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SHAH CEMENT

'Greatest witch hunt' in history

Trump lashes out over special counsel appointment to probe his campaign's Russian ties

AGencies

President Donald Trump yesterday lashed out over his Justice Department's appointment of a special counsel to investigate possible ties between his 2016 presidential campaign and Russia, calling it "the single greatest witch hunt" in US history.

Trump's Twitter comments stood in contrast to his measured statement on Wednesday night after former FBI chief Robert Mueller was named as special counsel, in which he said "a thorough investigation will confirm what we already know - there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity."

European and Asian stocks slid on fears that the growing crisis surrounding Trump could lead to his impeachment and shatter any chances of his economy-boosting agenda being implemented.

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Mueller after a succession of jarring developments that brought questions over Russia's alleged meddling in the election and possible collusion by the Trump campaign to a boil.

They included Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey, reports that Trump had previously pressured Comey to end a probe of former national security adviser Michael Flynn, and Trump discussing sensitive information on Islamic State with the Russian foreign minister.

In two Twitter postings, the Republican president made clear his unhappiness with the latest development to roil his

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A flood-affected haor woman meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a relief distribution programme in Netrokona's Khaliajuri yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Flood-hit Farmers Interest rate to be halved for fresh agro loans: PM

UNB, Netrokona

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday declared that farmers in flood-affected haor areas would get fresh agricultural loans with the interest rate halved to 4.5 percent.

She reiterated a government decision allowing farmers to defer repaying current loans till the next harvest and said the government would also help diversify their livelihoods.

She was addressing a public meeting at the Khaliajuri Degree College grounds in Netrokona prior to distributing relief among flood victims. She arrived in the morning on a helicopter

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Chikungunya Mostly nonfatal, no need to panic: docs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mosquito-borne chikungunya is largely nonlethal but it may turn fatal if a person diagnosed with the disease is simultaneously found to have immunodeficiency, or carries another disease or infection, said a health expert yesterday.

Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said "the mortality rate from chikungunya is very rare".

People recorded succumbing to the disease in India last year were found, in further analysis, to be carrying other diseases or infections alongside chikungunya, she told journalists at IEDCR office in the city's

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Islami Bank chair accuses his deputy of violating oath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd yesterday alleged that the bank's vice-chairman violated his oath of office by spreading propaganda about the bank.

Vice-Chairman Syed

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Holiday market run solely by women

DNCC and a women's forum launch it to give small entrepreneurs space in city's Mohakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday launched a holiday market at Mohakhali only for small women entrepreneurs to sell their products.

As per an initiative taken by "For The Women By The Women Forum" and supported by the city corporation, 50 women are permitted to set up makeshift shops under the shade of beach umbrellas at newly-constructed Mohakhali wholesale kitchen market and sell items on weekends

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SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING MAY 19

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-36 8-00

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

NATURE QUEST

SWatch Of NO-GRound A treasure trove of marine lives

ANisuzzaman KHan

Isabela Foundation, a philanthropic organisation working for nature conservation, in collaboration with Bangladesh Navy went on an expedition to Swatch of No-Ground in the Bay of Bengal in March to learn about the marine biota.

Swatch of No-Ground has a comparatively flat floor five to seven

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PHOTO: ISABELA FOUNDATION

TOP QUOTE

"Development in our country means if Tk 100 is allocated, Tk 40 is utilised and Tk 60 is stolen."

CHIEF JUSTICE SuRENDRA KuMAR SiNHA AT A JUDICIAL CONFERENCE IN TANGAIL

Dutch king's secret flights as co-pilot

CNn ONLINE

They don't call KLM "Royal Dutch Airlines" for nothing.

King Willem-Alexander, reigning monarch of the Netherlands, revealed in an interview with Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf that he'd regularly flown flights for a subsidiary of the Dutch flag carrier for over two decades.

Calling the part-time role a "hobby," the King says that he'd taken to the cockpit as a co-pilot of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Mayhem at a city hospital over death of a DU student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students yesterday vandalised Central Hospital in the capital over the death of a fellow student allegedly due to wrong treatment.

Afia Jahin Chaity, 20, a first-year student of zoology department, was admitted to the hospital on Green Road on Wednesday after doctors of the hospital diagnosed her with "acute myeloblastic leukaemia", a type of blood cancer, according to the medical file of the deceased.

But just before she died around 5:30pm yesterday, doctors confirmed that she actually had dengue fever, students claimed.

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