

## Trump will betray again, oust him: Democrats

Agencies

Washington: Closing out their case, House Democrats warned Friday in Donald Trump's impeachment trial that the president will persist in abusing his power and endangering American democracy unless Congress intervenes to remove him before the 2020 election. They implored Republicans to allow new testimony to be heard before they render a final verdict.

"Give America a fair trial," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead Democratic impeachment manager. "She's worth it."

Schiff closed Democrats' case



after three days of methodical and impassioned arguments detailing charges that Trump abused power by asking Ukraine for politically motivated probes of political rivals, then obstructed Congress' investigation into the matter. The president's lawyers get their first chance to defend him Saturday, and are expected to argue he did nothing wrong.

The opening days of the Sen-

ate trial appear to have done nothing to shake Republicans' support for Trump or persuade enough centrist GOP lawmakers to call for new witnesses, including Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton. In his final appeal to lawmakers and a divided nation, Schiff argued that the Senate impeachment powers are the only remedy left to curb what he called the "imminent threat" posed to the nation by Trump's unconstitutional impulses.

"He is who he is," Schiff declared. "You know it's not going to stop... It's not going to stop unless the Congress does something about it."

The moment of history was apparent — only the third impeachment trial of a U.S. president — as were the partisan views of the Trump presidency and the effort to end it.

When Schiff cited a news story that quoted someone close to Trump saying any Republican voting with Democrats would have their "head on a pike," GOP senators in the chamber began murmuring. "That's not true."

The House impeached Trump last month, accusing him of abusing his office by asking Ukraine for politically motivated probes of Biden and other matters while withholding military aid from a U.S. ally that was at war with bordering Russia. A second article of impeachment accuses him of obstructing Congress by refusing to turn over documents or allow officials to testify in the House ensuing probe.



## As Death Toll Climbs To 41, China Orders Nationwide Measures To Contain Coronavirus

Agencies

Beijing: China has ordered nationwide measures to identify and immediately isolate suspected cases of a deadly virus on trains, aeroplanes and buses, as the death toll and number of patients has skyrocketed.

Inspection stations will be set up and passengers with suspected pneumonia must be "immediately transported" to a medical centre, the National Health Commission said in a statement.

The isolation of suspected cases must be followed by disinfection of the train, plane or bus.

The statement said "all departments of transportation" must "strictly" introduce pre-

vention and control measures including screening measures in airports, railway stations, bus sta-

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tions and ports. The measures apply across all

transportation routes as well as customs and border inspections.

Staff serving passengers must all wear masks, the NHC said.

The travel authority must also provide details about those in close contact with the suspected infection case, such as those sitting in the same carriage.

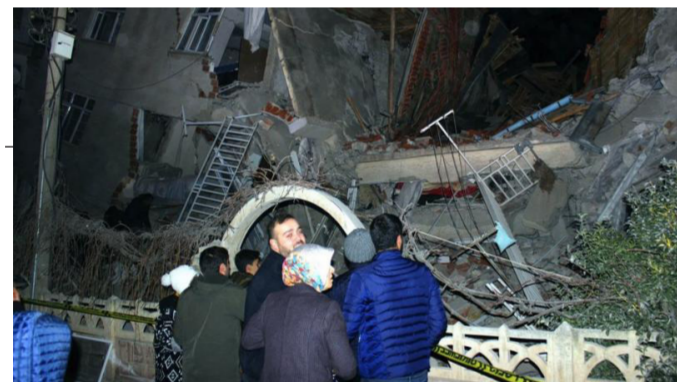
The order applies across all provinces and regions.

All areas should formulate "emergency response plans" to the outbreak including training medical staff.

The announcement came as the death toll jumped to 41 and the number of cases reached almost 1,300.

In Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak, the Chinese army deployed 450 medical specialists to overwhelmed hospitals.

## Earthquake in Turkey kills 18



Agencies

Ankara: A 6.8-magnitude earthquake rocked a sparsely-populated part of eastern Turkey on Friday, killing at least 18 people, injuring more than 500 and leaving some 30 trapped in the wreckage of toppled buildings, Turkish officials said.

Rescue teams from neighboring provinces were dispatched to the affected areas, working in the dark with floodlights in the freezing cold, and Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said troops were on standby to help.

Hundreds of residents were left homeless or with damaged homes.

TV footage showed rescuers pull out one injured person from the rubble of a collapsed building in the district of Gezin, in the eastern Elazig province. Around 30 were believed to be trapped inside collapsed structures in Elazig

province, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said. A video take at the scene shows residents running after the quake hit and emergency vehicles near a damaged building.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca, who traveled to the afflicted area together with Soylu, said 13 people were killed in Elazig, including two people who suffered heart attacks, and five others died in Malatya. A total of 553 people were hurt, including 11 who were in serious condition.

Some 30 buildings had collapsed from the quake in the two provinces, according to Murat Kurum, the environment minister.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Twitter that all measures were being taken to "ensure that the earthquake that occurred in Elazig and was felt in many provinces is overcome with the least amount of loss."

## What's new in the China virus outbreak

More than 1,200 cases of a new viral respiratory illness have been confirmed in China and elsewhere since an outbreak began last month in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Scientists have identified the illness as a new kind of coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which cause the common cold. Others have evolved into more severe illnesses, such as SARS and MERS, although so far the new virus does not appear to be nearly as deadly or contagious.

**What's new today?**

— The number of confirmed cases rose to 1,287. Forty-one people have died, all in China.

— After Wuhan halted all outbound flights, trains, buses and ferries on Thursday, 12 other cities in the central province of Hubei followed suit with a combined population of more than 36 million now under lockdown.

