the US have turned to greener energies. That trend may further increase as global warming has been manifesting itself in heatwaves the US and many European countries experienced this summer. It can be hoped people will pressure their governments to respond better to climate change induced by humans. So far the political response has been erratic.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/08/15/10-page/796243-news.html>

JULY WAS HOTTEST MONTH ON RECORD, SAYS US AGENCY

AFP August 16, 2019

WASHINGTON: July 2019 temperatures were the hottest ever recorded globally, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Thursday, while satellite data showed polar ice shrank to its lowest levels.

According to the NOAA, the average global temperature for the month was 0.95 degrees Celsius above the 20th century average of 15.8 degrees Celsius, making it the hottest July in its records, which go back to 1880.

“Much of the planet sweltered in unprecedented heat in July, as temperatures soared to new heights in the hottest month ever recorded.

“The record warmth also shrank Arctic and Antarctic sea ice to historic lows,” the agency said.

The findings confirmed data released by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service on Aug 5, though the margin of the new record compared to the last, in July 2016, was greater according to the US data.

Searing heat waves saw records tumble across Europe last month, while in the US, nearly 150 million people struggled to stay cool from the Midwestern plains to the Atlantic coast and local media reported at least six deaths.

“Nine of the 10 hottest Julys have occurred since 2005, with the last five years ranking as the five hottest,” the NOAA said, based on its data from weather stations, ship reports, and buoys.

US President Donald Trump withdrew in 2017 from the Paris Climate Agreement, which seeks to cap global warming at below 2 C above pre-industrial levels.

But a federal climate assessment released by the NOAA in November found that climate change “is affecting the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, and human health and welfare across the US and its territories”.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1499790>

FLOODS FEARED IN ALL MAJOR RIVERS OF PUNJAB: PDMA

RECORDER REPORT AUG 18TH, 2019 LAHORE

Provincial Disaster Management Commission (PDMA) issues flood alerts throughout the rivers in the province. According to details, floods are feared in rivers, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, Beas and Jehlum within the next 72 hours. The commission also directed the departments concerned to be prepared and on standby.

After heavy rainfall, Karachi faced a situation of urban flooding on July 30. The military troops reached to assist the civil administration in relief work in the port city.

A flow of floodwater gushing out from Thado Dam in Gadap has reached to M-9 highway and a track of the motorway from Karachi to Hyderabad was completely closed due to flash floods. Two youngsters drifted away in the currents of the flash flood while crossing a nullah in the federal capital, on August 15.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/08/20190818506875/>

PM FOR CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

RECORDER REPORT AUG 18TH, 2019 ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed for inclusion of every segment in the steps being taken to protect environment and deal with challenges of climate change.

He was speaking at a briefing on "Clean and Green Pakistan Index" project, progress in 10 billion tree project ban on use of polythene bags in Islamabad, electric vehicles policy, rules and regulations about green buildings and other steps for environmental protection in Islamabad on Saturday.

The Prime Minister said public awareness should be created about climate change issues. He said public response to the campaign of banning use of polythene bags in the federal capital is encouraging, and schools and students should be made part of the campaign to make it a success.

The Prime Minister said the federal capital should be made a model city in respect of environmental protection, and later the campaign should be extended to other cities of the country.

The Advisor on Climate Change briefed the Prime Minister that the process of planning regarding ten billion tree tsunami at provincial level has been completed, and its PC-I has been prepared. He said about 3.25 billion trees will be planted in the first phase of the project, which will be reviewed after two years.

Malik Amin Aslam briefed the meeting that encouraging results were received about ban on the use of polythene bags in the federal capital at initial level, and the decision is being appreciated by all segments of the society. He said policy has been formulated regarding electric vehicles, which will soon be presented to the federal cabinet. He said rules and regulations for green buildings have also been designed, which will also be unfolded soon.

The Advisor also briefed on "Clean and Green Pakistan Index" project, which will be launched in September. Under the Clean and Green Pakistan Index project with the participation of the federal, provincial and local governments, cities and the surrounding areas will be graded in respect of provision and drainage of water, solid waste management, cleanliness, and ratio of trees. In the first phase, Clean and Green Index project will be initiated in twelve cities of Punjab and seven cities of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Advisor on Climate Change also briefed on tree plantation campaign being launched in Lahore tomorrow, in which thirty million saplings will be planted.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/08/20190818506879/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 19th TO 25th 2019

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Fara Samuel Updated August 19, 2019

PAKISTAN is the seventh-most vulnerable country to climate change according to Germanwatch, a think tank advocating for measures to combat climate change. People from across the country often discuss the unbearable heat everyone has been experiencing — an everyday topic in every household and workplace. Not only that, it is also a hot global debate. We often hear our politicians talking about Pakistan's vulnerability to climate crises, but how much the government and its subjects act upon it, is more contestable than questionable.

Besides war in different parts of the world, climate change is the biggest concern that we all have, not only for the security of this generation but also for the survival of the next. Some of the repercussions that we are already seeing are frequent heat waves, floods, melting glaciers, drought and famine.

Keeping Pakistan in mind, there are many aspects of the changing climate and global heating that are affecting this country. Two major areas suffering the impact are health and crop production. It is rather unusual to experience heavy windstorms and rainfall in the months of May and June. At the same time, this June was recorded as one of the hottest in the past few years — in Pakistan and elsewhere. These unusual rains and then the heat wave have affected crop production. We know this because we have not tasted the best mangoes of the season. It rained just when the crops were ready for harvesting.

One of the drastic effects of the changing climate is that it ultimately affects our GDP. What about health? Poor people in Sindh die not only due to malnutrition, but also because of the unbearable heat. Several have died in the recent heavy rains because the appropriate infrastructure is not in place. The smog that hits Lahore each year affects the health of so many. Yet we fail to understand the dangers of the changing climate.

We have planted a billion trees in KP, and we are planting more under the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project. That's good news. However, is that enough? No, it isn't. For one, the project hasn't reached completion yet. Secondly, trees will take time to grow and show their positive effect on the environment. Thirdly, there is speculation that not all the trees being planted are fast growers and helpful for the underground water table. Is that enough to compensate for and balance out the deforestation that is taking place in hilly areas such as Murree and Abbottabad, to accommodate the rising population? In fact, it isn't enough.

Recently the authorities announced the Plastic Bag Se Azadi campaign. That surely gives hope, but from what we have witnessed in the past, such schemes are never implemented properly in Pakistan. Unless there is strict implementation of the law, we cannot be too optimistic. If the rules are enforced it would be a good start to gaining control over plastic pollution. This does not directly help decrease global heating but will contribute positively to sustaining land and marine life.

The government's next step should be to ban one-time-use plastics, which include disposable cups, straws and food boxes. That has a direct relation with global heating as a lot of energy is consumed in their production. All plastics are bad, but some alternatives are better than the one-time-use (polyethylene terephthalate) plastics which can be replaced with high-density polyethylene. An example is that of tumblers which are easily available in the market. Styrofoam is yet another culprit, and although a bill was formulated by the Punjab Food Authority in 2018 to ban styrofoam as food packaging, it is yet to be approved, and we see its rampant use in local food markets as well as high-end restaurants.

While discussing climate change and its effects, we cannot leave out energy systems. Pakistan is heavily reliant on energy generation via fossil fuels for its power needs. Our total energy mix largely includes oil, gas and coal, while a small amount constitutes renewable resources of energy. The Alternative Energy Development Board has been tasked by the government to generate at least five per cent of the total national power generation from renewable resources including solar, hydel, biomass, wind and nuclear by 2030.

Our largest solar PV park, the Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur, has a total installed capacity of 1,000MW, yet we do not quite see its benefits. Pakistan also has the potential to utilise its biomass as a source of alternative energy, but there have been many challenges on this front. One such challenge has been the low price of petroleum in the past. Nonetheless, with rising fuel prices and a declining economy, it seems there is a future for biomass as an alternative source of fuel, particularly for the industrial sector.

The recent signing of new contracts to import oil and gas from countries including Russia and Saudi Arabia does not solve our energy crises, and, in fact, will only increase our vulnerability to the changing climate. One can clearly note the geopolitics of energy here. Besides that, the reluctance of people to switch to renewable energy due to their lack of understanding of its benefits is also a huge challenge for the implementing agencies.

It is high time that we attempt an attitudinal shift. Planting trees and banning plastics alone won't lessen our vulnerability to the changing climate. There is a dire need to wake up to this alarming issue on an individual level and to play our part. We don't have to do too much other than being eco-conscious and responsive to our natural surroundings and taking ownership of the latter.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1500371/adapting-to-climate-change>

FLASH FLOODS WREAK HAVOC IN UPPER KOHISTAN

The Newspaper's Correspondent August 19, 2019

MANSEHRA: Flash floods caused by heavy rain the other day wreaked havoc in Kamila area of Upper Kohistan, blocking Karakoram Highway at several places for hours and destroying houses, shops and quarters of Frontier Constabulary.

Talking to mediapersons on Sunday, Upper Kohistan deputy commissioner Hamidur Rehman said that the KKH, which was blocked at Koz Kamila, Barseen, Banna Banda and several other places because of landslides, had been restored to vehicular traffic on Sunday morning.

He said the restoration work was aided by Frontier Constabulary and workers of a Chinese company building Dasu hydropower project.

Flood in local streams and Indus River damaged some 20 houses and swept away four others in Kamila and its adjoining villages.

“I have been personally leading the relief and rescue operation, and have provided tents and relief items to the displaced families,” said Mr Rehman.

The DC said that a damage assessment survey had been initiated by the officials of district administration, communication and works, livestock, and revenue departments and that the affected families would be compensated,” said Mr Rehman.

He said that many link roads, including that of Jalkot and Suro, had also been washed away in the floods and that the communication and works department workers were rehabilitating the affected portions to restore traffic link with Dasu, the headquarters of Upper Kohistan.

MAN DIES ON ROAD: A man was killed when a jeep plunged into a deep ravine near Babusar top in Kaghan valley on Sunday.

Ghulam Mustafa Shah, who had taken tourists to Babusar top from Naran, was parking his jeep after disembarking passengers when he lost control over the steering. As a result, the vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into ravine.

The locals rushed to the scene and shifted him to a nearby hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Also, the business fraternity in Oghi has demanded of the health department to initiate anti-dengue spray in the tehsil.

A group of traders led by Saifur Rehman and Hakim Khan told reporters that a large number of people had been affected by dengue virus and that an outbreak of the disease could not be ruled out if fumigation was not carried out immediately.

The health department should immediately start fumigating the streets as a precautionary measure to curb spread of dengue,” said Mr Rehman.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1500305/flash-floods-wreak-havoc-in-upper-kohistan>

ICELAND COMMEMORATES FIRST GLACIER LOST TO CLIMATE CHANGE

AFP Updated August 19, 2019

REYKJAVIK: Iceland on Sunday honoured the passing of Okjokull, its first glacier lost to climate change, as scientists warned that some 400 others on the subarctic island faced the same fate.

A bronze plaque was unveiled in a ceremony to mark Okjokull — which translates to “Ok glacier” — in the west of Iceland, in the presence of local researchers and their peers at Rice University in the United States, who initiated the project.

“This will be the first monument to a glacier lost to climate change anywhere in the world,” Cymene Howe, associate professor of anthropology at Rice University, said in July.

The plaque bears the inscription “A letter to the future”, and is intended to raise awareness about the decline of glaciers and the effects of climate change.

“In the next 200 years all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path. This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it,” the plaque reads.

It is also labelled “415 ppm CO₂,” referring to the record level of carbon dioxide measured in the atmosphere last May.

“Memorials everywhere stand for either human accomplishments, like the deeds of historic figures, or the losses and deaths we recognise as important,” researcher Howe said.

“By memorialising a fallen glacier, we want to emphasise what is being lost — or dying — the world over, and also draw attention to the fact that this is something that humans have ‘accomplished’, although it is not something we should be proud of.”

Howe noted that the conversation about climate change could be abstract, with many dire statistics and sophisticated scientific models that could feel incomprehensible. “Perhaps a monument to a lost glacier is a better way to fully grasp what we now face,” she said, highlighting “the power of symbols and ceremony to provoke feelings”.

Iceland loses about 11 billion tonnes of ice per year, and scientists fear all of the island country’s 400-plus glaciers will be gone by 2200, according to Howe and her Rice University colleague Dominic Boyer.

Glaciologists stripped Okjokull of its glacier status in 2014, a first for Iceland.

In 1890, the glacier ice covered 16 square kilometres but by 2012, it measured just 0.7 square kilometres, according to a report from the University of Iceland from 2017.

In 2014, “we made the decision that this was no longer a living glacier, it was only dead ice, it was not moving,” Oddur Sigurdsson, a glaciologist with the Icelandic Meteorological Office, said.

To have the status of a glacier, the mass of ice and snow must be thick enough to move by its own weight. For that to happen the mass must be approximately 40 to 50 metres thick, he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1500353/iceland-commemorates-first-glacier-lost-to-climate-change>

LACK OF NEW TECHNOLOGY TURNS NATIONAL ECONOMY OBSOLETE

BY DR UMER KHAYYAM PUBLISHED: AUGUST 19, 2019

ISLAMABAD: From an agrarian economy to rapid industrialisation, followed by its expansion and digitalisation, we are now speeding to enter the 4th Industrial Revolution – as remarked by Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

Unlike other revolutions, this one is unique in the sense that its negative impact is not confined to one specific sector, but it alters our physical, digital, industrial as well as economic spheres.

That entails reshaping our outlook. It can redefine what it means to be human through artificial intelligence (AI)-based systems, self-driven cars, computer-dictated neurological responses, reprogramming and genetically engineered DNA for required traits, algorithmic warfare, 5G and what not.

Given the potential of the 4th Industrial Revolution to completely transform the current situation, it can have unnoticed uncertainty in its way. Yet, all this adds up to what has already happened through natural but importantly through anthropogenic changes in the common environment.

Industrialised countries – home to 20% of the total population – account for 60% of CO2 emissions but look reluctant to aggressively tackle climate change. For instance, European nations are unwilling to commit 30% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions whereas the US has failed to pass Climate Change Act and has withdrawn from the Paris agreement on climate change.

In comparison, the countries creating less pollution are taking necessary steps, backed by legislation, to fight climate change. These measures include Mexico's General Law on Climate Change, Kenya's Climate Change Authority Act, Pakistan's National Climate Change Strategy, etc.

The contrast in efforts made by the developed and developing nations can be reflected in the fact that a majority of the top 12 countries most affected by climate change are either emerging economies or under-developed nations. Keeping that in view, the industrialised states are least concerned about the impact of climate change around the world.

Owing to the reluctance on the part of industrialised states, Asia – home to about 4 billion people – has experienced a visible deterioration in the environmental and natural resource quality like rising in atmospheric and land-surface temperatures, increase in sea levels, etc and its resultant impact on human health through diseases, deaths, and injuries.

Pakistan is among the top 10 countries on the Global Climate Risk Index 2018 (German Watch). The 2010 floods that submerged a large part of Pakistan as Himalayan glaciers melted at a rapid pace due to global warming, widespread smog in Lahore in winter and heat waves in Karachi are a few examples that call for establishing a new framework to capitalise on the opportunities being provided by the 4th Industrial Revolution and protect the country from its adverse impact.

Lacking the ability to cope with the fast-changing scenario, it seems from the country's moves that it is still dealing with the second industrial revolution. At present, we are not ready to keep pace with the emerging 4th Industrial Revolution.

An example in this regard is the Sialkot sports industry that lost the fame it once enjoyed because of its failure to evolve in terms of technological advancement that the global sports industry underwent. Consequently, the share of Sialkot's sports industry in the global market was mostly grabbed by other countries. Pakistan's inability to adopt the latest technology is turning the national economy obsolete and the reason behind this is the increasing emphasis on the grade-oriented education system – a contrast to the most famous Scandinavian educational standards. The country has over time ignored the importance of equipping people with technological tools to solve modern problems.

Though recently some appreciable steps have been taken to produce skilled labour than just the educated class, there is a dire need to scout for financial resources, where involvement of the private sector could not be ignored, to lift more people out of poverty.

Although the current government has prioritised environmental protection, which is reflected in projects such as the billion-tree tsunami, this alone is not sufficient to address the issues at hand. No doubt trees can act as sinks for GHG emissions but the focus must also be on the originating points of pollution. The country should fight technology shyness and go for greener and renewable energy programmes.

Keeping in view the above scenario, the government must frame proactive policies and ensure collaboration at regional and global levels where representatives of the private sector can also play their role in making laws and regulations. There are a lot of opportunities to get the benefit from the global expertise and policies. An example could be Rwanda's drone regulation, devised in partnership with the World Economic Forum as a private external partner, to timely address adverse consequences of the new industrial revolution through consistent assessment and policy prescriptions.

Another example could be the "Smart Mobility 2030" programme of Singapore, which promotes sustainable mobility options such as electric vehicles to slash GHG emissions. Separately, Indonesia provides internet access in remote areas so that the 4th Industrial Revolution positively influences agriculture through enhanced and sustainable production.

On the same lines, extensive and efficient use of technological tools like smartphones and smart dashboards are the need of the hour to disseminate real-time information about weather patterns, technological advancements, improving seed production, etc.

It can be initiated with the concept of a sharing economy by renting out technological tools if they are expensive so that farmers are facilitated extensively. Pakistan can benefit from the opportunities arising from the 4th Industrial Revolution if concrete steps are taken that can secure the common future.

The writer is the Assistant Professor at the Department of Development Studies, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, NUST Islamabad.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2036831/2-lack-new-technology-turns-national-economy-obsolete/>

SCORES OF PEOPLE EVACUATED IN KASUR BECAUSE OF FLOODING IN SUTLEJ

The Newspaper's Correspondent Updated August 21, 2019

KASUR: Scores of people were evacuated from the villages near the Sutlej while over 2,000 were provided with transportation on Tuesday, according to Rescue 1122.

Crops stretching over hundreds of acre land near the bed of Sutlej was submerged while water had started flowing into villages including Chanda Singhwala, Basti Bangla Desh, Gati Kalanger, Mastayki, and Bhikiwind.

The district administration had made announcements in villages near Kanganpur asking people to vacate the villages.

The district administration was facing difficulties as the villagers were reluctant to vacate their houses.

The administration claimed to have made all arrangements to accommodate people and their livestock.

According to Rescue 1122 personnel Muhammad Akbar, scores of people were evacuated from Kanganpur villages including Kotli Fateh Muhammad.

He said most of the people had moved to the houses of their relatives while some were residing at base camp near Talwar post. Rescue 1122 had also shifted their livestock and households to the relief camps, he added.

He said trucks and other modes of transport had been arranged at relief camps to shift the luggage and livestock to other places.

Ministers, bureaucrats and representatives of the Punjab government were also visiting the flood area, making photo shots and sending to media through district information office's handouts.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1500792>

OVER 250 VILLAGES, FARMLANDS INUNDATED AS WATER LEVEL IN INDUS RISES TO MEDIUM FLOOD

Dawn Report August 21, 2019

DADU: Floodwater on Tuesday inundated more than 150 villages in Dadu and Jamshoro districts and another 100 or so in Sukkur, Khairpur, Larkana and Ghotki districts besides destroying standing crops over thousands of acres as Indus River level rose to the state of medium flood.

The affected villages and lands of Dadu and Jamshoro districts are situated within the Kachho belt where people had positively responded to a flood alert sounded by the respective district administrations last week.

People of the areas were advised to move to safe places before arrival of floodwater.

The flood-hit areas include Sona Bindi, Nau Goth, Dodo Kalhoro, Deenpur, KT Jatoi, Naon Dero, Puranu Dero, Moundar, Jhallu, Amniani, KT Lalia, Sann, Manjhand, Budhapur and Unarpur.

Reports from the areas suggested that families along with their households, valuables and animals were moving to safe places in large numbers from scores of other villages vulnerable to inundation in the days to come.

Dadu Deputy Commissioner Raja Shahzaman Khuhro on Tuesday visited the LS (Larkana-Sehwan) protective bund and Moundar and issued necessary directives to irrigation officials. He told them to set up watch towers and organise regular patrolling in the areas.

He also asked the local revenue officials to help people shift to safe places.

Irrigation Superintendent of Dadu southern division Sajid Ali Bhutto said the LS Bund was only point vulnerable point in Sehwan taluka.

Irrigation Secretary Saeed Ahmed Mangnejo also visited certain vulnerable points along the Indus embankments in Jamshoro and directed irrigation officials to take appropriate measures on an emergency basis.

Stone dumping, pitching and widening of dykes was immediately started along the Indus course around the Kotri barrage area.

Mr Mangnejo said that strict monitoring was under way to avert flood devastation.

Jamshoro Deputy Commissioner retired Capt Fareeduddin Mustafa visited Indus embankments downstream and upstream Kotri Barrage and watched patrolling by irrigation officials.

PPI adds: Over 100 villages in Sukkur, Larkana, Ghotki and Khairpur districts were inundated by floodwater on Tuesday. Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday recorded water level in the river at Guddu at 422,653 cusecs, Taunsa at 342,978 cusecs, Sukkur at 360,125 cusecs and Kotri at 185,015 cusecs.

It noted that the Indus at Guddu was in medium flood but at Taunsa and Sukkur it was in low flood.

Qadir Bakhsh Khuhro, a resident of Dilawar Khuhro village situated within Gambat taluka of Khairpur district, said standing cotton and sugar cane crops as well as vegetables grown over thousands of acres in this district had been washed away.

Most villagers living along Indus embankments in Khairpur district have already moved to safe places.

However, a majority of those living along both sides of the river in upper areas appeared reluctant to move out despite flood alerts issued by the district administrations concerned.

Nearly 50 villages within Khairpur district have been submerged while many others evacuated for fear of flood.

As many villages and thousands of acres of farmland in Larkana, Ghotki and Sukkur district have been hit by floodwater.

Residents of the areas located along the Indus course believe that a big deluge is likely to pass through the Indus within the next 24 hours.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1500662/over-250-villages-farmlands-inundated-as-water-level-in-indus-rises-to-medium-flood>

HIGH-LEVEL FLOODING FEARED IN SUTLEJ RIVER

By Asif Mehmood Published: August 20, 2019

LAHORE: The water released by India into the Sutlej River – which has a capacity of 150,000 cusecs –reached 38,000 cusecs on Tuesday with experts predicting that the flow would touch 90,000 cusecs.

In 2015 when India last released water into the river at 55,000 cusecs, 238 lives were lost.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) warned that increasing water levels in Sutlej River at Ganda Singh Wala would cause a serious flood-like situation.

Authority spokesperson Brig Mukhtar Ahmed said, “The flow in Sutlej River is increasing where the water level presently at Ganda Singh Wala is 17.8 feet with 37,640 cusecs.”

He added that Flood Forecasting Division Lahore had predicted that 100,000 -150,000 cusecs flood relay would pass by tomorrow (Wednesday) noon from Ganda Singh Wala.

According to the daily monsoon situation report, the water flow in River Sutlej at Ganda Singh Wala was increasing and would lead to medium to high-level flooding.

The main reason for the emerging situation was because of discharges from Bhakra Dam and merging the flows from lower catchments.

The NDMA issued alert to all concerned provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs), departments and local community.

Further, a day after Pakistan Indus Water Treaty commissioner lodged a protest with the Indian commissioner, the latter on Tuesday assured Pakistan it would abide by the 1989 agreement and provide advanced data on the flow of water in rivers between the two countries.

Pakistan Indus Water Treaty commissioner's spokesperson Sheraz Jamil said that New Delhi had officially communicated to Islamabad on Monday and Tuesday that it would send water flow data on Sutlej, Ravi and Beas rivers that run from India to Pakistan.

He added that India had stopped sending advanced flow data last year, in violation of the agreement.

In 1989, Pakistan and India signed an agreement in which India would provide advanced data on all rivers entering Pakistan from July 1 to October 10 every year.

However, on Monday Islamabad accused New Delhi of releasing roughly 240,000 cubic feet per second of water into Sutlej River and the Indus River without prior information, causing floods in the Pakistani river network.

Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda also expressed concern on India's attitude and warned that his country would exercise all options to protect its rights given in the agreements.

"India is obligated under the treaty to provide information about extraordinary flood to Pakistan," said Vawda.

However, Jamil said the current flow of water released by India would not cause any major damages in Pakistan. (With additional input from Anadolu Agency and APP)

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2037901/1-medium-high-level-flood-expected-river-sutlej-next-48-hours/>

Climate change will cripple economies regardless of wealth

By Reuters Published: August 22, 2019

NEW YORK: Climate change will damage the economies of countries whether they are rich or poor, hot or cold by the year 2100, economists said in a new report, dispelling the notion that impoverished, warm countries will suffer the most on a warming planet.

Researchers who examined data from 174 countries over 50 years found that persistent temperature changes above or below a country's historical norm adversely affected economic growth, regardless of how warm a country is.

The United States could see a 10% loss in gross domestic product (GDP) without significant policy change. “In the UK we had the hottest day (ever) recorded a few days ago and infrastructure came to a halt,” Cambridge University professor of economics Dr. Kamiar Mohaddes told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on Tuesday.

“Trains aren’t running, people aren’t coping, and therefore productivity and economic growth falls.”

Research has often focused on short-term devastation to poor, warm countries, but the report suggested that wealth and cooler temperatures are no protection from climate change’s economic toll if major policy changes are not adopted.

In a “business as usual” scenario where climate change-causing greenhouse gas emissions are not drastically lowered, the average global temperatures will increase by four degrees Celsius (7.2F) by 2100.

That would bring more than a 7% loss in world GDP per capita, said the study published on Monday by the US National Bureau of Economic Research, a non-profit economic research organisation.

The 2015 Paris Agreement, a global pact to fight climate change agreed to by nearly 200 countries, aims to keep the Earth’s temperature rise well below two degrees Celsius (3.6F), striving for 1.5 degrees (2.7F).

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2039103/2-climate-change-will-cripple-economies-regardless-wealth/>

40 MORE VILLAGES IN RIVERINE AREA COME UNDER FLOODWATER

The Newspaper's Correspondent August 23, 2019

DADU: Another 40 villages in riverine area came under water on Thursday after further rise in Indus River, cutting off the settlements from nearby towns of Dadu and Sehwan.

Residents of Khaki, Khan Mohammad Khushik, Jan Mohammad Khushik, Saindad Ja Bhan, Mureed Shahani, Dano Chandio, Mahi Otho, Dureedero, Nau Wahan, Bilawalpur, Hashim Bughio and Malook Panhwar and other villages hired boats to rescue their marooned families and cattle as floodwaters caused a number of mud-thatched houses to collapse.

Imam Ali, a resident of Mahi Otho village, told Dawn that their village was surrounded by floodwaters while the only path leading to main highway was also submerged in water. No help had so far reached the marooned village, he said, adding if they were not rescued, serious human disaster could take place.

Khan Mohammad Halepoto of Dureedero village said that despite flooding in the village, no official of the district administration had reached to rescue stranded villagers and their cattle. He appealed to Sindh chief minister to take notice of the official negligence and send rescue teams to their village and other nearby villages in Sehwan taluka to provide them relief.

Mahesh Kumar, engineer of irrigation department, said that the teams of the department had been deployed in 20 places along Larkana-Sehwan dyke in Sehwan to protect villages situated above the riverine area.

He claimed that the dyke faced no serious threat from rising floodwaters at any place and should there be any danger they had made all preparations to cope with it.

Executive engineer of irrigation department Khushi Mohammad Shaikh said that the dyke was safe and patrolling was under way along the embankment. The floodwaters had caused erosion at four places in the area falling within Dadu but it did not pose any serious threat, he said.

Assistant Commissioner Nazeer Ahmed Soomro also visited the dyke in Sial village and directed officials concerned to store flood-fighting material at vulnerable points along the dyke.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1501057/40-more-villages-in-riverine-area-come-under-floodwater>

THATTA DISTRICT COUNCIL DEMANDS CALAMITY-HIT STATUS

By Our Correspondent Published: August 23, 2019

HYDERABAD: The Thatta District Council passed on Thursday a unanimous resolution, asking the Sindh government to declare Thatta disaster-hit in the wake of the torrential monsoon rains. The members said that the district has been flooded by saline water channels and mountain streams.

They also called for a special redevelopment package for the coastal district. The council's session, chaired by chairman Ghulam Qadir Palijo, demanded that all the provincial taxes as well as the agricultural loans should be waived for the ongoing year. Thatta recorded 142 millimetres of rain in a single day on August 11.

"The session should have been held much earlier to help the rain-affected people of Thatta," said councilor Abdul Hameed Panhwar. He questioned why the district council did not spend its budget to mitigate the calamity situation. "The development budget of this year should be spent on restoring the affected people back to their normal lives."

Another councilor, Mashooq Babbar, said dozens of villages have been flooded and as many cut off from the semi-rural towns of Thatta. "People migrated from the villages which have been completely marooned." He pointed out that shortage of food and water has been reported from many affected villages. Babbar suggested that the saline water channels which flooded a lot of villages should be redesigned and reconstructed to prevent future flooding.

"The flooding has been caused by the failure of the irrigation department," said councilor Abdul Khaliq Soomro. He said that every year, the irrigation department claims spending millions of rupees of maintenance and desilting of the saline water channels but the recent rain-entailed flooding exposed their corruption. Soomro complained that the officials of the relevant government departments were not in attendance of the council's session despite notice.

Shazia Khaskheli said thousands of families have not only become shelterless but starvation is also creeping upon them. "The people are also falling ill because of poor sanitation and lack of food."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2039978/1-thatta-district-council-demands-calamity-hit-status/>

LOW LEVEL OF FLOODS RECORDED IN RIVER INDUS AT GUDDU & SUKKUR

RECORDER REPORT AUG 25TH, 2019 ISLAMABAD

Low flood level has been recorded in the River Indus at Guddu and Sukkur and the River Sutlej at Ganda Singh Wala and Sulemanki, while dry weather is expected over most parts of the country in next 48 hours, according to weather forecast released on Saturday. The scale of disaster triggered by Monsoon 2019 is much higher than the disasters occurred in 2018 due to flooding in Monsoon.

According to data of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the recent floods triggered by monsoon rains resulted in at least 225 deaths, 166 injuries and destruction of 669 houses. As compared with the previous monsoon's disaster, the number of death increased by 90 people and 32 more were injured in current monsoon season. The government has earmarked Rs 309 million in current federal budget for preparedness against natural calamity for NDMA.

According to the NDMA's latest preliminary damages/losses details, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the worst hit by monsoon rains wherein a total of 74 people were killed, 67 got injured and 198 houses were destroyed. Sindh is second worst hit region of the country affected by flooding with killing of over 60 people, injuring of 16 and destruction of 34 houses, followed by Azad Kashmir with 42 killings, 18 injuries and destruction of 128 houses while in Balochistan 12 people died and 10 got injured. According to the NDMA, eight persons were killed in Gilgit-Baltistan, 12 got injured and 170 houses got damaged while two persons were killed in the federal capital by monsoon floods.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/08/20190825511384/>

DROUGHT DESPITE RAINS

Fehmida Riaz August 25, 2019 [Leave a comment](#)

With climate change disturbing weather patterns and delaying monsoon rains, food for people and pastures for livestock in Thar are getting adversely impacted

As one enters the Tharparkar district through a huge cement arch, Baab Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Bhutto, one is greeted by herds of cows. They loiter around in the barren fields and along the roads. They are there all year around – from Badin to Nagarparkar.

In drought, these animals move from west or north and, in rain, from south or east.

Near Islamkot, on the road that leads to the Thar coal site, Muhammad Aachar Samoon is walking with a herd of around a dozen white cows with beautiful horns, popularly known as the Tharparkar breed. This breed is considered to be the best not only for milking but also for the fact that it has good draught capability.

“There were no rains for many years. The entire region of the Thar desert witnessed severe drought,” Samoon tells *TNS*. “So, last year, I took my herds to the north in search of fodder. But, this year, Thar has received rains. We hope this will break the dry spell, and we will get enough grass for our animals.”

Thar, scattered over 20,000 square kilometres, in the south-east of Pakistan – along the Indian border — is a unique desert. Otherwise barren, it turns lush green after monsoon rains. The area is home to

1.6 million people and over 6 million cattle heads, including cows, goats, sheep and camels. Majority of locals are dependent on livestock and rain-fed agriculture for their food and livelihood.

But this arid region has been suffering under a dry spell for many years. Due to the changing weather patterns, as a result of climate change, the drought has been severe, with rainfall giving only a temporary relief.

Rains arrive with the monsoon months of June to August. When there is no rain and the desert runs out of food and fodder, usually around October or November, herders are compelled to move towards greener districts. June is an anxious month for them. But as the region gets the first spell of rain, these herders start to return to their native places, along with their animals.

During drought, the herders along with their livestock start moving north and west, towards the nearby districts of Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Badin, and Tando Muhammad Khan. These districts have intricate irrigation systems and get water from River Indus through canals and water channels for agriculture. Sometimes herders can be spotted in far-flung districts of Sanghar, Benazirabad, and Khairpur.

In these districts, Thari herders also opt for daily wage work of harvesting grain or plucking cotton — and can also let their livestock graze on pastures. “In the past, most landowners in these districts, allowed our animals to graze on what remained after harvesting the wheat, cotton and sugarcane crops. Now they charge us even for the wasted crops,” says Samoon.

“In the past, most landowners in these districts, allowed our animals to graze on what remained after harvesting the wheat, cotton and sugarcane crops. Now they charge us even for the wasted crops,” says Samoon.

Thar depends for water on two major sources: rain and groundwater. When there is no rain, the groundwater level drops drastically. The lack of rain in the area over many years has not only affected rain-fed agriculture but also the many species of birds, reptiles, mammals, along with various desert herbs and plants. Thar has a variety of wildlife species. According to an estimate by Sindh Wildlife Department in 2014, Thar has over 80,000 Indian blue peafowls alone.

