Prince Charles

meddle as king

Britain's Prince Charles said

speaking out on contentious

becomes king in a rare inter-

The eldest son of Queen

Elizabeth II -- formally known

as the Prince of Wales -- has

long been seen as interfering

because of his private lobby-

ing of ministers and public

subjects from architecture to

documentary marking his

he did not intend to be a

"I do realise that it is a

eign. So of course I under-

stand entirely how that

should operate," he said.

his public campaigning

would continue: "No, it

won't. I'm not that stupid."

steer well clear of politics --

something perfected by the

92-year-old queen since her

But Prince Charles has

lobbied on a variety of issues

as shown in a series of letters

between him and government

ministers known as the "black

The Prince of Wales has

not enjoyed the same public

affection. He said in his

directly meddled in party

politics and understood the

difference between his cur-

rent role and the one he

may eventually assume.

defence that he never

coronation in 1953.

spider" memos.

British royals traditionally

separate exercise being sover-

He added when asked if

But he told the BBC in a

70th birthday next week that

statements on a range of

the environment.

meddling king.

view about his future role.

on Wednesday he was not

"stupid" enough to keep

public issues once he

vows not to

AFP, London

Honeymoon over? Trump faces investigation blitz from Democratic House

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump faces a barrage of investigations targeting everything from his taxes to his Russian business ties after Democrats captured the House of Representatives in Tuesday's elections.

With the House in their control beginning in January, Democrats will replace Republicans at the head of every committee, giving them the power to set hearing agendas, call witnesses and issue subpoenas to top officials of Trump's administration.

Hours after the election results became clear, Trump tweeted a warning Wednesday REUTER morning that he was ready to fight fire with "If the Democrats think they are going to

waste Taxpayer Money investigating us at the House level, then we will likewise be forced to consider investigating them for all of the leaks of Classified Information, and much else, at the Senate level. Two can play that game!" he said.

Losing his Republican majority in the House removes much of the insulation that · has been crucial to Trump's political success in his first two years.

Now Democrats could lay bare alleged · conflicts of interest, misuse of funds, and abuse of power by the president and his Investigations could gridlock a White

now has the power to wrest oversight; sion investigation by Special Counsel away from Rosenstein, and take charge · Robert Mueller, heavily bogging down the · administration's agenda and foiling And, indeed, after Trump fired Attorney

the Mueller probe in jeopardy, Democratic Sessions was the first casualty of a : Congressman Jerry Nadler warned that he cabinet shakeup that had been intended to lead a House Judiciary

According to some estimates, two dozen probes could be opened quickly.

tize because there is so much that has gone wrong," Democrat Adam Schiff, who is expected to become chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said ahead of the election.

The Intelligence Committee will press ahead with the Russia election meddling investigation, and Trump's business relations with Russians.

The Judiciary Committee, expected to be headed by current senior Democrat Jerry Nadler, has its eyes on business conflicts of Trump's family. Nadler could also launch a probe into the Russia meddling issue, preparing the ground for a possible impeachment motion against Trump.

The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to subpoena Trump's long-hidden tax returns amid suspicions the billionaire has paid minimal amounts for years and possibly expose hidden foreign ties.

Asked about it on Monday, Trump replied stiffly: "I don't care. They can do whatever they want and I can do whatever I want."

LONG LIST OF PROBES

- O Billionaire Trump's record of paying taxes
- O Whether Trump and his family illegally benefit from their business while in power
- O Trump's hush payments to women claiming past affairs with him
- Alleged misuse of funds for personal needs by cabinet secretaries

O Trump's controversial firing of former

- **FBI director James Comey** Trump's mishandling of classified
- information
- O Alleged legal abuses in the anti-Muslim travel ban
- O Security clearances in the White House



Trump fires Jeff Sessions

AFP, Washington

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions was fired by Donald Trump Wednesday, casting a cloud over the Russia investigation that has dogged the White House, a day after Republicans lost control over the lower house of Congress.

The move capped more than a year of bitter criticism by the president over his legal advisor's decision to recuse himself from the probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election, paving the way for the appointment of Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

In announcing the resignation in a tweet that thanked the former Alabama senator "for his service" --Trump right away named as acting attorney general Sessions' chief of staff Matthew Whitaker.



That set off immediate alarm bells: Whitaker has been overtly critical of the broad scope granted to Mueller's team to probe beyond allegations Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in 2016, into other ties between Trump, his family and aides, and Russia -- an investigation the president calls a "witch hunt."

In an op-ed in August last year he publicly urged Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein -- who oversees the probe -- to "limit the scope of his

investigation to the four corners of the : cabinet. order appointing him special counsel." As acting attorney general, Whitaker : House already besieged by the Russia collu-

himself. Democratic Senate Minority Leader : Trump's message.

