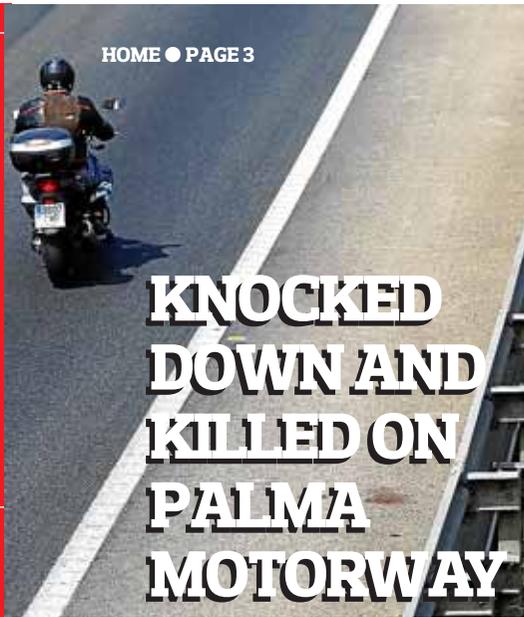


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KNOCKED DOWN AND KILLED ON PALMA MOTORWAY



WORLD ● PAGE 10 OSBORNE ISSUES STARK WARNING ABOUT LEAVING THE EU

PODEMOS REJECT COALITION DEAL

Members of Spanish anti-austerity party Podemos have rejected joining an alliance with the left-wing Socialists that includes centrist Ciudadanos, increasing the chances of a June re-run after an inconclusive national election in December. Nearly 90 percent of Podemos ("We Can") members voted against a government based on a pact between the Socialists and Ciudadanos ("Citizens"), results released yesterday showed.



Instead Podemos overwhelmingly supported its leader Pablo Iglesias' call to form a leftist-only alliance, which would cut out Ciudadanos. That route has been shunned by the Socialists. Spain's four big parties are running out of time to form an alliance. A failure to get enough support to agree on a new prime minister by 2 May would trigger another

election. Neither Podemos, Ciudadanos, the Socialists nor the centre-right Partido Popular (PP), which won the most votes in the 20 December vote, have enough seats to form a government alone. Support from Podemos was vital for Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez (pictured) to get his deal with Ciuda-

danos done after he failed in a parliamentary vote in March to win over rival parties. Other options to form a government look equally unpromising, with the only workable two-way alliance, between traditional rivals the PP and the Socialists, further undermined by clashes between their respective party leaders. The stalemate has yet to fully derail Spain's economic recovery from a deep recession, with activity broadly holding up in the first three months of the year. But the central bank and analysts have warned that a more prolonged deadlock would take its toll at a time when the country is still suffering from more than 20 percent unemployment and is struggling to rein in its budget deficit. Most major opinion polls

show a new election would do little to fix the situation and would instead replicate the fragmented result after newer parties such as Podemos and Ciudadanos made big inroads for the first time last year. King Felipe is due to hold last-ditch talks with political leaders next week to try to resolve the impasse.

India says Queen should keep her crown jewel

WORLD. India should relinquish its claim to a huge diamond that it has fought for decades to get back from the British, the government told the Supreme Court yesterday, because the stone was given to its former colonial ruler rather than stolen. One of the world's largest diamonds, the 105-carat Koh-i-Noor has been part of the British crown jewels for 150 years and today forms part of Queen Elizabeth II's crown. The stone has been at the centre of a long-running diplomatic row, with many Indians demanding Britain return the diamond to atone for its colonial past. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government yesterday told India's Supreme Court that it should forgo its claims to the jewel because it was in fact given to the British as a gift by an Indian King, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, in 1851. "It was neither stolen nor

forcibly taken away," solicitor general Ranjit Kumar told the Supreme Court during the hearing of a case calling for the stone's return. The Koh-i-Noor, on display in the Tower of London, is set in the crown worn by the current Queen Elizabeth during her coronation in 1953. The Duchess of Cambridge, who last week visited India with her husband, Prince William, will wear the crown on official occasions when she becomes queen consort. During a visit to India in 2010, Prime Minister David Cameron said that the diamond would stay in London. "What tends to happen with these questions is that if you say yes to one, then you would suddenly find the British Museum empty," he said. Indian campaigners believe the diamond is one of many artefacts taken from India by the British during colonial rule.

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