

'Urban Flooding' likely in Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad from today

From Our staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) Lahore has predicted here on Sunday the "Urban Flooding" in Gujranwala, Lahore and Faisalabad from today (Monday).

Tributaries of Rivers Ravi and Chenab along with Hill Torrents of D.G. Khan Division may also experience "Moderate Flooding" during the same 72 hours period, it further said.

For the ensuing 24 hours, FFD, Lahore has predicted scattered wind thunderstorm/rain of moderate intensity with "Isolated Heavy Falls" over Punjab (Rawalpindi Gujranwala, Sargodha, Lahore, Faisalabad & Sahiwal Divisions), Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir including upper catchments of all the major rivers.

Isolated wind thunderstorm/rain has also been predicted over Southern Sindh, Coastal Balochistan and D.G. Khan Division during the same

period.

The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that at present there is no riverine flood situation and all main rivers are flowing normal. According to daily FFC report on Sunday, the combined water storage position at Tarbela, Chashma and Mangla reservoirs is 7,789 MAF (57.21% of the total existing Live Storage Capacity of 13,614 MAF), which is quite healthy when compared with the corresponding value of last year i.e. 5,778 MAF.

As regards Tarbela Dam, this year there is much variance in the inflows at Tarbela owing to continuous fluctuations in temperature at Skardu.

Last year's Skardu temperature was 35°C as against today's value of 26.4°C indicating the maximum variation of 8.6°C whereas flow variation remained maximum for July 12 i.e. 126,900 Cusecs.

Yesterday's trough of Westerly Wave over Northern Afghanistan lies over Northeastern Afghanistan, however, yesterday upper air circu-

lation over Arabian Sea has become insignificant.

Weak Seasonal Low lies over Northern Balochistan with moist currents from Arabian Sea penetrating into upper parts of the Pakistan upto 5000 feet and are likely to intensify significantly during next 48 hours.

Scattered to widespread wind thunderstorm/rain with "Heavy Falls" at isolated places and "Very Heavy Falls" at few places is expected over Gujranwala, Lahore, Sargodha, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, Bahawalpur, D.G. Khan & D.I. Khan Divisions including the upper catchments of Rivers Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej, besides, scattered wind thunderstorm/rain of Moderate Intensity with few Heavy Falls over Rawalpindi & Multan Divisions of Punjab, KP's Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat & Bannu Divisions and Northeastern Balochistan in addition to the upper catchments of Rivers Indus & Jhelum during the next 72 hours.

Its right or wrong, supplant fertile land with power plant?

Sadaqat Ali Sukherra

Pakistan was facing severe energy crisis over the years ultimately resulting in huge burden on economy and a wave of despair in the country.



We have finally moved a few steps, thanks to \$62 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under which some large power stations have been completed.

This is a good news for the power sector, but clouds of negativity have remained over the newly built power plants. Sadly, we are used to believing false news without knowing the facts and therefore, we don't bother conducting some research before making any judgment. Let us analyse some facts before passing any judgement about the newly built power plants, let's talk about One CPEC project '1320MW Sahiwal Power plant' which is constructed by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi Energy Limited, Sahiwal Project is a joint venture of Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company and Shandong Ruyi Group, with an investment of about \$1.8 billion. First project completed under China Pakistan Economic Corridor. While some people criticize about the location that the fertile land is being wasted by constructing a power plant on it, on the other hand experts in this field consider it as one of the most feasible sites for the con-

struction of coal fired Power Plant, because Plant site is close to the Load Centre i.e. Lahore, Sahiwal, Multan to avoid line losses & theft (which is one of the biggest problems in Pakistan's power sector) and its near to 500 kV transmission line, furthermore it has access to easy and reliable source of cooling water & feed water i.e. Lower Bari Doab Canal (LBDC) and availability of already existing railway line also makes it feasible for easy coal transportation.

A lot of environmental protection measures taken by the company to prevent pollution and ensure environmental friendly operation of the power plant including Electro Static Precipitator (ESP), Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD), Low NOx Burners, Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems, Wastewater Recycling, Continuous Air Quality Monitoring, Mercury Control Measures and Technologies, Tree plantation, Coal Yard and Ash Yard built as per standards of environmental protection.

Another misleading statement is that plant is emitting harmful gases which is wrong because plant is equipped with latest Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) and Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) technology in which flue gas flows from bottom to top and limestone slurry is sprayed from top to bottom more than 90% of SO2 in flue gas is removed producing gypsum as major by-product, company has installed Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station to keenly monitor the air quality and to make sure air quality is healthy and is in accordance to Punjab Environmental

Quality Standards. Company has planted 50000+ trees of the various classes in order to improve the ecological environment, upon their ornamental and ecological growth based on Pakistan's climate.

