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# CATALONIA TODAY

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**DEMOCRATS ON BEST BEHAVIOUR FOR CONVENTION**

NEWS, 5



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## Study shows 81% of Catalan drivers ignore speed limits

*RACC survey shows both drivers and pedestrians take too many risks*

**OPINION, 6**

*How to defeat Labour with a Tory leader*

**FREDERIC BARBERÀ**

### State of alert as heatwave sparks forest fires across country

Catalonia is on forest fire alert after a weekend of blazes throughout Spain, France and Portugal. The Empordà and Terres de l'Ebre regions are at highest risk. It was these areas that witnessed the worst of last summer's fires during the unprecedented heat wave that spread across Spain and all of Europe. Citizens are urged to be especially vigilant. The worst of the fires this past weekend is thought to have been started by a cigarette. A fleet of fire engines and seven aircraft had to be deployed before the blaze was brought under control. / Continued on page 3



A helicopter tries to douse a fire in the Reus area yesterday after a weekend of fires in northern Catalonia / JUDIT FERNÁNDEZ

**CULTURE, 11**

*Rock museum for Catalonia*



TEATRE POLIORAMA  
from the 20th of July to the 08 of August

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### Santander Central Hispano strikes deal for UK's Abbey National

The Spanish Santander Central Hispano bank struck Europe's largest cross-border bank takeover yesterday when it agreed to buy Britain's Abbey National for about 15.1 billion dollars. The deal gives Santander the largest consumer credit market in Europe as Abbey is the UK's second biggest mortgage lender with 741 branches and 18 million customers. "Abbey's leading position in the UK mortgage market

combined with its strong distribution network, represents for Santander and Abbey shareholders a value-creating opportunity", said Santander chairman Emilio Botín. In order to make the deal a profitable one, Santander plans to do a lot of cost-cutting at Abbey, which has been losing money for some time. "This is not a great business they are taking over," said one London financial expert. See page 10

### Hoteliers warned against price war with emerging countries

Hoteliers should not get involved in a price war with emerging countries such as Turkey and Egypt, according to Raimon Martínez Fraile, the secretary-general for tourism in Madrid. Martínez said: "What we have to offer is the best in the world and if we get involved in a price war with Turkey we are going to lose." Hoteliers needed to improve their management and above all their market-

ing. To get more business they needed to become less dependent on tour operators, he said, recognising the growing number of tourists who book their holidays independently via the internet. "We have to increase the range of what we have to offer and to offer things that other countries cannot. For example, we are a safe country and at ten o'clock at night you can go out for a stroll without worrying." See page 7

TEATRE VICTÒRIA

**Ballet flamenco Juan de Juan**

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"Speed kills" is the stark message in a study by the RACC and city of Barcelona which reveals that 81 percent of Catalans exceed the limit in urban areas / RITALAMSDORFF

## Disregard for speed limits boosts rate of fatal accidents in cities

*Study points to direct relationship between excessive speed and road deaths*

### AGENCIES/MADELEINE SHEAHAN

Most Catalan drivers have no regard for speed limits, according to a study carried out by the RACC and the Barcelona city council. Speed limits within cities are ignored by 81 per cent of the participants, which translates to 1.4 million drivers.

The study highlights the relationship between speeding and both traffic accidents and incidents of pe-

destrians being knocked down. If a car travelling at 30kph collides with a pedestrian, the risk of fatality is less than five per cent. This rises to 45 per cent at 50kph and almost 100 per cent at 80kph.

The study also found that, while Catalans claim to be careful pedestrians, some 27 per cent admit to crossing roads without using the pedestrian crossings. Using zebra

crossing reduces the risk of being knocked down by 35 per cent.

In a separate and Spain-wide study, the RACC has collaborated with INTRAS (University Institute of Road Traffic and Safety) to analyse the behaviour of Spanish drivers. It has come up with 75 specific behaviours that fall under the categories of: lapses; errors; rule-breaking; and aggression. From these it

has produced a set of ten worst "sins" which include ignoring the speed limit, exceeding the speed limit in order to overtake, using the horn to express anger and, with presumably less dangerous results, forgetting where the car is parked!

Children up to three-years-old now have to wear safety belts specified for their size and weight. The new rule came into effect this week.

## Spain promises to push for Catalan in Europe if Ireland makes same request for Gaelic

### AGENCIES/MADELEINE SHEAHAN

Spain will seek status for the Catalan language in Europe if Ireland does the same for Gaelic.

The Spanish Minister for Europe, Alberto Navarro, has promised to request recognition for Catalan, Euskera and Gallego as official languages in the European Union if his Irish counterpart makes the same bid for the Gaelic language. Navarro claims that Ireland decided almost a fortnight ago to put in its request but, so far, no official demand has been presented.

He said it was expected that Ireland would present the request in late September or early October and that once it had, Spain would follow suit. "If Ireland decides to go ahead with its demand," said Navarro, "it is logical for Spain to do the same with its co-official languages." However, while Gaelic is used on a



Spain's Zapatero and Ireland's Bernie Ahern to push for Catalan and Gaelic in EU / EFE

daily basis by only about 100,000 people, Catalan is used by almost ten million Europeans.

Navarro said that the request had

not been made before now because the government knows it will be very difficult to achieve a positive result, especially given the likelihood of "fe-

rocious opposition from many member states".

The EU aside, the government would continue its efforts to support the linguistic diversity of Spain, Navarro claimed, recognising language as the first means of expression and therefore "virtually a human right".

In Catalonia itself, citizens will be entitled to deal with the police and the *Guardia Civil* in their own national language. Government ministers in both Catalonia and the Balearic Islands have agreed to promote the learning of Catalan within the forces and guaranteed that officers dealing directly with the public will be obliged to respond to Catalan speakers in Catalan.

Officials said that citizens should feel comfortable about speaking Catalan to the police without fear of getting an adverse reaction.

### POLITICS

#### Medal story "leaked" by PSOE

Opposition leader, Mariano Rajoy, has accused the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs of leaking the story about José María Aznar's congressional gold medal to distract attention from the 11-M inquiry and to damage the Partido Popular. Rajoy said the story about the contract given to a US lobby group and its work in connection with Aznar getting the medal was part of an "obsessive strategy to denigrate a political adversary" and was being used by the socialist government as a "smokescreen" to conceal its lack of political direction.

### LAW

#### Shortage of judges

Catalonia needs 130 extra judges and magistrates to be able to deal with a backlog of cases. Figures from the Department of Justice show that the courts are simply unable to provide an adequate service. Catalonia represents 15.7 per cent of the Spanish population but has only 14.9 per cent of its judges. This is compounded by a higher level of litigation. The number of cases per 10,000 of population is 154 across all of Spain but in Catalonia this figure rises to 167.

### CRIME

#### Drug ring busted in Priorat

Police have broken an organised drug ring suspected of dealing in Falset and other towns in the Priorat region. Seven arrests were made at a property in Falset after several weeks of surveillance. Police seized 20 one-gram bags of cocaine and a bowl of what appeared to be ten more grams of the drug, with a total street value of 1,800 euros. They also seized more than 500 grams of hashish with a sale value of 2,000 euros. The seven detainees, aged between 24 and 32, communicated with their buyers by mobile phone and changed their clothes for each delivery to help avoid detection.

### ROAD ACCIDENT

#### Lorry crash claims lives

An accident involving three lorries on the A7, near Castellbisbal, caused at least two deaths and major traffic jams yesterday. Two of the trucks caught fire, one which was carrying 30,000 of solvent, the other with a tankload of nitric acid. The Catalan Transit Service declared a Category 2 state of alert and, after the fires were extinguished, emergency services had to refrigerate the trucks before being able to search the wreckage for victims.

### FOREST FIRE

#### Hundreds of hectares razed

Fires in the Aracena range and the Picos de Aroche in Huelva had razed 410 hectares of scrub and forest by the time they were brought under control (but not completely extinguished) yesterday evening.



Every year the scorching heat of summer brings the danger of forest fires throughout southern Europe / ARCHIVE

## Empordà and Ebre regions declared high-risk areas for fires

*Fires spread throughout Spain, Portugal and France this weekend*

ALEXLEFF

The regions of Empordà and Terres de l'Ebre have the highest fire risk, the Catalan government has warned. The warning comes a year after some of the fiercest heat waves and forest fires were experienced in the area, and a day after a weekend where flames blazed throughout parts of Spain, Portugal and France. In Catalonia, a fire was discovered Sunday evening near the A-7 motorway which burned over 50 hectares (123 acres) in the Gironi village of Biure, near Figueres. It was the largest in Catalonia this year. Official sources say the fire was caused by a cigarette. A total of 32 fire engines were sent to put out the flames, along with seven aircraft, including helicopters and jets, plus a hydroplane that found itself anchored in the water at Roses port because of technical difficulties.

