# Chronicle

## World 8

## **MUSTREAD**

### 3 dead after dragon boat capsizes in SW China

Beijing: Three people have been confirmed dead after a dragon boat capsized in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, local authorities said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon in Xiushan County, when the crew on the boat was training for a local dragon boat race and many of them were not wearing life jackets. After the incident, one person was confirmed dead and two others were declared missing.



## Somali military eliminates 47 Al-Shabaab militants

Mogadishu: The Somali Information Ministry said that the country's armed forces eliminated 47 militants of the radical al-Shabaab terrorist group in the province of Galguduud in the central part of the country, Somali news portal Mogadishu24 reported. The ministry added that five Somali soldiers were killed during the operation, the report said on Saturday. Al-Shabaab is

a Somalia-based jihadist militant group linked to the al-Qaeda terrorist group. It wages armed resistance against the Somali government and obstructs UN humanitarian missions in the country.

## 2 dead in Philippine capital road crash

Manila; Two died after a motorcycle collided with a car in the Philippine capital before dawn on Sunday, local authorities said. Officials and witnesses said the accident happened around 2:30 a.m. local time on a street corner in Manila City. The impact of the collision wrecked the hood of the car, killing the 50-year-old male passenger and the 43-year-old male driver of motorcycle at the scene. Initial investigation showed the driver of the motorcycle was under the influence of alcohol. Police detained the driver of the car while the investigation was underway.

## 2 die, 30 injured in Turkey bus crash

Ankara: Two people were killed and 30 injured in a bus crash in eastern Turkey's Van Province, Turkish newspaper Milliyet reported on Sunday. incident reportedly occurred early morning near the Kuskunkiran tunnel on the the Kuskunkiran tunnel on the Van Bitlis highway, when a passenger bus and a truck collided. The reason of the crash is not clear yet. Rescue teams and medical personnel were dispatched to the area, the newspaper reported, specifying that the bus driver and one passenger died, while 30 sustained injuries, with four of them badly hurt. The injured were taken to hospitals, and an investigation into the launched. incident was

Beirut (UNI)

Four people, including two Hezbollah members, were killed, and five others have been injured in Israeli airstrikes on villages in southern Lebanon, Lebanese military sources told Xinhua. The sources, who spoke anonymously, that an Israeli warplane targeted a house in the village of Houla,

Hezbollah killing two members and injuring three civilians. The sources added that another Israeli airstrike targeted, with two air-to-surface missiles, a commercial market in the village of Aitaroun, killing

civilians two wounding two others. The two slain civilians were identified as Ali Khalil Hamad, a coffee shop

owner, and a young man named Mustafa Issa. named Meanwhile, Hezbollah said it responded to Israel's raids on Saturday with several attacks in the occupied Shebaa Farms and a number of Israeli sites, including Malikiyah, Al-Samaqa, Zarit, and al-Raheb. Tensions increased between Hezbollah and the Israeli army in the wake of the latter's announcement of completing deployment for a major offensive against the former. The announcement came after a drone attack by Hezbollah on Wednesday on an Israeli gathering south of the Al-Kosh settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, which caused numerous casualties.

4 killed, 5 injured in Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon

## **US intelligence data helps** Israel free four hostages



Washington (UNI)

A team of US hostage recovery officials provided Israel with intelligence that helped locate and rescue four hostages held in the Gaza Strip, The New York Times reported,

citing a US official. On Saturday, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) rescued four hostages who were kidnapped from the Nova music festival on October 7. The hostages are in good medical condition and have been transferred to hospital for further medical examinations, the IDF said.

In addition, teams of In addition, teams of specialists from the United States and the United Kingdom provide intelligence to Israel gathered from air and cyberspace, the report said on Saturday, citing an Israeli official. Haitian PM Conille's condition stable after hospitalization - Office

Port-au-Prince: The condition of Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille, who was reportedly hospi talized after an asthma attack, is stable, his office said on Sunday.

Agence France-Presse reported earlier today that Conille was hos pitalized after an asthma attack adding that the prime minister could be sent abroad for treatment.

"After a week of intense activity on Saturday afternoon on June 8, 2024, Prime Minister Garry Conille felt slightly unwell and went to hospital to receive help. His condi-tion is stable at the moment," the office said in a statement on X.

In late May, the Haitian Transi tional Presidential Council select ed Conille, director of the local de partment of the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), to lead the interim government. He already served as prime minister in 2011-2012.

## Two ships damaged in attacks off Yemen's coast



### Aden, Yemen (UNI)

Two commercial vessels were damaged in separate incidents off the coast of Yemen on Saturday, according to reports from UK maritime agencies.

The British security firm, Ambrey, said on Sunday an Antigua- and Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship was struck by a missile 83 nautical miles southeast of Aden, causing a fire that was later contained.

The firm added that the ship's

crew reported a second missile was sighted but did not hit the ship. Persons on board small boats in the vicinity opened fire on the ship during the incident, but there were no injuries reported.

