

Millions in India's northern states sizzle in severe heatwave

Five million people in India are suffering under a severe heatwave that has peaked in temperature to a record high in capital New Delhi as monsoon rains are behind schedule.

Heatwave victims at least 6,500 people in the world's second most populous nation since 2010, and scientists say climate change is making them harsher and more frequent.

Extreme temperatures were above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for four consecutive days on Friday across the northern states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

Large parts of Punjab in the west and Madhya Pradesh in central India are also sizzling.

Delhi saw 43.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the hottest July day on the city since 2012 when the record stood under 42.5 degrees Celsius.

On Friday, the temperature again shot up to 43 degrees Celsius in the city of Delhi.

Temperatures have remained more than seven degrees Celsius above normal for this time of the year, prompting India's weather office to classify it as "severe extreme heat".

The India Meteorological Department said the severity will keep rising despite the fact that the monsoon season has started and a hot wind blowing in from the desert state of Rajasthan and neighboring Pakistan.

The weather department has issued a heatwave alert for the region.

The intense heat has driven power consumption to a record high and more people turned to air conditioning and coolers.

Delhi's power consumption peaked to nearly 7,000 megawatts (MW) this week, 10-15 percent higher than the average demand at this time of the year.

Forecasters predict that the overall rain will be 10-15 percent below July 7, making it the most deficient monsoon in the regional capital since 2006.

The challenge for India was 2015 when at least 2,000 were killed by intense heat.

The country has 1.3 billion people who suffer from severe water shortages with tens of millions lacking running water.

Parts of Delhi and elsewhere regularly see wildfires when temperatures rise to 45 degrees Celsius and smogging the border with the southern city of Chennai.

But the heat is forecast to ease in the coming year, driving up energy consumption in what is already the world's third-largest consumer of carbon dioxide.

The refrigerators, air conditioning and fans, global warming, while the heat that the machines generate makes cities even hotter.

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A person riding a bicycle through a dusty, hot environment, likely in India during the heatwave.

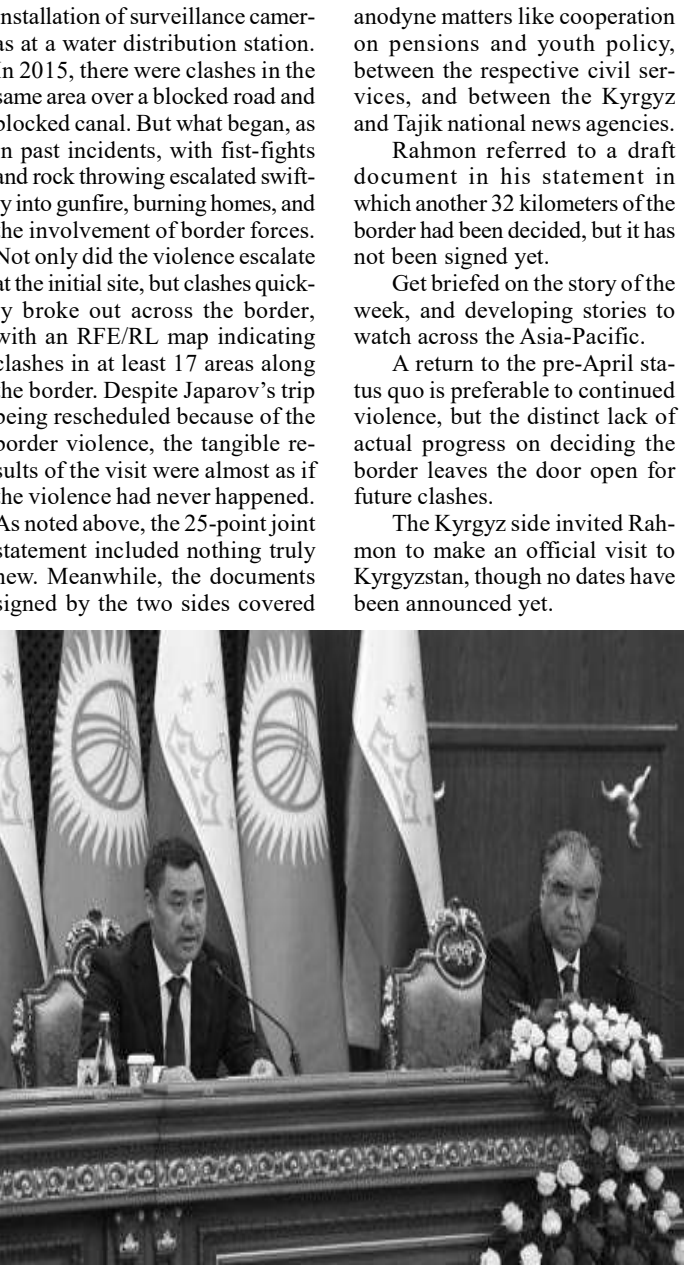
Back to normal diplomacy: Kyrgyz president visits Tajikistan

On June 28-29, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov traveled to the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, to meet with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. Coming over at week after deadly clashes on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, the meeting ended with a joint declaration that the two countries will resume normal diplomatic relations.