When the region gets rain, sand dunes turn green, desert flowers bloom, and trees became lush. Livestock and wild animals get enough food. After the first spell of rain, locals plough their fields with the help of donkeys, camels and bulls. There are also the occasional, costly tractors. After ploughing, however, the locals wait for second or third spells, but if there is no rain, they lose huge amounts of money that they have spent on plough and seed.

This year, instead of June, monsoon started two months late in August – a sign of climate change. Locals fear despite heavy rains they will not be able to grow crops and there will be not much grass for the animals.

“There are seven tehsils of Tharparkar district and so far Tehsil Mithi, Diplo and Chachro have not received even 100mm of rain. To end drought, Thar needs at least 300mm of rain,” says Khatau Jani, a journalist with Sindhi television channel, *KTN News*, who has reported drought for last many years. When it rains in June, there is enough time for more rains to come. But this year monsoon is late. We don’t expect it will end the ongoing drought.”

Despite the momentary relief that these rains have brought, experts are of the view that this is hardly worth celebrating, for climate change is harming weather patterns and crop growth. They say the

recent rains will reduce the hydrological drought in the region to some extent, but the food and fodder drought will continue in Thar.

“The monsoon is late due to climate change. Because of rains, the region will get some grass and the desert will turn green. This will provide fodder for livestock but even then there will be no agriculture; so the shortage of food for humans will continue, as delayed monsoon rains will not benefit agriculture,” Ali Akber Rahimoon, director Water, Applied Education & Renewable Energy (AWARE) tells *TNS*.

Before the partition, the government would traditionally give a drought alert and start relief operations if there wasn't much rainfall before August 15 that year. That tradition has continued. The Sindh government has been conducting relief operations in Thar for the last five years, which means drought has continued for five consecutive years.

The drought conditions also tie in with concerns of food insecurity. Due to food shortage in such times, Thari women suffering from malnutrition deliver underweight babies. The infant mortality rate in the area is also on the decline.

Recently, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was given a briefing on newborn deaths in Thar. He was told that in 2018, 505 babies died; in 2017, 345; in 2016, 479; and in 2015, 398 deaths were reported in state-run hospitals in Thar. The numbers have gone up on a yearly basis and climate change is aggravating the already complex situation.

Dr Sahib Dino, a pediatrician at a government hospital in Islamkot agrees that maternal health needs special attention. “If women are given proper food, the death ratio will drop,” he says.

In 2016, the provincial government of Sindh started the Nutrition Support Programme. It is currently under the care of People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) and will be continue till October.

The Sindh government has also announced that it will distribute wheat with the help of NADRA to 200,000 families of Tharparkar. According to Khatau Jani, the government gave 50kg wheat bags to families in the first phase, and “the second phase of wheat distribution has not started yet”.

To overcome water shortage, the Sindh government had also installed over 500 Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in Tharparkar district. However, later when the Supreme Court of Pakistan took *suo moto* action, it was found that over 90 percent of the RO plants were non-functional.

<http://tns.thenews.com.pk/drought-despite-rains/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 26th TO Sep 1st 2019

UGLY REALITIES

Hajrah Mumtaz August 26, 2019

THE plaque bears the inscription, “A letter to the future.” Further, it reads, “... This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it.”

Dire words indeed, but the situation is no less than so. Thus reads the bronze plaque unveiled last weekend in Iceland, set up to mark the death of Okjokull (or ‘Ok’) glacier to climate change. It is

Iceland's first such death; scientists warn that over the next 200 years, at the rate at which the effects of climate change are hitting the planet, the sub-Arctic island will lose some 400 other glaciers.

To put this in perspective, consider the numbers: in 1890, glacial ice here was some 16 square kilometres, which by 2012 had fallen to a pitiful 0.7sq km, explains a report from the University of Iceland dating back to 2017. To maintain the status of a glacier, the mass of ice and snow must be thick enough to move by its own weight, which requires that the mass be 40 to 50 metres thick approximately, according to Oddur Sigudsson, a glaciologist with the Icelandic Meteorological Office. But Okjokúll was reduced to the stature of a 'dead glacier' back in 2014, when the decision was made that it was no longer 'alive' given that it was not moving.

The plaque unveiled on Aug 18 also carries a record of the level of carbon dioxide measured in the atmosphere of this location in May. Cymene Howe, associate professor of anthropology at the American Rice University which partnered with Iceland in this project, is on record as saying back in July that "This will be the first monument to a glacier lost to climate change anywhere in the world. [...] Memorials everywhere stand for either human accomplishments like the deeds of historic figures, or the losses and deaths we recognise as important. By memorialising a fallen glacier, we want to emphasise what is being lost — or dying — the world over, and also draw attention to the fact that this is something humans have 'accomplished', although it is not something we should be proud of."

That projection of the loss of all of Iceland's glaciers over the next couple of centuries pertains to just one island in the world we inhabit, keep in mind.

The matter of import to keep in perspective, though, is that of course the effects of climate change aren't limited to one part of the world. In fact, additionally, the effects are — or will, in some cases — be felt most strongly in the regions that have had little to do with the kind of industrialisation and pollution that have led to the phenomenon.

Consider Pakistan, or even the subcontinent at large, for example. The scarcity of water is a major issue, an increasingly immediate one, although this country in particular can hardly be considered amongst the more heavily industrialised. In fact, in report after report, stats after stats, it is the US and several other Western regions that are the ones to have caused the most damage to the fragile equilibrium that constitutes the environment we call home.

Moving forward with that thought, the earth has — or is thought to have — its ways of getting even. Going by one stream of theory, for example, forest fires such as those witnessed in North America some months past are nature's way of clearing out the undergrowth and making room for new plant life to survive. Some scientists argue that such occurrences are essential for the health of the planet — nature has a way of culling what has to be weeded out, what is no longer supportable.

Similar perhaps is the case of the sins of omission and commission of mankind. Activities, or the exploitation of Earth's available resources, do and of course will continue to have a fallout. The loss of glaciers is but one example. Even in Pakistan, snow and ice levels are known to be going down. For example, as we travel to Naran from Islamabad, reports are that glacier melt is reality, while ice levels at major mountain peaks are going down.

In such a situation, whether in Pakistan or elsewhere, there is reason for serious thought and, more importantly, policymaking goals. That given the empirical realities science presents us with, the fact there is still denial about the effects and nature of climate change — such as in by US President Donald Trump — quite simply beggars belief.

But then, humans are odd creatures, given to self-delusion. The truth of the matter, though, is that what mankind cannot or does not want to do, the planet might take care of. Such are the wages of the sin of centuries of mooching off. Such may be the wrath (or consequences) man has brought upon itself.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1501739>

MAN KILLED, CROPS DESTROYED IN BAJAUR FLASH FLOOD

A Correspondent August 26, 2019

KHAR: A man was killed when a car he was travelling in was washed away by flash floods in Charmang area of Bajaur tribal district, officials and residents said on Sunday.

They said the incident occurred in Gondai locality late on Saturday evening.

They added that the victim identified as Khanawada was on way to his house from a bazaar when his car was washed away in flash floods near his village.

Soon after the incident, his family along with villagers started search for him, but they could not find the body due to heavy rain and floods.

However, the body was later recovered from a stream in Kotki area and handed over to the family.

Meanwhile, the residents of Kamal Dara area of Barang tehsil, where flash floods triggered by heavy rain washed away several fields on Saturday, have called for immediate measures to protect their houses and lands from floods.

Talking to reporters on Sunday, they said the floods caused by the Saturday's heavy rain washed away agriculture fields. They said the houses and lands located along the riverbank were facing serious threat of being washed away.

According to them, they had approached the district administration and relevant departments for building protection walls along the river to protect their houses and land from floods, but to no avail.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1501694/man-killed-crops-destroyed-in-bajaur-flash-flood>

HEATWAVES, HEAVY RAIN PREDICTED TO LAST LONGER WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

RECORDER REPORT AUG 26TH, 2019 BARCELONA

Countries in the northern hemisphere can expect longer summer heatwaves, as well as more consecutive days of heavy rain with harmful consequences, if internationally agreed goals to limit global warming are exceeded, scientists warned on Monday. A study published in the journal Nature Climate Change said more hotter-than-average days would cluster together if the world warms by 2 degrees Celsius (3.6F) above pre-industrial times, lengthening the duration of future hot spells. Global temperatures have risen by about 1C already and are on track for an increase of at least 3C if states cut climate-changing emissions in line with the plans they have made so far. "Our study found

that if the world warms to 2C above pre-industrial levels, we could see a significant shift in summer weather conditions from the patterns we know today," said lead author Peter Pfleiderer of research group Climate Analytics and Humboldt University.

"Extreme weather would become more persistent - hot and dry periods, as well as consecutive days of heavy rain, would all get longer." As heatwaves and drought become more drawn out, the damage they cause to health, ecosystems, agriculture and the economy grows "significantly", the scientists said, while multiple days of heavy rain hike the risk of severe flooding.

In 2018, several spells of hot and dry weather, each lasting weeks, contributed to wheat losses of 15% in Germany, they noted. And in the United States, the past 12 months have been the wettest on record, with central regions experiencing weeks of near-continuous rainfall, inundating swathes of farmland. The researchers found that if temperatures rise 2C, the chance of hot spells lasting longer than two weeks increases by 4% compared with today across the northern mid-latitudes, which include much of Europe, North America, and Central and North Asia. The probability of at least seven consecutive days of heavy rain would be 26% higher in that same zone.

Co-author Carl-Friedrich Schleussner said the study showed that limiting warming to 1.5C - the lower limit governments agreed to strive for in the 2015 Paris climate accord - would reduce those impacts "considerably", highlighting the need for "urgent action" to cut planet-warming emissions further. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently sounded the alarm over new data showing that July 2019 was the warmest month on record. He urged leaders to come to a September summit he will host with concrete offers to strengthen climate action.

Cities have sweltered through record-breaking heatwaves this summer in Europe, with several countries - from Britain to Germany and France - setting new temperature highs. The Netherlands said it had recorded nearly 400 additional deaths due to the extreme heat, which is particularly dangerous for elderly people, infants and those with pre-existing medical conditions, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Roop Singh of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre said there was a "huge research gap" on the levels at which high temperatures start to affect health in local contexts, especially in the developing world. "Unless we understand how extreme heat impacts people, it is harder to start planning for it and to convince people (to act)," she told a briefing on heatwaves and cities last week. Last month, the Red Cross launched a guide to help fast-expanding cities warn residents more effectively when extreme heat is forecast and minimise harm to public health. It urges cities to devise a heat action plan and take steps such as opening public buildings as "cool shelters", setting up phone helplines and visiting vulnerable people at home.

Cities are advised to incorporate heat risks into their long-term urban plans, plant more trees to provide shade, paint building roofs in light colours to better reflect the heat, and designate car-free zones, among other measures. The Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN), which brings together organisations working on the problem, said that at the national level only about a quarter of countries have action plans in place to limit the impact of heat on health.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/08/20190826511938/>

870,000 TOLD TO LEAVE HOMES AS HEAVY RAINS POUND JAPAN

AFP August 29, 2019

TOKYO: Two people were confirmed dead on Wednesday as heavy rains pounded southwest Japan, prompting flood and landslide warnings and orders for 870,000 people to seek safety.

More than a million more people were advised to leave their homes after the country's weather agency raised the alert to its highest level for parts of northern Kyushu.

The emergency warning is issued "if there is a significant likelihood of catastrophes".

Officials confirmed two deaths, one in western Saga prefecture where a man was found in a car that had been swept away. A second man died in Fukuoka as he tried to escape from a car trapped in rising floodwaters.

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said a third person, in Saga, was in a state of "cardiorespiratory arrest" — a term usually employed by Japanese officials to indicate a person's death before it is officially confirmed by a doctor.

"There are many reports of damage in different areas due to flooding of rivers, landslides, and submerged houses, and there is a possibility of serious damage occurring in the coming hours," Suga added.

Evacuation orders and advisories issued by local authorities are not mandatory, although officials urge residents to heed them.

For those leaving after such warnings, government shelters are available, and some choose to stay with friends and family as well.

The fire and disaster management agency said it had already received multiple reports of flooded houses in Saga and Nagasaki prefectures.

"We are seeing unprecedented levels of heavy rains in cities where we issued special warnings," a spokesman for the Japan Meteorological Agency told reporters.

"It is a situation where you should do your best to protect your lives," weather agency official Yasushi Kajiwara said.

He also urged those living in areas currently under evacuation advisories to act quickly.

The weather agency issued its highest warning for heavy rain early morning, before downgrading it mid-afternoon.

Still, the agency said heavy rain was likely to continue in western Japan, with high risks of landslides and flooding.

In Saga, a mother wearing a life vest in a rescue boat told public broadcaster NHK she had been saved from the floodwaters. "I was so scared as I have a little child. I'm worried there could be worse damage because there's an ongoing power outage," she said.

Elsewhere, a man in a shelter in Saga said he was sleeping as the floodwater entered his home.

"When I woke up, water surged to my feet," he told NHK. "I've never seen anything like this. It's important to evacuate early." The JMA's emergency warnings affect areas in Saga, Fukuoka and Nagasaki, where the severe weather has also disrupted transport, forcing the suspension of some train services and some road closures.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1502344>

K-P ASSEMBLY PASSES DISASTER MANAGEMENT BILL

By Our Correspondent Published: August 29, 2019

PESHAWAR: With newly-elected members from the erstwhile federally administered tribal areas (Fata) in the ranks, the provincial assembly on Wednesday passed the National Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2019. Indian atrocities in Kashmir were also discussed.

The session afforded these new members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) to participate in the debate and they directed the house to address critical issues in the newly-merged tribal districts.

The bill was passed as the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Assembly convened on Wednesday morning with Assembly Speaker Mushtaq Ghani in the chair.

Advisor to K-P Chief Minister on Education Ziaullah Khan Bangash tabled the Razmak Cadet College Regularization Bill 2019, in the house.

During the session, tribal lawmakers Naseerullah Khan, Syed Iqbal Mian, Mir Kalam Khan, Muhammad Iqbal took to the floor and gave short speeches about the conditions in the tribal districts.

They said that the seven merged tribal districts have suffered the most due to the War on Terror in Afghanistan and the subsequent struggle against militants and urged the provincial government to address critical infrastructure challenges.

“Due to the military operations in the merged districts, infrastructure such as highways, educational institutions, health facilities, power distribution network and water supply scheme have been badly affected,” said Mir, the independent MPA from PK-112 North Waziristan-II.

“Residents [of tribal areas] have been displaced to other parts of the country and even to Afghanistan,” he lamented.

“We demand that the money allocated for development in the seven merged districts should be doubled so that all outstanding issues are addressed on time,” he added, noting that they continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the troops in their hour of need and are also ready to sacrifice themselves for the Kashmir cause.

Leaders from the treasury and opposition benches welcomed the newly-elected lawmakers from ex-Fata into the house. They assured them full cooperation in the resolution of the problems faced by their respective areas.

Legislators from both treasury and opposition benches said that the newly elected members will redress the deprivations of their areas and will play a critical role in mainstreaming their respective tribal areas.

During the session, assembly members from both sides of the aisle expressed solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren and called for granting them the right to self-determination.

Opposition leaders including Awami National Party’s (ANP) Sardar Hussain Babak, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal-Pakistan (MMA-P) Mullana Lutfur Rehman, and Pakistan Peoples Party’s (PPP) Sher Azam Wazir said that

they support the government's stance on the Kashmir cause and condemned the Indian brutalities in the disputed Himalayan territory.

They said that Pakistan is incomplete until Kashmir gains independence.

Parliamentary leaders of various political parties said that the sacrifices rendered by Kashmiris will not go in vain and they will ultimately secure their fundamental right to independence.

All parliamentary parties also expressed the resolve to bring a joint resolution on the Kashmir issue and called for expressing solidarity over the Kashmir issue to give a strong message to the world.

Legislators further castigated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for murdering democracy by changing the constitutional status of Kashmir and annexing the disputed territory.

They said that it is now the responsibility of the United Nations to implement its resolutions regarding Kashmir and resolve the issue as per aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Later, after the quorum was pointed out, the session was adjourned until Thursday morning.

Soon after the session began, media representatives covering the assembly proceedings boycotted the session to protest the government's failure to take action against employees of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project who had manhandled media teams.

Finance Minister Taimoor Salim Jhagra and MPA Fazle Elahi hurriedly rushed towards the protesting journalists to convince them to end their boycott. However, the journalists decided not to end their protest and moved out of the assembly.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2044469/1-k-p-assembly-passes-disaster-management-bill/>

MORE RAINS FORECAST FOR KARACHI IN NEXT 24 HOURS

MUHAMMAD SHAFI AUG 30TH, 2019 KARACHI

The fresh spell of rain partially disturbed the city life on Thursday, scaling up the civic problems for the citizens as the Met Office forecast indicates more heavy falls in the next 24 hours. Met office said the prevailing spell of rain in Sindh is very likely to intensify in next 24 hours, producing moderate to heavy rains in the province, particularly in Karachi, Thatta, Jamshoro, Dadu, Kambar Shahdad Kot, Nausheroferoz, Badin, Sanghar and Larkana districts till Friday evening.

It said due to heavy rainfall in the range of 50-70 millimeter during the period, the situation of urban flooding in Karachi may further be aggravated on Friday, with water logging in low lying areas of the city. Civic agencies have been put on a high alert to cope with the challenges of expected rains.

Mayor Karachi Wasim Akhtar has directed all concerned KMC departments to be on "high alert" in view of the forecast for rains in the city. The municipal services, health and medical, parks and fire brigade department have been directed to keep themselves fully prepared with all machinery and equipment to deal with any emergency situation.

The leaves of the concerned staff have been cancelled during the high alert period and they have been directed to ensure their presence on duty. The heavy rain with thunderstorms lashed city on Wednesday night, immediately bringing K-Electric's power transmission infrastructure to a halt, and turning the city roads and streets into water pools, causing hardships for pedestrians and vehicular traffic in making ways.

The major portion of city faced prolonged load shedding, amid tripping of hundreds of feeders, falling

of electric wires and poles, just in no time.

City's commercial activities remained largely thin all the day long; many private educational institutions were shut, while attendance at the government departments were short as rain water still inundating the city roads and streets. The rain also hit transport system, with trains schedules delayed, whereas public buses hardly available on city roads, causing inconvenience for commuters forcing them to wait at railway stations and bus stops for hours.

"Electricity went off, as rain started at around 9pm, plunging our area into darkness. KE took some 16 hours to restore the power," said Muhammad Murtaza, a resident of Malir's Ghazi Town. Another consumer, from Pak Colony in District West said his area experienced load shedding for a couple of hours Wednesday night.

A power sector expert said frequent power outages and unfortunate incidents of electrocutions have exposed tall claims of the Karachi based power company of investing over \$2.1 billion in the infrastructure development since 2009. It is relevant to mention here that KE has already been facing an inquiry from National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) after more than 20 people were electrocuted in the previous two spells of monsoon rains in the last couple of months.

Around 13 FIRs have been lodged in police stations. A petition has also been filed in the Sindh High Court against KE on the said issue. Residents of Malir, Shah Faisal Colony, Korangi, North Nazimabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Soldier Bazaar, Baldia Town, Landhi, Banaras and Lyari etc. have expressed serious concerns over the unhygienic conditions, choked gutters, and prolonged power outages.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/08/20190830513711/>

APOCALYPSE NOW

Editorial August 31, 2019

WE live in precarious times. Volatile, changing climate spells disaster for human civilisation, and the threat is not in some distant future. It can be felt presently, right now, all around the world, with glaciers melting at a rapid speed, sea levels increasing, and rising ocean temperatures and acidification. Earlier this month, Iceland residents held a funeral for the first glacier they lost to global warming. Scientists estimate that the small island nation will lose all its glaciers in the next 200 years. While most scientific reports have highlighted human-caused destruction of the mighty oceans in the past several years, the recent draft of a 900-page report on the world's oceans and cryosphere by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns of the threat posed by the oceans to human life. Their predictions for the future are near apocalyptic.

Unless current levels of carbon emission are brought under control, the world will steadily witness the loss of delicate ecosystems and fish supply, a source of sustenance and income already threatened by overfishing and plastic pollution. There will be a "hundred-fold or more increase" in the devastation caused by powerful superstorms; and rising sea levels will lead to the displacement of millions of people, causing a massive refugee crisis. One glaring example of how countries are adapting to the havoc posed by climate change is in Indonesia, which is shifting its capital from Jakarta — sinking by up to 6.7 inches a year — to the Borneo island. The relocation will cost the country a massive \$33bn. With all these obvious changes and warnings, it should be clear that the world economies cannot continue to operate the way they have since the turn of the century. Yet some of the most powerful world leaders continue to remain in denial, as witnessed in Brazil after the devastating Amazon fire. And the president of the biggest global greenhouse gas emitter on the planet, the US, says he will not jeopardise "wealth" for "dreams".

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1502743>

CLIMATE ACTIVIST THUNBERG JOINS HUNDREDS OF TEENS AT UN PROTEST

AUGUST 31,2019

NEW YORK: Swedish climate change campaigner Greta Thunberg joined hundreds of other teenagers protesting outside the United Nations Friday in her first demonstration on US soil since arriving by zero-carbon yacht.

“When we knew Greta would be here, we knew we could not miss it. She is our inspiration,” said 17-year-old Atara Saunders, who traveled to New York from the Philadelphia area.

Thunberg, 16, has spurred teenagers and students around the world to gather every Friday under the rallying cry “Fridays for future” to call on adults to act now to save the planet.

“Stop denying the earth is dying,” and “We vote next,” chanted the several hundred demonstrators, who included a few children as young six, outside the UN headquarters.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/08/31/6-page/798855-news.html>

RISING TEMPERATURES CAUSING NATURAL DISASTERS IN GB: REPORT

Amin Ahmed September 01, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The steadily rising temperatures in the valleys of the northern Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region have increased the frequency and intensity of natural disasters because of which the sustainability of the agriculture sector — a major source of livelihood for thousands of people — is under threat, says a new report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

Farmers report that wheat productivity has declined by almost 50 per cent in the past five years with no sign of improvement, according to the report.

The fragile mountain ecosystem is suffering from degradation of vegetation cover, soil deterioration and reduced livestock productivity which have further impoverished the pastoral communities. Most of the rangelands are degraded due to increasing pressure from human and livestock populations coupled with frequent droughts, the report says.

With few exceptions, mountain farmers face numerous challenges for improving the productivity of field and horticultural crops. These include poor orchard management practices, poor quality of planting material and other inputs, poor access to markets and market information and minimal access to post-harvest processing, value addition and extension services.

These farmers also face feed and fodder shortages as the rangeland vegetation and grasslands have a poor carrying capacity. Farmers report substantial reductions in vegetation cover due to invasive plant species. Moreover, land erosion due to heavy rains and flash floods is quite common at high altitudes.

Despite the significant transition in the past two decades of local food production and distribution systems, subsistence agriculture in mountainous regions remains the economic mainstay. The current

dynamics are characterised by livelihood diversification with increased off-farm income opportunities, and an expansion of external development interventions.

In Pakistan, almost 61pc of the total geographical area is mountainous or consists of rangelands, and these areas have a population of more than 50 million people.

The report says that mountain agriculture has some inherent constraints, including remoteness and inaccessibility, marginality and fragility in terms of moisture stress and poor soil conditions, and different crop production seasons than the plains.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1502870>

LIGHTNING KILLS WOMAN AS RAIN LASHES THAR AND MIRPURKHAS

Dawn Report September 01, 2019

MITHI: A woman died and three other members of her family suffered serious burns when they were struck by lightning during heavy to moderate rain that lashed parts of Nagarparkar, Islamkot, Chhachhro and Mirpurkhas on Saturday.

Jubilant Tharis said that two or three more such spells of rain within next two or three weeks would greatly help traditional crops to reach maturity and they would be able to reap them. They said that after many years of drought they had now seen grass covering the otherwise wasteland and dry sand dunes growing fodder for their livestock.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department predicts more rains for the region during next two to three days as light showers were reported from Pangrio, Malkani Sharif and Tando Bago towns as well after two days of hot and humid weather.

Meanwhile, lightning killed a woman identified as Marubat, 40, and inflicted serious burns to her relatives Bhabo Gul Sher and Zubeda during rain in Gorano village near Islamkot. The injured were rushed to Islamkot taluka hospital in very critical condition.

MIRPURKHAS: Rain hit the city and its outskirts in the evening on Saturday following two days of hot and humid weather, adding to civic issues and causing power supply suspension.

The rain further increased level of stagnant rainwater from earlier rains in low-lying areas in some parts of the city and on main roads and streets.

The rain aggravated insanitary conditions with heaps of garbage lying along main roads and streets, giving off stench. It also rained in Mirwah Gorchani, Digri, Jhuddo, Naokot, Kot Ghulam Mohammad, Sindhri, Khaan and Jhilori.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1502803>

September 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEP 2nd TO 8th 2019

MELTING GLACIERS AND ICE SHEETS RAISING EARTH'S SEAS

RECORDER REPORT SEP 2ND, 2019 PARIS

As the planet's polar ice sheets destabilise amid rising temperatures, a landmark UN assessment of Earth's retreating frozen spaces is also set to spell out how melting mountain glaciers will impact humanity in the decades to come.

AFP has obtained an official draft summary of the forthcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report on oceans and the cryosphere.

It says that the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets lost roughly 400 billion tonnes of mass annually in the decade to 2015, corresponding to a sea-level rise of around 1.2 millimetres each year. But glaciers high up mountains also lost around 280 billion tonnes of ice each year during the same period, raising seas a further 0.77 millimetres annually.

"In the past 100 years, 35 percent of global sea-level rises came from glacier melting," Anders Levermann, climate professor at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Change Impact, told AFP. He said that future sea-level rises from glacial melt alone would be limited to 30-50 centimetres as they contain a limited amount of ice. By comparison, there's enough frozen water in the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets to lift global sea levels several dozen metres.

"Melting glaciers contribute significantly to sea-level rise, it's just not this huge number that Greenland and Antarctica could contribute," added Levermann, who was not involved in the IPCC report. There are roughly 200,000 glaciers - vast, ancient reserves of ice - on Earth and their relative smallness compared to the polar ice sheets makes them especially vulnerable to rising temperatures. Their retreat is likely to impact inland communities the world over, for whom glaciers are a key water source.

The glaciers nestled high in the Himalayas provide water for 250 million people in nearby valleys and feed the rivers upon which a further 1.65 billion people rely for food, energy and income.

One study referenced in the IPCC report warns that Asian high mountain glaciers could lose more than a third of their ice, even if humans slash greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 Celsius (2.6 Fahrenheit).

A continuation of "business-as-usual" in the coming decades with a global economy still powered mainly by fossil fuels could see two thirds lost.

"Drinking water is going to be affected, agriculture is going to be affected and we are talking about millions and millions of people," said Harjeet Singh, international climate lead at ActionAid. The IPCC summary said that areas of the central and western Himalayas are already facing a noticeable fall in water for irrigation.

The summary also warned that in regions with little ice cover, including Central Europe, North Asia and Scandinavia, glaciers were projected to shrink 80 percent by 2100.

One study this year by scientists in Switzerland warned that unchecked emissions could see more than 90 percent of Alpine glaciers disappear by century's end.

Harry Zekollari, from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, said most people did not appreciate how crucial the giant ice structures were.

"A glacier is a reservoir. A healthy glacier will typically melt in summer and become a bit bigger in winter. That means that when people need water most, they get water from the glacier," Zekollari told AFP.

'Fighting for water'

Melting glaciers also have other human impacts. The citizens of La Paz, Bolivia's administrative

capital, get as much as 30 percent of their water from Andean glaciers during the dry winter months. In 2016, the city ran dry.

"About 100 neighbourhoods were without any water for more than a month, it was like a horror movie from the future," Marcos Andrade, director of the Laboratory of Atmospheric Physics at San Andres University, told AFP. "People were fighting for their water."

Despite this stark example of what can happen when glacial water supply is disrupted, Andrade said their was a paradox in explaining how melting glaciers are bad news for agriculture.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/09/20190902514939/>

‘DEADLY’ HEATWAVE THREAT LOOMS OVER SOUTH ASIA

By Agencies Published: September 2, 2019

ISLAMABAD: South Asia could be hit with deadly heatwaves by the end of this century that humans wouldn't survive in, research has found.

This was revealed in findings, based on detailed computer simulations using the best available global circulation models, were published by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researcher Elfatih Eltahir in the journal "Science Advances".

The study found that climate change could lead to summer heat waves with levels of heat and humidity that exceed what humans can survive without protection, in South Asia, a region where one-fifth of the world's people live.

Under business-as-usual scenarios, without significant reductions in carbon emissions, the study shows that such deadly heat waves could begin within as little as a few decades — striking regions of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, according to researchers.

They also suggested that it could hit the fertile Indus and Ganges river basins that produce much of the region's food supply.

The study follows an earlier report by Eltahir, which looked at projected heat waves in the Persian Gulf region. The number of extreme-heat days projected there were even worse than for South Asia, but Eltahir said the impact in the latter area could be vastly more severe.

While the Persian Gulf area has a relatively small, relatively wealthy population, and little agricultural land, the areas likely to be hardest hit in northern India, Bangladesh, and southern Pakistan are home to 1.5 billion people.

Such areas are also among the poorest in the region, with much of the population dependent on subsistence farming that requires long hours of hard labour out in the open and unprotected from the sun.

The new analysis is based on recent research showing that hot weather's most deadly effects for humans come from a combination of high temperature and high humidity, which is measured by a reading known as wet-bulb temperature.

At a wet-bulb temperature of 35 degrees Celsius, the human body can't cool itself enough to survive more than a few hours.

Actual readings in the Persian Gulf region in the summer of 2015 show that the 35-degree wet-bulb limit had almost been reached already, suggesting that such extremes could begin earlier than projected. The summer of 2015 also produced one of the deadliest heat waves in history in South Asia, killing an estimated 3,500 people in Pakistan and India.

According to scientists, Northern hemisphere summers will deliver dangerously longer heatwaves, droughts and bouts of rain even if humanity manages to cap global warming at two degrees Celsius.

With one degree of warming since pre-industrial times so far, extreme weather of this kind has already become more intense, with a single heatwave in 2003 leading to 70,000 excess deaths in Europe alone.

But the new study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, is the first to quantify how much longer such events are likely to last if temperatures rise another degree.

“We could see a significant shift in summer weather conditions,” said lead author Peter Pfleiderer, a doctoral researcher at Humboldt University in Berlin.

“Extreme weather would become more persistent — hot and dry periods, as well as consecutive days of heavy rain, would all get longer.”

Even small increases in the duration of extreme weather events can have devastating impacts on human health, food production, biodiversity and even economic growth.

Many scientists, however, say 1.5C is no longer within reach — CO2 emissions have climbed to new records for the last two years, and are on track to do so again in 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2047207/1-deadly-heatwave-threat-looms-south-asia/>

MONSOON RAINS KILLED 235, DESTROYED 675 HOUSES ACROSS COUNTRY: NDMA

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD SEP 7TH, 2019 ISLAMABAD

The ongoing floods triggered by monsoon rains have killed at least 235 people, injured 169 and destroyed 675 houses across the country, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said. According to NDMA latest preliminary damages/losses details issued here on Friday, the floods have also resulted in the destruction of 3 power houses, 6 mosques, 224 shops, 18 bridges and 63 roads countrywide.

The NDMA report said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) is the worst hit by the floods wherein a total 78 people have been killed and 69 got injured, 312 houses faced destruction, 3 power houses were damaged and 216 shops were swept away by rainwater.

Sindh is the second worst hit region by flooding with over 63 deaths, 17 injuries and destruction of 34 houses, followed by Azad Kashmir with 42 killings, 18 injuries and destruction of 132 houses, 43 shops, 3 mosques and a road track. The NDMA said that 12 people were killed and 10 got injured by flooding in Balochistan.

According to NDMA, in Gilgit-Baltistan 8 persons were killed, 12 got injured and 170 houses were damaged, and in federal capital Islamabad 2 people were killed by monsoon floods.

Among the total deaths 107 were male, 47 were females and 81 were children, while out of 169 injured, 120 are male, 22 are female and 27 are children.

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has set up through district administrations 95 relief camps and 61 medical camps in areas along River Sutlej. The authorities have evacuated 4,131 persons from flood-affected areas of Punjab.

The PDMA Sindh has rescued 2,464 families residing in relief camps established in district Thatta. The authorities have evacuated 1,647 persons in Punjab. According to authorities, the current monsoon rains have not damaged agriculture belt of Punjab and Sindh provinces where at present rice, cotton, maize, sugarcane, fodder and other seasonal crops are sown.

According to senior officials of MNS&R and agriculturists, the recent monsoon rains would have a significant positive impact on both high delta of kharif crops including sugarcane, rice and maize and low delta Kharif notably cotton. Heavy rains have not been reported in the cotton belt of the country, and hence so far the crop has not been damaged, however if heavy rains occurred in cotton belt, it may damage the crop.

They said that during this year entire country including desert areas of Cholistan and Tharparkar have received good rains as a result it will have not only positive impact on crops but will also help livestock sector.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/09/20190907516078/>

HURRICANE DORIAN'S DEATH TOLL IN BAHAMAS RISES TO 43

Sep 8,2019

MARSH HARBOUR: The death toll from Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas has risen to 43, media outlets said late Friday, and was expected to grow "significantly."

US network *CNN* and Bahamas newspaper *The Tribune* cited Health Minister Duane Sands as confirming the new toll, up from 30.

"Forty-three is the official count, many missing and this number is expected to grow significantly," Erica Wells Cox, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, told *NBC News*.

Dorian was a Category 5 hurricane — the highest on the five-level wind scale — when it slammed into the northern Bahamas on Sunday, leaving a trail of immense destruction.

