

IRSA releases 115,800 cusecs water

By Our staff Reporter

LAHORE: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 115,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 69,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1528.17 feet, which was 142.17 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 38,100 cusecs and outflow as 58,000 cusecs.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1216.70 feet, which was 176.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 8,700 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 71,900, 55,700 and 24,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 7,200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 7,700 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

Nation has rejected Nawaz anti-Pakistan narrative: Pervaiz

By Our staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday has said that the nation has rejected anti-Pakistan narrative of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif.

According to media reports during a meeting with Sahiwal delegation, the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader said that Nawaz Sharif is trying to harm the dignity of the country he belongs to. PML-N leaders verbally raise slogan of democracy but in reality, they flee the country to protect their corruption, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy children guiding their goats while crossing railway tracks near Golra Station.

Minister opens gas supply scheme for Malikabad locality in Taxila

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar on Sunday inaugurated a gas supply scheme for Malikabad Ward-9 of Taxila and assured the residents to address their other issues on priority.

Addressing a corner meeting there, he said funds amounting to millions of rupees were being spent in carrying out development projects to facilitate the masses. "Politics is the name of doing public service and I am doing it in its true spirit with clear intention," he said, assuring the public that the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government would come up to their expectations. "A strong, secure and prosperous Pakistan is our destination. We will never hesitate to give even the last drop of our blood in ensuring national sovereignty and integrity" he said vowing to strengthen national institutions. Sarwar said Allah Almighty bestowed the country with uncounted bounties which the other world was missing, stressing the need to get benefit of these by putting the country on right direction.

He expressed confidence that Pakistan would progress under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, adding a comprehensive strategy was being evolved to tackle the confronted issue of inflation. He urged the public to beware of black sheep in their surroundings and foil nefarious designs of anti-state elements by forging greater unity among their ranks.

Expressing serious concerns over the recent anti-state statements of PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, the Aviation Minister said he [Nawaz] was lucky enough that no action had so far been taken against him. Sarwar said Nawaz's statements were tantamount to betrayal with the country. Member National Assembly Mansoor Hayat Khan and Member Punjab Assembly Ammar Masood were also present on

Opp making futile attempt to stay politically alive through protests: Governor

-Says people who are conspiring against national security, stability and economy are enemies

By Our staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that the people who are conspiring against national security, stability and economy are enemies and we will not allow them to succeed under any circumstances. The statement of the opposition has completely flopped.

They are making a futile attempt to stay politically alive through protests. He was talking to other delegations of the party including Provincial Minister for Higher Education Yasir Humayun at Governor House Lahore on the occasion.

Reforms in universities, other measures including shifting universities to solar, government and political issues and other issues were discussed

during this meeting. Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar while talking to Provincial Minister Yasir Humayun said that merit and transparency should be ensured 100% in all the universities of Punjab. For the first time, people are being brought to all positions, including Vice Chancellors, on merit, so that Pakistan can move forward successfully in the field of education.

Inshallah, we are striving to make Punjab universities among top 500 universities in the world. Universities will be completely free from political interference. By shifting universities to solar, crores of rupees will be saved annually. Talking to party delegations, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is the embodiment of national aspirations.

All government policies are also aimed at protecting the interests of Pakistan and the people. We will not back down from transparent and impartial accountability in the country, regardless of what opposition does. Governor Punjab said that when the people have given the mandate to rule the country for five years, then the opposition has no justification to engage in politics of anarchy and disorder. We will not be afraid of opposition meetings. On the contrary, they will face all the circumstances and the general elections in the country will be held on time in 2023. The opposition will not be able to put pressure on the government. Everyone knows about Prime Minister Imran Khan. He is a man of principles and he will never back down from his words, he added.

Political turmoil, PDM and Pakistan

MUHAMMAD WAQAR ASLAM



In the aggressive addresses Pakistan Democratic Movement lace into PTI govt demanding accountability.

The first power show of opposition parties commenced in Gujranwala was a successful power show but there were too many flaws. The declared culprit Nawaz Sharif was blaming Pakistan's Army Chief for the incompetence of government. It is very pitiful that the person, who remained beneath the same roof is claimant of vote sanctity. Let's find out from where he himself started his journey, he entered the political ground with the help of General Jilani and then made General Zia-ul-Haq as his spiritual father.

