



MAIN STORIES

An Unsettled
Neighbourhood

Russian Planes to
the CAR

What Yevgeny
Prigozhin Is Saying

IMF Support

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the ongoing conflict in Sudan is affecting the Central African Republic (CAR), mostly the northern region. As a result of insecurity along the border area, traffic between Sudan and CAR has been severely disrupted, causing a sharp increase in the price of basic commodities.
- The United States (US) and French intelligence services believe Wagner sent light weapons and anti-aircraft guns from CAR to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan.
- Armed men from the CAR killed at least 21 people in attacks on at least six towns in the Nya Pendé department in Logone Oriental in Chad between 11 and 12 May 2023.
- The Chadian Minister of Defence, Yaya Brahim Daoud, threatened to attack CAR in retribution. The Chadian army carried out a military operation in the CAR on 14 May 2023 in a joint operation with the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) against bandits who use CAR territory to make incursion into Chad. The CAR government did not confirm the assertion about the joint action.
- Cameroon's President Paul Biya at the end of April met with President Faustin Archange Touadéra to specifically discuss Wagner's smuggling of wood via the ports of Kribi and Douala in Cameroon and the tensions that have developed in the wake of the arrest of wealthy Cameroonian businessman, Jean Pierre Amougou Belinga, who is close to Touadéra. Biya questioned Touadéra about his alleged involvement in efforts to destabilise Cameroon but the latter categorically denied the allegations.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Russia supplied six L-39 Albatross light attack and trainer aircraft to the CAR. It is also alleged that Wagner moved seven fighter jets from Sudan and Libya to the CAR in May.
- Founder of Russian private military company Wagner, Yevgeny Prigozhin believes that if he didn't assist Touadéra, he would have been rounded up with a couple of hundreds of supporters and killed.
- On 27 April 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved an Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement of about US\$191.4 million for CAR.
- The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) continues to support the National Elections Authority (ANE) to organise local elections due to take place on 16 July 2023.
- On 2 May, the Republican Bloc for the Defence of the Constitution (BRDC) announced its intention to boycott elections unless the ANE and Constitutional Court are reformed.
- A Support Committee for Patriots for Change (CSPC) was established to support the struggle of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC). The CSPC says its mission is to denounce the "bad governance" of Touadéra's regime. The committee considers that only the armed combat of the CPC, civil society and the general population will get the better of the "criminal regime" of Touadéra.
- CAR is ranked 98 out of 180 countries (1=best; 180=worst) on the 2023 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders, up from 101 in 2022.
- On 10 May, US President, Joe Biden renewed Executive Order 13667 of May 2014. According to a statement by the White House, in terms of the order, the situation in and in relation to the CAR continues to pose "an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy" of the US.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- On 10 May 2023, Prime Minister Félix Moloua signed three financing agreements worth 80 million euros relating to education, green transition and food security with the Head of the European Union Delegation in the CAR, Darius Carpenter.
- The president's office issued a statement on 8 May regarding a visit from an Indian investor called Jaydip Brahmbhatt, who presented himself as vice president of Indian prime minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Although Brahmbhatt is not mentioned as a vice president in BJP documents, he was received in person by Touadéra. The meeting was reportedly organised by the brothers, Atul Gupta and Rajesh Gupta.

