

**YOUR FULL FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST:** SEE INSIDE

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Spanish government eyes deal to pass first proper budget since 2016

**S**pain's minority coalition government is increasingly hopeful parliament will approve the first full-year budget since 2016, with the centre-right opposition Ciudadanos likely to back the 2021 post-pandemic recovery plan, two government sources said.

A long period of political instability up until early 2020 when the leftist government took over meant that Spain had to roll over its budgets for most of the past four years, all but preventing public investment.

The last spending plan approved by parliament in mid-2018 only applied to the sec-

ond half of that year. "It is urgent, it is necessary, to approve a new budget," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in a radio interview on Tuesday, adding that the old plan lacked tools to deal with the health emergency and deliver the 140 billion euros in EU recovery grants and loans to the sectors where they are needed.

The two government sources said they were optimistic that the 2021 budget bill would be approved this autumn, calling Ciudadanos "very open" to negotiation and not ruling out some budgeting to its demands on the tax front.

# THOSE WHO BREAK CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS FACE A YEAR IN PRISON

● The Prosecutor's Office is asking that those caught breaching the State of Emergency be jailed for up to one year. More than a dozen people went to

preventive detention in March and April for violating quarantine. Those cases are being processed in the courts and some have already begun proceedings. Inside.



## Back to school headache: Inside

## Facebook says Russian influence campaign targeted left-wing voters in US, UK

**A**Russian influence operation posed as an independent news outlet to target left-wing voters in the United States and Britain, including by recruiting freelance journalists to write about domestic politics, Facebook said yesterday.

Facebook Inc said the operation - which partly focused on U.S. politics and racial tensions in the run-up to the Nov. 3 presidential election - centred around a pseudo media organisation called Peace Data.

The website operated 13 Facebook accounts and two pages, which were set up in May and suspended on Monday for using fake identities and other forms of "coordinated inauthentic behaviour," the company said. Facebook said its investigation "found links to individuals associated with past activity by the Russian Internet Research Agency", a St Petersburg-based company which U.S. intelligence officials say was central to Russian efforts to sway the 2016 presidential election.

Twitter said it had also suspended five accounts as part of the operation which it could "reliably attribute to Russian state actors."