

Trump impeachment trial begins

Democrats take issue with rules and procedures set out by the Republican Senate Majority leader

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

While U.S. President Donald Trump is at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Republicans and Democrats are gearing up for a clash on the rules and procedures of Mr. Trump's impeachment trial at the Senate, which began in earnest on Tuesday.

Democrats have taken issue with a resolution introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell containing rules around the timelines for the two sides to lay out their cases as well as the inclusion of evidence and testimony from witnesses not considered during the House of Representatives impeachment inquiry.

The President was impeached by the House on December 18 for abuse of office (by conditioning a crucial White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and nearly \$400 million in military assistance to Ukraine on the Ukrainians announcing in-

vestigations into Mr. Trump's rivals). He was also charged with obstruction of Congress.

Mr. Trump's legal team, which includes Ken Starr, the independent prosecutor from the Bill Clinton impeachment, as well as constitutional lawyer Alan Dershowitz, filed a 171-page trial brief on Monday, arguing that an impeachable offence must include criminal behaviour.

Trial rules

Mr. McConnell's resolution on trial rules, which will be taken up by the GOP-controlled Senate on Tuesday, gives House "managers", who will serve as the prosecution, and the President's defence team 24 hours each, over two days, to present their opening arguments.

Given that the trial sessions start at 1 pm each day, Mr. McConnell's proposed rules could mean that opening arguments will run late into the night, or early morning hours – a schedule that



Intense phase: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, centre, arriving at the Capitol Hill on Tuesday. •AFP

Democrats found objectionable. "...Senator McConnell's resolution stipulates that key facts be delivered in the wee hours of the night simply because he doesn't want the American people to hear them," a statement from Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said.

Mr. Schumer is expected to offer amendments to the rules on Tuesday.

"A trial where no evidence

fence on the facts and the process as quickly as possible, and seeking an acquittal as swiftly as possible," White House legislative affairs director Eric Ueland told Politico.

New evidence

The two sides have also differed on the proposed treatment of new evidence and witnesses. While evidence from the House inquiry would be passed out to Senators, it would not be entered as evidence unless voted on, on a case by cases, by Senators. New witnesses, as per the proposed rules, would first be deposed by the Senate; Senators would then vote on whether or not to allow them to testify.

On the Democrat witness wish-list are former National Security Adviser John Bolton and Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. Mr. Trump's Senate allies and his defence team have been working to prevent any Bolton testimony the *Washington Post* reported.

Trump calls climate activists 'prophets of doom' at Davos

'Warnings of climate crisis foolish'; U.S. joins 1 tn trees project

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DAVOS

U.S. President Donald Trump took aim on Tuesday at the "perennial prophets of doom" on the environment, telling the annual Davos forum that warnings of climate crisis were "foolish".

In a keynote speech to the 50th World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort, Mr. Trump touted fossil fuels, deregulation and a booming U.S. economy – a message in stark contrast to the dire warnings delivered by teenage campaigner Greta Thunberg and others.

'Buy oil, gas from us'

"We must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse," Mr. Trump said hours after Ms. Thunberg told the World Economic Forum that governments had done "basically nothing" to reverse climate change.



Donald Trump and Greta Thunberg at Davos.

He rattled off numbers indicating what he said were huge savings for American consumers and invited Europe to buy more U.S. energy products. The expansion of oil, gas and coal production has "been so successful that the U.S. no longer needs to import energy from hostile nations", he said.

Mr. Trump said the U.S. was joining a new international initiative called the "one trillion trees" project and he said he wanted to

Iran lawmaker offers \$3 mn to anyone who kills Trump

U.S. disarmament envoy dismisses reward as 'ridiculous'

REUTERS
DUBAI

An Iranian lawmaker offered a \$3 million reward to anyone who killed U.S. President Donald Trump and said Iran could avoid threats if it had nuclear arms, ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday amid Tehran's latest standoff with Washington.

U.S. disarmament Ambassador Robert Wood dismissed the reward as "ridiculous", telling reporters in Geneva it showed the "terrorist underpinnings" of Iran's establishment.

Tensions have escalated since the U.S. pulled out of Tehran's nuclear agreement and reimposed sanctions. The standoff erupted into tit-

for-tat military strikes this month.

"On behalf of the people of Kerman province [the hometown of Qassem Soleimani], we will pay a \$3 million reward in cash to whoever kills Trump," Ahmad Hamzeh told the 290-seat Parliament, ISNA reported. He did not say if the reward had any official backing.

Russian-made missiles brought down jet: Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

Iran acknowledged on Tuesday that its armed forces fired two Russian anti-aircraft missiles at a Ukrainian jetliner that crashed after taking off from Tehran's main airport earlier this month, killing all 176 people on board.

The new preliminary report by Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, however, stopped short of blaming the TOR-M1 for the crash of

the Boeing 737-800, flown by Ukraine International Airways.

