'No doubt Trump team intersected with Russia'

Clinton releases tell-all memoir on 2016 presidential campaign

NEW YORK, Sept 13, (Agencies): Hillary Clinton, who on Tuesday released her tell-all memoir about the 2016 presidential campaign, said she has "no doubt" that Donald Trump's associates helped Russia interfere in the US election.

Last year's failed Democratic nominee told USA Today newspaper that there "certainly was an understanding of some sort" — and direct communication — between Trump's campaign officials or associates and Russia.

"There's no doubt in my mind that there are a tangle of financial relationships between Trump and his operation with Russian money," she said in the interview published hours before she kicked off her first book-signing for the memoir, "What Happened."

"And there's no doubt in my mind that the Trump campaign and other associates have worked really hard to hide their connections with Russians."

The Trump campaign's links to Russia are under investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller and by multiple congressional committees.

Clinton's assertions in several interviews coinciding with the book launch amplify a core message of her campaign confessional: that a series of external forces conspired to prevent her from becoming the nation's first woman president.

"There were all of these outside forces coming at me right until the very end," she told National Public Radio.

Among them: the FBI's relentless investigation of her emails, and the announcement by then-director James Comey, just 11 days before the election, that the bureau was re-opening its probe into her use of a private account and server while secretary of state.

"After the Comey letter, my momentum was stopped," Clinton told NPR.

"My numbers dropped, and we were scrambling to try to put it back together, and we ran out of time."

Respect

Clinton also lashed out at her progressive rival Bernie Sanders, whom she felt refused to fully back her general election campaign.

"I didn't get anything like that respect from Sanders and his supporters. And it hurt," she told Pod Save America, an internet podcast.

Clinton might be finished as a presidential candidate following her November loss, but she is not going away quietly.

Her 15-stop book tour is intended not only to drum up sales but perhaps burnish Clinton's standing as a prominent figure in US political life.

In her memoir the 69-year-old assumes her share of responsibility for her stunning defeat — "My mistakes burn me up inside," she writes of her topsy-turvy campaign.

But the former first lady and political survivor, who in a quarter century in public life rarely gave Americans a personal peek behind her professional veneer, shows a vulnerable side in her book as she describes her post-campaign funk.

She admits that not a day goes that she doesn't think about why she lost, and "the aching sense that I let everyone down."

"It's going to be painful for quite a while," Clinton writes.

"But I'm not going to sulk or disappear. I'm going to do everything I can to support strong Democratic candidates everywhere."

She does not hold back in her criticism of Trump, branding her billionaire nemesis as an incompetent, unworthy, sexist "liar" in her book.

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Clinton offers a personal reckoning of her election loss: how she was expecting an easy victory but was "shell-shocked" on election night; how she refused antidepressants and therapy, but drank her fair share of "Chardonnay;" and how she sought refuge in her family.

But the prospect of the twice-defeated Clinton — first by Barack Obama in the 2008 Democratic primaries, then to Trump last year — very publicly foisting her suggestions on how to move the political debate forward has made some Democrats uncomfortable.

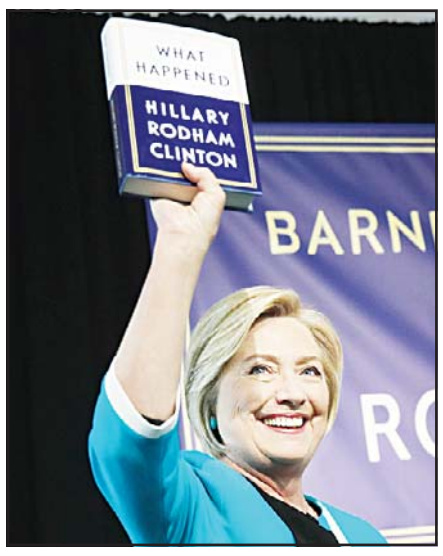
Despite some nudging by those in her party to exit the stage, Clinton makes clear she is keen to conduct an autopsy on the 2016 election.

"People are tired. Some are traumatized" and others want to keep the focus on the investigation into Russia's election interference," she writes.

"I get all that. But it's important that we understand what really happened," she adds. "Because that's the only way we can stop it from happening again."

The White House is accusing former campaign rival Hillary Clinton of "propping up book sales with false and reckless attacks."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders says she's unsure if President Donald Trump will be reading "What Happened," Clinton's account of the 2016 campaign. She says the president is "pretty well-versed on what happened."



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton holds up a copy of her new book 'What Happened' at a book signing event at Barnes and Noble bookstore, on Sept 12, in New York City. (AFP)

Clinton's book was released on Tuesday.