In designing the coal Yard Company has paid special attention to Environmental Protection.

Coal yard is equipped with water spraying guns to avoid coal dust.

Catch fence is provided around the coal yard higher than height of coal pile to avoid coal dust All Coal Wastewater is treated and reuse. The design of ash yard is also up to the mark having Polyethylene geo-membranes to create an artificial barrier and clay layer to control seepage to strengthen the Environmental Monitoring Protocols Before believing any false news we must acknowledge the fact that the project is doing wonders for the locals in particular and the people of Pakistan in general. During the construction of the project around 3,000 direct and thousands of indirect jobs were created and still hundreds of Pakistani Permanent employees are working on site. Smooth and uninterrupted operation has resulted in elimination of Power shortage and Load shedding.

The project has also ensured a cash flow in the local markets thus helping improve the local economy.

Moreover I have seen a better standard of living in the lives of people directly or indirectly related to the project.

The writer is an Operations Engineer working at 1320MW

Dengue surveillance teams should intensify activities: DC

From Our staff Correspondent

VEHARI: Deputy Commissioner Capt (retd), Waqas Rasheed has said that in view of the expected monsoon rains, all concerned departments should mobilize and play their role for the prevention of dengue.

Dengue surveillance teams should intensify their activities and all hotspots. Places should be inspected and there should be no place where there is a risk of dengue fever.

Strict action will be taken against the departments which show negligence or carelessness. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting on anti-dengue in his office on Sunday. Assistant Commissioner Vehari Ahmed Naveed, CEO Health Dr. Muhammad Fazil, CEO Educa-



tion Hafiz Muhammad Qasim, DHO Dr Muhammad Khalid, Deputy Director Information Mian Naeem Asim, DDHO Dr Fawad Qureshi, Dr. Rai Khalil Ahmed, Dr Shahid Iqbal, MSTHQ Burewala Dr Imran Bhatti, Dr Ahmad Nawaz, District Manager PHFMC Toqeer Ikram and other officers were also present.

Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Waqas Rasheed added that health de-

partment surveillance teams went door to door to check for dengue.

The Department of Environment will inspect junk yards, tire shops, workshops, nurseries, ice factories, mills, kettle sheds, poultry farms to check the spread of dengue mosquitoes. Coins the endowment department will conduct surveillance of mosques and madrassas regarding dengue.

WHO reports another record daily increase in global COVID-19 cases, up nearly 260,000

GENEVA: The World Health Organization reported a record increase in global coronavirus cases for the second day in a row, with the total rising by 259,848 in 24 hours.

The biggest increases reported were from the United States, Brazil, India and South Africa, according to a daily report. The previous WHO record for new cases was 237,743 on Friday.

Deaths rose by 7,360, the biggest one-day increase since May 10. Deaths have been averaging 4,800 a day in July, up slightly from an average of 4,600 a day in June.

Total global coronavirus cases surpassed 14 million on Friday, according to a Reuters tally, marking another milestone in the spread of the disease that has killed nearly 600,000 people in seven months. The surge means that 1 million cases were reported in under 100 hours.

The WHO reported 71,484 new cases in the United States, 45,403 in Brazil, 34,884 in India and 13,373 in South Africa.

India on Friday became the third country in the world to record more than 1 million cases of the new coronavirus, behind only the United States and Brazil. Epidemiologists say India



is still likely months from hitting its peak.

Cases in Brazil crossed the 2 million mark on Thursday, doubling in less than a month and adding nearly 40,000 new cases a day. A patchwork of state and city responses has held up poorly in Brazil in the absence of a tightly coordinated policy from the

federal government.

The United States, which leads with world with over 3.7 million cases, has also tried to curb the outbreak at the state and local levels with only limited success.

Our comprehensive coverage of the coronavirus outbreak and its developments. —Reuters

EU recovery summit could end with no deal, says Merkel

BRUSSELS: Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that EU leaders may fail to reach an agreement on a huge post-coronavirus recovery plan for the shattered European economy.

Arriving for the third and what she said was probably the "decisive" day of an extraordinary European summit, Merkel said the 27 leaders had "many positions" on the size of the fund, on rules for accessing it and on tying it to respect for the rule of law.

"I still can't say whether a solution will be found," she said. "There is a lot of good will ... but it may also be that no result will be achieved today."

Merkel was due to join French President Emmanuel Macron and the president of the European Council, summit host Charles Michel, to prepare a new offer to break the logjam



after Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his "Frugal Five" allies blocked a deal. Michel had proposed a €750 billion package of EU loans and grants to help member states re-

cover from a historic coronavirus recession, but Austria sees the package as too big and the Netherlands wants member states to be able to veto national spending plans. —AFP

COVID-19 Catalonia urges thousands of people to stay home

MADRID: Authorities in Catalonia urged more than 96,000 people in three towns to stay at home, as COVID-19 cases continued to rise in one of Spain's worst-hit regions.