For days after the January 8 shootdown, Iran denied that it fired missiles at the plane, initially blaming a technical malfunction and engine fire for the crash.

The report identified the missiles fired at the aircraft as coming from the TOR-M1. In 2017, Iran received the delivery of 29 TOR-M1 units from Russia under a \$700 million contract.

Greenwald charged with hacking

REUTERS
BRASILIA

Federal prosecutors charged U.S. journalist Glenn Greenwald on Tuesday with assisting a group of hackers who intercepted the cellular phone calls of Justice Minister Sergio Moro when he was the judge handling Brazil's biggest-ever corruption case.

The Intercept website edited by Mr. Greenwald published damaging conversations between Mr. Moro and prosecutors in the Car Wash investigation that showed



Glenn Greenwald

the judge advising them in the case against now jailed former leftist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"We will not be intimidated by these tyrannical at-

tempts to silence journalists," Mr. Greenwald said in a statement, in which he said the government of Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro does not respect basic press freedoms.

Mr. Greenwald was charged with criminal association with a group of six people, who face charges of hacking the telephones of Brazilian officials as well as bank fraud and money laundering. Mr. Greenwald has said the Car Wash investigators' conversations were leaked to The Intercept.

ELSEWHERE



Key Ministers retained in new Russian government

MOSCOW
President Vladimir Putin appointed a new government on Tuesday, keeping key officials, including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. Finance Minister Anton Siluanov was also retained. •AFP

Bangladesh court shuts 231 factories to save river

DHAKA
Bangladesh's High Court has ordered the shutdown of 231 factories that have contributed to Dhaka's main river becoming one of the world's most polluted. The court ordered action against factories dumping effluents into the Buriganga. •AFP

In documentary, Hillary says 'nobody likes Sanders'

She refused to say if she endorsed him

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton has launched a scathing attack on presidential hopeful and 2016 Democratic rival Bernie Sanders, telling a documentary that "nobody likes him."

Ms. Clinton also refused to say whether she would endorse and campaign for Mr. Sanders if he becomes the Democrats' choice to take on President Donald Trump in November's election. "He was in Congress for years. He had one senator support him," Ms. Clinton, 72, says in a four-part series due to air on streaming site Hulu in March.

"Nobody likes him, nobody wants to work with him,



Hillary Clinton

he got nothing done. He was a career politician."

"It's all just baloney and I feel so bad that people got sucked into it," he adds.

Mr. Sanders, a leftist Senator, is among the leaders in the race for the 2020 Democratic nomination.

He sits second in national polls behind Joe Biden.

Pak. scribe held over FB posts on govt.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani journalist critical of the government and the Army has been detained for five days for having published "anti-state" comments online, in a new illustration of shrinking freedoms in Pakistan.

Azhar-ul Haq Wahid, who worked for a small television channel and a newspaper, made comments about the Pakistani establishment on his Facebook account. He recently wrote that a court decision to lift the death penalty on former military ruler Pervez Musharraf had "mocked" the Constitution. A police report said "anti-state and defamatory material" was noted on his Facebook account.

Virus claims sixth victim, infects over 300

WHO to decide today if the outbreak is an international public health emergency

REUTERS
BEIJING

The death toll from a mysterious flu-like virus in China climbed to six on Tuesday as new cases surged beyond 300 and authorities fretted about the added risk from millions of Chinese travelling for the Lunar New Year holiday.

Round the world, airports tightened screening of travellers from China as officials confirmed the coronavirus strain is contagious between humans.

The World Health Organization (WHO) called a meeting for Wednesday to consider declaring a global health emergency.

"We'll stay at home during the holiday. I'm scared as I remember SARS very well," said Zhang Xinyuan, who



Anxious travellers: People arriving at the Beijing railway station to head home for the Lunar New Year on Tuesday. •AFP

had been bound from Beijing for the Thai resort of Phuket before she and her husband decided to cancel their air tickets.

Authorities have confirmed more than 300 cases in China, mostly in Wuhan.

There have been six deaths in that city, Mayor

Zhou Xianwang told Chinese state television on Tuesday. Fifteen medical personnel are among those infected.

Thailand has reported two cases and South Korea one, all involving Chinese travellers from Wuhan. Japan and Taiwan also confirmed one case each.

