

Saharan dust turns Caribbean brown

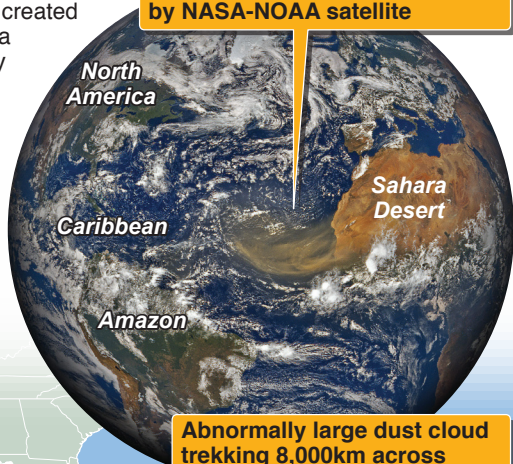
A vast plume of Saharan dust is shrouding swathes of the Caribbean, Central America and southern U.S. states. Meteorologists say it is the biggest and densest concentration of dust for half a century

Saharan Air Layer (SAL): Mass of extremely dry and dusty air created by strong winds over Sahara moves across Atlantic every 3-5 days from late spring to early fall, peaking from late June to mid-August

Saharan winds pick up over 800 million tonnes of dust every year

Dust can adversely affect air quality but helps build beaches in Caribbean and fertilizes soils in Amazon

Jun 18: SAL “outbreak” spotted by NASA-NOAA satellite



Abnormally large dust cloud trekking 8,000km across Atlantic, suppressing storm formation



Jun 25:
SAL expected to reach Gulf Coast states including Texas and Louisiana

Jun 24 **Jun 23**



People advised to stay at home if possible and wear face mask as dust is powerful irritant and could contain pathogens