

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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In your *Bulletin* tomorrow: Our 16 page tournament special:

## GOLF SPECIAL

Bulletin golf tournament gets underway this morning at the Camp de Mar course with some top prizes on offer and plenty more.

● This is the fourth edition of the popular tournament which welcomes players of all nationalities.



SIGNIFICANT DROP IN JOBLESS RATE ACROSS THE BALEARICS: SEE PAGE THREE INSIDE

# Top Spanish banker starts jail term

**F**ormer International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Rodrigo Rato arrived at a Madrid prison yesterday to start a four-and-a-half year jail term for using company credit cards to make costly personal purchases while running state-owned lender Bankia.

Rato, who was economy minister in Spain and a prominent figure in the ruling People's Party (PP) before moving to the IMF, chaired Bankia for two years until just before its state bailout in 2012.

Spain's High Court ruled in 2017 that Rato was responsible for over-

seeing the misuse of credit cards at the bank, which involved 64 former Bankia executives, including Rato.

Corporate credit cards were used to buy jewels, holidays and expensive clothes, as well as more mundane everyday personal purchases. In total, prosecutors investigated some 12 million euros in spending between 2003 and 2012.

Carrying two suitcases and dressed in jeans, a grey shirt and a blue sleeveless jacket, Rato thanked family and friends for their support during the legal process against him before entering the Soto del Real prison on the outskirts of Madrid.

## ROYAL ULTIMA HORA AWARD IN PALMA



King Felipe of Spain receives the *Ultima Hora Siurell* from Carmen Serra, President of the Grup Serra which publishes the *Bulletin*, during the celebrations to mark the 125th birthday of our stablemate newspaper. Page 5

## Spain's Supreme Court sends Catalan independence leaders to trial

● Spain's Supreme Court yesterday said it had ended its investigation against 18 Catalan independence leaders who will now face trial, likely at the beginning of next year.

The prosecutor now has five working days to press charges related to an illegal push for independence of the north eastern region of Catalonia in 2017.

Nine of those leaders are currently held in prison in Spain ahead of the trial and are expected to be tried for rebellion, which carries a potential sentence of up to 30 years in jail.

The other nine, who have been released on bail or went into self-imposed exile, face charges ranging from rebellion to misuse of public funds and disobedience.

## Tongan princess greets Harry and Meghan in South Pacific nation: Inside

