

US democracy in peril from ‘extremist’ Trump: Biden Republicans begin impeachment inquiry hearings

AFP, Tempe

President Joe Biden launched a blistering personal attack on “extremist” Donald Trump Thursday, accusing his likely 2024 challenger of plotting to subvert the US constitution if he wins a return to power next year.

The Democrat said in a speech in the battleground state of Arizona that Republican frontrunner Trump was driven by “vengeance and vindictiveness”, and he urged Americans to stand up for democracy before it was too late.

The speech came as House Republicans launched impeachment inquiry hearings into the 80-year-old president, based on unproven allegations that he lied about his son Hunter’s business dealings.

“We should all remember:



democracies don’t have to die at the end of a rifle,” Biden said. “They can die when people are silent, when they fail to stand up, or condemn threats to democracy.”

In this speech Biden finally took off the gloves after months in which he has largely steered clear of any direct comment on the multiple criminal indictments against his hard-right populist predecessor.

Biden has sought to avoid any appearance of interference in the cases stemming from Trump’s efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss – culminating in the attack by a mob of his supporters on the US Capitol.

But in Arizona Biden took the unusual step of addressing Trump by name.

“Trump says the constitution gave him ‘the right to do what he wants,’” said Biden, referring to statements by Trump about how he saw his powers in office. “I’ve never even heard a president say that in jest – not guided by the constitution or by common service and decency towards our fellow Americans, but by vengeance and vindictiveness.”

Caught

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and blamed BNP men for his death.

Without provocation, BNP men assaulted AL and Chhatra League activists who were having a casual conversation at the bazar, he alleged. “They beat and pushed Jahid into the pond.”

Some six Chhatra League activists were also injured in the attack, he said.

Sayed Chowdhury, convener of Mirsarai Upazila BNP, said his party arranged a rally near the bazar as part of their preparations for an upcoming road march.

When the activists were returning home after the rally, AL and BCL men attacked them, he alleged.

“Some 10 BNP activists were injured in the attack.”

He claimed Jahid to be a BNP supporter and alleged that AL activists hit him and threw him into the pond.

Jahid’s uncle Abul Hossain told reporters that his nephew was not involved in politics.

Shakib

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chief physician Debashish Chowdhury would have been consulted but it appears to be a slight niggle.

Shakib had arrived at the ground yesterday during the match.

After playing their final official warm-up game against the defending champions on October 2, the Tigers will kick off their campaign in the mega event when they face Afghanistan on October 7 in Dharamsala.



People stand around at the Church Avenue subway station as subway service is stopped amid heavy rain in the Flatbush neighbourhood of Brooklyn borough New York City, US yesterday. Flash flooding is expected in the counties of Nassau, Queens and Kings, which includes Brooklyn, according to the state’s National Weather Service office as remnants of Tropical Storm Ophelia reaches the Northeast.

PHOTO: AFP

Seven EU nations order arms to aid Ukraine

Putin tasks ex-Prigozhin aide to oversee volunteer fighters

REUTERS, Brussels

Seven EU countries have ordered ammunition under a landmark European Union procurement scheme to get urgently needed artillery shells to Ukraine and replenish depleted Western stocks, according to the EU agency in charge.

The orders – placed under contracts negotiated by the European Defence Agency (EDA) – are for 155mm artillery rounds, one of the most important munitions in the intense war of attrition between Ukraine’s troops and Russia’s invading forces.

The scheme was set up as part of a plan worth at least 2 billion euros, launched in March with the aim of getting 1 million artillery shells and missiles to Ukraine within a year.

Some officials and diplomats have expressed scepticism that the target will be met but the initiative marked a significant step in the EU’s growing role in defence and military affairs, spurred by the war in Ukraine.

Until now, defence procurement has largely been the preserve of the bloc’s individual 27 member governments.

“Seven Member States have already placed orders for 155mm ammunition through the EDA’s fast-track procedure,” the agency said in an email in response to questions from Reuters.

“More orders, for instance for national replenishment purposes, could materialise in the

coming weeks and months.”

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has tasked a former aide of late Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin to oversee volunteer fighter units in Ukraine, according to a Kremlin statement yesterday.

“At the last meeting we talked about you overseeing the formation of volunteer units that can carry out various tasks, first and foremost of course in the zone of the special military operation,” Putin was quoted as saying to Andrei Troshev, using Moscow’s name for its offensive in Ukraine.

The meeting, also attended by Deputy Defence Minister Yunus Bek Yevkurov, underlined the integration of fighters from the mercenary Wagner Group into Russia’s regular military in the wake of Prigozhin’s aborted mutiny in June.

Putin also signed a decree setting out the routine autumn conscription campaign, calling up 130,000 citizens for statutory military service, a document posted on the government website showed yesterday.

All men in Russia are required to do a year-long military service between the ages of 18 and 27, or equivalent training while in higher education.

Putin’s move comes as Russia’s armed forces press on with their “special military operation” in Ukraine, now in its 20th month.

The president said this month he was bracing for a long war in Ukraine.

Russia hosts Taliban talks

Seeks regional influence

AFP, Moscow

Russia hosted Taliban leaders for talks on regional security yesterday as it seeks to forge ties with Afghanistan’s new rulers and assert itself as a major power in the region.

Since US forces pulled out of Kabul in August 2021, Russia and China have taken advantage of the vacuum, holding talks with the Taliban despite deep ideological and historical rifts.

