Indo-Pak nuke war could kill 100m

Say researchers as tensions

between S Asian rivals mount

AFP, Washington

The year is 2025 and militants have attacked India's parliament, killing most of its leaders. New Delhi retaliates by sending tanks into the part of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan.

Fearing it will be overrun, Islamabad hits the invading forces with its battlefield nuclear weapons, triggering the deadliest conflict in history -- and catastrophic global cooling, with temperatures not seen since the last Ice Age.

This scenario was modelled by researchers in a new paper published on Wednesday, which envisaged more than 100 million immediate deaths, followed by global mass starvation after megatons of thick black soot block out sunlight for up to a decade. It comes at a time of renewed tensions between the two

South Asian rivals, which have fought several wars over the Muslim-majority territory of Kashmir and are rapidly building up their atomic arsenals.

They currently each have about 150 nuclear warheads at their disposal, with the number expected to climb to more than 200 by 2025.

"Unfortunately it's timely because India and Pakistan remain in conflict over Kashmir, and every month or so you can read about people dying along the border," Alan Robock, a professor in environmental sciences at Rutgers University, who co-authored the paper in Science Advances, told AFP.

India has a "no first strike" policy, but reserves the right

India, Pakistan currently

each have about 150 nuke

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by 2025

to mount a nuclear response to any hit by weapons of mass destruction.

Pakistan has declared it would only use nuclear weapons if it could not stop an invasion by conventional means or were attacked first with nuclear weapons.

MASS STARVATION

Based on their current

populations and the urban centres that would be likely targeted, the researchers estimated up to 125 million could be killed if both countries expended the bulk of their highest yield weapons.

Around 75-80 million people were killed in World

This most extreme scenario would involve the use of 100 kiloton weapons, more than six times as powerful as the bombs dropped on Hiroshima.

A single airburst from such a bomb could kill two million people and injure 1.5 million -- but most of the deaths would occur from the raging firestorms that followed the blast.

As a percentage of its urban population, though, Pakistan's losses would be about twice those of India.

The research found that the firestorms could release 16 million to 36 million tons of soot (black carbon) into the upper atmosphere, spreading around the world within The soot in turn would absorb solar radiation, heating

the air up and boosting the smoke's rise.

Worldwide food shortages would follow, with the effects persisting up to 10 years.

"I hope our work will make people realize you can't use nuclear weapons, they are weapons of mass genocide," Robock told AFP, adding the paper lent more evidence to support the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.



Journalists hold signs during a protest against the ongoing restrictions of the Internet and mobile phone networks at the Kashmir Press Club during a lockdown in Srinagar yesterday. To go online, the area's 250 accredited journalists visit a government-run media centre in Srinagar where they wait often for hours to use one of the 10 computers for a maximum of 15 minutes. PHOTO: AFP

Resume peace talks

Pak, Taliban call on US after Trump breaks off negotiations

REUTERS, Islamabad

Peace talks in Afghanistan must resume as soon as possible, Pakistan and the Taliban militant group urged yesterday, after President Donald Trump broke off negotiations last month seeking to end the United States' longest war.

Trump halted talks with the group, aimed at striking a deal for US and other foreign troops to withdraw in exchange for Taliban security

guarantees, after it carried out a bomb attack in Kabul that killed 12 people, including a US soldier.

"Both sides agreed on the need for the earliest resumption of the peace process," Pakistan's foreign office said in a statement yesterday after Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi met a Taliban delegation that

is visiting Islamabad. The US embassy in the Pakistani capital did not

immediately respond to a request for comment.

The United States has long considered Pakistan's cooperation crucial to efforts to end the war in Afghanistan.

The meeting came as Zalmay Khalilzad, the top

US envoy involved in the peace talks, also visited Islamabad for talks with the government, although it was not clear if he would have any contact with the Islamist militant Taliban.

The latest development follows a meeting last week between Trump and Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

A pause in the bloodshed would help smooth the way to an agreement, Pakistan's foreign minister **AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT**

said. "It was emphasised that reduction of violence by all parties to the conflict necessary," ministry said, adding that such a step would help to speed resumption of the peace effort.

