



News Briefs

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GENERAL NEWS

After London Attack, Theresa May Finds Her Record on Terrorism Under Scrutiny After the briefest of pauses in electioneering, Prime Minister Theresa May of Britain found her record on security and terrorism under scrutiny on Monday, in the aftermath of a deadly attack in London over the weekend — the third serious terrorist episode in the country in three months.

Before she replaced David Cameron as prime minister last year, Mrs. May was responsible for security during a six-year tenure as home secretary, and opposition politicians are highlighting reductions in the number of police officers, including those who are armed, during her tenure. [New York Times, [6/5/2017](#)]

Trump renews attack on courts and says: 'I'm calling it a travel ban' In the aftermath of the London terror attack, Donald Trump on Monday returned the offensive over security and his attempted travel ban against people from six Muslim-majority countries.

“People,” the president tweeted, “the lawyers and the courts can call it whatever they want, but I am calling it what we need and what it is, a TRAVEL BAN!” [The Guardian, [6/5/2017](#)]

Oil dips as Qatar rift seen threat to output cuts, sterling firms Oil prices fell on Monday on concerns a diplomatic rift among some of the Arab world's major energy producers could weaken a global deal on output cuts, while sterling shrugged off a deadly attack in London and focused on this week's UK election. Wall Street looked likely to open down 0.1 percent, index futures showed, after falls on European bourses. [Reuters, [6/5/2017](#)]

The Struggle Over Sinjar: Who Wants the Territory, and Why It Matters The Iraqi town of Sinjar first became widely known in August 2014 thanks to an Islamic State (ISIS)-led genocide of much of its Yazidi population. But now, this remote area in northern Iraq is prominent for another reason. Although the territory is not rich in natural resources or population, geopolitically, it is invaluable. In fact, it is probably the most contested thousand square miles in the Middle East.



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Kurdistan and the Iraqi federal government both claim the territory. But on the ground, Shiite militias (or Popular Mobilization Units), ISIS militants fleeing Mosul, and different Kurdish groups are fighting over it. Meanwhile, from the air, Turkey is shelling the area. [Foreign Affairs, [6/4/2017](#)]

Defense Industry Campaign Contributions Threaten to Influence Senate Vote on Saudi Arms Deal American democracy is shackled by the influence of money in politics. One of the arenas where the problem manifests itself most acutely is in Congress on questions of defense industry appropriations and arms exports. In a book that describes an unusual success story in overcoming moneyed interests in Congress, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates wrote that the armed services and appropriations committees “were largely split not by party or ideology but, with a few exceptions, by the location of the pork.” As Gates and defense secretaries before him witnessed, Congress often voted for programs favoring defense facilities or contracts in members’ districts or states despite the Pentagon taking the strong position that the program was superfluous or wasteful. In his own words Gates was “more or less continuously outraged by the parochial self-interest of all but a very few members of Congress.” [Just Security, [6/5/2017](#)]

Morocco’s protesters show no sign of letting up. Will their movement spread? Demonstrations have been rocking northern Morocco after a popular protest leader, Nasser Zefzafi, was arrested following seven months of consistent protests in the Rif region. The protests have been largely contained because of defensive government messaging, but Zefzafi’s arrest may just be the beginning of a more protracted social conflict in the country.

The protests started on October 2016 after a 31-year-old Moroccan fisherman was killed trying to stop local policemen from confiscating his goods. The gruesome death of the young man, who was crushed in the back of a garbage truck as he was trying to stop the destruction of his merchandise, resonated strongly with the inhabitants of the Rif region, a mountainous and traditionally neglected part of northern Morocco. Centered in small cities with high unemployment rates, protesters mobilized through social media and took to the streets to express a wide range of demands, ranging from social and economic rights to cultural and political ones. [Washington Post, [6/5/2017](#)]

Conway: I won't allow media to blame Trump after London attack Criticism directed at President Donald Trump over his flurry of Twitter activity related to the London terrorist attack over the weekend is misguided, counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway said Monday morning, the result of a press that she suggested is eagerly critical of Trump even amid more pressing situations.



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The media, Conway said, has “this obsession with covering everything he says on Twitter and very little of what he does as president.” Conway blamed that obsession for the uproar that began over the weekend when Trump hurled a political attack across the Atlantic, writing online that there had been “at least 7 dead and 48 wounded in terror attack and Mayor of London says there is ‘no reason to be alarmed!’” [Politico, [6/5/2017](#)]

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Senate meets at 3 p.m. today with a 5:30 p.m. vote on a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. The House is out until Tuesday.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

10 a.m.: President Donald Trump will receive his daily intelligence briefing in the Oval Office.

11:30 a.m.: Trump will announce his Air Traffic Control Reform Initiative in the East Room.

12:30 pm.: Trump will have lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in the presidential dining room.

5:30 p.m.: Trump and First Lady Melania Trump will host a reception for Gold Star Families at the White House.