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Biden to bin Trump policies on first day

Plans to sign roughly a dozen executive orders on key issues

CNN ONLINE

US President-elect Joe Biden plans to sign roughly a dozen executive orders, including rejoining the Paris climate accord and ending the travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries, on his first day in office, according to a memo from incoming chief of staff Ron Klain.

He'll also sign orders halting evictions and student loan payments during the coronavirus pandemic and issuing a mask mandate on all federal property in an effort to either roll back moves made by the Trump administration or advance policy in a way that was impossible in the current administration.

One of Biden's most common campaign trail promises was to tackle an issue on his first day in office -- a pledge he usually made to either contrast himself with President Donald Trump or highlight just how important he believed an issue to be. These promises were made on everything from climate change to immigration to foreign policy, and many are reflected in Klain's Saturday memo, which was first reported by the New York Times.

"During the campaign, President-elect Biden pledged to take immediate action to start addressing these crises and build back better," Klain writes. "As president, he will keep those promises and sign dozens of executive orders, presidential memoranda, and directives to Cabinet agencies in fulfillment of the promises he made."

Beyond executive actions in his first days in office, the

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Facing food scarcity in Tangail's Madhupur forest, monkeys sometimes come out on the roads and go to people waiting in stationary cars in search of food. This increases risks of road accidents in the area. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

ATTACK ON UNO Court frames charge against ex-employee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Dinajpur court yesterday framed charges against the lone accused in Ghoraghat UNO attack case.

The accused is Rabiul Islam, an expelled employee of the Ghoraghat UNO office.

The court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Biswanath Mondal framed charge indicting Rabiul, Dinajpur Court Inspector Israel Hossain confirmed.

The court fixed February 4 as the next hearing date of the case, said court sources. A total of 52 people have been made witnesses in the case.

Earlier on November 12 last year, Imam Zafar, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch (DB) in Dinajpur, filed the charge sheet accusing Rabiul.

Wahida Khanam, the then UNO of Ghoraghat, and his father Omar Ali Sheikh, a freedom fighter, came under brutal hammer attack at her official residence on September 3.

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ACCUSED, CONVICTS Media cannot publish their remarks: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday cautioned the media to be more careful while broadcasting and publishing news with regards to an absconding accused as well as subjudice matters in future.

It upheld an ad-interim order of injunction restraining all media from participating, publishing or broadcasting any statement, comment, interview and conversation of anyone accused and convicted of non-bailable and cognisable offences on television news or talk shows with regard to the cases pending before court or an investigating agency until further orders.

The bench, however, declined to issue the contempt of court rule against Ekattor TV, a private television channel, for allowing Proshanta Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, to participate in a live talk show and broadcasting his interview on December 28.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim disposed of a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission praying for the issuance of the contempt of court

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Vaccine concerns prompt more curbs

Pfizer reassures Europe after delay in vaccine deliveries; UK mulls enforced hotel quarantine for travellers

AFP, Paris

Officials yesterday sought to ease concerns in Europe about deliveries of coronavirus vaccines as nations across the world doubled down on restrictions to fight the rampaging pandemic.

The contagion is showing no signs of slowing down, with infections surging past 94 million and more than two million deaths, and Europe among the hardest-hit parts of the world.

Worries have grown that delays in the delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine could hamper a European rollout that has already come under heavy fire for being too slow.

US drugmaker Pfizer, which developed the jab in collaboration with Germany's BioNTech, said it was working to "significantly" scale up production at its plant in Belgium in the second quarter.

After a short delay, deliveries should be back to the original schedule to the EU from January 25.

"There's a dip," said France's Europe minister Clement Beaune. "But it's better that it happens now when we have stockpiles than when the wider vaccination campaign starts."

He told Franceinfo that a limited delay should not present a huge problem.

Nevertheless, several Nordic and Baltic countries have described the situation as "unacceptable", and Belgium's vaccination strategy task force condemned Pfizer for failing to consult them.

France, which saw its death toll rise past 70,000 at the weekend, is set to begin a campaign to inoculate people over 75 from today. Russia plans to begin mass vaccinations the same day.

