

# 20 dead after Hurricane Melissa rakes Haiti: officials



A police officer inspects a car damaged by a fallen tree after the passage of Hurricane Melissa in Manchester, Jamaica,

AFP | Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

Flooding in Haiti triggered by Hurricane Melissa has left at least 20 people dead and 10 others missing, authorities in the Caribbean island-na-

tion told AFP yesterday. Ten children were among those who died in river floods in the country's south, said Emmanuel Pierre, who heads the country's civil defense agency. Emergency responders were

conducting searches for the missing, he added. The flooding of the Digue River destroyed several homes in the coastal town of Petit-Goave, several residents reported. "People have been killed,



A farmer stands next to some of his drowned animals after Hurricane Melissa hit the town of San Miguel de Parada in Santiago de Cuba province

houses have been swept away by the water," resident Steeve Louissaint told AFP. In videos not verified by AFP, residents could be seen searching for their loved ones. A father was recorded in tears as he

removed his daughter's lifeless body from under a pile of debris. Hurricane Melissa, the most powerful hurricane to make landfall in 90 years, has also slammed Jamaica and Cuba, where it caused "considerable

damage" according to the Cuban president. The storm, which has been downgraded to Category 2, has triggered hurricane warnings in parts of the Bahamas and Bermuda.

## AI chip giant Nvidia becomes world's first \$5 trillion company

New York, United States

AI chip juggernaut Nvidia became the world's first \$5 trillion company on Wednesday, as investors remain confident that artificial intelligence will deliver a new wave of innovation and growth.

The California-based tech giant saw its share price rise by 4.91 percent to \$210.90 at the open of trading on Wall Street, pushing Nvidia's market capitalization past the never-before-seen threshold.

By way of comparison, the level was greater than the GDP of France or Germany or higher than that of Tesla, Meta (Facebook), and Netflix combined.

Microsoft and Apple, the two other largest global market capitalizations, only just exceed \$4 trillion in valuation each. The surge in Nvidia's share price follows continued strong sales, a flurry of new deals -- including a partnership with Europe's Nokia announced on Tuesday -- as well as expectations that the company may soon regain access to China.

The company is "largely ahead of any competitor who finds it hard to catch up in the world that Nvidia lives in," Art

Hogan of B. Riley Wealth Management told AFP.

"While it's almost unfathomable to think about a company reaching this milestone, it comes from a company with so many operational efficiencies that seems to announce massive deals on a daily or weekly basis."

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is expected in South Korea this week, where he will attend the sidelines of the APEC summit at which US President Donald Trump will meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, with issues related to AI development expected to be discussed. Nvidia chips are currently not sold in China due to a combination of Chinese government bans, national security concerns, and ongoing trade tensions between the United States and China.

Nvidia has announced a series of partnerships in recent weeks, including an intention to invest up to \$100 billion in ChatGPT-maker OpenAI over the coming years. It also said it would invest \$5 billion in struggling chip rival Intel, in response to the Trump administration's desire to bring back more manufacturing of semiconductors to the United States.

## US military says reduced presence in Europe not a 'withdrawal'



US soldiers operate pusher vessels to be used for assembly and operate a transportation barge across Danube river during SABER GUARDIAN 25 military exercise in Frecatei, eastern Romania

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The US military confirmed yesterday it was reducing its presence on NATO's eastern flank, but denied the move amounted to an American withdrawal from Europe.

The US Army in Europe and Africa said an infantry brigade combat team and an airborne division were to redeploy to their Kentucky home base without replacement, after Romania previewed the scale-down.

"This is not an American withdrawal from Europe or a signal of lessened commitment

to NATO and Article 5," it said in a statement from its German headquarters, referring to the alliance's collective defence principle. "Rather this is a positive sign of increased European capability and responsibility."

The US had been expected to order drawdowns in Europe following a review of its military deployments worldwide. But it was beaten to an official announcement by Romania.

Bucharest's defence ministry said Wednesday that the US was to halt the rotation of a brigade that had elements in several

NATO countries, including Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

But NATO swiftly played down the planned reduction in personnel amid fears of a US pullback at a time where Europe contends with an aggressive Russia.

"This force posture adjustment will not change the security environment in Europe," the US military added.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised NATO, and insisted that European allies boost military spending as Ukraine battles Russia's invasion.

## 132 killed in massive Rio police crackdown on gang: public defender

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

The Rio de Janeiro public defender's office yesterday said a total of 132 people died in the bloodiest police raid against drug gangs in the Brazilian city's history, as grieving residents laid out dozens of bodies in the street.

"The most recent update is 132 dead," the Rio state public defender's office, which provides legal assistance to the poor, told AFP.

There was no immediate corroboration of the figure from other sources.

Rio state Governor Claudio Castro put the death toll from Tuesday's violence at around 60 but warned that the real figure was likely higher as more bodies were being to be taken to a morgue, where the dead were being counted.

Four police officers were slain during the military-style operation, which involved 2,500 officers taking on Rio's most powerful criminal organization, the Comando Vermelho, or Red Command.

In Penha Complex -- one of two densely populated, working-class neighborhoods targeted in northern Rio -- residents wept over a line of at least 50 corpses early Wednesday.



Nvidia, founded in 1993, created the world's first GPU (graphics processing unit) in 1999 -- a breakthrough that revolutionised computer graphics and later became the foundation for artificial intelligence and high-performance computing.