

## Cities may be eight degrees Celsius hotter by 2100: study

**Paris**  
Under a dual onslaught of global warming and localised, urban heating, some of the world's cities may be as much as eight degrees Celsius (14.4 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer by 2100, researchers warned yesterday.

Such a temperature spike can have dire consequences for the health of city-dwellers, robbing companies and industries of able workers, and put pressure on already strained natural resources such as water.

The projection is based on the worst-case-scenario assumption that emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases continue to rise throughout the 21st century.

The top quarter of most

populated cities, in this scenario, could see the mercury rise 7 C or more by century's end, said a study in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

For some, nearly 5 C of the total would be attributed to average global warming.

The rest would be due to the so-called Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, which occurs when cooling parks, dams and lakes are replaced by heat-conducting concrete and asphalt -- making cities warmer than their surrounds, the researcher said.

"The top five percent (of cities per population) could see increases in temperatures of about 8 C and larger," study co-author Francisco Estrada said.

## Nearly 300,000 evacuated as cyclone approaches B'desh

**Dhaka**  
Bangladesh has evacuated nearly 300,000 people as Cyclone Mora barrelled towards its southeastern coast at speeds of more than 85 kilometres (53 miles) per hour, officials said yesterday.

The cyclonic storm was 385 kilometres from the port city of Chittagong and likely to make landfall early Tuesday, meteorologists said.

Evacuation efforts were ongoing, with nearly 300,000 people already shifted to cyclone shelters, disaster management authority spokesman Abul Hashim said.

"We are targeting zero casualties and we will try our best to evacuate more than a million before the landfall," he said.

Meteorologist Abdur Rahman said estimated wind

speeds were between 89 to 117 kilometres per hour, with torrential rain and thunder expected across the South Asian nation.

The met office warned coastal districts could face flooding as a result of storm surges along the seafront.

"We have advised the ports to hoist great danger signal number 10," Rahman said.

The local administration has called in all fishing vessels from the sea and advised them to remain anchored, while the Chittagong port authority has postponed activities.

Bangladesh is routinely hit by bad storms between April and December that cause deaths and widespread property damage.

In May last year, Cyclone Roanu hit the southern coast of Bangladesh leaving 20 dead.

# Macron, Putin hold 'frank' talks on Syria, Ukraine



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin visit an exhibition following their meeting at the Versailles Palace, near Paris

### Versailles

**France's President** Emmanuel Macron and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin yesterday vowed to improve the strained relations between their countries, while admitting to disagreements during talks at Versailles palace described by Macron as "extremely frank".

Their first meeting since Macron took office provided another test of the Frenchman's diplomatic skills after his memorable first encounter last week with US President Donald Trump that Macron sealed with a vice-like handshake.

This time the handshake was warmer but the tone

guarded after an hour of talks on the 300th anniversary of a visit to Versailles by tsar Peter the Great.

Putin admitted to some differences of opinion in the talks which covered issues including the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine, but insisted that Franco-Russian ties withstood "all points of friction".

"We disagree on a number of things but at least we discussed them," Macron said.

"Our absolute priority is the fight against terrorism and the eradication of terrorist groups and Daesh in particular," he said, using an alternate name for the Islamic State group that has claimed several deadly attacks in France. (AFP)

## Trump: Slayings of men 'unacceptable'

### Washington

**President Donald Trump** yesterday condemned as "unacceptable" the stabbing deaths of two men who defended two young women being targeted by a suspected white supremacist on a train in Oregon.

"The violent attacks in Portland on Friday are unacceptable. The victims were standing up to hate and intolerance. Our prayers are w/ them," Trump said on Twitter.

Rick John Best, 53, an army veteran, and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, 23, a recent college graduate, died after

having their throats cut on the crowded train. They had come to the defense of two teenage girls, one of them a Muslim wearing a headscarf and the other an African-American.

A third man, 21-year-old Micah David-Cole Fletcher, was wounded and hospitalized.

The attacker, identified as 35-year-old Jeremy Joseph Christian, had been hurling abuse at the teenagers when the men intervened.

The Portland Mercury newspaper said Christian -- who has been charged on two counts of murder and one count of attempted



US President Donald Trump at Arlington National Cemetery to mark Memorial Day in Arlington, Virginia yesterday

murder -- was a known white supremacist and right-wing extremist.

Trump's message came amid rising pressure on the

president to condemn the slayings of the two men, dubbed "heroes" by local media and law enforcement in Portland.

## 6.6-magnitude quake hits Indonesia's Sulawesi

### Jakarta

**A shallow, 6.6-magnitude** earthquake hit inland on the central Indonesian island of Sulawesi yesterday, US seismologists said, causing people to panic but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The quake hit at a depth of nine kilometres (six miles) at 10:35 pm (1435 GMT), west of the town of Poso, according to the United States Geological Survey.

Muhammad Guntur, who lives on the outskirts of the town, said it was felt strongly.

"People are panicking



The collapsed wall of a building after the earthquake

here. We are now all gathered outside of our houses," he said immediately after the impact.

A hotel worker in Poso also said that people

panicked when the quake struck but that things had returned to normal there.

"The electricity was off for a while," said the worker Buhory, who like

many Indonesians goes by one name. "People were panicking but now it is on again and everything is okay."

National disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said the quake was felt in Poso for about 20 seconds but there had been no reports so far of casualties or damage.

Local disaster agency officials were still assessing the impact, he added.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where tectonic plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

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