

UN chief: Sudan on brink of 'full-scale civil war'

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sudan was on the brink of a "full-scale civil war" as fierce clashes between rival generals continued unabated Sunday in the capital, Khartoum.

He warned on Saturday evening that the war between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary force is likely to destabilize the entire region, according to Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the secretary-general. Sudan descended into chaos after months of tension between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and his rival Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in mid-April.

Health Minister Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim said in televised comments last month that the clashes have killed over 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others. The death tally, however, is highly likely to be much higher.

More than 2.9 million people have fled their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossed into neighboring countries, according to UN figures.

The fighting came 18 months after the two generals led a military coup in October 2021 that toppled a Western-backed civilian transitional government. The conflict dashed Sudanese hopes of a peaceful transition to democracy after a popular uprising forced the military removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

The war has turned the capital Khartoum and other urban areas across the country into battlefields. Residents in Khartoum said fierce fighting was underway early Sunday south of the capital. The warring factions were using heavy weapons in the battles in the Kalaka neighborhood and the military's aircraft were seen hovering over the area, said resident Abdalla al-Fatih. In his statement, Guterres



also condemned an airstrike Saturday that health authorities said killed at least 22 people in Omdurman, a city just across the Nile from the capital, Khartoum. The assault was one of the deadliest in the conflict. The RSF blamed the mili-

tary for the attack in Omdurman. The military, in turn, denied the accusation saying in a statement Sunday that its air force didn't carry out any airstrikes in the city that day. The secretary-general also decried the large-scale violence and casualties in the

western region of Darfur, which has experienced some of the worst fighting in the ongoing conflict, Haq said in a statement. "There is an utter disregard for humanitarian and human rights law that is dangerous and disturbing," Guterres said.



A man walks through rubble by a bullet-riddled fence with barbed-wire, in the aftermath of clashes and bombardment in the Ombada suburb on the western outskirts of Omdurman, the twin-city of Sudan's capital, on July 4, 2023.

● AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

IAEA chief criticized over Fukushima water release



AP - South Korean opposition lawmakers sharply criticized the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog on Sunday for its approval of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.

They met with Rafael Grossi, the International Atomic Energy Agency's director general, in a tense meeting in Seoul that took place while protesters screamed outside the door. The IAEA last week approved the Japanese discharge plans, saying the process would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental and health impacts. South Korea's government has also endorsed the safety of the Japanese plans.

Uzbek voters cast ballots in presidential election



Two voters cast their votes in a ballot box at a polling station in Rishton city in Fergana Region of Uzbekistan on July 9, 2023.

● IRANDAILY



By Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writer

Uzbek voters cast their ballots on Sunday at 10,784 polling stations across the central Asian country, where citizens of the state were able to vote in early presidential election during June 28-July 5.

According to the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a sum of 19.66 million voters registered in presidential elections in the country. At the 55th polling station, established at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Iran, fellow citizens staying in the country used their constitutional right to take part in the early voting process.

The decision on early voting was announced by the current President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on May 8 following the results of a referendum on a new version of the Constitution (in accordance with Articles 110 and 128 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as Article 66 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan). This was the first election after the amendments to the Constitution come into force as the president is elected for seven years on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

In total, four candidates were nominated for the post of head of state: from the People's Democratic Party - Ulugbek Ilyasovich Inoyatov; from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Business People - the Liberal Dem-

ocratic Party (UZLiDeP) - Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev;

from the Social Democratic Party "Adolat" - Robahon Anvarovna Makhmudova; and from the Ecological Party - Abdushukur Khudoikulovich Khamzaev.

In turn, the Milliy Tiklanish party decided not to nominate its own candidate for participation in the presidential elections, supporting the candidacy of Mirziyoyev.

The program of the candidate for president of Uzbekistan from the People's Democratic Party Ulugbek Inoyatov said that his main goal was to form a democratic social state in the country that meets the criteria of social justice, social equality and democracy. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a presidential candidate from UzLiDeP, presented the

New Uzbekistan Strategy, which provides for reducing poverty by at least two times by 2027, developing the digital economy, deepening reforms in the judicial and legal sphere, increasing life expectancy, and improving public administration.

The candidate for the presidency of Uzbekistan from the social democratic party "Adolat" Robahon Makhmudova in her program offered a social democratic model for building a "fair civil society", providing for a democratic legal, social state and prosperity for all.

The presidential candidate from the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan Abdushukur Khamzaev in his election program focused on overcoming the risks caused by climate change and the tragedy of the Aral Sea.

At least 15 dead in India monsoon floods

AFP - At least 15 people were killed in floods and landslides triggered by monsoon rains that battered northern India, with New Delhi receiving the most rainfall in decades, reports and officials said Sunday.

Roads in several parts of the capital were submerged in knee-deep water as it was inundated with 153 millimetres of rain, the highest precipitation in a single day in July in 40 years.

BBC suspends presenter over sexual misconduct allegations

REUTERS - Britain's BBC suspended a male member of staff on Sunday following an allegation that one of its star presenters paid a teenager thousands of pounds to pose for sexually explicit photos, beginning when they were 17 years old.

The broadcaster said it first became aware of a complaint in May, but new allegations of a different nature were made to it on Thursday, and it had informed "external authorities". BBC News said it understood that referred to the police.

Remains of hundreds of babies to be exhumed from mass grave in Ireland

Ten years after a dark discovery was made in the west of Ireland, Euronews takes a look at the grim legacy of the maternity homes that were still in operation until the end of the 20th century.

Many parents might tell you that having a child is one of life's most fulfilling experiences. But for the thousands of single women who found themselves pregnant in 20th-century Ireland, the experience was deeply stigmatized and often shortlived. Between 1922 and 1998,

an estimated 90,000 unmarried, pregnant women were incarcerated in institutions called Mother and Baby Homes. Upon birth, the babies were handed over to the care of governing religious orders.

In 2012, Catherine Corless, a local historian from Tuam, County Galway, reported that she found death certificates for 796 babies and toddlers born in St Mary's Mother and Baby Home between 1926-1961. However, the burial records were missing.

Her research gained international media attention and sparked fears that these children were buried in a defunct sewerage system on the grounds of the Bon Secours Home. Soon after, the Irish government launched an inquiry and an independent Commission (MBHC) into the Mother and Baby Homes.

Almost a decade later, Ireland's Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman, has finally appointed a former Red Cross envoy

to oversee the exhumation of remains buried on the site.

Ireland gained its independence from Britain in 1922 and the Catholic Church gained partial or in most cases, complete control of these institutions.

According to James Smith, a Professor of English and Irish studies at Boston College, in Massachusetts, the Catholic Church and the Irish Free State were the self-appointed guardians of the nation's moral climate.



This June 4, 2014 file photo shows the site of a mass grave for children who died in Mother and Baby home, in Tuam, Ireland.

● NIALL CARSON/AP