

Mallorca Bulletin

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How Mallorca played a key role in new Douglas book:
See Inside

Police clear Spain beach

Madrid.— Spanish police cleared a migrant camp on a beach in the North African enclave of Ceuta, where tens of thousands crossed the border from Morocco over two months ago, the Spanish government said. More than 72,000 crossed the border from Morocco into Ceuta in late July. While most of the migrants later went back, at least 10,000 remain in the Spanish enclave in North Africa, straining local resources and fueling tensions.

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SPAIN ELECTION ON THE HOME FRONT

Madrid.—Spain's snap election will revolve around an issue which has topped voters' list of concerns for three years straight but, until a fortnight ago, failed to dominate the political debate: housing.

It was the attempted eviction of 87-year-old Maricarmen Abascal in central Madrid last month after her building was bought by a real estate firm that

upended the country's politics. Her case triggered nationwide protests and catapulted the issue to the top of the agenda, even overshadowing immigration which had dominated headlines for weeks following a mass migrant crossing in Ceuta.

Spain's housing shortage shares patterns with others across Europe: complex bureaucracy and labour shortages

stalling supply, proliferating short-term rentals and high demand in urban centres pushing up prices, and rural areas hollowing out.

From Ireland's 2024 election to Berlin's recent mayoral race, the topic has particularly galvanised young voters across the region tired of spending a rising proportion of their incomes on rent.

Yet how to resolve the crisis in

Spain is a matter of bitter debate.

Housing plans proposed by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's Socialist government in Parliament last Friday were struck down by rightwing MPs who argued the measures - ranging from rent caps to limits on purchasing real estate for corporate entities - would worsen the problem by choking supply.