



Salvador clears rape victim of killing baby

## No phones, no friends: Cut-off Kashmir children despair in lockdown

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MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiri refugees in Pakistan-administered Kashmir shout anti-Indian slogans during a protest in Muzaffarabad yesterday. —AFP

## Pakistan, India spar over using water as weapon

### India accused of waging 'fifth-generation warfare'

**ISLAMABAD:** Accusing India of waging "fifth-generation warfare", Pakistan said New Delhi had failed to inform it about the release of water from a dam that could cause flooding across the border. India, however, rejected the claim saying that under the terms of a water treaty between the two nations it had informed Pakistan about the release of excess water late on Monday when it crossed a certain threshold.

Relations between the neighbors, already hostile, have been further strained over India's decision this month to revoke the special status of its portion of the Kashmir region that both countries claim. Pakistan reacted with fury, cutting transport and trade links and expelling India's ambassador in retaliation. Islamabad said the unexpected release of water into the River Sutlej that flows from India to Pakistan was part of an

attempt by New Delhi to flout the long-standing treaty between the countries.

"They try to isolate diplomatically, they try to strangle economically, they're trying to strangle our water resources - and water automatically will have an impact on your economy, your agriculture and your irrigation," Muzammil Hussain, chairman of the Pakistani government's Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), told Reuters. India was using its position upstream to wage "fifth-generation warfare" on the country, said Hussain.

India's federal water resources ministry told Reuters late on Monday that under the treaty advance information needs to be given in a situation when "extraordinary discharges of water from reservoirs and flood flows" could harm the other party. Until today no such extraordinary dis-

charges had been observed on the Indian side in the current flood season. At 1900 IST (1330 GMT), the flow of Sutlej river reached the threshold level of high flood and the same was conveyed to Pakistan, the ministry said in a statement, adding that it is committed to the treaty.

Pakistani emergency authorities were preparing for minor flooding in several areas in Punjab state on Monday as a result of the unexpected rise in water flow, though it was not clear if any had occurred. "India did not communicate the release of water to Pakistan," Khurram Shahzad, director general of Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), told Reuters.

India and Pakistan have long argued over water resources. A World Bank-mediated arrangement known as the Indus

Water Treaty splits the Indus River and its tributaries - which 80 percent of Pakistan's irrigated agriculture depends on - between the countries. India, which lies upstream, threatened in February to stop sharing excess water with Pakistan after a suicide bomb attack by a Pakistan-based militant group in Kashmir that killed 40 Indian paramilitary police.

Hussain said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "threatened very clearly that he could stop water to Pakistan. He couldn't care less (for) the treaties". In 2016, after suspending a meeting on the Indus Water Treaty, Modi told government officials that "blood and water cannot flow together". India says a program of maximizing its water usage by building hydroelectric plants is in line with the treaty. —Reuters

### End child 'marriage hell' for Indonesian girls, lawmaker says

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Indonesia must change its laws to end child marriage in the world's most populous Muslim country where thousands of girls are trapped in a kind of "hell", an Indonesian lawmaker said yesterday. Indonesia has one of the worst records for under-age marriage - its high number of child brides puts it among the top 10 countries worldwide, according to campaign group Girls Not Brides. The Constitutional court ruled last year to change the minimum marriage age for girls, currently at 16, in a move applauded by women's rights groups.

The ruling did not specify an increase and gave legislators three years to decide what the new minimum age should be. But a senior lawmaker from the ruling party of Indonesian President Joko Widodo said there have been no progress. "Why has there been a lack of response on the child marriage issue? It is as if we don't care," said Eva Kusuma Sundari from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle. Sundari wants a minimum marriage age of 18 introduced urgently and has the support of 20 lawmakers from different political parties.

"It is like living in hell when a child gets married and made to carry another child," the 53-year-old told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Jakarta. "They lose their freedom, their rights to education and their future. It kills their dreams especially for the girls who cannot continue school," she added. Campaigners say the law should be changed because it discriminates against girls, who can marry at 16 whereas the legal age for men is 19.