Another serious fire blazed this weekend in the southeast region of France, Bouches-du-Rhone, burning around 2,500 hectares (6,178

acres). The fire, which began on Saturday in Marseille, forced the evacuation of 2,000 Bouches-du-Rhone residents by Sunday morning. Propelled partly by the strong mistral wind and high temperatures experienced this weekend, the blaze reached motorway A-7 bringing officials to block off the route between Vitrolles and Salon-de-Provence. Over 1,600 firefighters were deployed to put out the flames.

High temperatures and the arid climate are the lethal mixture that is helping the spread of fires throughout Spain, Portugal and France. This past weekend land caught fire not only in Catalonia and southeast France, but in Murcia, Asturias and Galicia as well, the latter experienced three different fires on Saturday. Asturias has recorded eight fires since Friday. In the village of Ocaña in Toledo, the police found the burnt body of a 66-year-old man on Saturday night, after putting out a fire that had started hours before.

Another fire set ablaze in Ourense

blocked the railways between Galicia and León, with train cancellations for three hours. The fire was extinguished by Sunday morning. It started in Ourense, a village in Carballada de Valdeorras, burned hilly pine-filled lands, surrounded the San Martín chapel and reached residential Pumares. In Asturias, firefighters and helicopters were at work this weekend trying to put out the flames between motorway A-8, around the 335 km mark, and the Ana mines near Torre in Ribadesella. Another fire in Murcia, in the Sierra de Atamaria hills, was put out after burning 4.2 hectares (10.4 acres). The origins of the fire are unknown in the region just outside a golf course and resort.

The heatwave brought about multiple forest fires in Portugal on Sunday, especially in the mid-south, where residents were evacuated. The most serious fire in the region blazed around the hills of Monchique, in Algarve, where forty people were evacuated.

### Areas along the Ebre river plan to promote selective tourism

Villages along the river Ebre are getting ready to dig into funds allotted for tourism, which in this area means a dual attraction: beaches and countryside. In order to diversify, institutions plan to develop the cultural and environmental elements they have to offer, fully aware of the fact that sun-and-beach tourism limits their success to the summer months. "Here practically everything needs doing and we have the opportunity to create our own distinctive product," Tarragona government delegate Lluís Salvadó told *El Periódico*. Various Catalan bodies have been dedicated to the cause: in the past two years, the Ministry of Industry, the Generalitat and local institutions — county governments of Baix Ebre, Riber d'Ebre, Terra Alta and Monstia, along with their respective town halls — have injected 4.2 million euros into four major projects. The first aims to promote the old train line in the valley of Zafán, turned into a green area for walking and cycling. The second project is meant to revitalise old hiking paths which offer wonderful views of the river. The third line of action is the "peacetrail", which is a route that retraces scenes in Catalan history such as the battle of the Ebre, considered the bloodiest in the Civil War, fought in Terra Alta. Lastly, the counties are planning to promote more activities in Els Ports and Delta de l'Ebre natural parks, along with a coastline, as a way to put Tarragona on the map in the tourism sector.



### Tarragona beach gets cleaned up

The organisation Meditarrània has put together a group of seventy volunteers with a mission, to clean up Miracle beach. Some twenty scuba divers went along to try to clean the sea floor. Environmental activists filled sixty sacks and collected nearly a ton of waste. Meditarrània president Àngel Juárez challenged the Catalan and Tarragona local government to launch an environmental awareness campaign aimed at bathers "so they respect the sea and don't pollute it", *El Periódico* reports. The environmentalist also commented on the need to restore the fauna in the area, "the rich biological diversity that has been lost".

### Café price boost in the summer

Having a coffee on the Rambla or a beer on Passeig de Gràcia is beginning to be a luxury. The price of the most common café items might reach as high as four to nine euros. The city council has launched a campaign to warn consumers of the price hike and of the need to ask the price before ordering. The campaign *Llegir abans de beure*, or read before drinking, is the latest programme directed towards Barcelona locals and tourists, instructing café costumers to beware of exorbitant pricing. Tourist areas will be affected the most by the boost. Business owners defend their right to fix prices, saying that it is up to the customer to decide.



### Travel group considers creating EasyCruise on the Med

The travel group Easy is negotiating the opening of a cruise line to run in along the Catalan coast. The demand for maritime leisure is on the rise. The sector could flourish if the ambitious project by Greek entrepreneur Selios Haji Ioannou, founder of the Easy group (owners of the airline EasyJet, EasyRent-A-Car and the cyber café chain EasyEverythin) comes to fruition. With his latest creation, EasyCruise, Ioannou is already looking into two possible routes: one along the Costa Brava and another by the western Mediterranean coast, with Barcelona as a leaving point and stop-offs in Alcúdia, Maó, Palma, València, Elvissa and Tarragona.

## Forum site still below par while city exhibits attract the masses

ALEXLEFF

Painful as it may be, the organisers of the Barcelona Universal Forum of Cultures 2004 are learning to forget about their original estimated number of visitors. Though a total of five million people were once expected to have entered the Forum site by the end of its run, statistics are showing that the number will not be reached. Last week the Forum had 151,590 visitors, 98,410 less than expected. The organisation will be negotiating the new goal in tomorrow's board

meeting, having to reconsider the initial estimate that was first forecast back in 1999. Until now, only 1,479,448 people have gone to the Forum.

"The figure of five million continues to be a reference point for the board," Forum spokesman Frederic Porta said yesterday in a press conference, adding, "but obviously it is an objective that is becoming harder and harder to achieve." Porta pointed out that 1,200,000 tickets are sitting unused in people's pockets, giv-

ing management the impression that the remaining sixty-one days of the event "will be months packed with people", he said.

On the other hand, the 23 exhibitions affiliated with the Forum around Barcelona broke the record for visitors last week with 65,467 people. These exhibits, such as *Picasso. Guerra i pau*, have received a total of 463,516 visitors, a "spectacular" figure, says Porta, who added that he is expecting up to a half a million visitors this week.

# The corridors of power

Experts say local technology firms will benefit from having a telecommunications regulatory body in Barcelona

## ORIOL RIBET

Proximity of power is particularly important for firms belonging to sectors subjected to regulation, and the announcement last week that the regulatory body, the Comissió del Mercat de les Telecomunicacions (CMT) is to be moved to Barcelona could provide a boost for companies working in this area. Jordi Gual from the business school, IESE believes that judicial, economy and technology consultancy firms working with the big players in the sector will benefit from proximity to the Comissió. Vicenç Gasulla, director of the foundation, Barcelona Digital, agrees but adds the caveat that decentralisation of state bodies has to continue. For Gasulla, this is only the first step in making Barcelona the capital of the digital industry, including telecommunications, production of content and programming.

Until as late as the nineties, Spanish energy and telecommunications firms were usually state-owned monopolies. A process of liberalisation saw the introduction of competition and the appearance of new companies, as well as the privatisation of public ones. One of the main reasons for creating the CMT was to ensure that Telefónica did not abuse its advantage as a monopoly with its huge client base, thereby preventing the survival of other operators. Thus the CMT's role includes price control so that abusive tariffs are not charged for interconnection, in other words, what an operator pays another when a call is made from one mobile to that of a different company. The body acts as a referee in the event of conflicts, and in future there is a possibility that it will assume responsibilities currently in the hands of the Ministeri d'Economia, such as issuing permits or fixing prices. The CMT's remit also currently involves the functioning of fibre optics, radio and television cable networks.

The complexity of the regulatory machinery and the relationship between the main actors and the body makes proximity an important factor according to Jordi Gual: "Obviously it can be done from a distance, but proximity helps this relationship," he points out. Gual cites as an example the opening of what the CMT calls a "public consultation" in which the sector is asked its opinion of proposed changes to regulations. Such constant interaction is aided by proximity between the organisations. Nevertheless, Gual does doubt whether the largest companies in the sector - Telefónica, Vodafone, Auna - can adopt ambitious re-location strategies in response to the CMT move: "Perhaps Auna, as it has one foot in Madrid and the other in Barcelona. Telefónica could decentralise with its wide reach, though in Vodafone's case it's more difficult because it has fewer businesses and focuses on mobile phones," says Gual.

