

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Raining on the big music parade

Heavy rain fell across Palma yesterday ahead of the free concerts which were due to take place last night. It was a pity but organisers said that the show would go on.

## Catalan leaders hope for election boost

Madrid.—Catalonian leaders are hoping that a regional election in September will keep alive a fading independence drive and force the hand of Spain's central government - but the move could also backfire. The long push for independence from Spain, which gathered strength during the economic crisis of recent years, is a big headache for Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who has taken a hard line on such ambitions. Catalonia defied Madrid and went

ahead with a symbolic vote on independence last November. The outcome, however, was mixed -- about 80 percent of the 2.2 million people who voted backed secession but the turnout was little more than 40 percent. With a general election due in Spain by the end of the year, the Catalan parliamentary vote, called this week by regional President Artur Mas for 27 Sept, should force the issue to the fore of the national campaigns.

# One million new jobs in Spain in two years, says PM

Madrid.—Spain will have created around 1 million jobs in two years by the end of 2015, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said in an interview published on Sunday, more than initially predicted by the government, which is banking on a growing economic recovery.

Efforts to combat Spain's sky high unemployment rate - at 23.7 percent, the second-highest in Europe after Greece - will be a cornerstone of political campaigning this year as a general election approaches.

The Spanish government had originally forecast about 800,000 more people would find work in 2014 and 2015. Rajoy maintained the economy would grow by 2 percent this year, as previously predicted, but said there would be 550,000 to 600,000 more people in work and paying in to social security in

2015. Official data from December showed there were 417,574 more workers paying into the social security system than a year earlier.

"Therefore ... that's close to a million more (people paying into the social security system) in these two years," Rajoy said in an interview with news agency Efe, published by Spanish media on Sunday.

Spaniards are due to vote in a new government by year-end. Rajoy's centre-right People's Party (PP) had said it would end its term with an unemployment rate below 23 percent, the level it stood at when it came to power in late 2011.

But this rate soared to as much as 27 percent in an ensuing financial crisis and another year and a half of recession, and even now is only dropping slowly.



**Bulletin readers help cheer Mallorca to victory**

Scores of Bulletin readers helped cheer Real Mallorca to victory on Sunday as a new era got underway at the club under new Chairman Utz Claassen. See Page 13 and match report on Page 32.