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3 arrested over rape in Patuakhali

Criminals torture Noakhali housewife failing to rape her

STAR REPORT

Three men were arrested on Saturday for gang-raping a 42-year-old woman in Patuakhali's Mirzaganj upazila, and in Mymensingh a case was filed yesterday against a youth and his family members over the rape of a 14-year-old girl.

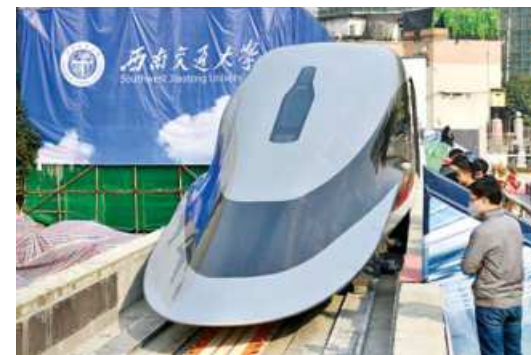
In Noakhali, miscreants tortured a housewife after an attempt to rape in the first week of January. The incident came to light yesterday when unverified footage of the torture went viral on social media.

The gang-rape of the mother of three took place in the Srinagar area of Mirzaganj around 8:00 pm on Saturday.

After the victim filed a case accusing three persons with the Mirzaganj Police Station, police arrested Jalil

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China unveils train that can travel at 400mph



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

China has unveiled a prototype of a new levitating train, which it claims is capable of reaching speeds of up to 400mph.

A shortened version of the High Temperature Superconducting (HTS) high-speed "maglev" train, consisting of just one carriage, was displayed on a limited length of test track in Chengdu on January 13.

Created by scientists at the Southwest Jiaotong University, the train has no wheels and instead uses magnets which allow it to "hover" just above the track, resulting in frictionless, faster travel.

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This year's first session of JS begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid is scheduled to deliver his speech in the 11th session of the 11th parliament commencing this afternoon.

According to the constitution, the president is scheduled to deliver his speech in the first session of the new year.

On December 30, the head of state convened the first parliament session of 2021 exercising the power bestowed upon him as per article 72 (1) of the

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 18

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5:30	12:45	4:15	5:40
JAMAAT	6:05	1:15	4:30	5:44
				7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RAPE, ABDUCTION Tufan Sarkar gets bail from Bogura court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Suspended Sramik League leader Tufan Sarkar was granted bail yesterday by a tribunal in Bogura.

He was accused of raping a girl and then torturing her and her mother in order to silence them. He was also accused of shaving the head of the girl and her mother. Images of the woman and her daughter shocked the nation in 2017.

