# hronicle

Wildfire prompts

emergency alert for 2 communities in Canada

Ottawa,(UNI): An evacuation alert was issued Friday night for two com-munities in Canada's western province of Alberta due to an out-of-

control wildfire. The two communi

ties were Fort McMurray and Saprae

Creek Estates. The fire is currently 25

kilometres southwest of Fort McMur

ray, and smoke could impact visibili

ty on Highway 63 south of Fort Mc

Murray. Residents in the affected area

were asked to be ready to evacuate on

short notice. A total of 117 fires wer

actively burning nationwide on Fri

day, with 33 categorised as out of

control, according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. The

Thursday that above-normal temper

atures nationwide could lead to

greater wildfire risks. Canada's wild

fire season in 2023 is the most de

structive on record. According to the

Canadian National Fire Database

there were 7,131 fires recorded na-

tionwide in 2023, burning a record 17,203,625 hectares of land.

government

warned

Canadian



#### 5.0-magnitude quake hits Hokkaido, Japan

Tokyo, (UNI): An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 jolted Hokkaido, Japan Region at 00:47:21 GMT on Saturday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said. The epicenter, with a depth of 33.2 km, was initially determined to be at 41.85 degrees north latitude and 144.01 degrees east longitude.

#### Nepal's rope-fixing team scales Mount Qomolangma

A team of Nepali Sherpa climbers fixed the rope to the peak of Mount Qomolangma on Friday evening, clearing the way for the season's expedi-tion, said Nepal's Department of Tourism. The 10-member rope-fixing team led by Dendi Sherpa ascended the world's tallest peak at 20:15 local time on Friday. "The successful completion of rope fixing has paved the way for the national and international climbers to start their expeditions," Khim Lal Gautam, chief of the tourism department's field office at the base camp, said in a statement. By Friday, as many as 414 climbers had received permits to scale the 8,848.86metre-high Mount Qomolang-ma, which straddles Nepal and China, according to the department.

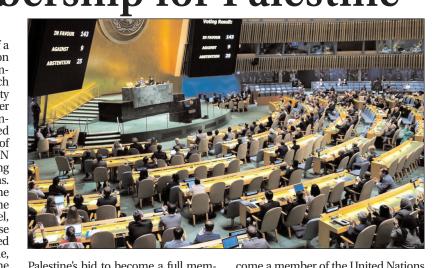
#### Three killed in Ukraine's missile strike on Lugansk oil depot

Lugansk, (UNI): Ukraine has launched a missile attack on an oil depot in the Lugansk city of Rovenky, killing three peo-ple and injuring eight others, a local official said on Saturday. "As with the recent attacks on Lugansk, today's strike on Rovenky was presumably car-ried out with U.S.-made AT-ACMS missiles equipped with cluster munitions," local leader Leonid Pasechnik wrote on his Telegram channel. As a result of the strike, the oil depot was engulfed in fire, and houses around it were also damaged. The death toll has risen to three, with eight more hospitalised, including six with mine-explosive injuries and two with poisoning from combustion products, he said. Residential homes, agricultural machinery, and civilian vehi-cles were also damaged.

## India votes in favour of resolution for full **UN membership for Palestine** the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kambo

United Nations/New Delhi, (UNI)

India on Friday voted in favour of a draft UN General Assembly resolution for admitting Palestine as a full member of the United Nations and which also recommended that the Security Council should "reconsider" the matter "favourably". In the 193-member General Assembly, the Arab Group-moved resolution in support of the State of Palestine's full membership in the UN received 143 votes in favour, including India, nine against and 25 abstentions. The resolution was presented by the United Arab Emirates, as Chair of the Arab Group. The United States, Israel, Hungary, Argentina, were among those who voted against, while the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Ukraine, Sweden, Switzerland were among the 25 nations that abstained. Earlier, on May 2, India had voiced hope that



Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations would be reconsidered and its endeavour to be-

tunnels in the Khan Younis area,

In January, The Wall Street Jour-

nal, citing officials, reported that Israel had so far managed to dam-

age or disable only 20% to 40% of

Hamas' underground tunnels in

the Gaza Strip, and there were also

difficulties in estimating the extent

of the underground network. The

same month, The New York Times,

citing Israeli officials, wrote that

the Israeli army anticipates that

the network of tunnels built by Hamas under the Gaza Strip may

be much larger than anticipated and that it will take years to com-

pletely destroy it.In the night from

Monday to Tuesday, the Israeli mil-

itary started a military operation in

the eastern parts of Rafah and took

control of the Gaza side of the

about five miles north of Rafah.

Hamas leader in Gaza strip may remain

in tunnels under Khan Younis

come a member of the United Nations will get endorsed. India's Permanent Representative to

### S Africa urges ICJ to adopt further measures against Israel over Rafah incursion

in the United Nations"

said in a statement in the UN General

Assembly on the Use of Veto: "While we

have noted that Palestine's application

for membership at the United Nations

was not approved by the Security

Council because of the aforesaid veto,

would like to state here at the very out-

set that in keeping with India's long-standing position, we hope that this would be reconsidered in due course

and that Palestine's endeavour to be-

come a member of the United Nations will get endorsed." On April 18, the UN

Security Council had rejected Pales-

tine's request for UN membership, with

the United States casting a veto. The 15-nation Council had voted

on a draft resolution that would have

recommended to the 193-member UN

General Assembly "that the State of Palestine be admitted to membership

#### The Hague, (UNI)

South Africa has filed an urgent request with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Friday for additional provisional measures against Israel over its planned military op-eration in the Gazan city of Rafah. "South Africa today filed an ur-gent request with the Court for the

gent request with the Court for the indication of additional provisional measures and the modification of provisional measures previously prescribed by the Court in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)," the statement read.

The African nation calls on the ICJ to consider "the changed circumstances and new facts" and order further provisional measures as



well as modify the previously indicated ones, The Hague-based court

said. "The situation brought about by the Israeli assault on Rafah, and the extreme risk it poses to humanitarian supplies and basic services into Gaza, to the survival of the Palestinian medical system, and to the very survival of Palestinians in Gaza as a group, is not only an escalation of the prevailing situation, but gives rise to new facts that are causing ir-reparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people in Gaza," the ICJ quoted South Africa as saying in its request.

South Africa filed its lawsuit against Israel on December 29 2023. On January 26, the ICJ ruled provisional measures ordering Is rael to take urgent steps to prevent acts of genocide and ensure the flow of humanitarian aid to the enclave

At the same time, the ICJ did not order an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. In early March, the African nation went back to the ICJ to cal for additional provisional measures against Israel that would address widespread starvation among Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

### WHO warns of food-borne diseases in Kenya amid flood crisis

Rafah crossing with Egypt.

#### Nairobi,(UNI)

Gaza, (UNI)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned of a possible surge in food-borne diseases in Kenya due to the ongoing floods crisis. "There is a likelihood of increased illnesses associated with contaminated food diseases,' WHO-Kenya said in an alert issued in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

The Hamas leader in the Gaza

Strip, Yahya Sinwar, may be in tun-

nels under the southern Gazan city

of Khan Yunis, The Times of Israel

reported, citing two Israeli officials.

sure the exact location of Sinwar,

but shared Israeli intelligence data

that he could be in underground

The officials could not say for

More than 260 people have been killed and over 378,000 others displaced by floods in Kenya as heavy rains of 200 mm a day pound different parts of the country, according to Kenvan authorities. The crisis has affected 41 out of the 47 counties, with most of those displaced living in congested camps in schools and churches.

WHO issued the alert due to the congestion in camps and the dam-



tation infrastructure, including in Nairobi. Kenya has already report-ed a cholera outbreak, with 44 cases recorded in Tana River County in the coastal part of the country, one of the worst affected areas by

advised personal hygiene practices. The WHO said it will continue to support the health emergency response and remain vigilant for disease outbreaks that can easily spread if not quickly contained.

