

Hamas says discussed **second phase** of Gaza truce in Cairo

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

A delegation of senior Hamas leaders discussed the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement yesterday with the head of Egyptian intelligence, the Palestinian group said.

Led by Hamas chief negotiator Khalil al-Hayya, the delegation arrived in the Egyptian capital on Saturday for talks yesterday with Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad, two officials from the movement told AFP.

Hamas said in a statement that it "reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the first phase of the (ceasefire) agreement, stressing the importance of putting an end to Israeli violations".

"The nature of the second



Palestinian boys inspect what remains of a destroyed vehicle targeted by the Israeli military, in Gaza City

phase of the agreement" was also discussed in Cairo, Hamas added, without giving further details.

The second stage of the Gaza ceasefire plan concerns disarming Hamas, establishing a transitional authority and deploying an international stabilisation force.

Hamas, excluded from any role in the future governance of the territory under the Trump plan adopted by the UN Security Council, is refusing to disarm.

Over the past few days, Israel and Hamas have accused each other of violating the US-brokered truce that came into effect on October 10 after two years of war.

Gaza's civil defence agency said 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded in mul-

multiple Israeli air strikes on Saturday.

The Israeli military said an "armed terrorist" had crossed the so-called Yellow Line within the Gaza Strip, behind which Israeli forces have withdrawn, and fired at Israeli soldiers.

In response to the incident in southern Gaza, the Israeli military said it "began striking terror targets in the Gaza Strip".

Hamas said yesterday it had also raised the fate of fighters in Gaza's southern area of Rafah with whom it had lost contact.

According to various media reports, up to 200 Hamas fighters are believed to be trapped in tunnels in Gaza beneath part of the territory where the Israeli army has redeployed under

phase one of the agreement.

Myanmar junta says nearly 1,600 foreigners arrested in scam hub raids

AFP | Yangon, Myanmar

Myanmar's military said yesterday it arrested nearly 1,600 foreign nationals in five days in a highly publicised crackdown on a notorious internet scam hub on the Thai border.

Sprawling fraud factories have mushroomed in war-torn Myanmar's border regions, housing scammers who target internet users with romance and business cons worth tens of billions of dollars annually.

Myanmar's junta has long been accused of looking the other way as the illicit industry grows, but has trumpeted a crackdown since February after being lobbied by key military backer China, experts say.

Additional raids beginning last month were part of a smoke-screen, according to some monitors, choreographed to vent pressure from Beijing without too badly denting profits that



Representative picture. Courtesy of ambodianess

enrich the junta's militia allies.

In its latest publicised tally, the junta said "1,590 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally were arrested" from November 18 to 22 in raids on gambling and fraud hub Shwe Kokko, according to state media The Global New Light of Myanmar.

"Moreover, authorities seized 2,893 computers, 21,750 mobile phones, 101 Starlink satellite receivers, 21 Routers and a large number of industrial materials used in the online fraud and gambling activities," the newspaper said.

After an AFP investigation last month revealed receivers from

the Starlink satellite internet service had been installed en masse at scam compounds, the Elon Musk-owned company said it had disabled more than 2,500 Starlink devices in the vicinity of suspected Myanmar scam centres.

The Global New Light of Myanmar said 223 people accused of perpetrating online fraud and gambling at Shwe Kokko were detained on Saturday alone, including 100 Chinese nationals.

Video published by local media showed a steamroller crushing hundreds of computer monitors lined up in rows next to piles of already smashed mobile phones at the Shwe Kokko compound on Saturday.

Scam hubs, staffed by thousands of willing workers as well as people trafficked from abroad, have proliferated in Myanmar's loosely governed borderlands since a 2021 coup sparked a civil war in the country.

Bangladesh presses India on ousted leader Sheikh Hasina's extradition

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh's government said yesterday it had asked India to extradite ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was sentenced earlier this week to be hanged over a deadly crackdown against a student-led uprising.

Hasina, 78, has been in hiding in India since her autocratic rule was overthrown in August 2024. As prime minister, she had had New Delhi's backing.

Touhid Hossain, who holds the foreign affairs portfolio in Bangladesh's interim administration, told reporters that on Friday "we sent a letter seeking the extradition of Sheikh Hasina."

He did not elaborate on the contents of the letter, which according to Bengali newspaper Prothom Alo was the third official extradition request since Hasina fled.

Following the court ruling on Monday, convicting Hasina of crimes against humanity and sentencing her to death, the foreign ministry in Dhaka said in a statement that Delhi had an "obligatory responsibility" under a bilateral treaty to facilitate the former leader's return.

India's foreign ministry said in response it had "noted" the verdict, without directly commenting on the extradition request.

It did not immediately respond to the latest letter from Dhaka.



Singapore deports Australian man over Ariana Grande incident

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

Singapore deported yesterday an Australian man at the end of a nine-day jail term for rushing film star Ariana Grande during the Asian premier of "Wicked: For Good", local media reported.

The man, Johnson Wen, was sent back to Australia "and has been barred from re-entering Singapore", the city-state's immigration authority said in a statement quoted by broadcaster CNA.

On the opening night of the much-hyped "Wicked" sequel on November 13, Wen jumped a barricade and put his arm around Grande.

He was arrested hours later and subsequently charged with



Picture courtesy of the standard

"being a public nuisance". Last week, a court sentenced Wen to nine days in jail.

Video clips, which have gone viral online, show Wen wrapping his arm around the shocked star before jumping up and down and smilingly waving to the crowd.

Grande's co-star Cynthia Erivo then rushes to her defence and the man is grabbed by security guards and dumped back over the barricade.

Singapore District Judge Christopher Goh, who issued the jail sentence, called the Australian "attention seeking".

Wen, who is alleged to have disrupted other global sports events and concerts, "showed a pattern of behaviour" which

suggested that he will do it again, the judge had said before last week's ruling.

The jail term was far below the maximum penalty afforded by law: three months in jail, a fine of \$1,500, or both.

Wen has told the court he was "wrong" to think his actions would bear no consequences and promised not to repeat the act.

The incident did not stop the premiere from going ahead, with the cast huddling around Grande before continuing down the yellow carpet.

Grande, 32, began her career as a teen on Broadway before embarking on a hugely successful pop career.