The Taliban's Dohabased spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, told AFP on Wednesday that the simultaneous visits to Pakistan

were a "coincidence". But when asked whether there was any possibility of the insurgents meeting Khalilzad, he

replied: "Why not? It depends on the Americans." The Taliban are still ready to sign the agreement which was hashed out between the two sides in

Doha, he said.

Says North Korea after

Test succeeded

launching new submarine missile from sea AP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday confirmed it has carried out its first underwater-launched ballistic missile test in three years, in an apparent bid to dial up pressure on the United States ahead of a weekend resumption of their nuclear diplomacy.

Wednesday's test of the Pukguksong-3 missile, which North Korea describes as a submarine-launched ballistic missile, is seen as the North's most high-profile weapons launch since it began diplomacy with the United States early last year. Some experts say North Korea wants to show to the US what would happen if diplomacy fails again.

The Korean Central News Agency said the missile test in the waters off its east coast was successful and "ushered in a new phase in containing the outside forces' threat to (North Korea) and further bolstering its military muscle for selfdefense.

It didn't say which outside forces threaten its security. But North Korea has previously said it was forced to develop nuclear-armed missiles to cope with US military threats.

brief Some of Gandhi's

ashes stolen: report INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Some of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes have reportedly been stolen from a government building in India. An urn was stolen overnight from the building in the state of Madhya Pradesh according to The Wire. The theft follows celebrations in the country to mark the 150th anniversary of the independence leader's birthday. A poster bearing Gandhi's face was also defaced, with the Hindi words for "anti-national" scrawled across it. Gandhi was shot dead by a Hindu hardliner in 1948 and after his cremation several urns containing his ashes were dispatched to his followers across the country.

First Arab on ISS returns to Earth

AFP, Almaty

A three-man crew including an Emirati who became the first Arab to reach the International Space Station returned to Earth safely yesterday and were in good shape, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said. al-Mansoori of the United Arab Emirates touched down in the Kazakh steppes at 1059 GMT along with Nasa astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin, who both survived a failed launch to the ISS last year.

Russian man sues Apple for moral harm

AFP, Moscow

A Russian man has filed a lawsuit against Apple for moral harm claiming that an iPhone app had turned him gay, according to a copy of the complaint seen by AFP. The man filed suit in a Moscow court asking for one million rubles (\$15,000) after an incident this summer in which a cryptocurrency "GayCoin" was called delivered via a smartphone app, rather than the Bitcoin he had ordered. His lawyer Sapizhat Gusnieva insisted the case was "serious," telling AFP that her client was "scared, he suffered".

Very hygienic Spokesman defends dishevelled Duterte

President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman yesterday defended the Philippine leader as "very hygienic" and nice-smelling after

he was mocked on social media for looking dishevelled in a meeting with the Russian prime minister. The 74-year-old Duterte was in Russia on a working

visit and sat down for the talks with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Wednesday. In pictures of the meeting, Duterte was seen

two posed for pictures and shook hands. Reacting to the photo online, Russian Twitter users jumped on Duterte's

in a rumpled suit with his

tie hanging loose as the

appearance. "Was Duterte getting hammered all night?" one



asked. "Did he just come back from a pub?" asked

another.

In a text statement to reporters, his spokesman Salvador Panelo insisted that Duterte "does not look unkempt".

"He feels suffocated and very uncomfortable if the tie is tightly in place in the collar," Panelo said.

"The president is very hygienic. His body emits a by people who meet up close to him."

refreshing scent as observed Duterte is known as a

casual dresser who has a

history of turning up to

international and major

events in relaxed attire.

AFP, Washington

The US government plans to collect the DNA of all migrants detained after entering the country illegally, officials said Wednesday.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is developing a plan to take DNA samples from each of the undocumented immigrants and store it in a national database for criminal DNA profiles, they said.

Speaking to journalists on grounds of anonymity, DHS officials said the new policy would give immigration and border control agents a broader picture of the migrant and detainee situation.

And stored on the FBI's CODIS DNA database, it could also be used by others in law enforcement and beyond.

