

# Trump shares joke story on Biden, Twitter in earnest

Donald Trump tweeted out a fake story from a satirical website attacking Twitter

● Trump's commentary suggested he was not aware the piece was satire

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump shared a satirical article yesterday about Twitter shutting down to slow the spread of negative news on his election rival Joe Biden, apparently unaware that it was a joke.

Trump, who often rails against "fake news" while retweeting misinformation to his 87 million followers, tweeted a link to the tall tale headlined: "Twitter Shuts Down Entire Network To Slow Spread Of Negative Biden News."

"Wow, this has never been done in history," Trump tweeted -- correctly, as it turns out, because Twitter had done no such thing.

"This includes his really bad interview last night. Why is



Donald Trump (L) and Joe Biden exchange arguments during the first presidential debate (file photo)

Twitter doing this."

The story Trump shared was from the Babylon Bee, a satirical news site with the motto "Fake news you can trust" clearly visible on its Twitter page.

Trump has tweeted articles from the Babylon Bee in the past and the site told The New York Times earlier in October that it was "assured" Trump knew it was satire.

The website's chief executive officer Seth Dillon offered his own lighthearted take soon after at-traction Trump's attention, proudly declaring: "The Babylon Bee is the president's most trusted news source."

Trump's propensity for sharing wild, unfounded accusations has not been diminished by his political career, which was forged in the cauldron of the



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racist "birtherism" conspiracy theory alleging that his predecessor Barack Obama was not born in the US.

Only this week, he shared a bizarre claim originating from the emergent QAnon movement that Biden was involved in a conspiracy to fake the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011.

At a televised town hall event in Miami on Thursday, Trump defended his retweets, saying "people can decide for themselves" if the outlandish theories he shares have any merit.

## Saudi's Deputy Health Minister official affirms safe and innovative Umrah

TDT | Manama

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health will ensure that pilgrims going for Umrah are carefully selected and those in the risk groups will be eliminated from the priority list, an official said.

Deputy Health Minister Dr. Mohammed Khalid Alabdulaali,



Dr. Mohammed Khalid Alabdulaali

during an interview with CNN, said that the authorities will ensure strict control over the number and flow of people entering into the harem to perform Umrah.

Saudi Arabia's Umrah pilgrimage normally attracts close to 20 million people. This year, only 6,000 will be allowed to take part daily.

All participants are required to wear face masks throughout the performance while maintaining social distance.

Alabdulaali said that more than 230 centres in the Kingdom, including 21 drive-throughs, are receiving people with any symptoms where they can get diagnosis and treatment for COVID-19 free of cost

## Sarkozy charged with 'conspiracy' over Libyan financing

AFP | Paris

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy has been charged over financing his 2007 election campaign with money from late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, according to prosecutors.

The move made Sarkozy, who ruled from 2007 to 2012 and is still an influential behind-the-scenes player on the political right, the target of an inquiry into alleged cash handovers and wire transfers between Tripoli and Paris in the months before he won power.

It marked a dramatic acceleration in an inquiry that had largely faded in the news since it was opened five years ago, shortly after the 63-year-old left office. Sarkozy, who has persistently denied claims that he accepted millions of euros from Gaddafi, some of it delivered in cash-stuffed suitcases, had vowed to clear his name, even if it takes years.

## Malaysian police probe Anwar over bid to become PM

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian police questioned Anwar Ibrahim yesterday over his push to topple the government and become prime minister, with the opposition leader slamming the investigation as "political harassment".

The veteran politician announced last month he had garnered enough support from MPs to seize power from a shaky, seven-month-old coalition led by Muhyiddin Yassin.

He met the king, who appoints the prime minister, this week to make his case, although Muhyiddin has dismissed his challenge and others have raised doubts about whether he has the backing.

Anwar had been seen as



Anwar Ibrahim

the country's prime minister-in-waiting until a reformist government, of which he was a leading member, collapsed in February amid bitter infighting.