According to UN relief officials, more than 70,000 people — virtually the entire population of the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco — are in need of assistance after the storm reduced homes to matchsticks and destroyed people's livelihoods.

Hundreds — perhaps thousands — are missing and Bahamian officials have said the final toll could be "staggering."

Desperate for food, water and shelter, survivors of Hurricane Dorian, which pulverized the Bahamas as a Category 5 storm, were anxiously awaiting relief on Friday as teams searched through rubble of collapsed homes for bodies.

"No water, no food," said James Whell of Marsh Harbour, the largest town on Abaco, which had a population of more than 15,000 pre-hurricane and was the hardest-hit island along with nearby Grand Bahama.

"My plan is to leave, find some other place to live," Whell said.

According to UN relief officials, more than 70,000 people — virtually the entire population of Grand Bahama and Abaco — are in need of assistance after the storm reduced homes to matchsticks and destroyed people's livelihoods.

The US Coast Guard and private organizations have been evacuating residents of Abaco and other islands to Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas which is located to the south and was spared the wrath of the hurricane.

The multinational relief effort, which also includes Britain's Royal Navy and several non-governmental organizations, has been hampered by flood damage to airport runways, destroyed piers and docks and downed communications.

Tents and awnings installed at Nassau Airport, not far from rescue planes taking off and landing, provided temporary housing for storm-battered Bahamians waiting for updates and the arrival of their loved ones.

"I've been separated from the rest of my family for two days," said Saleah Bethal, who was rescued on Thursday and had not heard from them since.

The 23-year-old was trying to locate four children and three adults, who should have arrived at the airport by now.

The scale of the devastation has left many wondering if Abaco, in particular, can ever be rebuilt.

"I will come back to Abaco, that's my home, but when it will be developed," Bethal said, adding that the family's businesses, such as a construction and cleaning company, had been totally destroyed.

Louise Philips, who was awaiting the arrival of her father, said she was overwhelmed that he was even alive.

"Knowing that Dorian was a Category 5 and that homes were so badly damaged, for him to survive at his age of age 75, he is blessed. He is one of the lucky ones," Philips said.

As survivors began the first steps in rebuilding their lives, arrangements were being made to take care of the dead and the Bahamian authorities were seeking to account for the missing.

Health Minister Duane Sands said extra morticians and refrigerated coolers to store bodies were being sent to the affected islands.

Mortuary workers in white hazmat suits, blue gloves and masks could be seen in Marsh Harbour carrying corpses in green body bags and loading them onto flatbed trucks.

Of the eventual death toll, Sands declared, "Let me say that I believe the number will be staggering."

"Literally hundreds, up to thousands, of people are still missing," Joy Jibrilu, the director-general of the Bahamian tourism and aviation ministry, told *CNN*.

Dorian made landfall meanwhile in the United States as a Category 1 hurricane packing winds of nearly 90 miles per hour (150 kilometres per hour).

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said the storm made landfall at Cape Hatteras on North Carolina's Outer Banks, the finger-like barrier islands off the coast.

Flooding was reported in the town of Ocracoke to the southwest of Cape Hatteras.

Thousands of coastal residents of US states from Florida to Virginia had been fearing the worst from the powerful storm but the East Coast largely escaped unscathed.

Some flooding occurred in the historic city of Charleston, South Carolina, and tens of thousands of residents lost electricity but no major damage was reported.

At 5pm (2100 GMT), the NHC said Dorian was moving in a northeast direction up the Atlantic coast at 24 mph (39 kph) and was expected to bring hurricane-force winds to parts of Nova Scotia in Canada.

The centre of the storm should move to the southeast of New England on Friday night and Saturday morning and across Nova Scotia late Saturday.

Canadian authorities issued a hurricane warning for central and eastern Nova Scotia and a hurricane watch for southwestern Newfoundland.

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/246901-hurricane-dorians-death-toll-in-bahamas-rises-to-43>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEP 9th TO 15th 2019

HEATWAVE CLAIMED 1,500 LIVES, SAYS FRENCH MINISTER

Agencies Updated September 09, 2019

PARIS: Two heatwaves that hit France this summer claimed more than 1,500 more lives, Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said on Sunday.

But that toll was significantly lower than the disastrous summer of 2003, when an estimated 15,000 people died during an August heatwave.

“We have 1,500 deaths recorded more than the average for these months, so that’s 10 times fewer deaths than the 2003 heatwave,” Buzyn told French radio.

This year’s heatwaves hit France in June and July, with a new record temperature of 46 degrees Celsius (114.8 degrees Fahrenheit) recorded in the south on June 28.

While the 2003 heatwave lasted 20 days in all, this year’s lasted for 18, in two separate heatwaves, the second covering a large part of France, Buzyn added.

The authorities’ preventive measures helped keep the death rate well below the high numbers experienced in 2003, she added.

The 2003 heatwave was the deadliest recorded in France, with the central and Paris regions hardest hit. Agnes Buzyn said there were over 1,000 more deaths than the annual average for the time of the year, and half of those were aged over 75. She said there were 18 days of recorded heat wave in France this year during June and July.

She noted, however, that it represented many fewer deaths than the scorching heat wave in 2003 that claimed 15,000 lives.

She said: "We have succeeded thanks to prevention, thanks to workable messages the French population heeded to reduce fatalities by a factor of 10." The highest temperature in France this summer was 46 degrees Celsius on June 28 at Verargues in the south of France.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1504348/heatwave-claimed-1500-lives-says-french-minister>

PAKISTAN LOOKS TO OTHER TRANSPORT OPTIONS IN FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

September 9, 2019

BANGKOK: Asian cities are switching to electric vehicles in a bid to tackle worsening air quality but these cost two to four times more upfront than conventional diesel buses, forcing the poorer countries like Pakistan to improvise

Transport is the fastest-growing source of climate-warming green-house gases, with the vast majority of projected increases expected to come from developing Asia by 2030, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Authorities are realising that they can extend metro lines and convert to electric-powered buses that not only lower emissions, but also reduce congestion and improve air quality, experts told a UN climate event in Bangkok.

But the electric vehicles cost more and need extensive charging infrastructure so poorer countries are making do. Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province recently launched "pink" buses for women with UN funding.

The buses are hybrid vehicles or use clean diesel technology, Mir Reza Ozgen, an urban and regional planning official, said in Bangkok.

"We have to find feasible solutions that work for us, given our economic constraints," he added.

The buses are aimed at female students and working women who otherwise have to rely on more expensive private transport, or risk harassment on public transport, he said, adding that the vehicles are expected to benefit 1.4 million women annually.

"These buses will not only reduce emissions, they will also increase the mobility of women and their access to economic opportunities, so there will be several long-term positive impacts," the official told Reuters.

The world's 100 most polluted cities are largely in Asia-with India and China dominating, according to an air quality report published by Greenpeace this year. Only seven Asian countries have transport emission reduction targets under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

However, many cities in the region are now taking action, said Madan Regmi, at the United Nations social social agency for the Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP). "Cities are also adding infrastructure for walking and cycling, which are seen as key to improved liveability," he said.

Tackling the problem, Shenzhen in China's southeast, said last year that its entire bus fleet of more than 16,000 buses had gone electric-the biggest such fleet in the world. Beijing has also greatly improved its air quality by switching to clean energy vehicles, Regmi said.

Thailand is testing electric-powered ferries for Bangkok's canals to replace diesel engines, while India's transport minister has called for a full switch to electric vehicles by 2030.

In the Philippines, the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 hastened the switch to clean-energy jeepneys, the colourful passenger trucks that tens of thousands rely on.

https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201909090068&EN_ID=11201909090021&EMID=11201909090009

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CAN MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE RISK: UNCTAD

Amin Ahmed September 12, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) has asked the countries dependent on commodities to diversify their economies to survive climate crisis.

The Commodities and Development Report 2019, published by Unctad on Wednesday, highlights how commodity-dependent developing countries will be directly affected by climate change, and indirectly by mitigation and adaptation policies pursued not only by themselves but also by third countries.

Many developing countries are commodity dependent and they derive at least 60 per cent of their merchandise export earnings from this sector. In these countries, economic cycles are synchronised with price cycles, implying that their economies grow faster during commodity price booms but slow down during price slumps.

Economic and export diversification is the best response to the challenges posed by climate change in developing countries that depend on commodities, according to the report.

The diversification could be horizontal, which entails venturing into new goods and sectors to reduce dependence on a narrow range of commodities, or vertical, which involves moving the value chain of a commodity up to increase its worth, says the report entitled "Commodity Dependence, Climate Change and the Paris Agreement".

According to the report, a successful diversification strategy will likely include a combination of horizontal policies, such as strengthening human capital through investments in education and health, and targeted measures to promote individual sectors.

Although commodity-dependent developing countries contribute only modestly to climate change, the climate crisis puts them at most risk. They are more vulnerable primarily because they are economically dependent on sectors that are highly exposed to extreme weather events, the report states.

The negative effects of climate change on crop and fisheries production are more severe in low-latitude regions, where most commodity-dependent developing countries are located, the report observes.

Equally at risk are high-income, fossil-fuel-dependent countries, such as Brunei Darussalam, Kuwait and Qatar, which have some of the highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

They could be profoundly affected by the stranding of their major natural resource as a result of the growing push towards greener sources of energy, the report says.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1504730/economic-diversification-can-mitigate-climate-change-risk-unctad>

EFFORTS ON TO STEM LAND DEGRADATION

Published: September 12, 2019

The Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) says afforestation and durable land management can help reverse ecological damage.

Soaring land degradation in Pakistan – caused by, among other factors, deforestation, desertification, soil erosion, salinity and water-logging and unsustainable intensive agricultural practices and exacerbated by climate shifts – threatens the country’s efforts for achieving food security, stemming rural-urban migration and land-related conflicts, said Mohammad Saleem, a media spokesperson of MoCC.

Explaining adverse impacts of climate shifts on degrading lands in the country, he said that climate change was further making it harder to grow enough food for an expanding population at a time when land is being degraded because of deforestation, unsustainable crop-growing and grazing styles.

Pakistan is ranked among the top ten countries “most affected by global warming-induced extreme weather events”, according to the Global Climate Risk Index, released by Germanwatch, an international public policy research body.

Quoting from UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) study ‘Land degradation in South Asia: its severity, causes and effects’, Saleem who is an environmentalist also said that around 61 per cent of the agriculture land in Pakistan is degraded and over 60 per cent of natural grazing areas of the country have production levels lower than one-third of their biological potential.

More than one-third of the total area has been classified as vulnerable to desertification. Around 68 million hectares of the country’s total land area of around 80 million hectares remains at risk of land degradation, shows another study by the International Centre for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), he said.

He added that “Land degradation is mounting pressures on lands used for tilling, turning arable lands infertile and uncultivable,” and warned “This will only mar the country’s ability to achieve food security and scale down resultant threats to hunger, malnutrition, rural employment. This is also leading rise in rural-urban migration and community-level conflicts.”

For instance, in poor and marginalised or deprived communities, land degradation bears up families and force young people to leave home and move to urban centers in search of livelihood, he explained.

Saleem further said, “It leads to friction and conflicts over access to land and water last longer, affecting overall community development deepening rural hunger, malnutrition and joblessness.”

He suggested that expanding forest cover to degraded lands and desertification-hit lands after their restoration, introducing sustainable farming/tilling and grazing practices that help protect fragile soils, rainwater harvesting, efficient water storage and management for irrigation, forestry and other uses and protecting wetlands are of critical importance to stabilise and roll back land degradation.

The environmentalist says that plans and programmes have been already devised and being implemented by the climate change ministry in support with international, national and provincial stakeholder organisations to fight land degradation restore damaged areas. He said PM’s Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Prime Minister’s Clean and Green Pakistan Programme UNDP-supported Sustainable Land Management Programme, World Bank-sponsored Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Land Degradation (REDD+) Readiness programme are among the key interventions launched by the climate change ministry to fight land degradation, restore degraded forest lands, fight droughts, aridity air pollution, promote cleanliness, environmental conservation and protection.

“Through and in these critical programmes hammered out by the climate change ministry, greater importance has been assigned to adaptation measures in forestry, sustainable agriculture, rainwater harvesting, water management and building climate-resilient water infrastructure areas to cope with land degradation challenges,” he elaborated.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2054397/1-efforts-stem-land-degradation/>

‘PAKISTAN MAKES GREAT PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING ROBUST DISASTER MANAGEMENT MECHANISM’

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD SEP 14TH, 2019 ISLAMABAD

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal on Friday said that Pakistan has made a great progress in establishing a robust disaster management mechanism. He was talking to Japanese Ambassador Kuninori Matsuda who met him here at his office to discuss the current flooding situation in Pakistan as well as other matters.

The NDMA chairman said that Japan’s resilience against disasters and its disaster management system is a role model for the rest of the world. He also appreciated the support extended by Japan in strengthening Pakistan’s resilience against disasters. During the meeting, the Japanese ambassador appreciated Pakistan’s progress in the disaster management sector and offered his country’s support for future initiatives.

He also visited National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) at the NDMA. The member operations NDMA briefed the visiting envoy about the disaster management spectrum of Pakistan and its operations. Lieutenant General Afzal also informed the visiting envoy about the current monsoon season, saying during the period the floods across the country killed at least 235 people, injured 169 and destroyed 675 houses.

According to the NDMA’s latest preliminary damages/losses details issued here, the floods resulted in the destruction of three power houses, six mosques, 224 shops, 18 bridges and 63 roads countrywide. The NDMA’s report said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the worst hit by the floods wherein a total of 78 people were killed, 69 got injured, 312 houses and three power houses damaged and 216 shops swept away.

Sindh is second worst hit region by flooding with over 63 deaths, 17 injuries and destruction of 34 houses, followed by Azad Kashmir with 42 killings, 18 injuries and destruction of 132 houses, 43 shops, three mosques and a road track. The NDMA said that in Balochistan, 12 people were killed and 10 got injured by flooding.

He further said that in Gilgit-Baltistan, eight persons were killed, 12 got injured and 170 houses were damaged, adding that two people were killed by monsoon floods in the federal Capital. Among the total deaths, 107 were male, 47 were female and 81 were children while out of 169 injured, 120 were male, 22 were female and 27 were children.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/09/20190914517675/>

PHILIPPINE CAPITAL JOLTED BY QUAKE

RECORDER REPORT SEP 14TH, 2019 MANILA

An earthquake that struck east of the Philippine capital Manila on Friday set buildings swaying and sent scores into the streets, but authorities said they did not expect any damage. The 5.2-magnitude jolt hit offshore near sparsely populated Polillo Island, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) from Manila, according to the US Geological Survey.

Buildings in the capital were briefly evacuated and trains halted while crews looked for any damage as several smaller aftershocks rumbled through the ground. "This is a moderate-sized earthquake and we don't expect damage so far based on the intensity reports that we received," Renato Solidum, director of the nation's seismology institute, told CNN Philippines.

Though there did not appear to be any destruction the intense shaking at the epicentre rattled locals. "Everyone rushed out of the buildings. We were terrified," Rezil Golbin, a civilian employee at the police office on Polillo Island told AFP. "Even the prisoners at the jail cell here were shouting, 'Get us out of here!'" she added. The Philippines is in the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity that stretches from quake-prone Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/09/20190914517649/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEP 16th TO 22nd 2019

CLIMATE PROTESTERS TELL CARMAKERS ‘THE PARTY IS OVER’

SEPTEMBER 16,2019

FRANKFURT: Thousands of protesters marched in front of Frankfurt's IAA car show on Saturday to demand a swift end to combustion engines and a shift to environmentally friendly vehicles as Chancellor Angela Merkel's government prepares to unveil climate protection measures.

Police in Frankfurt said some 15,000, including many cyclists, took part in the march. Organisers put the number at 25,000 and said that around 18,000 cyclists had descended on the city.

Protesters took aim at SUVs, seen by environmentalists as a highly polluting status symbol that has no place in cities.

“STOP SUV,” “SUV not cool,” and “We can't replace our lungs” read some of the signs held by protesters.

Merkel's conservatives and their Social Democrat (SPD) coalition partners held talks on Friday about a package of measures expected to expedite Germany's ambition to double the share of its power from renewable sources to 65% by 2030.

The government is expected to unveil the costly measures on Sept. 20.

"Enough to policies that prioritise cars in our cities," said Ernst-Christoph Stolper, deputy head of Friends of the Earth Germany. "Pedestrians and cyclists need to conquer the urban spaces that belong to us."

The protests have urged German carmakers to speed up a transition to electric and hydrogen vehicles, after the 2015 diesel scandal in which Volkswagen admitted to cheating emissions tests.

Germany's big three, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler and BMW, assume that in 10 years about half of their cars will be emissions-free.

Carmakers are expected to invest some 40 billion euros

(\$44 billion) on alternative drive terrains in the next three years, highlighting the urgency to fix the image of an industry tarnished by the diesel scandal and avoid bans on diesel cars in cities.

The death of four pedestrians, including a three-year-old boy, on a Berlin street this month after the driver of a Porsche SUV apparently lost control has sparked a debate about whether cities should ban the large vehicles from their streets.

German car executives responded, saying the tragedy could have happened with any car.

"Car industry, the party is over," said Christoph Bautz of the Compact organisation, which advocates for progressive politics.—Reuters

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/09/16/11-page/801205-news.html>

GOVT URGED TO BAN OZONE-DEPLETING GASES IN COUNTRY

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Updated September 17, 2019

KARACHI: Speakers at a conference held to mark the World Ozone Day at a local hotel on Monday emphasised the need for environmental awareness and collaboration among all stakeholders to stop the use of gasses causing harm to the ozone layer.

They also urged the government to place a ban on ozone-depleting gases.

Organised by the ministry of climate change and HVACR Society, the event attracted a large number of climate change researchers, scientists and university students.

The theme of this year's World Ozone Day is '32 years and Healing'.

Vice Chancellor of NED University of Engineering and Technology Prof Sarosh Hashmat Lodi, the chief guest, talked about the role Pakistan could play to strengthen international efforts against global warming.

“Collaboration among all stakeholders is important. Besides, there is also a need to put a ban on the uses of gases which damage the ozone layer,” he said.

Highlighting efforts of the government, national programme manager at National Ozone Unit, ministry of climate change, Zia-ul-Islam said efforts had already been initiated to create awareness on climate change in collaboration with various stakeholders including the United Nations.

“At the first step, we are creating awareness on gases harming the ozone layer and providing training to people who are engaged in the production of these gases,” he informed the audience, adding that so far 300 people had been trained in this field.

Referring to a case, he pointed out that this training process had shown promising outcomes. In 2018, the Customs officers at the Karachi International Container Terminal were able to seize a massive shipment of R-22 gas weighing around 18,000kg. The gas was being imported from China.

The audience was informed that R-22, a colourless gas also known as HCFC-22, was a powerful ozone-depleting substance and commonly used as a refrigerant and propellant.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1505568/govt-urged-to-ban-ozone-depleting-gases-in-country>

CLIMATE CRISIS

Farah Samuel Updated September 18, 2019

THERE is no doubt that climate change is affecting us. Even sceptics seem to have accepted the fact that the earth is now 1°C warmer than it was in the preindustrial times. Global organisations, such as the UN, are working to hold the temperature increase at 2°C in the near future, while simultaneously trying to halt the overall warming by 1.5°C by the year 2100.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the human-induced global heating is at the rate of 0.2°C per decade — an alarming rate to say the least.

Most European countries have taken the lead in devising ways to reduce carbon emissions and environmental pollution. These countries are combating the climate crisis by challenging themselves through targets set until the year 2030. For example, the UK has targeted to ban fuel-engine cars by 2040 and is investing in the research and development of electrical vehicles as an alternative.

Pakistan became the first country in the world to have set up a full-fledged National Ministry of Climate Change in 2012. This move was shortly followed by another commendable effort: the issuance of the National Policy on Climate Change. The policy identified key areas that needed attention and corrective measures to reduce the impacts of climate change, but it failed to set achievable targets.

The battle against climate change cannot be fought with ideas alone.

Since 2012, the climate change ministry has been downgraded and restored by successive governments, all of which have failed to develop the impetus needed to develop a broad-based strategy to deal with the effects of climate change.

Even though most people, both in the government and among the public, would agree that climate change is a dire issue that affects them in many ways, they are not sure what they can do in their

capacity to control it. Hence, they end up doing nothing and simply continue with their environmentally harmful ways.

What is needed from the government is a multi-pronged strategy that will teach the masses about the dangers of climate change. Though the poor may have already had to endure the effects in the forms of displacement from flash floods created by rapidly melting glaciers or prolonged droughts, they might not associate these phenomena with climate change itself. It is imperative that awareness campaigns include information regarding the effects of climate change and what actions can be taken on a collective and individual level to reduce its impact.

The government can also benefit from entrepreneurial young minds. Many tech start-ups pair up with civic rights and human rights organisations for social projects. The government too can emulate this method by inviting young entrepreneurs and activists to take part in hackathons or boot camps to generate ideas, gather resources, and educate people about climate change and ways to slow down or counter the process in Pakistan.

However, the battle against climate change cannot be fought with ideas and targets alone. It also requires an attitudinal shift among the leadership and the public. While there needs to be a consensus on a robust and updated policy on climate change, it will eventually be the behaviour and habits of the people — across all economic groups — that will play a critical role in fighting to reverse the impacts of climate change. This responsibility towards the environment has been termed ‘eco-consciousness’ — behaviour or attitude showing concern for the environment.

This attitudinal shift can begin with schools. If the government makes climate change, its impact and the importance of conservation a part of the science curriculum, not only will it help reduce the burden of public awareness, it would also produce eco-conscious young men and women.

Individual efforts or actions by members of the public can include reducing meat consumption, which will help lower the carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emission involved in the upkeep of cattle. Another step that can be taken is making an effort to reduce plastic waste by cutting down on the use of plastic products, and recycling waste whenever possible. Simply carrying one’s own washable and reusable water bottle regularly can go a long way.

After a blanket ban on the use of plastic bags in the federal capital, the Punjab and Sindh governments also reiterated their commitments to earlier unimplemented bans they had put in place decades ago. Hopefully, this time, the ban will force the public to switch to more environment-friendly alternatives.

Even miniscule individual changes in our lifestyles can bring about a much larger collective impact. We as individuals should also try to learn more about our environment and what we can do to conserve it. Together, we can contribute towards reversing the harmful effects of climate change.

The writer is an environmentalist by profession and a Commonwealth Scholar from Durham University, UK.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1505858/climate-crisis>

EARTH TO WARM MORE QUICKLY, SHOW NEW CLIMATE MODELS

AFP Updated September 18,

PARIS: Greenhouse gases thrust into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels are warming Earth's surface more quickly than previously understood, according to new climate models set to replace those used in current UN projections, scientists said on Tuesday.

By 2100, average temperatures could rise 6.5 to 7.0 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels if carbon emissions continue unabated, separate models from two leading research centres in France showed.

That is up to two degrees higher than the equivalent scenario in the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's (IPCC) 2014 benchmark fifth Assessment Report.

The new calculations also suggest the Paris Agreement goals of capping global warming at "well below" two degrees, and 1.5C if possible will be harder to reach, the scientists said.

"With our two models, we see that the scenario known as SSP1 2.6 — which normally allows us to stay under 2C — doesn't quite get us there," said Olivier Boucher, head of the Institute Pierre Simon Laplace Climate Modelling Centre in Paris.

With barely one degree Celsius of warming so far, the world is already coping with increasingly deadly heatwaves, droughts, floods and tropical cyclones made more destructive by rising seas.

A new generation of 30-odd climate models known collectively as CMIP6 — including the two unveiled on Tuesday — will underpin the IPCC's next major report in 2021.

"CMIP6 clearly includes the latest modelling improvements", even as important uncertainties remain, said Joeri Rogelj, an associate professor at Imperial College London and an IPCC lead author.

These include increased supercomputing power and sharper representations of weather systems, natural and man-made particles, and how clouds evolve in a warming world.

"We have better models now," said Boucher. "They have better resolution, and they represent current climate trends more accurately."

A core finding of the new models is that increased levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere will warm Earth's surface more easily than earlier calculations had suggested.

If confirmed, this higher "equilibrium climate sensitivity", or ECS, means humanity's carbon budget — our total emissions allowance — is likely to shrink.

The French models are among the first to be released, but others developed independently have come to the same unsettling conclusion, Boucher confirmed.

"The most respected ones — from the United States, and Britain's Met Office — also, show a higher ECS" than the previous generation of models, he said.

This is bad news for the fight against global warming, which continues to face strong political headwinds and institutional inertia despite a rapid crescendo of public awareness and concern.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1505834/earth-to-warm-more-quickly-show-new-climate-models>

CLIMATE MARCH TODAY IN LAHORE

Staff Reporter Updated September 20, 2019

LAHORE: A citizen-led initiative of a climate march, organised by Climate Action Now, or #ClimateActionPk will be held on Friday (today), marking climate strikes in other countries to help stop global warming.

Meherbano Raja, a climate activist and part of the organising committee, said they were expecting everyone to gather at the Lahore Press Club at 3pm, and then starting the march at 4pm.

“It will be youth led because they are the most affected generation and so they will be leading from the front,” she said. “These will include school students too.”

Around 12 schools have committed to join the march including Bloomfield Hall, LUMS, GCU, FC and Lacas. Ms Raja said the core organising committee had also ensured safety and anti-harassment protocols, as well as provision of clean drinking water, while disposable plastic water bottles were being discouraged for participants.

The programme will include reaching Alhamra where there will be a tree planting ceremony and the next hour would be dedicated to speeches, poems, and open mic by students from Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir.

More than 26 cities and towns will be taking part in the march all over the country, including Mardan, Mithi, Thatta, Kasur, Kotli, Chagai, Killa Abdullah, Peshawar, Chitral, Gilgit, etc.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1506232>

AMAZON UNVEILS CLIMATE PLAN, AIMS TO ADVANCE PARIS GOALS

RECORDER REPORT SEP 20TH, 2019 WASHINGTON

Amazon chief Jeff Bezos pledged Thursday the US technology and retail giant would become carbon neutral by 2040 and encourage other firms to do the same, in a bid to help meet the goals of the Paris climate accord 10 years early. "We want to use our scope and our scale to lead the way," Bezos told a news conference in the US capital, aiming to shake off the firm's reputation as a laggard on environmental issues.

Amazon announced its "Climate Pledge" initiative and said it would be its first signatory as part of an effort to reduce emissions in line with a 2050 goal for carbon neutrality set by the Paris agreement. "We're done being in the middle of the herd on this issue," Bezos said. "If a company with as much physical infrastructure as Amazon - which delivers more than 10 billion items a year - can meet the Paris agreement 10 years early, then any company can."

Bezos said he had spoken with other CEOs of global companies, and noted "I'm finding a lot of interest in joining the pledge." As part of the ramped-up effort, Bezos said Amazon had agreed to purchase 100,000 electric delivery vans from vehicle startup Rivian, to help cut its carbon footprint. Amazon previously announced a \$440 million investment in Rivian. The first vans will hit the road in 2021, with the fleet to be fully operational in 2030. Amazon also pledged to invest \$100 million on reforestation efforts in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy.

Bezos's announcement came the day before a global day of demonstrations to demand action on climate change, ahead of a UN summit on zero emissions on September 23. Amazon faces mounting pressure to address its environmental impact, with more than 1,000 of its workers planning to walk off the job Friday as part of the Global Climate Strike. Asked about the Amazon employees set to join the strike, Bezos called it "totally understandable."

"People are passionate about this issue," he said. "Everybody in this room should be passionate about this issue." Bezos was joined by Christiana Figueres, the former UN climate chief and founder of the climate activist group Global Optimism. "With this step, Amazon also helps many other companies to accelerate their own decarbonization," Figueres said.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/09/20190920519150/>

GOVT URGED TO DECLARE EMERGENCY TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Faiza Ilyas September 21, 2019

KARACHI: Struggling to survive amid worsening civic conditions and political bickering, the city of Karachi on Friday became part of a global movement on climate change when many people turned up at Frere Hall for a 'Climate March' and demanded that the government declare an emergency to address environmental issues.

Organised by a group of concerned citizens under the banner of ClimateActionPk, the protest walk coincided with the Global Climate Strikes called by Swedish teen Greta Thunberg's #FridaysforFuture movement, with over 5,000 climate strikes planned in 156 countries ahead of the UN's climate emergency summit on Sept 23.

While the gathering at Frere Hall was as big as one would have expected, it was unique in many ways; it was driven not by any organisation but citizens and represented by a diverse crowd including a large number of young environmental advocates, especially those from schools.

"It's probably for the first time that the youth has demonstrated ownership [of] the environmental cause, which is a big step forward, though mute government response to growing civic issues is creating hopelessness among the masses," said Sabeen, a mother of two schoolgoing children.

She hoped that the movement would be sustained in Karachi, building up pressure on the government to act.

Sharing her concern, Nahida Tariq, who was there with 10 family members, said the city had become so polluted that one could hardly feel and breathe fresh, pleasant air. "The city stinks. You can't go anywhere without covering your nose either because of overflowing gutters or heaps of garbage. This is absolutely not what we or our children deserve. Where is the government?"

Several participants expressed their support to the cause with signs that read "Corporate greed, climate disaster", "No nature, no future", "Planet over profit", "Climate justice now" and "We want inclusion of marginalised communities and women in decision making".

A catchy one, perhaps, was "Jhanda tau green hai, mulk kiyun nahi?" (Flag is green, why not the country).

Before the march, which started off around sunset, the organisers kept the audience engaged in speeches and songs, highlighting environmental challenges as well as demanding action from the government.

The audience was also given an ample opportunity to voice their concern, frustration, anger at the government with slogans demanding action to clean the city.

“Climate change affects all of us and we all need to join hands, highlight this issue and force the government to act,” said social activist Sheema Kermani while explaining why it’s important that people unite.

Tofiq Pasha, a senior environmentalist, said: “Enough harm is already done to environment. We must act now and save our land, its water bodies and trees,” he said, urging the youth to come forward and support the movement in large numbers.

A charter of demands (CoD) shared during the event called upon the federal government to declare a climate emergency, ensure climate justice through a global coalition and ensure grass-roots level climate adaptation efforts.

The CoD of Karachi urged the provincial government to revise the master plan of the metropolis, launch afforestation and ecological restoration projects, reduce and regulate emissions, establish an urban waste management programme and shift to renewable energy sources and discourages fossil fuel-based production.

“There are many steps we can take at individual level to help save environment. We need to discourage use of plastic, reduce waste, go for recycling and increase plantation,” said Rimsha Zulfiqar, a student of SMB Fatima Jinnah School.

The event also educated youth about the projects that have displaced people in large numbers in the city and damaged environment.

In this context, activists Gul Hassan Kalmati and Dr Rukhman Gul Palari spoke about the case of Bahria Town whereas Sagheer Ansari shared how people had been rendered homeless after being evicted of their houses built along the Karachi Circular Railway project.

“They are being labelled as encroachers, though they have been in the courts for the past 12 years. The Japan International Corporation Agency had committed to relocate these people,” he said.

Among those who addressed the audience included social artist and teacher Yasir Husain and Zehra Zaidi of the Karachi Citizen Lab, lady health supervisor Noor Fatima, Fatima Majeed of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum and journalist Afia Salam.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1506395/govt-urged-to-declare-emergency-to-fight-climate-change>

PESHAWAR RESIDENTS JOIN GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

By Our Correspondent published: September 21, 2019

PESHAWAR: People from all walks of lives, particularly school students, marched through Peshawar on Friday to raise the urgent issue of climate change as part of the Global Climate Strike. The march coincided with similar marches held in some 33 cities of the country on Friday.

The University of Peshawar (UoP) Environment Society, in collaboration with the Islamic Relief Pakistan and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, organised a Climate March. Participants of the march held up banners and placards in the march as they called on the government to take action on climate change.

Later, in a seminar, UoP Environment Society Organiser Dr Asif Khan Khattak gave a presentation on the Global Climate Strike, which is led by 16-year-old Swede Greta Thunberg.

Professor Dr Shafiqur Rehman, former UoP Environmental Sciences Department chairman, explained the importance of the event and how climate change is a global problem.

The department's incumbent chairman, Prof Dr Hizbullah Khan explained the scientific ways in which global warming can be reduced.

He described that the scientific approaches have limitations and therefore the world is now focusing on adaptation to climate change.

A solemn and creative week marked by University Model School girls students to show solidarity to the Kashmiri cause concluded in a ceremony at the UoP Convocation Hall on Friday.

Around 1,000 girls gathered at the Convocation Hall to present their cards, placards and signature cards depicting the ongoing struggle of Kashmiris brethren.

The week-long activity involved three Quranic recitations, daily assembly homage, cards competition, calligraphy and protest graffiti.

On Friday, UoP Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Asif Khan praised the enthusiasm and creativity of the students. He stated that to further the Kashmir struggle, we need to excel in technology, science and education to win the battle of arguments in the comity of nations and not through invading occupied Kashmir.

University Model School Principal Nazneen Shah said that girls today came out of their school and expressed their love and affection for their Kashmiri sisters.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2061472/1-peshawar-residents-join-global-climate-strike/>

‘LARGEST POLAR EXPEDITION IN HISTORY’ TO PROBE ARCTIC CLIMATE

September 21, 2019

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: A team of scientists from 19 countries set off for the Arctic on Friday, aiming to freeze their ship into the polar ice for a year to research the changing climate.

Aboard the massive icebreaker Polarstern, belonging to Germany's Alfred Wegener polar and marine research institute, researchers hope to glean new understanding of the region. The 140 million-euro (\$155 million) mission will study the atmosphere, ocean, sea ice, ecosystem and natural processes — looking to build a picture of how climate change is affecting the region and the entire world.