"We must be agile and ready to respond, led by the government and along with the partners, to bring relief to hundreds and thousands of affected people," Abdourahmane Diallo, WHO representative in Kenya, said on Tuesday. At least 14 health facilities have been closed in different parts of Kenya and a major water treatment plant contaminated due to flooding, according to Kenya's Ministry



#### **Buenos Aires**, (UNI)

At least 30 people were injured and hospitalised after a train collision in Buenos Aires, Alberto Crescenti, director of the SAME emergency service, said.

On Friday, a passenger train

Train crash in Argentina, 30 injured

on a railway bridge in the suburb of Palermo on the San Martin line, which connects the Argentine capital with the province of Buenos Aires, media reported.

'We have assisted a total of 90 passengers, 30 of whom are in various city hospitals with code red, Crescenti told reporters at the scene.

The trains collided at slow speed, as the passenger train had just started moving and the empty boxcar, which was loaded with ma-terials for repairing the railway track, was not moving at all, Argentine broadcaster TN said.

Many passengers left the train on their own, while others needed help from emergency response teams, the report said.

A train control error may have

floods. To avoid contaminated food diseases, WHO-Kenya those affected by floods to ensure food safety through thorough cooking, proper storage and enhanced

#### **Russia's electronic** warfare creates issues for US precision weaponry in Ukraine

Moscow, (UNI): Russia's electronic warfare has created problems for US-made precision weaponry in Ukraine, Business Insider reported. This shows the need for the United States to develop relevant solutions before any great-power conflict, the report said. Russian electronic warfare decreases the effectiveness of such weaponry as the HIMARS-fired Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS) and airlaunched Joint Direct Attack Munitions, it said. Precision systems (Excalibur and GMLRS) see "shockingly decreased accuracy because of jamming," the report said.

#### Death toll from floods in Brazil rises to 126

Brasília, (UNI): The death toll from floods in the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul has risen to 126, the region's civil Defence authority said on Friday, adding that 756 people were injured and 141 remain missing. "Injured people: 756, missing people: 141, confirmed deaths: 126," the authority said. At least 339,000 people have fled their homes since the floods began last week, of whom 71,400 are in temporary shelters. In total, the disaster affected 1.95 million residents of the state. The rescue work in the region involves 27,000 people, 41 aeroplanes, and 340 ships, according to the latest data. Heavy rainfall in Brazil's southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul on the border with Uruguay started on April 29, resulting in devastating floods. Flooding on the Guaiba River, which flows through the state capital, Porto Alegre, has so far become the worst since 1941.

age the floods have caused to sani-

#### **Emir of Kuwait dissolves** parliament elected just a Kabul, (UNI) month ago

Kuwait City, (UNI): Kuwaiti Emir Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday evening issued a decree dissolving the parliament elected in early April. "Proceeding from the highest interests of the state, we order the following: first, to dissolve parliament, and second, to suspend the operation of a number of clauses of the constitution for a period of no more than four years," the decree, read out on Kuwait Central Television, says. In addition, the emir decided that a number of parliamentary powers would be transferred to the emir and the government. As the Kuwaiti monarch stated in his speech after the dissolution of parliament, he "will not allow democracy to be used to destroy the country." Early elections to the Kuwaiti parliament were held on April 4 for the fifth time in two years amid a conflict between the country's executive and legislative branches.

