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Adani charged in US for alleged bribery, fraud

India’s opposition parties call for probe; BJP questions timing of US indictment

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian opposition parties yesterday demanded a probe into allegations of wrongdoing by the Adani Group and said they would raise the issue in parliament after its chair Gautam Adani was charged in the US over an alleged bribery scheme.

Billionaire Adani was indicted by US prosecutors for his alleged role in a \$265 million bribery and fraud scheme and arrest warrants were issued for him and his nephew, plunging his conglomerate deep into crisis for the second time in two years.

The Adani Group rejected the allegations as baseless and said it complied fully with all laws.

Adani has been the target of Indian opposition parties who say that he and his conglomerate have been protected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government, charges both deny.

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ON THE VERGE OF VANISHING!

A northern pig-tailed macaque spotted in Satchari National Park in Habiganj. A matriarchal and arboreal species, it can be found in forested areas in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It is a frugivorous primate, meaning it feeds mainly on fruits. However, due to its adaptability, it can alter its diet depending on the environment. Northern pig-tailed macaques play an important role in forest regeneration by dispersing seeds from over 100 species of plants. However, despite their ecological importance, their numbers have been declining for years. While they are susceptible to various diseases, such as HIV and coronavirus, they are also victims of hunting, poaching, agricultural expansions, illegal pet trade, habitat loss, and more such debilitating human impacts. According to the IUCN Red List, the species is vulnerable and declining throughout its range, while some researches suggest that in Bangladesh, they are already critically endangered and in urgent need of conservation.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

Mob killings mark sharp rise

ASK says 100 killed this year, 68 in just 3 months

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Deaths in mob beatings marked a sharp rise this year due to poor law enforcement, a lack of trust in police, and a sense of impunity among the perpetrators, according to Ain O Salish Kendra and experts.

At least 100 people were killed by mobs in the first 10 months of this year, and 68 of them were in three months (August-October) alone, according to ASK, a rights organisation.

The tally is the highest since 2015 when 135 people were killed, the ASK data shows. The country witnessed political unrest that year.

The annual count stayed between 65 and 28 since then and until this year.

At least 28 people were killed in mob violence in September, the highest monthly number this year, followed by 21 in August and 19 in October, according to the ASK data, prepared from media reports and its own findings.

Legal experts and human rights activists described the situation as a disturbing trend and blamed it on law enforcement agencies’ poor response to mob violence. The trend also indicates that Bangladesh has been struggling to restore law and order since the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5, they said.

Of the 100 killings, 44 were in Dhaka division, 16 were in Rajshahi division, 13 in Chattogram, 11 in Khulna, six in Barishal, four each in Rangpur and Mymensingh and two in Sylhet division.

After the fall of the Awami League government in August, police were not on the ground for around two weeks and that’s when mob violence

DEATHS BY MOB BEATING IN 2024	
October	19
September	28
August	21
July	0
June	1
May	6
April	8
March	8
February	3
January	6
TOTAL 100	
SOURCE: ASK	

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DHAKA-DELHI TALKS Extradition of Hasina could be discussed next month

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka may discuss the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina with New Delhi during the Foreign Office Consultation due in early December.

This is the first high-level official meeting between Bangladesh and India since the fall of the Awami League regime.

“There is scope for discussion on the matter,” foreign ministry spokesperson Toufique Hasan said during a weekly media briefing at the ministry yesterday.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin and his Indian counterpart Vikram Misri will lead their respective delegations to the FOC, which will cover a wide range of bilateral issues.

“We will engage with Delhi and initiate the formal process in accordance with the existing extradition treaty once we receive the necessary instructions,” Toufique said in response to queries about the matter.

Hasina faces trial in Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal over allegations of mass killings during the July-August uprising. She has been staying in India since she fled Bangladesh after her ouster on August 5.

“We would like to make the relations with India dynamic,” Toufique said, as bilateral ties remain strained since India sheltered Hasina.

