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MEANWHILE TRUMP JR RELEASES BOOK DEFENDING FATHER

Donald Trump Jr released a book on Tuesday that rails against the Left as he admitted he had caught the political bug and may consider running for office in the future. In *Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us*, the President's son fiercely defends his father and slams mainstream media and political opponents including Hillary Clinton.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Xi Jinping with Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam in Shanghai on Monday. AP

CHINA Xi voices 'high degree of trust' in HK leader

Shanghai: Chinese President Xi Jinping has expressed a "high degree of trust" in Hong Kong's unpopular leader Carrie Lam as the two met after months of increasingly violent protests in the semi-autonomous city. Xi's show of support follows speculation that Beijing was preparing to remove Lam as city authorities struggle to contain pro-democracy demonstrations that have rocked the financial hub. Their meeting in Shanghai on Monday followed another weekend of violence in Hong Kong that was marked by a knife attack and the vandalising of an office of China's official Xinhua news agency.

FIRST STEP IN YEAR-LONG PROCESS

Trump administration begins exit from Paris climate pact

VALERIE VOLCOVICI WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 5

THE TRUMP administration said on Monday it filed paperwork to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, the first formal step in a one-year process to exit the global pact to fight climate change.

The move is part of a broader strategy by President Donald Trump to reduce red tape on US industry, but comes at a time scientists and many world governments urge action to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.

Once it exits, the United States — the top historic greenhouse gas emitter and leading oil and gas producer — will become the only country outside the accord.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed the step on Monday and pointed out that the United States had trimmed emissions in recent years even as it had grown its energy production.

"The US is proud of our record as a world leader in reducing all emissions, fostering resilience, growing our economy, and ensuring energy for our citizens," he said.

The European Union ex-

EXPLAINED US role in pact will be decided by 2020 polls

THE PARIS climate agreement is structured in a way that the process of the US exiting the pact, which began Tuesday, will only be completed days after the 2020 election to the White House. This means that if Trump fails to get re-elected, his Democratic successor is almost certain to reverse his decision to withdraw from the agreement. The Democrats have already made climate change a major election issue, with leading progressive candidates coming out with their own plans on how to reduce emissions. On the other hand, Trump has repeatedly said the Paris pact will have an adverse effect on the US economy, and his decision to pull out is a continuation of his 'America First' campaign slogan.

pressed disappointment. "The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement means that the rest of us must further increase our cooperation," Krista Milkkonen, minister of environment for current European Council president Finland said in a statement on Tuesday.

"We will continue to work with US states, cities and civil society in support of climate action." An official from the French presidential office accompanying President Emmanuel Macron on a state visit to China,

said: "We regret this and this only makes the Franco-Chinese partnership on the climate and biodiversity more necessary." Macron and Chinese President Xi Jinping will sign a pact on Wednesday that includes a paragraph on the "irreversibility of the Paris Agreement," the official said. The State Department's letter to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres starts the clock on a process that will be complete a day after the 2020 US presidential election.



Trump at a campaign event in Lexington, Kentucky, on Monday. He has said that the Paris agreement puts an unfair economic burden on Americans. AP

The withdrawal could leave a lasting mark, said Andrew Light, a fellow at the World Resources Institute and former adviser to the US climate envoy under former president Barack Obama. "While it serves the political needs of the Trump administration, we will lose a lot of traction with respect to US influence globally," he said.

The Obama administration had signed the United States onto the 2015 pact, promising a 26-28 per cent cut in US greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 from 2005 levels. REUTERS

WOMAN WHO ALLEGES TRUMP RAPED HER IN 1990s SUES HIM FOR DEFAMATION

New York: A woman who accuses Donald Trump of raping her more than 23 years ago in a New York department store sued the US President on Monday over statements he made in June denying that the attack occurred and criticising her for coming forward.

E Jean Carroll, a longtime *Elle* magazine advice columnist, said in a complaint filed in a New York state court in Manhattan that Trump lied about attacking her, and "smeared her integrity, honesty, and dignity" by concocting a "swarm of related lies" to explain why she would make the incident up.

Carroll's lawsuit followed statements that Trump made after her account was published, including that he did not rape Carroll and had never met her, and that she was "totally lying". REUTERS

Baghdadi's sister captured in Syria raid, says Turkey

Held along with her daughter-in-law, husband in Turkish-controlled town

HUMEYRA PAMUK WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 5

TURKEY CAPTURED the sister of dead Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on Monday in the northern Syrian town of Azaz, a senior Turkish official told Reuters, and is interrogating her husband and daughter-in-law who were also detained.

Rasmiya Awad, 65, was detained in a raid near Azaz, the official said, referring to a Turkish-controlled Syrian town near the border. When captured, she was also accompanied by five children. "We hope to gather a trove of intelligence from Baghdadi's sister on the inner workings of ISIS," the official said.

Little independent information is available on Baghdadi's sister and Reuters was not immediately able to verify if the captured individual was her.

