

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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CAR FOCUS: Inside

Catalan parties start independence roadmap, Rajoy fury

CATALAN separatists launched their so-called roadmap for independence yesterday, offering a declaration in the regional parliament to split Catalonia from Spain, which Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has vowed to block. The local assembly is expected to approve the dec-

laration by 9 November. According to the secessionist plan, it will be followed by a constituent process that will lead to full independence within 18 months, Spain's constitution does not allow any region to break away, so the prospect remains highly hypothetical. In a short televised statement, Rajoy said he and

his government would ensure the declaration has no effect. "The state may use any available judicial and political mechanism contained in the constitution and in the laws to defend the sovereignty of the Spanish people and of the general interest of Spain," Rajoy said. "Those who want to divide and split

Catalonia from Spain must know that they will not succeed." Pro-independence parties last month won a majority of seats in Catalonia's parliament. That election set the region on a collision course with Spain's central government over independence, less than two months before a general election.

Farewell *Island Escape*



The *Island Escape* cruise ship, which has been based in Palma for many years, bowed out of service yesterday after a long career. Thomson Holidays have announced that she will be replaced by a new ship for next summer. During her years of service she has taken thousands of people on cruises.

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