“No other region of the world has warmed as quickly as the Arctic in the past decades,” mission leader and atmospheric scientist Markus Rex said on the “Mosaic” (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) website.

“At the beginning of this year, we had an extreme case where the central Arctic was warmer than in Germany,” Rex added. “It’s almost the epicentre of global warming. At the same time, we know little about this region so far.

He warned: “We won’t be able to accurately predict our climate if we don’t have reliable forecasts for the Arctic. The Polarstern will set off from Tromsø, Norway and then moor to a huge iceberg before drifting for almost a year through the central polar region — the ice freezing at least 1.5 metres (five feet) thick around it as winter draws in. A fleet of four icebreakers from Russia, China and Sweden, as well as aeroplanes and helicopters, will resupply the ship and rotate crew members in and out.

But while the expedition has been eight years in the making, its 2,500-kilometre (1,550 mile) journey through temperatures as low as minus degrees 45 Celsius (minus 49 Fahrenheit) and 150 days and nights of darkness will be unpredictable.

Once frozen in place, the Polarstern itself will remain home to all the expedition members — around 100 people at any one time. Around it, a miniature city of science will spring up on the ice, divided into sections to keep the different researchers’ experiments from interfering with one another.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/529823-largest-polar-expedition-in-history-to-probe-arctic-climate>

HOW BIG WAS THE GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE? HERE’S THE BEST CITY-BY-CITY ESTIMATE

By Akshat Rathi September 21, 2019

On Sept. 20, the world likely saw its biggest single-day climate protest in history.

Organizers of the climate strikes estimate that some 4 million people turned up to 6,000 events held in more than 1,000 cities across 185 countries. Quartz attempted its own partial count of the protestors, relying on local sources, and was able to tally at least 1 million people in attendance.

Either figure would eclipse prior protests over climate change, including the People’s Climate March in 2014, which had an estimated 600,000 protestors and the school climate strikes in March this year, which had an estimated 1.4 million in attendance.

As my colleague Michael Coren describes the protests that occurred on Friday:

Organizers of the rallies said their goal is to secure a future for a generation that sees it slipping away. For millions, especially those in the path of extreme weather, global warming is quite literally a matter of life and death. For many others, it is also a matter of what kind of world they and their children will inherit.

Quartz has compiled information from multiple sources to create the most up-to-date crowd estimate. It’s worth noting that, while some of these estimates come from independent sources, most come from organizers themselves. Independent sources may provide different numbers for those rallies.

<https://qz.com/1713587/global-climate-strike-city-by-city-crowd-estimate/>

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

| 9/22/2019 12:00:00 AM

It is an irony that while it contributes little to the world's carbon footprint, Pakistan is eighth on the list of countries most affected by climate change. Until now, the conversation around climate change had been limited at best. However, the public march held on Friday in as many as 30 Pakistani cities, reflected that maybe we too have hit our own 'climate swerve'. In 2012, Pakistan was the first country to set up a climate change ministry. This was followed by the release of the National Climate Change Policy. But unfortunately, as usually happens here, nothing more was done to empower the ministry, nor was there any adherence by the government to its own policy. Climate change is a much deeper and broader issue than policymakers realise. According to a 2012 report of the World Wildlife Fund, due to Pakistan's geographical location, the overall temperature increase in the country is much faster and greater than the global average. This has become evident with the mercury rising to record-breaking temperatures with every heatwave that strikes various parts of the country; prolonged droughts; erratic rain patterns and perennial flooding; frequent glacial lake outbursts and depleting water resources. These extreme weather events also pose a threat to the country's existing oil, gas and power infrastructure, while the loss of homes, agricultural land and livelihoods force people to move to larger cities, putting further strain on our already overstretched resources.

The impact of climate change has multiple aspects. These include the immediate loss of lives incurred by extreme weather events and worsening water and food insecurity as droughts become more frequent and floods destroy farmland. Meanwhile, people and governments struggle to cope with the economic damage of recurring climatic events. The Global Climate Index Report, 2018, states that more than 10,000 people have perished in Pakistan during the past 20 years due to approximately 140 extreme weather events that incurred losses of almost \$4bn. The crisis has reached a stage where it will take all-out efforts by both the government and the public to minimise the damage caused by extreme weather events. Alarm bells are ringing and the climate march is a cry for help from experts, civil society, and the public to take action.

The ban on single-use plastic by the federal, Punjab and Sindh governments can prove to be the first step, only if enforced properly.

We need to act fast, for time and tide are against us.

https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=22_09_2019_008_002

YOUTH LEADERS AT UN DEMAND BOLD CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

AP Updated September 22, 2019

UNITED NATIONS: Fresh off the climate strike that took hundreds of thousands of young people out of classrooms and into the streets globally, youth leaders gathered at the United Nations on Saturday to demand radical moves to fight climate change.

"We showed that we are united and that we, young people, are unstoppable," Swedish 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, who started the climate strike movement with her lone protest in front of her country's parliament about a year and a half ago.

More than 700 mostly young activists attended the first of its kind Youth Climate Summit, according to Luis Alfonso de Alba, the UN special climate summit envoy.

Friday's strike across six continents and Saturday's youth conference presage a full-on climate conference next week at the UN General Assembly, which has placed the issue of climate change at front and center as world leaders gather for the annual meeting.

Activists at Saturday's gathering demanded money for a fund to help poorer nations adapt to a warming world and provide greener energy. They also insisted that the world should wean itself quickly from coal, oil and gas that cause climate change.

"Stop the criminal contaminant behaviour of big corporations," said Argentine climate activist Bruno Rodriguez. "Enough is enough. We don't want fossil fuels anymore."

Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Secretary-General's youth envoy, called climate change "the defining issue of our time. Millions of young people all over the world are already being affected by it."

During Thunberg's short lifetime, for example, the Earth has already warmed 0.6 degrees Fahrenheit (0.34 degrees Celsius).

Fiji climate activist Komal Karishma Kumar said global warming is not just taking a toll on the planet but on her generation, especially people from vulnerable places like her Pacific island nation.

"Young people from different parts of the world are living in constant fear and climate anxiety, fearing the future, the uncertainty of a healthy life or a life for their children at all," Kumar said.

She added: "I do not want our future generations to submerge with our sinking islands."

After listening to Thunberg and other youth climate activists, a tie-less Secretary-General Antonio Guterres credited young people with transforming him from a pessimist to an optimist in the fight against global warming.

Guterres said he sees "a change in momentum" going into Monday's Climate Action Summit taking place ahead of the UN General Assembly gathering of world leaders that starts on Tuesday, telling the youths "you have started this movement". "I encourage you to keep your initiative. Keep your mobilisation and more and more to hold my generation accountable," Guterres said. "My generation has largely failed until now to preserve both justice in the world and to preserve the planet." Kumar told Guterres that "we will hold you accountable and if you do not, remember we will mobilise to vote you out."

The youth activists brainstormed about what they could do to change the trajectory of an ever-warming planet and how they can help the world adapt to climate's changes. There was talk of hashtags, entrepreneurial ideas and climate art and poetry.

"Be that hummingbird that puts out the forest fire by fetching water with its small beak as all the other animals, including the elephant, told her it was impossible," said Kenyan activist Wanjuki Njoroge.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1506632>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEP 23rd TO 29th 2019

LAST FIVE YEARS SET TO BE HOTTEST ON RECORD: STUDY

| 9/23/2019 12:00:00 AM

UNITED NATIONS: A damning new UN report published on Sunday said the world is falling badly behind in the race to avert climate disaster as a result of runaway warming, with the five-year period ending 2019 set to be the hottest ever.

It comes ahead of a major UN climate summit on Monday that will be attended by more than 60 world leaders, as Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pushes for countries to increase their greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The report `highlights the urgent need for the development of concrete actions that halt global warming and the worst effects of climate change, said its authors, the Science Advisory Group to the summit.

Average global temperature between 2015-2019 is on track to be the hottest of any five-year period on record, according to the report, which was compiled by the World Meteorological Organisation.

The period `is currently estimated to be 1.1 degrees Celsius above preindustrial (1850-1900) times and 0.2 degrees Celsius warmer than 2011-2015,` it said.

The past four years were already the hottest since record-keeping began in 1850.

Guterres said last week the world was `losing the race` on climate change, with the latest report spelling out the extent to which the gap between what is required and what is happening is widening.

Rather than falling, carbon dioxide grew two percent in 2018, reaching a record high of 37 billion tonnes.

More importantly, there is also no sign yet of reaching what is known as `peak emissions,` the point at which levels will start to fall, though these are not growing at the same rate as the global economy.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries lay out national targets to reduce their emissions in order to limit long term temperature rise by either 2 degrees Celsius or 1.5 degrees Celsius.

These are benchmarks that will limit in important ways the impact of warming on world weather systems.

But even if all countries meet the goals they set themselves, the world will warm by 2.9 degrees Celsius to 3.4 degrees Celsius, the report found.

The current levels of ambition would need to be tripled to meet the 2 degrees Celsius goal and increased five-fold to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal technically still possible.

`This reads like a credit card statement after a 5-year long spending binge,` said Professor Dave Reay, chair in Carbon Management at the University of Edinburgh.

`Our global carbon credit is maxed out,` he added. `If emissions don't start falling there will be hell to pay.

In 2018, global carbon dioxide was 407.8 parts per million (ppm), 2.2 ppm higher than 2017 and set to reach or exceed 410 ppm by 2019.-AFP `The last time Earth`s atmosphere contained 400 parts per million CO 2 was about 3-5 million years ago,` the report said.At that time, global mean surface temperatures were 2-3 degrees Celsius warmer, ice sheets at both poles had melted, and seas were 10 to 20 meters higher.

Other major takeaways include that the extent of Arctic summer sea ice has declined at a rate of 12 percent per decade over the past 40 years, with the four lowest values between 2015 and 2019.

Overall, the amount of ice lost from the Antarctic ice sheet increased by a factor of six each year between 1979 and 2017, while glacier loss for 2015-19 is also the highest for any five-year period on record.

Sea-level rise is also accelerating as is the process of acidification, with an increase in 26 percent in acidity today compared to pre-industrial periods, as a result of absorbing increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The report also found that heatwaves were the deadliest weather hazard in the 2015-19 period, affecting all continents and setting new national temperature records.

The summer of 2019, which included the hottest ever month on record (July), saw unprecedented wildfires in the Arctic.

In June, these were responsible for emitting 50 megatons of carbon dioxide.

The report also comes at a time of increasing mobilization over the question of climate change, with millions taking part in a youth-led global strike on Friday, before the first UN youth climate summit on Saturday.-AFP

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2065250/2-senate-committee-discusses-setting-cpec-authority/>

RUSSIA ADOPTS PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

| 9/24/2019 12:00:00 AM

MOSCOW: Russia`s prime minister on Monday gave formal support to the Paris climate agreement and ordered Russian laws to be adapted to its obligations, according to a decree posted on the government`s website.

The document signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev says that Russia is formally adopting the 2015 Paris agreement and will now `allocate financial resources... to developing countries for prevention and adaptation to climate change.` While not formally named a `ratification,` the government said in a statement that the decree signifies Russia`s adoption of the agreement and `Russia`s consent to the obligations under the Paris Agreement`.

A government source said that the document is the `last step in the procedure of Russia`s adoption of the Paris agreement`.

Presenting his decree at a government meeting, Medvedev said that it is important for Russia to participate in the process of reducing emissions.

“The threat of climate change is (the) destruction of the ecological balance, increased risks for successful development of key industries... and most importantly, threat to safety of people living on permafrost and increase of natural disasters.” The news comes just hours ahead of a new major UN climate summit, aimed to reinvigorate the faltering Paris accord as mankind is releasing more greenhouse gases than ever into the atmosphere.

One of the world’s key energy producers, Russia has remained one of the largest economies and polluters that signed but failed to ratify the accord. Greenpeace Russia in a statement welcomed the decision.

“Russia’s actions have great significance: our country has a huge potential to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions,” the environmental organisation said in a statement.-AFP

https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=24_09_2019_013_002

TEENAGE ACTIVIST ANGRY AT UN CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

September 24, 2019

UNITED NATIONS: Teenage climate change activist Greta Thunberg on Monday opened the United Nations Climate Action Summit with an angry condemnation of world leaders for failing to take strong measures to combat climate change – “How dare you,” she said.

Days after millions of young people took to the streets worldwide to demand emergency action on climate change, leaders gathered for the annual United Nations General Assembly aiming to inject fresh momentum into stalling efforts to curb carbon emissions.

A visibly emotional Thunberg, 16, said in stern remarks at the opening of the summit that the generations that have polluted the most have burdened her and her generation with the extreme impacts of climate change.

Greta Thunberg said, “you have stolen my dreams.” “This is all wrong. I shouldn’t be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you,” said the Swedish teenager, her voice quivering.

“You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words,” Thunberg said, adding that the plans that leaders will unveil will not be enough to respond to the rate of the planet’s warming.

Thunberg has galvanized a new wave of climate change activism through her weekly Fridays for Future school strikes, which she began with her weekly, solitary protests outside of the Swedish parliament.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had warned governments ahead of the event that they would have to offer action plans to qualify to speak at the summit, which is aimed at boosting the 2015 Paris Agreement to combat global warming.

In his opening remarks, he tried to capture the urgency of climate change and called out the fossil fuel industry. “Nature is angry. And we fool ourselves if we think we can fool nature, because nature always strikes back, and around the world nature is striking back with fury,” Guterres said.

“There is a cost to everything. But the biggest cost is doing nothing. The biggest cost is subsidising a dying fossil fuel industry, building more and more coal plants, and denying what is plain as day: that we are in a deep climate hole, and to get out we must first stop digging,” he said.

US President Donald Trump, a climate change denier who has undone every major US regulation aimed at combating climate change, made a brief appearance in the audience of the summit along with Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. He did not give remarks but he listened to remarks by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who serves as the UN special envoy on climate action, called out Trump’s stealth appearance before he spoke on Monday, “Hopefully our deliberations will be helpful to you as you formulate climate policy,” he said to audience laughter.

Merkel announced Germany would double Germany’s contribution to a UN fund to support less developed countries to combat climate change to 4 billion euros from 2 billion euros.

Among the day’s other initial announcements was one from the Marshall Islands, whose president Hilda Heine said she would seek parliamentary approval to declare a climate crisis on the low-lying atoll, already grappling with sea level rise.

Heine said her country and New Zealand, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and others who form the “High Ambition” bloc at U.N. climate negotiations, will commit to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/530976-teenage-activist-angry-at-un-climate-action-summit>

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

BR – ePaper September 25, 2019

Inspired by a 12-year-old Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg’s example, who staged a “School Strike for Climate” outside her country’s parliament in August 2018, millions of children and adults in Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas took to the streets on Friday to participate in the “Global Fridays for Future” movement, urging governments and businesses to get serious about tackling climate change. In Pakistan, marches organised by ‘Climate Action Now’ were held all over the country, including in such small places like Mitthi, Thatta, Kasur, Kotli, Chagai, Killa Abdullah and Chitral. The protests came just a few days before the world summit at the UN General Assembly to impress upon governments the need to take a drastic action. More ‘climate strikes’ are to take place during the UN General Assembly session.

Addressing a mammoth rally in New York, Thunberg said the eyes of the world will be on leaders at the UN, and “they have a chance to take leadership to prove they actually hear us.” Germany’s coalition government listened quickly, announcing a € 54 billion package for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Some others may be listening, too, but leader of one of the world’s biggest polluters, US President Donald Trump, cannot be expected to pay heed. Calling the global warming a “hoax”, in June 2017, he withdrew his country from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change that aims at keeping global temperatures 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with promises to make further efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 Celsius. He has since moved in the opposite direction. Last year, he signed an executive order vastly expanding offshore drilling. That drew strong criticism from several states’ governors. Yet he remained insistent on promoting the interests of oil companies. A

few days ago, he announced his decision to revoke California's federal waiver that authorised the state to set its own vehicle emissions standards. The one good thing happening in that country is that wary of his shortsighted policies, more and more private enterprises are turning to greener alternatives. But the challenges are far too greater. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned in its last November's report that the world has just a decade to take "unprecedented" action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to keep global warming at a moderate level.

The signatories to the Paris Agreement have done little, if anything, to meet their commitments. As Thunberg said at the New York protest demonstration wherever she goes "the empty promises are the same, the lies are the same and inaction is the same." The situation being what it is, the people power is the only hope for change. Enthused by the public response, the young activist averred "this is only the beginning. Change is coming whether they like it or not." All power to her and countless others who came out to be heard by those who have the ability to save future generations from facing environmental catastrophe.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/09/25/15-page/802665-news.html>

PAKISTAN NEEDS URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

BR – ePaper September 25, 2019

KARACHI: President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIF), Mian Zahid Hussain has said Pakistan is the eighth country in the list of nations vulnerable to climate change which calls for immediate action.

He said Pakistan and India are more concerned about their share of water under the Indus water treaty and less concerned about the emerging threat of climate change which has hit tens of millions of people.

He said Pakistan and India are facing a serious threat of climate change which is a greater threat than war.

The devastation of climate change will be more serious than a war between Pakistan and India, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that climate change is no longer a scientific subject but a reality while south Asia remains most vulnerable area in the world but little has been done to tackle it.

He said that the summer and winter are becoming extreme by the passage of time while heat waves have become a norm. Pakistan has faced up to 51 degrees centigrade of heat during last year which is a record, he added.

He noted that the pattern climate and rains are rapidly changing while floods continue to hit masses. Glaciers are melting with a rapid pace damaging the river system.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/09/25/13-page/802639-news.html>

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS JOIN CHILDREN'S CLIMATE STRIKES

BR – ePaper September 28, 2019

ROME: Hundreds of thousands of youths demonstrated across European cities on Friday in the second in a global series of protests to avert a climate catastrophe.

Waving signs and yelling slogans, schoolchildren and students in Italian cities were among those joining the latest “Friday for Future” rallies.

Organisers said 200,000 people joined a march in Milan while another major rally snaked through the centre of Rome. Demos were called in some 180 Italian cities.

“Be part of the solution, not the pollution,” they yelled.

Tens of thousands of people also marched in Vienna and other cities, making it Austria’s biggest climate rally day so far.

In Budapest, thousands of mostly schoolchildren took to the streets, exceeding past participation, with rallies held in several other Hungarian cities.

They answered the call of Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, the figurehead of the movement against climate change.

She led the first of the major demos last week, when vast crowds filled the streets in cities worldwide.

Scientists warn time is running out for world leaders to curb global warming, blamed for an increase in environmental disasters.

Schools in Italy and some schools in Austria let pupils out to join in the rallies — a trend already reported in several other countries during last week’s rallies.

Friday’s main event was set to unfold in Montreal, Canada, where Thunberg was scheduled to appear later.

“I have goose bumps today. It is really emotional. Greta has called us and we are there,” a 17-year-old demonstrator in Rome who identified himself as Simone told AFP.

“We want to live on this planet the way it is.”—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/09/28/6-page/803104-news.html>

October 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM SEP 30th TO OCT 6th 2019

ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Sanval Nasim Updated September 30, 2019

People across Pakistan came out to demand immediate public action on climate change last week. The sizeable mobilisation of citizens could not have been possible without the efforts of our climate-change campaigners. Several opinion pieces in leading newspapers emphasised the urgency of countering the climate crisis and urged readers to band together and make their voices heard. Most, if

not all, commentators squarely blamed the nature of market economies (read capitalism) for the crisis, arguing that market economies are by design extractive and polluting and that we're all doomed as long as they continue to function.

Market economies are not the sole offenders when it comes to environmental degradation. The policies of the handful of centrally planned economies that history has witnessed led to large-scale environmental destruction. The Soviet Union's Industrialisation and Collectivisation plans left in their wake a highly degraded environment while Mao's Great Leap Forward obliterated China's rich environmental landscape.

Broad-stroke criticisms of market economies vis-à-vis climate change not only betray a lack of comprehension of conventional economic theory but also disregard the decades of serious academic and policy work carried out by economists to address environmental challenges. In fact, the field of environmental economics emerged within the bastions of market economics in the 1960s as a response to understanding and addressing growing environmental problems.

Conventional economists acknowledge that emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants are an inevitable by-product of growth — given the technologies at their disposal, firms will pollute as they increase their production of goods and services. In determining how much to produce, firms weigh their private benefits (revenue) against their private costs (costs of production). They ignore the social costs of their production — they do not factor in the cost of polluting the environment. As long as firms operate without internalising the costs of pollution, they will produce socially inefficient levels of goods and services.

This is an example of what economists call “market failure” — the inability of markets to provide the socially desirable levels of certain goods and services in an economy. The existence of market failures does not imply that market economies are inherently destructive; instead, it demonstrates the critical role of public intervention in forcing firms to internalise the social costs of their production outcomes. Professor Joseph Stiglitz succinctly states in his book *People, Power, and Profits*: “Capitalist economies have... always involved a blend of private market and government... the question is not markets or government, but how to combine the two to best advantage.”

Recognising the importance of the public sector in addressing market failures, conventional economists have created a number of policy tools to improve environmental outcomes. These fall under three broad categories: command-and-control strategies; price-based instruments; and information-based interventions.

Under a command-and-control strategy, the government legally mandates socially desirable behaviour and uses enforcement mechanisms such as courts, police and fines to ensure compliance. In the context of environmental policy, a command-and-control approach is a mandate on the minimum level of environmental performance (an environmental standard): for example, a provincial law that states that each paper-producing factory in Punjab cannot emit more than 200 units of a pollutant per day.

Where command-and-control strategies depend on the strong arm of the government to alter firms' behaviour, price-based instruments rely on tools such as emissions taxes and cap-and-trade markets to incentivise firms' emissions reductions. An emissions tax — which stems from the oft-quoted “polluter pays principle” — incentivises firms to roll back their emissions to reduce their tax burden. This instrument further allows the government to distribute the revenue generated from such “green taxes” to support environmental programmes and institutions.

Professor William Nordhaus — who won the Nobel Prize last year for his seminal work on the economics of climate change — has shown that the prevention of a climate catastrophe requires a high tax on carbon emissions. Professor Martin Weitzman, known for some of the most outstanding contributions to the field and who tragically passed away a few weeks ago, argued for a uniform tax on global carbon emissions.

Under a cap-and-trade programme, the government allocates permits to emit a fixed amount of a pollutant for a given period of time. Firms can then exchange (buy or sell) their permits with each other in an “emissions market”. Permits flow from firms willing to sell them to those willing to buy them — a market failure corrected by a market instrument!

Information-based interventions are fairly new. By informing citizens of the environmental performance of firms in their locale, the government can harness the power of public pressure to force firms to reduce their emissions. Professor Michael Greenstone and his team conducted an experiment in India in which they rated firms on the basis of their environmental outcomes. They found evidence of better regulatory compliance when they made the ratings publicly available.

One would be naïve to assume that proponents of market economies do not envisage any significant role of the public sector — or collective action for that matter — in their appraisals of policy prescriptions. Conventional economists unanimously agree that public intervention is essential in fixing market failures, such as excessive pollution, unsustainable resource extraction and under-provision of education and health care services. The fundamental debate amongst economists centres on how much public intervention is appropriate without undermining well-functioning markets.

Blanket statements on the inability of market economies to mitigate environmental problems don't offer a way forward — by the time the revolution comes, we will all probably be dead. In the meantime, let's reflect on strengthening our public institutions and leveraging the policy tools economists have created to tackle the climate crisis.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1508040>

ADVERSE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE HIGHLIGHTED

ALI HUSSAIN SEP 30TH, 2019 ISLAMABAD

Environmental activists, diplomats, members of the civil society and government officials Sunday joined hands to sensitize communities about the adverse impacts of climate change. The European Union delegation to Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan, for the fourth consecutive years, jointly commemorated the Climate Diplomacy Day here on Sunday to highlight adverse impacts of climate change and seek positive actions.

Aiming to encourage informed debate on climate change, the event brought together people from diverse backgrounds to become part of the exchanges taking place worldwide in the crucial reflection on how to explore the opportunities arising through the irreversible transition to low carbon economies while ensuring equitable access to sustainable development.

The event kicked off with the participants cycling from the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on a designated route as a symbolic gesture to raise awareness to curtail the growth of greenhouse emissions by promoting eco-friendly modes of transportation.

The event then moved on to documentary screening-Our Planet, Our Business-which shed light on role of businesses in building sustainable future. It shows that all business activities depend on the nature. Planet Earth provides our societies with all the material we need for free including: clean air and water, food, soil, a benign climate and productive seas. But the global loss of nature is making the planet less stable and is already costing our economies trillions of dollars every year.

Addressing the event, Malik Amin Aslam, Adviser to Prime Minister on Climate Change, who was the chief guest of the event, said that Pakistan annually faces economic losses between US\$ 6-14 billion solely due to deteriorating climatic conditions. He pointed out that melting of the glaciers in its northern regions of Pakistan could disturb the biodiversity of the entire country and adversely influence the climatic conditions. "The current government is fully aware of the climate change challenges facing Pakistan and is taking adequate measures to deal with them", he added.

He also pointed out a number of projects including the 10 billion trees plantation project, introducing electric vehicles, ban on plastic bags in Islamabad that would also be extended to rest of the countries with a view to save the environment from their adverse impacts.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador-designate of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara said that the EU continues to reaffirm its steadfast commitment to the Paris Agreement as the essential multilateral framework governing global action to deal with climate change.

"While the EU is on track to exceed its 2020 target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it is determined to help raise global ambition and lead the way on accelerated climate action on all fronts", she said. She said that the youth climate movement is a sign of the growing awareness in our societies that climate change is a reality already that requires action now. She said that the EU will continue engaging with partners, including Pakistan, to address the common challenge of climate change through a multilateral approach. Particularly since Pakistan is ranked as the seventh country most vulnerable to climate change in the world, she added.

Rab Nawaz, Senior Director Programmes, WWF-Pakistan said that climate change is a bitter reality that poses a greater threat to our present and future generations. He said that Pakistan is at risk of climate related natural hazards as we have been witnessing widespread rains, super floods, frequent heat waves and temperature rise and incidences of coastal flooding and sea intrusion.

He said that nature-based solutions such as large-scale plantation drives, protection of existing forests, promotion of renewable energy and conservation of water resources should be adopted to address this grave challenge. He emphasised the need for unprecedented action to tackle the issue of climate change at the local, regional and global levels.

<https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/09/20190930522160/>

SETTING UP OF CLIMATE CHANGE AGENCY SOUGHT

Staff Reporter Updated October 01, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change on Monday directed the ministry to take steps for the early establishment of climate change agency.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan has discussed the issue of climate change during his recent speech at United Nations General Assembly but it is unfortunate that the climate change agency could not be established despite passage of many years," committee chairperson Senator Sitara Ayaz said.

She said the prime minister had also discussed that Pakistan was included in 10 most vulnerable countries due to climate change. However, agency could not be established, she added.

Ministry of Climate Change Secretary Hasan Nasir Jami said that service rules of the agency were being drafted and after that as many as 72 posts of the agency would be advertised.

“Professional persons will be hired who will give their input on every issue. Moreover, there will be four members of the agency,” he said.

He said at international level huge amount of money was available to address the issue of climate change.

“We just have to take advantage of that money and divert it towards Pakistan,” he said.

Head of the Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Fahad Bangash said despite huge pressure by India, that money should not be allocated for the disputed area of Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan has managed to get \$37 million for a project to address issues related to climate change in GB and five districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

“There are 7,000 glaciers in Pakistan, out of which 5,000 are in GB. There are 3,000 glacier lakes and 33 out of them are identified as potentially dangerous. We are doing efforts to develop an early warning system so that the human lives could be saved during flash floods,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1508234/setting-up-of-climate-change-agency-sought>

OVER 1,600 DIE IN INDIA’S HEAVIEST MONSOON SEASON FOR 25 YEARS

Reuters Updated October 02, 2019

NEW DELHI: The heaviest monsoon rains to lash India in 25 years have killed more than 1,600 people since June, government data showed on Tuesday, as authorities battled floods in two northern states and muddy waters swirled inside a major city.

The monsoon, which typically lasts between June and September, has already delivered 10 percent more rain than a 50-year average, and is expected to withdraw only after early October, more than a month later than usual.

The extended rains have wreaked havoc, with northern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states the worst hit in the latest spell of intense downpours, killing 144 people since last Friday, two officials said.

In Patna, Bihar’s riverside capital city that is home to around two million people, residents said they were wading through waist-deep water to buy essential items like food and milk.

Ranjeev Kumar, 65, a resident of Patna’s Ashiyana neighbourhood, said that the entire area was stranded by the water.

“The government is not doing any rescue and the situation is very serious here,” he said.

On Monday, relief workers rescued Bihar’s Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi from his home in Patna. Video footage showed him dressed in shorts and a t-shirt as he was brought out on a raft along with his family members.

Saket Kumar Singh, who lives in the city's Boring Road area, said he was stranded for four days, with about two feet of water inside his house.

"There was no electricity, and despite having money I was helpless," Singh, 45, said.

In neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, heavy rains have brought down more than 800 homes and swathes of farmland are submerged.

Data released by the federal home ministry shows that 1,673 people have died because of floods and heavy rains this year, as of Sept 29.

Officials said that many of these fatalities were caused due to wall and building collapses, including in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, the western state that has seen 371 flood-related deaths in 2019, the highest in the country.

"The danger of old or weak structures collapsing increases during the heavy rainfall, like what happened this time," Chandrakant Sharma, a flood expert with Uttar Pradesh's disaster relief department, said.

India's flood prevention and forecasting systems are lacking, other experts say, even as the total flood prone area in the country has increased in recent decades because of deforestation, degradation of water bodies, and climate change.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1508507>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 7th TO 13th

AUSTRALIA TO BE ENGAGED AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Staff Reporter October 07, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Climate Change on Sunday agreed to engage with the Australian government that offered expertise and transfer technology to improve its resilience against impacts of climate change and prevent environment degradation.

Deputy Director Media Mohammad Saleem said environmental degradation cost Pakistan Rs700 billion annually.

"This is besides the Rs400 billion cost of damages from floods, displacement of communities, especially from sea intrusion, shifting monsoon patterns and loss to farmers," he said.

The ministry has decided to develop a proposal to highlight areas in which Pakistan needs assistance, the official said.

The Australian delegation recently met Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul and discussed opportunities for collaboration with Pakistan in environment.

"One of the key areas where Pakistan needs assistance is water conservation, groundwater recharge and sea level rise, and forest fires. These are the major issues that Pakistan shares with Australia, a

country that gives importance to water conservation as well as developing new methods to fight forest fires,” said Mr Saleem.

According to the official, both sides also agreed to cooperate in the area of disaster risk reduction.

“The Australian delegation has offered to assist Pakistan in accurate weather monitoring. We are also interested in training and joint research ventures,” he said.

Pakistan can benefit from cooperation with Australia which has the technology, technical know-how and experiences to tackle concerns related to environment.

Australian High Commissioner Dr Geoffrey Shaw also commended the measures taken by the government for protection of environment, forests, wildlife and enhancing the country’s resilience against negative effects of climate change on agriculture, forests, water, health, education and lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities.

“We are looking forward to contribute our role through our experiences in overall environmental protection and climate change resilience through mitigation and adaptation initiatives in climate-vulnerable socio-economic sectors,” the high commissioner had told the state minister at the meeting.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1509392>

‘WHEN SCIENCE FAILS TO CONVINCe, PLAY GAMES TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE’

Ebrahim Updated October 08, 2019

KARACHI: When all scientific researches and reports, global climate marches, and even Greta Thunburg's pleadings fail to move global leaders to cut emissions, what do you do? Some say, use another approach — play a game.

And that is exactly what some 60 students from 16 colleges and universities did for two days at mock COP In My City event organized at Karachi's Institute of Business Administration's Go Green Society, over the weekend, on October 5th and 6th.

The only exception among these undergrads was eight-year old Emaan Danish Khan, a social entrepreneur who won her nomination for this activity because she "hates plastic" and makes toys and dolls using recyclable material

The students took on the roles of delegates from different countries or regions and were charged with reaching an agreement to limit warming to no more than 1.5 degree centigrade.

An animated debate ensued where there was some blame game by vulnerable countries, some stubbornness on the part of developed countries followed by placations -- all on how countries and regions would manage their greenhouse gas emissions.

The richer countries pledged support and the developing countries requested money from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), created to help developing countries cut their emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

"I thought that we would discuss climate change issues faced by Pakistan and come up with solutions," said Farhan Ali from Karachi University. He was pleasantly surprised they he had to learn to collaborate and even compromise to lower the global temperature, all in a fun way.

The role play also included different interest groups including the fossil fuel lobby, activists as well as the press.

The negotiated decisions and pledges were then entered into an award-winning computer simulator programme called the World Climate Simulation, using a software called C-Roads. Within minutes it started calculating and predicting the increased global surface temperature by the end of the century.

Omer Akif, a young lawyer, passionate about climate change issues "stumbled" upon this "randomly" while doing some research as a student at LUMS, back in 2016 and then was so excited, roped in his class fellows to participate.

That was not enough. He wanted more students to engage. So in 2017 he pitched the idea to the Ministry of Climate Change and got Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) Foundation, a German organisation to fund an event in Islamabad, where 50 students from 22 universities from 11 cities across Pakistan participated.

The following year, in 2018 the HEC hosted it, funded by FNF and now finally in Karachi.

This year the shortlisted applicants were filtered through a process; with the result, the "quality of the debate was even better" pointed out Akif.

The beauty of the programme is such that age is no bar. From primary school groups, to senior citizens and executive of multinationals to Nobel Prize winners, everyone can participate. In Akif's three-year experience of conducting these events, here in Pakistan, business and marketing graduates have done better than those studying environmental sciences or climate change. "If Trump and other climate deniers are made to participate in this, they just may get convinced about the gravity of the situation," pointed out Akif.

