

world

Trump attacks Macron with new world war jibe

“They were starting to learn German in Paris before the US came along,” Trump said

● **Macron suggested forming own army to protect Europe from US**

● **Trump reacted by saying, “it was Germany in World Wars One & Two”**

AFP | Washington, United States



US President Donald Trump (L) speaks with French president Emmanuel Macron prior to their meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris (file)

Donald Trump yesterday unleashed an extraordinary attack on Emmanuel Macron, mocking the French president's approval rating and lashing him over European defence proposals, on the heels of a rocky trip to Paris to mark the World War I centenary.

In a caustic series of early-morning tweets the US president

lambasted Macron's support for a European army, while renewing his frequent charge that America's European allies in NATO spend too little on defence. “Emmanuel Macron suggests building its own army to protect Europe against the US,

China and Russia. But it was Germany in World Wars One & Two - How did that work out for France?” Trump tweeted.

“They were starting to learn German in Paris before the US came along,” Trump said, in a low blow sure to gall French

allies. “Pay for NATO or not!”

The fierce broadside against a traditional US ally -- for whom Trump rolled out the red carpet in Washington earlier this year -- came just two days after Trump joined dozens of world leaders in Paris for events to mark the 100 years since the end of the Great War.

After slamming Macron on defence, Trump's went on to attack his standing as president: “The problem is that Emmanuel suffers from a very low Approval Rating in France, 26 per cent, and an unemployment rate of almost 10pc.”

“He was just trying to get onto another subject,” Trump said, appearing to reference Macron's push for a European military. “By the way, there is no country more Nationalist than France, very proud people-and rightfully so!”

“MAKE FRANCE GREAT

AGAIN!” the mercurial Trump continued in a play on his own campaign slogan, before turning to what he said were protectionist tariffs on wine -- which he said were “not fair, must change!”

Macron's office declined to comment on Trump's broadside.

Trump set a combative tone for his visit to Paris, tweeting right after he landed that Macron's call for a “real European army” was “insulting.”

In an interview recorded Saturday with CNN after talks with Trump, Macron said the two leaders had spoken about what his office has portrayed as a misunderstanding.

But Macron told CNN: “To be very direct with you, what I don't want to see is European countries increasing the budget in defense in order to buy American and other arms or materials coming from your industry.”

CNN sues White House over barring of reporter

Washington, United States

CNN sued Trump's administration yesterday, alleging the White House violated journalist Jim Acosta's rights under the constitution by revoking his press credentials following a heated exchange with the US president. “The wrongful revocation of these credentials violates CNN and Acosta's First Amendment rights of freedom of the press, and their Fifth Amendment rights to due process,” the news network said.

Sri Lanka court restores parliament

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court yesterday overruled President Maithripala Sirisena's dissolution of parliament in a major boost to sacked prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's fight to reclaim the post from an arch-rival. The heavily guarded court also halted preparations for a snap election in the latest twist in the power struggle.

Court to review women entering flashpoint temple

New Delhi, India

India's top court yesterday agreed to hear challenges to its decision to overturn a ban on women of menstruating age from entering a Hindu temple, after protests against the ruling.

The Supreme Court said it would review the petitions on January 22 but until then women and girls aged 10 to 50 could still pray at Sabarimala in Kerala.

“We make it clear that there is no stay of the judgement and order of this court dated

28 September 2018,” the five-judge bench said.

Some temple devotees angrily resisted the order and prevented female worshippers from entering the shrine when it reopened in October for a few days.

Another showdown looms with at least 300,000 worshippers -- including 560 women of menstruating age -- registered to visit Sabarimala when it reopens again in November.

Traditionalists say the court ignored their beliefs and devotion to Ayyappa, the temple's celibate deity.

Jordan jails 10 for Karak attack by IS

Amman, Jordan

A Jordanian court yesterday sentenced 10 people to prison terms of between three years and life in connection with a deadly 2016 attack claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group.

The shooting attack in Karak, site of one of the region's largest Crusader castles, killed seven policemen and two Jordanian civilians as well as a female Canadian tourist, and wounded 34 other people. The defendants were charged in state security court.

Surprise giant ‘corpse flower’ blooms

Labuhanbatu, Indonesia

An Indonesian farmer was startled to discover a rare “corpse flower” blooming in his plantation on the island of Sumatra.

Rosihan Anwar Hasibuan, a local palm oil farmer, said he came across the mystery flower when he was checking on his crops.

“I saw a weird object,” he said. “I thought it was a ghost.”

The Amorphophallus titanum flower is hard to glimpse because it can take up to 10 years to bloom and lasts only for a few days.

It is known for its unpleasant smell which has been compared to rotting meat, giving it the nickname “corpse flower”.

Unaware of what it was, Hasibuan resorted to social media for help.



Representative picture. (Courtesy of NC State University)



The flower is only open for 48 hours and attracts insect pollinators with its stench of rotting flesh.

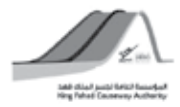
“I took pictures and uploaded them to Facebook,” he said, adding that many people replied with the answer.

The phallus-shaped flower is the largest in the world, reaching heights of up to three metres (10 feet).

Many “corpse flowers” are cultivated in botanical gardens across the world, drawing huge crowds when they bloom, but in their native Sumatra they have faced threats from deforestation.



المؤسسة العامة لجسر الملك فهد
King Fahd Causeway Authority



Announcement

King Fahd Causeway Authority Invites Qualified Consultants to Participate in the Tender

Bid Documents Value	Project Name	Project No.
SAR 30,000	Transaction Advisory Services for Interim Stage of the New Causeway- Alongside King Fahd Causeway	PR-18-XX-5000
Date of Bids Opening:	To Be Determined	Date of Bids Submission: Thursday 21/02/2019

The King Fahd Causeway Authority is inviting qualified Transaction Advisory Services Consultants to participate in the tender for the appointment of a Transaction Advisor in the form of a Consultancy Consortium (Financial – Technical – Legal) led by the Financial Consultant for the New Causeway – Alongside King Fahd Causeway. Qualified Consortia shall be led by a recognized International Financial Consultancy Firm with proven experience in accomplishing Public Private Partnership “Financial Close” for major Transportation Projects worldwide and meet the below requirements:

- All three (3) parties forming the Consortium will have to pass the qualification criteria individually for the Consortium to be eligible for their technical and financial submissions to be evaluated.
- Consortium leader shall be a registered corporate in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or Kingdom of Bahrain (International Bidders are required to submit a commitment letter to complete the required registration within (180) days from the date of notification of award).
- Submission of Pass/Fail qualification (available on KFCA's website www.kfca.com.sa) demonstrating bidder's capabilities including list of local and international projects executed with start and end dates of each project.
- Entity permanent address and updated contact numbers.
- Bid documents can be purchased from the Financial Directorate in the King Fahd Causeway Authority building by authenticated bank draft cheque issued to the benefit of the King Fahd Causeway Authority.
- Submission of minimum of 2% bid bond valid for duration of ninety (90) days from bids submission date.

For any inquiries, please contact: (+966) 13-8538267 / (+973) 17796267 or Email: project.info@kfca.com.sa