The joint statement issued by the Kyrgyz president's website included 12 points, most including established diplomatic relations with the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, the two countries will resume normal diplomatic relations with the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, the two countries will resume normal diplomatic relations with the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, the two countries will resume normal diplomatic relations with the Kyrgyz-Tajik border.

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The Kyrgyz side visited Rahmon to make an official visit to Kyrgyzstan, though no date has been announced yet.



Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon during their meeting.

Bangladesh receives first consignment of COVID-19 vaccine Moderna from US

Bangladesh received the first consignment of COVID-19 vaccine Moderna from the US on Friday through the COVAX initiative. The first consignment of 1.2 million doses of the vaccine was delivered to Dhaka.

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Jeffrey H. Smith, and the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, announced the consignment of 1.2 million doses of Moderna vaccine to Bangladesh.

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Pakistan's Khan backs China on Uighurs, praises one-party system

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed his support for the Chinese government's handling of the Uighur issue in Xinjiang province, while also praising the country's one-party system as offering a better model for economic growth.

Khan was speaking to members of the Chinese news media who were visiting Islamabad as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Thursday.

High-profile Chinese officials, including Vice Premier Han Zheng, were also present at the event.

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Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan speaking at a podium during a meeting with Chinese officials.

Symposium on "Learning during and post-COVID-19 in Nepal"

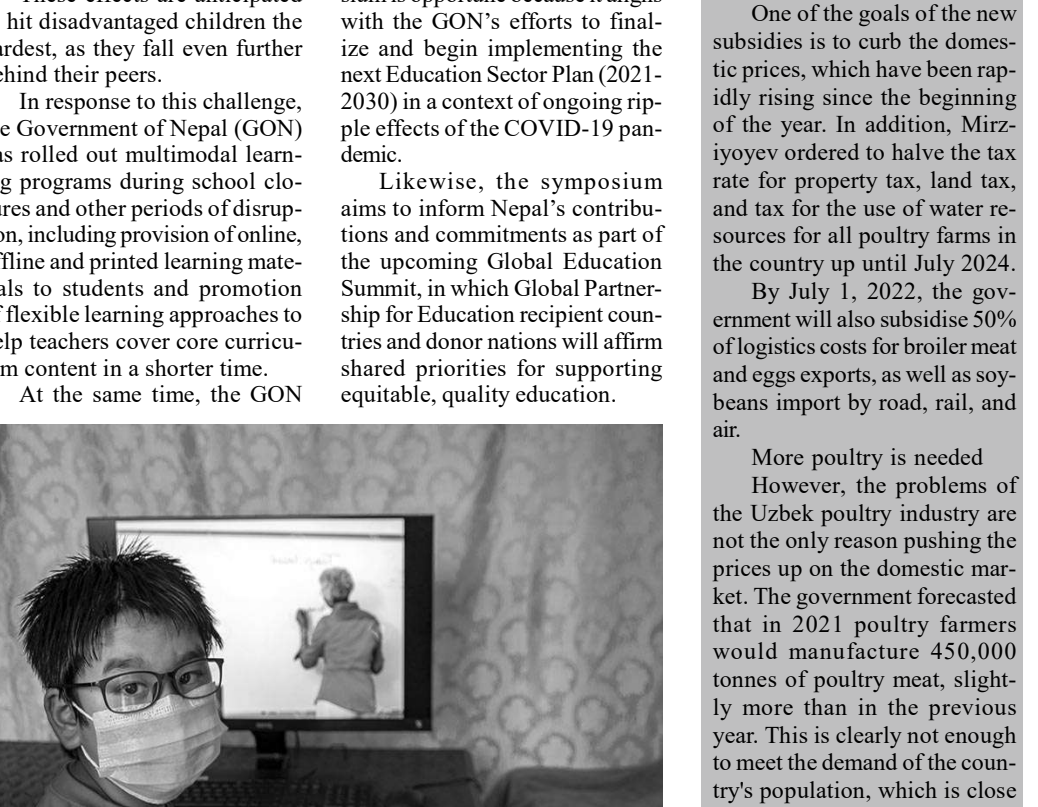
The Symposium on "Learning during and post-COVID-19 in Nepal" is happening on Thursday, July 22, 2021, 16:00 Nepal time.

The event and the Livestream will be available on YouTube.

The World Bank is organizing the symposium on "Learning during and post-COVID-19 in Nepal" in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UNICEF and USAID.

The symposium aims to explore strategies to improve learning outcomes and to promote school closures and to promote access to technology-based learning.

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A person speaking at a podium during the symposium on learning during and post-COVID-19 in Nepal.

Uzbekistan introduces subsidies for poultry, egg producers

The decree was approved shortly after the Uzbek government announced that egg producers were suffering losses, which led to a sharp decline in production.

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A person speaking at a podium during the introduction of subsidies for poultry and egg producers in Uzbekistan.