The journey of Nawaz Sharif remained successful as he took the ladder from Chief Minister to Prime Minister. Then Nawaz Sharif hijacked Pakistan Muslim League requesting from Zia-ul-Haq's family after Zia-ul-Haq martyred in lamenting plane crash.

After this when General Mirza Aslam Baig took charge as COAS then relations also got strained between Nawaz Sharif and COAS. After that he had to take retirement in 1991. Afterwards General Asif Nawaz came, who also nearly planned to take over by coup but unfortunately he departed to the other world due to cardiac arrest.

Meanwhile, General Jahangir Karamat took the charge, the tension among Prime Minister and COAS also risen up. Nawaz Sharif also demanded resignation from Jahangir Karamat. After neglecting the senior generals, he chose General Pervez

Musharraf with whom his relations also didn't sustained for long and the Martial Law was enforced. Once in blue moon if it happens then justifiable but Nawaz Sharif kept on this obstinate behaviour and didn't fulfill his promise to give General Kiani.

Nawaz Sharif chose General Raheel Sharif with whom his relations also not sustained well for long then thereafter in the start he couldn't make good ties with General Bajwa. The opposition has come up with a movement that is not more than a political turmoil they are depicting to raise voice for the supremacy of constitution. If they are that much stick to the rules sanctioned in constitution then why did they use the other options to come in power before? If they are that much to merit then why don't they clear the accusations of corruption? Rather mingling all that with incompetency of government. There is inflation risen up to the plethora but we should give proper chance to the government as they came into power with bunch of issues. The alliance of opposition parties is giving derogatory remarks against the Armed Forces.

Even, Nawaz Sharif has deliberately said that the war is against Establishment not Imran Khan. Narcissism of Maryam Nawaz has stipulated problems to that extent that Nawaz had to lose his seat and face the music at Adiala Jail. Now when speeches of Nawaz Sharif are restricted by electronic media authority this alliance is getting popular on social media. The all opposition in guise for incompetent government is asking to derail the system for which the sanctity of which they did tell ethics to PTI when they themselves

were in power. There is a huge set back coming for opposition in the coming Senate elections as they have combusted all the ways for dialogues. There are no more arrests expected but the net of claims for political popularity by opposition will turn into a nightmare. Extending of such political turmoil the PSX continue to plummet down and they are in the mood to make the movement of Jalsas and dharna farther till the resignation of Imran Khan.

I know that when opposition stick to a righteous point and become adherent that is the beauty of democracy but how come these illicit behaviours for saving their wealth can be called a trait of democracy? These all pretend to be united but own sayings about each other make the extent of unity evident.

Doing these sit-ins or jalsas can be hazardous and at the time when pandemic second wave is also going to come forth then these political gatherings must be avoided.

These leaders are that much impudent that they abstain from meeting their own supporters and remain safe guarded in bullet proof stages. The political turmoil is rapidly instigating the call to action towards Martial Law (May Allah forbid) so such situation must be avoided. PML-N chief is acting like a maniac personality. He should be taken back to Pakistan and punished and taken to the cleaners for defaming and maligning COAS and DG ISI for political gains. Government should better not give further permissions for any such malicious power show to the PDM for safeguarding Pakistan from scathe.

The writer is a research scholar and columnist based in Lahore.

-Orchard Ecosystem

Horticulture Vision-2030 explores kinnow export potential beyond \$1b

DR SAEED AHMAD ALI

LAHORE: The prevailing situation of COVID-19 globally has compelled the world to consume a variety of fruits and vegetables, especially orange (Kinnow) which contains maximum vitamins to minimize the ill effects and risks and enhance immunity against the pandemic.

The grapes are the largest fruit production in the world, while the citrus fruits fall at second position, and Brazil is the leading citrus producing and exporting country across the globe. Whereas, Pakistan stands among the top ten citrus producing countries having a lower export than the production quantity, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) statistics says.

Kinnow being the largest produced fruit in Pakistan possesses all the potential of becoming the major exportable fruit commodity of the country. Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government while sensing hardships in exporting fruits through air transportation, had marked a comprehensive plan to export Kinnow by using alternative transportation routes of land and sea. The federal government promptly resolved the issues related to the Kinnow export to Iran and Afghanistan by removing obstacles and increasing fruit quality enhancement.