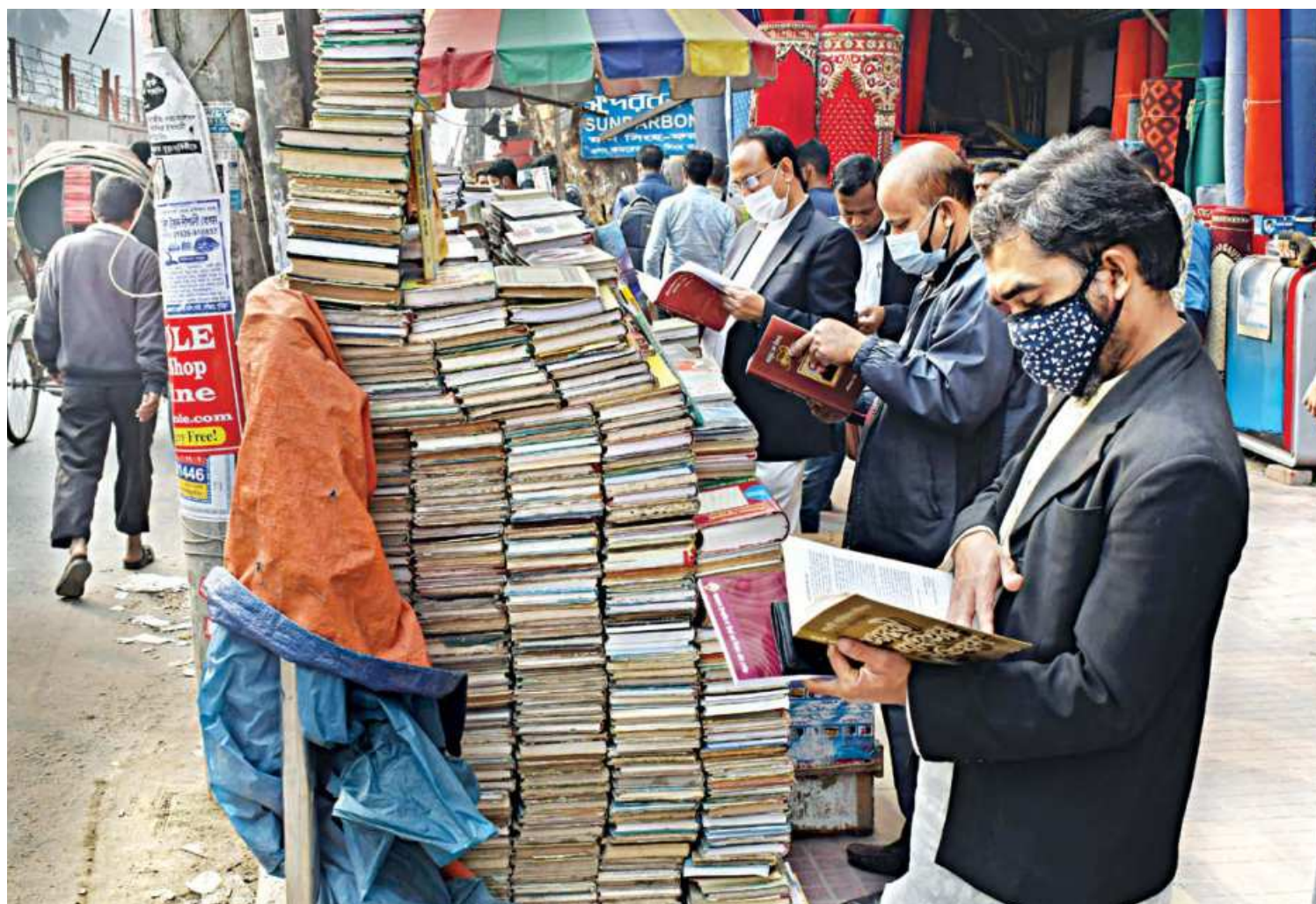
Tufan was the convener of Bogura Sramik League.

The women and children repression tribunal granted him bail yesterday.

Prosecutor Naresh Mukherjee said, "The High Court fixed six months for disposal of the case. The [Bogura] court granted him bail since the case has not been disposed of in three years. However, I strongly oppose this bail."

Tufan's Lawyer Abdul Mannaf said, "The court granted the bail on the basis of the victim's and her mother's statements."

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People browsing through and buying old books at a makeshift shop on a footpath near the capital's Purana Paltan intersection yesterday. At a time when people's reading habits are said to be decreasing, this was a sight for sore eyes.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

VIOLENCE IN AFGHANISTAN Gunmen kill 3 female judges

President, US envoy blame Taliban

AFP, Kabul

Gunmen shot dead two Afghan women judges working for the Supreme Court in an ambush in the country's capital yesterday, officials said, an attack the top US envoy in Kabul blamed on the Taliban.

Violence has surged across Afghanistan in recent months despite ongoing peace talks between the Taliban and government -- especially in Kabul, where a new trend of targeted killings aimed at high-profile figures has sown fear in the restive city.

The latest attack, which US Charge D'Affaires Ross Wilson blamed on the Taliban, comes just two days after the Pentagon announced it had cut troop levels in Afghanistan to 2,500, the fewest in nearly two decades.

The attack on the judges happened as they were driving to their office in a court vehicle, said Ahmad Fahim Qawem, a spokesman for the Supreme Court.

"Unfortunately, we have lost two women judges in today's attack. Their driver is wounded," Qawem told AFP. There are more than 200 female judges working for the country's top court, the spokesman added.

Kabul police confirmed the attack, which no group has claimed so far.

Afghanistan's Supreme Court was a target in February 2017 when a suicide bomb ripped through a crowd of court employees, killing at least 20 and wounding 41.

The latest attack drew widespread condemnation, with Wilson blaming the Taliban directly as he called for an investigation.

"The Taliban should understand that such actions for

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