

Mallorca Bulletin

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Fears over new blackout

Madrid.—Spanish power grid operator REE did not have enough conventional plants in its energy mix planning, creating risks that may have led to the nationwide blackout on April 28 last year, the CEO of utility Endesa told a Senate hearing yesterday.

Jose Bargas said that Endesa's power plants complied with rules and did not disconnect improperly that day, adding that another blackout was possible under similar conditions.

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A woman takes a photograph of the waves which battered Santa Ponsa yesterday as a result of the high winds. PHOTO: JOAN LLADO.

WIND RED ALERT

Palma.—Swathes of Spain and Portugal were on high alert yesterday as heavy rain and strong winds battered the Iberian peninsula, felling trees, disrupting transport and forcing the closure of schools in some areas.

One person was in a serious condition after being struck by a falling tree in the northeastern Spanish re-

gion of Catalonia in the latest storms to hit the region in the past few weeks. Part of the A1 motorway between Portugal's north and south collapsed on Wednesday night near the medieval city of Coimbra after a levee broke underneath. A red alert - the highest level - was declared in the northern Spanish regions of Galicia, Cantab-

ria and the Basque Country after the arrival on Wednesday of Nils, the eighth storm to hit Spain this year. Weather agency AEMET warned of waves up to nine metres (30 feet) high.

Authorities in Catalonia suspended classes and sporting events and restricted non-essential healthcare services as wind gusts of

CARNIVAL TIME



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