Chuck Schumer immediately called on Whitaker to recuse himself from the : General Jeff Sessions Wednesday, putting probe as his predecessor had.

expected from Trump following the : Committee examination. midterm elections. Sessions was the · first US senator to back Trump's presidential run in 2016, giving the New against a broad field of Republican stalwarts. The two were reportedly crack down on immigration.

KHASHOGGI MURDER IN TURKEY

Traces of acid, chemicals found at Saudi consul's home

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Turkish police searching for Jamal Khashoggi's body found traces of hydrofluoric acid in a well at the Saudi consul general's home in Istanbul, it was reported yesterday.

The journalist's body was dissolved in acid inside the house and disposed of in the garden well, a Turkish source told Al-Jazeera.

Turkish forensic officers made the grim discovery when they searched the residence two weeks after Khashoggi was killed on October 2, the source said. Officially, the

unknown. It comes after Turkish media claimed on Tuesday that Saudi consulate staff tried to dismantle CCIV equipment at their Istanbul

whereabouts of his body is still

compound to help cover up Khashoggi's murder. Workers attempted to tear out a security camera inside the consulate on the day the

to reports in Turkey. Attempts were also made at tampering with a video system in the police security booth outside the complex days later, it is

However, Al Jazeera reported that police already had accessed the system before the attempted tampering allegedly took place.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has said he will have a "much stronger opinion" on the killing Khashoggi "over the next week".

Trump on Wednesday said he is working with the US Congress, Turkey and Saudi Arabia on solving the case.

> "I am forming a very strong opinion," the US president said during a press conference at the White House. A Turkish security source has told

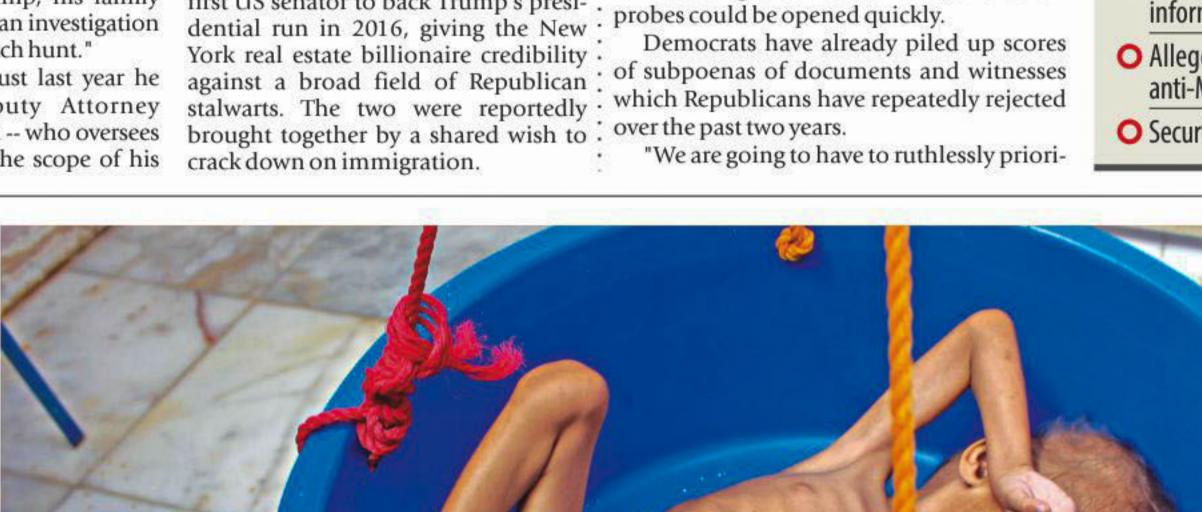
Al Jazeera that CIA Director Gina Haspel has seen all the evidence related to Khashoggi's killing.

The evidence proves the operation was carried out on orders from the highest level of leadership in Saudi

Haspel was in Turkey last week to review evidence before briefing US President writer walked in and was killed, according Donald Trump in Washington, DC.

Arabia, the source added.

Turkish sources also said that Saudi Arabia would pay "blood money" or compensation to Khashoggi's family and his fiancee.



A Yemeni child suffering from severe malnutrition is weighed at a treatment centre in a hospital in Yemen's northwestern Hajjah province, on Wednesday. Thirty-five Yemeni and international NGOs yesterday called for an "immediate cessation of hostilities" in Yemen, where they

YEMEN WAR 58 killed in fighting for

key port

Dozens of combatants were killed as pro-government forces closed in on rebel forces in the heart of the Yemeni port city of Hodeida yesterday, hospital sources said.

