

World News Roundup



From left: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee Maxine Waters, D-Calif., Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, Chairwoman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Richard Neal, D-Mass, and Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee Adam Schiff, D-Calif, announce the next steps in the House impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump on Dec 10 at Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP)

Politics

Push toward historic votes

Democrats unveil 2 articles of 'impeachment' against Trump

WASHINGTON, Dec 10, (AP): House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment Tuesday against President Donald Trump — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress — pushing toward historic votes over charges he corrupted the US election process and endangered national security.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, flanked by the chairmen of the impeachment inquiry committee, stood at the Capitol in what she called a "solemn act." Voting is expected in a matter of days in the Judiciary Committee and by Christmas in the full House.



Trump

"He endangers our democracy, he endangers our national security," said Rep Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, the Judiciary chairman announcing the charges before a portrait of George Washington. "Our next election is at risk ... That is why we must act now."

The charges unveiled Tuesday stem from Trump's pressure on Ukraine to announce investigations of his political rivals as he withheld aid to the country.

Trump tweeted ahead of the announcement that impeaching a president with a record like his would be "sheer Political Madness!"

The outcome, though, appears increasingly set as the House prepares for voting, as it has only three times in history against a US president.

In drafting the articles of impeachment, Pelosi is facing a legal and political challenge of balancing the views of her majority while hitting the Constitution's bar of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

Some liberal lawmakers wanted more expansive charges encompassing the findings from former special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Centrist Democrats preferred to keep the impeachment articles more focused on Trump's actions toward Ukraine. House Democrats have announced two articles of impeachment charging President Donald Trump with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

The outcome, though, appears increasingly set as the House prepares to vote, as it has only three times in history against a US president.

Trump, who has declined to mount a defense in the impeachment proceedings, tweeted Tuesday just as the five Democratic House committee chairmen prepared to make their announcement.

"To Impeach a President who has proven through results, including producing perhaps the strongest economy in our country's history, to have one of the most successful presidencies ever, and most importantly, who has done NOTHING wrong, is sheer Political Madness! #2020Election," he wrote on Twitter.

The president also spent part of Monday tweeting against the impeachment proceedings. He and his allies have called the process "absurd."

Pelosi convened a meeting of the impeachment committee chairmen at her office in the Capitol late Monday following an acrimonious, nearly 10-hour hearing at the Judiciary Committee, which could vote as soon as this week.

"I think there's a lot of agreement," Rep Eliot Engel of New York, the Democratic chairman of the Foreign Affairs committee, told reporters as he exited Pelosi's office. "A lot of us believe that what happened with Ukraine especially is not something we can just close our eyes to."

At the Judiciary hearing, Democrats said Trump's push to have Ukraine investigate rival Joe Biden while withholding US military aid ran counter to US policy and benefited Russia as well as himself.

"President Trump's persistent and continuing effort to coerce a foreign country to help him cheat to win an election is a clear and present danger to our free and fair elections and to our national security," said Dan Goldman, the director of investigations at the House Intelligence Committee, presenting the finding of the panel's 300-page report of the inquiry.

Republicans rejected not just Goldman's conclusion of the Ukraine matter; they also questioned his very appearance before the Judiciary panel. In a series of heated exchanges, they said Rep Adam Schiff, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, should appear rather than sending his lawyer.

From the White House, Trump tweeted repeatedly, assailing the "Witch Hunt!" and "Do Nothing Democrats."

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America

Border arrests drop: The Border Patrol arrested about 34,000 migrants at the US-Mexico border in November, a 75 percent drop from a recent high point in May, according to statistics released on Monday by US Customs and Border Protection.

Border arrests — which are used to estimate illegal crossings — initially plummeted after US President Donald Trump took office in January 2017. However, they soared in the spring to monthly levels higher than those under Trump's predecessor, former president Barack Obama.

The Trump administration credits the decline to tougher asylum policies and increased cooperation with Mexico and Central American nations. Still, the decrease only brings the arrest figures in line with the average November over the past decade.

Acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan said on Monday that Congress needs to take legislative action to discourage illegal crossings in the long term.

"This is not durable and sustainable," Morgan said at a news conference in Washington. "We should not be looking to the government of Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries to solve the loopholes in our current legal framework," he said, referring to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

The number of migrant family members arrested at the border dropped to 9,000 in November from roughly 9,700 a month earlier, continuing a downward trend.

Morgan touted a Trump administration program known as the Migrant Protection Protocols as part of a "network of initiatives" that had discouraged migrants from trekking to the United States. (RTRS)

Trump to meet Lavrov: Arms control, Ukraine and Syria are to headline President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's meetings Tuesday with Russia's foreign minister.

The visit by Sergey Lavrov, however, could be overshadowed by Ukraine-related impeachment proceedings that are picking up steam in the House.

Lawmakers are drafting articles of impeachment alleging Trump abused his power by withholding military aid to Ukraine unless its new leader pledged to investigate the son of his political rival Joe Biden.

Although the impeachment inquiry centers on Ukraine, which is fighting Russian-backed separatists in its east, Russia has been a major topic in the proceedings. Numerous witnesses have told investigators that Trump's defenders are echoing a Russian disinformation campaign by accusing Ukraine of meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The meeting also comes a day after the Justice Department's internal watchdog found that the FBI was justified in opening its investigation into ties between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia.

Pompeo told One America News Network on Monday that the president has asked him to work on the US-Russia business relationship and that he and Lavrov will also discuss arms control issues that hopefully can be expanded to include China.

Trump will meet at the White House with Lavrov, according to a senior administration official, who was not authorized to publicly disclose Trump's meeting and spoke only on condition of anonymity. Lavrov also is slated to spend time at the State Department where he and Pompeo are to hold a joint news conference. (AP)

Lawmakers reach 'defense bill' deal

WASHINGTON, Dec 10, (RTRS): US lawmakers announced an agreement on a \$738-billion bill setting policy for the Department of Defense, including new measures for competing with Russia and China, family leave for federal workers and the creation of President Donald Trump's long-desired Space Force.

It also calls for sanctions on Turkey over its purchase of a Russian missile defense system, and a tough response to North Korea's efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

The US House of Representatives and Senate Armed Services Commit-

tees agreed on a compromise version of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, after months of negotiations. It is expected to pass before Congress leaves Washington later this month for the year-end holiday break.

The legislation includes \$658.4 billion for the Department of Defense and Department of Energy national security programs, \$71.5 billion to pay for ongoing foreign wars, known as "Overseas Contingency Operations" funding, and \$5.3 billion in emergency funding for repairs of damage from extreme weather and natural disasters.

There were concerns earlier this year that the NDAA might fail for the first time in 58 years over steep divides between the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives and Republican-controlled Senate over Trump's policies.

Because it is one of the few pieces of major legislation Congress passes every year, the NDAA becomes a vehicle for a range of policy measures as well as setting everything from military pay levels to which ships or aircraft will be modernized, purchased or discontinued.

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Hala Factory for prefabricated houses
هالا في بيتك الجديد

شركة هالا الصناعية
Hala Industrial Co.

The Latest Construction Systems

Villas Chalets Diwanias Farms Mosques Workers Resident

Saves time and cost up to 50% compared to traditional buildings

Solves problems of adding storeys (light Weight)

New technology light weight coldsteel Building

Making your designs real

وزارة الطاقة

Hawal Oil Company

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المؤسسة العامة للرعاية السكنية

Certified Company by Most of the Ministries

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60660817 hala_industrial halaindustrial
Email: halakw3@gmail.com / Website: www.halakw.com