

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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**ALL
YESTERDAY'S
SPORTING
ACTION AND
REAL
MALLORCA
PREVIEW:
PAGES 34–40**

Socialists torn over government vote today

● Today Spain's main opposition Socialist Party will make one of the most difficult decisions in its history.

It will choose whether or not to abstain in an upcoming parliamentary vote which could allow their traditional conservative rivals to govern.

If the Socialists vote "no" in the investiture, they will essentially drag Spain into a third round of national elections in less than two years.

The country has been without an agreed government since December 2015 and has until 31 October to form an administration.

If not, Spanish voters will be forced to go the polls again this December.

After months of political chess, the burden has fallen squarely on the center-left Socialist Party to make the compromise.

Currently, the Socialist Party, like Spain itself, is in the hands of a caretaker administration.

The party's former leader, Pedro Sanchez, stepped down earlier this month after a party "coup." Several high-level committee members suddenly quit in protest at his stance on a firm "no" to a conser-

vative-led government. The mass resignations forced a chaotic meeting in which Sanchez failed to win the support of the majority of the Socialists' ruling body, forcing him to finally step aside.

Sanchez, now returned from a California vacation, will attend the party's executive committee meeting today.

Most Socialist voters back Sanchez and do not want to see the centre right Partido Popular in power. A recent poll conducted for Spanish television channel La Sexta found 71 percent of Socialists preferred third elections to a government led by caretaker PP Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

Although the move to abstain is likely to alienate many Socialist voters, the other argument is that yet more elections would probably be disastrous for the flailing party.

They have seen increasingly poor election results and may lose even more seats to Rajoy or the more left-wing Podemos party.

Proponents of abstention argue it would be better for the country to have an agreed government, regardless of who leads it.



Carey Mulligan protesting yesterday. PHOTO: WILL OLIVER

UK must lead the way over Syria war children

WORLD. Britain can lead the way in efforts to address the plight of children caught up in the Syrian conflict, actress Carey Mulligan said yesterday.

Hundreds of people gathered in Whitehall, central London, in a rally calling for the UK Government to take decisive action to end the bloodshed in the war-ravaged country.

The crowd included children wearing "Save Aleppo" t-shirts and other people carrying placards urging a "No bomb zone now", while some flew Syrian flags.

Mulligan joined the demonstration just opposite the gates to Downing Street, where teddy bears were later laid in a poignant message from campaigners

about the human cost of the long-running conflict.

A small light brown-coloured teddy belonging to *The Great Gatsby* star's one-year-old daughter Evelyn was among the pile, and the actress told how becoming a parent has motivated her further to raise awareness and try to help.

She said: "I brought one of my daughter's teddy bears here today and ever since having my child - I've worked with War Child for a couple of years now - but since having my daughter it just drives home even more how unimaginable it would be for my daughter to be in any of these situations and to have to deal with any of this. It just really drives me to speak out and do more if I can."



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