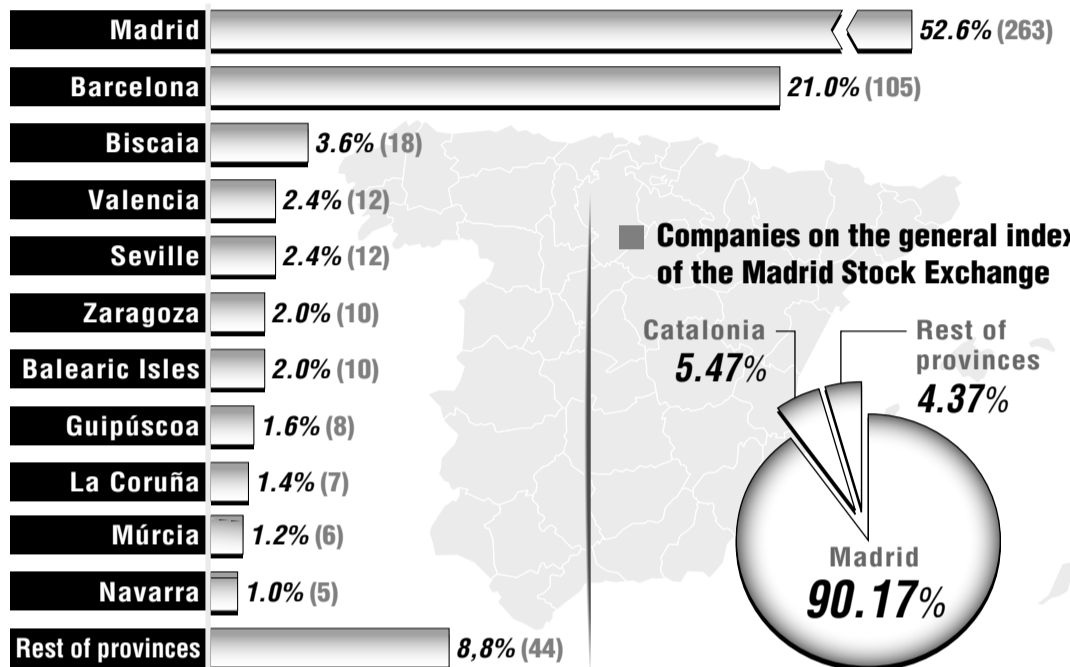
Vicenç Gasulla also sees the CMT move as a catalyst and points out that: "companies look favourably on Barcelona as a capital in this sphere." Gasulla believes in the importance of not only including the telecommunications firms but also companies dedicated to computer programming and those that produce the content to be promoted over cable or via the next-generation UMTS mobile phones. This is the objective of Gasulla's foundation, Barcelona Digital, which is made up of both administrations and businesses, including Telefónica.

"The political benefit is, as in Germany, the regulatory bodies become decentralised," says Gasulla, although he adds, "The market, especially where the Internet is concerned, does not want regulation. It wants self-regulation so that the decentralisation it demands is moving other, non-regulatory bodies such as the public company 'Red.es'.

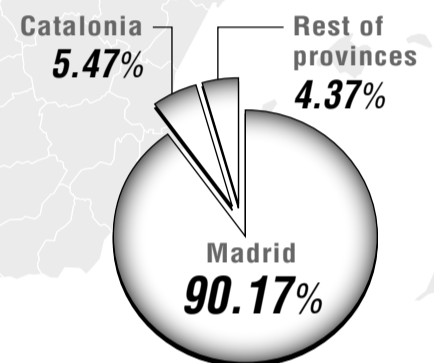
## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF LARGE COMPANIES

### 500 top firms by sales volume

Number of companies in brackets



### Companies on the general index of the Madrid Stock Exchange



## Madrid and the concentration of power

The concentration of political power in Spain and the fact that the large firms used to be state monopolies explains why Madrid far outstrips Barcelona when it comes to the location of big companies. This phenomenon is particularly acute in the case of large brokerage companies. In the telecommunications sector, Telefónica and Vodafone Spain have their headquarters in Madrid, but Auna is proud of being, "the only telecommunications firm with its headquarters in Barcelona," specifically on Diagonal.

Hosting the presence of the upper echelons of large companies brings advantages to the city, which benefits from their higher levels of consumption. Also, wherever the company is based is where they pay their tax. In the

case of Catalonia, the autonomous government claims 33% of IRPF and 100% of tax levied on judicial documents, such as notary certification. Business tax is, however, levied in full by the Spanish state.

The CMT move will not be carried out before 2005 to an office block still under construction and located near the 22@ district. The CMT wants to break up the concentration of power in Madrid, although the 180 staff working there are not so enthusiastic about the telecommunications regulatory centre moving from Madrid to Barcelona. A representative of an employee group there has already said that they will do everything in their power to prevent the transfer that the Comissió has proposed from taking place.



## Cybernauts can surf all day at "Campus Party"

### ROBERT KIMPLETON

About a hundred thousand cybernauts and computer enthusiasts are expected to participate in the eighth annual so-called (in English) "Campus Party", which opened yesterday in the City of Arts and Sciences in Valencia to run until 1 August.

The objective of the event is for internet enthusiasts from different areas to get together to exchange knowledge, show off their latest home-grown programmes and, of course, surf the net and play computer games. This year's partici-

pants will be able to surf to their hearts' content with a connection speed of ten gigabytes per second, double the speed available at last year's event.

A system of more than 4,500 computers, all on one network, was provided by the company Cisco Systems, is worth 1.5 million dollars and is equipped with state-of-the-art security features so no viruses or worms can infect it.

A network of about 700 Playstation 2 computers means that many game players can play for the dura-

tion of the event. A marketing director for the Playstation company says that this is the first global meeting of Playstation users.

Those who attend the event can do more than just surf. There is an auditorium with special exhibitions whose main theme is "The internet is not a network of computers, it is a network of people." One of the main themes will be to raise the level of awareness of computer piracy and strict rules will be followed to assure that all software at the event is legal.

About 1,500 tents have been set up for the cybernauts to sleep in after a long day of surfing and game playing. A smaller but similar event held in the Basque country called Euskal Party began its twelfth festival last week.

## Hospitals say blood supplies sufficient for summer period

### ROBERT KIMPLETON

Blood banks in Catalan hospitals should have enough supplies on hand to last through the summer, according to the Catalan health ministry. In the banks there are currently more than 8,000 units of 400 cubic millimetres each. The ministry attributes the current quantity to citizen response to the call made last week by the Generalitat for people to donate before people left for the summer holiday period at the be-

ginning of August. The move was made to counteract the decline in stock that occurs when the number of potential donors declines because they are away from home.

The ministry said that since newly donated blood can only be stored for 40 days, it will be important for citizen donations to increase sharply in September, when hospitals resume their regular schedule for surgeries.

According to the Spanish Federation of Blood Donors, the Spanish state lacks a centralised system for keeping track of blood bank levels, making it more difficult to predict needs. An average of more than 4,000 blood transfusions are carried out each day, and the number has increased in the past few years due largely to the increase in the number of organ transplants.



# Democrats on best behaviour for convention

*Kerry takes firm control of often-unruly party*

## AGENCIES

US Democrats are expected to toe the line as never before at this week's convention in Boston which will see Massachusetts senator John Kerry formally selected as the party's candidate for the White House.

The famously fractious party is expected to display new levels of discipline today when delegates adopt an election platform which reflects the position of their presidential hopeful more closely than that of party members or even voters. On Iraq, for instance, the platform will not say the war was a mistake, as del-

egates think, nor call for withdrawal of troops; but will say that "having gone to war we cannot afford to fail at peace..[nor]..allow a failed state in Iraq". The platform will highlight the clear differences between Kerry and President George Bush, describing Bush's foreign policy as "dangerously ineffective" and stating that the current government is "not doing enough to make America safe from terrorism".

Democrats will warn Americans that "costs are soaring and ordinary incomes are sinking". Kerry has, however, urged delegates to tone



John Kerry and his wife Teresa at Fenway Park, Boston, yesterday / EFE

down attacks on Bush.

It seems that confidence in Kerry's prospects for November have created more discipline than is usual for a party well known for its divisions. There is no room for dissent

at the convention and every speech will be vetted in advance by Kerry aides. An appearance by former president Bill Clinton will be introduced by his wife and New York senator, Hillary Clinton.

## TERRORISM

### Tips against terror

The UK Home Office is sending pamphlets to every household in Britain advising citizens how to prepare for terror attacks. The 22-page booklet is part of a 12 million euro campaign which also includes a series of TV and radio adverts which will begin broadcasting next week. The pamphlet has first aid advice, contact numbers and practical tips such as keeping supplies of tinned food, bottled water and batteries. The Home Office says it is in response to public demand and not related to any specific or heightened threat. Its key message is to "go in, stay in and tune in".

## IRAQWAR

### Senior official shot dead

A senior Iraqi interior ministry official was shot dead by gunmen in Baghdad yesterday, along with his two bodyguards, as the three men left Awadi's home. In Basora, two Iraqi women were killed when the car they were driving to their jobs with the UK army at Basora airport was riddled with bullets.

# New hope for accord between Euskadi and Spain as Madrid meeting breaks long impasse

## AGENCIES/MADELEINE SHEAHAN

Relations between Euskadi and the Spanish state took a positive turn yesterday when the Lehendakari (Euskadi president), Juan José Ibarretxe, made his first visit to the Spanish parliament in three years.

During a three-hour meeting with Spanish president José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Ibarretxe proposed "an agreement for Euskadi and the Spanish state to co-exist," he told a press conference immediately afterwards.