The first round fell short as participants made individual decisions, resisted making cuts to their emissions, demanded more money from the GCF, or assumed the pledges made were enough to meet the global goal. The simulation clearly showed the consequences of putting countries first over the entire planet and how those decisions put the entire earth in jeopardy.

That is when it dawned on to Asif Ali, from University Law college, Quetta, that "climate situation went well beyond borders" and reducing carbon emissions was the only way out for the future generations to survive. "The ideal target was 1.5 degrees but 2 degrees was also acceptable according to Paris agreement, but on Day 1 they reached 2.6," said Akif, adding: "Ninety billion dollars were pledged in total on the first day while the request was for \$100 billion."

But the next day, when the same students negotiated again they were more skillful and reduced further to 2.3 degrees by Day 2 which was Akif admitted was "a great achievement" as was the \$417 billion pledges as opposed to the \$100 billion request. "With more efforts, they can done even better!"

For many players, the impact was personal. Even with alarms sounded by scientists of catastrophes if global temperatures rise beyond 2 degrees centigrade, Ali Abdul Hai, from Highbrow College, in Karachi, remained optimistic saying: "It's never too late" for meaningful action. "But everyone has to

pitch in!" he added. The students said they felt a much stronger desire to learn, do more in raising awareness to reducing their individual carbon footprints.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on climate change, Malik Amin Aslam, felicitated the students, spoke about all that the present government was doing with reference to climate change and distributed prizes and certificates.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1509544>

14 YEARS ON, AJK QUAKE SURVIVORS WAIT ON EMPTY PROMISES

By Our Correspondent Published: October 8, 2019

MUZAFFARABAD: It has almost been a decade-and-a-half since the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir lived through one of the most horrific earthquakes in the region's history. But as they observe the 14th anniversary of the devastating natural disaster, they still await the fulfillment of the myriad promises successive governments made to them.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, survivors of October 8, 2005 earthquake revealed the education and health sectors in their areas still haven't fully recovered from the calamity's destructive aftermath. While millions of rupees were spent on new government buildings to replace the ones destroyed by the quake, they said most of them are still not fully functional. On top of that, the survivors complained that the AJK government has been unable to properly rehabilitate them.

"Every earthquake victim only received between Rs75,000 and Rs200,000 to rebuild their demolished houses from authorities tasked with reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts," said quake survivor Ghulam Mustafa Lala. "Can you even imagine? How could a person who lost their entire house and belongings construct a new one with such a measly amount?"

The government, Lala complained, never came up with a proper plan to resettle those hardest hit by the disaster.

Chaudhry Nawaz, another survivor of the October 8 quake, said the government did demarcate an area named Satellite Town to resettle those who lost their homes. "But the plots were distributed among those who did not lose anything to the quake," he alleged.

Rab Nawaz, who also suffered the devastation visited by the tremor, claimed more than Rs750 million earmarked to provide relief to quake victims were spent on the AJK prime minister's official residence in Narrul Jalalabad.

"This newly constructed Prime Minister House has been waiting to receive the prime minister for three years now," he said. "This is criminal negligence, to sideline schools, hospitals and other infrastructure damaged or destroyed in the quake to build a house in which the AJK premier is still not ready to stay in."

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Khawaja Farooq criticised the decision, saying "If the government does not want to use the new Prime Minister House then it could let it be used for some other useful purpose instead of letting it collect rust." He pointed out that despite spending billions of rupees on reconstruction in Muzaffarabad, sewerage lines and roads in the capital are still in shambles.

Education, however, is the sector worst affected by the October 8 quake. More than 2,800 schools were destroyed by the tremors but only a few hundred have been rebuilt. The rest are either still under construction or worse, just moving forward on paper. According to sources, work on as many as 500 schools has not even begun.

“It has been 14 years since the earthquake, but the AJK government still could not launch a comprehensive plan to rebuild and repair the devastated schools,” said AJK resident Safer Ahmed.

Pakistani residents stand over the rubble of a market building in Chitral on October 27, 2015, a day after it was struck by the earthquake that rocked the country and neighbouring Afghanistan. PHOTO: AFP

In Muzaffarabad city, a sewerage line was reconstructed at a cost of Rs4.5 billion its manhole near Satara Mor still has not been repaired. “Why did the reconstruction and rehabilitation departments allow contractors to do substandard work? Who will grill the people involved in the poor construction of the sewerage lines of the capital city,” said Muzaffarabad resident Imtiaz Hussain.

Health and other sectors continue to suffer a similar fate in the earthquake-hit areas, according to residents and survivors.

On the other hand, those who lived through the earthquake and suffered its fallout have nothing but good words for all nations that stepped in to help AJK and Pakistan in that time of need. “We salute both the Arab countries and the West, particularly the UK, the US, Canada, and Germany, along with Turkey and Cuba for helping rebuild schools, hospitals and other buildings,” said Abdul Majid Khan, who lost his parents, brother and 14 other family members in the quake. “We will never forget the support they provided in helping reconstruct all damaged buildings, even mosques,” he said.

“All the pink government office buildings in Bagh, Rawalakot, and Muzaffarabad have been constructed by Turkey and UAE. Canada and Cuba played a vital role in reconstruction and rehabilitation as well. We will also never forget the Americans who carried out round the clock rescue operations with their Chinook helicopters. The people of AJK are indebted to all these countries,” Khan added. He also praised the Pakistan Army for providing “matchless rescue and relief” before any other department or country stepped in. “We will never forget the army’s services in those months after the quake.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2074521/1-14-years-ajk-quake-survivors-wait-empty-promises/>

HUNDREDS OF ARRESTS AS LONDON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVISTS VOW MORE PROTESTS

Reuters Updated October 09, 2019

LONDON: London police have made nearly 500 arrests as climate-change protesters, labelled “uncooperative crusties” by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, continue two weeks of civil disobedience to push for more to be done to protect the environment.

The Extinction Rebellion group has been taking action in several countries including Britain, Germany, Austria, Australia, France and New Zealand as it lobbies politicians to go further in cutting carbon emissions.

The protests are the latest stage in a global campaign for tougher and swifter steps against climate change coordinated by the group, which rose to prominence in April when it snarled traffic in central London for 11 days.

Police said 152 arrests had been made on Tuesday, taking the total number over the two days to 471 as some protesters lay down in the road outside parliament whilst others dressed in colourful costumes or brought tree saplings to give to lawmakers.

Police have introduced stricter conditions, saying anyone wanting to continue the protest can only do so in Trafalgar Square.

“This action is necessary in order to prevent the demonstrations from causing serious disruption to the community,” police said. “Anyone who fails to comply with the condition is liable to arrest and prosecution.” Prime Minister Boris Johnson criticised the protesters when he attended an event late on Monday.

“I am afraid the security people didn’t want me to come along tonight because they said the road was full of uncooperative crusties,” he said, using a slang term for eco-protesters.

“They said there was some risk that I would be egged,” he added. On Tuesday, some protesters hit back at him.

“It’s not helpful,” Diana Jones, from the southern English county of Sussex, said.

“Were just ordinary people trying to express our deep disappointment with how slow the process of getting climate change action to occur is taking place, with the government not really listening, not really taking it forward on the scale it needs to be taken.” The group wants Britain to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025 rather than the government’s 2050 target.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1509878/hundreds-of-arrests-as-london-climate-change-activists-vow-more-protests>

TO SAVE CLIMATE, TAX CARBON AT \$75 PER TON: IMF

OCTOBER 10, 2019

The world's biggest carbon polluting nations should jointly agree to tax emissions at \$75 per ton in the next decade to keep climate change at safe levels, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

The global crisis lender's call for immediate action confronts a policy dilemma that has left major economies rife with discord in recent years as they battle to prevent catastrophic warming of the planet.

"Carbon taxes are the most powerful and efficient tools but only if they are implemented in a fair and growth-friendly way," IMF researchers said in a blog post.

After violent protests last year, France suspended plans to raise carbon taxes beyond \$50 per ton. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has moved to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement and some American lawmakers have advanced a "Green New Deal" to invest in decarbonizing the economy.

The report was released ahead of next week's annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank at which newly installed IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva is expected to urge member countries to action.

Taxing emissions—raising the cost of carbon-intensive energy for electricity, travel, manufacturing, shipping and food—is the most efficient way to prevent global average temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, the goal set in the Paris accord, according to the IMF research published Thursday.

While the current global average cost is \$2 per ton, a coordinated increase to \$75 by 2030 among the largest emitters in the Group of 20 economies would be the most likely to succeed.

A common approach would prevent "free-rider" countries from benefiting from reforms made by other nations and allow industries within countries to remain competitive with those in other nations, the report said.

But IMF researchers acknowledge the daunting and unequal costs this could impose.

Coal prices would more than triple. Electricity would shoot up by more than 30 percent in Canada and by between 70 and 90 percent in Australia. Gasoline prices would rise by between five and 15 percent in most countries, according to the report.

But environmental benefits would more than offset such costs—by 2030, a \$75 per ton tax would prevent an estimated 725,000 premature air pollution deaths, mainly in China, according to the report.

And consumers and firms eager to keep costs will have an immediate incentive to avoid emissions and invest in cleaner energy.

Tax revenues could be used to make such changes politically acceptable: targeted assistance to poor and vulnerable households, displaced workers and regions hit disproportionately by the transition.

Offsetting cuts to payroll and income taxes, combined with dividends to the public, could make the transition more politically palatable, the report said.

<https://phys.org/news/2019-10-climate-tax-carbon-ton-imf.html>

UN CHIEF CALLS FOR ENDING WORLD'S 'COAL ADDICTION' TO AVERT CLIMATE DEVASTATION

Reuters Updated October 12, 2019

COPENHAGEN: Too much of the world is still addicted to coal power even as climate change "threatens the viability of human societies", UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Friday, singling out Asian nations over their ongoing use of the fossil fuel.

The UN chief told a gathering of world mayors in Copenhagen that too little was being done to tackle climate change and avert its harmful consequences.

"Let us make no mistake, we are facing an urgent crisis," Guterres told the summit in the Danish capital, organised by the C40 network of cities.

"Climate change is moving faster than we are, exceeding worst-case projections," he added.

Countries should cut their planet-warming emissions by at least 45 percent by 2030 and become “climate-neutral” by 2050 to stabilise warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7F) above pre-industrial times, the lower limit set by almost 200 countries in the 2015 Paris Agreement, he said. But government action was lagging behind, Guterres added.

“Current national climate action plans get us nowhere close to these goals. We are on pace for a catastrophic 3-degree or more rise. This would be devastating for humanity,” he said.

At least 70 countries announced plans at a UN climate action summit last month to beef up their Paris pledges to cut emissions, but most major economies including the United States and China failed to announce stronger new measures.

“We still have large parts of the world with a coal addiction,” Guterres said, adding that an “absolutely unacceptable number” of new coal power plants were planned, mainly across Asia.

Asia-Pacific, home to two-thirds of the world’s people, is experiencing rising urbanisation, population and economic growth, leaving nations scrambling to provide enough electric power while keeping promises to cut heat-trapping emissions.

With an abundance of locally produced cheap coal, the region is bucking the global trend towards finding cleaner alternatives to burning fossil fuels, which emits greenhouse gases scientists say are heating up the planet.

Guterres has previously called for a halt to the construction of coal plants from 2020, as well as a move away from subsidies for fossil fuels and a rapid shift towards renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

“We have the knowledge, the technology and the resources to address the climate emergency ... what is still missing at many levels is political will,” Guterres told the Copenhagen summit.

Leaders of more than 90 cities, representing over 700 million people and a quarter of the global economy, met in Copenhagen this week to push forward on climate action.

C40 said that 30 of the world’s largest cities, representing more than 58 million residents — from Austin to Venice — had already peaked their emissions and had since cut them by an average of 22 percent.

The mayors’ gathering came as climate-change protesters took to the streets from Britain to New Zealand in two weeks of peaceful civil disobedience.

“Today we can see business, cities and the society moving faster than governments are,” Guterres said.

“So it is very important to go on putting as much pressure as possible on governments to make sure that they ... accept our carbon neutrality objective for 2050.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1510412/un-chief-calls-for-ending-worlds-coal-addiction-to-avert-climate-devastation>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 14th TO 20th 2019

EFFORTS TO BEGIN OLIVE TREE PLANTATION IN DROUGHT-HIT AREAS BEING STEPPED UP

Jamal Shahid October 14, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The prime minister's adviser on climate change said on Sunday that efforts are being stepped up to begin a large scale olive tree plantation programme in parts of the country hit by recurring water shortages, droughts and plunging groundwater levels.

Directives have already issued to climate change ministry's forestry officials to roll out a viable national plan to cultivate 50 million olive trees as part of the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami programme.

This will be carried out in consultation with provincial and federal stakeholders on an urgent basis, targeting small farmers in particular, in areas hit by drought in Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Malik Amin Aslam told the press upon his return from a visit to olive-growing areas in the Chakwal district.

He said that since olive is a drought-tolerant staple plant, steps would be taken to increase olive farming area in the Chakwal, Attock, Jhelum and Rawalpindi districts.

Mr Aslam said olive tree plantation at a large scale would be boosted with the construction of rainwater harvesting storage ponds in these areas, as well as the use of efficient irrigation technologies and practices.

Rain dependent regions, including the Potohar region, can be turned into 'food baskets' by promoting olive tree plantation where the agriculture sector is struggling with frequent drought conditions and a shortage of water for irrigation, he said.

The prime minister's adviser said that rain-dependent regions including Potohar region across the country can be turned into 'food baskets' by promoting large-scale olive tree plantation, where agriculture sector was struggling with frequent drought conditions, and shortage of water for irrigation.

"The programme will be replicated in other water-stressed districts of Balochistan and KP, which suffer frequent drought conditions because of declining rainfall," he said.

Climate Change Joint Secretary Suleman Warraich said the olive tree is known worldwide as a plant that can withstand various negative effects of climate change.

"Olive farming can easily be carried out in the country's areas that witness frequent droughts, frosts, heat waves and warming-caused fire events. Olive trees grow well even with low water irrigation and are naturally capable to regenerate despite these harsh conditions," he explained.

Mr Warraich, who is also the acting inspector general forests and leads the 10 Billion Trees programme, said Pakistan is witnessing frequent and intensifying droughts as a consequence of climate change, with declining rainfall patterns in the last few years.

As a result, the country's agriculture sector has experienced crop failures and falling crop yields, particularly in the highly climate sensitive drought-hit regions in almost all provinces, he said.

According to the ministry, this initiative will aim to control soil erosion in parched lands, promoting soil conservation, increasing tree cover in drought-hit areas and boost the production of olive on a local basis to offset local climate change impacts as well as reduce the burden of the edible oil import bill on the national exchequer.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1510677/efforts-to-begin-olive-tree-plantation-in-drought-hit-areas-being-stepped-up>

GOVT'S ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION AGENDA IN LINE WITH WB'S PROPOSALS: ADVISER

Jamal Shahid Updated October 16, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Presenting the vision for the next four years, Adviser to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Tuesday said the government's five-point agenda to preserve the environment was aligned with the World Bank's (WB) recommendations.

"World bodies have appreciated and owned Pakistan's vision to fight climate change by planting 10 billion trees, banning plastic bags, introducing electric vehicle policy and plans to recharge aquifers. They want to partner with Pakistan," Malik Amin Aslam said at a press conference.

The minister said the government's new plan to plant 50 million olive trees is part of the Rs125 billion 10 billion tree tsunami initiative.

"The government plans to make Islamabad Clean and Green like it was in the 1960s. We have proposed to control the urban sprawl starting with stopping housing societies to protect agriculture land.

This will be replicated in other cities. We fear that 50pc Pakistan could be in urban areas by 2030," Mr Aslam said.

He told the briefing that environmental challenges were a major drain on the economy. In 2006, environmental costs to gross domestic product (GDP) were 6pc which increased to 9pc in 2016.

"Estimated costs of environmental degradation from air, water and toxic waste contamination have been phenomenal. Pakistan faces another challenge of cross border pollution from India. India is unwilling to talk at the moment. Pakistan will raise the issue of cross border air and water pollution from India at the global level. Smog in Punjab is caused mostly when India burns its crops," the adviser said.

Mr Aslam said his ministry was also working on conserving for use 30 million to 40 million cubic feet water that goes to waste every year.

According to the minister, the ban on plastic bag was 70 to 80pc effective.

"The ministry has now starting fining producers and sellers of plastic bags despite the ban," the adviser said, explaining that 55 billion bags were being consumed in Pakistan that choked drains and were a major contributor to environmental degradation.

He added that the prime minister had already approved the ministry's proposal on the electric vehicle policy.

Responding to a question, Malik Amin Aslam told Dawn that his office had plans to rehabilitate Islamabad zoo.

“The zoo has a lot of problems. The prime minister has directed that the zoo should be transferred to the ministry for its better functioning,” the adviser said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1511004/govts-environment-preservation-agenda-in-line-with-wbs-proposals-adviser>

NUCLEAR NEEDED IN ENERGY MIX TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE: IEA

Reuters October 17, 2019

PARIS: The decline of nuclear in the global energy mix poses a threat to economies and efforts to reduce carbon emissions, International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Fatih Birol said on Wednesday.

Safety concerns, soaring costs and technological setbacks have slowed nuclear projects since the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster in Japan in March 2011.

At the same time, despite governments setting ambitious targets to cut green house gas emissions responsible for global warming, emissions hit a record high in 2018.

“This is a result of government failure,” Birol told an electricity conference in Paris.

“There is a growing disconnect between government targets and what is happening in real life, a very dangerous disconnect,” said the boss of the IEA, which advises industrialised countries on energy issues.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1511313/nuclear-needed-in-energy-mix-to-fight-climate-change-iea>

YOUNG CLIMATE ACTIVISTS IN AFRICA STRUGGLE TO BE HEARD

ACCRA BY OCTOBER 20,2019

As Greta Thunberg and the Extinction Rebellion inspire climate protesters across the globe, young African activists say they still struggle to make themselves heard.

"No continent will be struck as severely by the impacts of climate change as Africa," the United Nations Environment Programme said as it warned of increased flooding, widespread food insecurity and major economic losses.

But awareness remains low and a study from research institute Afrobarometer in August said that four in 10 Africans have never heard of climate change.

At the Climate Chance conference in Ghana's capital Accra this week hundreds of campaigners, local government officials and business people from across the continent sought a way forward.

Togolese activist Kevin Ossah, 22, led a mock United Nations debate that pitched participants playing the role of major polluters like the United States against those set to bear the biggest burden of the crisis.

He said he admires the huge crowds taking to the streets from Sydney to Stockholm, but in his West African homeland—ruled by an authoritarian regime that has cracked down on protests—that wasn't really an option.

"As youth, we can't be putting our lives in insecurity by entering roads and doing something that Greta is doing," he told AFP.

<https://phys.org/news/2019-10-young-climate-activists-africa-struggle.html>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 21st TO 27th 2019

TRANSFORM LAND USE TO HIT 1.5 CELSIUS TARGET

By RECORDER REPORT on October 22, 2019

PARIS: Better management of the world's farms and forests could contribute up to a third of the emissions cuts needed to stave off devastating climate change, an international team of scientists said Monday.

They said that countries such as Brazil, China and Indonesia had immense potential to lower greenhouse gas emissions if their governments committed to ending deforestation and environmentally damaging farming practices. The team also said that the world's chances of avoiding the worst effects of climate change would be significantly boosted if one in five people in developed countries switched to plant-based diets by 2030. The land sector currently contributes around a quarter of all manmade emissions, which need slashing globally in order to limit temperature rises to 1.5 Celsius (2.6 Fahrenheit) – the most ambitious target of the Paris deal on climate change.

At the same time, trees, plants and soil suck in vast amounts of carbon dioxide through photosynthesis – if given the chance.

Authors of a comprehensive study on how to use land to tackle climate change said they had a plan to make the land sector carbon neutral by 2040. "We developed a roadmap that cuts land sector emissions by about 50 percent per decade, and increases the carbon sequestered in land about ten-fold between 2030-2050," Stephanie Roe, an environmental scientist at the University of Virginia, told AFP. The team examined climate models and assessed two dozen land management practices known to reduce emissions while providing other social and environmental benefits. They then mapped out how countries could make the most of the practices to draw down emissions globally. They found that deforestation, especially in Brazil, Indonesia and in Africa's Congo Basin, needed to be slashed 70 percent by 2030 to limit warming. Countries also need to improve forest management by planting trees on croplands to capture and store the equivalent of the European Union's total annual emissions, every year, by the same date. Food waste and loss also need to be cut 30 percent by 2030, the experts said. All told, total emissions from land must fall 85 percent and the amount of carbon stored by land must increase 10-fold by mid-century.

"The task ahead is daunting, but we have all the tools and knowledge we need to start implementing now," said Roe, lead author of the study printed in Nature Climate Change.

The work builds on a groundbreaking report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released in August, outlining how the world can limit warming while feeding 10 billion people by 2050. It highlighted a number of tough choices, including reducing pasture land to accommodate vast carbon capture and bioenergy schemes.

“What's worrisome is the large gap between where we are and where we need to go to avoid climate chaos,” said Charlotte Streck, director of the think tank Climate Focus, and co-author of the study.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/10/22/536350/transform-land-use-to-hit-15-celsius-target/>

CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTRY LAUNCHES SURVEY OF THREATENED WILDLIFE SPECIES

Jamal Shahid Updated October 23, 2019

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Climate Change on Tuesday launched a survey for the first ‘Pakistan Red Data List’ of threatened wildlife species in the country.

Lack of adequate data about the status of wildlife species and their habitats has remained a major hurdle to efforts for their conservation and protection in Pakistan.

“The ministry is now collaborating with the globally-recognised wildlife conservation organisations to prepare the first official Pakistan-specific Red Data List of the threatened and at risk of disappearing species in particular,” Ministry of Climate Change secretary Hassan Nasir Jami told mediapersons.

According to the official, the Pakistan Red Data List will be the most comprehensive inventory of the wildlife plants, animals and other organisms. Based on a scientific study acceptable worldwide, the red list will help guide and boost actions for conservation and protection of the wildlife, he said.

Experts to prepare First Pakistan-specific Red Data List of plant and animal species

The data collection for the red list would be based on precise criteria recognised and used globally to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species and subspecies, the climate change secretary said.

Acting Inspector General Forest at the climate change ministry and team leader of Pakistan Red List Initiative Mohammad Suleman Khan Warraich said nearly 50 wildlife scientists and biodiversity experts, researchers, surveyors, university students from International Union for Conservation of Nature Pakistan (IUCN-Pakistan), World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF), Zoological Survey of Pakistan and Wildlife Conservation Society Pakistan had been engaged for the data collection.

They are visiting various parts of the country for the data survey of existing wild animals, plants and other organisms and threats to their survival, he said.

Mr Warraich said before sending the teams to the fields, capacity-building training was organised for them. They were trained on use of methodologies and appropriate survey tools and techniques for conducting accurate surveys of wild plants and animals.

“The red list will be a critical indicator of the health of the country’s biodiversity, which is beset with various risks to their sustainability. It will prove a powerful tool to inform and help decide action for biodiversity conservation and policy change, critical to protecting the natural resources,” Mr Warraich highlighted.

“It will also provide information about range, population size, habitat and ecology, use and/or trade, threats and conservation actions that will help inform necessary conservation decisions,” he added.

The government has been fighting off pressures from provinces to increase hunting quota from 12 permits to hunt Markhor to 20 and even more.

Mr Warraich told Dawn that the government would not increase the permits until the survey was completed and there was credible evidence that the population of Markhor was thriving.

Country representatives of IUCN-Pakistan, WWF-Pakistan and Wildlife Conservation Society have praised the initiative of launching the nationwide survey of the wildlife.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1512422>

SCIENTISTS QUESTION MASS TREE PLANTING AS CLIMATE CHANGE CURE

Reuters October 23, 2019

KUALA LUMPUR: The potential for a global tree-planting drive to curb climate-change risks has been overestimated, scientists warned, flagging issues with maps and data used in a recent study and urging greater efforts to cut heat-trapping emissions by other means.

In July, researchers at the Crowther Lab, based at Swiss university ETH Zurich, published a study suggesting the best way to keep climate change in check would be to replant trees on destroyed forest areas the size of the US.

But in a response letter published in the same journal Science, scientists at the University of Bonn and Nairobi-based research centre World Agroforestry said there were limits on the number of trees that could be grown on lands included in the initial study.

Eike Luedeling, a professor at the University of Bonn’s Institute of Crop Sciences and Resource Conservation, said that reforestation should not be seen as a substitute for curbing emissions from using fossil fuels. “Yes, we can all plant trees ... and if we still keep emitting carbon dioxide like crazy, we will not have solved anything — we just bought a little bit of time,” he said. “If we want to control climate change, there is really only one answer ... we have to cut emissions,” he added by phone.

Crowther Lab scientists this year published what they said was the first study of how many trees the world could support, where they could be grown, and how much carbon they could store. The study analysed the maximum amount of carbon that could be captured if all available degraded forest areas not used by humans were replanted and allowed to mature.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1512395/scientists-question-mass-tree-planting-as-climate-change-cure>

WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE HELD

By RECORDER REPORT on October 25, 2019

The initiative of a fully equipped tannery zone is a significant leap forward by Sialkot Tannery Association to modernize the local leather industry in an environment friendly way. Industrialists of

Sialkot have already proved to be torch bearers of corporate social responsible for Pakistan by taking the bold initiatives in infrastructure development and social services.

These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner Sialkot Umer Sher Chattha while addressing a workshop on “Climate Change: Emerging Issues, Adaptation Challenges and Recommendations for Leather Sector in Sialkot” held at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized by Sialkot Tannery Association and facilitated by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

He said the project of Sialkot Tannery Association in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will be a landmark achievement of public-private partnership in Pakistan. After completion this will significantly relieve the local population of the water contamination and other environmental issues as well as introduce further development of leather industry in Sialkot.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/10/25/537710/workshop-on-climate-change-held/>

CLIMATE CHANGE WOES: STORMY DAYS AHEAD FOR K-P FOOD SECURITY

By Wisal Yousafzai Published: October 25, 2019

PESHAWAR: The season for harvest has traditionally been associated with joy, but maize grower Saadullah Khan is not smiling this year.

“It is not only me,” explained the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa based farmer. “My relatives, other farmers in the area... all of us face the same problem,” he said. “There was a time our land would generate a huge surplus that we would sell in the open market, but this year, our product is just about enough for our families’ needs.”

So what exactly has got Saadullah and his fellow K-P farmers down in the dumps? According to experts, cultivators across the province are beginning to feel the adverse effects of environmental change triggered by human activities.

“Climate change is now posing a great threat to food security in K-P and the rest of the country,” said Dr Asif Khan, an associate professor at the Peshawar University Environment Department. “Due to an ever-increasing population, the demand for food is growing on one hand, but on the other, manmade changes to the environment are significantly impacting agriculture.”

Dr Muhammad Arif Khan, who teaches agronomy at the Agriculture University Peshawar, agreed. “This year, the agriculture sector could not receive an adequate water supply, but an ever-growing population and the resultant increase in urbanisation are severely impacting our agriculture industries and food security,” he told The Express Tribune.

“The threat climate change is posing to our food security is becoming very obvious,” warned Dr Asif. “For instance, take the changes in the duration of seasons. Along with changes in atmospheric conditions, they are already causing detriment to crops such as wheat and maize.”

“A prolonged summer delayed the sowing of wheat seeds. The crop, in its vegetative state, needs a substantial cold period so it can flower in spring. But because of the delay in sowing, this flowering stage has been put at risk,” he pointed out.

Meanwhile, high temperatures due to global warming have altered rain and precipitation patterns, and led to increased torrential downpour in one area and droughts in another, the Peshawar University professor said. “Change in precipitation has lowered the groundwater table in many areas, reducing the amount available for cultivation.”

He added that higher temperatures have also reduced the nutritional quality of seeds, leading to smaller grains and low overall yield. “Research in other parts of the world has shown that a 1°C increase in the mean ambient temperature has significantly reduced crop yield. It is anticipated due to global warming that by the end of the century the mean global temperature will increase to about 4°C and this will have devastating impacts on agriculture globally and locally,” Dr Asif warned.

Dr Arif of the Agriculture University Peshawar suggested that authorities and crop growers could look into using cultivable land in K-P that is not currently being used to reduce food security risks for the time being. “Of K-P’s total 2.96 million hectares of cultivable land, cultivation is taking place on only 1.8 million hectares. The remaining 1.16 million hectares could be used for farming with marginal investment,” he said. The professor warned, however, that the 930,000 hectares that depend on timely rains for water did expose a large rural population weather-triggered risks.

Wind erosion is posing another major problem for food growers in K-P and the rest of the country, according to environment expert Nadeem Shaukat who works Sustainable Land Management for Food Security.

“As a country that is 80 per cent arid or semi-arid, 200 million people depend on what is essentially dry land for livelihood,” he said. “Out of the total land of Pakistan which amounts to 79.6 million hectares, 62 million hectares are vulnerable to desertification. Waterlogging and salinity are impacting 11 million hectares while five million are degraded by wind erosion,” he pointed out. “Of the 52.2 million hectares classified as rangelands, 48 per cent have already been degraded.”

“Between three and five million hectares are affected by wind erosion in Pakistan while the amount of soil removed by wind constitutes 28 per cent of total soil loss,” Shaukat said. “Another 11 million hectares are affected by water erosion, according to the Global Assessment of Soil Degradation (GLASOD).”

He added that forest cover is shrinking by 3.1 per cent every year and the loss of soil fertility alone is costing Pakistan Rs70 billion annually. “As much as 40 million tonnes of soil are carried into the Indus Basin every year, shortening the lifespan of major reservoirs,” he told The Express Tribune.

The environment expert also highlighted a UNICEF survey that revealed 36.9 per cent of Pakistani households are already ‘food insecure’ while 18.3 per cent are facing ‘severe food insecurity’.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2086582/1-climate-change-woes-stormy-days-ahead-k-p-food-security/>

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL COST US EVEN MORE THAN WE THINK

By Naomi Oreskes and Nicholas Stern Oct. 25, 2019

For some time now it has been clear that the effects of climate change are appearing faster than scientists anticipated. Now it turns out that there is another form of underestimation as bad or worse than the scientific one: the underestimating by economists of the costs.

The result of this failure by economists is that world leaders understand neither the magnitude of the risks to lives and livelihoods, nor the urgency of action. How and why this has occurred is explained in a recent report by scientists and economists at the London School of Economics and Political Science, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

One reason is obvious: Since climate scientists have been underestimating the rate of climate change and the severity of its effects, then economists will necessarily underestimate their costs.

But it's worse than that. A set of assumptions and practices in economics has led economists both to underestimate the economic impact of many climate risks and to miss some of them entirely. That is a problem because, as the report notes, these "missing risks" could have "drastic and potentially catastrophic impacts on citizens, communities and companies."

One problem involves the nature of risk in a climate-altered world. Right now, carbon dioxide is at its highest concentration in the atmosphere in three million years (and still climbing). The last time levels were this high, the world was about five degrees Fahrenheit warmer and sea level 32 to 65 feet higher. Humans have no experience weathering sustained conditions of this type.

Typically, our estimates of the value or cost of something, whether it is a pair of shoes, a loaf of bread or the impact of a hurricane, are based on experience. Statisticians call this "stationarity." But when conditions change so much that experience is no longer a reliable guide to the future — when stationarity no longer applies — then estimates become more and more uncertain.

Hydrologists have recognized for some time that climate change has undermined stationarity in water management — indeed, they have declared that stationarity is dead. But economists have by and large not recognized that this applies to climate effects across the board. They approach climate damages as minor perturbations around an underlying path of economic growth, and take little account of the fundamental destruction that we might be facing because it is so outside humanity's experience.

A second difficulty involves parameters that scientists do not feel they can adequately quantify, like the value of biodiversity or the costs of ocean acidification. Research shows that when scientists lack good data for a variable, even if they know it to be salient, they are loath to assign a value out of a fear that they would be "making it up."

Therefore, in many cases, they simply omit it from the model, assessment or discussion. In economic assessments of climate change, some of the largest factors, like thresholds in the climate system, when a tiny change could tip the system catastrophically, and possible limits to the human capacity to adapt, are omitted for this reason. In effect, economists have assigned them a value of zero, when the risks are decidedly not. One example from the report: The melting of Himalayan glaciers and snow will both flood and profoundly affect the water supply of communities in which hundreds of millions of people live, yet this is absent from most economic assessments.

A third and terrifying problem involves cascading effects. One reason the harms of climate change are hard to fathom is that they will not occur in isolation, but will reinforce one another in damaging ways. In some cases, they may produce a sequence of serious, and perhaps irreversible, damage.

For example, a sudden rapid loss of Greenland or West Antarctic land ice could lead to much higher sea levels and storm surges, which would contaminate water supplies, destroy coastal cities, force out their residents, and cause turmoil and conflict.

Another example: increased heat decreases food production, which leads to widespread malnutrition, which diminishes the capacity of people to withstand heat and disease and makes it effectively impossible for them to adapt to climate change. Sustained extreme heat may also decrease industrial productivity, bringing about economic depressions.

In a worst-case scenario, climate impacts could set off a feedback loop in which climate change leads to economic losses, which lead to social and political disruption, which undermines both democracy and our capacity to prevent further climate damage. These sorts of cascading effects are rarely captured in economic models of climate impacts. And this set of known omissions does not, of course, include additional risks that we may have failed to have identified.

The urgency and potential irreversibility of climate effects mean we cannot wait for the results of research to deepen our understanding and reduce the uncertainty about these risks. This is particularly so because the study suggests that if we are missing something in our assessments, it is likely something that makes the problem worse.

This is yet another reason it's urgent to pursue a new, greener economic path for growth and development. If we do that, a happy ending is still possible. But if we wait to be more certain, the only certainty is that we will regret it.

