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Happy 100th birthday Soller tram

The Soller tram celebrated its 100th birthday in style last night. Guests included Balearic President Jose Ramon Bauza. Full report in tomorrow's newspaper. Photos: Rachel Fox.

Balearic government recruits more English teachers

Palma.—The Balearic government announced plans yesterday to recruit an additional 134 English-speaking teaching assistants as teachers decided to abandon their strike action temporarily last night.

The plan will cost almost one million euros. In some ways it could be seen as a victory for the teachers who went on strike

a month ago because they claimed that they did not have the necessary resources or skills to introduce the government's new three language learning system in English, Spanish and Catalan.

Last night teachers decided to temporarily abandon their strike action but further protests may take place.

- Teachers have decided to suspend their strike action temporarily but are not ruling out further action.
- Additional 134 English language teaching assistants to be recruited from Britain, the U.S., Canada and Australia.
- See Page 3 and 4



● Tara Mearasheimer works as an auxiliary English teacher in Majorca and is loving the experience. She will soon be joined by many more teachers of this type, according to government plans: See Interview Inside.

Spain's bad bank close to big land sale

Madrid.—Spain's "bad bank" is about to start its biggest sale so far of land taken over from bailed-out lenders, as property prices in some of the countries worst hit by the euro zone crisis show signs of recovery.

The Sareb agency, set up to cleanse troubled Spanish banks of real estate holdings that went sour in the crisis, is taking advantage of growing interest from professional investors to catch up from a slow first six months of operations.

The government-backed vehicle, known by its Spanish acronym, aims to put a package of about 80 plots of developed land up for auction, according to a source familiar with the matter.

350 million

Sareb values the portfolio at around 350 million euros (\$477 million), which will be the starting point for price talks, the source said, adding: «It is close to coming onto the market, likely in the coming days.

»Sareb declined to comment. But one private equity investor said: «It's got the market excited in that they are going to set the floor on a lot of asset classes.»