

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, February 6 2019

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.16816 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011



## Kate shares family photo: Inside



# SCOOTER SAFETY FEARS

● A study has found that seven out of ten Spaniards believe that electric scooters pose a safety risk. See Full Report on Page Five Inside.

## Still time for Brexit solution, says Chancellor Merkel

London.— There is still time to find a solution to the impasse on Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Japan yesterday.

Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal was rejected by parliament last month and she is

trying to persuade the EU to accept changes to the agreement before the 29 March deadline for departure.

"From a political point of view, there is still time," Merkel told an economic conference in Tokyo.

"That should be used, used by

all sides. But for this it would be very important to know what exactly the British side envisages in terms of its relationship with the EU," she said.

Acknowledging that the tight timeframe was difficult for businesses desperate for certainty given "just-in-time" production

systems, Merkel said the "special" problem was the Irish border and the backstop agreement.

"It should be humanly possible to find a solution to such a precise problem. But this depends ... on the kind of trade deal that we forge with each other," she said. **See Inside**

## Catalans say to block Spain budget bill, pressuring Socialists

Catalan pro-independence parties said yesterday they would file parliamentary amendments opposing the Spanish government's 2019 budget proposal, potentially putting at risk the budget and the administration of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez' Socialists.

Sanchez' minority Socialist government came to power last June and holds just a quarter of the seats in parliament, meaning it relies on the backing of anti-austerity Podemos, Catalan nationalists and other small parties to pass laws.

The two Catalan parties, ERC and PDeCAT, said they would file full parliamentary amendments against the budget proposal, which faces its first vote next week, unless Sanchez is open to some of their political demands.

Under Spanish parliamentary procedure, such amendments can block the entire budget bill.

Failure by parliament to approve the government's 2019 budget bill could prompt a snap election before the next scheduled vote in 2020.