# Death toll from Afghanistan's floods rises to 160: Officials

At least 160 people have been killed and 117 others injured as rainstorms and flash floods hit major parts of the provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and of war-ravaged Ghor Afghanistan, local officials said on Saturday. "Recent flash floods hit most parts of the province including Gozargah-e-Noor, Jelgah, Nahrin, Dushi, Baghlan-e-Markazi, Dahna-e-Ghori, Ta-la-o-Barfak, and Barka districts, as well as the provincial capital of Pul-e-Khumri, leaving 130 dead and injuring 100 others," spokesman of Baghlan's governor Mul-lah Alam Majidi said on Sat-urday. The natural mishap mostly affected local people in Barka and Baghlan-e-



Markazi districts, said Majidi, adding that the number of causalities will be increased. Meanwhile, foreign media quoted the United Nation's International Organization for Migration as saying that over 200 people were

killed and thousands of houses were destroyed or damaged in Baghlan. Storms and floods also killed 20 people and injured 14 in Namak Ab, Ishkamish, Farkhar and Kafgan districts of Takhar province, Ahmad Sir Sajid,

head of Takhar's disaster management authority, said Saturday. He added that 300 houses as well as electricity and communications facili ties were seriously damaged. Seven people were killed and three others injured following flash floods lashed Chaharsada, Murghab, Saghar, Al-Farouq, Tewara districts, and Firoz Koh city, the provincial capital of western Ghor province, spokesman of Ghor's governor Abdul Wahid Hamas said. Additionally, three people

lost their lives and two others are missing due to rain-storms and floods in most parts northern of Badakhshan province, Mohammad Mawlawi Mohammad Akram Akbari, head of Badakhshan's disaster management authority reported.

### 5 soldiers killed in clash with militants in **NW Pakistan**

Islamabad, (UNI): Five soldiers were killed in a clash with terrorists in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday, official sources said.

The clash broke out at about 8:30 a.m. local time (GMT 0330) after a military vehicle carrying a bomb disposal party was hit by an improvised explosive device in the North Waziristan district of the province, the sources told Xinhua.

Following the blast, terrorists am-bushing the vehicle opened fire at the troops, triggering an exchange of fire, the sources said.

Two troops and two terrorists were injured in the clash, while a soldier went missing following the incident.The identities of the attackers and their affiliations were not revealed.

# **US Army orders \$332mln more multiple** launch rockets from Lockheed Martin

#### Washington, (UNI)

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control was awarded a \$332,126,764 US Army modification contract for the Multiple Guided Launch Rocket System, the Department Defense of announced in a press release.

"Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control [of] Grand Prairie, Texas was awarded \$332,126,764 modification ... contract for



the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System," the release said on Friday.

Work on the contract will be carried out over the next three and a half years with an estimated completion date of October 20, 2027, the Defense Department said.

The US Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama will oversee work on the contract, the defense Department added.

### Iceland, China agree to boost trade opportunities at CIIE promotional event

#### Reykjavik, (UNI)

A memorandum of cooperation was signed on Friday between Business Iceland and the China International Import Expo Bureau, tapping the potential for a record number of Icelandic companies participating in this year's China International İmport Expo (CIIE). The memorandum was signed during a promotional event for the 7th CIIE, which took place in the capital city of Reykjavik. The event was hosted jointly by the China International Import Expo Bureau, the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., and the Chinese Embassy in Iceland. In a speech, Dai Ke, counsellor of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in Iceland, said the two countries have enormous potential for cooperation in clean energy, digital economy and green development. He hoped Ice-landic companies would seize opportuni-ties at the CIIE to further expand trade with Chine There Weight China.Zhang Weimin, assistant president of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), said the CIIE has become an important platform for Icelandic products to enter the Chinese market and for Icelandic companies to explore the Chinese market. Iceland has participated in the CIIE for six consecutive years.

After signing the memorandum of cooperation, Kristinn Bjornsson, project manager of Business Iceland, told Xinhua that several companies have reported out comes worthwhile from participating in the exhibition. Business Iceland is respon sible for promoting Icelandic exports.Bjornsson added that considering Iceland's small size and China's enormous market, more and more Icelandic companies are interested in participating in the CIIE, a growing testament to the countries relationship. China is Iceland's larges

trading partner in Asia. Staff from the China International Im-port Expo Bureau also introduced the exhi-bition areas of the 7th CIIE to the Icelandic guests at the symposium and answered questions from Icelandic company representatives

