

US Congress to release Trump tax returns

AFP, Washington

US lawmakers voted Tuesday to make public Donald Trump's tax returns, ending a years-long battle by the former president to keep the filings private as his cloudy financial past continues to stoke controversy.

The Republican leader – who is running for the White House again after losing the 2020 election – broke with presidential tradition by refusing to release the records, triggering feverish speculation about what they might contain.

The Democratic-led House Ways and Means Committee voted along party lines, 24-16, to release six years of the billionaire's filings – one of its last actions before the reins are handed to the Republicans in January.

Democratic congressman Lloyd Doggett told CNN a summary report would be sent to the full House of Representatives with analysis from the US Congress Joint Committee on Taxation – along with the raw returns.

"That may be delayed for a few days, only to permit time for redacting things like social security numbers... that kind of thing," he said.

The vote came after committee chairman Richard Neal won access to the documents, covering 2015-20, at the end of a protracted legal fight that went all the way to the Supreme Court.

Trump's finances have always been of immense interest to the US public, in part due to the lengths to which he has gone to keep them private, and also because of his lavish pre-White House lifestyle as a property mogul.

The returns could show how much he has given to charity, if he has foreign business concerns or other conflicts of interest, and how his businesses were affected by his presidency and the pandemic.

Every president from Richard Nixon to Trump's predecessor Barack Obama released their full tax returns to the public – except Gerald Ford, who released a summary.



People wait in a line outside a fever clinic at a hospital amid the Covid-19 pandemic in Beijing, China, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Be alert, Covid not over yet

Says India's health minister; hearses queue at Beijing crematorium even China says no new virus deaths

AGENCIES

India's Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya yesterday said Covid-19 is not over yet and asked people to be on alert.

Mandaviya chaired a review meeting with health officials on the Covid-19 situation amid a spurt in global cases and said the government is prepared to manage any situation.

"Covid is not over yet. I have directed all concerned to be alert and strengthen surveillance. We are prepared to manage any situation," the minister tweeted after the review meeting.

Meanwhile, Dr VK Paul, Member-Health, NITI Aayog has urged people to use a mask in crowded spaces, both indoors and outdoors. The use of masks is all the more important for people

with comorbidities or of higher age, he added.

India has reported three cases of Omicron sub-variant BF.7, the strain reportedly driving China's current surge of Covid-19 cases, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The first case of BF.7 in India was detected in October by Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre. So far, two cases have been reported from the western state of Gujarat while one case has been reported from eastern state of Odisha, official sources said.

In Beijing, dozens of hearses queued outside a crematorium yesterday, even as China reported no new Covid-19 deaths in its growing outbreak, sparking criticism of its virus accounting as the capital braces for a surge of cases.

The abrupt change of policy has caught a fragile health system unprepared and hospitals are scrambling for beds and blood, pharmacies for drugs, and authorities are racing to build special clinics. Experts predict China could face more than a million Covid deaths next year.

At a crematorium in Beijing's Tongzhou district, a Reuters witness saw a queue of about 40 hearses waiting to enter while the parking lot was full.

Inside, family and friends, many wearing traditional white clothing and headbands of mourning, gathered around about 20 coffins awaiting cremation. Staff wore hazmat suits and smoke rose from five of the 15 furnaces.

There was a heavy police presence outside the crematorium.

BOAT ADRIFT AT SEA

Up to 20 Rohingyas died, say activists

REUTERS, Mumbai

Up to 20 people have died of hunger or thirst on a boat carrying ethnic Rohingya that has been stranded at sea for two weeks off India's coast, two Myanmar Rohingya activist groups said. The boat with at least 100 people is currently in Malaysian waters as members of the Muslim minority continue to escape violence in Myanmar and hardship in Bangladesh refugee camps. "We estimate that probably as many as 20 have died... some from hunger and thirst, and others jumped overboard in desperation. This is absolutely awful and outrageous," said Chris Lewa, director of the Arakan Project. It is not clear if the boat drifted or was towed to Malaysian waters or if India attempted to provide aid. Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's Rohingya Working Group said the group had been adrift for more than two weeks. Each year many Rohingya risk their lives boarding rickety vessels to reach Malaysia. The Lankan navy rescued more than 100 Rohingya on another boat over the weekend.

Musk to step down as Twitter CEO

AFP, San Francisco

Elon Musk said Tuesday he would resign as chief executive of Twitter once he finds a replacement, in apparent response to a poll he launched that suggested users wanted him to step down. Musk has fully owned Twitter since October 27 and has repeatedly courted controversy as CEO, sacking half of its staff, readmitting far right figures to the platform, suspending journalists and trying to charge for previously free services. "I will resign as CEO as soon as I find someone foolish enough to take the job!" Musk tweeted, saying he will then only run software and server teams at Twitter. In the poll results which were posted on Monday, 57 percent of voters, or 10 million votes, favored Musk stepping down just weeks after he took ownership of the company for \$44 billion. Musk has used the Twitter polls to take other decisions on the platform. Analysts have pointed out that the stock price of his electric car company Tesla has slumped by one-third since Musk's Twitter takeover, and some suggest Tesla's board was putting pressure on him to quit his Twitter role.