Medics at hospitals inside the city reported 47 rebels had been killed in overnight ground fighting and air raids by a Saudi-led coalition supporting the govern-

Sources at hospitals in govern ment-held areas on the outskirts said 11 soldiers had also been

Over the past week, Yemeni government forces backed by coalition troops have slowly edged into the city of some 600,000 people, one of the last

rebel strongholds on the Red Sea An army source in Hodeida said rebel trenches and land-

into the city yesterday. Nearly 80 percent of Yemen's commercial imports and practically all UN-supervised humanitarian aid pass through Hodeida.

mines had slowed their advance

Aid groups have appealed to both the rebels and the coalition to allow civilians to escape the fighting. UN agencies say some 14 million people are at risk of famine in Yemen, which they have described as the world's worst

humanitarian crisis. The rebels have controlled Hodeida since 2014 when they overran the capital Sanaa and then swept though much of the rest of the country, triggering Saudi-led military intervention the following year and a devastating war of attrition.

VERBAL DUEL WITH TRUMP IN PRESS MEET

White House bars CNN reporter

AFP, Washington

The White House on Wednesday suspended the press pass of a CNN reporter who sparred with Donald Trump at a news conference, during which the president branded him the "enemy of the people."

A visibly angry Trump called reporter Jim Acosta a "rude, terrible person," after the CNN White House correspondent refused the president's orders to sit down and yield the microphone during the conference one day after the US midterm election.

"The White House is suspending the hard pass of the reporter involved until further notice," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders hours later, referring to Acosta, who then tweeted that he had been denied White House entry.

The heated exchange began after Acosta clung to the microphone and persisted with questions about the president's repeated and angry denunciation of a caravan of poor Central American migrants making their way through Mexico to the US border. He asked Trump why he has characterised it as an invasion.

Trump said "that's enough!" and a White House intern tried in vain to take the microphone from the CNN journalist.

"President Trump believes in a free press and expects and welcomes tough questions of him and his Administration," Sanders said in

her statement. "We will, however,

never tolerate a reporter placing his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job as a White House intern. This conduct is absolutely

unacceptable," she said. Acosta shot back at the accusation of misconduct, tweeting "this is a lie" -as his network and a number of Washington journalists who had been at the press conference voiced support for him and denied the White House

allegations that he touched the intern. An association representing the Washington press corps urged the White House to immediately reverse

warned 14 million people were now "on the brink of famine".

"this weak and misguided action." At the conference Trump, when asked if he had "demonized immigrants" during the midterms campaign, replied: "No, I want them to come into the country. But they have

to come in legally." Acosta persisted, saying: "They

are hundreds of miles away. That is not an invasion."

At that point, the president snapped. "Honestly, I think you should let me run the country. You run CNN, and if you did it well, your ratings would be higher," Trump said.

As the reporter continued, Trump declared: "That's enough, put down the mic" and walked away from his own podium, as if leaving.

The intern attempted to take the microphone from Acosta, who persisted and tried to shout out one last question.

Waving his finger, Trump berated

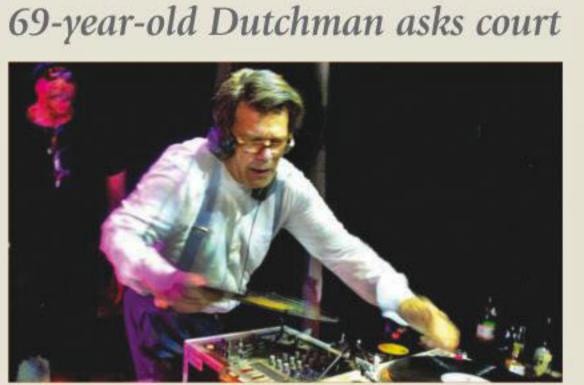
"I'll tell you what. CNN should be ashamed of itself having you working for them. You are a rude, terrible person. You shouldn't be working for CNN," he said.



A White House staff member reaches for the microphone held by CNN's Jim Acosta as he questions US President Donald Trump during a news conference at the White House on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

PHOTO: AFP **MAKE ME 20**

YEARS YOUNGER



CNN ONLINE

Lying about your age on dating websites is usually considered a bit of a faux pas. Now a 69-year-old Dutchman wants the courts to make him officially 20 years younger, likening the change to identifying as transgender.

Emile Ratelband has launched a legal bid to change his age by 20 years in order to improve his chances with women on dating applications like Tinder and help with job prospects, according to

reports in Dutch media. "You can change your name. You can change your gender. Why not your age? Nowhere are you so

discriminated against as with your age," Dutch paper De Telegraaf quoted Ratelband as saying. On Monday, he asked a court in his hometown of Arnhem, in the east of the country, for his date of birth

to be changed from March 11, 1949 to March 11, 1960. He told the court that he "suffers" as a 69-yearold and has been feeling "20, 25 years younger" than his official age, according to Dutch newspaper

Algemeen Dagblad. According to the newspaper, the court is skeptical about Ratelband's case as there is no legal precedent in this area. It is due to make a ruling in four weeks.