“For our part, we will continue to develop multifaceted contacts with Afghanistan,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in a written greeting to participants of the talks, held in the city of Kazan.

The Taliban seized control of Afghanistan shortly after US troops left, imposing their strict interpretation of Sharia law.

ETHNIC TENSIONS

Mob did not storm home of Manipur CM

Say India police

REUTERS, Guwahati

Indian police have dismissed as “false and misleading” reports that a mob attacked the private residence of Biren Singh, chief minister of the strife-torn northeastern state of Manipur, adding that it was protected by “adequate security”. Thursday’s comments followed reports by media, including Reuters, as protests rocked the state capital of Imphal, injuring more than 80 people, before the return of an uneasy calm yesterday. “News of the chief minister’s personal residence being mobbed is false and misleading,” the state police said on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. “Adequate security is already in place.” Ethnic violence has plunged the state bordering Myanmar into what many security experts describe as an intense civil war fought over land, jobs and political clout between its majority Meitei and minority tribal Kuki communities. There was no violence yesterday, despite some protesters defying curfew in parts of city, as police and paramilitary troops stood on guard to keep situation under control. Mobile internet services have been suspended in the state for five days.

EXODUS FROM KARABAKH Over 88,000 cross into Armenia: UN

REUTERS, Geneva



Over 88,000 people have crossed into Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh and the total could reach 120,000, said a UN refugee agency official yesterday, a figure matching estimates of the entire population of the breakaway region recaptured by Azerbaijan last week. Kavita Belani, UNHCR representative in Armenia, told a UN press briefing by video link that huge crowds of tired and frightened people were gathering at registration centres. “This is a situation where they’ve lived under nine months of blockade,” she said. “We are ready to cope with up to 120,000 people. It’s very hard to predict how many will come at this juncture,” she added in response to a question about refugee numbers. Initial planning figures were for between 70-90,000 refugees but that needs updating, she added. “The major concern for us is that many of them have been separated from their family,” said Regina De Dominicis, Unicef regional director. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies representative Hicham Diab said there was a massive need for mental health support for refugees. “The situation often involves families arriving with children so weak that they have fainted in their parents’ arms,” he said.

Family waiting for govt nod

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ministry seeking permission for Khaleda Zia to travel abroad for treatment. The home ministry has sent the application to my office... I have not seen the application yet. I will give my opinion on the matter after seeing it.”

On September 25, Anisul told reporters that the government has little to do about the matter because

Khaleda’s jail sentence remained suspended through an executive decision under Section 401 (I) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

One of the conditions was that she would not leave the country.

The law minister said Khaleda’s conditional release must be revoked before the terms of her release can be changed.

The BNP chief has been suffering from liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and diseases in the kidneys, lung, heart and eyes.

On February 8, 2018, Khaleda landed in jail after a court sentenced her to five years in prison on charges of corruption.

On March 25, 2020, the government suspended her sentence.

Dhaka ranked slowest in world

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India has the most cities in the top 20, with eight in total.

Researchers used data from Google Maps to analyse traffic in more than 1,000 global cities with populations over 300,000.

According to Google Maps, a 9-km trip from Dhaka airport to Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park, in Gulshan-2, can take as long as 55 minutes, whereas a trip of the same distance

in Flint, Michigan, the world’s fastest city, from the airport to the Sloan Museum of Discovery, takes about nine minutes, writes Time magazine in its report published on this particular study.

Mentionable, 19 of the top 20 fastest cities are in the United States.

However, according to the study, the speed of travel in a city is only partially related to the amount of traffic on its

roads. Other factors, such as the layout and quality of a city’s roads and natural obstacles like hills and rivers, play a significant role in how fast cars can drive, the report adds.

“The slowest cities aren’t necessarily the most congested, and most congested aren’t the slowest,” Prottoy Akbar, an economist at Aalto University in Finland and the lead author of the paper, told Time magazine.



Migrants cross the Rio Grande river in an attempt to seek asylum into the US, as seen from Piedras Negras, Mexico on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Country crosses grim milestone

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may come down if October sees less rain than September.

The country has been battling a surge of dengue infections since June and the number of infections kept rising over the months. Hospitals and clinics, especially in Dhaka, are struggling to accommodate a large number of patients.

Bangladesh witnessed the first dengue outbreak in Dhaka in 2000.

According to DGHS data, the number of dengue cases was 50,000 on July 31 this year. Within 20 days,

the figure topped 100,000 and it reached 150,000 on September 11.

This year, the total

daily death rate of 13 in the last 30 days, the number of deaths may top 1,000 within the next one week.

DENGUE CASES DATE	
200,000	September 29
150,000	September 11
100,000	August 21
50,000	July 31

SOURCE: DGHS

number of 975 deaths are already higher than the combined 853 deaths in 23 years from 2000.

Considering the average

The DGHS said 9,526 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country yesterday

morning.

A total of 190,480 patients have so far been released from hospitals this year, it added.

There is no vaccine or drug that specifically treats dengue, which is common in South Asia during the June-to-September monsoon season when the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the carrier of the deadly virus, thrives in stagnant water.

Doctors say patients with comorbidities such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, high lipid levels, arthritis, asthma, and sleep apnea are more at risk of serious illness.

FLOOR SIZE: 4500sqft

APT. SIZE: 2900-3100sqft

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