

News

World News Briefs



Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, 2nd right, and Major General Ben Bathhurst, General Officer Commanding London District, right, meet soldiers and police officers on deployment in the Palace of Westminster, London, after Scotland Yard announced armed troops will be deployed to guard "key locations" such as Buckingham Palace, Downing Street, the Palace of Westminster and embassies Wednesday May 24, 2017. Security has been increased in reaction to Monday's explosion in Manchester which killed more than 20.

UK Steps Up Military Patrols, Probes Attacker's Libya Ties

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — British police and intelligence agencies worked Wednesday to piece together the allegiances of the Manchester suicide bomber and foil any new potential threats, as the country's law-and-order chief said it's "likely" he did not act alone.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said Salman Abedi, who killed 22 people and wounded dozens at an Ariana Grande

concert Monday night in Manchester, had been known to security forces "up to a point." Officials are examining his trips to Libya.

Britain on Tuesday raised its threat level from terrorism to "critical" amid concerns that the 22-year-old Abedi may have accomplices who are planning another attack. British soldiers have been deployed in place of police officers to guard high-profile sites such as Buckingham Palace and Parliament.

Abedi was born in Britain to a Libyan family, grew up in Manchester's southern suburbs and attended the local Sal-

ford University for a time.

Police on Tuesday raided his house, using a controlled explosion to blast down the door. Neighbors recalled him as a tall, thin young man who often wore traditional Islamic dress and did not talk much.

'We Can Use Peace': Trump and Pope Francis Meet

VATICAN CITY (AP) — President Donald Trump and Pope Francis, two leaders with contrasting styles and differing worldviews, met at the Vatican on Wednesday, setting aside their previous clashes to broadcast a tone of peace for an audience around the globe.

Trump, midway through a grueling nine-day, maiden international journey, called upon the pontiff in a private, 30-minute meeting laden with religious symbolism and ancient protocol. The president, accompanied by his wife and several aides, arrived at the Vatican just after 8 a.m. local time. The president greeted Francis in Sala del Tronetto, the room of the little throne, on the second floor of Apostolic Palace.

Upon completing their meeting, the pope gave the president a medal featuring an olive branch, a symbol of peace, among other gifts.

"We can use peace," the president responded.

The visit began with a handshake after each man arrived, Trump in a lengthy motorcade, Francis in a Ford Focus. The president could be heard thanking the pope and saying it was "a great honor" to be there. They posed for photographs and then sat down at the papal desk, the pope unsmiling, as their private meeting began.

extremists abducted a Catholic priest and more than a dozen churchgoers while laying siege to a southern Philippine city overnight, burning buildings, ambushing soldiers and hoisting flags of the Islamic State group, officials said Wednesday. President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the southern third of the nation and warned he would enforce it harshly.

The violence erupted Tuesday night after the army raided the hideout of Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf commander who is on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists with a reward of up to \$5 million for his capture. The militants called for reinforcements from an allied group, the Maute, and some 50 gunmen managed to enter the city of Marawi.

"We are in a state of emergency," Duterte said after landing in Manila from a visit to Moscow, adding that skirmishes were continuing. "I have a serious problem in Mindanao and the ISIS footprints are everywhere."

He said he may declare martial law elsewhere in the Philippines if militants expand their attacks.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and Marawi Bishop Edwin de la Pena said the militants forced their way into the Marawi Cathedral and seized a priest, 10 worshippers and three church workers.

NATO Rolls Out the Red Carpet, Buffs its Image for Trump

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO is not only rolling out the red carpet for U.S. President Donald Trump in Brussels Thursday, but the military alliance — which Trump has declared obsolete — has been busy repackaging its image and is ready to unveil a new headquarters worth 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion).

In recent months, member nations have strained to show they are ramp-

ing up defense spending as Trump has demanded. They agree with the chief of the alliance's most powerful member that NATO can do more to fight terrorism, but they say it can be achieved with more of the same; training and mentoring troops in Afghanistan, and equipping local forces in Iraq so they can better fight the Islamic State group themselves.

"They'll only talk about what he cares about, so really he should come out of this meeting feeling as though NATO responds to him," said Kristine Berzina, NATO analyst at the German Marshall Fund think tank. "At least that's the hope here."

Priest Among 14 Hostages Taken in Siege of Philippines City

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Muslim

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