

Don't meddle in polls, Trump jokes with Putin

'Get rid of them (journalists). Fake news is a great term, isn't it?' U.S. leader tells his Russian counterpart at G-20 meet

REUTERS
OSAKA

President Donald Trump on Friday sardonically asked his Russian counterpart to please not meddle in the U.S. elections, appearing to make light of a scandal that led to an investigation of his campaign's contact with the Kremlin during 2016 elections.

A two-year investigation into a Moscow-run influence campaign during the election has hung over Mr. Trump's presidency, frustrating the Republican President who has said he seeks better relations with Russia.

Mr. Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin were speaking to reporters in Osaka, Japan, ahead of their first formal face-to-face meeting since a controversial high-profile summit in Helsinki last July.

Asked by reporters whether he would raise the issue during their meeting, held on the sidelines of a G-20 summit, Mr. Trump said: "Yes, of course I will," drawing a laugh from Mr. Putin.



Soft skills: President Donald Trump with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Osaka, Japan, on Friday. • AP

Mr. Trump then turned to Mr. Putin to give the directive twice, as he pointed a finger at the Russian leader. "Don't meddle in the election, please," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump's critics have accused him of being too friendly with Mr. Putin and castigated him for failing to publicly confront the Russian leader in Helsinki after U.S. intelligence agencies had hacked into Democratic Party computers and used fake social media

accounts to attack his opponent, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Special Counsel probe

A U.S. special counsel, Robert Mueller, spent two years investigating whether there were any ties between Mr. Trump's campaign and Moscow.

Mr. Mueller found that Russia did meddle in the election but found no evidence that the Trump campaign illegally conspired with it to influence the vote.

'Speeding up trade talks'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OSAKA

The U.S. and Japan will "speed up" talks on a trade agreement, Japan's Economy Minister pledged on Friday.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised Tokyo for what he views as a trade imbalance, with the issue coming up during his bilateral talks with Prime

In a recent television interview, Mr. Putin said that relations between Moscow and Washington were "getting worse and worse."

Mr. Trump has sought to turn the page to work with Mr. Putin on issues such as reining in North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

On Friday, he emphasised the positive. "It's a great honour to be with President Putin," Mr. Trump told reporters in Osaka. "We have many things to discuss, including trade and including

Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday.

"The two leaders agreed to speed up trade negotiations so that they can achieve results swiftly. Based on that, we held a ministerial meeting in the afternoon," Japan Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said after talks with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

some disarmament."

Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin had been scheduled to meet at the end of November at the last G-20 in Buenos Aires, but Mr. Trump cancelled the meeting as he flew to Argentina, citing Russia's seizure of Ukrainian Navy ships and sailors. In May, they had their first extensive phone conversation in months. Mr. Trump said they talked about a new accord to limit nuclear arms that could eventually include China.

"We've had great meet-

ings. We've had a very, very good relationship," Mr. Trump said on Friday. "And we look forward to spending some very good time together. A lot of very positive things going to come out of the relationship."

Invitation to Moscow

In a further attempt to lighten the mood, Mr. Trump sought common ground with Mr. Putin at the expense of the journalists gathered to catch the leaders at the outset of their meeting.

"Get rid of them. Fake news is a great term, isn't it. You don't have this problem in Russia but we do," Mr. Trump said. To which Mr. Putin responded, in English: "We also have. It's the same."

President Putin has invited Mr. Trump to Russia in May next year to mark the 75th anniversary of the victory over Adolf Hitler, according to top foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov.

Mr. Trump responded in a "very positive manner," said Mr. Ushakov, according to news channel Russia 24.

Biden under attack as Democrat rivals ask him to pass the torch

Senator Kamala Harris targets ex-Vice-President

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MIAMI

Frontrunner Joe Biden faced repeated criticism on multiple fronts on Thursday from his Democratic rivals for the 2020 presidential nomination, including calls to leave the battle to oust Donald Trump to a younger generation.

In a sometimes scrappy showdown of the Democratic heavyweights, Senator Kamala Harris landed several blows on Mr. Biden in the second of two nationally televised debates, putting the former Vice-President on the defensive as he argued that he is best-positioned to take on the Republican President.

