

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, January 29 2020

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.17138 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A,
Palma 07011



**Famous Palma
restaurant to close
its doors: Page 9**



**Pa amb oli world
championships
in Palma: Inside**

● “Mallorca Cricket Club is proud to announce that the annual Balearic Cup inter-island cricket competition will be held in Majorca this year, **after a break of four years.** It will be the first competitive cricket match held in Majorca in that time. **The ground is in Cala Millor.** The long term view is that we could have visiting teams over to play cricket for the ‘back-end’ of this year, followed by a **full season of fixture bookings in 2021.**”



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Back to the crease for Mallorca Cricket Club

Catalonia's Puigdemont appeals for help to repay costs of banned referendum, 4.1 million euros is needed

Barcelona.—Catalonia's former leader Carles Puigdemont asked pro-independence supporters yesterday to donate money after Spanish authorities ordered him and 19 others to pay back 4.1 million euros of public money spent on a banned independence referendum.

On Oct. 1, 2017, the restive northeastern region organised a secession vote declared illegal by Spanish courts. Its leaders then made a short-lived declaration of independence. Puigdemont later fled to Belgium, while other top separatists were jailed. “If you voted on Oct. 1, we need

you,” Puigdemont said in a post on his Twitter account, with a link to a bank account.

Puigdemont, who is now a member of the European Parliament and still lives in exile in Belgium, said Spain's top public auditors' office had given him and other separatist politicians 15 days to refund the money before their assets could be seized. The auditors' office, which oversees spending by Spain's political parties and within the public sector - could not immediately confirm the information. Puigdemont's appeal for cash comes at a sensitive time,

with Madrid and Barcelona planning talks on Catalonia's future.

Earlier yesterday, six jailed separatist leaders were briefly released from prison under heavy police protection to testify in the Catalan parliament, as hundreds of supporters chanted “Independence” and “Freedom for political prisoners”. It was the first time the six had left prison since they were sentenced to lengthy terms over the independence bid.

One of the six, Oriol Junqueras, told an investigative committee of the Catalan parliament he was confident the region would

eventually vote again on independence.

“A self-determination referendum is a normal thing. We want to exercise it again and we will exercise it again,” Junqueras, a former deputy regional leader, said in his testimony.

“We are not afraid, we never were and we are even less so now,” he said.

Junqueras said the planned talks between the Socialist-led Spanish government in Madrid and the pro-independence regional government in Barcelona were a “step forward”, though he was sceptical about their chances for success.