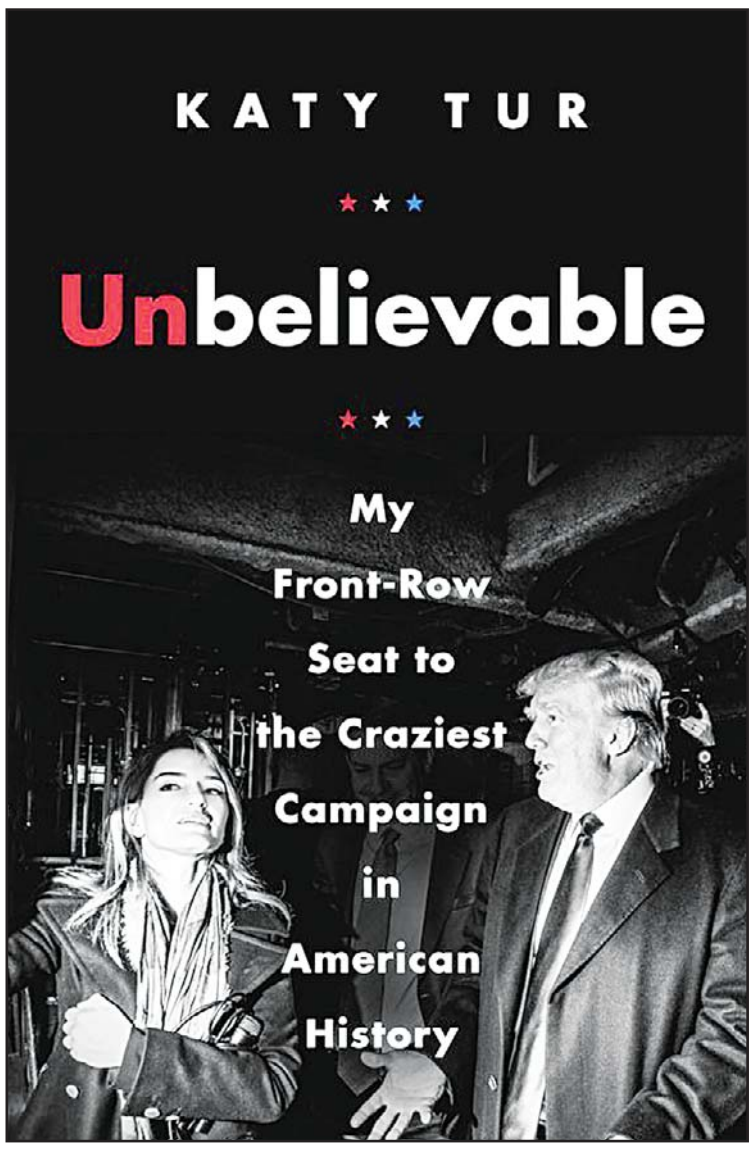
Sanders says Clinton "ran one of the most negative campaigns in history" and says it's "sad" the last chapter of her public life will be defined by selling books with "false and reckless attacks." Sanders did not elaborate or offer any specifics.

"Whether or not he is going to read Hillary Clinton's book, I am not sure, but I would think that he is pretty well versed on what happened," Sanders told reporters on Tuesday. "And I think it is pretty clear to all of America. I think it is sad that after Hillary Clinton ran one of the most negative campaigns in history, and lost, and the last chapter of her public life is now going to be defined by propping up book sales with reckless and false attacks. And I think that's a sad way for her to continue."