Disaster agency workers distribute food and drinking water to flooding victims in Sungai Kolok district in the southern Thai province of Narathiwat yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Nepal court orders release of serial killer 'The Serpent'

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's top court yesterday ordered the release of Charles Sobhraj, the French serial killer portrayed in the Netflix series "The Serpent" who was responsible for a string of murders across Asia in the 1970s.

The Supreme Court ruled Sobhraj, 78, who has been in prison in the Himalayan republic since 2003 for murdering two North American tourists, should be freed on health grounds.

"Keeping him in the prison continuously is not in line with the prisoner's human rights," read a copy of the verdict seen by AFP.

"If there is not any other pending cases against him to keep him in the prison, this court orders his release by today and... the return to his country within 15 days."

After a troubled childhood and several prison terms in France for petty crimes, Sobhraj began travelling the world in the early 1970s and wound up in the Thai capital Bangkok.

His modus operandi was to charm and befriend his victims – many of them starry-eyed Western backpackers on a quest for spirituality – before drugging, robbing and murdering them.



Suave and sophisticated, he was implicated in his first murder, that of a young American woman whose body was found on a beach in Pattaya wearing a bikini, in 1975.

He was eventually linked to more than 20 killings. His victims were strangled, beaten or burned, and he often used the passports of his male victims to travel to his next destination.

Sobhraj's sobriquet, "The

Serpent", came from his ability to assume other identities in order to evade justice. It became the title of a hit series made by the BBC and Netflix that was based on his life.

He was arrested in India in 1976, after a French tourist died from poisoning at a Delhi hotel, and was sentenced to 12 years for murder.

Sobhraj ultimately spent 21 years in jail, with a brief break in 1986 when he escaped and was caught again in the Indian coastal state of Goa.

Released in 1997, Sobhraj retired to Paris but resurfaced in 2003 in Nepal, where he was spotted in Kathmandu's tourist district and arrested.

A court there handed him a life sentence the following year for killing US tourist Connie Jo Bronzich in 1975. A decade later he was also found guilty of killing Bronzich's Canadian companion.

In prison in 2008, Sobhraj married Nihita Biswas, who is 44 years his junior and the daughter of his Nepalese lawyer.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintendent
250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar.
email: coxsbazar@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
Mobile-01769-957177.



Tender Notice

Memo No-45.00.0000.10000922.2022.3261

Date- 21/12/2022.

Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Man Power Supply through Outsourcing 250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar in the Fiscal year 2022-2023.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.	
02	Agency	DGHS	
03	Procuring Entity name	Superintendent, 250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar.	
04	Procuring Entity District	Cox's Bazar.	
05	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), Item by item.	
06	Tender Name	Man power Supply through Outsourcing in the fiscal year 2022-2023.	
07	Budget and source of funds	GOB.	
8	packages	Description	Price of Tender Schedule (only each, Non refundable)
			Tender Earnest money amounts (Refundable)
		price of Tender Schedule	1,000/- (Taka One thousand only)
			3,00,000/- (Taka Three Lac only)
Name and addresses of the Office			
09	a) Tender Schedule Selling Place	Office of the Superintendent 250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar.	
	b) Tender Schedule Receiving Place	Office of the Superintendent 250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar.	
	c) Tender Schedule Opening Place	Office of the Superintendent 250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar.	
10	Tender Schedule Selling Date	Tender booklets will be sold from the date of 01/01/2023 to 17/01/2023 during the office hour (8am to 2:30 pm). No Tender booklet would be sold after schedule date and time.	
11	Tender Dropping	18/01/2023 from 09:00 am. to 12.00 pm.	
12	Closing Date and Time	18/01/2023 at 12.01 pm.	
13	Tender Opening Date and Time	18/01/2023 at 1.00 pm.	
14	Description of Terms and conditions	Detailed description in Tender booklet.	
15	Description of Goods & Related Services	Detailed description in Tender booklet.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
16	Name of Procuring Entity	Dr. Md. Mominur Rahman.	
17	Designation of Procuring Entity	Superintendent	
18	Address of Procuring Entity	250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar.	
19	Contact details of Official Tenders	Phone: 01769-957177, email: coxsbazar@hospi.dghs.gov.bd	

Note: a) Price of tender schedule would be paid by treasury challan into the Code No: 1-2711-0000-2366 through The Superintendent, 250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital, Cox's Bazar by The Sonali Bank, Cox's Bazar branch (Online verification Copy attach).
b) If the date of receiving and opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.
c) To be submitted photo copy of trade license, VAT registration and TIN certificate when collect tender schedule by the application of own letter head pad.
d) Whatever may be in the general conditions, PPA-2006 and PPR-2008 will be strictly followed in tender processing.
e) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The hospital authority reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all Tender without assigning any reasons what so ever.

(Dr. Md. Mominur Rahman)
Superintendent
250 Bedded District Sadar Hospital
Cox's Bazar