2m sea level rise 'plausible' by 2100

The area of land lost to the ocean could be equivalent to that of France, Germany, Spain and Britain combined and would displace more than 180 million people

Earth has already heated 1C since pre-industrial times, contributing roughly 3mm to sea levels each year.

Washington, United States

lobal sea levels could rise by two metres (6.5 feet) and displace tens of millions of people by the end of the century, according to new projections that double the UN's benchmark estimates.

The vast ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica contain enough frozen water to lift the world's oceans dozens of metres. The expansion of water as oceans warm also contributes to sea level rise.

But predicting the rates at which they will melt as the planet heats is notoriously tricky.

The United Nations' Inter-Change (IPCC) said its 2013 Fifth Assessment Report that under atop Antarctica and Greenland. current emissions trajectories -- a "business-as-usual" scenario ice scientists this week released known as RCP8.5 -- would likely a expert judgement on the sitrise by up to one metre by 2100. uation, drawing on their own

viewed as conservative, as the



Houses on bamboo stilts amid encroaching bay waters in Sitio Pariahan, Bulacan. Areas north of Manila like the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan have sunk four-six centimetres (1.5-2.4 inches) a year since 2003, according to satellite monitoring. The creeping bay waters put people and property at risk, while the threat is amplified by high-tides and flooding brought by the roughly 20 storms that pound the archipelago every year.

house gas emissions continue to found it "plausible" that under found consequences for humanrise year on year, and satellites the business-as-usual emissions ity," they said. governmental Panel on Climate showing accelerated rates of scenario, sea-level rises could melt-off from massive ice sheets

That prediction has since been experience and observations.

While there was still a siglevels of planet-warming green- nificant margin of error, they nitude would clearly have pro- phere.

exceed two metres by 2100.

The authors said the area of equivalent to that of France, called for a drastic and immedi-Germany, Spain and Britain ate drawdown in coal, oil and gas combined and would displace consumption in order to arrest more than 180 million people.

'The true risks'

In October the IPCC released the rapid rise in the levels of "A sea-level rise of this mag- greenhouse gases in the atmos-

That report, however, did not include revised estimates of sea level rise.

Earth has already heated 1C since pre-industrial times, con-A group of the world's leading land lost to the ocean could be a landmark climate report that tributing roughly 3mm to sea levels each year.

The authors of the new study, released Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, argue that likely lead to a poor evaluation of the IPCC's sea-level rise predic- the true risks," he added.



The Paris climate deal, struck between nations in 2015, aims to limit global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Farenheit). and encourages countries to work towards a 1.5C cap.

tion was too constrained by focusing on what was "likely" to happen.

At wider probabilities -- 5-95 percent likelihood -- they found that under 2C of warming seas could rise 36-126 cm by 2100.

In world that has warmed by 5C -- unlikely but certainly not impossible given projected fossil fuel demand in the coming decades -- they calculated a five percent risk of sea levels surpassing two metres higher, topping out at 238 cm.

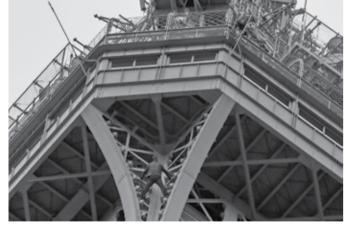
Willy Aspinall, from the University of Bristol's School of Earth Sciences, said he hoped the study could provide policymakers with a more accurate worst-case scenario "crucial for robust decision making."

"Limiting attention to the 'likely' range, as was the case in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, may be misleading and will

Eiffel Tower climber grabbed after sparking evacuation

Billionaire to grads: I'll pay your debt

Washington, United States



A man (C) climbs up to the top of the Eiffel Tower, in Paris, without any protection

Paris, France

Actimiter who sparked an area down". Tower on Monday was grabbed after clinging to the famous a police official added. Paris landmark for more than six hours, officials said.

normal early on Tuesday, the mid-afternoon Monday. company operating the structure said in a statement.

It said firemen who had rap- ing up its iron beams.

pelled down from the tower's third-floor observation deck to near the black-clad climber climber who sparked an managed to "talk the individ-

The man "has been grabbed,"

Emergency procedures triggered by the man's unauthor-The man, who was not im- ised climb forced an evacuamediately identified, "is in tion of the iconic monument, the hands of the emergency the esplanade underneath it teams" deployed to the tower, and a large section of the adwhich will reopen to visitors as jacent Champ de Mars park

Police earlier said they did not know his motive for climb-

Tunday was already a day of S joy and pride for the graduating class at historically black Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia -- and then it got a whole lot better.

Robert F. Smith, an African-American businessman with a fortune estimated at \$4.4 billion, told the new graduating class that he plans to pay off the entirety of their student debt: an estimated \$40 million.

Of course, Smith received a thunderous round of applause from the 400 graduates -- and from their parents.

grant to eliminate your student Bassett (Courtesy of Bloomberg) loans." Smith told the assemblage, according to the college's Twitter account.

"This is my class," said Smith, who was at the ceremony to receive an honorary degree.

"I know my class will pay this forward" and help improve the lives of other black Americans.

Smith had earlier this year announced a \$1.5 million donation to the school, but Sunday's news came as a surprise even to staff at Morehouse, according to the Atlanta Journal and in New York's Harlem neigh-Constitution.



"My family is going to create a Robert Smith, left, laughs with David Thomas, center, and actress Angela

A spokesman said it was the and actor Samuel L. Jackson.

ness major, told the newspaper. "I am deeply ecstatic."

He said he has \$90,000 in student debt. His mother, Andrea borhood.

Smith, a graduate of Cornell biggest gift in the history of the and Columbia universities, school, whose graduates include founded Vista Equity Partners civil rights leader Martin Luther in 2000, and by 2015 had be-King Jr., filmmaker Spike Lee come the richest African-American, according to Forbes maga-"If I could do a backflip, I zine, with a fortune surpassing would," Elijah Dormeus, a busi- even that of billionaire celebrity (and fellow Morehouse donor) Oprah Winfrey.

In recent years, the soaring uate and of a second son in costs of college education -- and Dormeus, is a school bus driver the rising number of defaults -- a fervent wish for Smith. have made student debt a growing national issue, addressed by year," he said.



\$1.5 million donation to the school, but Sunday's news came as a surprise even to staff at Morehouse, according to the Atlanta Journal and **Constitution.**

many of the Democrats seeking their party's presidential nomination.

Total student debt now exceeds \$1.5 trillion, according to the Fitch ratings agency.

So at least at Morehead, Robert Smith had folks breathing a sigh of relief on Sunday.

Charles Releford Jr., the father of one newly minted grad-Morehouse's class of 2020, has

"Maybe he'll come back next