To enhance the fruit and vegetable export figure, the All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA) has recently submitted a concise road map plan to the federal government.

This road map titled 'Horticulture Vision 2030' had been devised with extensive consultation of actors and experts of all regions and provinces of the country in the horticulture sector with a solution and easy-adoptable line of action, while bringing maximum benefits in a short span of time. As per data received from the All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA) Pakistan has hit record increase in export of fruits and vegetables of 12.5 percent amounting to \$730 million during fiscal year 2019-20, despite the novel coronavirus supply and transport obstacles.

It may be mentioned here that due to the effective measures taken by the government, the fruits' export was enhanced by 3.8 percent during the

last year, while the vegetables reflected an increase in export by 28 percent.

Likewise, export of fruits fetched \$431.27 million while export of the vegetables generated US \$30 million, it reflects.

Both business bodies of the country agreed that Kinnow exports had the potential to grow beyond the \$1bn mark within a few years. At present, Pakistan exports less than 10pc of its grossly under-produced crop, report reveals.

By using science and biotechnology measures per-acre yields in Spain, Morocco and even Turkey are around 450-500 maunds as compared to Pakistan's average of 150 maunds, it reads.

Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company (PHDEC) noted exporter Waheed Ahmed said that to attain a profitable fruit yields, the orchards ecosystem services could be increased by light carbon allocation spaces, intercrops, nitrogen and water uptake processes, adding, agricultural practices in orchards have a strong impact on ecosystem formations.

Over use of fertilizers to the orange orchards could enhance leaching of the nitrogen which reduces the quality and damage the soil-nitrogen availability for the plant by deteriorating the quality of drained water, he informed.

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) director Dr. Abdul waheed while describing the perennial character and multi-strata habitat of the orange orchard ecosystem, said that the first thing was that orchards had a high potential of multiple services said and added that the orchards could be sequestered from 2.4 to 12.5 t C/ha/year. He said that the plantation of diversified hedgerows around the orchards and cover-crops in alleys (orchard spaces), might contribute to a high level of biodiversity and profits to the growers. "Timely pruning of the plants might increase fruit quality through a healthy carbon allocation in the pile of orchard, but increases pest attacks by fostering the dynamics of aphids," he added. To study multiple ecosystem services in orchards of different agricultural lands, "We suggest various models applications which are more capable of simulating ecosystem services' profiles

and their variation according to habitat and climatic needs and their management scenarios," he replied to a query.

The latest scientific knowledge of fertility variations, soil processes and carbon balance awareness as well as profitable yields-models which address multiple services, were necessary to foster research on orchards' ecosystem and their relationship with soil and climate, he explained.

Niaz Ahmad Chaudhry, a team member of National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), and a former director of Citrus Research Institute (CRI) told APP that he, with his team, had developed a seedless 'Kinnow' by using a selection method.

He informed that only 2.6 percent of Kinnow exports target was the developed countries' markets, whose demand was emerging for seedless variety, adding about 61 percent of total world exports of oranges and mandarins are of seedless varieties. The major target export markets of Pakistani 'Kinnow' are those of developing countries including Iran, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines Afghanistan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Singapore, Russia and Vietnam. Indonesia, a close Muslim country and friend of Pakistan has also offered market access to Kinnow, from Pakistan at zero per cent tariff.

Meanwhile, more than 40 percent of the Pakistani exports of Kinnows went to Russia in 2015. Internally, the prices of Kinnow in Pakistan dropped more than 50 percent between the years 2016 to 2020. To a query regarding horticulture vision 2030, he said that by effective implementation of the proposed vision initiative, Pakistan could easily enhance fruits and vegetables' export to US \$1 billion within a period of two years, US \$2 billion in five years while \$6 billion in a decade. The vision would help generate employment opportunities to 1.8 million people within a period of five years who were directly engaged in this sector, while around 3 million people will get employment in this sector within a period of ten years.

The writer is working with Associated Press



LAHORE: Renowned artiste Rashid Mehmood inaugurating a sale point at Dharpura.