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TRUMP IMPEACHMENT PROBE

Public hearings start next week

AFP, Washington

The first open impeachment hearings into US President Donald Trump will begin next week, the congressman leading the probe said Wednesday, as the investigation heads into a highly anticipated public phase.

William Taylor, Washington's top diplomat to Ukraine, and deputy assistant secretary of state George Kent are scheduled to testify next Wednesday.

People will be able to see "the degree to which the president enlisted whole departments of government in the illicit aim of trying to get Ukraine to dig up dirt on a political opponent," said House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff.

In a closed-door deposition, Taylor bolstered the principal accusation against Trump -- that the president abused his office by withholding military aid to blackmail Kiev into launching investigations that could help him politically.

Kent, who heads the European and Eurasian bureau at the State Department, expressed concerns about White House efforts to remove the then-ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch.

Yovanovitch herself told investigators she was ousted because Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and others wanted her out of the way as they conducted Ukraine policy outside traditional diplomatic channels. She is scheduled to appear next Friday.

Schiff has already begun releasing transcripts of private witness testimony but it is widely believed that the trio's appearance at public hearings could have a more dramatic impact on the American public.

The Capitol Hill hearings will be broadcast live as

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A man risks his life to get onto a moving bus on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital's Karwan Bazar area yesterday. Such situations arise as buses rarely pick up passengers from designated spots. Traffic rules violations like this are still rampant as authorities have yet to start enforcing the new road safety act.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

9th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ninth edition of the Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF), an internationally-recognised literary festival, was inaugurated yesterday at the Bangla Academy in the capital.

Supported by the cultural affairs ministry, it focuses on bringing together western and South Asian writers and intellectuals.

This year's line-up features award-winning author and Booker prize finalist Monica Ali, iconic author of Bangla literature Sankar, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Jeffrey Gettleman, historian William Dalrymple, writer Shashi Tharoor and DSC Prize-winning writer HM Naqvi.

Other big names include poet Tishani Doshi, author Swapnamoy Chakraborty, poet and journalist Mridul Dasgupta, Syed Manzoorul Islam, Imdadul Haq Milan, Kaiser Haq and Shaheen Akhtar.

One of the highlights of

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Nat'l award for foreigner raises eyebrows

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

An Indian citizen was named in the list of the Bangladesh National Film Award winners for 2017-18 published on the information ministry's official website yesterday.

It came as a shock to many, as the criteria set by the ministry itself said no foreign citizens would be awarded.

According to a circular by the information ministry, published on February 14 this year, only Bangladeshi citizens would be considered for the national film award.

The circular was signed by Nizamul Kabir, vice chairman of Bangladesh Film Censor Board.

Violating the criteria, Md Kalam, an Indian citizen, got the award for best editor for the movie "Dhaka Attack", which won the Best Film award for 2017.

Contacted, jury member Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar told The Daily Star that a foreigner cannot get the national film award.

"The jury, however, does not scrutinise the papers and documents. There are others who do that."

Director of "Dhaka Attack", Dipankar Dipon, said he did not know about the

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ADULT POPULATION 2.25cr suffer from mental disorders

Govt survey says 13.6pc of the country's children have 8 types of mental problems

➤ Adults aged between 18 and 60 are affected by 13 types of mental disorders.

➤ Children aged between 7 and 17 are affected by 8 types of mental disorders.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 16.8 percent or an estimated 2.25 crore of the country's adult population are suffering from 13 types of mental disorders, according to a latest government survey report.

The report also revealed that about 13.6 percent of the country's children, aged between 7 and 17, are suffering from eight type mental disorders.

A nationwide survey conducted between 2003 and 2005 had found that some 16.1 percent of the adult population in Bangladesh were affected by different mental disorders.

The information was disclosed in a report entitled "National Mental Health Survey of Bangladesh, 2018-19".

The report was released at an event held in the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh yesterday.

A research team led by professors of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), in association with the Non Communicable Disease Control Programme of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and World Health Organisation (WHO), has conducted the survey.

