

# Asia shivers, slips and slides in record low temperatures

January 25 2016

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Seoul recorded its coldest day in 15 years on Sunday, when the temperature fell to minus 18 degrees Celsius, its coldest weather since 2001

Snow, sleet and icy winds across Asia caused deaths, flight cancellations and chaos over the weekend as areas used to basking in balmy climates struggled with record-low temperatures.

Weather-related deaths were reported in Japan and Taiwan, with

hundreds of flights cancelled across the region, tens of thousands of holidaymakers stranded in South Korea, and freezing conditions in subtropical Hong Kong causing mayhem on its tallest peak.

While the cold snap is by no means on the scale of the weather now affecting the snow-bound eastern United States, such temperatures are a novelty for many residents of the region.

In Bangkok, a city that rarely sees the thermometer dip below 20-25 degrees Celsius (68-77 Fahrenheit), temperatures dropped to around 16 degrees late Sunday.

It left Bangkokians, whose normal attire generally includes flip-flops and shorts, digging through their closets for jackets and jumpers.

In Japan five people died and more than 100 were injured Sunday, with record-breaking heavy snowfall and low temperatures in the country's western and central regions and rare snow in subtropical areas, officials and local media said.

The small subtropical island of Amami observed snow for the first time since 1901, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.



The snow-covered coast in the city of Rongcheng, in eastern China's Shandong province pictured on January 24, 2016

In China, 24 weather stations around the country recorded all-time low temperatures between Friday and Sunday.

At Eergu'Na in Inner Mongolia, the [temperature](#) on Saturday hit a record low of -46.8 degrees Celsius.

The southern city of Guangzhou saw rare sleet, the first in 60 years, in its downtown area, the provincial meteorological station announced on Sunday.



A cold snap gripped Hong Kong on January 24, with residents shivering as temperatures plunged to the lowest point in nearly 60 years

In Hong Kong, primary schools and kindergartens were closed Monday after temperatures plunged to a 60-year low.

A 100-kilometre ultra-marathon race was abandoned as competitors crossing the city's tallest peak, Tai Mo Shan, slipped on icy slopes buffeted by freezing winds.

The peak became the scene of "carnage", as one race official described it, as hundreds of curious "frost-chasing" citizens became stranded, with dozens stricken with hypothermia and hapless firemen called in to rescue them filmed slipping and sliding on the icy roads.



A street cobbler repairs shoes in Hanoi, which experienced its coldest weather for two decades over the weekend according to state media

Close to 90,000 people were stranded on the South Korean resort island of Jeju on Monday after the biggest snowfall in three decades shut the airport for the third straight day.

Taipei registered a low of 4 degrees Celsius over the weekend, the coldest in 44 years, with the Taiwan media reporting 90 deaths due to the cold weather, and rare snowfall drawing enthusiastic crowds to Yangmingshan National Park.

In Vietnam, temperatures in Hanoi dropped to six degrees Celsius at night over the weekend, which state-run media said was the coldest weather the country has experienced for some two decades.

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