Baghdadi killed himself last month when cornered in a tunnel during a raid by US special forces in northwestern Syria. Islamic State, in an audio tape posted online on Thursday, confirmed that its leader had died and vowed revenge against the US.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's communications director said the woman's capture was evidence of Turkey's determination to fight against Islamic State.

"The arrest of al-Baghdadi's sister is yet another example of the success of our counter-terrorism operations," Fahrettin Altun wrote on Twitter early on Tuesday.

"Much dark propaganda against Turkey has been circulating to raise doubts about our resolve against Daesh," he wrote, using another name for Islamic State. "Our strong counter-terrorism cooperation with like-minded partners can never be questioned," he added.

Baghdadi had risen from obscurity to lead the ultra-hardline group and declare himself "caliph" of all Muslims, holding sway over huge areas of Iraq and Syria from 2014-2017 before Islamic State's control was wrested away by US-led coalition forces including Iraqis and Syrian Kurds. The group, also known as ISIS, said a successor to Baghdadi identified as Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Quraishi had been appointed. A senior US official last week said Washington was looking at the new leader to determine where he came from. REUTERS



Turkey says Rasmiya Awad is the sister of former IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Reuters

SOUTH AFRICA

Gandhi, Mandela busts unveiled at Tolstoy Farm

Johannesburg: Two larger-than-life busts of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela have been unveiled at Tolstoy Farm, the self-sufficient commune that he started during his tenure as a lawyer in Johannesburg. Tolstoy Farm, named after the great Russian writer whom Gandhi much admired, was a community started by Gandhi in Transvaal, South Africa, in 1910. It became the headquarters of the Satyagraha campaign which Gandhi led at that time. High Commissioner for India Jaideep Sarkar lauded the revival of the once-thriving Tolstoy Farm which had been fully destroyed over several decades.

THAILAND

Drug suspects shoot their way out of court

Bangkok: Three drug suspects — including an American — shot and stabbed their way out of a Thai court before brazenly fleeing in a pick-up truck, police said Tuesday. The three were still on the loose more than 24 hours after breaking out of a Pattaya court holding room on Monday, police said. The escapees are an American and his Thai wife, and a male Thai suspect. The couple was facing death penalty charges for drug trafficking.

Dawood aide Jabir Moti uses Epstein suicide to decry US jail conditions

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, NOVEMBER 5

JABIR MOTI, referred to as a "top lieutenant" of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim's D Company, used American financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's suicide to decry prison conditions in the US as he appeared before a UK court in his ongoing fight against extradition.

Moti is fighting his extradition to the US at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London on charges of laundering around \$1.4 million on behalf of the criminal network.

Moti's barrister Edward Fitzgerald deposed two retired prison wardens via videolink from the US on Monday to establish that his client would be at risk of committing suicide if he was to be extradited to a New York prison.

One of the prison facilities in question, the Metropolitan Correctional Centre (MCC), is where Epstein was found dead in August. Epstein's suicide hit worldwide headlines due to his high-profile connections, including alleged links with Britain's Prince Andrew — the younger son of Queen Elizabeth II.

"I don't believe his mental health needs will be met [in prison], especially since the Epstein suicide," said Maureen Baird, a former Warden at MCC.

The hearing, presided over by Judge John Zani, also heard evidence from a former warden at the Metropolitan Detention Centre in Brooklyn, where Moti is expected to be held in pre-trial detention if he were to be extradited. The hearing on Monday concluded the evidence stage of the extradition trial. PTI

MEGA PROTEST RALLY IN CHILE AMID EARTHQUAKE



Protesters try to protect themselves from teargas shells hurled by police in Santiago, Chile. Reuters

Protesters in Chile clashed with police, looted stores and endured a strong earthquake at the close of a huge rally kicking off the third week of anti-government demonstrations that sparked deadly unrest.

Tens of thousands tried to march on the presidential palace in downtown Santiago, and fights broke out as police tried to contain them.

People banged pots and pans and blared the horns of their cars as night fell in Santiago.

The 6.0 magnitude earthquake hit just as tensions were rising in Santiago, rattling buildings. A strong and prolonged shaking was felt, but there were no reports of injuries or damage.

Iran says uranium enrichment at underground plant to resume

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TEHRAN, NOVEMBER 5

PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI said Tuesday that Iran would resume uranium enrichment at an underground plant south of Tehran in its latest step back from a troubled 2015 agreement with major powers.

The suspension of all enrichment at the Fordow plant in the mountains near the Shia holy city of Qom was one of the restrictions on its nuclear activities that Iran accepted in return for the lifting of international sanctions.

But Washington's abandonment of the deal in May last year followed by its reimposition of crippling sanctions prompted Iran to begin a phased suspen-



Hassan Rouhani blamed the US's withdrawal from the 2015

sion of its own commitments in May this year.

Rouhani recalled that under the terms of the agreement, Iran had retained more than 1,000 centrifuges at the plant which had been running empty since it

went into effect. "Starting from tomorrow (Wednesday), we will begin injecting (uranium hexafluoride) gas at Fordo," Rouhani said in a speech broadcast by state television.

Iran said the whole process would be carried out transparently witnessed by inspectors from the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The move is the fourth announced by Iran since it began responding to Washington's abandonment of its commitments.

