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Not guilty

US Senate acquits Trump of impeachment charges as re-election campaign looms

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump was acquitted on Wednesday in his US Senate impeachment trial, saved by fellow Republicans who rallied to protect him nine months before he asks voters in a deeply divided America to give him a second White House term.

The businessman-turned-politician, 73, survived only the third presidential impeachment trial in US history - just like the two other impeached presidents - in his turbulent presidency's darkest chapter. Trump now plunges into an election season that promises to further polarise the country.

Trump was acquitted largely along party lines on two articles of impeachment approved by the Democratic-led House of Representatives on December 18. The votes to convict Trump fell far short of the two-thirds majority required in the 100-seat Senate to remove him from office under the US Constitution.

The Senate voted 52-48 to acquit Trump of abuse of power stemming from his request that Ukraine investigate political rival Joe Biden, a contender for the Democratic nomination to face him in the November 3 election. Republican Senator Mitt Romney joined the Democrats in voting to convict. No Democrat voted to acquit.

The Senate then voted 53-47 to acquit him of obstruction of Congress by blocking witnesses and documents sought by the House. Romney joined the rest of the Republican senators in voting to acquit on the obstruction charge. No

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Underground drainage pipes occupy a part of a street in the capital's Arambagh area, obstructing the movement of traffic and pedestrians. Locals said the pipes were left there around three months ago. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

No toll for ambulances from March 1

Road transport ministry issues circular

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From March 1 this year, ambulances carrying patients will not have to pay toll on roads, ferries, and bridges under the Roads and Highways Department.

Road Transport and Bridges Ministry yesterday issued a circular in this regard, Nazrul Islam, secretary to the road transport and highway division (RTHD) told The Daily Star.

"This is one of the initiatives the ministry has taken to mark 'Mujib Borsho' [the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman]," he said.

The circular said tolls would be waived both for the government and private ambulances on the condition that the service providers would deduct the amount from the ambulance fare.

Following a directive from Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul

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WRONG TEST PAPERS

Steps to be taken to prevent it

Says education minister

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said steps would be taken to prevent distribution of wrong question papers in the exam halls.

"Answer scripts of the affected SSC examinees, who suffered difficulties after the distribution of wrong question papers at some examination centres, have been kept aside and they won't be affected," she said.

The minister said the problem could have been avoided if the authorities had taken steps to make separate sitting arrangements for regular and irregular candidates of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams.

"The problem is seen every year due to the question papers for regular and irregular students," she told a press briefing on "Skills, Readiness for Achieving SDGs and Adopting IR 4.0" at the Secretariat.

Talking about guide books, Dipu Moni said there was no need for guide books under the creative question method.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH

Bangabandhu's nation-building challenges



Bangabandhu and Indira Gandhi discuss bilateral issues without any aide in Kolkata on February 7, 1972.

FEBRUARY 7, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDO-BANGLA ACCORD
Bangabandhu and Indira Gandhi today conclude their talks with the complete understanding of cooperation in all spheres between the two countries, particularly in the economic recovery of Bangladesh. The two leaders held talks for over five hours in three sessions spread over two days. They mainly discussed the economic problems of Bangladesh with particular emphasis on trade including border trade, cooperation in the field of water resources development, restoration of communications and the

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Tk 66 LAKH ROBBERY

4 held in Barguna

Cops recover Tk 34 lakh from microbus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police yesterday detained three more people who allegedly snatched Tk 66 lakh from officials of three companies in Barguna's Amtali upazila.

On Wednesday afternoon, muggers attacked officials of REW, SEW, and JT Traders near Tiakhali College and took the money. The companies provide manpower to the Payra power plant project in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

The officials were going to the power plant in a microbus after withdrawing Tk 1 crore from a bank in Barishal city.

Police held Solaiman, Belal, and Nazmul from different areas of Amtali upazila in an overnight drive, said Manoranjan Mistry, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Amtali

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AI helps uncover secret sketches by Leonardo da Vinci



MAIL ONLINE

Researchers have enlisted an AI to help them uncover hidden drawings on the canvas of one of Leonardo Da Vinci's most famous paintings.

The project was a collaboration between the National Gallery's Dr Catherine Higgitt and a team from the Imperial College of London, led by Pier Luigi Dragotti.

Higgitt and her team at the Gallery had discovered faint sketch marks on the canvas of da Vinci's "Virgin on the Rocks," which he had originally been commissioned to create in 1483 for a chapel in Milan.

The sketching appeared to hint at an early version of the image that differed from the

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ISRAELI AIR STRIKES

23 pro-regime fighters killed in Syria

AFP, Beirut

Israeli air strikes near Damascus and in the south of Syria yesterday killed 23 Syrian and non-Syrian fighters aligned with President Bashar al-Assad's regime, a Britain-based war monitor said.

The new toll for the pre-dawn strikes included three Iranians and seven Tehran-backed foreign fighters near Kisweh south of the capital, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Eight Syrian air defence forces lost their lives west of

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 7

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:30	4:15	5:52	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



ETERNAL PURPLE PATCH

A male purple sunbird perches on a tree near Government Azizul Haque College in Bogura town recently. Their vibrant, almost electric plumage, makes the birds hard to miss. Although they can be mistaken for another species, once they lift their head and the sunlight bounces off the purple under their neck, one knows for sure what they have spotted.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ



Onion, garlic get dearer

Garlic prices soar by Tk 80 a kg, onion by up to Tk 20 in a week

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

Garlic, ginger and onion prices soared in the capital throughout last week as traders fear that China may not resume business operations after its Lunar New Year break is over.

Bangladesh imports these spices from different countries, including China which is a major source of garlic and ginger. But the country is struggling to cope with its coronavirus outbreak.

Retail prices of each kg of imported garlic rose by Tk 80, ginger by Tk 30 and onion by Tk 10-20 within a week at kitchen markets and grocery stores in the capital's Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar and Farmgate.

At retail shops, Chinese garlic was sold for between Tk 200 and 220 a kg, depending on the quality. It was between Tk 120 and 140 about a week ago.

Wholesale price of garlic rose to around Tk 190, from about Tk 120.

A kg of Chinese ginger sold for about Tk 150, up from about Tk 120. The prices of almost every variety of onion have increased by Tk 10-20.

"This hike is too much," said Zobayer Ahmed, a private employee, who was shopping in Karwan Bazar yesterday.

"It is a big burden for us," he added.

Some sellers alleged that traders were taking advantage of the uncertainty that looms over export and import operations in China.

"We have nothing to do because we depend on the wholesalers and importers," said Ainul Haque, a retailer in Karwan Bazar.

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