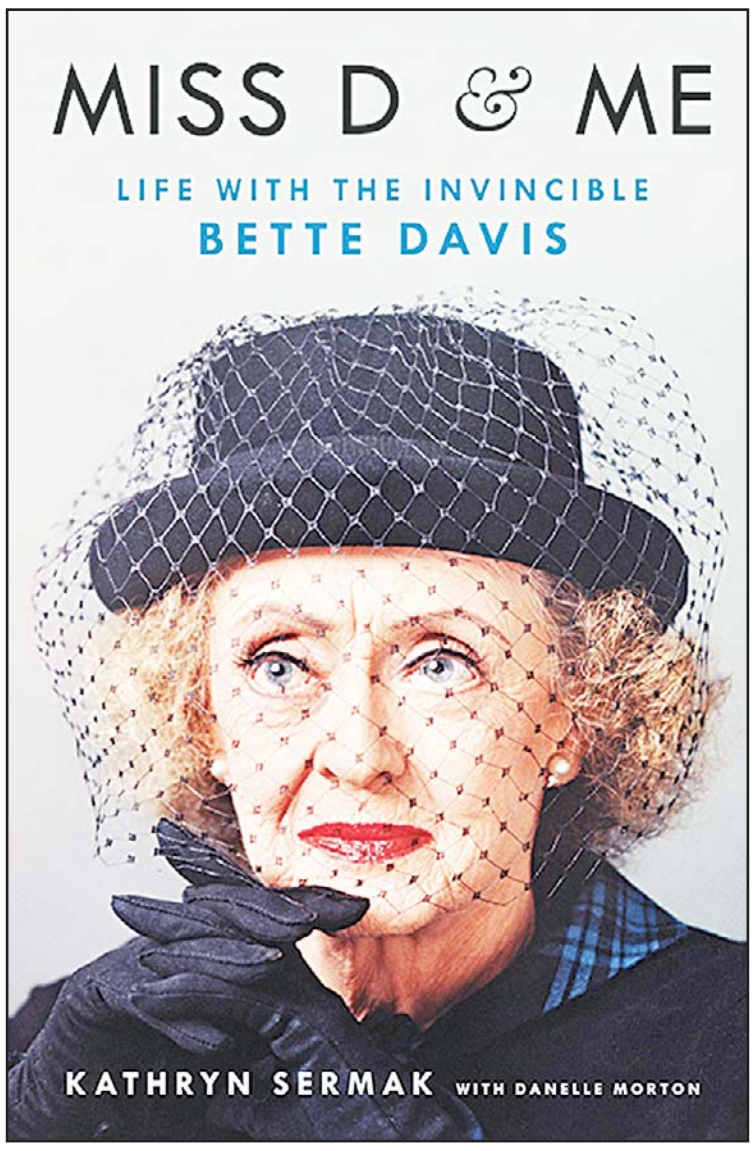
Clinton's book "What Happened" was published on Tuesday, and in an interview she gave to USA Today, she said, "There certainly was communication and there certainly was an understanding of some sort" between associates of Trump and Russians.

In the book, Clinton runs through mistakes she made, but also pins blame on her surprise loss to the media's fixation with her email server, James Comey's late-October decision to reopen his investigation, and Russian meddling in the campaign.

At the press conference, Sanders also said Trump was "100% right in firing James Comey." Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, told Charlie Rose on "60 Minutes" that Trump's decision to fire Comey was the "worst mistake in modern political history."



This cover image released by Dey Street shows 'Unbelievable: My Front Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History', by Katy Tur. (AP)



This cover image released by Hachette Books shows 'Miss D and Me: Life with the Invincible Bette Davis' by Kathryn Sermak and with Danelle Morton. (AP)

Memoir is bittersweet farewell to Bette Davis

A view of 'unbelievable' Trump campaign

By Will Lester

'Unbelievable: My Front-Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History' (Dey Street), by Katy Tur.

The presidential campaign of Donald J. Trump seemed unlikely to gain traction at first. But the candidate skillfully stirred his voters by boasting of his own skills and vilifying many perceived opponents, from Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton to immigrants, to trade policies and especially, to the news media.

And few members of the news media got more attention from Trump than NBC reporter Katy Tur, who attracted his friendly attention and then, harsh attacks.

"Unbelievable," her memoir of the Trump campaign, recalls many events that are well known by now — his call for a Muslim ban, his debate with parents of a Muslim US soldier killed in Iraq, his ridiculing of a Miss Universe two decades ago, his defense of the size of his manhood during a debate, the "Access Hollywood" videotape from 11 years earlier where he boasted he could grab a woman by her private parts. That was followed by a parade of women accusing him of that sort of behavior.

Trump bulled past critics with his determined campaigning and became the Republican nominee, and then, president.

Through all the uproar, Trump repeatedly told the crowds that he will be the best leader ever, best negotiator of trade deals, best jobs president and so on.

"He is the living embodiment of the old maxim that if you say something often enough, people will believe it," she writes.

But her book — a quick and enjoyable read — is at its best when it retells what it is like to be a member of the news media repeatedly singled out by name in front of an angry crowd as part of a group described as "disgusting" and "liars."

The chapters switch between key points in the campaign and Election Day, enhancing the feel of chaos that must have been a big part of covering the Trump campaign.

While Tur's job would seem like the dream assignment, she recounts the difficulties of meeting deadlines, frantic travel and competing for a crazy rush of stories while fending off attacks from Trump and his crowds of supporters.

"This job is hell," she writes. "On relationships. On your body. On your mind."

In his dealings with Tur, Trump is alternately upbeat, friendly, even flirtatious, then turns on her when she reports something he doesn't like.

When Trump unleashes on her at a public rally, the crowd reacts quickly. "They turn all at once, a large animal, angry and unchained," she writes.