They collected data by surveying 7,270 adults and 2,246 children from

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WOMEN TAXPAYERS Shahnaz tops the list in Dhaka city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahnaz Rahman, a director of Transcom Group and chairperson of Reliance Insurance Limited, has been named the highest woman taxpayer in Dhaka city.



The National Board of Revenue yesterday revealed the names of top taxpayers in city corporations and district towns.

According to an NBR notification, three top taxpayers in each of the city corporations and district towns will be honoured at an event in the capital on November 14.

Two long time taxpayers, a woman taxpayer, and a young taxpayer will also be honoured.

The NBR on Wednesday published a list of top

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Trove of mammoth remains discovered



AFP, Mexico City

Archaeologists said Wednesday they have made the largest-ever discovery of mammoth remains: a trove of 800 bones from at least 14 of the extinct giants found in central Mexico.

Moreover, they believe they have made the first-ever find of a mammoth trap set by humans, who would have used it to capture the huge herbivores more than 14,000 years ago, said Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).

"This is the largest find of its kind ever made," the institute said in a statement.

The skeletal remains were found in Tultepec, near the site where President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's government is building a new airport for Mexico City.

Some bore signs that the animals had been hunted, leading experts to conclude that they had

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Khoka laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former mayor of undivided Dhaka City Corporation and a valiant freedom fighter Sadeque Hossain Khoka was laid to rest with state honour at Jurain Graveyard following a series of Namaz-e-Janaza yesterday.

As per his wish, Khoka was buried at the graveyard beside his mother's grave after the last namaz-e-janaza held at Dhupkhola playground in the capital.

A flight of Emirates carrying the body of Khoka landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 8:28am yesterday.

BNP Standing

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PHOTO ON PAGE 2



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 8

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-30 3-45 5-25 7-00
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Doubts grow over primary examinations

Teachers demand salary hike, threaten to boycott tests set to begin Nov 17

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Uncertainty looms over invigilation during the coming Primary Education Completion Examination as a meeting between protesting teachers and ministry officials failed to resolve the stalemate.

An association of primary school teachers on October 23 announced that they would boycott the PECE and its madrasa equivalent Ebtedayee exams if their demand for better pay is not met by November 13.

The PECE and Ebtedayee exams are scheduled to begin on November 17. Almost 30 lakh students have registered for the exams.

Twenty-three leaders of Bangladesh Prathomik Shikhhak Oikya Parishad, a coalition of 14 primary teachers' bodies, met Primary and Mass Education Secretary

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A black-crowned night heron sits on a neem tree looking for a hunt in a nearby pond in Chapainawabganj Sadar. These birds, which feast on fish, are found in fresh and salt-water wetlands. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: RABUL HASAN

Responsibility not ours, state's

JU protesters about proving allegations against the VC; JU BCL gen secy resigns

JU CORRESPONDENT

Protesting teachers and students yesterday said they would not investigate the allegations of corruption against the Jahangirnagar University vice chancellor, but the intelligence officials should.

They demonstrated throughout the day, defying the university administration's ban on rallies and processions on campus. They also held a protest concert in front of the VC's residence in the evening.

"We aren't from the intelligence agencies. How would we prove the allegations?" asked Prof Sayeed Ferdous of anthropology after a rally at what the protesters call the VC removal platform.

Around 200 teachers and students, under the banner of Jahangirnagar Against corruption, marched on campus around 1:00pm.

The teachers said it was the responsibility of the government to look into the allegations.

If an investigation is launched and it finds the allegations to be false, the protesters will accept that, they added.

Many teachers and students have been protesting on the campus since September 18, demanding the resignation of VC Prof Farzana Islam over her alleged involvement in corruption and mismanagement of a Tk 1,445-crore campus development project.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at an event yesterday said the protesters will have to face punishment if they fail to prove the allegations against the VC.

Responding to the remarks, Prof Sayeed said, "If she

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