



All 3 billion Yahoo accounts 'hacked' in 2013 data theft

Prankster, coughing fits mar Theresa May's speech

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LAS VEGAS: Investigators work at a festival ground across the street from the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Authorities said Stephen Craig Paddock broke windows on the casino and began firing with a cache of weapons, killing dozens and injuring hundreds at the music festival on Sunday. — AP

Gunman wired \$100,000 to partner in Philippines

Las Vegas gunman's girlfriend returns to US for questioning

LAS VEGAS: The Las Vegas gunman's girlfriend, back in the United States after a weeklong trip abroad, will be at the center of the investigation into the shooting deaths of 59 people as authorities try to determine why a man with no known record of violence or crime would open fire on a concert crowd from a high-rise hotel. Stephen Paddock's girlfriend Marilou Danley, 62, who was in the Philippines at the time of the shooting, was met by FBI agents at the airport in Los Angeles late Tuesday night, according to a law enforcement official.

The official wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, who has called Danley a "person of interest" in the attack, said that "we anticipate some information from her shortly," and said he is "absolutely" confident authorities will find out what set off Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and retired accountant who killed himself before police stormed his 32nd-floor room.

Danley first arrived in the Philippines on Sept 15, according to immigration documents there. She departed on Sept 22 then returned three days later on a flight from Hong Kong. She was traveling on an Australian passport. Philippines immigration bureau spokeswoman Antonette Mangrobang said authorities there had been working with US officials.

"From the very beginning, we have been providing them necessary information that would aid their investigation," Mangrobang said. Danley's Australia-based sisters say

they believe Paddock sent her away so she wouldn't interfere with his plans. Australia's Channel 7 TV network interviewed the sisters with their faces obscured and their names withheld. They said they believe their sister couldn't have known about his ideas. The woman said Danley is "a good person" who would've stopped Paddock had she been there.

One of the sisters, who live near Brisbane, Queensland, said they believed Marilou knew Paddock had guns, but not as many as he had. "She probably was even (more) shocked than us because she is more closer to him than us," her sister said. Paddock traveled at least twice to the Philippines, where his girlfriend was born, according to a Filipino official who was not authorized to discuss the trips publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Paddock visited the Philippines in 2013 and 2014, around his birthday, staying for five to six days on both occasions. There were no immediate details available about those trips, according to the official. Paddock transferred \$100,000 to the Philippines in the days before the shooting, a U.S. official briefed by law enforcement

but not authorized to speak publicly because of the continuing investigation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Investigators are still trying to trace that money and also looking into at least a dozen financial reports over the past several weeks that said Paddock gambled more than \$10,000 per day, the official said.

Psychological autopsy

As for what may have set Paddock off, retired FBI profiler Jim Clemente speculated that there was "some sort of major trigger in his life - a great loss, a breakup, or maybe he just found out he has a terminal disease." Clemente said a "psychological autopsy" may be necessary to try to establish the motive. If the suicide didn't destroy Paddock's brain, experts

may even find a neurological disorder or malformation, he said. He said there could be a genetic component to the slaughter: Paddock's father was a bank robber who was on the FBI's most-wanted list in the 1960s and was diagnosed a psychopath. "The genetics load the gun, personality and psychology aim it, and experiences pull the trigger, typically," Clemente said.

Paddock had a business degree from Cal State Northridge. In the 1970s and '80s, he worked as a mail carrier and an IRS agent and held down a job in an auditing division of the Defense Department, according to the government. He later worked for a defense contractor. He had no known criminal record, and public records showed no signs of financial troubles. Nevada's Gaming Control Board said it will pass along records compiled on Paddock and his girlfriend to investigators.

His brother, Eric Paddock, said he was at a loss to explain the massacre. "No affiliation, no religion, no politics. He never cared about any of that stuff," he said outside his Florida home. Eric Paddock said his brother did show a confrontational side at times: He apparently hated cigarette smoke so much that he carried around a cigar and blew smoke in people's faces when they lit up around him. Lombardo said the investigation is proceeding cautiously in case criminal charges are warranted against someone else. "This investigation is not ended with the demise of Mr. Paddock," the sheriff said. "Did this person get radicalized unbeknownst to us? And we want to identify that source." Yesterday, President Donald Trump is set to arrive in Las Vegas to meet with public officials, first responders and some of the 527 people injured in the attack. At least 45 patients at two hospitals remained in critical condition. All but three of the dead had been identified by Tuesday afternoon, Lombardo said. Some investigators turned their focus Tuesday from the shooter's perch to the festival grounds where his victims fell. — AP



Paddock's father was a bank robber on the FBI's most-wanted list

Tension mounts; Catalan leaders defy Spanish king

BARCELONA: Tension mounted in Spain yesterday after Catalonia's leader vowed that the region would declare independence within days, defying a stern warning from the country's king that national stability was in peril. The courts meanwhile placed Catalan police officials and pro-independence civil leaders under investigation for alleged "sedition" as Spain sank deeper into its worst political crisis in decades.

King Felipe VI branded the independence drive illegal and undemocratic, throwing his weight behind the national government. But Catalan leaders dug in, buoyed by anger at a violent police crackdown against voters during Sunday's referendum on independence which had been banned by Madrid and the courts. The Catalan government will "act at the end of this week or the beginning of next" to declare independence, its leader Carles Puigdemont told the BBC in an interview. He was scheduled to give a further televised address at 1900 GMT.

Independence declaration

The Catalan government's spokesman Jordi Turull said that regional authorities had "nearly finished counting the votes." The result will be submitted to the regional parliament

which will have two days "to proclaim the independence of Catalonia," he said in a television interview. The move would intensify the standoff with the central government, which along with the national courts has branded the referendum illegal.

Madrid has the power to suspend the semi-autonomous status that Catalonia currently enjoys under Spain's system of regional governments. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has yet to respond publicly to Sunday's vote, but the king's intervention could clear the way for him to act. "It is the responsibility of the legitimate state powers to ensure constitutional order," Felipe said. Hundreds of thousands of Catalans rallied in fury on Tuesday during a general strike over violence by Spanish riot police against voters taking part in the referendum on Sunday.

'Fuel to the fire'

Felipe's dramatic intervention late Tuesday was a gauge of tension in Spain. Catalan leaders "with their irresponsible conduct could put at risk the economic and social stability of Catalonia and all of Spain," he said. Felipe repeated his earlier calls for harmony between Spaniards. But after Sunday's violence, his address risked further fanning resentment in Catalonia. "It was awful. It was a mistake whichever way you look at it," Turull said of the king's speech. "Instead of calming things, what it did was throw fuel on the fire."

Catalan 'sedition' probe

Adding to tensions, a judge yesterday placed Catalonia's regional police chief Josep Luis Trapero and three other suspects under investigation for an alleged



BARCELONA: President of the Catalan parliament Carme Forcadell (center) attends a meeting with parliament representatives at the Parliament in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

"crime of sedition." The force has been accused of failing to rein in pro-independence protesters during disturbances in Barcelona last month.

Catalans split

A rich industrial region of 7.5 million people with their own language and cultural traditions, Catalonia accounts for a fifth of Spain's economy. Spain's key IBEX 35 stock index fell by 2.3 percent yesterday on the ongoing turbu-

lence, with some big Catalan banks down more than six percent. Catalan claims for independence date back centuries but have surged during recent years of economic crisis. Puigdemont's regional government claimed that 2.26 million people took part in the poll, or just over 42 percent of the electorate, but the vote was held without regular electoral lists or observers. The regional government said 90 percent of those who voted backed independence, although polls indicate Catalans are split. — AFP