

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, December 30 2015

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In your *Bulletin*
tomorrow. A review
of the year in
Majorca and the top
restaurants of 2015.

Full What's On Guide of
local events: **Inside**

British travel agents praise “new look Magalluf”

● Association of British Travel Agents underline the changing face of the resort and all the

investment which has taken place in their annual report.

● See Page Three Inside.



Troops to the rescue in flood-hit areas.

Insurers face bumper payouts as Britain braces for more floods

INSURERS are facing some of the costliest British floods on record as large parts of northern England, already inundated, brace for more heavy rain. Accountants estimate that insurers are currently facing a bill of up to 1.5 billion pounds (\$2.22 billion) after towns, cities and countryside were deluged in recent days in the worst floods in Britain since 2007. However the damage looks set to rise with a storm forecast for last night and today.

“With more storms on the way it could get towards as large as anything that we’ve had in recent history, certainly in terms of insured loss,” said Simon Waller, managing director at JBA Risk Man-

agement, which assesses flood risk for companies and governments globally.

Around 6,700 properties have been damaged so far according to the Environment Agency, with accountancy firm KPMG estimating the total economic impact of the floods will be more than 5 billion pounds.

Typical flood insurance claims tend to be around 30,000 pounds though can often run as high as 130,000 pounds, JBA said. But the outlook for more rain, along with difficulties accessing some of the affected areas, mean most insurers say they cannot yet provide detailed estimates on the scale of the claims they are facing.

Rajoy appeals for alliance

SPAIN’S acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy yesterday renewed his overtures to political rivals after an inconclusive election, urging them to back a government that would defend Spanish unity in the face of a Catalan independence drive. Rajoy, whose centre-right People’s Party (PP) won the most seats in the 20 December ballot but well far short of a majority, also said that another general election would be undesirable. If it came to that, he would want to lead his party into it once again, he said.

Rajoy did not mention his Socialist opponents or centrist Ciudadanos by name in his appeal for a “broad-based, consensus government”. But he called for parties which share its stance on issues such as Spanish unity to come together, in a nod to these rivals.

Divides over whether or not Catalonia, a wealthy northeastern region, should be allowed a referendum on independence have become a stumbling block as political parties vie to form a government. The Socialist Party (PSOE) on Tuesday reiterated it would in no way back a government led by the PP or Rajoy.

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