The meeting marked the end of several years of confrontation resulting from the controversial *Plan Ibarretxe*, which had been seen, especially by the former PP government, as a direct challenge to the constitution of Spain by proposing a far higher degree of independence for Euskadi. Ibarretxe said that Zapatero could not expect him to sus-



The two leaders yesterday / ARCHIVE

pend a Basque referendum on the plan because the draft was already with the Euskadi parliament. But it was possible, he said, to reach an accord that would satisfy both sides.

# Piracy reaches new levels of violence with record numbers of crew murdered on high seas

## AGENCIES

Piracy at sea is on the rise and becoming increasingly violent. The International Maritime Bureau, which monitors piracy around the world, has reported a sharp rise in the number of crew killed by pirates in the first half of the year, according to BBC reports. The 30 deaths so far reported compare to 15 in the same period last year and occurred in a smaller number of attacks.

"The increased ferocity and the number of attacks are linked to law

and order problems ashore," according to the report from the bureau's piracy watch centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Half of the killings occurred in Nigerian waters. Other danger areas were Vietnam, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Despite a global 25 per cent fall in the number of attacks, the Malacca Straits saw a one third increase, mostly in waters off Indonesia. These were also the most violent incidents, with many of the pirates carrying guns and knives.

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## WHAT THE EUROPEAN PAPERS SAY

FREDERIC BARBERÀ

## Tales from a compassionate un-Thatcherite

The end of July in Northern England feels like autumn. Zara, my walking guide in Lancashire for the last few years, is a young 82-year-old full of energy who used to be an unconditional Labour voter. She's collected some newspaper cuttings on the subject and wants me to tell the readers of *Catalonia Today* about the sense of alienation of progressive voters of Labour like herself have felt.

The progressive newspapers seem to share Zara's view. Thus, for Steve Richards in *The Independent* "voters wanted to know why the trains did not work, why hospitals were dangerously filthy, what needed to be done to revive public services. Instead they got a compassionate Thatcherite". For this journalist, Blair would share with Lady Thatcher his suspicion on the state, his admiration for the private sector and his support for low taxes, as well as the primacy of the special relationship with the US. This can be seen in his specific policies, where he would deserve the epithets of "ardent Atlantist European", "believer in the private sector reviving the public services", and "advocate of top universities being able to charge students more".

The conservative *Telegraph* coincides in this analysis, admitting that Blair has alienated Labour's natural allies in Europe and has blindly supported the most reactionary US administration in living history. In this context, the paper asks: "had Labour been so traumatised by its four successive defeats that it would have been clay in the hands of whoever



How can he defend killing thousands of Iraqis, yet contemplate a ban on smacking? / EFE

came along to lead it?" However, this unusual political combination is identified as the key to ongoing success: "how do you beat a Tory PM running a Labour government?" concludes Robert Harris in *The Telegraph*. It seems clear that Blair's view that "terms such right and left are irrelevant" has been reinforced by what Harris calls a natural "infusion of political charisma". In this respect, it is true that Blair has no grouping, ideology or news-

paper championing his cause. This state of affairs has had a dramatic impact in the political arena, where the Lib Dems are now clearly placed to the left of Blair and the Tories have become politically impotent.

For Richards in *The Independent* Blair is also a good journalist, and thus "he wants headlines that reassure the Thatcherite prejudices formed in the 1980s". This seems to be the view also of former Labour secretary Ro-

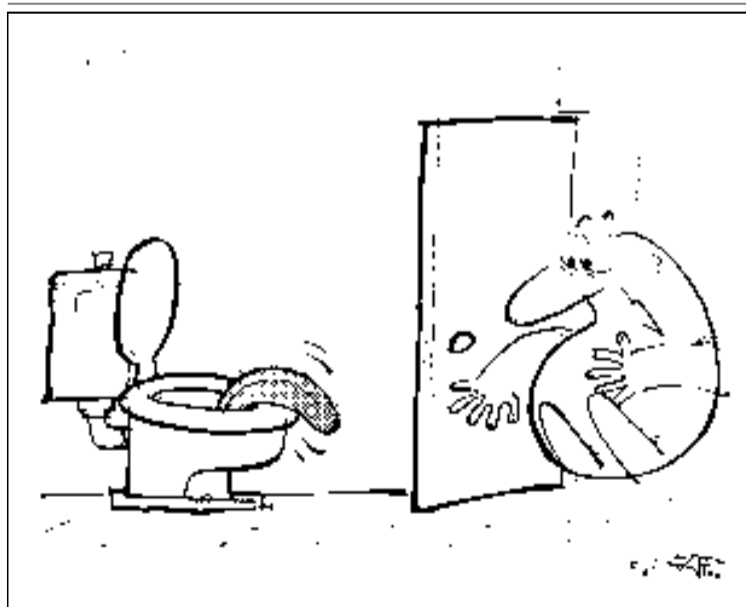
bin Cook, for whom Blair's remark last week blaming the 1960s "liberal and social consensus" for the rise of crime found a reward in *The Sun* the following day: "we could not agree with him more". For Cook, a political explanation for social breakdown is more likely to be found "in the 1980s apotheosis of individual materialism".

Whether we like it or not, Blair appears to be in possession of the right formula to stay in power, and he has also spoken in this sense this past week. His recent controversial appointment of his close friend Peter Mandelson as British EU commissioner seems a further reminder that he is in control. Moreover, his unconvincing declarations on the causes for joining the war on Iraq seem to matter little to someone who according to Robert Harris treasures an ideal combination of icy geopolitical ruthlessness and sickly political correctness. Only thus can he "defend a war that kills 10,000-20,000 Iraqis, yet at the same time contemplate introducing a ban on smacking".

The road nearby is quiet, with few cars passing near the canal, and the cool air is very pleasant after a long sitting indoors with plenty of tea and shortbread. A few hundred yards down the canal, I hear a hurried step behind me. It is Zara, who has run after me as though I'd forgotten something. She produces a nice green folder with her recent paper cuttings on Blair. They are all clipped in chronological order. She wears a friendly smile, like someone returning a favour.

f.barbera@lancaster.ac.uk

## THE STING BY JAP



## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

My wife and I live in South Africa and are visiting family in Germany. Last week we took a three-day flying trip to Girona and Barcelona prior to which my wife had broken her leg. A wheelchair therefore became a necessity for city mobility. The trip was great, but as the wheelchair pusher I continually battled with the unfriendly access to the metro system. There are no easily identifiable lifts and no descending escalators all of which make life difficult but does improve physical fitness. Interestingly, the train station at Gerona has a lift to enable easy wheelchair access to platforms. A beautiful, interesting and tourist-focused city such

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

as Barcelona should rethink its user friendliness towards handicapped persons.

Gordon Johnston

## POEM FOR MERCÈ

Being an "artista plantat" in Barcelona, your article and comment (*Catalonia Today*, 24 July) inspired me to write an alternative Mercè poster which could be used for all the English-speaking tourists and residents:

*Should we artists leave the leaves on the trees?*

*A leaf without trees is it a leaf?*

*Can it return, the tree without leaves, to the sea?*

I hope it is not too profound, al-

though it would be a great help to my career if people found it totally unintelligible.

Anna Valguarnera

## HAPPY CAMPER

Hello to Everyone, Good day. As one of the readers of your paper, I am so contented, and wholeheartedly proud of you, for publishing this kind of newspaper in English, right the day I encountered and read your newspaper. And now I am updated to all that was happening here in Catalonia. We are really enjoying reading all the articles. And also for giving this free. God bless.

Aireen Panopio



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Tuesday 27 July 2004

# Tourism secretary says Spain should attract big spenders

Ramon Martínez Fraile urges Spanish hotel owners not to compete in the low-price race

## ALEXLEFF

The Spanish secretary general of Tourism, Raimon Martínez Fraile, has urged that companies in his sector do not to wage a price war with emerging countries such as Turkey, Egypt or Croatia, because they have everything to lose. He believes that Spain should promote itself as a quality destination to attract customers with a middle to high purchasing power, a policy that does not sit well with hotel owners who have already opted for lowering rates in order to compete with Turkish or Egyptian counterparts.

"We say that we have the most to offer in the world and then it happens that when its time to sell the price is fought over with Turkey and in price we always lose to Turkey," Martínez Fraile said in an exclusive interview with *La Vanguardia* newspaper. The Tourism authority points out that times have changed and that hotel management should work hard at bettering the way the sector is run, and especially in publicity. More specifically, the challenge hotel owners are facing is how not to depend on tour packs or foreign travel agencies. Essentially, how to snap up tourists in their own countries, to lure them to visit Spain. Martínez Fraile's words have added resonance just days after the tourism firm Exceltur released a report saying that the sector is having a difficult time mainly because of structural problems and that the average spending by foreign tourists



/ Platja d'Aro, one of the leading tourist destinations on the Costa Brava

in Spain went down in the first two quarters of the financial year by 2.2 per cent. Martínez Fraile urges mostly for quality improvements, knowing that if Spain can compete with emerging countries, it will not be on prices, but on the travel exper-

ience itself. Spain should not only "renovate its hotels", he says, "but should also be able to offer a combination of activities that other countries cannot. For example: we are a safe country and at ten o'clock at night you can go out calmly for a

walk". Which is why, Martínez Fraile explains, Spain need not scrape the barrel for low spenders. Part of his argument directly targets the subsidising of low-cost air travel, something which the general secretary flatly rejects.

