

Opinion

Climate challenge

By Dr Aameena Tanvir

Long denied and then ignored, climate change is now taking a toll in Pakistan as the country sits at high risk of being run out of water and braces for intense and unprecedented weather patterns.

Pakistan is breaking its own records of being one of the worst-hit countries by climate change, almost every year. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan ranked eighth most vulnerable country in the world. In May, the UN enlisted Pakistan among the top 23 countries facing drought emergencies over the past two years. Between 1998 and 2018, the country is estimated to have lost nearly 10,000 lives to climate-related disasters and suffered losses amounting to about \$4 billion from 152 extreme weather events.

Analysts have estimated Pakistan's climate migrants over the past decade at around 30 million people.

Severe weather patterns coupled with lack of readiness are not only endangering lives of millions of residents but also leading to food insecurity and dwindling economic outlook.

Although heatwaves had started impacting the

country for the last many years, this year's **premature** قبل از وقت heatwave has made **ripples** لہریں, forcing millions to readjust or reduce their daily workload or life pattern. The unprecedented and intense heatwave that began in as early as April also sent shockwaves to the country's economic outlook, especially to Punjab. The province produces more than 50 per cent of the total wheat of the country, but the premature heat resulted in early **harvesting** کائے that led to missing production targets.

Punjab witnessed an unprecedented and premature rise in temperature varying from 41 degrees C to 47 degrees C in different parts, **shaving off** the spring season completely this year. It is not that 47 degrees C in the country is an **abnormal** غیر معمولی temperature; the problem is that wheat and other crops need certain temperatures at a certain time for their growth. The extreme heat episode in March and April led to a significant **reduction** کمی in the per acre yield from over 40 **munds** to 28 munds. In May, the federal government decided to import three million tons of wheat from the international market to meet domestic needs.

This year's intense and **blistering** زوردار, شدید heatwave didn't spare mango production either, as the country faced nearly a 50 per cent drop in mango production. Punjab alone, which produces 70 per cent of the total mangoes, faced a 60 per cent drop in mango production during the 2022 season. The ideal temperature for good flowering of mango must be 13 degrees C to 30 degrees C, but this year the temperatures in those days **hovered** آس پاس تھا around 40 degrees C.

Year-on-year temperature increases have brought **plague** خطرناک یا موذی مرض after plague in rural and urban areas. In 2020, Punjab faced the most devastating **locust** ٹڈیوں

infestation حملہ in nearly 30 years, which affected 15 per cent of the area of the province. Experts believe that the rising temperature of the Indian Ocean is one of the main reasons for the **invasion** حملہ of locusts in the South Asian region.

Also, increasing temperature is one of several reasons for deadly air pollution in the country. According to experts, rising temperature is **intricately** پر پیچیدہ طور پر linked with the climate crisis because warmer temperatures create an environment for smog formation and can lead the air to **stagnate** جمود – preventing dirty air from leaving an area. Air pollution thus **exacerbates** بڑھا دیتی ہے existing inequalities and **paves the way** ہے for human rights violations.

Deteriorating ہوئی بگڑتی ہوئی air pollution is also leading to indirect costs such as lower labour supply and productivity, migration of skilled labour, and **volatility** اتار چڑھاؤ in the financial sector.

Rising temperatures are not an **exclusive** پر خاص or sole واحد reason for low yield of several crops in Pakistan, but **prolonged** طویل **droughts** خشک سالی and below-normal rains have their part to play as well. Despite having one of the world's largest **irrigation** آبیاشی systems, water channels across Pakistan **confronted** سامنا کیا **acute** شدید water shortages due to less or below-normal rainfall from February through June of this year. Water reservoirs remained unfilled or **partially** جزوی filled leading to **hampering** رکاوٹ ڈالنا economic activities.

Before the recent rains brought relief for the residents of

Cholistan, Thal and other desert areas of the country, life was **upturned** پلٹ گئی, forcing hundreds and thousands of people to migrate with their cattle to greener **pastures** چراگاہوں and urban centres in **desperate** بیتاب search for water. Although all provinces confronted acute water shortages as of late June, Sindh faced the worst of it with a record 40 per cent shortage.

The **Indus River System Authority (IRSA)** expected a 22 per cent water shortage for the **Kharif season**, but it turned out even worse with a water shortage of 38 per cent.

Prolonged drought eventually ended with the beginning of the monsoon season in July, but heavy rains made things look even worse. Flash floods caused by abnormally heavy monsoon rains have killed over 550 people so far, with Balochistan among the hardest hit.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), July turned out to be the wettest month since 1961, with 181 per cent more rain than average. Balochistan received 450 per cent and Sindh 308 per cent more rain than the annual average, the disaster agency said.