Poverty and tradition often lead families to marry their children in the Southeast Asia archipelago of 260 million people where one in four girls is wed before they turn 18, according to the United Nations' children agency, UNICEF. On average over 3,500 Indonesian girls are married every day and in some cases religious courts have endorsed the marriages of Indonesian girls younger than 16. Globally, 12 million girls become child brides each year, according to Girls Not Brides, exposing them to greater risks of exploitation, sexual violence, domestic abuse and death in childbirth. —Reuters

### US police officers who kill unarmed blacks often avoid criminal liability

**NEW YORK:** New York City police fired a white police officer on Monday over the July 17, 2014, killing of a black man with a prohibited chokehold. Eric Garner, 43, died after officer Daniel Pantaleo used a chokehold as police attempted to arrest him on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes on a sidewalk. A Staten Island grand jury and the US Department of Justice both declined to prosecute, another example of a law enforcement officer facing no criminal liability for killing an unarmed black man. Some other high-profile cases:

#### Terence Crutcher

Betty Shelby, a white police officer, was captured on video fatally shooting a 40-year-old black man, Terence Crutcher, as he stood near his car on Sept 16, 2016, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Shelby said she feared Crutcher was reaching for a gun, but he had no weapon. A jury acquitted Shelby of first-degree manslaughter the following year, and she resigned.

#### Philando Castile

Officer Jeronimo Yanez shot a 32-year-old black man, Philando Castile, five times during a traffic stop in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, on July 6, 2016. The officer said he had feared for

his life when Castile said he was carrying a firearm and reached for his wallet when Yanez asked to see identification. Yanez was acquitted of manslaughter in 2017.

#### Samuel Dubose

University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing fatally shot black motorist Samuel Dubose, 43, after stopping him for a missing front license plate in July 2015. Tensing, who is white, said he feared for his life during the traffic stop when Dubose refused to leave his vehicle, which started rolling forward slowly. Tensing pulled his gun and fired once. A state jury was unable to reach a verdict on murder and manslaughter charges in November 2016 and a retrial in 2017 also ended in a hung jury.

#### Michael Brown

Darren Wilson, a white police officer, shot Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old black man, in Ferguson, Missouri, on Aug. 9, 2014. The killing sparked nearly two weeks of protests and rioting that subsided at the family's urging just before Brown's funeral. A state grand jury declined to indict Wilson, and the US Department of Justice declined to prosecute him. Wilson is no longer with the police force.

#### Freddie Gray

In Baltimore, a 25-year-old black man, Freddie Gray, was arrested on April 12, 2015 after police said he fled the scene unprovoked in a high crime area while in possession of an illegal switchblade. After being transported in a police van, Gray was hospitalized unconscious and died on April 19 of what was determined to be a neck injury. Six Baltimore police officers, including three who are black, were charged



NEW YORK: Eric Garner's daughter Emerald Garner and Rev Al Sharpton (right) speak to the media in New York City. The New York Police Department announced that Officer Daniel Pantaleo has been fired from the force due to his involvement in Eric Garner's death in 2014. —AFP

with Gray's death. None was convicted, and the US Department of Justice subsequently decided not to bring charges against them.

#### Tamir Rice

Timothy Loehmann, a white police officer, shot Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old black boy who was displaying a toy gun, in Cleveland, Ohio, on Nov 22, 2014. A grand jury declined to indict Loehmann and another officer at the scene. Loehmann was later fired from the police department for concealing information in his original job application.

#### Walter Scott

Michael Slager, a white police officer, was caught on video shooting a 50-year-old

unarmed black man, Walter Scott, in the back after a traffic stop in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 4, 2015. After a state murder trial ended with a deadlocked jury, Slager pleaded guilty to federal charges that he violated Scott's civil rights and was sentenced in 2017 to 20 years in prison.

#### Justine Damon

In an example where the officer was a Somali-American and the victim was white, former officer Mohamed Noor, 33, was convicted of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for killing 40-year-old Justine Ruszczyk Damond outside her home near Minneapolis. In June, Noor was sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison. —Reuters