# Web performance hit by slowdown just as Google announces anticipated worth

## REUTERS

Internet users may have experienced problems yesterday during their web searches. What they may not have realised is that the problems they had, particularly with Google.com, were common to users around the world. Web site performance slowed broadly yesterday, suggesting the possibility that a virus or other Internet attack may be causing problems, said Keynote Systems Inc., a Web performance tracking firm. The report comes as outages on the search site Google.com were reported in the United States, France, Britain and Spain. In many places the site was said to be working normally. "We are starting

to see things creep up," said Keynote spokeswoman Della Lowe. "It could be an indication that something is impacting the Internet overall. We are looking into the possibility of some sort of attack."

Google Inc., the world's No. 1 search provider, had announced yesterday its highly anticipated initial public offer could be worth as much as \$3.3 billion, pricing its stock in a range that could value the company at more than \$36 billion at its opening. Investors were somewhat startled though, by a price range of up to \$135 per Class A share, which would give Google a valuation, on the basis of its price 2003 earnings ratio of 329.



Internet users are at a loss when their favourite search engine is down

## MOBILE

### Vodafone performing well

Vodafone group Spain recorded a 5.7% increase in average earnings per customer, up to 389 euros. The number of costumers grew by over 250,000 in the last quarter, reaching nearly ten million. In the first quarter ending in June, clients with contracts went up by 1.4 percentage points compared to last year, up to 44 per cent of the total. In addition, the activity level—the percentage of customers that have utilised a non-free service—went up by 0.5 points reaching 96.7%. Vodafone says the good quarter performance has to do with their launching new products and services.

## JUSTICE

### De la Rosa's secret funds

Spanish and British judges have spent five years trying to get financier Javier de la Rosa to pay the multimillion-dollar compensation in damages to clients he had consulted in Spain and Kuwait to invest in KIO between 1986 and 1992. However, the authorities have not managed to get one cent out of De la Rosa. The Catalan entrepreneur says he cannot pay because his assets have been frozen since the mid-90s. But according to the magazine *Interviú*, De la Rosa has part of his fortune hidden in a foundation in Luxembourg called Blomor.

## MINIMUM WAGE

### Spain second lowest of EU 15

The minimum wage in Spain continues to be the second lowest on the list of the previous fifteen member states of the European Union, despite the government's recent move to increase it by 6.6% (from 460.50 euros per month to 490.80). The country's minimum wage does, however, top the majority of the new EU members. According to Europe's statistical office Eurostat, by 1 January 2004 Portugal had the lowest minimum wage, at 498 euros per month. Immediately after Portugal came Spain and Greece (605), Ireland (1,073), United Kingdom (1,083) and France (1,186).

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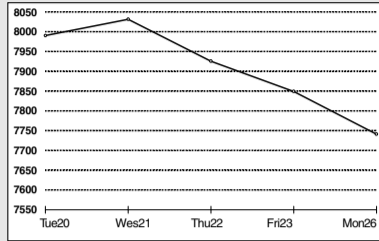
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STOCK MARKET

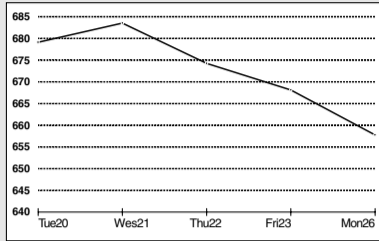
IBEX 35

7.740,90  
-1,37



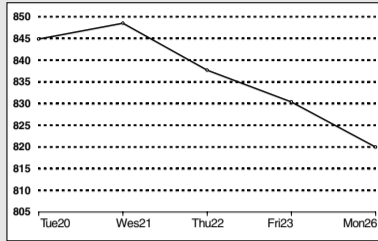
BARCELONA STOCK EXCHANGE

657,76  
-1,55



MADRID STOCK EXCHANGE

819,96  
-1,25



MARKETS OF THE WORLD

NEW YORK (DOW JONES)

9.932 -0,31



PARIS (CAC 40)

3.533 -0,97



LONDON (FTSE 100)

4.287 -0,91



FRANKFURT (DAX XETRA)

3.753 -1,18



(\*) Index at half session

BEST PERFORMING STOCKS

Stock	Last. Euros	Chg. %
Mecalux	5,95	2,94
G. Inmocaral S.A.	2,29	2,69
Ebro Puleva SA	9,62	1,37
Valencia	17,50	1,21
Tafisa	0,84	1,20
Endesa Chile	10,50	1,16
Unión Fenosa	17,45	1,16

WORST PERFORMING STOCKS

Stock	Last. Euros	Chg. %
Avanzit	1,59	-11,67
Tecnocom	5,29	-7,84
Urbas	0,56	-5,08
Brasken, S.A.	15,77	-5,00
Electrobras Pref.	4,95	-3,88
Volcan C.M.	2,12	-3,64

market analysis | REUTERS

Bank buyout leads shares downward

Spanish bank Santander Central Hispano led European shares down yesterday, pushing the FTSE Eurotop 300 index into negative territory for this year as optimism over economic recovery and second-half profits faded. The index ended down 0.9 percent at 957.01 points, with four issues falling for each one that rose, while volume was meagre. This was the first close in negative territory so far this year for the benchmark index

of Europe's top 300 blue chips, leaving it within striking distance of 951.95 points, its intra-day trough for the year. Santander ended off 2.6 percent at 7.8 euros after Spain's biggest bank struck Europe's biggest cross-border bank takeover by agreeing to buy Britain's Abbey National for about \$15.1 billion. Shares in Abbey sank 4 percent on dismay over the cash terms of the deal and the prospects for the combined group.

Last. Euros: NAV at close; Chg: Difference between last value and value from previous day; Max: Maximum value reached during the day; Min: Minimum value reached during the day; NAV: Last Net Asset Value; Mnth Yld: NAV Variation since beginning of the month; YTD: NAV Variation since beginning of the year.

MOST ACTIVE ISSUES

Stock	Issues traded(000's)	Volume.Eu(000's)
SAN	236.056	1.838.876
BBVA	58.170	614.860
Telefónica	37.293	435.206
Repsol	14.570	256.726
Jazztel	7.024	1.826
Endesa	6.260	92.151

OTHER MARKETS

Stock	Last.	Max.	Min.	Chg.	Chg. %
Bilbao	1.401	1.421	1.397	-7,53	-0,53
Valencia	652	652	652	-8,97	-1,36
Milán MIB 30	27.018	27.409	27.000	-264,00	-0,97
Tokio Nikkei	11.160	11.160	11.066	-27,78	-0,25
S&P	1.081	1.090	1.080	-5,56	-0,51
Nasdaq	1.361	1.384	1.359	-14,06	-1,02
Latibex	784	792	783	-8,10	-1,02

Source: Morgan Stanley. Tel.: 901 11 64 31

MARKET SECTORS

Name	Last (Euros)	Day		Chg.	Chg. %
		Max.	Min.		
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
Avanzit	1,59	1,82	1,54	-0,21	-11,67
Telefónica Móviles	8,25	8,51	8,22	-0,16	-1,90
TPI Pag Amar	5,26	5,38	5,21	-0,04	-0,75
Prisa	13,42	13,87	13,40	-0,30	-2,19
Amper	3,61	3,70	3,58	-0,04	-1,10
Telefónica	11,67	11,91	11,62	-0,25	-2,10
Jazztel	0,26	0,27	0,25	0,00	0,00
Terra	4,82	4,94	4,82	-0,06	-1,23
Indra	10,25	10,25	10,15	0,04	0,39
Antena3 TV	41,62	42,38	41,21	-0,28	-0,67
Sogetel	30,54	30,88	30,49	-0,21	-0,68
Tele 5	12,2	12,48	12,15	-0,23	-1,85
Recoletos	5,8	5,84	5,74	-0,02	-0,34
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>					
Acciona	49,8	50,70	49,70	-0,70	-1,39
ACS	13,54	13,73	13,40	-0,14	-1,02
Ferrovial	35,35	35,99	34,96	-0,35	-0,98
OHL	6,09	6,18	6,05	-0,07	-1,14
FCC	29,5	30,00	29,33	-0,40	-1,34
<b>CONSUMER GOODS</b>					
Carrefour	14,96	14,96	14,94	0,00	0,00
Cortefiel	9,29	9,34	9,12	0,04	0,43
Paternina	6,63	-	-	0,00	0,00
CVNE	9,58	9,58	9,17	-0,03	-0,31
Pescanova	15,93	16,03	15,75	-0,02	-0,13
Aldeasa	24,68	25,40	24,44	-0,60	-2,37
Dogi Int. Fabric S.A.	4,41	4,55	4,41	-0,14	-3,08
Bodegas Riojanas	8,25	8,45	8,11	0,00	0,00
Natracéutico S.A.	0,69	0,71	0,69	-0,01	-1,43
Puleva Biotech	2,56	2,59	2,50	-0,03	-1,16
Inditex	18,34	18,75	18,24	-0,45	-2,39
Service Point Solutions	0,4	0,41	0,39	-0,01	-2,44
T. Algodonera	3,04	3,06	3,02	-0,01	-0,33
Faes Farma	12,47	12,60	12,40	0,04	0,32
Natra	3,76	3,87	3,75	-0,11	-2,84
Altadis	25,57	25,64	25,17	0,05	0,20
Vidrala	11,8	11,80	11,71	0,05	0,43
A. Domínguez	16,45	16,45	16,17	-0,05	-0,30
Ebro Puleva SA	9,62	9,64	9,45	0,13	1,37
Viscofán	7,52	7,58	7,51	-0,08	-1,05
SOS Cuétara	24,7	24,80	24,50	0,10	0,41
Camofrio	11,97	11,98	11,82	0,02	0,17