Mr. Biden blasted Mr. Trump for his "horrible" policies that have exacerbated



Joe Biden

economic inequality, while his chief rival for the nomination, Senator Bernie Sanders, took it directly to the "phony" President, calling him "a pathological liar and a racist."

But Mr. Biden, 76, also found himself on the receiving end of a pointed attack from a lower-tier candidate half his age.

Congressman Eric Swalwell, 38, called on him to "pass the torch" to a new generation better equipped to tackle climate change, expand health care coverage and reduce gun violence.

"I'm still holding on to that torch," Mr. Biden snapped back.

Several rivals were clearly seeking to wrench it from his grip, including Ms. Harris, the only black woman in the race, who made a stirring call for Mr. Biden to recognise his recent "hurtful" comments about being civil with avowedly segregationist U.S. Senators.

Mr. Biden, with the room dead quiet, insisted he does not "praise racists", and denied he opposed initiatives in the 1970s to bus children from predominantly black communities to better schools in more prosperous neighborhoods.

"There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools and she was bussed to school every day," Ms. Harris said, in one of the evening's most potent moments. "That little girl was me."

China tests new ballistic missile JL-3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING

China has successfully tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile, the JL-3, official media here reported.

The scheduled test was normal, China's Ministry of National Defence said on Thursday, when asked about the alleged test launch of a JL-3 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on June 2, state-run *Global Times* reported.

Military experts told the daily that the JL-3 is China's latest SLBM under development that is expected to reach targets farther away with higher accuracy and capable of carrying more warheads than China's current SLBMs. The SLBM might have a range of up to 14,000 km and be equipped with 10 independent guided nuclear warheads, the daily quoted *Russia Today* as saying.

Sirisena justifies death penalty decision

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena on Friday justified his decision to hang drug offence convicts, terming it necessary to "protect the country and future generations", despite domestic and international pressure to withdraw the decision.

In a recent briefing with local media heads and foreign media representatives, President Sirisena announced that he had signed papers clearing the execution of four persons convicted for drug offences.

His decision, which re-

verses Sri Lanka's 43-year-old moratorium on capital punishment, sparked widespread concern, including from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Addressing a ceremony in his home district Polonnaruwa on Friday, Mr. Sirisena said he had apprised the UN Secretary General of the "reasons" behind his decision, in a telephonic conversation on Thursday evening.

"I signed the document to execute the drug offenders not with hatred and cruelty towards anyone, but to save the nation and the future generation from the drug

menace, which is our worst social catastrophe," he told the gathering.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner General of Prisons told an appeal court in Colombo on Friday that the execution will not be carried out in the coming week.

'Maintain moratorium'

Many Sri Lankans have voiced concern about the resumption of the death penalty after four decades. Following Mr. Sirisena's announcement, the U.K., the EU and Canada issued strong statements, urging the Sri Lankan government to maintain the moratorium on capital punishment.

Expressing "deep concern", the U.K. said it opposed the use of the death penalty "in all circumstances" as a matter of principle. The

"Implementation of the death penalty will inevitably make it more difficult for the U.K. to cooperate on law enforcement issues, including on counterterrorism, and will require us to review our technical assistance programs on relevant policing, defence and other security issues," the British Foreign Office said.

Pakistan Army chief blames 'fiscal mismanagement' for problems

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's powerful Army chief on Friday blamed "fiscal mismanagement" for the country's economic woes, days after he was appointed to a newly formed committee responsible for steering the economy.

Though the military has extensive business interests and dominates foreign and security policies, it is unusual for an Army chief to comment on how the economy is run by a civilian government.

The comments from General Qamar Javed Bajwa come days before the board of the International Monetary Fund is due to decide whether to approve a \$6 billion bailout for cash-strapped Pakistan.

"We're going through a difficult economic situation due to fiscal mismanagement," General Bajwa told a seminar at a military-run defence university in Islamabad, according to a statement issued by the military's



General Qamar Javed Bajwa

publicity wing. "We understand that government has gone for difficult but quintessential decisions for long-term benefits and what we're doing is playing our part."

Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is seen as close to the generals, blames economic problems on the previous administration that left office in mid-2018, after a period of tension with the military.

The military, which has ruled Pakistan for about half the time since Independence in 1947, has been taking a more active role in economic affairs since Mr. Khan came to office.

France roasts in record heatwave

REUTERS
PARIS/MADRID

France registered its highest temperature since records began on Friday as a heatwave continues to suffocate much of Europe.

The mercury hit 45.9°C in Gallargues-le-Montueux, in southern France, the weather forecaster Meteo France said. The previous high of 44.1°C was recorded in August 2003.

The World Meteorological Organization said 2019 was

on track to be among the world's hottest years, and that 2015-2019 would then be the hottest five-year period on record. It said the heatwave was "absolutely consistent" with extremes linked to the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

The new record makes France just the seventh European country to have recorded a plus 45-degree temperature, along with Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece and North Ma-

cedonia, Meteo France said.

Temperatures in parts of Spain were expected to hit a new record of 43°C. Since 1975, Spain has registered nine heatwaves in June. Five of them, however, have been in the last decade, according to the Spanish meteorological office.

Germany's weather service said the country experienced temperatures more than four degrees higher in June than the average.

(With AFP inputs)



A sign reads 44°C in Carpentras, south-eastern France, on Friday. • AFP

Andhra Pradesh Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation,
APMSIDC, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District-522503
Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform (online).

Tender Notice No: 40 (19-20)/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/ 2019-22 Dt:27.06.2019

Procurement for the eligible Medical Distributors/Dealers/Agencies/Wholesalers/Retailers to supply of prescribed Branded Drugs on daily basis for eligible beneficiaries at Civil dispensaries, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi and Gollapudi

For complete details, please visit Website:
<https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> on 29.06.2019.

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reasons.

DIPR 48PP/CL, Dt.28/06/2019 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

ADDITIONAL SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAMME
A Joint Initiative of General & Higher Education Departments, Govt. of Kerala
(3rd Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 4)

TENDER INVITED
ASAP invites proposals from reputed dealers, suppliers, manufacturers having 3 years operational experience in manufacturing, supply or dealing of electronic equipment for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of data racks, telephone connection boxes and connected accessories for ASAP CSPs.

Tender ID: 2019_ASAP_283470_1
Bid submission end date - 06.55 pm, 08/07/2019.
For more details and to apply, visit:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.asapkerala.gov.in
(3614650/D3/19/1/PPR) Sd/- Chief Executive Officer

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST	
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT	
TILITICODIN - 623 004.	
File No. E/C -56 / 3 / 2019 - EST/ D. 1494. Dated: 28.06.2019	
RE - e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION No. EST - 1 / 2019 - 2020	
a) Name of Work	Allotment of Port land 'on as is where is basis' for EXIM / VARIOUS purposes (As per Annexure-I) for a period of 30 years lease on Upfront / Annual Lease payment basis at V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust.
b) Period of Lease	Upto 30 Years
c) Earnest Money Deposit	EMD will be 10% of the Reserve Price per SQM for 30 Years as mentioned in Table - I and II of "Annexure - I" (Price bid to be paid in the form of Rs.25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Only) through RTGS / NEFT in favour of V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust and balance through Bank Guarantee from any Nationalized bank / Scheduled bank. Model calculation sheet enclosed in Annexure - A
d) Downloading of Tender document	From 01.07.2019 to 30.07.2019
e) Pre-Bid Meeting	Pre-bid meeting 10.07.2019 15:00 Hours at Mini Conference Hall, Administrative office Building, V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin.
f) Last date & Time of submission of tender online	30.07.2019 at 15.00 Hrs.
g) Opening of Technical Bid online Date & Time	15:30 hours on 30.07.2019
h) Validity of Tender	120 Days

The e-tender cum e-auction documents can be downloaded from Port website www.vocport.gov.in and www.tenderwizard.com/VOCP

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust

ONGC Petro additions Limited
4th Floor, 35, Nutan Bharat Society, Akapuri, Vadodara, Gujarat - 390007.
Ph: 0265 6192600, Fax: 0265-6192666, CIN No. U23209GJ2006PLC060282

OPAL invites the sealed tender under Two Bid System for following:
Tender Number:1911C00396 Tender Description: Annual Rate Contract for Storm Water Drain Cleaning Jobs at OPAL, Dahej (Contract Duration-03 Years)Tender sale period: 29.06.2019, 09:00 Hrs. to 19.07.2019, 14:00 Hrs. Closing date and time for Bid Submission:19.07.2019, 14:00 Hrs.

