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# TRUMP'S IMPEACHMENT Move is a threat to president, Democrats

AFP, Washington

US Democrats' explosive launch of an official impeachment inquiry of Donald Trump has set off a massive political battle, raising multiple questions about the process and its consequences for the Republican's tempestuous presidency.

Will conservative Republicans turn on their man, or dig in their heels? Do Democrats relish the prospect of impeaching a president for only the third time in American history, or do they too face huge risk?

US experts are looking at what might be in store in the 400 days until the 2020 election, and who stands to benefit or suffer.

**WHAT'S THE IMPACT ON TRUMP?**

"Trump is right, an impeachment inquiry will mobilize his base," Donald Wolfensberger, director of the Congress Project at The Wilson Center, told AFP.

There is little doubt that the process will rile up his most loyal followers. His 2020 re-election campaign said as much Tuesday, warning that the impeachment effort "will only serve to embolden and energize President Trump's supporters."

But even if the bid to oust Trump stalls in the Republican-led Senate, as expected, there is presidential peril ahead.

The extremes on either side will not be swayed by the impeachment process, "but voters in the middle -- independents and more moderate voters -- could," argued John Hudak, a senior fellow on governance at the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter Saima Wazed Putul pose for a photo with Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump at a reception hosted by the US president at Lotte New York Palace hotel in New York on Tuesday.

# 'CASINO' AT CLUB Seven cases filed against Enamul, his brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven cases have been filed against Dhaka Wanderers Club's casino shareholders Enamul Haque Enu and his brother Rupun Bhuiyan over the recovery of huge money, gold and firearms from their houses in the capital during a raid on Tuesday.

Besides, Enamul's employee Abul Kalam and Enamul's friend Harun-or-Rashid have been made accused in the cases, a Rab's press release said yesterday.

Members of Rab-3 lodged the cases accusing the four, who are on the run, with Wari, Gendaria and Sutrapur police stations in the last two days under the money laundering prevention, special power and firearms acts.

On Tuesday, it raided three houses at Banianagar and Narinda in Old Dhaka.

During the raid, Rab found Tk 5.05 crore in cash, around 8.5kg of gold worth

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# Khashoggi was killed under my watch: MBS

AGENCIES

Saudi Arabia's crown prince said he bears responsibility for the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi last year by Saudi operatives "because it happened under my watch," according to a PBS documentary to be broadcast next week.

Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), the kingdom's de facto ruler, has not spoken publicly about the killing inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The CIA and some Western governments have said he ordered it, but Saudi officials say he had no role.

The death sparked a global uproar, tarnishing the crown prince's image and imperilling ambitious plans to diversify the economy of the world's top oil exporter and open up Saudi Arabia's society. He has not since visited the United States or Europe.

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# RTI failed to yield expected results

TIB says, urges people to utilise the law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Right to Information Act, which empowers people to hold government officials accountable, did not yield expected results due to poor number of applications, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said proper implementation of the Right to Information Act-2009 could be a step forward for a democratic society. A campaign, down to the grassroots level, is required to encourage people to apply the RTI more frequently.

Graft watchdog Transparency International Bangladesh organised the discussion on "Right to Information Act and Tackling Corruption: Experience from the law's first decade and future doables" at its Dhanmondi office to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

The Right to Information Act-2009 is different from the country's other laws, said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

It is because a law generally empowers the state to "control people's behaviour and bring them under accountability. This particular law is mainly for empowering the people", he said.

The government, especially its organisations, can be held accountable through disclosure of information and this law ensures it, he added.

"We believe the law will play a significant role in establishing good governance and tackling corruption," he said.

Strategy-based action plan has to be taken for RTI's implementation, he said, adding that this action plan can be for short-, medium- and long-term.

He hoped the media's role will be more proactive to this end by overcoming challenges like prevailing "atmosphere of intimidation, fear, and self-censorship".

Iftekharuzzaman said the Information Commission has to be more functional and acquire more professionalism to achieve its goal, while

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# Woman raped in front of her mother

Police arrest 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A 24-year-old woman with autism was allegedly raped in front of her mother at their home in Rajshahi's Paba upazila early yesterday.

Police arrested five -- Asadul Islam, 25, Dukhu Mia, 35, Sajib, 20, Sakim Ali, 20, and Bairul Islam, 32 -- after the victim's cousin filed a case with Damkura Police Station.

According to the case statement, Asadul intruded into the victim's room and raped her around 12:15am and the others guarded the room.

The victim's mother, who also has autism, was in the same room at the time as they have been sharing the same room for last 20 years, the case statement added.

Hearing the victim scream, locals rushed to the spot and detained all five accused. They then handed

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# Lanka's tallest tusker gets armed escort



AFP, Colombo

Nadungamuwa Raja, 65 years old, is a celebrated elephant towering around 10.5 feet (3.2 metres) in height, the tallest tamed tusker in Sri Lanka. And he has his own armed guards.

Raja's owner said the government has allocated troops to provide security for his pet as it ambles along main roads to attend temple festivals across the island.

"In September 2015, a motorcyclist very nearly crashed into Raja. After seeing CCTV footage, the government contacted me and offered protection for Raja when he gets on the road," Harsha Dharmavijaya told AFP.

There are two regular handlers with Raja in addition to the military unit deployed to clear a path for the animal when it navigates crowded country roads.

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# ABT converting cash to Bitcoin to buy arms

Claim police after arresting two

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

To dodge the law enforcers, members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) are converting their funds to Bitcoin and planning to use the cryptocurrency in the dark web to buy firearms and narcotics, police claimed.

They use messengers like "Telegram" and "WhatsApp" to make their communication secure, counterterrorism

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**PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 27**

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-35 12-30 4-15 6-00 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-30 6-05 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**NATURE QUEST**

**CUCKOO PLAYS PEEK-A-BOO**

A Black-headed Cuckooshrike sitting on a Jujube tree in Chapainawabganj Sadar Upazila's Babudying area. While these birds are common in Bangladesh, they are not sighted as frequently as one would assume.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN



# INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE 20 killed, dozens hurt in Maluku

More than 2,000 evacuated

AFP, Ambon City

At least 20 people were killed and dozens injured in a strong earthquake that rocked Indonesia's remote Maluku islands, triggering landslides that buried at least one of the victims, the disaster agency said.

Terrified residents ran into the streets as buildings fell in around them when the 6.5-magnitude quake hit yesterday morning.

"At least 100 people were injured and more than 2,000 evacuated," said national disaster mitigation spokesman Agus Wibowo who gave the latest death toll in statement.

Among those killed was an infant, he said.

Earlier, local disaster agency officials said some victims had been killed by falling debris while one person was buried in a landslide.

Another victim died of a heart attack as the tremor hit, while one woman died after falling off her motorbike while fleeing to higher ground, officials said.

Residents of Ambon, a city of about 400,000 people, were seen helping injured residents in blood-stained clothes, while images showed wrecked homes with collapsed walls and rubble strewn on the ground.

Some patients fled a local hospital as the quake hit, prompting officials to set up makeshift shelters outside the building, an official said.

"The impact was felt across Ambon city and surrounding areas," said Rahmat Triyono, head of the earthquake and tsunami division at Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency (BMKG).

"Many people were woken up by the shaking... it felt like a truck was passing by."

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