

VOA NEWS

June 7, 2024

This is VOA News. I'm Alexis Strobe.

Israeli airstrikes in central Gaza killed at least 35 people overnight at a United Nations-run school known as UNRWA that was sheltering displaced Palestinian families. AP correspondent Karen Chammas reports.

An Israeli strike on a school in central Gaza has killed more than 30 people. The al-Sardi School was sheltering displaced Palestinians. Israel claimed Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants were using it as a shelter. Over 20 women and children were killed in the attack.

In the morning twilight, emergency workers wheel out a dead body on a stretcher from the ambulance. Later in the day, mourners gathered around the various bodies laid outside the hospital.

A young girl, no older than 10 or 11, quietly peels off the blanket from one of the bodies. She lays a gentle kiss on the head of one of the corpses.

The strike in central Gaza came after the Israeli military announced a new ground and air assault.

I'm Karen Chammas.

A small number of U.S. World War II veterans, all in their late 90s and early 100s, returned to Normandy, France, 80 years after the largest invasion in history. VOA's Kane Farabaugh reports.

"Dick" and ??? Rung are enjoying a long lived retirement in Carol Stream, Illinois. Rung says he welcomes the outpouring of support and attention for the veterans from all nations like him, who served in World War II.

As Rung gathered with scores of veterans in a memorial service, he realized opportunities to participate in moments like this, for him, are dwindling.

"I said, Dot, my wife, this is last time."

Rung hopes when he can no longer attend, the markers of white that neatly line U.S. military cemeteries across Europe will continue to carry a message by what they did here 80 years ago.

Kane Farabaugh, VOA News, Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

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As the war in Ukraine grinds on in the east, citizens of 27 European countries are choosing new representatives starting Thursday. Eastern Europe bureau chief Myroslava Gongadze reports.

These elections will be critical in shaping the future of the EU, said Magda Jakubowska, vice president of the Res Publica Foundation thinktank.

"There is a growing trend of populist governments and politicians in power. And if we don't work on this, if we don't stop such a trend, sooner or later the EU and the European project can become very much structured and fragile."

Analysts say after the election, security, economic resilience and the protection of democracy in Europe will be key to the EU's future development.

Myroslava Gongadze, VOA News, Warsaw.

Boeing's two-member Starliner crew received a warm welcome from Space Station commander Oleg Kononenko aboard the International Space Station on Thursday after successfully docking.

"We want to congratulate the whole team in different motion mission control center for launch, for docking and of the ... We are very happy."

The rendezvous was achieved despite an earlier loss of several guidance-control jet thrusters, some of them due to a helium propulsion leak which NASA and Boeing said had been partially fixed and should not compromise the mission.

The widow of Beau Biden takes the stand in Hunter Biden's gun trial and talks about tossing the revolver. AP Correspondent Haya Panjwani has more.

Hallie Biden told jurors about the moment she found Hunter's revolver in the console of his truck.

In testimony, Hallie described putting the gun into a leather pouch, stuffing it into a shopping bag and tossing it in a trash can outside a market near her home. She said she, quote, "realizes it was a stupid idea now, but was panicking," unquote.

Hallie, who had a brief romantic relationship with Hunter after Beau Biden died in 2015, testified that from the time Hunter returned to Delaware from a 2018 trip to California until she threw away his gun, she did not see him using drugs.

I'm Haya Panjwani.

Rescuers continued to search for workers on Thursday who were trapped when a gold mine collapsed in the remote Shiroro district of Nigeria.

Authorities and residents say the pit collapsed on Monday after heavy rains. State emergency services said one person was confirmed dead and at least 30 others continued to be missing. Residents, however, said as many as 44 remain trapped.

Much of northern Nigeria is rich in minerals, but corruption, illegal operations and poor working conditions are common in mining operations in remote areas with minimal government presence.

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