Naomi Oreskes is a professor of the history of science at Harvard and the author, most recently, of "Why Trust Science?" Nicholas Stern is chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and the author of "Why Are We Waiting? The Logic, Urgency and Promise of Tackling Climate Change."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/23/opinion/climate-change-costs.html>

DONORS PLEDGE NEARLY \$10BN FOR UN CLIMATE FUND

October 26, 2019

PARIS: Developed countries on Friday pledged nearly \$10 billion for the UN's flagship climate change fund, offsetting the impact of US President Donald Trump's decision to quit the Paris Agreement against global warming. "I am very happy to announce that we have closed this conference with an envelope of \$9.8 billion," Odile Renaud-Basso, director of the French Treasury, told journalists after the latest financing round for the Green Climate Fund in Paris. It exceeded the \$9.3 billion pledged at the previous conference in 2014, of which only \$7.2 billion has come through so far. The United States had pledged \$3 billion but Trump's decision to quit the 2015 Paris accord meant just \$1 billion was actually paid. Opening the conference, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the new pledges were "ambitious, despite the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement." Several of the 27 donor countries doubled their pledges, including France, Germany and Britain as well as smaller economies like Sweden, New Zealand and Poland.

Japan, which again pledged \$1.5 billion, remains the largest single contributor with a total of \$3 billion since the fund's creation in 2010.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/10/26/18-page/807418-news.html>

*NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 28th TO NOV 03rd
2019*

EMERGENCY IN CALIFORNIA AS WILDFIRES RAGE OUT OF CONTROL

AFP Updated October 29, 2019

HEALDSBURG: Thousands of firefighters battled into the early hours on Monday, losing ground to the huge blaze burning through the famed Sonoma wine region in northern California.

California's governor declared a statewide emergency on Sunday as the wind-driven Kincade Fire spread to more than 34,000 acres (14,000 hectares), forcing residents to flee.

In Los Angeles, meanwhile the local fire department issued mandatory evacuation orders after a "very dynamic" brush fire broke out west of a major highway, US 405, near The Getty museum.

Refugees from the Kincade blaze, the largest of more than a dozen burning throughout the state, recalled hasty departures as they waited it out in the safety of a community center in Petaluma, California.

"The police came with loudspeakers. We weren't expecting it," said Kathy Amund-son, who had to get her 90-year-old mother Joy into a wheelchair and then into the car for the trip out. "We smelled smoke, we couldn't see it," she said. "Looks like our home is safe but the fear is wind blowing embers and then it starts new fires." Others were not so lucky. The fire has destroyed dozens of homes and vineyards, including the renowned 150-year-old Soda Rock Winery.

"We've seen the news. We are devastated," the owners said in a Facebook message, adding that all staff at the winery — located in the town of Healdsburg, 70 miles north of San Francisco — are safe.

At least two hospitals in Santa Rosa evacuated patients over the weekend to other facilities.

The Kincade Fire — the most devastating in California this year — ignited on Wednesday and spread quickly due to powerful gusts of up to 90 miles (145 kilometres) per hour. As of early on Monday, it was only five percent contained.

"Over 3,000 people are working on the fire as we speak, making sure the evacuation is going smoothly and people are taking it seriously," said state governor Gavin Newsom. An estimated 180,000 people were under mandatory evacuation orders, including in parts of Santa Rosa and a large swath of Sonoma County all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Nearly 80,000 structures are threatened, according to the county sheriff's office. And fire officials said they did not expect the fire to be contained before Nov 7.

Authorities said the area would remain under dangerous red flag conditions until Monday morning.

"Things will improve as we head into Monday and Tuesday but we need to be resilient," a spokesman for the National Weather Service told a news conference.

Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Essick told a news conference that hundreds of police officers backed by the National Guard had been deployed in regions under evacuation orders to check property and prevent looting. Several other fires have erupted throughout the state in the last week, fueled by high winds, bone-dry conditions and temperatures in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit (26-32 Celsius).

One major fire — the Tick Fire — in the southern part of the state, north of Los Angeles, also prompted evacuations and destroyed a number of homes near Santa Clarita. But on Sunday, most evacuation orders were lifted as some 1,000 firefighters worked to contain the fire that burned more than 4,500 acres.

In a bid to reduce the risk of fire, California's largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., said it expected to turn off power to nearly one million customers across northern and central California.

“Winds of this magnitude pose a higher risk of damage and sparks on the electric system and rapid wildfire spread,” the company said in a statement.

PG&E has come under intense scrutiny after it emerged that one of its transmission lines may have played a role in the Kincade Fire. The same type of line was responsible for California's deadliest-ever wildfire — last year's Camp Fire, which killed 86 people.

Published in Dawn, October 29th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1513553/emergency-in-california-as-wildfires-rage-out-of-control>

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE

By Editoria lPublished: October 30, 2019

It seems climate change has started to bite agriculture in Pakistan. In the coming harvesting season in Punjab, rice grain is feared to be shorter in size and their setting weak. So the yield is expected to be 20 to 35 per cent lower. The low yield of rice crop has been persisting for the past several years. This is an alarming situation considering the fact that rice exports earn \$2 to 2.5 billion in foreign exchange for the country. Likewise, cotton and maize yield has also been showing a declining trend in the recent past.

Representatives of farmers from Punjab say that this year their rice, cotton and maize crops have failed because of the unusually high temperatures and have demanded of the government to announce an incentives package to enable them to sow the next crops. They want monetary aid, special subsidy on fertiliser and seed, abiyana (water rate) waiver and loans on soft terms for the next crop. Farmers of south Punjab, especially cotton growers, suffered more than those from the rest of the country because of the unusual high temperatures and also due to the whitefly attack. They say the falling cotton yield would affect the textile industry also and thus reduce export earnings. The maize crop suffered grain loss due to the high temperatures. Some farmers sold them as green fodder to recover their losses partially. The farmer representatives say the poor maize crop would affect the poultry industry, which used corn as a major ingredient in animal feed.

The farmer representatives have urged the government to get a proper analysis of the climate change impact and share the results with farmers. They have also demanded a task force to assess the causes leading to lower cotton yield while insisting that the issues affecting farmers are important for the entire nation. It is farmers who feed people three times a day.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 30th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2089537/6-climate-change-agriculture/>

THIRD DEADLY QUAKE IN WEEKS HITS PHILIPPINES

By RECORDER REPORT on November 1, 2019

A powerful earthquake struck the southern Philippines on Thursday, killing at least five people and sparking searches of seriously damaged buildings that had already been rattled by two previous deadly tremors in recent weeks. The 6.5 magnitude quake hit the island of Mindanao, the US Geological Survey said, causing locals to run to safety in the same area where a strong tremor killed eight people on Tuesday.

The powerful shaking caused serious damage to a condominium building in the major southern city of Davao, about 45 kilometres (28 miles) from the epicentre. Nine people were hurt at the building, and rescuers believed at least one was trapped in the rubble, a local disaster official said. Five people were killed in nearby Cotabato province, including a local official who was crushed to death, a police officer said. A hotel partially collapsed in another area, but a disaster official said the building had already been evacuated.

Locals have been left terrified by a string of powerful quakes, and hundreds of aftershocks since the first powerful tremor struck on October 16. "I panicked and I rushed outside. I was afraid the building might collapse," said Beth Lancian, a restaurant cashier in Davao. "There's been an earthquake almost every week." President Rodrigo Duterte was in his hometown of Davao when the shaking began, but his spokesman said he was unharmed. Some 12,000 people were already in shelters on Mindanao island before Thursday's quake hit, the government said, either because their homes have been destroyed or they were too afraid to return to their residences.

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<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/11/01/540183/third-deadly-quake-in-weeks-hits-philippines/>

XI, MACRON UNITE ON CLIMATE AFTER US WITHDRAWS FROM PARIS PACT

AFP Updated November 07, 2019

BEIJING: Chinese leader Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macon declared on Wednesday that the Paris climate pact was "irreversible", showing a united front after Washington formally withdrew from the accord this week.

The joint declaration came at the end of Macron's second visit to China, which started on Monday in Shanghai and included talks on trade and the Iranian nuclear issue.

The French leader also said he told Xi there was a need for dialogue to resolve months of unrest in Hong Kong — ignoring Beijing's prior warning that such sensitive topics should not be on the agenda. But Xi and Macron found common ground on climate change.

Major powers expressed regret and concern after President Donald Trump went ahead with the pullout from the Paris accord despite mounting evidence of the reality and impact of climate change.

Washington presented its withdrawal letter to the United Nations on Monday, the first possible date under the accord negotiated by Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, making the world's largest economy the sole major outlier from the agreement.

In a joint written statement, Xi and Macron reaffirmed "their firm support for the Paris accord which they consider as an irreversible process and a compass for strong action on climate".

Without directly naming the US, Macron said he "deplores the choices made by others" as he sat next to Xi following the talks at the imposing Great Hall of the People in the Chinese capital. "But I want to look at them as marginal choices," Macron said.

With the European Union, China and Russia backing the pact, he added, "the isolated choice of one or another is not enough to change the course of the world. It only leads to marginalisation."

In his remarks, Xi took a veiled swipe at the United States, which launched a trade war with China last year and has angered Beijing on various diplomatic issues.

"We advocate for mutual respect and equal treatment, and are opposed to the law of the jungle and acts of intimidation," Xi said.

"We advocate for openness, inclusion and for mutually beneficial cooperation, and are opposed to protectionism and a zero-sum game." China's efforts against climate change are key as it is the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Xi also called on the international community to "jointly protect our homeland planet Earth", saying "we are against the attempt to place national interests above the common interests of humanity".

In a document titled the "Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change", the two leaders voiced their determination to improve international cooperation to "ensure a complete and efficient implementation of the Paris accord".

The document includes a commitment to restoring almost a third of degraded land as well as eliminating fossil fuel subsidies in the medium term.

After the meeting, Macron said at a news conference at the French embassy that he had raised the unrest in Hong Kong during his talks with Xi.

"I obviously conveyed our concerns, which are shared by Europe," Macron said, adding that he told Xi that there was a need for "de-escalation through dialogue." The international finance hub has been convulsed by five months of huge and increasingly violent protests calling for greater democratic freedoms.

A Chinese foreign ministry official had warned prior to Macron's visit that Hong Kong was a matter of China's internal affairs and should not be on the diplomatic agenda.

But it did not stop the two sides from striking deals, including an agreement to protect 200 European and Chinese agricultural products — whose names are tied to their regions — against counterfeiting, from Champagne to Feta cheese and Panjin rice.

The two sides also committed to signing by January 31 a contract for the construction of a nuclear fuel recycling plant in China, which would involve French energy giant Orano.

Published in Dawn, November 7th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1515412/xi-macron-unite-on-climate-after-us-withdraws-from-paris-pact>

CLIMATE CHANGE EXTENDS DENGUE SEASON

By AFP Published: November 7, 2019

ISLAMABAD: A record-breaking 44,000 people have been infected with mosquito-borne dengue in Pakistan this year, a senior health official said on Wednesday as increased outbreaks linked to rising temperatures and erratic rainfall ravage other parts of Asia.

Dr Rana Safdar, a senior official at the National Institute of Health (NIH), said the figure is a huge leap from the previous record of 27,000 infections in 2011.

Dr Safdar said that 69 people have been killed by the disease so far in Rawalpindi and Islamabad only this year, compared to 370 across the country in 2011.

He blamed climate change for the surge, but would not elaborate. The government was “employing all available resources at its disposal to contain the problem”, he said.

Physician Dr Mahseema Siddique, who treats dengue patients, blamed the government for the rise in cases, saying local authorities in Punjab and Islamabad in particular had failed to take precautions such as covering up water reservoirs or spraying anti-dengue chemicals.

“They woke up only after hundreds of people got infected and that was too late. There are a large number of areas where spray teams could not make it,” he said.

The highest number of patients was recorded in the capital Islamabad and neighbouring garrison city of Rawalpindi, where 12,433 people were found infected with the virus.

Dengue is transmitted mainly by the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, which thrives in densely-populated tropical climates and breeds in stagnant pools of water.

Mosquitoes pick up the virus from infected humans — even asymptomatic ones — and pass it along to other people through bites.

Infections have steadily climbed across the globe since the 1970s due to rising temperatures and irregular monsoon rains linked to climate change, which allow for ideal mosquito breeding conditions.

But this year outbreaks have rampaged through Southeast Asia in particular, infecting hundreds of thousands, killing hundreds, and crippling health care systems as governments struggle to contain the untreatable virus.

Dengue is mostly found in crowded areas, and breakneck urbanisation across the globe has helped the virus thrive. Dubbed “breakbone fever”, it inflicts sufferers with intense flu-like symptoms: severe headache, pain behind the eyes, full-body aches, high fever, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands or rash.

Published in The Express Tribune, November 7th, 2019.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2095045/1-climate-change-extends-dengue-season/>

November 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOV 04 TO 10, 2019

US FORMALLY STARTS PULLOUT FROM PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD

AFP November 06, 2019

WASHINGTON: The United States has formally notified the United Nations that it is withdrawing from the Paris climate accord, triggering expressions of concern and regret from other major powers on Tuesday.

President Donald Trump went ahead with the pullout despite mounting evidence of the reality and impact of climate change, with September the fourth month in a row with near- or record-breaking temperatures.

Washington presented its withdrawal letter to the UN on the first possible date under the accord negotiated by Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, making the world's largest economy the sole outlier from the agreement.

The US will be officially out on Nov 4, 2020, one day after the presidential election in which Trump is seeking a second term on appeals to the white working class.

Announcing the move, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated Trump's rationale in 2017 that the accord would disadvantage US businesses.

"It was America that would suffer the straitjacket," Pompeo told the Fox Business network. "It would be quintessentially unfair to the American people and to the American workers." Pompeo said in a statement that the United States would advocate a "realistic and pragmatic model" that included renewable energy but preserved a role for fossil fuels.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who unsuccessfully tried to persuade Trump to stay in the accord named for his nation's capital, lamented the decision.

"We regret this and it makes the Franco-Chinese partnership on climate and biodiversity even more necessary," the French presidency said as Macron visited China, the world's largest emitter of the greenhouse gases blamed for climate change.

Beijing also expressed "regret" over Washington's decision ahead of the planned signing Wednesday of a joint document on climate by President Xi Jinping and Macron.

"We hope the US can take more responsibility, and do more to contribute a driving force to the multilateral cooperation process, instead of adding negative energy," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

Russia warned that the US withdrawal seriously undermined the Paris accord.

"Without the largest economy in the world, it's very, very hard to talk about any kind of climate agreement," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The United States, the number-two emitter, is still planning to attend this month's COP climate negotiations in Spain, according to a State Department official.

Pompeo in his statement pointed to a 13 percent US reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 to 2017 even as the economy grew.

But Trump, who took office in 2017, has pledged to turn back environmental regulations as states such as California and New York try to take stronger action on their own.

Trump has sought to block California from setting tighter standards on car emissions and moved to let states set their own standards on existing coal-fired power plants.

Published in Dawn, November 6th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1515214/us-formally-starts-pullout-from-paris-climate-accord>

CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Editorial Updated November 08, 2019

PRIME MINISTER Imran Khan's consistent efforts to highlight climate change at national and international forums show that he realises the scope of the grave environmental dangers that Pakistan faces.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly in September, climate change topped the list of our four biggest challenges. More recently, Mr Khan, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the seventh IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum, pointed out the close link between climate-related challenges and socioeconomic goals. He stressed the need to pursue development policies geared towards environmental conservation, and said that mitigating the impact of climate change was crucial to achieving poverty- and development-related SDGs.

Mr Khan also referred — once again — to the billion trees that the PTI-led provincial government in KP claims it planted between 2014 and 2018.

There is no disagreement that the initiative was commendable, but it must be asked if the endeavour was enough to counter the overall effect of rapid deforestation, which at between 0.2pc and 0.5pc is said to be the highest in the world.

So, for all his earnestness to bring a subject close to his heart into the national discourse, how much has actually been achieved on the ground since the PTI came to power?

Unfortunately, the plans, though ambitious, are hardly well-thought-out. For instance, while a mass transit system is expected to reduce traffic congestion, and thus carbon emissions, the as yet incomplete Rs70bn BRT project in Peshawar has been roundly condemned for its poor execution.

Similarly, the cabinet's nod to another ambitious plan to convert at least 30pc of four- and three-wheelers into electric vehicles and 3,000 defunct CNG stations into charging stations — ostensibly to reduce air pollution and the fuel bill — is impractical in these days of a depressed economy.

How would these projects change the life of the millions of farmers, fishermen and villagers who bear the brunt of the devastation wrought by climate change when they lose their homes and livelihoods to extreme weather events?

The truth is that unless greater awareness is created among the majority of the people, even measures such as the ban on the manufacturing and sale of single-use plastic will receive a poor response.

Remedial steps by the government are required, and perhaps updating the country's National Climate Change Policy to include comprehensive short- and long-term targets, especially with regard to deforestation and environmental pollution, would be a sensible place to start. Such a step would require relentless campaigning by not just the top tier of the political leadership, but all levels of government.

Keeping in mind that Pakistan is among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change, the prime minister will have to put his words into action and tirelessly work on sustainable environmental and development reforms.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1515586>

CLIMATE CHANGE TO HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY: HARTMANN

By ZAHID BAIG on November 8, 2019

Pakistan is vulnerable to challenges such as rising temperatures, deforestation, land degradation and water scarcity in the next two decades, leading to an adverse impact on agriculture and food security in Pakistan.

"Pakistan is already among the 10 countries affected most by climate change according to the 2018 Global Climate Risk Index," said Jens Hartmann, Regional Head for Asia Pacific (APAC) for the Crop Science division of Bayer, while talking to Business Recorder during his recent visit to Pakistan.

He added, "the World Resources Institute reports that Pakistan is on track to become the most water-stressed country in the region by 2040 with lack of surface water availability for irrigation, industry and human consumption."

According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) the numbers of extreme climate-related disasters have more than doubled since the 1990s, with an average of 213 of these events occurring every year during the period of 1990-2016. As a result, agricultural productivity of major crops such as wheat, rice and maize has significantly decreased leading to food price hikes and income losses.

Hartmann said a third of arable land has been lost due to erosion or pollution in the past 40 years, while our production pattern continues to be too resource-intensive.

"Without plant science and technology, farmers would need an extra 376 million hectares to grow the same amount of food – let alone double production," said Hartmann.

"Since we cannot simply create more farmland at the expense of natural habitat, to grow enough food using less natural resources, we will need to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to agriculture," he added.

“In short, there is no silver bullet that can address all the challenges faced by farmers today. Therefore, an integrated approach to farming that combines a multitude of technologies and tools will be key towards maximizing productivity and ensuring food security for generations to come.”

“Faced with these challenges, we need to adopt a more sustainable approach to agriculture that protects and enhances the natural resource base, while increasing productivity,” said Hartmann.

He said that biotechnology was another tool that can benefit farmers by developing crops that are resistant to certain diseases, insects and adverse weather conditions.

“Due to its ‘scale-neutral’ nature, smallholders gain the same benefits from biotechnology as large corporate farmers, leading to better yields,” he added.

Smallholder farms operate on 12 percent of the world’s agricultural land and produce 80 percent of the food that is consumed in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and about 40 percent of all food consumed worldwide.

He said Bayer saw it as its responsibility to engage with smallholder farmers and support them to increase their yield and grow their business, while meeting the growing demand for food supply.

Hartmann shared that last year Bayer invested 2.3 billion euros in Crop Science R&D globally on a pro forma basis – more than any other company in the industry. And this figure is expected to rise to over 25 billion euros accumulated over the next 10 years.

“Bayer has made three commitments to be met by 2030 to address some of the most pressing challenges faced by the world today,” said Hartmann.

“First, reducing the environmental impact of crop protection by 30 percent through development of new technologies; second, reducing field greenhouse gases emissions from the most emitting crops systems by 30 percent in the regions Bayer serves; and third, empowering 100 million smallholder farmers in developing countries by providing more access to sustainable agricultural solutions,” he added.

“With our innovations in the area of seed and in chemical and biological crop protection solutions, we aim to help overcome food security and sustainable agriculture challenges targeted in SDG2. Furthermore, we offer farmers throughout the world tailored services to support them individually,” he added.

Hartmann went on to say that Bayer’s commitment to research and development allows the company to introduce the best germplasm available in Pakistan and that each year, Bayer tests hundreds of hybrids and selects the best amongst them for further trials, which can take up to five years.

“The success of Pakistan’s maize crop is an example of Bayer’s contribution to the development of Pakistan’s agriculture sector. We contributed to the significant growth of the maize crop by introducing high-yielding hybrid corn seeds,” he added.

“As a result, over 95 percent of the corn cropping area in Punjab is hybridized today, with yields more than tripling in the past 20 years and national production reaching an all-time high – from 1.5 million tons in 1997 to 5.7 million tons in 2017. This extraordinary growth has also benefitted Pakistan’s downstream industries, including the poultry industry, which accounts for over 70 percent of all maize grain produced and continues to grow at 10-12 percent per annum,” said Hartmann.

“Our high-quality seeds are optimized to thrive in the local agronomic conditions. Moreover, as one of the leading crop protection companies in Pakistan, we provide farmers with a range of solutions to increase productivity and tackle the emergent pest pressures. The added productivity continues to add to the rural economy and favourably impacts farmer livelihood,” he added.

“A range of programs have been developed to overcome the technological barriers and learning limitations through awareness and exposure. Farmer Expos and Learning Centres are organized to share knowledge with farmers on critical topics in a crop cycle (soil health, water management, crop protection etc.), introduce the latest technologies and promote their adoption,” said Hartmann.

In closing, Hartmann said Bayer intended to continue to make a difference in this sector by introducing high quality seeds, crop protection and latest technologies, and that it was the company's hope that by embracing those tools and solutions, Pakistan's agriculture sector would continue to develop and advance.

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<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/11/08/542601/climate-change-to-have-adverse-impact-on-agriculture-food-security-hartmann/>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOV 11 TO 17, 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE, CORRUPTION BLAMED FOR VENICE FLOOD DEVASTATION

AFP Updated November 14, 2019

VENICE: Much of Venice was underwater on Wednesday after the highest tide in 50 years ripped through the historic Italian city, beaching gondolas, trashing hotels and sending tourists fleeing through rapidly rising waters.

Officials blamed climate change while shopkeepers on the Grand Canal raged against those who have failed to protect the Unesco city from the high tide.

They said corruption had repeatedly delayed a barrier protection system which could have prevented the disaster.

“The city is on its knees,” Venice mayor Luigi Brugnaro said in an interview with national broadcaster RAI.

“There’s widespread devastation,” he said in the famed St. Mark’s Square, which bore the brunt of the flooding. “In all likelihood the damage from last night runs into hundreds of millions of euros (dollars)”.

1.87 metres of high tide comes close to 1966 record of 1.94 metres

Tourists lugging heavy suitcases waded in thigh-high galoshes or barefoot through the submerged alleys, as water taxi and gondola drivers baled sewage-tainted water out of their trashed vessels.

A 78-year old was killed by electric shock as the waters poured into his home.

“We ask the government to help us, the costs will be high,” Brugnaro tweeted. “These are the effects of climate change.” Environment Minister Sergio Costa blamed climate change and the “tropicalisation” of violent rainfall and strong winds.

“This is what is happening more and more often in the Mediterranean,” Costa said on Facebook, referring to “Global warming will destroy our planet if we do not immediately reverse the direction.” The exceptionally intense “acqua alta,” or high waters, peaked at 1.87 metres (six feet). Only once since records began in 1923 has the water crept even higher, reaching 1.94 metres in 1966.

“It was unbelievable, the water rose so quickly,” said resident Tiziano Collarin, 59, as he surveyed the damage.

“Windows were blown out, there are those who have lost everything,” he said as the flood alarm rang out to warn those in the canal city that the tide, which had receded somewhat overnight, was coming in once again.

The fire brigade said it had carried out over 400 operations as well as laying on extra boats as water ambulances.

Around 160 fire fighters were deployed to rescue people stranded on jetties and to recover boats broken free from their moorings.

President of the Veneto region Luca Zaia said 80 percent of the city had been submerged, causing “unimaginable damage”.

German tourist Gabi Brueckner, 58, said the nighttime drama had been “horrifying”.

She said she feared, like many people, that climate change “will get worse and at some point Venice will drown”.

A massive infrastructure project called MOSE has been underway since 2003 to protect the city, but it has been plagued by cost overruns, corruption scandals and delays.

The plan involves 78 gates that can be raised to protect Venice’s lagoon during high tides — but a recent attempt to test part of the barrier caused worrying vibrations and engineers discovered parts had rusted.

“They’ve done nothing, neglected it. It doesn’t work and they have stolen six billion euros. The politicians should all be put in jail,” said local Dino Perzolla, 62.

St. Mark’s Square in one of the lowest parts of the city was particularly affected, its vestibule inundated with water.

“It was apocalyptic, enough to give you goosebumps,” said Marina Vector, as she and her husband used buckets to scoop water out of their shop selling Venetian festival masks. “The storm was so bad it broke the marble flood barrier out front.

Tables and chairs set out for aperitifs bobbed outside bedraggled luxury hotels, where people of all ages seeking safety from the storm late Tuesday had been forced to climb in through windows after gangways washed away.

Published in Dawn, November 14th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1516603/climate-change-corruption-blamed-for-venice-flood-devastation>

SCHOOLS ACROSS ISLAMABAD TO TEACH CLIMATE CHANGE

By Hafeez Tunio Published: November 14, 2019

KARACHI: The truth of the climate emergency announces itself regularly all over the world, making it impossible for both developed and developing nations to deny that the world faces an environmental catastrophe.

To deal with future environmental challenges, Pakistan, today, becomes the second nation, after Italy, to introduce climate change education to its curriculum.

In collaboration with the climate ministry and Wateraid, a non-governmental organization, the Federal Directorate of Education plans to expose students at more than 400 schools across the capital to climate change and other environmental issues.

“We need to bring about change in human behaviour, and we believe that the best place to start is our schools,” said Mohammad Saleem, the spokesperson for the federal climate change department. “This is part of the Clean Green Pakistan Movement launched by the prime minister last year,” Saleem added.

Under the new programme, students at government schools across the federal capital will receive training on issues related to climate change, environment, clean water, good sanitation, and proper hygiene.

“It is essential for our children to learn about the impact of climate change and water scarcity,” said Nadeem Ahmed, manager advocacy at WaterAid Pakistan. “It is the right of every child to live a healthy life in a clean environment,” Ahmed said. “We must educate our children about it,” he added.

Under the Clean Green School Programme, more than 0.1 million students will receive training on climate issues. While Pakistan contributes less than 1 per cent of the world’s greenhouse gases blamed for causing global warming, its population is among the world’s most vulnerable victims of the growing consequences of climate change.

Each year, the country faces rising temperatures, droughts, and flooding that threaten health, agriculture, and water supplies.

According to the 2018 Global Climate Risk Index released by the public policy group Germanwatch, Pakistan is among 10 countries affected most by climate change.

“We plan to carry out different exercises and trainings at both primary and secondary schools in the capital city about climate change,” said an official at the climate ministry.

“The government will replicate this across the country in the next phase,” he added.

Soon after taking office, Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke extensively about his plans to protect the environment.

He launched the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project, an initiative aimed at improving environmental awareness. Since then, the premier has used every opportunity to encourage the nation to plant more trees to reverse the devastating effects of deforestation.

According to officials, this is the first climate-focused programme for students at primary and secondary schools in a developing country. The project introduces a comprehensive activity-based and child-friendly syllabus on climate and environmental education.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2099275/1-schools-across-islamabad-teach-climate-change/>

CLIMATE CHANGE POSES ‘LIFELONG’ CHILD HEALTH RISK

AFP November 15, 2019

PARIS: Climate change will damage the health of an entire generation unless there are immediate cuts to fossil fuel emissions, from a rise in deadly infectious diseases to surging malnutrition, experts warned on Thursday.

Children across the world were already suffering the ill effects of air pollution and extreme weather events, said.

The Lancet Countdown in its annual report on the impact of climate change on human health.

And far worse is to come for future generations, it warned: air-borne diseases, malnutrition due to mass crop failures, and even mental and physical trauma from increased flash flooding and wildfires.

The Lancet Countdown is a coalition of 35 institutions including the World Health Organisation and the World Bank.

“A kid born today has an average global life expectancy of 71 years so that brings them to 2090. That means that kid will experience a 4C world,” said Nick Watts, executive director of The Lancet Countdown.

The report, compiled by 120 experts, used the latest available data and climate modelling to predict global health trends as the mercury climbs throughout the decades.

In parts of the world already, the health effects from climate change start in the first weeks of a baby’s life.

In the last 30 years, the global yield potential of staple crops such as maize, winter wheat and rice, have all declined, putting infants and small children at heightened risk of malnutrition.

Infant malnutrition impacts every stage of a child’s life, stunting growth, weakening the immune system and throwing up long-term developmental problems.

More children will also be susceptible to infectious disease outbreaks.

In three just three decades, the number of days worldwide of prime infectiousness for the Vibrio bacteria — which causes much of child diarrhoeal disease worldwide — has doubled.

This not only increases the likelihood of children contracting diseases such as cholera in at-risk regions, it also enlarges their spread.

Extreme weather events are likely to proliferate as temperatures climb, posing increasingly frequent economic disruption. For example, in 2018, 45 billion hours of work were lost due to extreme heat globally compared with 2000.

“Climate change is not about 2100, climate change is about Wednesday, November 13, 2019,” said Watts, speaking on the day.

“Populations around the world are migrating, growing and ageing in the areas that are worst affected by climate change.”

The study found that last year an additional 220 million over-65s were exposed to extreme heat, compared with the historical average.

Published in Dawn, November 15th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1516854>

BUSHFIRES DEVASTATE ONE MILLION HECTARES OF LAND IN AUSTRALIA

AFP Updated November 15, 2019

BURRELL CREEK: The death toll from devastating bushfires in eastern Australia has risen to four after a man’s body was discovered in a scorched area of bushland, police said on Thursday.

Three others have perished in bushfires in New South Wales, the state worst affected by a series of catastrophic fires that broke out along the eastern seaboard late last week.

Residents found the body — believed to be a 58-year-old man last seen on Friday — near the New South Wales town of Kempsey, one of several areas hit by the fires in recent days.

More than 100 blazes were burning on Thursday but a respite from tough conditions has seen the danger from many fires downgraded and residents returning to sift through the remains of their homes.

Hundreds of houses have already been damaged or destroyed and more than one million hectares (2.5 million acres) of land burnt in the blazes.

Challenging conditions were expected to flare again in Queensland and New South Wales at the weekend as the temperature rises and winds pick up, and many blazes are still proving difficult to contain.

In Burrell Creek, dozens of firefighters were preparing to battle an out-of-control bushfire that has so far engulfed 24,000 hectares from the coastal town of Old Bar inland to Hillville in northern New South Wales.

Native wildlife has also been badly hit by the bushfires, with conservationists estimating that hundreds of koalas have perished.

As many as 350 koalas died in a single nature reserve near Port Macquarie alone, raising fears for the future of the creature in the area.

Nick Boyle, of Taronga Conservation Society, said “our hearts are breaking” not only for the victims but also for the “defenceless wildlife” that had been killed by the state’s “earliest and worst” bushfire season.

“Pressures on the koala were already compounding,” he said, citing habitat loss and non-native predators. “And now this.”

Bushfire-prone Australia is experiencing a horrific start to its fire season, which scientists say is being exacerbated by climate change.

The Bureau of Meteorology says human-caused climate change is increasing the “frequency and severity” of dangerous bushfire conditions by raising temperatures, sapping moisture from the environment and causing an earlier and more extreme fire season.

The bushfires have created mounting pressure on the conservative government to curb fossil fuels and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Australia’s leaders, ever-conscious of the country’s economic reliance on mining exports, have been steadfastly ignoring those calls.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1516852>

KARACHI AMONG CITIES ‘MOST VULNERABLE’ TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Shazia Hasan November 16, 2019

KARACHI: Experts at a seminar have observed that Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate crisis even though it makes a negligible contribution to global greenhouse emissions.

They said that the impacts were already visible in low-lying areas south of Karachi and in the Indus River delta. There is evidence that structural inequalities are further exacerbating the impact of the climate crisis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.

These views were expressed at the seminar on climate crisis and security aspects in Pakistan organised by the Karachi Urban Lab at the Institute of Business Administration’s main campus on Friday.

In her presentation, KUL’s director Dr Nausheen H. Anwar spoke about multiple populations already vulnerable to different types of risks such as water deprivation in low-income neighbourhoods and its inaccessibility in rural and coastal regions triggering migration towards towns and cities. “Because of this there is increased pressure on cities like Karachi and even small towns like Mansehra,” she said.

The long-term Climate Risk Index ranks Pakistan the eighth most affected country during last 20 years

She also said that climate crisis programmes must take into consideration violence-related risks. She said that the biggest challenge wasn't just the weather but infrastructure and urban violence.

Farhan Anwar, an academic and executive member of NGO Shehri-CBE, in his presentation pointed out that Pakistan's per capita emissions of greenhouse gasses today was one of the lowest in the world and yet it ranked among the top 10 countries most affected by climate change during the last 20 years.

"The long-term Climate Risk Index places Pakistan at eighth among the top 10 countries most affected from 1998 to 2017. You still get the impact for which you need to be prepared and build resistance," he said.

He mentioned flooding, drought, extreme heat, rise in sea level as some of the major climate change scenarios. He also said that coastal cities such as Karachi were the most vulnerable to these.

"In a rapidly warming world, extreme storms that typically occur once per century could hit the world's coastal cities at least once per year by 2050. By that time more than one billion people are projected to live in the low-lying areas that will be in the path of these storms. Karachi is 136th out of 140 cities in the context of vulnerability and liveability as 50 per cent of the city's population is living in informal and squatter settlements," he said.

