



French President Emmanuel Macron leaves after standing at attention by the coffins during a ceremony for the 13 French soldiers killed in Mali on Dec 2 at the Invalides monument in Paris. In its biggest military funeral in decades, France is honoring 13 soldiers killed when their helicopters collided over Mali while on a mission fighting extremists affiliated with the Islamic State group. (AP)

## Britain

### 'PM very capable'

## Trump says to stay out of UK election

LONDON, Dec 3, (AP) — US President Donald Trump says he doesn't want to interfere in Britain's election campaign. But his presence in London nine days before the Dec 12 vote is a complication for Prime Minister Boris Johnson — and ammunition for Johnson's opponents.

Trump, who is attending a meeting of NATO leaders, said Tuesday he'd "stay out of the election." "I don't want to complicate it," he said.

Too late. Britain's opposition parties are relishing the visit by Trump, who is widely unpopular in the UK, and whose statements of support for Johnson and Britain's departure from the European Union are seen as more harmful than helpful.

Trump repeated his support for Brexit and for Johnson on Tuesday.

"I think Boris is very capable and I think he'll do a good job," he said.

The main opposition Labour Party seized on Trump's two-day visit to renew allegations that a post-Brexit US-UK trade deal could damage the UK's state-funded National Health Service.

Labour is campaigning heavily on the claim that the overstretched but treasured NHS is not safe in Conservative hands.

Johnson has called that allegation "nonsense." "This is pure Loch Ness Monster, Bermuda Triangle stuff," he said Tuesday.

But Labour says the US could try to demand during trade talks that Britain pay American pharma firms more for drugs. It could also push for extended patents that would prevent Britons buying cheaper generic versions of US — patented drugs — something that happened in talks on a US-Mexico-Canada trade deal.

Documents from preliminary talks between US and UK negotiators over two years from July 2017 — obtained and released by Labour last week — mention that "patent issues" around "NHS access to generic drugs will be a key consideration" in talks.

Trump said Tuesday that the United States had no interest in the NHS.

"We have absolutely nothing to do with it and we wouldn't want to. If you handed it to us on a silver platter, we want nothing to do with it," he told reporters as he met with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. Trump has sent mixed messages on the issue, however. In June, he said "everything" — including the NHS — would be "on the table" in future trade negotiations.



Johnson



US President Donald Trump meets NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg at Winfield House in London on Dec 3. Trump will join other NATO heads of state at Buckingham Palace in London on Tuesday to mark the NATO Alliance's 70th birthday. (AP)

## Europe

**Finland's PM resigns:** Finnish Prime Minister Antti Rinne resigned on Tuesday after a member of the ruling coalition said it had lost confidence in him following a series of disruptive strikes.

The Centre Party asked Rinne to step down after a more than two-week strike at Finland's state postal service, Posti, spread to the national airline, Finnair, and to other industries before being settled last week.

Centre Party chairwoman Katri Kulmuni questioned Rinne's role in handling the strike on Monday but said she wanted the same five-member coalition to continue under an unspecified new prime minister.

President Sauli Niinisto accepted Rinne's resignation and asked the centre-left cabinet to continue in a caretaker role pending the formation of a new one.

"Next we will likely have fast government formation talks, and likely with the same coalition," Rinne told reporters. (RTRS)

**EU pressures Malta:** The European Commission has asked Malta to clarify how it intends to address Bank of Valletta's shortcomings over its monitoring of foreign customers who applied to buy Maltese citizenship under a so-called "golden passport" scheme.

Malta, with a population of only 420,000, has sought to attract foreign capital with schemes such as the cash for passport programme, even though the EU has highlighted the risks of this potentially attracting the proceeds of criminal activities. Under the scheme, people can obtain a Maltese passport by investing in the country.

Last month, Reuters reported on a confidential decision by the European Central Bank that required Malta's largest bank to take remedial action after an inspection exposed "severe shortcomings" that could have allowed money laundering or other criminal activities. (RTRS)

**Spanish parliament convenes:** Lawmakers who won seats in Spain's November election, the fourth in as many years, entered the national parliament Tuesday, but there is still no clear sign that a government can be formed soon and fresh elections avoided.