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Netanyahu now a wanted man

ICC issues arrest warrants for Israeli PM, his ex-defence chief for war crimes

REUTERS, The Hague

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence chief, as well as a Hamas leader for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, the court said yesterday.

In their decision to grant the warrants, the ICC judges said there were reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Gallant were criminally responsible for starvation in Gaza and the persecution of Palestinians.

The United States said it “fundamentally rejects” the ICC decision. The Amnesty international welcomed the move.

“Prime Minister Netanyahu is now officially a wanted man,” said Amnesty Secretary General Agnes Callamard. “ICC member states and the whole international community must stop at nothing until these individuals are brought to trial before the ICC’s independent and impartial judges.”

Netanyahu’s office said the ICC decision was “anti-semitic” and he will “not yield to pressure, will not be deterred” until Israel’s war objectives are met.

In a statement, Hamas welcomed the warrants against Gallant and Netanyahu and urged the court to expand accountability to all Israeli leaders.

The ICC’s move now theoretically limits the movement of Netanyahu as any of the court’s 124 national members would be obliged to arrest him on their territory.

Gallant was Netanyahu sacked by Netanyahu on November 5. In July Israel said it killed Diab in Gaza. Hamas has not confirmed his death.

The court does not have its own police force to carry out arrests and relies on its 124 member states for that.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military bombed at least five crowded homes in northern Gaza early yesterday with many casualties buried beneath the rubble, Palestinian health officials said, as troops deepened an incursion along the territory’s northern edge.

- » Israel accused of creating a buffer zone in north Gaza
- » 80pc of Gaza Strip is now at high-risk: UNRWA
- » 66 more killed in Gaza; Death toll rises to 44,056

US team flies in today to talk labour, other issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A high-level US delegation is arriving in Dhaka today to discuss economic resilience, stability, growth, as well as meaningful and quality jobs in Bangladesh.

The delegation will be led by State Department Special Representative for International Labor Affairs Kelly M Fay Rodriguez and Department of Labour Deputy Undersecretary Thea Lee.

During the three-day visit, the delegates will meet with government officials, garment producers, and labour union stakeholders, said a State Department statement.

“The delegation will engage representatives from American companies invested in the ready-made garment sector and global labour experts to discuss how to best support Bangladesh’s economy, democracy, and workers,” reads the statement.

“The visit underscores the United States’ commitment to improving and advancing economic development,

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SPORT

Tigers begin Windies Tests

Bangladesh will start their West Indies tour with the first of the two-match Test series, starting today at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

The match will be telecast live on T Sports from 8:00 pm (Bangladesh time). Bangladesh come into the series on the back of consecutive Test series hammerings suffered at the hands of India and South Africa. Recent red-ball records in the Caribbeans don’t make things easier as the Tigers were thrashed in their last six matches.

STORY ON PAGE 11

Smoke billows over Beirut’s southern suburbs after an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Baabda, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia fires ICBM at Ukraine for first time

Says Kyiv; two hurt, industrial enterprise damaged in Dnipro

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) during an attack on Ukraine yesterday, Kyiv’s air force said, in the first known use in the war of such a powerful, nuclear-capable weapon with a range of thousands of kilometres.

The air force reported the launch after Ukraine fired US and British missiles at targets inside Russia this week, despite warnings by Moscow that it would see such action as a major escalation in the 33-month-old war.

Ukrainska Pravda, a Kyiv-based media outlet, cited anonymous sources saying the missile was an RS-26 Rubezh, a solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of 5,800 km, according to the Arms Control Association.

The Ukrainian air force said the missile was fired from the Russian region of Astrakhan, more than 700 km (435 miles) from Dnipro in central-eastern Ukraine. It did not specify what kind of warhead the missile had or what type of missile it was. There was no suggestion it was nuclear-armed.

The Russian missile attack targeted enterprises and critical infrastructure in the central-eastern city of Dnipro. Regional governor Serhiy Lysak said the missile attack caused damage to an industrial enterprise and set off fires in Dnipro. Two people were hurt.