The United Kingdom Maritime ade Operations (UKMTO) Trade reported a separate incident approximately 70 nautical miles southwest of Aden. A vessel was struck by an "unknown projectile" on its aft section, resulting in a fire, but no casualties were according to the reported, UKMTO.

So far, no group has claimed the attacks, which came amid a months-long campaign by the Houthi group, which controls much of Yemen, targeting vessels off the country's coast to show off the country's coast to show solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

# **One of Iran's 4 female presidential** candidates withdraws from race

### Tehran (UNI)

A former member of Iran's parliament and the first of four women to register to run for the country's presidency, Zohreh Elahian, withdrew her candidacy on Sunday and announced her support for a candidate "trusted by the

"Supporting the candidate trusted by the people, scholars and [intellectual] elites, and expressing gratitude for the positive and wise view of the judicious leader of the [Islamic] revolution on the presence of women in major leadership positions, I announce my refusal to continue [my] candidacy," Elahian said on X. Four other candidates had previously withdrawn from the race,

Iranian media reported.

Under Iran's approved electoral calendar, the registration of candidates took place from May 30 to June 3, and eligibility checks will be conducted for two five-day terms from June 4 to June 13. The election will take place on June 28. The second round, if necessary, will be held on July 5. A total of 278 people have initially put forward their candidacies, including former First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri, who served in President Hassan Rouhani's government from 2013-2021, former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and former Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Abdolnaser Hemmati.

registered 80 candidates out of 278 who applied, 43 of whom are former or current members of the country's parliament, including four women. Under Article 131 of Iran's constitution, a presidential election must be held within 50 days of the declaration of the death or incapacity of the president and the transfer of duties to the first vice president. This position is currently held by Mohammad Mokhber.

On May 19, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi died after his helicopter crashed on its way back to Iran from a visit to neighboring Azerbaijan. Preliminary findings of an official Iranian probe suggest the helicopter caught fire after hitting a hilltop amid thick fog.

The election headquarters has

# Attack on Danish PM not politically motivated

Copenhagen (UNI) The attack on Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen is not politically motivated, the Copenhagen Police said on Saturday.

On Friday evening, a man hit the Danish prime minister on Kultorvet Square in Copenhagen. The assaulter, 39, was then taken into custody.

'Currently, we do not consider the incident to be politically motivated," the police wrote on X. Frederiksen received some injuries, minor and her

participation in the events scheduled for Saturday cancelled, the Danish was B.T. newspaper reported.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell condemned the assault. "Shocked by another [physical

aggression] against democratically elected leader, I condemn it. My solidarity with Mette Frederiksen. Violence will not determine our political choices," Borrell wrote on X.

The prime ministers of Spain Norway also strongly mned the attack on and condemned Frederiksen.

Frederiksen is 'Mette committed leader, a wonderful person, and a great friend. The attack she has suffered [...] is an attack against all of us who believe in a Europe of freedom, tolerance, and peace. I have just conveyed to her all my support and that of Spanish citizens in these difficult times. Violence has no place in the EU," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez wrote on X.

This is unacceptable and represents an attack on our open democratic societies, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store told the country's Dagbladet

NATO wants to establish new permanent envoy post in Kyiv to coordinate support

Washington (UNI)

NATŌ is considering establishing a new permanent envoy based in Kyiv who will be coordinating the alliance's support for Ukraine, including military assistance flows from Western Foreign countries, Policy magazine reported, citing Western and US officials familiar with the matter.

The post of a NATO "senior civilian representative" in Kiev is inspired by a similar post established during NATO's during operation in Afghanistan, the magazine reported on Friday, adding that the decision might be adopted during the NATO Summit in Washington in July.

The new post is also seen as a

Ukraine, symbolising NATO's commitment to Kiev amid the ongoing military conflict between Moscow and Kyiv and the latter's Euro-Atlantic integration bids, the magazine added.

The move comes following recent decisions by the United States and some of its allies to allow Ukraine to use US- or Europesupplied weapons to strike targets across the internationally recognised borders of Russia for counter-fire purposes. Western countries have also been discussing sending troops or military instructors to Ukraine.

Western countries have been providing massive military and financial aid to Kiev since the start of Russia's military operation in Ukraine in February 2022.

## Iran urges Islamic countries to stop cooperation with Israel Tehran: Islamic countries

should stop political, economic cooperation with Israel and boycott imports, acting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri said on Saturday. "In our opinion, the most effective initiative Islamic countries can undertake would be to stop political and economic cooperation with this [Israeli] regime and boycott all imports and exports with it," Bagheri said in an interview with the CNN Turk broadcaster.

## ADF rebels kill at least 50 civilians in eastern DRC

Kinshasa: Recent deadly attacks attributed to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels have resulted in the deaths of at least 50 civilians in eastern Democratic the Republic of the Congo (DRC), local media reported on Saturday, citing local officials. According to local sources, the ADF carried out two overnight assaults in the Beni region of North Kivu province, killing at least 50 civilians on Tuesday and Friday. Several civilians were reportedly abducted by the rebels.