Unusual and **torrential** طوفانی rainfall in Karachi caused **havoc** تباہی, forcing residents to stay at home during weekdays. The provincial government also announced a day off to **cope** نمٹنے with the heavy rainfall challenge. During the second spell of monsoon rains, the city received more than an entire summer's worth of rain in one day. Over 50 **casualties** جانی نقصان have been reported in Sindh.

Successive بعد دیگرے governments, on their part, **avowed** عزم کیا to **mitigate** کرنے climate challenges and keep the

issue as one of the top **priorities** ترجیحات. But little has been done in this regard due to lack of funding, attention and will power.

This year's devastating floods have **inflicted** پہچایا **immense** damage to the infrastructure of Balochistan and Sindh. It will take the government years to rebuild resilient infrastructure since it is **barely** بمشکل surviving a default-like situation currently. Lack of awareness among people and the absence of **sustainable** پائیدار policies are some other factors that will keep Pakistan's fight against the **looming** بڑھتے ہوئے climate change challenge unaddressed at least in the **foreseeable** جلد متوقع future.

The writer holds a PhD in South Asian Studies

Editorial

Taliban's travel ban, and western hegemony

Written by The Frontier Post

According to the media, the UN Security Council (UNSC) failed to reach an agreement to extend travel exemptions for 13 key members of the Taliban government which will expire at midnight Friday.

According to details, the executive arm of the United Nations could not come to a conclusion regarding the extension of the travel exemption for some officials of the Islamic Emirate, because the key members of the Council including the United States, the UK, and France have differing views from Russia and China on whether the United Nations Security Council should extend Islamic Emirate officials' travel exemptions or not. The reports suggest that the United States floated a proposal for re-imposing the travel ban on seven of them and keeping the exemption for six others, but limiting their travel only to Qatar, where US-Taliban talks have taken place, whereas

Russia and China suggested that all 13 Taliban officials be granted travel exemptions for 90 days, but effective for visiting Russia, China, Qatar, and other regional countries. Meanwhile, Russia and China also intend to end Global sanctions against the Taliban that had worsened the Afghan humanitarian crisis and hurt common people.

The United Nations is a global forum that claims equal rights

for all its member nations and also **advocates** وکالت یا حمایت respect and **inclusiveness** جامعیت for non-members because of its universal nature and projection of divine agenda in the world. However, it has become a highly politicized club of western nations who not only use this global forum for the realization of their global agenda but to **penalize** جرمانہ کرنا and **victimize** نشانہ بنانا their opponents by pushing them in isolation. This global forum had been used by the West against several nations including Iran, Sudan, Indonesia, Iraq, North Korea, Afghanistan, Russia, and others in the past.

Presently, the Taliban enjoys control over 98 percent of Afghanistan's **territory** علاقہ. Although no country in the world recognized their rule, that **nonrecognition** عدم شناخت does not change the reality that the Taliban is a strong political and military force in the country and more than half of the population supports them. Therefore, the global community must pause their **unhindered** بغیر کسی رکاوٹ کے support for the US interests and give due space and respect to other nations because the UN is not the property of any nation but a club of the entire world.

taking a toll

to have a serious, bad effect on someone or something : to cause harm or damage If you keep working so hard, the stress will eventually take its toll. –often + on Too much sunlight can take a (heavy) toll on your skin. Her illness has taken a toll on her marriage

The **Global Climate Risk Index** indicates a level of exposure and vulnerability to extreme weather events, which countries should understand as warnings in order to be prepared for more frequent and/or more severe events in the future.

maund

noun

a varying unit of weight in some Asian countries, especially an Indian unit of weight equivalent to about 37 kg.

The **United Nations** is an intergovernmental organization whose stated purposes are to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Founded: October 24, 1945

shaving off

To reduce, remove, or eliminate some amount of something,

especially a very small amount. A noun or pronoun can be used between "shave" and "off." I was pretty discouraged that, after spending all that time and energy training, I was only able to shave a couple seconds off my race time.

IRSA

Indus River System Authority is a water regulator in Pakistan, established in 1992 as an act of Parliament. The authority was established for regulating and monitoring the distribution of water resources of the Indus River system among the provinces, in accordance with provisions of the water accord.
Founded: May 22, 1992

NDMA

National Disaster Management Authority, is an autonomous and constitutionally established federal authority mandated to deal with whole spectrum of disasters and their management in the country.

Founded: August 17, 2007
Headquartered Islamabad

Kharif crops, also known as monsoon crops or autumn crops, are domesticated plants that are cultivated and harvested in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh during the Indian subcontinent's monsoon season, which lasts from June to November depending on the area

UNSC

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal

organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter. W

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Founded October 24,1945