

South Asia's intense heat wave a "sign of things to come"

By Aniruddha Ghosal
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The devastating heat wave that has baked India and Pakistan in recent months was made more likely by climate change and is a glimpse of the region's future, international scientists said in a study released in May.

The World Weather Attribution group analyzed historical weather data that suggested early, long heat waves that impact a massive geographical area are rare, once-a-century events. But the current level of global warming, caused by human-caused climate change, has made those heat waves 30 times more likely.

If global heating increases to 2° Celsius (3.6° Fahrenheit) more than pre-industrial levels, then heat waves like this could occur twice in a century and up to once every five years, said Arpita Mondal, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai, who was part of the study.

"This is a sign of things to come," Mondal said.

The results are conservative: An analysis published in May by the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office said the heat wave was probably made 100 times more likely by climate change, with such scorching temperatures likely to reoccur every three years.

The World Weather Attribution analysis is different as it is trying to



HELLISHLY HOT. An auto rickshaw driver exhausted from intense heat rests in his vehicle in New Delhi on May 19, 2022. The intense heat wave sweeping through South Asia was made more likely due to climate change and it is a sign of things to come. An analysis by international scientists said that the heat wave was made 30 times more likely because of climate change, and future warming would make heat waves more common and hotter in the future. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

calculate how specific aspects of the heat wave, such as the length and the region impacted, were made more likely by global warming. "The real result is probably somewhere between ours and the (U.K.) Met Office result for how much climate change increased this event," said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at the Imperial College of London, who was also a part of the study.

What is certain, though, is the devastation the heat wave has wreaked. Indian cities and Pakistan consistently saw temperatures above 45° C (113° F) in the past weeks. In Pakistan, scorching temperatures over 50° C (122° F) were recorded in

some places like Jacobabad and Dadu. Parts of the Indian capital of New Delhi saw temperatures reaching 49° C (120° F) in May.

India sweltered through the hottest March in the country since records began in 1901 and April was the warmest on record in Pakistan and parts of India. The effects have been cascading and widespread: A glacier burst in Pakistan, sending floods downstream; the early heat scorched wheat crops in India, forcing it to ban exports to nations reeling from food shortages due to Russia's war in Ukraine; it also resulted in an early spike in electricity demand in

Continued on page 4

N. Korea moves to soften curbs amid doubts over COVID counts

By Hyung-Jin Kim
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and other top officials discussed revising stringent anti-epidemic restrictions during a meeting in late May, state media reported, as they maintained a widely disputed claim that the country's first COVID-19 outbreak is slowing.

The discussion at the North's Politburo meeting suggests it will soon relax a set of draconian curbs imposed after its admission of the omicron outbreak out of concern about its food and economic situations.

Kim and other Politburo members "made a positive evaluation of the pandemic situation being controlled and improved across the country," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

They also "examined the issue of effectively and quickly coordinating and enforcing the anti-epidemic regulations and guidelines given the current stable anti-epidemic situation," KCNA said.

North Korea reported 89,500 more patients with fever symptoms on May 29, taking the country's total to 3.4 million. It didn't say whether there were additional deaths. The country's death toll reported on May 27 was 69, setting its mortality rate at 0.002%, an extremely low count that no other country, including advanced economies, has reported in the fight against COVID-19.

Many outside experts say North Korea is clearly understating its fatality rate to prevent any political damage to Kim at home. They say North Korea should have suffered many more deaths because its 26 million people are largely unvaccinated against COVID-19 and it lacks the capacity to treat patients with critical conditions. Others suspect North Korea might have exaggerated its earlier fever

cases to try to strengthen its internal control of its population.

Since its May 12 admission of the omicron outbreak, North Korea has only been announcing the number of patients with feverish symptoms daily, but not those with COVID-19, apparently because of a shortage of test kits to confirm coronavirus cases in large numbers.

But many outside health experts view most of the reported fever cases as COVID-19, saying North Korean authorities would know how to distinguish the symptoms from fevers caused by other prevalent infectious diseases.

The outbreak has forced North Korea to impose a nationwide lockdown, isolate all work and residential units from one another, and ban region-to-region movements. The country still allows key agricultural, construction, and other industrial activities, but the toughened restrictions have triggered worries about its food insecurity and a fragile economy already hit hard by pandemic-caused border shutdowns.

Some observers say North Korea will likely soon declare victory over COVID-19 and credit it to Kim's leadership.

Yang Un-chul, an analyst at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea, said the North's recently elevated restrictions must be dealing a serious blow to its coal, agricultural, and other labor-intensive industrial sectors. But he said those difficulties won't likely develop to a level that threatens Kim's grip on power, as the COVID-19 outbreak and strengthened curbs have given him a chance to boost his control of his people.

Wondering when our
next issue is published?
Sign up for e-alerts at
<news@asianreporter.com>!

U-PICK BLUEBERRIES

25 acres of blueberries
\$1.30 per pound

Open daily beginning in late June

(503) 663-0885

nappefarms.com

Nappe Blueberry Farm

10280 S.E. Orient Drive, Boring, OR 97009

"Fresh & Local — 1 Farm. You Pick"



您对免费的学前教育项目感兴趣吗
适合您 3 或 4 岁的孩子？
现在报名秋季！
N、NE 和 SE 波特兰的教室！

PPS Head Start 是一项联邦、州和市资助的计划，面向低收入家庭和残疾或有特殊需要的儿童。

现在申请！ <https://www.pps.net/headstart>
(main office) 503-916-5724

Sacajawea	4800 NE 74 th Avenue
Clarendon	9325 N Van Houten
Applegate	7650 N Commercial Ave
Sitton	9930 N Smith
Jason Lee	2222 NE 92nd
Creston	4620 SE Powell Blvd
Kelly Center	9015 SE Rural
Grout	3119 SE Holgate Blvd
Whitman	7326 SE Flavel St.



网上申请: <https://www.pps.net/headstart>

**Have The Asian Reporter
delivered to your
home or office!**

Details and an order form
are located on page six.

Are you done with those?

**Please dispose
of unwanted meds
the safe way.**

We provide free and convenient
dropbox locations and mail-back
disposal packages.

We make it easy for you.



medtakebackoregon.org
1-844-TAKE-BACK

Safe, free, and convenient.
MED-Project®
Medication Education & Disposal