Police called Anwar in for questioning following complaints from lawmakers whose names were included in a list that circulated online of those supposedly backing him.

Anwar said police had asked him to hand over the list of MPs but he refused on the grounds that only the king has a right to see it.

"What is mind-boggling is that they want the list," the 73-year-old told reporters.

"This is an attempt by the political masters to oppress me -- this is malicious, it is political harassment."



What is mind-boggling is that they want the list. This is an attempt by the political masters to oppress me -- this is malicious, it is political harassment

ANWAR IBRAHIM

### News in brief

Mexico says ex-defence minister arrested in US

◆ Former Mexican defense minister Salvador Cienfuegos has been arrested in the United States on undisclosed charges, Mexico's foreign minister said.



Cienfuegos, who was defense chief from 2012-2018, was reportedly on a trip with his family when he was detained at Los Angeles airport. A Mexican investigative magazine, quoting unnamed sources at the US Department of Justice, reported that the arrest was the result of a long-standing investigation into corruption involving drug traffickers.

◆ A journalist tapped to moderate the second debate

Would-be US debate moderator suspended over tweet

between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden has been suspended over lying about his Twitter account being hacked, his news outlet said. C-SPAN journalist Steve Scully, who was to be the moderator of the debate in Miami -- until it was called off -- was suspended indefinitely after news of his actions were revealed, according to the congressional cable channel.



Kyrgyz acting leader moves to consolidate power

◆ Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister and acting president Sadyr Japarov



appointed a close ally as national security chief, as he consolidated control over the Central Asian country rocked by unrest following a parliamentary vote. Japarov appeared in parliament along with outgoing leader Sooronbay Jeenbekov, who resigned Thursday in a move that cleared a path for Japarov to assume the post of head of state as well as premier. Jeenbekov became the third president of the volatile ex-Soviet state to resign since 2005 -- a move he said he hoped would spare the country further bloodshed.

◆ Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn said "the country

Thai king says people should love country and monarchy

needs people who love the country and love the monarchy", in pre-recorded comments broadcast on state television yesterday from an event a day earlier. The king has made no direct comment on three months of protests that have called for curbs to his powers as well as for the removal of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former military ruler. The king was addressing a group of ex-communists in northern Thailand.



Dozens reported killed in clashes between Somali government, fighters

◆ Dozens of soldiers and insurgents



were killed in two days of fighting between Somali government forces and al-Shabaab militants northwest of the capital Mogadishu, a witness said. Somalia's state news agency Sonna said the military had killed about 50 fighters from the al-Qaeda-allied Islamist group. No immediate account of the battle was available from the militants.

### Global

Covid-19 Cases: 39,474,896

Deaths: 1,106,870

Recovered: 29,542,600

New cases: +323,457

New deaths: +4,438

### Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New cases	Total Deaths	New deaths
1 USA	8,267,053	+50,738	223,359	+643
2 India	7,429,233	+63,724	113,002	+856
3 Brazil	5,176,524	+5,528	152,641	+128
4 Russia	1,369,313	+15,150	23,723	+232
5 Spain	982,723	+12,169	33,775	+222
6 Argentina	949,063		25,342	
7 Colombia	936,982		28,457	
8 Peru	859,740		33,577	
9 Mexico	834,910	+5,514	85,285	+387
10 France	834,770	+25,086	33,247	+122
11 South Africa	698,184		18,309	+168
12 UK	689,257	+15,650	43,429	+136
13 Iran	522,387	+4,552	29,870	+265
14 Chile	488,190	+1,694	13,529	+95

### Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	105,033		6,088		98,011	934	41	1,021
Saudi Arabia	341,495	+433	5,144	+17	327,795	8,556	835	9,765
UAE	112,849	+1,412	455	+3	104,943	7,451		11,370
Kuwait	114,744	+729	690	+6	106,495	7,559	136	26,755
Oman	108,296		1,071		94,229	12,996	216	21,055
Qatar	128,992	+189	222		126,006	2,764	54	45,941