After one harsh critique: "They turn as one to boo at us in unison. Six thousand Trump supporters railing against 30 or so journalists — caged in the center of the arena like a modern-day Roman Coliseum."

His attacks on the media and what he calls "fake news" continue to this day.

Tur saw the potent mix of Trump's determined and forceful campaigning and how he tapped into the raw anger of the big crowds that filled his rallies.

"Inside a Trump rally, these people are unchained. They can yell and scream and say the things they never would say on the outside," she writes. Plenty of the screaming was aimed at her.

An advance staffer once assured her not to worry: "Aside from Trump, you're the most watched person in the room. The Secret Service always has eyes on you."

After months of following his campaign, she began to suspect that many were underestimating Trump's potential in the election.

When FBI Director James Comey announced just over a week before Election Day that he was reopening the Clinton email investigation, Tur told a colleague her take on the dramatic development.

"He's going to win," she said. "It's over. He's going to win."

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"Miss D & Me: Life with the Invincible Bette Davis" (Hachette Books), by Kathryn Sermak with Danelle Morton

Bette Davis battled studio bosses, husbands and rivals during her long acting career, establishing a tough persona in real life to match her enduring Hollywood image. She would need all that strength when she faced illness in her final years, knowing that she could achieve a dark victory by meeting death on her terms.

Her personal assistant during much of that time, Kathryn Sermak, depicts a lioness in winter in her memoir, "Miss D & Me: Life With the Invincible Bette Davis." The actress, in her 70s, still showed some bite in dealing with family feuds and the demands of stardom even as she suffered from cancer and a stroke.

Davis (1908-89) found solace in activity, especially acting. "People will leave you," she told Sermak more than once, "but your work will always stand by you." She wrote another book and, amazingly, appeared on camera a few more times, most notably for "The Whales of August" in 1987.

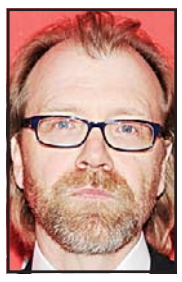
Sermak had come into Davis' life in 1979, a 22-year-old ingenue hired for the summer who was to learn how an aging movie star lived — this particular movie star, anyway. Davis accommodated her celebrity by pleasing fans and shrugging off criticism. (AP)

Saunders favorite to win

Auster tops Man Booker Prize shortlist

LONDON, Sept 13, (Agencies): US author Paul Auster tops the shortlist for Britain's prestigious Man Booker Prize published Wednesday, one of six books that organisers said "collectively push against the borders of convention".

The 70-year-old, nominated for "4321", is up against two other Americans — short story writer George Saunders, for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo", and debut writer Emily Fridlund with "History of Wolves".



Saunders

British author Ali Smith makes the shortlist for the fourth time with "Autumn", while British-Pakistani writer Mohsin Hamid makes his second appearance with "Exit West".

Briton Fiona Mozley, 29, is the youngest nominee with her first book, "Elmet". The Man Booker is the world's most prestigious English-language literary award and the winner is guaranteed a huge increase in global sales that dwarfs the £50,000 (55,400 euros, $66,400) prize.

"With six unique and intrepid books that collectively push against the borders of convention, this year's shortlist both acknowledges established authors and introduces new voices to the literary stage," said Baroness Lola Young, who chairs the judging panel.

"Playful, sincere, unsettling, fierce: here is a group of novels grown from tradition but also radical and contemporary.

The winner will be announced on Oct 17 in London. Previous winners of the prize, launched in 1969, include Ian McEwan, Iris Murdoch and Salman Rushdie.

Saunders is favorite to win the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction with his novel of the afterlife, "Lincoln in the Bardo."

British bookmakers Ladbrokes and William Hill made Saunders the front-runner among six finalists announced Wednesday for the 50,000-pound ($66,000) prize. The novel is set in a Washington graveyard in 1862, where President Abraham Lincoln visits the body of his 11-year-old son.

Also:

NEW YORK: Angie Thomas' debut novel, "The Hate U Give," a story of police violence that has become one of the year's top-selling works for young people, was among the nominees announced Tuesday for the National Book Awards.

The National Book Foundation released a long list of 10 books, several with socially conscious story lines, in the young people's literature category. Over the next three days, the foundation will announce long lists for poetry, nonfiction and fiction. Short lists of five come out Oct 4 and winners will be revealed during a Nov 15 ceremony in New York City.

Food

Grandma's classic dish

Spaghetti & meatballs 'tweaked' to lighten it

By Melissa d'Arabian

Washington, Spaghetti and meatballs was the classic dish I ate at Grandma's house growing up: She had her all-day recipe that filled her creaky house with heady aromas that built anticipation as meatballs simmered in sauce on the stove.