The tender document can be downloaded from www.opalindia.in. For other details of this tender including corrigendum if any, Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website (www.opalindia.in) for the latest information in this regard. In case of exigencies OPAL at its option may decide to extend tender sale/ bid closing/ opening date/ time in future, which will be posted on the above referred website for information. Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website for the latest information in this regard.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED- E-TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Chief Engineer, Generation & PED - Moolamattam

1. Tender ID: 2019_KSEB_282124 "Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Supervision for Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 3 nos. 10 MVA, 110/11kV, 3 Phase Generator Transformer at Bhoothathankettu Small Hydro Electric Project of KSEBL * PAC: Rs. 3,72,00, 000 * Last Date: 26-07-2019 4 PM.

2. Tender ID:2019_KSEB_283084 "Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 2 nos. 18 MVA, 110/11kV, 3 Phase Generator Transformer at Panniar Hydro Electric Project of KSEBL * PAC: Rs. 3,77,20, 000 * Last Date: 30-07-2019 4 PM.

Office of the Chief Engineer, Supply Chain Management - Thiruvananthapuram
Tender ID : 2019_KSEB_282936 "Supply of (1) 110 kV CT, 1200-600/1-1-1-1A (Live Tank Type) - 27 nos.(2) 110kV CT,800/400/1-1-1-1A (Live Tank Type)-105 Nos. (3) 110kV CT, 400/200/100/1-1-1-1A (Live Tank Type)- 279 Nos. (4) Supporting structure for 110kV CT - 170 Nos. * PAC: Rs. 7,78,00,000 * Last Date: 17-07-2019 4 PM.
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.ksebl.in

Ref. PR/MC1 / E 142/E-Tender/2019

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed tenders are invited in two bid system from experienced firms having financial standing and fulfilling the qualifying requirements as mentioned in our tender notice No. U&M/MRS/T/002/19-20 for the work "DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 200 KW/PLY GRID CONNECTED SOLAR POWER PLANT AT ROOF TOP OF VARIOUS BUILDINGS IN COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED"

2. For further details please visit www.cochinshipyard.com or <http://tenders.gov.in> or contact at the office of U&M Department (MRS Section) over phone 0484-2501509. All amendments will be uploaded in the website only and will not be available in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

"Hindi version of this advertisement is published in the website (www.cochinshipyard.com) of CSL"

Sd/-
Assistant General Manager (U&M)

RITES LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprises)
CIN : L74899DL1974GO1007227

Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Joint General Manager/CP, RITES Ltd. invites on behalf of Central University of Kerala, Kasargod online item rate bids on single packet system for the following work:

NIT No. RITES/CP/CU Kerala/ETP/19, Name of Work: Construction of 40 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) based on MBR Technology along with necessary equipments, Laying of RCC Hume pipes from buildings to proposed ETP and from ETP to nearest sewer chamber for Central University of Kerala at Kasargod, Kerala. **Estimated Cost:** Rs.90,44,267/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 90,443/-, **Period of Completion:** 05 months, **Last time & date of submission of bid:** 11:00 Hrs On 15.07.2019

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app>
Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only

IN BRIEF



'Tillerson was kept in the dark by Kushner'

WASHINGTON
Former top U.S. diplomat Rex Tillerson has said President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner conducted diplomacy outside usual channels and left him to be blindsided by important developments. He told a House panel about the role Mr. Kushner has played in the administration. AFP

Progress at nuclear meet, but it's not enough: Iran

VIENNA
Diplomats meeting in Vienna made "one step forward" in efforts to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal but the outcome "was not enough", an Iranian Minister said on Friday. AFP