

Six dead after migrant boat capsizes in Channel

AFP, Lille

Six people were killed when a boat carrying migrants heading to Britain sank in the Channel early yesterday, French maritime officials said, as a search continued to find those still missing.

A spokeswoman from the French coastal authority Premar said between five and 10 passengers were still missing, while 55 had been rescued.

Three French ships, a helicopter and a plane have been mobilised to search the area off Sangatte in northern France, along with two British ships.

The local prosecutor said that the first victim was a man aged between 25 and 30 years old of Afghan origin, who had been evacuated by helicopter to a hospital in Calais but later died.

Five other people in a critical condition were taken to Calais on a lifeboat but declared dead on the ship's arrival, said the Premar spokesperson.

The boat capsized around 2:00am local time (0000 GMT) off the northern coast of France, according to the prosecutor.

More than 100,000 migrants have crossed the Channel on small boats from France to southeast England since Britain began publicly recording the arrivals in 2018, official figures revealed on Friday.

French authorities have stepped up patrols and other deterrent measures after London agreed in March to send Paris hundreds of millions of euros annually towards the effort.

The route across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes has repeatedly proved perilous, with several capsizings and scores of migrants drowning in the waters over the last decade.



A man wades through a flooded street in Bago township in Myanmar's Bago region, yesterday. Floods and landslides caused by monsoon rain have killed five and forced around 48,000 people to flee their homes, the relief ministry said. PHOTO: STAR

What lies ahead for Pakistan as it heads to polls

REUTERS

Pakistan's caretaker government under interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will oversee a general election after the dissolution of the lower house of parliament. Kakar and his cabinet will run the government until a national election is held and the winner can secure a parliamentary majority and select a new PM.

Will the elections be delayed? Kakar's caretaker government must hold elections within 90 days. However, after the outgoing government approved a new census in its final days, new electoral boundaries must be drawn up by the Election Commission. The exercise of drawing fresh boundaries for hundreds of federal and provincial constituencies in a country of 241 million people may take six months or more, according to a former commission official. The Election Commission has to announce how long it will take to complete the exercise, which may also

involve litigation by candidates over the new formations of the constituencies, and, based on that, give an election date.

What is the role of the caretaker government? Caretakers are usually limited to overseeing elections, but Kakar's set-up will be the most empowered in Pakistan's history thanks to recent legislation that allows it to make policy decisions on economic matters. The move is ostensibly aimed at keeping on track a nine-month \$3 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout secured in June.

What is the military's role?

The military still has a huge role behind the scenes. Kakar's party, the Balochistan Awami Party, is widely considered to be close to the military. Political analysts fear that if the caretaker set-up stretches beyond its constitutional tenure, a prolonged period without an elected government would allow the military to consolidate control.

Who are the main contenders?

There are three main contenders to lead the next government: Khan's PTI, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of Shehbaz Sharif and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

With Khan in jail and barred from the polls, his PTI will hope to exploit supporters' sympathy and anger and repeat its 2018 victory. But amidst a continuing standoff with the military, PTI's prospects hinge on a detente with the generals, which looks unlikely.

Three-time premier Nawaz Sharif, the brother of the outgoing prime minister and whose PML-N was the senior partner in the outgoing coalition government, is seeking a return from exile. But with a corruption conviction against him still in force, Shehbaz remains a front-runner to return to power.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, 34, the young chairman of the PPP and son of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, is another key candidate. He made waves locally and in foreign capitals in his first government job as foreign minister in the outgoing government, and is widely seen as a future premier.

Migrant boat sinks off Tunisia; 2 killed

AFP, Tunis

At least two Tunisians including a baby died when their boat sank yesterday soon after leaving the country's shores, the coastguard said, amid a spike in attempts to reach Europe. The vessel carrying 20 Tunisians went down at 2:00am (0100 GMT) when it was only 120 metres (395 feet) from the coast in Gabes, the North African country's coastguard said. "Two bodies have been recovered, one of a 20-year-old man and the other of an infant," it said in a statement. Five passengers were missing, the coastguard said, adding search operations were ongoing and 13 others had been rescued. Tunisia is a major gateway for migrants attempting perilous voyages across the Mediterranean in often rickety boats in the hopes of a better life.

Security alert prompts Eiffel Tower evacuation

AFP, Paris

A security alert yesterday prompted the evacuation of three floors of the Eiffel Tower in central Paris, France's most emblematic symbol which drew 6.2 million visitors last year. SETE, the body which runs the site, said bomb disposal experts as well as police were scouring the area, including a restaurant located on one of the floors. "It's a usual procedure in this kind of situation which however is rare," a spokeswoman said. Visitors were evacuated from both the three floors and the square under the monument shortly after 1:30pm (1130 GMT). Construction work on the tower began in January 1887 and was finished on March 31, 1889. It received two million visitors during the World's Fair of 1889.

Malaysians vote in six state polls

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysians in six states went to the polls yesterday to vote for state assembly members in elections widely seen as a barometer of support for Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's unity government. While the elections are unlikely to immediately affect Anwar's current two-thirds majority in parliament, analysts said his hold on power could weaken if his Pakatan Harapan coalition suffers a setback, especially among Malay Muslim voters in the largely Islamic Southeast Asian nation. More than 9.7 million voters are expected to cast their ballots to elect 245 assembly members in the states of Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah, Penang, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan. Of the six states, Anwar's coalition holds three, while the rest are controlled by an influential rural-based Malay Muslim alliance led by former PM Muhyiddin Yassin.

WE ARE NOW HIRING

Head of Internal Audit

Requirements

- Accounting graduate & FCA.
- Minimum 10 years of job experience in the Internal Audit Department in a Public Listed Company.

Company Secretary

Requirements

- Commerce graduate & FCS.
- Minimum 10 years of job experience in a Public Listed Company.

Head of Project Management

Requirements

- B.Sc. in Mechanical/ Electrical Engineering from a reputed public university.
- Minimum 10 years of job experience in Project Management in renowned pharmaceutical company.

APPLY NOW!

Application Deadline: 20 August, 2023

career@beaconpharma.com.bd

or

Executive Vice President

Human Resources & Administration

Beacon Pharmaceuticals PLC

Beacon Business Centre

9/B/2, Toynbee Circular Road, Motijheel, Dhaka.