Taiwan confirms first case

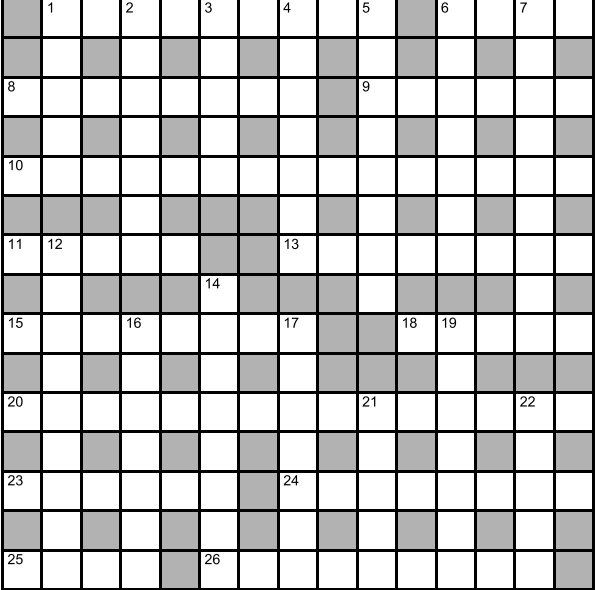
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TAIPEI

Taiwan on Tuesday reported its first confirmed case of the new SARS-like coronavirus as the government warned the public against travelling to the Chinese city of Wuhan, where it emerged.

The patient is a Taiwanese woman in her fifties, living in Wuhan, who returned to the island on Monday with symptoms including fever, coughing and a sore throat.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12838

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



(set by Skulldugger)

- 11 Exhausted priest dispatched boxes (5)

13 Poems by Southern woman's prefaced by scribble on the margins (8)

15 Toothsome animal cooked, too damn tasteless in the end! (8)

18 Associates uncovered evidence of a fire (5)

20 On cloud nine? On the contrary! (5, 3, 7)

23 After vacation, Malawi king has a party for old Japanese chief (6)

24 Dandy's flamboyance is showcased in headlights (8)

25 Murders posh folk with decapitation (4)

26 Damask-hem blossed out in silk-screen process for American mufflers (9)
- 3 Idea, for example, held by hotel concierge (5)

4 Creatures surrounded by wings (7)

5 Drill duty binds regent (8)

6 Red Cross censored matriarch's new language (7)

7 The maniac's deranged scheme (9)

12 Party in a suit! (9)

14 Insurrection leader's underlying issues! (8)

16 So great tampering with despicable people (7)

17 Necessary to be vigilant for hospital close to prison (7)

19 Made up the name for a gas (7)

21 Urge to get radically snogged without restraint (3, 2)

22 Shows screened by multiplex possibly (5)

DOWN

- 1 Oddball so normal in retrospect (5)
- 2 Enable depressing anticlimax (7)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12837									
S	C	H	O	O	L	M	A	S	T
M	U	V	E	R	T	E	A		
E	X	T	R	E	M	E	C	O	N
A	L	P	R	S	H	G	L	R	
G	R	A	P	P	A	T	I	M	E
R	S	O	G	M	A	N	S		
E	L	S	E	W	H	E	R	E	
G	I	V	E	R	A	W	E	S	T
L	I	M	S	T	R	E	N		
A	V	E	R	S	I	O	N		
N	T	H	V	M	T	I	N		
C	O	N	F	I	N	E	N	S	
E	A	F	O	R	E	R	E		
M	A	T	I	N	E	I	D	O	L

7	2	5	4	6	3	1	9	8
3	1	6	9	8	7	4	2	5
9	4	8	2	5	1	7	3	6
5	9	7	3	1	8	2	6	4
1	8	2	5	4	6	9	7	3
4	6	3	7	9	2	5	8	1
2	7	4	8	3	5	6	1	9
6	3	9	1	7	4	8	5	2
8	5	1	6	2	9	3	4	7

FAITH

True devotion

Periazhwar and his daughter Andal teach by example the way to serve and worship God. Periazhwar offers fragrant flower garlands to the Lord with great affection, and Andal in addition, offers a unique garland of verses, the Tiruppavai hymns that exude the fragrance of the very essence of the Vedas in simple terms. The structure, form and content of the Tiruppavai hymns emphasise that the aim of life is to be engaged in devoted service to the Lord eternally. One need not be well-versed in the sastras to seek Him; nor do jnana, bhakti, vairagya and viveka depend on one's birth, status, livelihood, etc.

The verses on the whole instil bhakti bhava that is synonymous with Dasya Bhava, a significant trait fostered in the devout by the Vaishnava tradition, pointed out Sri Srinivasa Gopala Maha Desikan in a discourse. First of all the devotee is trained to see himself as a servant of the Lord and be aware of his status as one treading the journey to salvation. So it follows that the jivatmas' prime duty is to pay obeisance to the Paramatma, who is the supreme and sole refuge for all. Serving the Lord with simple offerings and with hearts filled with love is no doubt the practice of devotees. But as devotion takes root, one realises like Nammazhwar that true devotion finds fulfilment in serving the devotees of the Lord.

Azhwars too take pride in being at the lowest rung in the hierarchy of servants who serve the Lord. True devotion leads one to believe that the dust from the feet, the 'adi podi' of 'tondars', bhaktas, can purify the mind and rid one of sins. Andal shows this bhava as predominant in the Gopis observing the Katyayani vrata in Ayarpadi whose only desire is to nurture their 'feeling of relation' with Krishna.



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code