The fact that she was 100 percent first-generation German — she emigrated at the age of 6 — never stopped me from making her recipe the benchmark by which every other meatball would be judged.

Tweaking her recipe to lighten it up a bit, and make it weekday-friendly by shortening the cook time, was a task I didn't take lightly. And truth to be told: There is a special place in this rush-to-eat food world for the leisurely simmer of small orbs of meat in thick, tangy tomato sauce covered in a fine slick of co-mingled turkey and beef fat that has gently floated to the top. But life is busy, and we need to get a healthy dinner on the table and move on. I get it. These meatballs are for those nights.

First to change: The fatty mix of turkey and beef became simply lean (93 percent) beef. Feel free to mix in chicken, but our family preferred the beef. The next tweak: I added a half pound of mushrooms for every pound of beef to stretch the meat out and add in nutrients. I pulsed the mushrooms in a food processor, and then cooked them with another healthy meat stretcher — onions. (Here, you could add other veggies too: shredded zucchini, carrot, and chopped spinach work great.) I added the mushroom and onion mixture right in with the ground beef, and they added flavor, moisture and bulk, with nary an added calorie (nor a suspicious eye from any of my four kids). I used one egg white (no yolk), and used oats pulsed into a coarse flour instead of breadcrumbs. Simmer these meatballs directly in a pot of a high-quality jarred marinara sauce (check for no added sugar), and in 20 minutes, they will be succulent, tender, and juicy.

Almost like Grandma's.

Lightened Italian meatballs

Servings 6

Start to finish 40 minutes

8 ounces white mushrooms, sliced (about 2 cups)

1 small yellow onion, finely chopped, about 3/4 cup

1 teaspoon olive oil

4 cloves of garlic, minced

2 teaspoons dried Italian herb blend

This Sept 5, 2017 photo shows lightened Italian meatballs in Bethesda, Md. (AP)

1 egg white, lightly beaten

1 pound 93 percent lean ground beef

2 tablespoons grated parmesan

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

1/3 cup oats, pulsed or blended into a coarse powder

1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

4 cups jarred marinara sauce, with no sugar added

Place the sliced mushrooms in a food processor and pulse 4 or 5 times, until the mushrooms are the texture of coarse couscous. Do not over-process or it will become pasty. Heat a large nonstick saute pan over medium heat and add the olive oil, onion, and mushrooms to the pan. Cook, stirring often, until onion and mushrooms are softened, and most of the liquid has evaporated, about 12 minutes.

Add the garlic, Italian herb blend, salt and pepper, give it a quick stir, and then remove from heat and allow to cool a few minutes. In a large bowl, mix together the egg white and the cooled mushroom mixture. Add the ground beef and mix together, using hands if necessary. Add the parmesan cheese, fresh parsley, fresh basil and ground oats and mix together, just until blended.

Use a small ice cream scoop to portion out uniform meatballs, and roll them gently together in your hands. (You will have approximately 26 meatballs 1.5 inch in diameter.) Pour the marinara sauce into a heavy sauce pan or small Dutch over. Gently place the meatballs in the sauce. Cover and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Reduce heat to low, and let simmer gently for 20 minutes, removing the cover about halfway through the cook time. Serve. (AP)

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Latest

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you to visit the Grand Mosque, which is one of Kuwait's most treasured religious and cultural landmarks to discover the beauty of Islamic arts and architecture. Free guided tours are available all year round on official working days between (9-11 am) and (5-7 pm), within a special tour program designed to cater to the needs of different age groups. The program is as follows:

Reception; Auditorium show; (according to age group); Touring the Mosque; Q & A; Art workshops; (according to age group – between 5 and 18 years old); Snack break; Distribution of the Grand Mosque publications and souvenirs; End of tour.

According to these age groups:

Age group: 5 to 9 years old: Morning: 60 visitors max; Evening: 20; 10 to 15 years: Morning: 100 visitors max; Evening: 45; 16 and above: Morning: 140 visitors max, Evening: 105:

Tour language: Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic- English- French: Arabic (English upon prior request)

Rules and Regulations:

- Please arrive in time for your visit.
- All visitors are kindly required to abide by the mosque's dress code. Male visitors should wear long pants. Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Female visitors: should wear head cover and long loose clothing (available at the mosque).
- Foods and drinks are not allowed inside the prayer halls.
- For school visits, teachers are responsible for their students and are required to cooperate with the staff members of the Grand Mosque.
- Photography is allowed inside the Grand Mosque (please note that disrespectful poses are strictly prohibited).

If you would like to book a tour, please contact us:

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