

# Trump memoir ghostwriter predicts he will resign

US President Donald Trump speaks to the press

Washington

The ghostwriter who penned Donald Trump's 1987 memoir "The Art of the Deal" thinks the US president will throw in the towel before the end of his term.

Writer Tony Schwartz tweeted that "Trump is going to resign" before investigators probing alleged ties between the Republican's campaign team and Russia "leave him no choice."

"The circle is closing at blinding speed," the author tweeted. "Trump is going to resign and declare victory before Mueller and congress leave him no choice."

"Trump's presidency is effectively over," he said in a follow-up tweet. "Would be amazed if he survives till end of the year. More likely resigns by fall, if not sooner."

While writing Trump's bestselling breakthrough memoir Schwartz spent 18 months with the billionaire tycoon.

## Californians once again want out of US

Los Angeles

A group of Californians has submitted yet another initiative to secede from the United States as the country is gripped by one of its worst political crisis in recent history.

The new "Calexit" ballot proposal put forward on Thursday by a fringe political group calls for a constitutional convention to overhaul one of the country's founding documents on grounds it is incompatible with what the Golden State stands for.

"The current relationship between the federal

government of The United States of America and California prevents California, and other states, from taking ownership over their future and must be revised," the initiative states.

Supporters hope the measure -- similar to two others submitted this year that ultimately fizzled out -- will be put to voters on the 2018 ballot.

The new proposal, titled "California Calls for a Constitutional Convention," would need the support of the state legislature before it can be submitted to Congress. (AFP)

"I feel a deep sense of remorse that I contributed to presenting Trump in a way that brought him wider attention and made him more appealing than he is."

## Brad Pitt must pay 568,000 euros to French chateau decorator

Paris

A French appeal court has ordered US stars Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie to pay 568,000 euros (\$667,000) to a lighting designer they employed for their chateau in southern France, judicial sources said yesterday.

The court ruled on April 19 in favour of Odile Soudant, whose company went bankrupt, in the dispute with Chateau Miraval, the firm that manages the sprawling 17th-century property.

Pitt and Jolie -- now



Brad Pitt separated -- bought the property in the southern Provence region in 2008 and the actors were married in its chapel in 2014.

The multi-million dollar

project to illuminate the 40-room chateau and three outbuildings involved as many as 17 full-time workers at one point but was not covered by a contract, according to the French daily Liberation.

The renovation of the chateau ran smoothly for two years, by which time it ran up 25 million euros in costs, Liberation reported, before technical problems and delays began cropping up, culminating in a billing dispute that brought payments to a halt. (AFP)

## #PollToday



Trump memoir ghostwriter predicts US President will resign before his term ends. Do you agree?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"In President Donald Trump, the United States again has a president whose vision, energy, and can-do spirit is reminiscent of President Teddy Roosevelt."

Mike Pence  
US Vice President

## Rest in sight

Sierra Leone death toll passes 400



More than 400 people have died in mudslides and flooding in Sierra Leone with 600 people still missing in the stricken capital.

## Samurai sword attack outside Taiwan presidential office

A samurai sword-wielding attacker carrying the national flag of China slashed a military police guard outside Taiwan's presidential office

## Peru military brass convicted in 1980s killings

Peruvian military staff were convicted in the 1983 mass killings of 53 people at a barracks, who they wrongly claimed were part of the Shining Path rebel group.

## Chinese fans tell Tevez to stay away

Chinese football fans and media are urging Carlos Tevez not to return from a trip to Argentina, nicknaming him "Very Homesick Boy" as speculation swirls that he wants out of China.

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## India welcomes US blacklisting Kashmiri militant group

New Delhi

India yesterday welcomed the United States' blacklisting of Kashmiri separatist group Hizbul Mujahideen as a terrorist organisation.

The US Treasury Department, in a statement on its website Wednesday, said it listed the Pakistan-based outfit as a "foreign terrorist organisation", freezing its assets "to deny Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) the resources it needs to

carry out terrorist attacks".

"We welcome the designation of the Hizbul Mujahideen as a terrorist organisation," Raveesh Kumar, India's foreign ministry spokesman, told reporters.

"All of us are aware of what kind of terrorist activities they have conducted in the state of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding it was key to "end moral, diplomatic and material support" to such groups.

## Rwanda's Paul Kagame sworn in for third term



Rwanda's President Paul Kagame (R) speaks after being sworn in as Rwanda's Head

Kigali

Rwandan President Paul Kagame was sworn in yesterday for a third term in office after a crushing election win that rights groups criticised over irregularities and voter intimidation.

Nineteen African heads of state were present at the ceremony which took place in front of a packed crowd in the national stadium in Kigali, entertained by a military parade and drummers.

The 59-year-old Kagame, who was re-elected with nearly 99 percent of the vote, took a swipe at critics who regularly highlight repression and lack of freedoms in the tiny east African nation.

"Every African country has to contend with efforts to force us to live on someone else's terms," he said.

"They demand we replace systems that are working well for us with dogmas in which their own people are rapidly losing faith."

## Sri Lanka names first Tamil navy chief since 1970

Colombo

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena yesterday appointed an officer from the island's Tamil minority to head the navy for the first time since a separatist war erupted 45 years ago.

Rear Admiral Travis Sinniah is the first Tamil to head a wing of the military since 1970, even though Tamils make up around 15 percent of Sri Lanka's population.

In 1972, the separatist Tamil Tigers took up arms and launched a bloody guerrilla war for a separate state for the ethnic minority

that only ended in May 2009 when they were crushed in a no-holds barred military offensive.

"Rear Admiral Travis Sinniah, who has served Sri Lanka navy with immense loyalty for many decades, took office as the navy commander today," the president said on Twitter.

He was a key figure in the war, capturing over a dozen Tamil Tiger rebels as they tried to flee the island in October 1987. Twelve committed suicide, an incident that controversially dragged Indian troops into fighting the Tigers.