"Meanwhile, the emergency response system in Karachi is very poor. The city is ill-prepared to deal with any natural disaster or calamity as most institutions here in a fragmented government are bankrupt as the city expands without a plan," he added.

Mr Anwar also said that Pakistan was yet to implement its climate change policy, which he said was really a non-starter.

The two presentations were followed by a panel discussion, moderated by journalist and geographer Afia Salam, which looked at the current state of affairs of international negotiations on climate crisis and regional priorities regarding climate-related challenges in terms of development, urbanisation, security and foreign policy, as well as political solutions or initiatives at the national and regional levels.

Adrien Detges, project manager and analyst with Adelphi in Berlin, said that a lot of development and security was connected to climate change.

"We call the concept 'compound security risk'," he said. "So if there is a drought somewhere it is not isolated. Only the place where food grows is not affected, the countries which import the food will also be affected. That's why in the European Union we realise the importance of working together and increasing awareness among people, especially the decision makers," he added.

Bastien Alex, research fellow, IRIS/French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs, Paris, said that the military was usually the last resource in disaster management. They are not interested in climate change but if shown that their key installations are also at risk due to it they will then look at the issue as a matter of national security.

Dr Anwar said that she tried to raise awareness about climate change by talking about it with her students. She also said that it was important that the local government was connected with educational and research institutions but she had seen a great hesitation from the people in the local government to engage in dialogue with them.

“So we are always running into a brick wall,” she said. “Still we hold such dialogues for collective awareness and to start a national conversation on the issue,” she said.

Earlier, Christine Rosenberger from the press and cultural section of the German Embassy spoke about the ‘Open Doors’ initiative, a joint lecture series organised by the German and French embassies.

Published in Dawn, November 16th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1516940>

PRESIDENT ALVI URGES WORLD TO TAKE GLOBAL WARMING SERIOUSLY

APP November 16, 2019

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that global warming will become a major issue in future for the world. He expressed his dismay over the lukewarm attitude of world leaders towards redressing it.

Addressing the three-day international conference on ‘Green sustainable architecture’ at Heritage Foundation’s zero-carbon-3 (ZC-3) cultural centre in Makli on Friday, the president said that Pakistan had a rich cultural heritage to showcase to the world. He noted that the ZC3 centre would not only help preserve cultural heritage, but would also produce greenhouse gases-free architecture.

Dr Alvi said that the conference was aimed at focusing on the measures to save cultural heritage from climate change impact, for which effective measures were being taken.

He observed that global warming was affecting the entire world and Pakistan’s initiative of ‘Green and Clean Pakistan’ was one of the steps towards coping with the situation.

He stressed that measures at international level were needed to be taken to counter the challenges emerging from global warming, which was affecting various sectors, including tourism.

The president also observed that world’s big powers appeared not serious enough in addressing the global warming issue. He said it was a matter of great concern that climate change posed threat to all living things on the earth and was also creating water crisis and other issues.

President Alvi examined the carbon-free handmade items produced by the local community of Makli. He was told that the Heritage Foundation provided training to the unskilled community members to build houses, stoves and many other articles using bamboo, lime and mud.

The president also inaugurated a training and resource centre of the International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture & Urbanism in Makli.

Published in Dawn, November 16th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1516933/president-alvi-urges-world-to-take-global-warming-seriously>

CLIMATE PROTESTERS BLOCK GENEVA’S PRIVATE JET TERMINAL

November 17, 2019

GENEVA: Dozens of climate activists blocked access to the private jet terminal at Geneva airport Saturday, demanding a halt to the “absurd” mode of luxury transportation.

Around 100 people took part, organised by pressure group Extinction Rebellion, large groups sitting in front of three entrances to block access to the building for several hours.

Extinction Rebellion describes itself as an international movement using non-violent civil disobedience “to achieve radical change in order to minimise the risk of human extinction and ecological collapse”.

As musicians played, protesters wearing armbands with the Extinction Rebellion logo sang songs and danced around with white, cloud-shaped placards and banners with slogans like “Be part of the solution, not pollution”.

“We are facing a total climate emergency,” Extinction Rebellion spokesman Micael Metry told AFP.

“Private jets emit 20 times more CO2 per passenger than normal airplanes,” he said.

“It is very important for us to denounce this completely absurd and unjust means of transportation, which is used by a tiny fraction of the population.”

Sonia Ediger, who said she had come from Lausanne to take part in the protest, called on the “powerful people of the world” who fly private jets “to come down out of the clouds”.

“We are seeing the world collapse around us, we see catastrophe after catastrophe, ever bigger, ever more frequent, all around us,” she told AFP, insisting that “radical change” was needed.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/11/17/5-page/810642-news.html>

VENICE BRACED FOR MORE FLOODING, STRONG WINDS

HomeToday's PaperWorld November 17, 2019

VENICE: Venice was on alert for more floods and fierce winds on Saturday after an exceptionally high tide swamped the city of canals, where authorities have declared a state of emergency.

Mayor Luigi Brugnaro ordered the iconic St Mark's Square closed on Friday as the latest sea surge struck with strong storms and winds battering the region.

The square was open again on Saturday, but the city forecast a high water of 160 centimetres (over five feet) for Sunday, lower than Tuesday's high of 187 centimetres but still dangerous.

Civil protection authorities downgraded a weather "red alert" for the Venice region to orange, with Saturday's midday high forecast to be a manageable 105 centimetres.

Churches, shops and homes in the city, a Unesco World Heritage site, have been inundated by unusually intense "acqua alta", or high water, which on Tuesday hit its highest level in half a century.

"We've destroyed Venice, we're talking about one billion (euros) in damage and that's just from the other day, not today," Brugnaro said. The crisis has prompted the government to release 20 million euros (\$22 million) in funds to tackle the devastation.

Surveying the damage, Culture Minister Dario Franceschini warned the task of repairing the city would be huge. More than 50 churches had suffered damage, he said.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte declared a state of emergency for the city on Thursday.

Residents whose houses have been hit are eligible for up to 5,000 euros in immediate government aid, while restaurant and shop owners can receive up to 20,000 euros and apply for more later.

Mayor Brugnaro on Friday also announced the opening of a fund where people in Italy and around the world could contribute to the historic city's repair.

One tourist, Italian Nicole Righetti, said she would be willing to pitch in.

"It would be a shame to no longer be able to see these places, and I think everyone should give," Righetti said.

Most of the city's cash machines were no longer working because of the water, making life even more difficult for tourists and Venetians.

Despite being used to the inconvenience of their city's rising waters, some inhabitants expressed frustration.

"All the stock in the basement is lost," lamented Luciano, a worker at a shop along St. Mark's Square.

He said he remembered well the infamous "acqua alta" of 1966, when the water rose to a level of 1.94 metres, the highest since records began in 1923.

"These so frequent high waters have never happened before... this time there's so much more damage than in the past," he said.

Hotels reported cancelled reservations, some as far ahead as December, following the widespread diffusion of images of Venice underwater.

Tuesday's high waters submerged around 80 percent of the city, officials said.

Many, including Venice's mayor, have blamed the disaster on global warming and warned that the country prone to natural disasters must wake up to the risks posed by ever more volatile seasons.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/570128-venice-braced-for-more-flooding-strong-winds>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOV 18 TO 24, 2019

CHINA ADDS COAL POWER DESPITE CLIMATE PLEDGE

November 21, 2019

BEIJING: China plans to add new coal power plants equivalent to all of the EU's current generating capacity, putting the world's biggest emitter out of sync with its commitments to combat climate change, researchers said Wednesday.

China built enough new plants between January 2018 and June 2019 — nearly 43 gigawatts worth of capacity — to cancel out the decrease in the rest of the world, said the US-based Global Energy Monitor.

Researchers warned that an increase in China's coal power capacity was incompatible with keeping global warming "well below" 2 degrees celsius, a key commitment of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change which China is a party to.

Another 147.7 gigawatts of coal plants in the country are currently under construction or likely to be reopened, nearly as many as the entire European Union's 150 gigawatts of existing capacity, the report said.

The plants would take China's total coal power plant capacity to 1174.7 gigawatts.

The report attributed China's coal expansion to a two year period in which provincial governments rapidly approved projects as part of an effort to boost regional growth.

An ongoing economic slowdown could further weaken China's resolve to switch to renewables despite the central government's calls in recent years to slow the development of coal plants.

"There is a risk that Chinese leaders will feel the need to continue supporting coal-intensive industries and make climate concerns second to continued economic growth," Christine Shearer, a director at Global Energy Monitor, told AFP.

China's efforts against climate change are key as it is the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

The International Energy Agency said last week that current energy policies around the world could result in a situation where "hundreds of millions of people still go without access to electricity... and where CO2 emissions would lock in severe impacts from climate change."

Within China, continued expansion of coal capacity could cause a "further worsening of the coal power overcapacity problem in China, and financial distress for power companies," Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, told AFP.

"This will complicate China's transition to clean energy by creating an incentive for the power industry to slow down expansion of clean energy and saddling the industry with debt at a time when they should be investing in an energy transition," Myllyvirta said.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/11/21/10-page/811280-news.html>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOV 25 TO DEC 01, 2019

GREENHOUSE GASES ACCELERATED TO NEW PEAK LAST YEAR, SAYS UN

Reuters Updated November 26, 2019

GENEVA: Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere hit a new record in 2018, exceeding the average yearly increase of the last decade and reinforcing increasingly damaging weather patterns, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Monday.

The UN agency's Greenhouse Gas Bulletin is one of a series of studies to be published ahead of a UN climate change summit being held in Madrid next week, and is expected to guide discussions there. It measures the atmospheric concentration of the gases responsible for global warming, rather than emissions.

“There is no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline, in greenhouse gases’ concentration in the atmosphere — despite all the commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change,” said WMO Secretary General Petteri Taalas.

“This continuing long-term trend means that future generations will be confronted with increasingly severe impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, more extreme weather, water stress, sea level rise and disruption to marine and land ecosystems,” said a summary of the report.

The concentration of carbon dioxide, a product of burning fossil fuels that is the biggest contributor to global warming, surged from 405.5 parts per million in 2017 to 407.8 ppm in 2018, exceeding the average annual increase of 2.06 ppm in 2005-2015, the WMO report said.

Irrespective of future policy, carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for centuries, locking in warming trends.

“It is worth recalling that the last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO₂ was 3-5 million years ago,” Taalas said.

The annual increase in methane — a greenhouse gas that is more potent than CO₂ but dissipates faster - was the highest since 1998, said the report, which includes data from dozens of sites as well as naval and aerial measurements.

For nitrous oxide, which helps to erode the atmosphere’s ozone layer and expose humans to harmful ultraviolet rays, it was the biggest increase ever recorded.

Asked about the Madrid talks, which begin on Dec 2, Taalas said there were some grounds for optimism.

“What is good news is the visibility of these issues is higher than ever,” he told journalists. “So, personally, I’m more hopeful than I used to be 10 years ago, but of course we have to speed up the process.” The UN Environment Programme’s (UNEP) annual “emissions gap” report, due on Tuesday, assesses whether countries emissions reduction policies are enough to meet agreed targets of limiting global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius (2.7 to 3.6 Fahrenheit).

Last week, a report co-authored by UNEP showed that major fossil fuel producers are set to bust global environmental goals with their coal, oil and gas extraction in the next decade.

Later on Monday, a majority of European Union lawmakers were hoping to symbolically declare a “climate emergency” during a debate on the Madrid conference, to increase pressure on the incoming EU executive to take a stronger leading role in the fight against climate change.

Published in Dawn, November 26th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1518863/greenhouse-gases-accelerated-to-new-peak-last-year-says-un>

EU LEGISTORS TO DECLARE 'CLIMATE EMERGENCY'

November 26,2019

BRUSSELS. A Majority of European Union lawmakers were hoping to symbolically declare a “climate emergency” on Monday, a week before a UN climate conference in Madrid.

Members of the European Parliament said the declaration would increase pressure on the incoming EU executive, expected to start work on Dec 1, to take a stronger leading role in the global fight against climate change.

“The EU must act together and lead by example in international climate negotiations through concrete actions and measures,” the centre-left Socialists and Democrats (S&D) said in a statement on Monday.

They planned to pass the declaration during a debate on the UN’s COP25 climate summit, which opens on Dec 2 in Madrid.

Other political groups supporting the S&D’s proposal included the Greens, the centrist Renew and the left-wing GUE, and it was expected to pass with support from independent lawmakers.

https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENL_ID=11201911260193&EN_ID=11201911260058&EMID=11201911260030

EU PARLIAMENT DECLARES ‘CLIMATE EMERGENCY’ AHEAD OF SUMMIT

AFP November 29, 2019

STRASBOURG: The European Parliament voted on Thursday to declare a “climate and environment emergency” in a symbolic gesture just ahead of the latest UN global crisis summit.

The legislature, sitting in Strasbourg, backed the motion by a comfortable 429 to 225 majority, increasing pressure on EU capitals and the European Commission to take more drastic action.

The motion urges the commission “to ensure that all relevant legislative and budgetary proposals are fully aligned with the objective of limiting global warming to under 1.5 degrees C (35.7 degrees Fahrenheit)”.

“Given the climate and environmental emergency, it is essential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent in 2030,” said Pascal Canfin, the MEP who heads the environment committee.

Among the dissenters were some members of the right-wing European People’s Party, the largest group in the parliament. “There is an urgency to act, but no state of emergency to declare,” said EPP deputy Peter Liese, warning against giving an impression of “panic”.

The vote came a day after the same parliament voted to endorse a new European Commission that plans a “European green deal” to transform the bloc’s economy for a low-carbon future. The motion does not legally oblige Brussels to take any specific measures, but environmental groups seized on it to demand practical action. “Declaring an emergency is important, but any such statement needs to be followed by emergency action,” said Wendel Trio, director of the Climate Action Network Europe.

“To act at the scale of the climate emergency, the parliament needs to push for real, immediate action,” he said. “The EU needs to increase the climate target to at least 65 per cent emission cuts, and adopt policies and measures that can reduce emissions immediately.”

The 12-day COP25 UN climate summit will take place in Spain from Monday, with the aim of encouraging governments to increase their commitments to cut emissions and combat climate change.

On Sunday, the new president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will take office promising to boost investment in green technology. But many Green MEPs abstained in the vote to approve her Commission, expressing scepticism the plan would go far enough.

Published in Dawn, November 29th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1519492>

CAMPAIGNERS OCCUPY GERMAN COAL MINES IN CLIMATE PROTEST

AFPU pdated December 01, 2019

SPREMBERG: Thousands of activists on Saturday occupied several opencast coal mines in eastern Germany, seeking to put pressure on the government to phase out the fossil fuel — a divisive issue in the country's rust belt.

Wearing masks and dressed in white, hundreds of campaigners stormed into the Jaenschwalde Ost mine while another 450 sat down on a railroad connected to the site. Similar action hit the Welzow-Sued mine, also in the Lausitz basin.

Meanwhile, MIBRAG which operates another mine — the Vereinigtes Schleenhain site — south of Leipzig said about 1,200 protesters blocked a coal-excavator, forcing the group to halt operations. "We have nothing against peaceful protests and the exercise of democratic rights, but we reject all forms of breach of laws and violence," MIBRAG chairman Armin Eichholz said in a statement.

Both MIBRAG and Czech-controlled LEAG which operates the two Lausitz mines said they were filing legal action against the protesters.

Police were able to clear the mines only after several hours.

In these mining regions, thousands of jobs depend on coal. But some residents are also threatened with the loss of their homes over a planned expansion of mining.

Underlining the division over the coal industry, dozens of pro-coal militants also gathered in the Lausitz basin. "Ende Gelaende wants to destroy our infrastructures, it's not the right way to do it ... we need coal in the region," Thomas Hauke, 62, said, referring to the anti-coal group organising the protest.

All three mines hit on Saturday produce lignite, a low-grade type of brown coal that is considered the most harmful to human health and the environment.

Calling Saturday's coordinated action a success, a spokeswoman Ende Gelaende (Game Over) said around 4,000 turned up for the blockades and related protests.

"Despite all the nice speeches and promises, 2019 was another lost year for the climate," said Nike Malhaus.

It marks the second time this year that Ende Gelaende has occupied a coal mine. In June, several hundred climate activists carrying sleeping bags blocked the vast Garzweiler lignite mine near Cologne for several days.

Campaigners say the government's plans to phase out coal by 2038 announced this year do not go far enough.

They want that date brought forward for Germany to meet its international commitments to slash carbon pollution.

The mining industry in the Lausitz basin, which stretches all the way into Poland, is vital to the local economy.

LEAG is one of the region's largest employers with 8,000 workers.

Opposition to the government's plans to shut down coal mines was seen as a factor behind a surge for the far-right AfD party in regional elections in September.

The AfD is now second after the centre-left Social Democrats in the Brandenburg region where the Lausitz mines are located.

Germany's decision in 2011 to abandon nuclear power following the Fukushima disaster in Japan has made the country more dependent on coal as renewables struggle to fill the gap.

Published in Dawn, December 1st, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1519803/campaigners-occupy-german-coal-mines-in-climate-protest>

December 2019

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 02 TO 08, 2019

'POINT OF NO RETURN' ON CLIMATE CRISIS NEAR: UN CHIEF

AFP Updated December 02, 2019

MADRID: The devastating impacts of global warming that threaten humanity are a pushback from Nature under assault, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned on Sunday ahead of a key climate conference.

"For many decades the human species has been at war with the planet, and now the planet is fighting back," he said, decrying "utterly inadequate" efforts of the world's major economies to curb carbon pollution.

"We are confronted with a global climate crisis and the point of no return is no longer over the horizon, it is in sight and hurtling towards us."

Guterres flagged a UN report to be released on Tuesday confirming the last five years are the warmest on record, with 2019 likely to be the second hottest ever.

“Climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent, more deadly, more destructive,” he said on the eve of the 196-nation COP25 climate change talks in Madrid.

Human health and food security are at risk, he added, noting that air pollution associated with climate change accounts for seven million premature deaths every year.

The Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming at under two degrees Celsius, but recent science has made clear that the treaty’s aspiration goal of 1.5C is a far safer threshold.

But Guterres insisted that the 1.5C goal is doable. All that is missing, he said, is political will.

“Let’s be clear — up to now, our efforts to reach this target have been utterly inadequate,” he said. “The world’s largest emitters are not pulling their weight.”

Current national pledges — if carried out — would see global temperatures rise by at least 3C, a recipe for human misery, according to scientists.

The UN chief’s comments were clearly aimed at the handful of countries responsible for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions, though he did not call them out by name.

President Donald Trump has set in motion the process that will see the United States withdraw from the Paris deal by year’s end.

At the same time, a US Congressional delegation going to Madrid will be headed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, listed by the Spanish government among heads of state and VIPs.

Other major emitters — China, India, Russia and Brazil — have given scant indication that they will deepen their commitments in the near term.

Guterres did single out the European Union as playing a constructive role. “Europe has an absolutely essential role to play, and must be a cornerstone in the global negotiations leading to carbon neutrality,” he said.

Published in Dawn, December 2nd, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1520024/point-of-no-return-on-climate-crisis-near-un-chief>

KP GROWERS DEMAND RAISE IN SUGARCANE’S SUPPORT PRICE

By RECORDER REPORT on December 4, 2019

Sugarcane growers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa demanded of the government to increase support price of sugarcane as well as take other necessary steps for resolving grievance of cane growers in the country.

Khan Faraz a sugarcane grower from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that sugarcane is an important cash crop of the country. It is grown on a large area of the country. A number of sugar mills (about 90) have been established for manufacture of sugar from sugarcane grown in the country. Some portion of the crop is used for the production of “Gur” (Jaggery), especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan is the world fifth largest producer and 8th largest consumer of sugar. The sugar industry is the second largest agriculture based industry after textile, he added, says a press release.

Khan Faraz further said sugarcane is a long duration crop as compared to other cash crops grown in the country. It requires great skill and huge investment in the form of inputs on part of the farmers to grow this labour-intensive and cost-oriented crop. The farmers are faced with a host of problems in the form of increase in cost of inputs, high labour rates, water charges, etc. However, at the end of the day, the farmers are at the mercy of the sugar mills and are unable to get even cost of production of the crop and to have both ends meet.

He said sugarcane farmers' concerns are largely neglected and growers are squeezed in market place. Also, farmers are demanding a solution to three serious concerns; commencement of sugarcane crushing, minimum support price and timely payment of outstanding dues. The growers who provide raw material to the second largest industry have to fight to sell their crop as seen in the delay in crushing season. The minimum support price of sugarcane has remained a point of contention between the sugar mills and the farmers for years. The resultant sugar shortage due to confrontation between sugar mills and the farmers had badly affected the consumers and the industry.-PR

Copyright Business Recorder, 2019

<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/12/04/550170/kp-growers-demand-raise-in-sugarcanes-support-price/>

2010S HOTTEST DECADE IN HISTORY, UN SAYS AS EMISSIONS RISE AGAIN

December 04, 2019

MADRID: This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said Tuesday in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to adapt to it.

The World Meteorological Organization said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius (two degrees Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average between 1850-1900.

That puts 2019 on course to be in the top three warmest years ever recorded, and possibly the hottest non-El Nino year yet.

Man-made emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure, growing crops and transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations, locking in further warming, the WMO said.

Oceans, which absorb 90 percent of the excess heat produced by greenhouse gases, are now at their highest recorded temperatures.

The world's seas are now a quarter more acidic than 150 years ago, threatening vital marine ecosystems upon which billions of people rely for food and jobs.

In October, the global mean sea level reached its highest on record, fuelled by the 329 billion tonnes of ice lost from the Greenland ice sheet in 12 months.

Each of the last four decades has been hotter than the last.

And far from climate change being a phenomenon for future generations to confront, the effects of humanity's insatiable, growth-at-any cost consumption means millions are already counting the damage.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/12/04/20-page/813558-news.html>

PAKISTAN RANKS FIFTH ON GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK INDEX

Monitoring Desk December 05, 2019

KARACHI: The Global Climate Risk Index's latest report has placed Pakistan on the fifth spot on the list of countries, which remained most affected by climate change during the past two decades.

According to the Global Climate Risk Index annual report for 2020, which was released by think tank Germanwatch on Wednesday, Pakistan lost 9,989 lives, suffered economic losses worth \$3.8 billion and witnessed 152 extreme weather events from 1999 to 2018.

Based on this data, the think tank concluded that Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is increasing.

The data also indicates that the government, as well as the world, are not taking enough measures to cope with the challenges and risks that climate change poses to Pakistan, experts say, according to a report on Dawn.com.

PM's aide says country's economy is constantly at risk from climate catastrophes

The report mentioned Pakistan among the countries that were "recurrently affected by catastrophes [and] continuously rank among the most affected countries both in the long-term index and in the index for the respective year".

The 10 countries most affected by climate change mentioned in the list are: Puerto Rico, Myanmar, Haiti, Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal and Dominica.

One of the reasons for Pakistan to be continuously ranked high in the long-term index of the report is mainly due to its geographical location.

According to David Eckstein, one of the co-authors of the report, "the entire region where Pakistan is located is prone to extreme weather events, in particular, heavy rainfalls e.g. during monsoon season, and floodings as a result".

While commenting on Pakistan's ranking in the 2020 report, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Khan said: "Our ranking over the long-term index went up from eight to fifth because the period used amplifies our most climate catastrophic events in 2010/2011 when the super floods hit [the country].

"In terms of economic costs at \$3.8 billion, we are number three over a 20-year period. What this means is that our economy is constantly at risk from climate catastrophes and this is not just an environmental challenge but an issue impacting our economy, human health, agriculture and ecosystem."

Dean of Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, Dr Adil Najam blames the lack of action taken to combat climate change risks.

“The report clearly indicates that the world hasn’t acted, so the vulnerability of the whole world is increasing, and since Pakistan hasn’t acted, things are worsening for us too,” he said.

About the threat of rapidly melting glaciers that resulted into Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in Pakistan, Dr Najam said: “If we don’t do anything, we should not expect anything to change or become better. The glaciers won’t stop melting because there was a beautiful speech.”

He was referring to a recent speech by Prime Minister Imran Khan at the seventh International Union for Conservation of Nature Asia Regional Conservation Forum, where the premier had highlighted the dangers Pakistan faced by climate change, while recounting measures his government had taken to curb the impact.

Published in Dawn, December 5th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1520535/pakistan-ranks-fifth-on-global-climate-risk-index>

CLIMATE ACTION

Editorial Updated December 05, 2019

IN an alarming, though not wholly unexpected, revelation, Pakistan has jumped three places to take fifth position on The Global Climate Risk Index 2020 in the list of nations most affected by climate change.

Last year’s report had ranked Pakistan as the eighth most vulnerable country.

The 10 countries/territories most affected by climate change include Puerto Rico, Myanmar, Haiti, the Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal and Dominica. The report reiterates that of the places most affected by climate change in the past 20 years, seven are developing nations — in the low- or middle-income category.

Sadly, poor countries like ours are paying the ultimate price for the unbridled greed of the big polluters.

The release of the climate index report coincides with the two-week-long 25th UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Madrid where representatives of nearly 200 countries, including Pakistan, are meeting to discuss and strategise the impacts and solutions for slowing down the pace of global warming.

The climate risk index has called on participants of the Madrid summit to address the dearth of “additional climate finance” to help poor countries that must tackle the damage wrought by recurring extreme weather events. It asserts that developing countries are hit harder by climate change because their vulnerability is increased by a poor capacity to cope.

These remarks are especially true for Pakistan where the climate crisis, along with the rest of the world, has perhaps reached a point of ‘no-return’ in the words of UN chief António Guterres.

Explaining Pakistan’s increased vulnerability to climate change, David Eckstein, one of the authors of the report, said that the country’s geographical location made it more “prone to extreme weather events, in particular, heavy rainfalls”.

Between 1998 and 2018, some 10,000 people died due to extreme weather events including floods and heatwaves; the economic loss, meanwhile, was to the tune of nearly \$4bn. In fact, where economic figures are concerned, Pakistan ranked third among the most affected countries of the world over this period. This shows that climatic hazards, besides having a devastating impact on the ecosystem, also affect the overall development of nations, including public health, agriculture and the economy.

Pakistan, says the report, needs technical and financial support from the international community through platforms such as the Green Climate Fund to meet ambitious national goals set under the Paris Climate Accord.

However, it would be a mistake to expect foreign donors to come to our rescue unless we ourselves appear to be taking the crisis seriously and are ready to self-correct.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has highlighted the dangers of climate change both at home and internationally. But that in itself is not enough.

The country needs drastic steps to, among other things, improve its air quality and harness renewable energy sources if it is to tackle the damage inflicted by changing weather patterns.

Published in Dawn, December 5th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1520563/climate-action>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 09 TO 15, 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES LOWER FOOD GRAIN, FRUIT YIELDS IN KP

Zulfiqar Ali Updated December 09, 2019

PESHAWAR: Changes in the pattern of rainfall and cold stress phenomenon have resulted in the loss of normal yields of food grains, including wheat and maize, and fruits in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in recent years.

A report by the Climate Change Centre, University of Agriculture, Peshawar, reveals that the climate change had serious repercussions for the farming sector of the food-deficit province. It added that the changing weather pattern was also taking a toll on livestock due to widespread diseases associated with abrupt changes in climate, while production had decreased due to the unavailability of fodder and balanced diet.

The study on ‘forecasting impact of climate change of key crops of 10 selected districts, KP’ was jointly conducted by Prof Mohammad Jamal Khan, Prof Hamayoon Khan and Dr Inamullah. It revealed that changes in the rainfall distribution and pattern along with rise in temperature had been perceived by farmers.

“Unfortunately, it has not been realised by the planners and researchers, whereas the livelihood of the farmers particularly small farmers is at risk and will further aggravate in future,” said the report.

The study was conducted in northern, central and southern regions of the province. Abbottabad, Buner, Bannu, Nowshera, Mansehra, Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Mardan, Shangla and Lakki Marwat districts were selected for field study.

The report revealed that with exception of Upper Dir and Shangla, wheat was affected by the climate change, whereas in the rain-fed areas, including central valley and southern districts, wheat hadn't been even grown in the last two and three years due to the shortage of moisture and delay in rainfall.

It said maize crop was affected due to the shortage of water and rise in temperature in Lakki Marwat, Nowshera and Lower Dir.

Similarly, rice cultivation is affected throughout the province except in Upper Dir and Shangla, while the production of citrus, apples and peer is gradually decreasing due to climate change.

Another emerging issue is that sources of surface water especially springs have either dried or are drying and water table is decreasing throughout the province.

"The water table has been lowered to more than 200 feet in central and southern whereas it is continuously dropping elsewhere in the province," it said.

The report recommended the development of new 'germplasms' of crops, fruits and vegetables to stand the extremes of climates.

Dr Hamayoon Khan, who headed the centre, said severe change in the pattern of rainfall had resulted in the loss of normal yield of different crops in the districts.

"Major reason of the changing pattern in rainfall is deforestation and as a result, the ratio of carbon in the air has also increased," he said, adding that the issue could be handled through massive forestation.

The climate analysis of the last 20 years of KP conducted by the Peshawar Meteorological Station also showed 25 per cent decrease in rainfall in winter in Peshawar and 40 per cent increase in the summer rainfall along with increase in off season rain from April to mid May.

This analysis shows overall 10 per cent increase in day and night temperature of Peshawar.

According to the analysis, the annual rainfall in Peshawar, Kakul (Abbottabad), Dera Ismail Khan and Saidu Sharif (Swat) has increased during the last two decades while rainfall in Chitral has decreased.

The minimum temperature of Saidu Sharif has recorded 10-15 per cent increase in the summer season, while the maximum temperature in Kakul also shows 10 per cent increase.

Director of the Regional Meteorological Centre, Peshawar, Syed Mushtaq Ali Shah while commenting on the changes said the daytime temperature had increased in winter, while temperature in summer had slightly decreased affecting the yield of fruits in Peshawar and its surrounding areas.

"Deforestation, unplanned urbanisation, conversion of agriculture lands and suspension of dust particles in the air of big cities and towns are contributing to global warming," he said. The director said temperature in some areas was increasing at the rate of approximately 0.5 degree Celsius per decade.

He said the annual mean rainfall in 1999-2008 in Chitral was recorded 450.9mm, which had decreased to 434.9mm in 2009-2018.

Pakistan has been declared the seventh most vulnerable country to climate changes in the world.

The climate experts say that the risks related to climate change could not be handled only by increasing forest covered area of the country. They stressed for adopting holistic approach to cope with the issue of global warming.

Dr Zulfiqar, a climate expert, who teaches at the University of Agriculture, anticipated that increase in rainfall would continue till 2030 but there would be no or less rains when crops needed.

He termed the trend of heat and cold stress very dangerous for crops in the region.

“Abrupt slump in temperature during summer affects both human beings and crops,” he said. The expert said deforestation and reforestation were going side by side in the country while harvesting of trees in rural areas had decreased because of supply of natural gas.

He said that forestation could increase rainfall and control air and land pollution but the issue of global warming could not be addressed only through forestation.

“We need land zoning, water management, construction of small dams and promotion of green building concept to cope with the climate change,” he said.

Published in Dawn, December 9th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1521290/climate-change-causes-lower-food-grain-fruit-yields-in-kp>

CLIMATE CHANGE TRIGGERS WIDESPREAD MIGRATION IN PAKISTAN

By Anadolu Agency Published: December 8, 2019

KARACHI : Extreme weather patterns, shrinking agriculture, sea erosion, and lingering dry spells have caused widespread migration within Pakistan in the past decade, according to officials and local experts.

More than two million people were displaced by floods that inundated one-fifth of the country in 2010, triggering mass migration from rural to cities.

Of that figure, almost 70% did not go back to their hometowns and permanently settled in big cities to make a living because of the destruction to their homes and farmlands, Ministry of Climate Change spokesman Muhammad Saleem told Anadolu Agency.

He said seasonal, long-term and permanent migrations mainly due to drought and floods, had taken place in southern, southwestern, and northeastern Pakistan in the last 10 years.

About 700,000 people migrate to big cities from rural Pakistan annually on long-term, and permanent basis, he said, citing international surveys.

Climate change: ‘Pakistan 5th most affected country from 1999 to 2018’

Pakistan recently has been placed fifth on the list of countries vulnerable to climate change by the Global Climate Risk Index for 2020.

Pakistan lost 9,989 lives, suffered economic losses worth \$3.8 billion and witnessed 152 extreme weather events from 1999 to 2018, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

The data also indicates the government, as well as the world, is not taking enough measures to cope with challenges and risks climate change poses to Pakistan.

Pakistan is annually losing more than \$4 billion due to climate change disasters.

According to a report from the Climate Change Ministry, the country lost \$80 billion from 1996 to 2016 because of climate change calamities.

The alarming fact is that climate migration is taking place in all four provinces – Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Balochistan – and the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region.

“Almost 50% of Pakistan’s population is increasingly becoming vulnerable to climate change, which may trigger another wave of mass migration”, Saleem, who has specialization in climate change communications, observed.

The ministry has no official statistics, but Saleem believed 15% to 20% of the country’s total 210 million population had moved to big cities from rural areas from the four provinces since 2010 floods.

“[The] last nine years have been the worst period for Pakistan in terms of natural disasters like floods, drought, a decline in rains and heatwave. Over the years, these disasters have destroyed or damaged hospitals, schools, roads, sources of livelihoods in different parts of the country speeding up influx from rural to urban centres,” Saleem said. “A few years back, the rural-urban population ratio was 40-60. Now it is fast becoming otherwise.”

In Islamabad alone, he added, the city’s population increased to more than 2.2 million from around 500,000 in 2010.