— Wuhan is swiftly building a 1,000-bed hospital dedicated to the disease. The prefabricated structure, slated for completion Feb. 3, is modeled after a Beijing hospital built in 2003 for the SARS outbreak.

— The new virus claimed its youngest victim. A 36-year-old man in Hubei was admitted to the hospital earlier this month



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— Additional cases cropped up outside China. Australia reported its first case on Saturday and France announced two cases, the disease's first appearance in Europe. The U.S., South Korea, Japan and Singapore also added

cases to their tallies. The new U.S. case, the nation's second, is a Chicago woman in her 60s who returned from China on Jan. 13.

Nepal also confirmed its first case.

— Hospitals in Wuhan are grappling with a flood of patients and a lack of supplies. At least eight hospitals in Wuhan issued public calls for donations of masks, goggles, gowns and other protective medical gear, according to notices online.

## Iraq Million-Man Demonstrated Outright Rejection Of US

Agencies

Beirut: The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has lauded Friday's million-strong march in Iraq against the presence of US troops in the Arab country, stating that the demonstration well exhibited Iraqis' total rejection of American occupation.

"The Iraqi people confirmed today their outright rejection of US occupation of their country once again. These blessed and loyal masses displayed the unity of the Iraqi nation in the face of American occupation and hegemony," Hezbollah said in a statement released on Friday.

It added that the mass protest in Baghdad against US troop presence in Iraq was a "true representation of the status quo in Arab and Muslim societies, where people are fed up with US occupation and its do-

movement pointed out, hoping for a "free, unified and independent Iraq free from foreign occupation forces and their interference." Sadr thanks Iraqi nation for high turnout

Meanwhile, influential Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has praised the Iraqi nation for heeding to his call and gathering on the streets of Baghdad on Friday to protest the United States military presence, describing the huge turnout as a matter for pride.

"Oh Iraqis, you melted our hearts. You brought us glory and raised our hopes. You angered our enemy. So, God recorded a good deed for you all. May God reward you with the best reward for Iraq and its nation," Sadr wrote in a post published on his official Twitter page.

'Iraq mass protest a step towards expulsion of US forces'



minion over their resources."

Hezbollah expressed hope that the anti-US demonstration in Iraq would spell the beginning of huge protest rallies across the Muslim world that would eventually result in the expulsion of US forces and their proxies from the entire West Asia.

"The great Iraqi nation, including all political parties and diverse inclinations, will be faithful to this great march, its principles, goals as well as mottoes," the Lebanese resistance

Separately, Yemeni Information Minister Dhaifallah al-Shami hailed the million-man demonstration against US military presence in Iraq, describing it as a historical event and a step towards expulsion of American troops.

"The massive demonstration in Iraq marks a historical event and a step in the right direction to expel US forces from the region," Shami wrote in a post published on his official Twitter page.

## Pakistan Govt rejects report on graft

Agencies

Islamabad: Pakistan on Friday rejected Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said the government led by the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) believes the report is biased. Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad, the special assistant said the Transparency International should unveil its sources from where the data was gathered.

Earlier, Pakistan's ranking had dropped to 120 out of 180 countries with a worse score of 32 out of 100, according



to the annual CPI released by the Transparency International. In the previous report, Pakistan scored 33 out of 100, which implies that no improvement could be observed in terms of eradication of corruption from the state.

## NEWSMAKERS

Lisle, Ill.: A shooting at a cigar lounge in the Chicago suburbs left one man dead and two others injured, police said. The shooter, whom police identified as a 51-year-old woman, died after shooting herself.

The shooting happened just after 10pm on Friday at the Humidor Cigar Lounge in Lisle, police there said in a statement posted to Facebook. Acting Police Chief Ron Wilkes later told the Chicago Tribune that responding officers found four people shot who needed life-saving aid.

He said the woman had shot three men before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. One of the men was pronounced dead and the two surviving men were hospitalised. The extent of their injuries wasn't immediately clear.

"At this time, the matter is contained to the business and there is no danger to the community," the statement read. It's unclear what led to the shooting,

## Police: Multiple Hurt in Cigar Lounge Shooting Near Chicago



Wilkes said.

The names of the shooter and the victims weren't immediately released.

According to its website, Humidor's Lisle location features a total of nearly 12,000 square feet (1,115 square meters) of lounge

space, including public and members-only lounges. Lisle, in the western Chicago suburbs, is just north of Naperville.

"At the moment, we can't identify the body," French Consul General in Quebec Laurent Barbot said during a press briefing.

"The process is underway and the families have of course been informed," he added.

The group included eight French tourists, who were snowmobiling Tuesday evening in an area that is off limits to snowmobiles because the ice is thinner there.

Three snowmobilers survived with minor injuries. They returned to France Thursday evening, according to the consulate.

Their 42-year-old Canadian guide died Wednesday in a hospital after trying to rescue members of the group.

Police have recovered six snowmobiles at the bottom of the lake near where the accident occurred, and provincial authorities have pledged to tighten safety measures on the use of the machines.

Investigators do not know why the group left the approved paths to venture "off-piste" at nightfall, but some experts believe they may have been trying to take a shortcut to their destination.

## TV actress Sejal Sharma commits suicide



Mumbai: Television actress Sejal Sharma, known for her role in the series 'Dil Toh Happy Hai Ji', allegedly committed suicide at her residence at Mira Road on Friday.

She was found hanging at

around 4am On January 24. Two of her friends were present at her residence at the time of the incident. A suicide note has also been recovered. A case has been registered as per the Accidental Death Report (ADR) and further investigation is under way.