



PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

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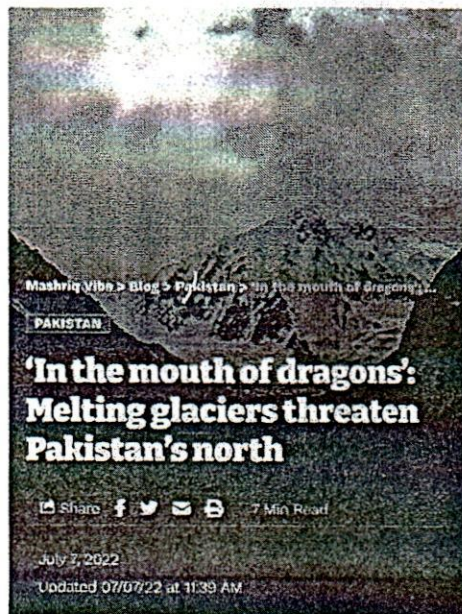
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ADJOURNMENT MOTION

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تحریک التواء 435
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اسمبلی کی کارروائی روک کر ایک اہم مسئلے پر بحث کرنے کی اجازت دی جائے وہ یہ کہ روزنامہ مشرق مورخہ 7 جولائی 2022 کی اشاعت کے مطابق عالمی موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کی وجہ سے پاکستان میں موجود سات ہزار گلیشیر تیزی کے ساتھ بگھل رہے ہیں (اخباری تراشہ منسلک ہے) جس میں سے زیادہ تر گلیشیرز کا پانی صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا کے مختلف علاقوں کے مکینوں کو بے گھر بنانے کا سبب بن سکتا ہے۔



HASSANABAD, Pakistan: As dawn broke over Javed Rahi's Pakistani mountain village, a loud boom shattered the silence and a torrent of water came cascading down from the melting glacier nearby, followed by a thick cloud of smoke.

Rahi, a retired maths teacher, had been due to attend his nephew's wedding the day the flood rushed through the village of Hassanabad.

"I expected women and children to sing and dance... Instead I heard them screaming in terror," the 67-year-old said.

"It was like doomsday."

The flood — which occurred as a heatwave was gripping South Asia in May — swept away nine homes in the village and damaged half a dozen more.

The water also washed away two small hydro plants and a bridge that connected the remote community to the outside world.

Pakistan is home to more than 7,000 glaciers, more than anywhere else on Earth outside the poles.

Rising global temperatures linked to climate change are causing the glaciers to rapidly melt, creating thousands of glacial lakes.

The government has warned that 33 of these lakes — all located in the spectacular Himalaya, Hindu Kush and Karakoram mountain ranges that intersect in Pakistan — are at risk of bursting and releasing millions of cubic meters of water and debris in just a few hours, like in Hassanabad.

At least 16 such glacial lake outburst floods linked to heatwaves have occurred this year already, compared with an average of five or six per year, the Pakistani government said earlier this week.

The devastation caused by such floods makes recovery for impacted communities an arduous task.

[See also Pakistan thwarts India's bid for permanent UNSC seat: FM Bilawal](#)

After disaster struck Hassanabad, Rahl and fellow villagers who lost their homes had to move to a nearby camp for displaced people.

Inside their makeshift tents are the few belongings they managed to salvage and mattresses to sleep on.

"We never thought we would fall from riches to rags," Rahi said.

Pakistan is the world's eighth most vulnerable country to extreme weather caused by climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index compiled by the environmental NGO Germanwatch.

The country is experiencing earlier, hotter and more frequent heatwaves, with temperatures already hitting 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) this year.

Floods and droughts in recent years have killed and displaced thousands of people, destroyed livelihoods, and damaged infrastructure.

According to the UN Development Programme, a lack of information on glacial changes in Pakistan makes it difficult to predict hazards originating from them.

Although Hassanabad had an early warning system in place — including cameras that monitor water flow in glacial lakes — the villagers believed they were living high enough above the water to avoid any impact, according to local officials.

Zahida Sher, who lost her home in the Hassanabad flood, said the power of the water took out buildings that had previously been considered safe.

The mountain communities depend on their livestock, orchards, farms and tourism for survival, but climate change threatens all of it.