The 350 deputies elected Socialist lawmaker Meritxell Batet as House Speaker. Batet will have an audience with King Felipe VI this week after which the king will begin meeting party leaders over the coming weeks in the hope of choosing a candidate he deems capable of forming a government.

Incumbent Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is best positioned, his party having won the most seats — 120 — in the election. He has signed a deal with the left-wing United We Can party, which won 35, but they are still way off the 176-seat majority needed in the chamber.

With 19 parties present, the parliament is the most fragmented since democracy was restored in 1978, three years after the death of dictator Gen Francisco Franco. (AP)



Sanchez

## NATO

## Trump lashes out at European allies

LONDON, Dec 3, (RTRS) — US President Donald Trump lashed out at European allies before a NATO anniversary summit in London on Tuesday, singling out France's Emmanuel Macron for "very nasty" comments on the alliance and Germany for spending too little on defence.

Underlining the breadth of strife in a transatlantic bloc hailed by its backers as the most successful military alliance in history, Trump demanded that Europe pay more for defence and also make concessions to US interests on trade.

The attack echoed a similar tirade by Trump ahead of NATO's last summit in July 2018. It will add to the growing doubts over the future of the 29-member alliance, described last month by Macron as "brain dead" in the run-up to a London meeting intended to be a 70th anniversary celebration. "It's a tough statement, though, when you make a statement like that, that is a very, very nasty statement to essentially 28, including them, 28 countries," Trump told reporters as he met the head of NATO in London.

"Nobody needs NATO more than France," he said, adding that France, where Macron is seeking to push through delicate reforms of its large state sector, was "not doing well economically". Explicitly linking his complaint that Europe does not pay enough for NATO's security missions to his staunch "America First" defence of US commercial interests, Trump said it was time for Europe to "shape up" on both fronts.

### Right

"It's not right to be taken advantage of on NATO and also then to be taken advantage of on trade, and that's what happens. We can't let that happen," he said of transatlantic disputes over everything from the aerospace sector to a European "digital tax" on US technology giants.

Dismissing recent signals from Germany that it was ready to do more to match a NATO target of spending two percent of national output on defence, Trump accused it and other nations which spend less than that of being "delinquent".

NATO Secretary-General Jens

Stoltenberg, who shared omelette and sausages with Trump at their breakfast meeting, tweeted that the pre-summit talks had got off to an "excellent start".

But the US leader's broadside came only hours after splits opened up elsewhere in the alliance, with Turkey threatening to block a plan to defend Baltic states unless the alliance backs it in recognising the Kurdish YPG militia as a terrorist group. The YPG's fighters have long been US allies on the ground against Islamic State in Syria. Turkey considers them an enemy because of links to Kurdish insurgents in southeastern Turkey.

"If our friends at NATO do not recognise as terrorist organisations those we consider terrorist organisations... we will stand against any step that will be taken there," Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said before travelling to London.

Erdogan, who has already strained alliance ties with a move to buy Russian air defence systems, said he would meet Polish President Andrzej Duda and leaders of Baltic countries.

## عمليات الخفجي المشتركة



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Aramco Gulf Operations Company Limited ("AGOC") and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (K.S.C.) ("KGOC"), (Al Khafji Joint Operations) invites intending bidders to participate for the **Tender No.: GT6331T19-Maintenance and Support for the CCTV System in KJO Facilities.**

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The sale of Tender Documents will be effective from **December 3, 2019, until 12:00 Noon, December 17, 2019.**

**Attending the Pre-Tender Meeting is Mandatory.**

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The bidder shall note that he shall be required to provide an irrevocable bank guarantee from a bank in Saudi Arabia or Kuwait, in the sum of **United States Dollars Fourteen Thousand Only (US\$14,000.00/-) only**, to warrant the bid proposal. Such bank guarantee shall be on behalf of the bidder himself and valid for (120) days from the closing date the tender, any bid proposal received without the said bank guarantee will be rejected.

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For more Information, You May Contact The Following Nos

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