

FOILED MURDER PLOT

FBI chief to visit India after US raised issue

REUTERS, New Delhi

FBI Director Christopher Wray will visit India next week, officials said, days after Washington accused an Indian government official of directing an unsuccessful plot to assassinate a Sikh separatist on American soil.

India's government, which has denied any involvement in the plot, sought to distance the visit from the case, saying Wray's trip had been planned for some time.

The US ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, did not go into any details as he announced the visit at a think tank event in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan said last week an Indian national had worked with an unnamed Indian government employee on the plot to assassinate the New York City resident who advocated for a sovereign Sikh state in northern India.

At the time, India expressed concern about the accusations, and said it would carry out its own investigation.

COP28 SUMMIT

World needs to focus on phasing out coal: UAE

REUTERS, Dubai

The world needs to focus on phasing out coal, United Arab Emirates Energy Minister Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei said yesterday on the sidelines of the COP28 climate summit.

"I don't think we should talk about (fossil fuel) phase out because the technologies are also improving. What if in the future we have a technology that omits all of the CO2 emissions from fossil fuel and makes it clean, as clean as any other fuel? Why should we fight it before we have the alternative?" he said.

The Emirati head of the summit Sultan Al Jaber pressed countries on Wednesday to strive for common ground and reach a "historic" deal by early next week.



Immigrant families await transport from the US-Mexico border on Wednesday in Lukeville, Arizona, USA. A surge of migrants illegally passing through openings cut by smugglers into the border wall has overwhelmed US immigration authorities, causing them to shut down the international port of entry in Lukeville, so that officers can help process the new arrivals.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Malaysia

trapping tigers after 3 killed

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia has started trapping and relocating tigers after three people were killed by the critically endangered creatures in the past two months, officials said yesterday.

Eleven cage traps and 20 cameras have been installed in recent weeks in the forested area of Gua Musang district, in the northeastern state of Kelantan, where the deadly attacks happened.

There have been five attacks resulting in four deaths in Gua Musang since 2021, Mohamad Hafid Rohani, director of the Wildlife and National Parks department in Kelantan, told AFP.

Three of the killings were in October and November this year.

"We are very concerned. This is the worst tiger-related deaths in decades in Malaysia," Hafid said.

The traps – rectangular cages wrapped in palm leaves so they blend into the forest – have been set up in "hot spots" where attacks took place. One has been placed in a palm oil plantation. Live goats are kept in enclosures nearby to lure the tigers into the traps with their bleating.



Palestinians wounded in Israeli strikes are rushed into Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. The head of medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said that Gaza faces a catastrophe extending far beyond a humanitarian crisis, describing the situation in the densely populated enclave as chaotic.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ISRAEL'S WAR ON GAZA

Can Guterres's use of UN's Article 99 bring peace?

AGENCIES

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter, in a rare move on Wednesday aimed at formally warning the Security Council of the global threat from Israel's war on Gaza.

Guterres has been calling for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" since October 18. But the Security Council is yet to adopt a resolution calling for a ceasefire, amid differences between permanent members. The United States, Israel's chief backer, has vetoed a resolution, while Russia, more critical of Israel, has blocked another one.

But what is Article 99 and does it have any real power to stop this war? It's a special power, and the only independent political tool given to the secretary-general in the UN Charter. It allows him to call a meeting of the Security Council on his own initiative to issue warnings about new threats to international peace and security and matters that are not yet on the council's agenda.

In Article 99, the charter states, "the Secretary General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security".

Now Guterres will have the right to speak at the Security Council, without having to be invited to speak by a member state, as is usually the case.

Now, the question is whether Article

99 end the conflict. Considered the UN's most powerful body, the 15-member Security Council is tasked with maintaining international peace and security. If it chooses to act on Guterres's advice and adopt a ceasefire resolution then yes. It will have additional powers at its disposal to ensure the resolution is implemented, including the power to impose sanctions or authorise the deployment of an international force.

But it doesn't give Guterres any powers to force the Security Council to adopt a resolution. China, Russia, the US, the UK and France – hold the veto power. US used their veto on October 18 against a resolution that would have condemned Hamas's attack on Israel while calling for a pause in fighting.

CITIZENSHIP IN ASSAM

India's SC seeks info on Bangladeshi immigrants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court yesterday asked the federal government to provide data on the number of Bangladeshi immigrants granted Indian citizenship in Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 and the measures being taken to deal with illegal immigration into the country, particularly in north eastern states. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which is hearing 17 petitions to examine the constitutional validity of section 6A of the Citizenship Act relating to illegal immigrants in Assam, asked the Assam government to provide the data to the Indian government for filing an affidavit before it by December 11. The bench asked the Indian government why it singled out Assam and exclude West Bengal from grant of citizenship under section 6A of the Citizenship Act when the latter shares a much longer border with Bangladesh.

Don't engage in 'confrontation'

Xi warns top EU officials

REUTERS, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping warned top EU officials yesterday that China and Europe should not view each other as rivals or "engage in confrontation" due to their different political systems, in the first in-person China-EU summit for four years. During a meeting to discuss issues ranging from trade imbalances to Ukraine, Xi also said China is willing to make the EU a key economic and trade partner and to cooperate on science and technology. He urged the EU in the talks held at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse to "eliminate all kinds of interference" in the bilateral relationship, according to CCTV. Xi said both side needed to develop "a right perception" of each other, and encourage mutual understanding and trust. A number of EU commissioners have visited Beijing since China lifted pandemic border restrictions this year.



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