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SHAH CEMENT

Trump sets off for ME, Europe

The US president seeks new narrative on his foreign policy agenda in his first foreign trip

AGENCIES

With turmoil enveloping his administration at home, President Donald Trump headed abroad yesterday for a trip the White House hopes will shift focus away from domestic controversies and on to his foreign policy agenda.

Trump was scheduled to leave for Saudi Arabia yesterday afternoon and will make stops next week in Israel, Belgium and Italy. The trip was billed as a chance to visit places sacred to three of the world's major religions while creating face time with Arab, Israeli and European leaders.

But a political uproar in Washington over Trump's firing of former FBI Director James Comey, allegations that he pressed Comey to stop investigating former national security adviser Michael Flynn, and the subsequent appointment of a special counsel to look into allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and potential ties with

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Workers loading iron bars into a Barisal-bound launch at Sadarghat yesterday. Ignoring repeated warnings by the shipping ministry and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), many passenger vessels carry even four to five tonnes of iron materials.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MONITORING JOURNOS Foreign ministry withdraws circular

UNB, Dhaka

Amid a growing demand from the journalistic community, the foreign ministry has withdrawn a circular that directed Bangladesh missions abroad to keep watch on journalists travelling abroad.

Lutfur Rahman, director general of the External Publicity Wing at the ministry, conveyed the revised decision to all the heads of missions abroad.

"It has been decided to withdraw the letter under reference with immediate effect as it was not appropriately coordinated," a diplomat told UNB last night, quoting the official communication.

"If anybody's involvement is found against the interest and the image of the country, s/he must be identified and their negative activities must be reported back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately," the ministry asked the heads of Bangladesh missions abroad on Wednesday.

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Antarctic turning green

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Antarctic is turning green with rising temperatures having a "dramatic effect" on the growth of moss in the frozen continent, scientists have discovered.

Since 1950, temperatures in the Antarctic Peninsula have risen by about half a degree

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Lost in Bangladesh, found in India

Woman suffering from bipolar disorder found at a West Bengal hospital a decade after she went missing

ABM AMINUL ISLAM and SUBRATA ACHARJEE

Ten years ago, a woman of Jamalpur with bipolar disorder, a mental condition, went missing. For three years, her loving mother had frantically searched through every inch and corner of Jamalpur and Dhaka for her daughter, but to no avail. Nonetheless, the mother never once lost the hope in her heart.

Her hope and her faith were both to be rewarded.

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Mursheda

Sweden drops Assange rape investigation

UK police say he still faces arrest

REUTERS, Stockholm

Swedish prosecutors yesterday dropped an investigation on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange over a rape allegation, but British police said he would still be arrested

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Julian Assange



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PRAYER TIMING MAY 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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