Name	Last (Euros)	Day		Chg.	Chg. %
		Max.	Min.		
Zeltia	5,17	5,35	5,16	-0,13	-2,45
Barón de Ley	32,5	32,50	32,21	0,00	0,00
<b>ENERGY</b>					
Repsol	17,62	17,83	17,53	-0,10	-0,56
Bayer	21,5	22,16	21,11	-0,08	-0,37
Enagas S.A.	9	9,19	9,00	-0,13	-1,42
Unión Fenosa	17,45	17,69	17,13	0,20	1,16
Iberdrola	16,94	17,15	16,84	-0,16	-0,94
Hullas C.Cortés	10	10,14	10,00	0,00	0,00
Gas Natural	19	19,15	18,90	-0,05	-0,26
Cepsa	29,75	29,90	29,70	0,05	0,17
Red Eléctrica	13,6	13,64	13,60	-0,01	-0,07
Endesa	14,72	15,12	14,67	-0,26	-1,74
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Valencia	17,5	17,68	17,28	0,21	1,21
GuipuzcoanoA	21	-	-	0,00	0,00
C. Occidente	28,91	29,55	28,61	0,16	0,56
Vasconia	11,6	11,60	11,60	0,00	0,00
Bankinter	29,8	30,20	29,66	-0,28	-0,93
Andalucía	69,3	69,30	69,25	0,00	0,00
Galicia	20,5	20,50	20,50	0,00	0,00
Banesto	9,27	9,47	9,27	-0,10	-1,07
Fastibex	0,45	-	-	0,00	0,00
Guipuzcoano	23,45	23,45	23,07	0,15	0,64
Gral. Inversión	1,35	1,38	1,35	0,00	0,00
SAN	7,79	7,83	7,70	-0,21	-2,63
BBVA	10,57	10,60	10,44	-0,07	-0,66
Atlántico	71,79	-	-	0,00	0,00
Alba	23,83	24,38	23,55	-0,37	-1,53
Pastor	24,5	24,75	24,50	-0,25	-1,01
Tecnocom	5,29	5,73	5,29	-0,45	-7,84
Cto. Balear	19,98	19,98	19,40	0,00	0,00
Castilla	16,5	16,96	16,50	-0,15	-0,90
Dinamia	12,99	13,00	12,95	0,04	0,31
Banc Sabadell	16,12	16,30	16,08	-0,13	-0,80
Corp. Mapfre	9,5	9,65	9,50	-0,10	-1,04
Popular	43,98	44,95	43,74	-0,51	-1,15
Unipapel	15,5	15,60	15,15	0,00	0,00
<b>INVESTMENT GOODS</b>					
CAF	57	57,00	56,50	0,00	0,00
Ercros	0,32	0,32	0,32	-0,01	-3,03
EADS	21,61	21,88	21,11	-0,09	-0,41

Name	Last (Euros)	Day		Chg.	Chg. %
		Max.	Min.		
EPPIC	0,22	-	-	0,00	0,00
Mecalux	5,95	5,95	5,70	0,17	2,94
C. Portland	48,39	-	-	0,00	0,00
Ence	22,25	22,32	22,20	-0,05	-0,22
Reno de Medicci	0,63	0,63	0,63	0,00	0,00
Edel Zinc	1,8	1,82	1,80	-0,02	-1,10
Volkswagen	33,03	33,49	32,56	0,00	0,00
Uralita	3,06	3,06	3,00	0,03	0,99
Tubos Reunidos	6	6,00	6,00	-0,10	-1,64
Tudor	5,7	5,70	5,70	-0,05	-0,87
Tubacex	1,61	1,62	1,59	-0,01	-0,62
Acerinox	11,5	11,60	11,16	0,05	0,44
Tafisa	0,84	0,84	0,81	0,01	1,20
CIE AUTOMOTIVE	11,61	11,61	11,61	-0,03	-0,26
Miquel y Costas	43,15	43,15	42,00	-0,31	-0,71
Seda Barna	2,01	2,01	1,99	0,01	0,50
Azkoyen	6,1	6,14	6,00	0,04	0,66
Europac	3,48	3,50	3,48	-0,04	-1,14
N.Montaña	0,34	0,34	0,34	0,00	0,00
Nicolás Correa	2,9	2,90	2,90	-0,01	-0,34
Iberpapel	15	15,01	14,76	0,00	0,00
Duro Felguera	5,56	5,59	5,52	-0,05	-0,89
Arcelor S.A.	12,9	13,05	12,80	-0,01	-0,08
Lingotes	4,56	4,56	4,56	0,00	0,00
Zardoya Otis	15,76	15,87	15,72	-0,04	-0,25
Global Steel	1,91	1,91	1,91	-0,07	-3,54
Gamesa	11,64	11,93	11,64	-0,34	-2,84
Sniace	0,65	0,66	0,64	0,00	0,00
<b>MARKET SERVICES</b>					
Agua Barna	14,23	14,30	14,08	0,11	0,78
Amadeus	5,12	5,27	5,10	-0,14	-2,66
Abertis	13,81	13,87	13,74	-0,03	-0,22
Abengoa	7,1	7,23	7,01	-0,03	-0,42
Metrovacesa	33,01	33,49	33,01	-0,39	-1,17
Sacyr-Valle	11,39	11,53	11,39	-0,06	-0,52
Urbis	9,18	9,27	9,15	-0,05	-0,54
Urbas	0,56	0,58	0,55	-0,03	-0,58
Telepizza	1,51	1,53	1,49	-0,02	-1,31
Transp. Azkar	5,94	5,94	5,82	0,05	0,85
Sotogrande	8	8,01	8,00	0,00	0,00
Sol Meliá	6,85	6,99	6,81	-0,10	-1,44
Prosegur	13,2	13,20	13,05	-0,15	-1,12
Iberia	2,12	2,19	2,12	-0,05	-2,30
NH					





# Spain's Santander to buy Abbey National for 15 billion dollars

*As Europe's first big cross-border buyout, the deal could set a precedent for other banks*

## REUTERS, LONDON/MADRID

Spain's Santander Central Hispano struck Europe's biggest cross-border bank takeover deal on Monday, agreeing to buy Britain's Abbey National for about 15.1 billion dollars.

The deal, which is serial acquirer Santander's biggest ever takeover, would give it the sixth-largest bank in Europe's biggest consumer credit market and one of the world's most profitable banking sectors. Abbey, the second biggest UK mortgage lender, has 741 branches and 18 million customers.

"Abbey's leading position in the UK mortgage market, combined with its strong distribution network, represents for Banco Santander and Abbey shareholders a value-creating opportunity," Chairman Emilio Botin said in a statement. Santander said it expected 560 million euros of cost savings and revenue gains by the third year after completion, which is expected before the end of 2004. "This is the first big cross-border deal in Europe and it's going to be eagerly watched," said analyst Peter Thorne at private bank Pictet.

If Santander can make big cost cuts, the takeover logic could prove attractive for other big European banks, Thorne said. The perceived lack of cost savings from combining banks in different countries has been one of the main bars to a long-awaited wave of cross-border European bank mergers. "Santander has proven to be extremely efficient, especially on the cost savings side,"



Emilio Botin, chairman of Santander Central Hispano, and Lukman Arnold, chairman of Abbey National / EFE

said Mauro Carli, a senior analyst at private bank Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch. "In general, Santander pays a strong price but they succeed in reducing costs." Buying Abbey could also make the Spanish bank less reliant on its extensive Latin American interests, Carli said.

