

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Tuesday, August 29 2017

1.10€ · Founded 1962 · N.16368 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011



IN THE FAST LANE: SEE INSIDE

Barcelona attackers evaded checks specially designed to prevent attacks, says minister



A woman signs a book of condolences during an event organised by members of the Catalan community to commemorate the victims of the recent attacks in Barcelona, outside the Palace of Westminster.

Madrid.—A jihadist cell that killed 16 people in a double attack in Catalonia earlier this month managed to evade controls specifically intended to detect potential threats, Spain's interior minister said yesterday, promising to review procedures.

Spanish authorities say the Islamic State-inspired group spent months plotting their attack in a town south of the Catalan capital Barcelona, where on 17 August one member mowed down crowds along the city's most famous

avenue. Reuters reported last week that Spanish police may have missed an opportunity to uncover the cell's plot by not raising the alarm after a massive blast on 16 August at the house where they were preparing explosives for a larger attack.

Police believe the cell accidentally ignited the explosives, triggering a blast that destroyed the house in the town of Alcanar, killing two of its members, including an imam suspected of radicalising the others.

Catalan parties step up referendum planning in clash with Madrid

Barcelona.— Pro-separatist parties in the Spanish region of Catalonia said yesterday they were going ahead with legal preparations to create an independent state as they prepare for a disputed referendum on secession in October.

The row over Catalonia's planned independence referendum, which is firmly opposed by the central government in Ma-

drid, had briefly faded after an Islamist attack in Barcelona and another in the resort of Cambrils on 17 and 18 August.

But it is likely to intensify in coming weeks as pro-separatist parties, which control the regional assembly in Catalonia, lay the groundwork for the vote they want to hold on 1 October.

Yesterday, Catalan party leaders out-

lined the legal framework for the transition to an independent republic they say would take effect if a majority of people in Catalonia vote "yes" to splitting from Spain.

It is not clear, however, if and how the referendum can take place. Prime minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government has vowed to strike down any fur-

ther secessionist challenges in court. Spain's Constitutional Court has already halted attempts to fast-track other preparations for the referendum, and it probably will be asked to invalidate the framework for independence as soon as it is approved by Catalonia's regional assembly.

The proposed law, will be put to the regional assembly before 1 October.



RED HOT IN MAJORCA

Hopes and fears that there would be a gradual reduction in the temperatures have proved to be unfounded with the island basking in yet another heatwave. See *Weather Inside*



Labour backing soft Brexit: See Inside