

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## African migrants cross border fence into Spanish enclave of Ceuta

**H**UNDREDS of sub-Saharan African migrants forced their way yesterday morning over a barbed-wire fence into Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta, which borders Morocco.

Television footage showed migrants perched on the top of the fence as they tried to get over. Several people were injured after storming the barrier, emergency services said.

Over 800 migrants attempted to cross into Spain with a little over half successful and taken to a temporary migrant detention centre to await their legal status in Spain, the government said.

Spain's two enclaves in Morocco, Ceuta and Melilla, are often used as entry points into Europe for African migrants, who either climb over their border fences or attempt a dangerous swim along the coastline.

Some also try to cross from Morocco into mainland southern Spain by boat, despite tighter controls in recent years by the two countries which has diminished the number of those attempting this route.

Four African migrants drowned and 34 were rescued on Wednesday off the coast of Morocco when their boat sank, though it was unclear whether they were heading to Spain or to one of the two Spanish North African enclaves. Libya has become a more common departure point for African migrants, most from sub-Saharan countries, who attempt the crossing to Italy.

An estimated 4,663 migrants have died in the Mediterranean this year, while a record number of migrants - 171,299 as of 28 Nov. - have reached Italy by boat from North Africa in 2016.



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**TODAY COUPON**

# Spain's Rajoy says less austerity needed to fight off populism



London.— Europe's political mainstream needs to tone down its austerity drive and focus more on growth if it wants to fight off the populist movements spreading across the continent, Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy told the *Wall Street Journal* yesterday.

"The most important objective across Europe is to achieve economic growth and employment," said Rajoy, one of a handful of in-

cumbent leaders to have ridden out the tide of left- and right-wing populism that is shaking up European politics.

Now in his second term of office at the head of a minority government, Rajoy adopted austerity-focused economic policies during his first term between 2011 and 2015, when Spain emerged from a deep recession. Calling the Italian situation "a mess" days after Matteo

Renzi resigned as prime minister, Rajoy said traditional parties in France and Germany were however likely to have the upper hand against rising anti-establishment movements when the two countries go to the polls next year.

"If traditional political parties defend themselves with the same energy and good arguments as opponents of the system do, then things will stabilise," he said.

## Parliament to consider sending more military to Iraq

**S**PAIN'S parliament will decide whether to send an extra 125 soldiers to assist in the fight against Islamic State in Iraq, where they have provided training to local troops, the Defense Min-

istry said yesterday. The additional troops would put the total number of Spanish forces in Iraq at 425, and would lend further logistical support in bomb detection. Spanish troops would not be taking part in any ground op-

erations. Spain's parliament agreed unanimously to send 300 military personnel in 2014, when prime minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative People's Party (PP) had a majority in parliament. He is now at the helm of a mi-

nority government, meaning he will need support from opposition lawmakers in a highly fragmented lower house, though the second-place Socialist party voted in favour of sending troops two years ago.