"It does enhance our ability to further

in their identification ability." Officials said they were in fact required

identify someone who has illegally entered the country," said one official. "It will assist other organizations as well

to take the DNA samples by rules about the handling of arrested and convicted people that were issued by the Justice Department in 2006 and 2010, but which had not been implemented. They said the program for collecting

Buildings are inundated by floodwaters from heavy rains caused by Typhoon Mitag in Gangneung, South Korea

yesterday. Nine people were killed and several others went missing as the typhoon lashed the southern and

DNA was still being developed, and they did not have a date set for implementation. Collecting and storing the DNA of

people simply detained and not tried or convicted of a crime has drawn criticism from civil rights advocates. "Forced DNA collection raises serious

privacy and civil liberties concerns and lacks justification, especially when DHS is already using less intrusive identification Eidelman, an attorney with the American

the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation to population surveillance, which is contrary to our basic notions of freedom and autonomy," Eidelman said.

possible terror strikes Warning issued for IAF bases in J&K, Punjab THE STATESMAN ONLINE

Delhi on red alert over

A red alert was issued in Delhi late on Wednesday after receiving intelligence inputs about a possible terror strike in the capital during the festival season. As per intelligence inputs, 3-4 hardcore and

"highly-motivated" terrorists are suspected to be present in the national capital. The suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists are reported to have infiltrated into Delhi to carry out terror attacks in retaliation

to the abrogation of Article 370, that gave

The deputy commissioners of police (DCP) of all 15 districts have been directed to heighten security at vital installations and ensure maximum mobility of police personnel on streets to avoid any such terror strikes.

special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, based on the inputs, Delhi Police Special Cell is conducting raids at several locations in the city. The sleuths are reportedly carrying out raids at 9 locations

which began around 9:00 pm on Wednesday. On the other hand, an orange alert has been sounded for Srinagar, Avantipur, Jammu, Pathankot and Hindan airbases bases after the monitoring of the terrorists' movements by the intelligence agencies, an

India Today report stated. The Indian Air Force bases in and around Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have been put on alert after inputs warned of a possible Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide

attack on Indian troops. The development comes days after Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said that the Jaishe-Mohammed (JeM) camp in Pakistan's Balakot, that was bombed by the Indian Air Force in February, had been reactivated recently and about 500 infiltrators were waiting to infiltrate into India.

Rawat further said that Pakistan is carrying out ceasefire violations to push terrorists into the Indian territory, adding that the Army is alert and will ensure that maximum infiltration bids are foiled.

US to collect DNA of all HK cops get more powers undocumented migrants

eastern regions of South Korea with heavy rain and strong winds, Yonhap reported.

methods like fingerprinting," Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement.

"This kind of mass collection also alters

Masks to be banned in bid to end crisis: media REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong has loosened guidelines on the use of force by police as it struggles to stamp out anti-government protests that have rocked the Asian financial hub for nearly four months, according to documents seen by Reuters yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

The city is also expected to ban face masks under a colonial-era emergency law that has not been used in half a century, media reported.

The loosening of restrictions on the use of force came into effect shortly before some of the most violent turmoil seen in the protests on Tuesday, with police firing about 1,400 rounds of tear gas, 900 rubber bullets and six live rounds, as protesters threw petrol bombs and wielded sticks. More than 100 people were

wounded, including a teenaged secondary school student who was shot in the chest and wounded. It was the first time a demonstrator had been shot by live fire.

In the documents seen by Reuters, the police manual changed some guidelines on how officers could act when considering force. It also removed a line that stated officers

should be accountable for their actions. Media also reported on changes to the police procedure weekend

manual with effect from Sept. 30, ahead of protests on China's National Day on Tuesday. Police declined to comment when asked if amendments

had been made. "The guidelines on the use of force involve details of operation. It may affect the normal and effective operation

of the police force and work of police on crime prevention if details are made public," police

said in a statement to Reuters. Police in the former British colony have long been admired for

their professionalism compared with some forces elsewhere in Asia. But the public has become

increasingly hostile towards the police over past weeks amid accusations of heavy-handed tactics. Police say they have The unrest, which began over opposition to a now-

withdrawn extradition bill that would have allowed people to be sent to mainland China for trial, shows no sign of letting up. Protesters, fired up over the shooting of the young man

shown restraint.

this week, are planning more demonstrations at shopping malls across 11 districts yesterday night and throughout the