"They have a very high presence in terms of capital in Latin America, where the return is too low and the risk premium too high." But some are skeptical that Santander will be able to make the British deal pay off. Abbey has posted two years of losses after writing off billions of pounds

of risky assets and past acquisitions. The bank's core retail banking business is struggling with shrinking margins and disappointing mortgage and savings revenues as management tries to revive the business after years of neglect under the previous regime.

## BBVA profit rise of 16% attributed to Latin American business

### EFE, MADRID

Global banking group BBVA have announced net profits of 1,355 million euros for the first half of the year, 16.1% more than during the same period in 2003. In surpassing the analysts' predictions of 11%, the bank attributes the rise in income to favourable business development in South America. The bank also point to, "the sustained acceleration of profitable activity in Spain and the extremely positive results in wholesale banking."

Until June, all margins increased rates of growth, and in the case of the net operating margin a rise of 7.7% was achieved, representing 2,670 million euros. Gross operating income was 5,443 million euros, a rise of 1.8% despite a fall of 32% (274 million euros) in results from finan-

cial operations. An increase of 3.3% (1,650 million) in charges also contributed to improvement in business. This improvement, which includes a second quarter record profit of 688 million euros, is based on a cut of 16.8% in general administrative costs following a reduction in personnel costs of 3.1% (1,579 million). There were improvements in all margins of wholesale and investment banking, accounting for 26.7%, or 277 million euros, in terms of net profit.

These first six months also saw a fall in default rates from 1.59% to 1.11%. Such positive results have allowed the second largest banking group in Spain in terms of stock market capitalization to raise dividends by 11.1%, while profit per share rose by 10.6%.

## PSC congress vote reinstates Sala on the executive committee

### ROBERT KIMPLETON

Josep Maria Sala, who was sentenced to two years in prison in the *Filesa* political scandal, has returned to the Catalan Socialist Party's (PSC) executive committee, where he served before being convicted in 1997.

Sala went to the Can Brians prison for falsifying documents and criminal association in matters of Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) financing, but was freed a month later after an appellate court decision. Since leaving prison, he has been an important yet discrete figure in the PSC in charge of relations and negotiations with business entities.

PSC officials had been looking for a way to ease him back into the political limelight without damaging the party's reputation, but could



Josep Maria Sala was convicted in 1997

find no other way to go about it other than a direct vote in the party congress last weekend, where his reinstatement was approved by an 82 per cent margin.

### GESCARTERA CASE

#### HSBC clients were Spanish

A Swiss commission investigating the 2001 Gescartera scandal has determined that the 138 secret bank accounts in the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) belonged to clients of the bank's Spanish subsidiary and not a Swiss subsidiary, according to testimony given by HSBC manager Didier Peclard. In reality, there were 163 such secret accounts, although only 138 were activated. "The Madrid HSBC sent clients to us for the accounts numbered 1 to 163," said Peclard. "When the requests arrived to Geneva, we gave them an account number from one of our (local) banks." He also said that in Geneva there was a cross-indexed list of HSBC accounts in Geneva and their corresponding accounts in Madrid. The scandal originated from a stockbroker firm Gescartera, which went broke causing more than 2,000 people to lose their investment money. HSBC replaced two senior executives after the scandal broke, but has never been accused of any direct involvement.

### SPAIN

#### Foreign debt increases by 17%

The Spanish foreign debt to other euro zone countries and the rest of the world reached 807.5 billion euros at the end of the first quarter of this year, 16.5 per cent higher than the same period the previous year, according to figures released by the Bank of Spain which were made public yesterday by Europa Press news agency.

### TOURISM

#### Price war discouraged

The general secretary of tourism Raimon Martínez Fraile says that Spain should not try to bolster its troubled hotel sector by waging a price war with developing countries such as Turkey, Egypt or Croatia. He says the best strategy for Spain is to promote Spain as a country that offers quality tourism for middle and high-income travellers. A price war, he said, would be detrimental to all concerned. He said that in order to capture this market, local hotel managers would have to work to make the management and especially promotional practices more effective. A large part of the promotion would be emphasising what Spain has to offer that other countries don't, citing citizen safety as one example. "We live in a safe country where you can go out for a walk at ten in the evening without worrying," he said. He also suggested improving the quality of beaches, city environments and services and renovating hotel facilities.

### GERMANY

#### Inflation on the rise

The consumer price index in Germany went up 0.3 per cent in July compared to May, while interannual inflation was set at 1.8 per cent, according to preliminary data published yesterday by the Federal Statistics Office. The interannual inflation rate in June had been 1.7 per cent before the figures for July had been released.

# Cellist, composer and republican Pau Casals' 24th festival begins

*Though Casals first heard the cello at 11, he gave his first cello recital only three years later*

## MICHAEL BUNN

The Pau Casals international chamber music festival in the French town of Prada (Conflent), which was established by the great Catalan cellist twenty-four years ago, runs from July through August every year and features some of the finest musicians in this field in the world.

Pau Casals was born in Vendrell, Catalonia, and legend has it that he was conceived when Brahms began his B-flat major quartet (of which Casals owns the original manuscript) and that he was born when Brahms completed its composition.

His father, the parish organist and choirmaster in Vendrell, gave his son instruction in piano, violin and organ, but when the young Casals was 11 he heard the cello and decided to he wanted to play the instrument. His mother took him to Barcelona to study, and his progress was nothing short of prodigious, giving his first solo recital in Barcelona at the age of 14. The great Spanish composer Albéniz heard him play and introduced him to Queen María Cristina's private secretary, and Casals was given a royal stipend for composition study.

He went on to play for Queen Victoria and then made his first tour of the USA in 1901. With the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Casals moved to France, being an ardent Republican, vowing never to return to Spain until democracy had been restored. He settled in the French village of Prada, on the Spanish



The Museu Pau Casals is a museum dedicated to the great cellist and composer, located in the town of his birth / JUDIT FERNÁNDEZ

frontier. So fierce was his opposition to the Franco regime that he declined to appear in any countries that recognized the totalitarian Spanish government, only making an exception when he was invited to perform at the White House in 1961

by President John Kennedy, whom he admired.

In 1950 he resumed his career as conductor and cellist at the Prada festival (which was originally organised in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the death of Bach. He

led his last Prada festival in 1966, after which he moved to Puerto Rico (his mother's birthplace). He died in 1973 in Puerto Rico, though in 1979, after the death of Franco, his body was disinterred and laid to rest in his beloved Catalonia.

## Catalonia to have Europe's first museum dedicated to 50 years of the history of rock

## MICHAEL BUNN

It was announced yesterday that Catalonia is to have the first museum entirely dedicated to rock music in Europe. The museum, which will be over 4,000 square metres in size, has not yet been granted a fixed location, though mooted sites include the old Les Arenes bull ring in Barcelona or the nearby city of Mataró.

The museum will feature a permanent exhibition of objects taken from the last 50 years of the history of rock, such as a first pressing of Rock Around the Clock, recorded by Bill Haley in 1954. In addition, the complex will also contain a wide range of documentary archives, in-

cluding press cuttings from the biggest concerts performed in Spain and Portugal and bound collections of music magazines. The museum will also be a venue for interviews and round tables musicians, as well as for concerts, presentations, charity events and auctions.

Emblematic groups from the history of rock such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones will have their own rooms, with information on the band members and the history of the groups. Jordi Tardá, who is the driving force behind the idea of a rock museum in Catalonia hopes that the final location for the museum will be decided within the next twelve months.



The museum will include a special room dedicated entirely to the Beatles / ELPUNT

## SANT PERE DE RODES

### 4th music festival underway

Tomorrow night, the pianist Rainer Maria Klaas will be performing at the 4th Sant Pere de Rodes music festival, which takes place in the eponymous monastery. Klaas' concerts will be in two parts, the first featuring four sonatas by Scarlatti and Catalan composer Pare A. Soler, followed by a variety of "water music" - light pieces by Franz Liszt, Ravel and Debussy. The second part of the concert will include seven study pieces by Chopin and finally three movements from Stravinsky's ballets. This festival, which runs from 18 July to 22 August, specialises in chamber music and piano concerts, and has featured some of the most famous soloists in the world, including the Czech pianist Martin Kasik. One concert particularly worthy of mention is next Saturday's homage to the Catalan politician Ernest Lluch, who was murdered two years ago by Eta. The guitarist Jaume Torrent will be performing works by Catalan composer Ferran Sor. Meanwhile, one of the most eagerly-looked-forward-to concerts in this festival will take place on 15 August, when the renowned Belgian pianist Kornelia Ogorkowna will be playing a concert for piano and orchestra by Chopin, though in a quintet version accompanied by the Chartres Quartet.

