

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Sterling sinks on inflation figures

London.—Sterling skidded to its weakest since November 2013 against the dollar yesterday, after a sharp slowdown in UK inflation prompted traders to push back expectations of when interest rates will rise well into 2015. UK consumer prices (CPI) rose by a just 1.2 percent on the year in September, down from 1.5 percent in August and below a consensus forecast of 1.4 percent. Core inflation -- which excludes volatile food and energy prices -- slid to a five-year low.

The Bank of England has said that any rises in interest rates from their historic lows will be dependent on economic data, with inflation and wage growth crucial.

Sterling overnight interbank average rates -- the short-term interest rates which form the basis of lending costs to the wider economy -- pushed back bets to price in the chance of a rate increase in eight months' time, compared with six months' time before the data was released.

Magalluf bonfire night

● New health and safety measures put an end to popular event.

CANCELLED



Calvia.— Mallorca Cricket Club announced last night that their annual Bonfire Night Fiesta at the club ground on the outskirts of Magalluf has been cancelled.

The popular Bonfire Night community event was scheduled for Saturday 1st November, but because of unforeseen and difficult circumstances, the club management committee had no option other than to cancel the event.

As Bonfire Night at the Cricket Club has grown in size over its 20 year history, the very success of this unique event, has meant that the club has worked long and hard to try and stay in line with health and safety and crowd management protocols. With event partners Globo

Events and supporters Calvia Council the club have managed to satisfy stringent safety regulations successfully in the past. However, since February of this year Central Government in Madrid has tightened the rules of 'engagement' considerably on major public events that attract crowds of over three thousand people.

Add to this fact, Bonfire Night by definition has both fires and fireworks and these rules have become almost impossible for a small community cricket club to deal with, or manage satisfactorily.

The club were advised only last Thursday that a certain number of new 'measures' would have to be put in place before they would be allowed the proper certification to

be granted. In a statement last night the club said: "we could not comply with all of these rulings and given the huge costs of these "improvements" if implemented, it would be almost impossible to the club to financially 'break even' on this once a year family event. Indeed, if the weather should be against us over that weekend, it could be ruinous for the club given all the extra measures that would be needed for Bonfire Night to go ahead. Over the years we have prided ourselves on the fact that we have always kept entry prices low so that Bonfire Night was genuinely a family night out."

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PROTEST BY HEALTH WORKERS

Spanish nurse with Ebola slightly better, doctors say

● The Spanish nurse with Ebola, the first person to contract the disease outside West Africa, is slightly better, doctors said yesterday, and she remains the only known case in the country.

Teresa Romero's contracting of the disease in Spain sparked an outcry over how that happened in a high-security ward while the 44-year-old was treating two Ebola-infected priests who had been repatriated to Spain.

Health workers' unions have also protested about the political response to the infection and say the government

has tried to pass blame for the incident onto the nurse.

One of the doctors treating Romero in the Madrid hospital where 15 others are under observation for Ebola symptoms, Mar Lago, said, "Every day that passes is in our favour." "The only case we have in Spain is Teresa. She is the only one who can infect and that's not possible because she is isolated," she said, noting that Romero's condition remained grave. The number of Ebola cases in West Africa will exceed 9,000 this week and the epidemic is still spreading in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the World Health Organisation says. A group of nurses outside the Carlos III hospital yesterday, bearing placards saying "Everyone with Teresa", called for better systems in hospitals to prevent infection.

CATALONIA RERENDUM ABANDONED

The vote is off

● Catalonia has dropped plans to hold a referendum on independence from Spain next month but will instead hold a "consultation of citizens", the region's head said.

The Spanish government last month asked the constitutional court to declare the referendum planned for Nov. 9 illegal on the grounds that it breached the constitution. The court suspended the vote until it ruled on the case, which could take years.

Catalan regional president Artur Mas said the referendum would not now go ahead but a "consultation of citizens" will take place on that day.