This is in addition to about 4 million people in the region, including in its capital Barcelona, that were on Friday urged to stay at home as regional authorities toughened their response to the crisis.

In a statement on Sunday, authorities urged people living in Figueras and Vilafant, in the province of Girona, and Sant Feliu de Llobregat, near Barcelona, to stay at home except for essential journeys.

The latest figures from Catalonia's regional health ministry on Saturday showed a daily increase of 1,226 cases. —AFP

3 dead, several injured after glacier tour bus rolls over in Canada

MONTREAL: A glacier-viewing tour bus rolled over at a popular tourist spot in the Canadian Rockies killing three people and seriously injuring several others, news reports said.

The all-terrain vehicle rolled off the road near the Columbia Icefield in Jasper National Park, Alberta, national broadcaster CBC said. Photos published by media outlets show the upturned red-and-white bus, equipped with monster-truck style tires for crossing ice, on a rocky slope below the road across the glacier's moraine.

The bus lost control and rolled down the hill, witness Vanja Krtolica told the Globe and Mail. "All of a sudden, everybody started screaming because they saw the coach lose con-



trol," said Krtolica, who was on a similar bus.

"It was careening down that 33 degree ... steep hill and lost control," he told the newspaper. CBC News said the bus was owned by Pursuit, the company that operates tours of the ice fields, which are part of the Athabasca Glacier.

Three adults were killed out of the 27 passengers, and several emergency workers and fire departments were descending on

the scene, the report said, citing The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Critically injured passengers were being transported from the crash site to various Alberta hospitals on helicopter ambulances, it said. The report said several hospitals in the province were preparing to receive patients, some in critical or serious condition, citing a spokesperson for Alberta Health Services. —AFP

Stranded on ships 200,000 seafarers struggle in virus limbo

MANILA: Indian ship worker Tejasvi Duseja is desperate to go home after months stranded offshore by coronavirus border closures and lockdowns that have left more than 200,000 seafarers in limbo.

From engineers on cargo ships to waiters on luxury cruise liners, ocean-based workers around the world have been caught up in what the United Nations warns is a growing humanitarian crisis that has been blamed for several suicides.

Many have been trapped on vessels for months after their tours were supposed to end as travel restrictions disrupted normal crew rotations.

"Mentally, I am just doing with it... but I'm still holding up because I have no other option," Duseja, 27, told AFP via WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger in late June as the Indian-owned cargo vessel he works on floated near Malaysia.

UK's Johnson says reluctant to use national COVID-19 lockdown again



LONDON: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he will only impose another nationwide COVID-19 lockdown as a last resort, comparing the tool to "a nuclear deterrent" in a newspaper interview.

Johnson, who is hoping Britain can return to "normality" by Christmas despite fears of a second wave of cases over winter, insisted the country was getting better at tackling the virus.

The UK has been among the worst-hit countries in the world by COVID-19, registering the highest death toll in Europe.

Meanwhile, its economy has been battered by a months-long lockdown that has only been gradually eased over recent weeks - and which Johnson is desperate to repair by avoiding another national shutdown.

"I can't abandon that tool any more than I would abandon a nuclear deterrent," he told the Daily Telegraph in a wide-ranging interview to mark the end of his first year in Downing Street.

"But it is like a nuclear deterrent, I certainly don't want to use it. And nor do I think we will be in that position again." Johnson insisted health authorities were "getting much better at spotting the disease and isolating it locally" while also learning more about who it affects most and how it is spread.

The British premier on Friday sketched out a timetable for easing the remaining lockdown measures in England, including lifting homeworking guidance and reopening sports stadiums and live theatre. —AFP

France, Germany and Italy threaten sanctions over arms for Libya

PARIS: The leaders of France, Germany and Italy threatened for the first time to use sanctions against countries that continued to violate a United Nations arms embargo on Libya.

French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte urged "all foreign actors to end their increasing interference and to fully respect the arms embargo established by the United Nations Security Council" in a joint statement issued by the French presidency after meeting in Brussels.

"We are ready to consider the possible use of sanctions if the breaches of the embargo at sea, on land or in the air continue, and look forward to the proposals that the High Representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy will make in this regard," they said.

Turkey has intervened decisively in recent weeks in Libya.

It provided air support, weapons and allied fighters from Syria to help the internationally recognised government based in Tripoli repel a year-long assault by the forces of eastern commander Khal-