

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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GERMANS RELEASE PICTURES OF SUSPECT

Berlin—A Tunisian man suspected of involvement in a truck attack in Berlin was in contact with Islamist militants in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) and was known to German security agencies, the state's Interior Minister said yesterday. "Security agencies exchanged their findings and information about this person with the Joint Counter-Terrorism Centre in November 2016," NRW Interior Minister Ralf Jaeger told a news conference.

He said the suspect had applied for asylum in Germany and his application was rejected in July. **See page 15**



Spanish court blocks new Catalan vote

Madrid.—Spain's Constitutional Court blocked yesterday a resolution by the Catalan parliament to hold an independence referendum next September, in another setback for the region's efforts to break away from Madrid's rule.

Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government had asked the court to stall any separatist push by Catalonia, a wealthy region of northeastern Spain and home to about a sixth of the population.

The court suspended the resolution, approved by the Catalan assembly in October, for five months from now, after which it could be made permanent or lifted.

The court also warned Catalonia's president Carles Puigdemont and assembly speaker Carme Forcadell to obey its ruling or face criminal charges.

In August the Constitutional Court annulled a similar Catalan resolution on holding an independence referendum.

Puigdemont has said in the past he will hold a referendum next year with or without Madrid's consent.

Some 48 percent of Catalans supported secession in a poll in July, although that it is below its peak from a few years ago.



FINGERS CROSSED

- 2.3 billion euro Spanish Christmas lottery draw takes place this morning.
- Majority of Spaniards have bought tickets.

MAJORCANS are hoping for an earlier Christmas present today as they could win a share of 2.3 billion euro from the world's biggest lottery.

According to *El Pais*, nearly 74 percent of Spain's population took a chance on "El Gordo" last year in what's considered to be more than just playing the lottery.

"It's a social tradition at a price more or less accessible for the majority of pockets," the Spanish newspaper

said. It added that 89 percent of the Spaniards play as a habit without questioning the very little probability (0.001 percent) of getting the biggest prize.

The top individual prize in this Christmas tradition is worth 4 million euros and there are more than 14 000 prizes to be won.

The draw begins at 9am London time with transmission on the Spanish public television TVE. Last year, the draw lasted for four hours. The final list of prizes is published at 6pm.

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