## Australia issues 'Plague' malware warning

### Canberra (UNI)

Australian authorities have issued a warning to internet users over a rise in hidden viruses that give cyber criminals remote control of their devices.

In a statement released on Sunday, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) urged online users to protect themselves from a surge in the use of remote access Trojans (RATs) by criminals.

RATs are a form of malicious malware that can be embedded in downloadable email attachments, video game add-ons, modifications.

Once a RAT has been downloaded, the malware can covertly take unauthorised control of a victim's electronic device to conduct surveillance and steal sensitive personal information.

Chris Goldsmid, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the AFP, said authorities have identified an increase in cybercriminals attempting to target Australians and people around the world through the use of RATs.

"These viruses, known as RATs, are the tools of cybercriminals and are built to spread and take over a victim's device, just like a plague," he said.

"This type of cyber offence can evolve into extreme and malicious forms of data theft and victim manipulation, with criminals using stolen data to commit extortion or financial crimes."

The AFP charged an Australian man in April after he allegedly developed and sold a RAT to customers on a hacking forum.

## Qatar, Egypt threatening Hamas with consequences if ceasefire deal not reached

deal with Israel,

The Wall Street Journal reported, citing sources. The report noted, however, that these efforts led to the opposite result: Hamas has said it will not agree to a deal that does not meet its conditions.

Last week, US President Joe Biden said that Israel had offered Hamas a new three-phase proposal with a road map that would lead to an enduring cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and the release of all hostages. The first phase includes a complete ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Gaza population centers and the release of some of the hostages held by Hamas, including the wounded, the elderly, and women, as well as the release of detained Palestinians from prisons.

## IS sympathiser seeking job at UEFA Euro 2024 detained in Germany

Berlin: German law enforcement officers have detained a man suspected of having links to banned Islamic State terrorist group who was trying to get a job related to the 2024 UEFA European Football Championship that begins next week, local media reported.

The 23-year-old man, who holds German, Polish, and Moroccan citizenship, was detained at Cologne Bonn Airport, German broadcaster Tagesschau reported on Saturday.

Prosecutors accuse him of allegedly transferring around 1,600 euros (\$1,730) in cryptocurrency to the Islamic State's Afghanistan-based affiliate, ISIS-Khorasan, in September 2023.

# US begins withdrawal of troops from Niger

### Niamey (UNI)

The United States has begun withdrawing its troops from Niger with the departure of the first aircraft, the two countries' Defence Ministries said in a joint statement

on Saturday. "The U.S. Department of Defence and the Nigerien Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Niger announce that the withdrawal of U.S. forces and assets from Niger has progressed from initial preparations to redeployment. This significant transition began with the departure of a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from Air Base 101 in Niamey on June 7, 2024," the statement read.

Moreover, some US forces have already redeployed from Niger to their home stations after concluding their missions, the statement read. At the same time, a small contingent of US military personnel arrived in the African country to assist with the



withdrawal of troops from Air Bases 101 and 201, it added. The US and Niger agreed to complete the withdrawal of US troops from the African country no later than Santamber 15 later than September 15.

There is an estimated 1,100 US personnel in Niger. The military

pullout was initiated in March after a Nigerien military spokesperson said transitional the country's government, which took power in a coup in July 2023, had terminated the military agreement with the US with immediate effect, citing the interests of the Nigerien people.

## Laos celebrates UNESCO's recognition of traditional Naga motif weaving

### Vientiane (UNI)

A grand event has been held in Lao capital Vientiane to celebrate the recognition of Laos' traditional craft of Naga motif weaving by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

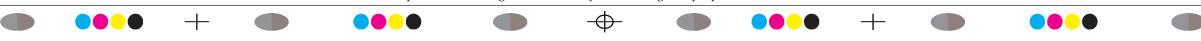
The event, held from June 6 to 9, showcased the Naga motif in Laos through displays, a fashion show featuring the traditional Lao skirt sinh adorned with the motif, as well as performances of songs and traditional Lao dance, as reported by Lao National Radio on Sunday.

The Naga motif weaving enjoys special position in Laos, being highly esteemed and unique. It is a product of creativity, reverence, and meticulous craftsmanship, reflecting the intertwining of such elements in the daily lives of the Lao people. The intricate process of weaving a single motif can span several days.

Lao textiles serve as a medium for visual storytelling, skillfully incorporating symbols and motifs inspired by legendary creatures and natural images. These elements not only add aesthetic value but also convey information about an individual's background marital status, and ethnic heritage

The Naga is a mythical, serpent like creature that lives in rivers. Lao people believe that Naga are ancestors that watch over them.

In February 2024, the Lao Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism received a certificate from UNESCO over the Lao traditional Naga motif weaving after the latter's official inscription of the textile pattern on its representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity in 2023.



Doha (UNI)

Qatar and Egypt, at the direction of the US administration, have threatened the leaders of Palestinian movement Hamas with possible arrests, asset freezes, sanctions and expulsion from their refuge in Doha if they do not agree to a ceasefire

## newspaper.