

# It's too hot! Deadly heatwaves scorch cities on 4 continents

Haj Toll Hits 1,081; 86M Under Heat Alert In US; Mexico Sees 125 Heat Deaths

Deadly heatwaves are scorching cities on four continents as the Northern Hemisphere marks the first day of summer, a sign that climate change may again help to fuel record-breaking heat that could surpass last summer as the warmest in 2,000 years.

Record temperatures already reached in recent days are suspected to have caused hundreds if not thousands of deaths across Asia and Europe.

In Saudi Arabia, nearly two million Muslim pilgrims are finishing the haj at the Grand Mosque in Mecca this week. But hundreds have died during the journey amid temperatures above 51°C. Around 10 countries have reported 1,081 deaths, according to an AFP tally.

Nations around the Mediterranean have also endured another week of blistering high temperatures that have contributed to forest fires from Portugal to Greece and along northern coast of Africa in Algeria. In Serbia, meteorologists forecast temperatures of around 40°C this week as winds from North Africa propelled a hot front across the Balkans. Belgrade's emergency service said its doctors intervened 109 times overnight to treat people with heart and chronic health conditions. Europe has been contending with a spate of dead and missing tourists amid dangerous heat.

Parts of the US Northeast and Midwest are also wilting under a heat dome, with over 86 million people under alert. A heat dome occurs when a high-pressure system traps hot air over a region, preventing cool air from getting in and causing ground temperatures to remain high. New York City said it would open cooling centres for the first time this year. Officials also issued an excessive heat warning for parts of Arizona, in-



Photos: Getty/AFP, REUTERS AP/PTI

cluding Phoenix, with temperatures expected to reach 45.5°C.

In Mexico, at least 125 people have died due to the heat this year, according to country's health ministry. Over 2,300 more have suffered heat stroke, dehydration and sunburns.

The heatwaves are occurring against a backdrop of 12 consecutive months that have ranked as the warmest on record in year-on-year comparisons, according to the EU's climate monitoring service. REUTERS, AFP, AP

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## 'Global warming makes killer heat in Mexico, US 35 times more likely'

**Washington:** Deadly heat that blanketed the US, Mexico and Central America recently was made 35 times more likely due to global warming, an international network of climate scientists said on Thursday. The World Weather Attribution also said that extreme highs witnessed over that region were four times as likely to occur today as a quarter of a century ago.

For its study, WWA analysed the hottest five consecutive

### 4 in 5 want more climate action: UN survey

Four in every five people want their country to strengthen its commitments to addressing climate change, according to a global poll of 75,000 participants. The survey by the UN Development Program posed 15 questions by randomised phone calls to people in 77 nations representing 87% of the world's population. In poorer countries, 89% were in favour of climate action, though appetite is also high in wealthy G20 nations (76%). China (73%) and US (66%) — biggest greenhouse gas emitters — also saw a majority of respondents in favour. AFP

days and nights during a "heat dome" that lingered over the southwest US, Mexico, Guatemala,

la, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras in late May and early June. They concluded "that human-induced warming from burning fossil fuels made the five-day maximum temperature event about 1.4° hotter and about 35 times more likely". WWA warned if humans continue burning fossil fuels in the near term, these extremes could become more frequent still. "The additional 1.4°C of heat caused by climate change is the difference between life and death," said Karina Izquierdo of Red Cross Climate Centre. AFP

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