Amar Guriro, a Karachi-based analyst who regularly writes on climate change and environment, supported the view putting the numbers of climate migrants at 30 million in the last 10 years.

A lingering dry spell, he said, had gradually shrunk the agriculture and herding in southern Thar desert and several districts of southern Punjab and southwestern Balochistan provinces, propelling a mass migration to the big cities in recent years.

“The three regions are more vulnerable because they totally depend on agriculture and herding, which depend on the weather, and the weather is marred by climate change,” Guriro told Anadolu Agency.

“Prolonged summers, drought, a decline in rainfall, extreme weather patterns and frequent heat waves, have become a new normal in several parts of the country damaging the local economy and demography”, he opined.

A combination of sea erosion and intrusion has submerged several Indus river delta islands, mainly in the Thatta, Badin and Sajawal districts of the southern Sindh province in the last few decades compelling local communities to migrate to the nearby districts or the port city of Karachi, the country’s commercial capital.

Keti Bandar, once a port city on the Arabian Sea near Thatta district, is one of the glaring examples of how climate change has affected the local communities.

The city, which had had its own municipal corporation until 1921, has been relocated four times in the last 40 years due to rising sea levels.

Normally, rains mitigate impacts of dry spells, however, instead of giving relief, unseasonal rains have prolonged the drought-like situation in several areas.

Already shaken by six years of consecutive drought, Thar received heavy but unseasonal rains this year destroying cluster bean crops and fodder for livestock.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2113842/1-climate-change-triggers-widespread-migration-pakistan/>

GREENLAND ICE LOSS FASTER THAN EXPECTED: STUDY

AFP December 11, 2019

PARIS: The melting of Greenland's massive ice sheet is happening much faster than expected and could put millions more people at risk by the end of the century, scientists warned on Tuesday.

Up to three kilometres thick (two miles) in some places, Greenland has lost 3.8 trillion tonnes of ice since 1992, enough on its own to add 10.6 millimetres (1.06 centimetres, 0.4 inches) to sea levels, according to a study in the journal Nature.

It showed that the rate of ice loss has risen from an average 33 billion tonnes per year in the 1990s to 254 billion tonnes in just three decades.

Many scientists fear that global warming driven by greenhouse gas emissions have pushed the ice sheets to a point of no return, with potentially catastrophic consequences for mankind.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2013 gave a central forecast that if global warming continued, sea levels would rise 60 centimetres by 2100, putting 360 million people at risk of annual coastal flooding.

The latest study however shows that Greenland's faster-than-expected ice losses are in line with the IPCC's higher-end climate warming scenario which adds seven centimetres to that figure.

"As a rule of thumb, for every centimetre rise in global sea level another six million people are exposed to coastal flooding around the planet," said co-author Professor Andrew Shepherd of Leeds University in the UK.

"On current trends, Greenland ice melting (alone) will cause 100 million people to be flooded each year by the end of the century, so 400 million in total due to all sea level rise," Shepherd said.

Published in Dawn, December 11th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1521652/greenland-ice-loss-faster-than-expected-study>

PU SETS UP CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS CENTRE: CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK SECTORS: MINISTER

By RECORDER REPORT on December 11, 2019

Punjab Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Sardar Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak has said that climate change is adversely affecting agriculture and livestock sectors by reducing their production and we need to develop an integrated strategy for combating the negative effects of changing environments.

He was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Climate Change Awareness Centre set up by Punjab University Institute of Agricultural Sciences here on Tuesday. PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, IAGS Director Prof Dr Saleem Haider, faculty members and a number of students participated in the ceremony.

In his address, Sardar Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak said that there were many solutions to agriculture and livestock sectors to control environmental pollution but these were not economically viable for our local farmers.

He urged the teachers and students to find out solutions to control environmental pollution as well as could also overcome economic problems being faced by agriculture and livestock sectors.

He said that we must conserve water and enhance its efficiency for its wise utilization. We need to train our children to combat climate challenges.

PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad suggested establishment of an integrated centre consisting of experts from environmental, biological, engineering and agricultural sciences to cope with climate challenges. He said the use of chemicals in agriculture contaminated underground water, food and environment. He said that emissions of various gasses are destroying the ozone layer.

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<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/12/11/552160/pu-sets-up-climate-change-awareness-centre-climate-change-affecting-agriculture-livestock-sectors-minister/>

PAKISTAN ALERTS NATIONS' ON LOSING CLIMATE BATTLE

RINA SAEED KHAN NOVEMBER 11,2019

MADRID: Pakistan has said that all nations across the globe must try to take the nature on board, allowing it space to bounce back and to tread on a different path of ecologically balanced growth, “before we hit the thresholds of climate irreversibility”.

“Virulent cyclones, rising heat waves, freak floods, melting glaciers and rising sea levels are all vivid and living indicators of not only our failing battle but also of nature’s forceful reply,” Malik Amin Aslam, the Adviser to the PM on Climate Change who is currently heading Pakistan’s delegation to COP25 in Madrid, said on Tuesday.

While giving Pakistan's statement to the plenary session of the United Nations climate talks, he called upon all countries to negotiate to act and not to further delay action in this connection.

"Our youth is out on the streets and sees the urgency and emergency, our scientists not only see it but have already predicted the abyss facing us and our economies are already draining under the burden of forced adaptation costs," he maintained.

Aslam said Pakistan contributes less than 1% of the global greenhouse gas emission but yet it keeps climbing up the ladder of climate vulnerability. "This places Pakistan on the front lines of an unfolding disaster," he added.

"Pakistan does not have an option to escape climate change and its impacts. The forced climate adaptation needs to remain at between \$7 to \$14 billion per annum, thus making climate compatible development an inevitable direction to take and building resilience of our vulnerable communities as well as our infrastructure, an undeniable option."

The PM's adviser on climate change said Pakistan remained committed to raising its ambition for climate action and leading the response in shaping a new future. He said there had been a paradigm shift in Pakistan to position itself to tread on a sustainable development pathway, in line with the spirit of the Paris Agreement.

He said Pakistan had also decided to shift away from polluting transport by initiating its first electric vehicle policy, which is now targeting a 30% shift to electric by 2030.

https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201912110044&EN_ID=11201912110013&EMID=11201912110006

CLIMATE CHANGE TOPS LIST OF GLOBAL WORRIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

November 11, 2019

MADRID. Four out of 10 young people view climate change as one of the most important issues facing the world, an Amnesty International survey on the state of human rights showed on Tuesday, as environmental groups said UN climate talks in Madrid were failing to respond to that concern.

The Amnesty poll, released on Human Rights Day, asked more than 10,000 people aged 18-25, in 22 countries across six continents, to pick up to five major issues from a list of 23.

Of those, 41 percent selected climate change, making it the most commonly cited issue globally.

"For young people, the climate crisis is one of the defining challenges of their age," said Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty's outgoing secretary general, noting the huge surge in young people protesting about it on the streets.

"This is a wake-up call to world leaders that they must take far more decisive action to tackle the climate emergency or risk betraying younger generations further," he added.

Among global worries, pollution was ranked second at 36 percent and terrorism third at 31 percent.

At the national level, however, corruption, pollution, economic instability and income inequality came out as the top four concerns, with climate change pushed into fifth place.

"We are living inside a failed system," said Naidoo. "The climate crisis, pollution, corruption and poor living standards are all windows on an alarming truth about how the powerful have exploited their power for selfish and often short-term gain."

When asked who should take the most responsibility for protecting the environment globally, 54 percent of respondents said governments, 28 percent individuals and 14 percent businesses.

And 63 percent agreed governments should take the wellbeing of their citizens more seriously than economic growth. But Jennifer Morgan, head of Greenpeace International, told journalists that negotiators at the UN climate conference in Madrid were not making the vital link between climate change and human rights.

https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201912110302&EN_ID=11201912110096&EMID=11201912110036

PAKISTAN URGES JOINT EFFORTS FOR OVERCOMING CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS

By Rina Saeed Khan Published: December 12, 2019

MADRID: Pakistan has called for joint efforts for mitigating the effects of climate change, especially in high mountains, and offered its full support in addressing the core issue.

"Pakistan's land mass has the most incline in the world, from the tip of the K2 to the sea. We are very concerned about our high mountains and are willing to collaborate to see what we can do together," said Adviser to the PM on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam during a side event at the Cryosphere Pavilion at COP25 in Madrid on the key findings of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) report. Ministers from Bhutan and Nepal were also present on the occasion.

Aslam said: "The findings of the report are scary, especially the fact that our mountains are warming at a higher rate. Pakistan has over 7,000 glaciers and 5,000 of them are melting. What happens in our high mountains affects the rest of the country."

However, he added that the eight countries of the HKH region can't limit global warming to 1.5 C. "How much affect can ecosystem enhancement have? We can try to protect our ecosystems and adapt to climate change but we can't stop the melting of our glaciers. That's why we come to these conferences – the world is losing time. And we have a limited voice at these negotiations".

He added that the mountain countries should come together and talk about such high mountains at the COPs. "Alone we cannot stop what is happening".

Agreeing with Aslam, Bhutan Agriculture and Forests Minister Lyonpo Yeshey said: "We need to collectively push the mountain issue, especially at the next COP". He said that what happened in their mountains affected downstream countries like India and Bangladesh so working together at the global level was important.

“Together we can have a stronger voice... the discussion of what is happening in these high mountains is left out” he said. Bhutan is one of the most ecologically conscious countries in the world with a mandatory law that it must have a 60 per cent forest cover for all time to come.

On the occasion, the experts of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on the HKH region urged the HKH region countries to cooperate and enhance ecosystem resilience for preventing the effects of climate change.

The ICIMOD experts said that enough information was now available to take action. The information and data that was missing was now included in the assessment report that took eight years to process.

The comprehensive first assessment report launched in February by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on the HKH region has filled in the scientific gaps of knowledge about such high mountains, according to Dr Philippus Wester of ICIMOD.

Dr Wester said: “These [HKH] high mountains are the pulse of the world and what happens to them affects two billion people or one fourth of humanity. The HKH will warm more compared to the global mean and will warm even more rapidly at higher elevations.”

He added that even if global temperature rise is kept within 1.5 C, such high mountains will lose one third volume of their glaciers by 2100. “Agricultural yields along the Indus River that are dependent on melt-water (as much as 80-90 per cent from glaciers and snow) will be affected,” he added.

According to Aisha Khan, the head of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change who is also at COP25, “acknowledging political differences, we have to create new space for social, ecological and environmental issues taking a regional approach”.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2116060/1-pakistan-urges-joint-efforts-overcoming-climate-change-effects/>

FAILURE ON CLIMATE WILL MEAN ECONOMIC DISASTER: UN CHIEF

AP Updated December 13, 2019

MADRID: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged countries and companies Thursday to tackle climate change, saying failure to do so would mean economic disaster.

Speaking at the annual UN climate meeting in Madrid, Guterres said fears that measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions would decimate existing industries ignored the opportunities arising from the ‘green economy.’ “For too long, vested interests have peddled the false story that economic growth and tackling climate change are incompatible,” the UN chief said. “This is nonsense.

“In fact, failing to tackle global heating is a sure-fire recipe for economic disaster,” Guterres added.

He cited a study showing that shifting to a low-carbon economy could create 65 million new jobs worldwide by 2030 and boost growth by \$26 trillion dollars.

Scientists say countries need to stop burning fossil fuels by 2050 at the latest to ensure global temperatures don’t rise more than 1.5 degrees Celsius this century.

"This transition needs to be done to benefit everybody," he said. "And not doing this transition will only allow, as I said, the survival of the richest."

His remarks came as negotiations in Madrid officially entered their final two days, with agreements on key issues still out of reach.

Vulnerable countries expressed outrage over Australia's bid to hold onto piles of emissions vouchers left over from a now-discredited system that would allow it to meet its climate commitments without reducing pollution.

Talks to agree rules for global carbon markets and aid for poor countries already affected by climate change also made little progress.

The summit's president, Chile's Environment Minister Carolina Schmidt, urged delegates to find no excuses for not reaching agreements" and added that the world's youth and women" were demanding action, one that is equal to the historical challenge that we are facing.

"I call on you to work together to be able to give a positive response tomorrow," she said.

Overnight, the UN climate office said it would let dozens of observers who were expelled from the meeting back into the venue.

Some 100 people were escorted off site Wednesday after some staged an impromptu demonstration outside a hall where Guterres was speaking.

The protesters said they were angered by the slow pace of the talks and the apparent unwillingness of major greenhouse gas emitters to do more to curb global warming.

The UN climate office said Thursday that the protesters violated rules they had agreed to in advance to be accredited for the talks, including a prohibition on holding "unauthorized demonstrations.

In a joint statement, representatives from the various groups said they would abide by the guidelines and seek permission before staging future protests.

Published in Dawn, December 13th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1522000>

EU LEADERS CLASH ON CLIMATE FUNDING, NUCLEAR POWER

By RECORDER REPORT on December 13, 2019

European Union leaders clashed at the start of a summit on Thursday over the bloc's plans to tackle climate change, arguing over how to pay for the green transition and what role nuclear power should have.

Brussels' new leadership, under European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, wants member states to commit to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

But at least three coal-hungry countries in the east of the bloc are holding out for a more detailed promise of funding for their energy transition.

Opposition to the 2050 target from eastern members such as the Czech Republic and Poland will feed into what is expected to be a long, bitter summit debate about climate change and the long-term EU budget.

Von der Leyen's "European Green Deal" includes a plan to mobilise 100 billion euros to help countries with the move towards carbon neutrality, but critics say this is not enough.

Prime Minister Andrej Babis, who wants more detailed assurances about funding, said the Czech republic alone would need 30 to 40 billion euros (\$27 to \$36 billion) to achieve carbon neutrality, while Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda estimated the transition would cost two-thirds of his country's GDP.

Babis also wants the summit conclusions to explicitly mention nuclear power – the latest draft seen by AFP simply acknowledges member states' right to "decide on their energy mix and to choose the most appropriate technologies".

And he took aim at countries like Austria and Luxembourg for refusing to agree to the EU endorsing nuclear energy as green.

"Nuclear energy is clean energy without emissions. I don't know why countries have a problem with this," Babis said as he arrived, after earlier accusing Austria of hypocrisy over its power supplies.

"This morning at a quarter to eight, Austrians consumed 23 percent of Czech electricity, Slovakia 30 percent. If we hadn't supplied Austria with energy, a quarter of them wouldn't even make coffee."

French President Emmanuel Macron, whose country gets more than two-thirds of its electricity from nuclear, backed the Czechs, saying even the IPCC had agreed atomic power should play a role.

"For countries that have to get away from using coal, it's obvious they will not be able to move to all renewables overnight," Macron said.

And there was more backing from Hungary's Viktor Orban, who insisted that "without nuclear energy there is no carbon-neutral European economy". But Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel was adamant he would not agree to EU money being used to set up nuclear plants.

"We are convinced that nuclear energy is neither sustainable nor safe, and especially when it comes to waste, we still do not know what we should do," he said.

The red-carpet bickering set the stage for a first summit for the new EU Council President Charles Michel that is more likely to be a baptism of fire than a honeymoon.

The day began with a dramatic protest by activists from environmental group Greenpeace who climbed the front wall of the Europa Building summit venue before the leaders arrived and unfurled a "Climate Emergency" banner.

Polish and Czech sources predicted that the fight could take the summit into the early hours of Friday morning without an agreement.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki insisted the EU must take into account the different "starting point" of eastern European countries like his which are heavily dependent on coal and manufacturing.

European officials acknowledge that, with their summit coinciding with the COP25 global climate conference in Madrid, failure to agree would be embarrassing.

“It's going to be a massive brawl,” one diplomat warned.

The EU's mammoth 2021-2027 multi-year financial framework (MFF) is another indigestible morsel on Thursday's summit menu.

The 27 – departing member Britain is not attending the summit – will discuss the budget over dinner, separately from the climate, but the hold-outs want a budget commitment to transition funding.

Ahead of the summit, Michel toured European capitals trying to build consensus on climate and the budget, but he admits it will be difficult.

Finland, which holds the rotating EU presidency, has proposed a seven-year budget based on national contributions amounting to 1.087 trillion euros.

This is equivalent to 1.07 percent of Europe's total GDP, but less than the 1.114 requested by the commission and or the 1.3 percent sought by the EU parliament.

A so-called frugal five – Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden – oppose allowing EU spending to swell. But Finland's proposed cuts would eat into plans for the green transition, a border force, the digital economy and defence – dear to France.

Once their own disputes are resolved – or pushed off down the road – the EU leaders will on Friday turn again to Brexit.

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<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/12/13/552811/eu-leaders-clash-on-climate-funding-nuclear-power/>

UN CLIMATE TALKS UNRAVELLING, FACE FAILURE

AFP December 15, 2019

MADRID: A UN climate summit in Madrid was facing failure on Saturday after all-night negotiations between countries left them more divided than ever over how to fight global warming and pay for its ravages.

Delegates from rich nations, emerging giants and the world's poorest countries all objected to a draft final text unveiled by host Chile in a botched attempt to find common ground.

Following a year of climate-related catastrophes, including deadly storms, flooding and wildfires, as well as weekly strikes by millions of young people, negotiations in Madrid were meant to send out a clear signal of governments' willingness to tackle the crisis.

The COP 25 summit also aimed to finalise the rulebook of the landmark 2015 Paris accord, which goes into effect next year.

Instead, delegates on Saturday were exasperated at what they called backwards steps on the key political issue — how far each nation is willing to go to help stave off climate catastrophe.

Negotiations leave countries more divided than ever over how to fight global warming and pay for its ravages

“All the references to science have gotten weaker, all references to enhancing the (ambition) have gone, it seems we prefer to look backward rather than looking forward,” Carlos Fuller, head of the Association of Small Island States negotiating bloc, said in plenary of the draft COP 25 final text.

Even after marathon talks between ministers, observers and delegates told AFP there were still significant splits on a number of issues.

Old divisions between rich polluters and developing nations re-emerged in Madrid over who should slash greenhouse gas emissions by how much, and how to pay the trillions needed for humanity to adapt to a climate-addled world.

Newer fissures, meanwhile, between poor, climate-vulnerable nations and emerging giants such as China and India — the world’s No.1 and No.4 emitters — also blocked progress.

In Saturday morning’s public discussions, additional discord surfaced on how nations should refer to a string of scientific assessments of the state of the planet.

But the bottom-line ask for climate-vulnerable nations remains some signal that all countries are willing to improve on emissions reduction commitments that would see the world careen toward runaway global warming.

“The latest version of the Paris Agreement decision text put forward by the Chilean presidency is totally unacceptable,” said Alden Meyer, policy director at the Union of Concerned Scientists and a veteran UN talks observer.

“It has no call for countries to enhance the ambition of their emissions reduction commitments.” The United States, which is leaving the landmark Paris climate deal next year, was accused of playing spoiler on a number of issues vital to climate-vulnerable nations, including so-called “loss and damage” funding.

“The US has not come here in good faith,” said Harjeet Singh, climate lead with charity ActionAid.

“They continue to block the world’s efforts to help people whose lives have been turned upside down by climate change.” A number of countries were sticking to their own red lines Saturday, further imperilling the talks.

The Paris deal enjoins nations to limit global warming to “well below” two degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

But even if nations in Madrid snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and agree to implement their pledges, Earth is on course to warm more than 3C by 2100.

“It is time for this process to prove that it is worth something,” said the delegation of Colombia.

Published in Dawn, December 15th, 2019

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1522380/un-climate-talks-unravelling-face-failure>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 16 TO 22, 2019

UN SUMMIT WRAPS UP: MAJOR STATES SNUB CALLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

By RECORDER REPORT on December 16, 2019

A handful of major states resisted pressure on Sunday to ramp up efforts to combat global warming as a UN climate summit ground to a close, angering smaller countries and a growing protest movement that is pushing for emergency action.

The COP25 talks in Madrid were viewed as a test of governments' collective will to heed the advice of science to cut greenhouse gas emissions more rapidly, in order to prevent rising global temperatures from hitting irreversible tipping points.

But the conference, in its concluding draft, endorsed only a declaration on the "urgent need" to close the gap between existing emissions pledges and the temperature goals of the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement – an outcome UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called disappointing.

Many developing countries and campaigners had wanted to see much more explicit language spelling out the importance of countries submitting bolder pledges on emissions as the Paris process enters a crucial implementation phase next year.

Brazil, China, Australia, Saudi Arabia and the United States had led resistance to bolder action, delegates said.

"These talks reflect how disconnected country leaders are from the urgency of the science and the demands of their citizens in the streets," said Helen Mountford, Vice President for Climate and Economics, at the World Resources Institute think-tank. "They need to wake up in 2020."

The lack of a strong outcome to reinforce the Paris accord raises the stakes for the next big climate summit, in Glasgow in November next year. As hosts, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government faces the task of persuading countries to submit more ambitious plans to cut carbon emissions.

The Madrid summit had been due to end at the two-week mark on Friday but ran on for two extra days – a long delay even by the standards of often torturous climate summits.

After final decisions were made, Chile's environment minister Carolina Schmidt – who served as president of the talks – said she was "of mixed emotions".

The country had earlier triggered outrage after drafting a version of the text that campaigners complained was so weak it betrayed the spirit of the Paris Agreement.

The process set out in the Paris deal hinges on countries ratcheting up emissions cuts next year. The final draft did acknowledge the "significant gap" between existing pledges and the temperature goals adopted in 2015.

Nevertheless, it was still seen as a weak response to the sense of urgency felt by communities around the world afflicted by floods, droughts, wildfires and cyclones that scientists say have become more intense as the Earth rapidly warms.

Guterres, who opened the talks on Dec 2., said he was "disappointed".

“The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaptation and finance to tackle the climate crisis,” he said in a statement. “We must not give up and I will not give up.”

Delegates drew some consolation from an agreement reached in Brussels last week by the European Union's 28 member states, bar Poland, to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, under a “Green Deal” to wean the continent off fossil fuels.

“It seems that EU now needs to be the leader and we want to be and we are going to be and that is what we are doing,” said Krista Mikkonen, Finland's environment minister and the EU's representative at the talks.

The negotiations became mired in disputes over the rules that should govern international carbon trading, favoured by wealthier countries to reduce the cost of cutting emissions. Brazil and Australia were among the main holdouts, delegates said, and the summit deferred big decisions on carbon markets.

“As many others have expressed, we are disappointed that we once again failed to find agreement,” said Felipe De Leon, a climate official speaking on behalf of Costa Rica. Smaller nations had also hoped to win guarantees of financial aid to cope with climate change.

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<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/12/16/553547/un-summit-wraps-up-major-states-snob-calls-for-climate-action/>

CLIMATE FAILURE

Editorial December 17, 2019

THE lack of seriousness displayed by the larger countries at the conclusion of the COP25 in Madrid proves that the next generation — their concerns aptly represented by the young activist Greta Thunberg — has every right to be angry at world leaders for not doing enough to slow down the catastrophic impact of climate change. Even UN Secretary General António Guterres described the final declaration passed at the end of the climate conference as “disappointing”. He asserted: “The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaptation and finance to tackle the climate crisis.” According to reports, bigger countries, including the US, Brazil, China, Australia and Saudi Arabia, refrained from pledging bold steps to mitigate the global temperature rise by cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions, a pivotal step towards slowing down the increase. Hence the participants of the summit were only able to pass a feeble declaration calling for “urgent action” — a cliché of sorts that has become synonymous with the conversation around climate change, in the absence of any concrete steps. The lacklustre response is especially worrying because the Madrid talks were expected to gauge the progress on targets of the Paris Climate Accord, 2015, the most important ones relating to cutting down carbon emissions. However, the resistance by bigger countries means that the progress on reducing emissions could either be stymied or even reversed, while more vulnerable countries including Pakistan and the Philippines continue to pay the ultimate price.

On the other hand, EU countries last week signed the Green Deal in Brussels, aimed at zero carbon emissions by 2050. Whether or not efforts made under this agreement are enough to soften the

devastating impact of the global temperature rise remains to be seen. A recent report by the World Meteorological Organisation contains revelations of how close we are to witnessing our own extinction as a civilisation. The world does not need more promises, as Greta Thunberg said at the UN. It needs action, and it needs it now.

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PAKISTAN RE-ELECTED VP FOR COP26

By RECORDER REPORT on December 17, 2019

After receiving global recognition for significant environmental conservation initiatives at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 25th Conference of Parties (COP25) in Madrid, Spain, Pakistan was re-elected as Vice President for the next COP26 and member to key committees at climate change negotiations.

In an exclusive online conversation with the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Sunday said it was a big achievement at COP25 for Pakistan as it just got elected to top positions at climate change negotiations which just finished in Madrid.

Pakistan highlighted its core initiatives to mitigate climate change risks despite being a developing country with higher vulnerability due to environmental degradation and limited available resources under the leadership of the Adviser who was heading the team.

Besides, achieving the position of Vice President of Climate COP, Pakistan was also made member to six important committees including member of CDM Executive Board, member of Adoption Committee, member of Technology Executive Committee, member of Paris Agreement Compliance Committee, member of Adaptation Fund Board, member of Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) (Loss/Damage), he told reporters.

To a question, he said, "COP26 is a very important conference as it will officially initiate the Paris Agreement commitments. Moreover, the membership of the WIM on Loss and Damage is also critical – as it will hopefully get materialized next year."

It may be mentioned here that the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC was expected to take place from 9-19 November 2020, in Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Moreover, the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project and Ecosystem Restoration Fund had bagged global recognition at the COP25.

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<https://www.brecorder.com/2019/12/17/553874/pakistan-re-elected-vp-for-cop26/>

GERMANY AGREES CO2 PRICING DEAL AFTER GRUELLING DEBATE

December 17, 2019

BERLIN: Lawmakers in Germany reached a hard-fought compromise on carbon pricing early on Monday, breaking a parliamentary deadlock on the government's much-disputed climate policy reforms.

In a gruelling six-hour meeting that ended in the small hours, they agreed that businesses will pay 25 euros (\$28) per tonne of carbon they use from January 2021 — more than double the initially proposed rate. The new rate — fiercely opposed by business lobbies — is set to increase to 55 euros per tonne by 2025, before eventually being incorporated into an EU-wide carbon trading system.

The breakthrough renewed hope that Angela Merkel's government can pass its four-part climate reform package before Christmas.

The package, which also includes plans to reduce rail prices and raise taxes on air travel, was broadly approved by both chambers of the German parliament last month.

Yet a dispute over the cost of the new policies meant that regional representatives in the upper house blocked certain elements of the bill, forcing the government and federal states to return to the negotiating table. Merkel's government has faced criticism since it presented the new climate package in September, with environmental NGOs and opposition parties claiming it lacks ambition. Annalena Baerbock, co-leader of the opposition Green Party, said "much, much more" was necessary after Monday's breakthrough.

Meanwhile business groups sounded the alarm over the carbon price increase.

"The planned increase in CO2 prices threatens to drastically worsen competitiveness" in Germany, Federation of German Industry (BDI) deputy director Holger Loesch said Monday, calling for companies to be compensated for the additional costs.

"For the energy transition to succeed, significant investments are needed from businesses and households," he added, warning politicians "not to keep restricting the necessary freedom of action".

Wolfgang Grosse Entrup of the VCI chemical industry federation said "the warning light is blinking red for competitiveness" after the carbon price decision.

"Politicians can't sell companies that are in international competition down the river," he urged, calling also for a compensation mechanism.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2019/12/17/6-page/815484-news.html>

QUAKE JOLTS PARTS OF PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN

Aamir Yasin December 21, 2019

ISLAMABAD: An earthquake of 6.4 magnitude jolted northern parts of Pakistan, including twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islam-abad, Khyber Pakhtun-khwa, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), as well as parts of Afghanistan and India-held Kashmir, on Friday.

The epicentre of the earth--quake was in the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan at a depth of 210 kilometres, according to Meteorological department Deputy Direc-tor Najeeb Ahmed Amir.

He said the earthquake was strongly felt in most parts of KP, Punjab, Islamabad, AJK and GB at 4.41pm. The ShakeMap of the event showed that the earthquake was of a moderate intensity, he said, adding that there might be some aftershocks.

Mr Amir said the earthquake might have caused some slight damage near its epicentre. He said that earlier in the day a light earthquake was recorded, but it was not felt in many parts of the country.

According to a press release issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a child was injured and a house damaged in Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The four-year-old boy, identified as Mohsin, from Gangori village Hatandara received injuries when a boundary wall collapsed.

However, no injury or damage to property was reported in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Soon after the earthquake, panic-stricken people, especially those living in high-rise buildings, came out of their homes and workplaces.

The earthquake also jolted Bajaur district, creating panic among its people.

According to GFZ (German Research Centre for Geosciences), the first jolt was registered as a 6.4 magnitude earthquake which was later recalculated to 6.2.

The second jolt felt five minutes later was first registered as a 6.2 magnitude earthquake and was later adjusted to 6.0.

The hypocentre depth was first registered at 200km below the surface, which was readjusted to 204km below the surface.

The epicentre was registered as latitude/longitude: 36.54°N/70.55°E in Afghanistan. Vakak, 346km from the epicentre, is the nearest volcano.

The GFZ estimated the earthquake's released energy as: 6.3×10^{13} J (17.5 GWh), which is equivalent to 15,080 tonnes of TNT or 0.9 atomic bombs.

The people in Islamabad and other northern parts of Pakistan have witnessed many earthquakes in recent years.

On Oct 8, 2005, an earthquake of 7.6 magnitude jolted northern parts of Pakistan, killing and wounding thousands of people. The quake also affected countries in the surrounding region, including Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Anwarullah Khan in Khar and Anwar Iqbal in Washington also contributed to this report

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1523488/quake-jolts-parts-of-pakistan-afghanistan>

**‘CHECK YOUR CONSUMPTION, CARBON FOOTPRINT TO
REDUCE CLIMATE IMPACT’**

Afshan S. Khan December 22, 2019

Islamabad: Citizens can play significant role in drastic reduction in the climate impact by reducing consumption of mechanically produced goods and industrial products, and reducing carbon footprint by monitoring their consumption patterns. The exuberant lifestyle has led us to over consumption of products inorganically or industrially produced, hence putting more pressure on the natural resources either as input to the production or disposing off the industrial waste.

Devcom-Pakistan Director Munir Ahmed made these remarks in an interactive session with the business undergraduate at the School of Business Management, Quaid-e-Azam University, here on Saturday. Theme of the interactive session was “citizens’ role in reducing climate impact”. He said the unchecked global warming over the decades has changed the climate to the point where we have starting facing the brunt of it. Though the countries like Pakistan or some of the African states are not the contributor to the climate change but unfortunately are the most vulnerable to the disastrous impact.

Ahmed said, “As individuals and responsible citizens, we need to see and check the four factors that are contributing to causes of the climate change. Firstly, the amount of carbon dioxide in atmosphere – every citizen around the globe shall try to reduce the activities causing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.”

He said, “Secondly, we need to protect the carbon sinks – the forests that are being cut by the timber mafia and unplanned and unchecked housing societies in the case of Pakistan. Our national and sub-national governments are more interested in planting samplings but hardly seen anyone interested in saving trees. Voices should emerge together against such indiscriminate environment unfriendly practices. The unplanned massive housing schemes in the mountains are adding to the vulnerability of communities living there and enhancing the challenges of disasters downstream too.”

He said, “Thirdly, we all shall play our role in reducing the amount of carbon emissions created by the public transportation, private vehicles and the factories. The CFCs emitted from the home electric appliances, and fourthly the methane emissions from the animal and other wastes. Irrational use of pesticides in the agriculture and burning the fields after the crops are picked up also contributing to the climate impact.”

Climate change is the transboundary phenomenon that is enhanced by the local contributing factors. By improving environmental conditions around us, somehow we can reduce the local impact of the changing climate. However, we need to develop adaptation mechanisms to combat the larger, widespread and intense impact of the climate change.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/587061-check-you-consumption-carbon-footprint-to-reduce-climate-impact>

NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 23 TO 29, 2019

CLIMATE PERILS

Editorial December 23, 2019

PAKISTAN is one of the 10 countries most affected by the changing climate. The impact of the latter is showing up in different forms — erratic weather patterns, reduction in the availability of water per capita, melting glaciers, rapid desertification of fertile cultivable land, floods, and so on. The slow policy response to the climate challenge by successive governments means the changes are taking a

heavy toll on agriculture and threatening food security. Take the example of the cotton crop. The overall cotton output has dropped by more than a quarter in the last one decade at the cost of the farmers' well-being, textile exports, and farm and factory jobs. This year again, the unusual heavy rains caused a lot of damage to the cotton plants just as they were fruiting. Naturally, the crop output fell far short of the targeted 15m bales. This will have significant consequences for the government's efforts to reduce the trade deficit as the industry will be forced to double its cotton exports this year to meet its consumption requirements for exports. According to some estimates, the imports could cost the economy anywhere in the range of \$2bn and \$3bn during the present fiscal year, depending on the quantity of fibre to be imported.

The erratic weather patterns mean that the country's food security will also be hit as changing climate poses serious challenges. Immediate policy intervention is required for dealing with the emerging conditions. Experts believe the new climatic patterns are likely to shorten harvest periods, increase the risk of pest attacks and disease, and reduce overall productivity. The situation calls for heavy public and private investments in new seed varieties that can cope with the changing weather patterns, especially frequent heatwaves and dry spells. Moreover, training farmers to conserve water and providing them with access to timely weather information as well as encouraging the use of laser levelling is required. The promotion of the use of digital technology can be an effective way of combating weather changes and protecting agriculture. Countries across the world are inventing new technologies, and encouraging innovation and adoption of efficient practices to make agriculture efficient in order to overcome the challenges being posed to productivity by erratic weather conditions. With the country's population estimated to grow by around 50pc in the next 30 years, it is high time we started using smart technologies to enable our farms to keep feeding us and to grow raw material for our industry.

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