Iran has repeatedly warned the remaining parties to the deal — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — that the agreement can only be rescued if they help it circumvent US economic sanctions.

9 of Mormon family killed in Mexico ambush

Mexico City: At least three women and six children from an American Mormon community based in northern Mexico have been killed in an ambush, a relative of the victims said Monday.

Julian Lebaron said his cousin was on her way to the airport when she was attacked and shot in her car along with her four children in Rancho de la Mora, an area notorious for drug traffickers and bandits of all kinds.

"It was a massacre," Lebaron, an activist who has denounced criminal groups in the area, said.

Lebaron said his relatives located the vehicle, which had been set on fire with the bodies of the victims inside. Two other vehicles were found several hours later, containing the bodies of two more women and two children. PTI

PROTESTS CALLING FOR PM TO QUIT

Talks between Pak govt, Oppn leaders fail to break deadlock

Imran: Ready to accept valid demands

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 5

THE SECOND round of talks between the Pakistan government and Opposition leaders failed to break the ongoing deadlock between the two sides on Tuesday even as Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he was ready to accept all "valid" demands of the 'Azadi March' protesters, led by a firebrand cleric-cum-politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Khan reportedly made the remarks in a meeting with Defence Minister Pervez Khattak-led team tasked to negotiate with the Opposition parties taking part in the massive march comprising thousands of protesters in Islamabad. "The government is ready to accept all valid demands except the demand for resignation," Khan was quoted as saying by the *Express Tribune*.

Defence Minister Khattak said the government is trying to find a middle ground with the Opposition to break the ongoing deadlock.

"The talks between the two sides were held in a good atmosphere," he said.

However, both the sides stuck to their respective positions, Khattak told a news conference after the second round



The protesters accuse Imran Khan of rigging the 2018 elections to become PM.

of direct talks with Opposition's Rehbar Committee.

On Monday night, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government sent a second delegation to Rehman's residence to break the impasse in the wake of the Opposition's bid to oust Khan.

The right-wing Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JU-F) leader is leading the massive protest, which entered the fifth day on Tuesday. Dubbed the Azadi March, the protesters demand Khan's resignation, accusing him of "rigging" the 2018 general elections.

Opposition parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People Party (PPP), have also thrown their weight behind the anti-government rally. PTI

TAKING OVER VOICE-CONTROLLED DIGITAL ASSISTANTS

With a laser, researchers say they can hack Alexa, Google Home or Siri

NICOLE PERLROTH SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 5

SINCE VOICE-CONTROLLED digital assistants were introduced a few years ago, security experts have fretted that systems like Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa were a privacy threat and could be easily hacked.

But the risk presented by a cleverly pointed light was probably not on anyone's radar.

Researchers in Japan and at the University of Michigan said

Monday that they had found a way to take over Google Home, Amazon's Alexa or Apple's Siri devices from hundreds of feet away by shining laser pointers, and even flashlights, at the devices' microphones.

In one case, they said they opened a garage door by shining a laser beam at a voice assistant that was connected to it. They also climbed 140 feet to the top of a bell tower at the University of Michigan and successfully controlled a Google Home device on the fourth floor of an of-

fice building 230 feet away. And by focusing their lasers using a telephoto lens, they said, they were able to hijack a voice assistant more than 350 feet away.

Opening the garage door was easy, the researchers said. With the light commands, the researchers could have hijacked any digital smart systems attached to the voice-controlled assistants.

They said they could have easily switched light switches on and off, made online purchases or opened a front door protected by a smart lock. They even could have



Researchers said the microphones in the devices respond to light as if it were sound. Reuters file

remotely unlocked or started a car that was connected to the device.

"This opens up an entirely new class of vulnerabilities," said Kevin Fu, an associate professor of elec-

trical engineering and computer science at the University of Michigan. "It's difficult to know how many products are affected because this is so basic."

The computer science and electrical engineering researchers — Takeshi Sugawara at the University of Electro-Communications in Japan; and Fu, Daniel Genkin, Sara Rampazzi and Benjamin Cyr at the University of Michigan — released their findings in a paper Monday.

Genkin was also one of the researchers responsible for discovering two major security flaws, known as Meltdown and Spectre, in the microprocessors inside nearly all the world's computers last year. Shares of chip-

maker Intel briefly dropped 5 per cent on news of their discovery.

The researchers, who studied the light flaw for seven months, said they had discovered that the microphones in the devices would respond to light as if it were sound. Inside each microphone is a small plate called a diaphragm that moves when sound hits it.

That movement can be replicated by focusing a laser or a flashlight at the diaphragm, which converts it into electric signals, they said. The rest of the system then responds the way it

would sound.

The researchers said they had notified Tesla, Ford, Amazon, Apple and Google to the light vulnerability. The companies all said they were studying the conclusions in the paper released Monday.

The researchers said most microphones would need to be redesigned to remedy the problem. And simply covering the microphone with a piece of tape wouldn't solve it. Fu said the microphones on several digital assistants had dirt shields that didn't block their commands. NYT