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For 75 years, @WMO has been a barometer of truth. A quiet force & credible source of data & information behind every climate-smart decision we make. Let's continue working as one to use science to deliver the #ClimateAction, and the justice, that people & planet urgently need.

@antonioguterres

02



Thank you, President Trump, for your phone call and warm Diwali greetings. On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms.

@narendramodi

03



I have long admired Rotary's unwavering commitment to #EndPolio. We are getting close to the finish line, but many challenges remain. Together, we will continue to work hard to make polio history. I thank @Rotary members for being pathfinders on this journey and for visiting us

@DrTedros

04



Today, we are opening an entirely new and truly meaningful chapter in our relations—relations between Ukraine and Sweden, and more broadly, overall security relations in Europe.

@ZelenskyyUa

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

Bangladesh court detains army officers for landmark trial

Formal charges have been brought for enforced disappearances in Bangladesh

● The men, including five generals, are accused of running a secret detention centre

● During Hasina's rule, RAB forces carried out scores of killings

● Awami League says that she "categorically" denies the charges

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

A Bangladeshi court remanded in custody yesterday 15 high-ranking army officers on charges of enforced disappearances and atrocities committed during the 2024 uprising that toppled the government.

It is first time that formal charges have been brought for enforced disappearances in Bangladesh, and the first time so many senior military officials have faced a civilian trial.

The men, including five generals, are accused of running a secret detention centre during the tenure of the now-ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

All have served in Bangladeshi military intelligence or the feared paramilitary Rapid



Police personnel escort detained army officers to the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) court in Dhaka

Action Battalion (RAB).

Defence lawyer Sarwar Hossain said all rejected the charges.

The army has said it will assist the judicial process, but the situation has been tense since the court issued arrest warrants earlier this month.

"They declared their allegiance to the law of the land and their respect for the judicial process," the court's chief prosecutor Tajul Islam told reporters.

"That was reflected in the co-operation they have extended."

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk, in a statement on October 15, said that the court process was an important step towards accountability.

"It is a significant moment for victims and their families," Turk said.

The officers were brought by a prison van to the court, guarded by a heavy deployment of police.

"These officers are confident of their innocence, and believe they will be released through due judicial process," their lawyer Hossain said.

Bangladesh is prosecuting former senior figures connected to Hasina -- now a fugitive in exile in India -- and her now-banned Awami League party.

Up to 1,400 people were killed in the clashes between July and August 2024 as the security

forces tried to quash anti-government protests, according to the United Nations.

During Hasina's rule, RAB forces carried out scores of killings, and the organisation was sanctioned by the United States in 2021.

Hasina, 78, fled last year to New Delhi, where she has defied court orders to return to attend her ongoing crimes against humanity trial for ordering the deadly crackdown.

Her trial in absentia is in its final stages, with Hasina's state-appointed defence giving closing arguments. The prosecution have demanded the death penalty for Hasina.

Hasina's Awami League says that she "categorically" denies the charges.

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Sheikh Hasina is the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh, having held office since January 2009, after previously serving from 1996 to 2001.

Blackstone COO picks India as top investment destination: 'Massive infra push, rising middle class'

TDI | agencies

Blackstone President and Chief Operating Officer Jon Gray has identified India as one of the most attractive investment destinations globally, calling it "the fastest growing country in the G10." Speaking at a recent address, Gray said India's strong economic fundamentals, expanding middle class, and infrastructure push make it a compelling long-term bet for global investors. During his address, he listed what he sees as some of the most best places to invest in. "The first stop I've got is commercial real estate. It's been three and a half very tough years for commercial real estate, but now this good dynamic has taken over, which is new supply has declined by nearly 70%, in this case in US logistics, but it's really happening around the world. Cost of capital is coming down, assets have been repriced, this is the time you want to be an investor in commercial real estate," Gray said.

He named three key areas - real estate, secondary markets, and India - as the strongest prospects. "Next up, secondaries. Another industry that has grown a ton, from \$23 billion to \$200 billion over the last 15 years. Again, the concern, has this gotten too big? But I would point out, it's just one and a half percent of outstanding AUM that is trading hands. That compares to 100% of the stock market by value that trades hands. That's why we believe that discounts and secondaries will contin-



Blackstone's Jon Gray bets big on India

ue to persist," he said. Turning to India, Gray said: "Third stop, India. This is the G10, clearly the fastest-growing country. There's been some tension geopolitically recently, but this is a country that is investing massively in physical infrastructure, legal capital markets infrastructure. There is a rising middle class here. This is a place we particularly like."

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) last week revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.6%, up from its earlier estimate of 6.4%, citing "strong growth offsetting the impact of U.S. tariffs on Indian shipments." In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF pegged next

year's growth at 6.2%.

At a recent regional briefing, IMF Asia and Pacific Department Director Krishna Srinivasan said India's fundamentals remain strong but stressed the need for deeper reforms. "Many things are working in India's favour," Srinivasan said. "But to achieve the government's 'Viksit Bharat' goal of becoming a developed economy, India has to fire all cylinders to reach 8% or more growth." "India needs to focus on pre-liberalisation reforms if it wants to position itself more competitively with China," he added, while calling for "diversifying export markets to reduce external vulnerabilities."

Pakistan navy ship seizes drugs worth nearly \$1 bn in Arabian Sea

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

A Pakistani navy ship seized narcotics worth more than \$972 million from sailboats in the Arabian Sea, according to a statement Tuesday from the naval network overseeing the operation.

The Combined Maritime Force (CMF), a naval partnership that includes the United States, said the Pakistani naval vessel last week intercepted two different dhow sailing boats within 48 hours.

The crew seized several tons of crystal methamphetamine and a smaller amount of cocaine, the CMF statement said.

The intercepted vessels were "identified as having nonnationality", it said without indicating where they had originated.

It was "one of the most successful narcotics seizures for CMF," said Royal Saudi Naval Forces Commander Fahad Aljoiad, commander of the CMF taskforce carrying out the operation.