## PUIGCERDÀ FESTIVAL

### Russian maestros perform

The Russian pianist Oxana Yablonskaya and her compatriot the cellist Dmitry Yablonsky will be opening the 7th Puigcerdà festival tonight, together with Eduard Wulfson (violin) and Alex Volchonok (clarinet); they will be performing two sonatas by Beethoven and a trio for clarinet, cello and piano by Brahms. The festival of Puigcerdà was first held in summer 1998 thanks to efforts by the Russian cellist Yablonsky, who has lived in the region for many years, and has organized the festival every year. The event also enjoys the support of Puigcerdà city council.

## ART CRIME

### Dalí fakes found

The Finnish police have found a hundred works by Salvador Dalí which are believed to be fakes in an art gallery in Helsinki. The works were discovered following a police investigation which has resulted in the seizing of five hundred works by the artist. Most of these paintings were being exhibited in a Helsinki gallery on the occasion of the centenary of the artist's birth. Subsequently the police found more "Dalís" in a workshop, of which it is calculated that one hundred are fakes. The Finnish police has sent photographs of the works to the Fundació Gala Dalí in order to determine whether they are dealing with items that are genuine or fakes.



On the way in and on the way out — Edmilson could be playing for the Catalan club next season if his team Olympique agree on a deal, while Marc Overmars is leaving Barça after four years / EFE and LLUÍS CRUSET

# It's all over for Overmars

*Despite being Barça's most expensive-ever player, he never regained the sparkling form he had showed at Arsenal*

## MICHAEL BUNN

Yesterday marked the end of an era at Barcelona football club when Marc Overmars, the last of the *tulipanes* (or "tulips" — the Culé's nickname for their Dutch players), announced that he would be hanging up his boots as a result of a persistent knee injury which has troubled him for several years.

Thirty-one-year-old Overmars said "my knee has caused me a lot of problems and I can no longer play at the level that I want". He will leave Barcelona without any recompense, despite having a year left on his contract. A winger with a dazzling turn

of pace, he was part of the 1995 Ajax team who won the Champions League, before moving to Arsenal, with whom he won the League and FA cup double in 1998.

When Marc Overmars came to Barça in 2000, his knee was already troubling him, and he had already undergone a long layoff at Arsenal owing to this injury, but for some reason this was not taken into account by the Gaspard regime, who promptly made him the most expensive signing in Barcelona history, at a staggering cost of 36 million euros.

However, he failed to produce the

sort of eye-catching form he had regularly displayed at Arsenal, and in fact during the last two years he has only averaged 30 minutes on the pitch per game, after which he has needed substitution. Even so, during those 30 minutes he has occasionally shown the amazing acceleration, ball control and passing ability which once made him arguably the best Dutch player of his generation.

His departure will help to alleviate Barcelona's finances, as his weekly salary was determined by another of Gaspard's over-generous contracts. Current President Lapor-

ta said about Overmars' announcement, "We are enormously grateful for his sincerity and for the dignified act of the player." Meanwhile, Laporta has expressed his desire to sign a central defender, and now that the deal with Zaragoza's Milito looks less likely, vice president Sandro Rosell met this weekend with the management of French club Olympique Lyon to discuss signing the Brazilian player Edmilson. Speaking to the press yesterday, Laporta said "We are just beginning negotiations to sign Edmilson. We like him a lot: he is multi-talented and he would give strength to the team". Meanwhile,

Edmilson was less guarded in his declarations to the press, saying "I am convinced that I am going to be signing for Barcelona next week. There are a few obstacles, but I hope they can be resolved". The "obstacle" is the 12 million euros that Olympique are asking for him, though Barcelona are hoping to lower the price.

The Barcelona squad is currently preparing to leave for their tour in the Far East, where they will be playing three friendly matches in South Korea, China and Japan; the club is hoping to net around five million euros on this tour through sports marketing and broadcasting rights.

## Armstrong the magnificent fails to surmount American stigma

### MICHAEL BUNN

Like it or not, the first man to have won six Tours de France is from a country whose international popularity is at an all-time low. Admittedly, Armstrong has made an effort to be slightly "European" — he lives much of the year in Girona and he has even learned basic French, the language of many of his teammates.

However, it must have been with mixed feelings that he received a message from unpopular fellow Texan George W Bush after his victory on Sunday. Bush called Armstrong's achievement "awesome",

and of course, it is: he has not only won six Tours, he has won them back-to-back. Add to that the story of his cancer recovery, and you have the perfect sporting legend.

Even so, many see his nationality as a sticking point, and on several Tour stages he has been subjected to verbal abuse. "What sort of champion do these people want?" Armstrong has asked in exasperation. Perhaps what he should have done was to go the whole hog six years ago — marry a European and adopt her nationality. Then the legend would have been perfectly complete.



Lance Armstrong, the man who did almost everything right in his bid to become a timeless sporting legend / EFE



## WHAT'S ON

Tuesday 27 July 2004

TUESDAY

27

## Concerts

## BARCELONA

- **La Pedrera. Fundació Caixa Catalunya.** Music from around the world, as part of the cycle of concerts *The Pedrera by Night*. Provença, 261. Friday and Saturday, 9.30 pm-12 pm. Tickets: 10 euros (refreshments included). Until August 28th. Telephone: 902400973
- **Jamboree.** Jazz concert by Raul Reverter Quartet. At 11:00 pm. Plaça Reial, 17.
- **Jazz Sí Club.** Pop, rock and blues jam session coordinated by Laila, David "Sam" and Jaime Julián. At 8:00 pm. Requesens, 2.
- **La Boîte.** Funk and blues jam session coordinated by Michel Clavero. At 11:00 pm. Diagonal, 477.
- **London Bar.** Jazz concert by Miquel Garces Quartet. At 12:30 am. Nou de la Rambla, 34.
- **Los Tarantos.** Flamenco concert by Juan Cortés, Sara Flores and guest artists. At 8:30 pm. Plaça Reial, 17.
- **Los Tarantos.** Jazz jam session by Pablo Galak. At 12:00 am. Plaça Reial, 17.
- **Moog.** Concert by DJs Robert X and Purpur. At 1:00 am. Arc del Teatre, 3.
- **Sala Caja Madrid.** Concert by Christoph Rahn, double bass, and Anna Camudas, piano. At 7:30 pm. Plaça Catalunya, 9.
- **Sidecar.** Concert by El misterio del gusano and Mr. Sevi. As part of Brazuca's Sessions. At 10:30 pm. Heures, 4-6.
- **Teatreneu - Sala Xavier Fàbregas.** Concert by Muhel. At 8:00 pm. Terol, 26.
- BLANES**
- **Església de Santa Maria.** Concert by Barcelona Guitar Ensemble. As part of *Festival de guitarra espanyola a la costa*. At 8:00 pm.
- TARRAGONA**
- **City Walls.** Concert by Duet Serra Huertas, clarinet and piano. As part of *III Cicle de Concerts a les Muralles*. At 10:00 pm.
- TERRASSA**
- **Can Jofresa sports grounds.** Concert by David Bisbal. At 9:30 pm.
- **Nova Jazz Cava.** Jam session by Xavier Figuerola and guest artists. At 10:30 pm.

## Children

## BARCELONA

- **Artenbrut Teatre.** Children's play *Los Lunis*. July 27th and 28th. At 7:00 pm. Perill, 9.
- GIRONA**
- **Biblioteca Just Casero.** *Va de por*, children's stories told by Va de Contes. At 5:30 pm.
- **Museu del Cinema.** Animation film screening *Animac mòbil 2004*. At 5:30 pm.

## Opera

## BARCELONA

- **Gran Teatre del Liceu.** *Giulio Cesare* by Georg Friedrich Händel. Mon to Fri, 8:30 pm. Sun, 5 pm. Tickets: 7,25-149 euros. Rambles, 51-59.

## Theatre

## BARCELONA

- **Teatre Apolo.** *Amory fuego*, by Manolo Carrasco (pianist). Tues 9:30 pm, Wed 6 and 9:30 pm, Thurs 9:30 pm, Fri 10 pm, Saturdays 7:30 and 10:30 pm, Sunday 7 pm. Tickets: 18-24 euros. Until August 1st. Paral·lel 59.
- **Teatre Borràs.** *Dreamers* by Gemelos Lombard. Tues to Sat 9:30 pm. Sun 7:30 pm. Until August 1st. Pl. Urquinaona, 9.
- **Teatre Nou Tantarantana.** *Diktat*, by Enzo Corman. Wed to Sat 9 pm, Sun 7 pm. Until Au-

## Recommended | M. TOPOR



## Peter Brook brings Bokar's story at Teatre Grec

● The British director Peter Brook tells the story of Tierno Bokar, a humble, wise man from Africa living in a country shaken up by colonialism and destroyed by internal violence. The new performance, which has recently debuted at Duisburg (Germany), will be featuring in Barcelona's Mercat de les Flors until 4 August, as part of Forum-Grec 2004. Tierno Bakar is

based on the book *The sage of Bandiagara*, by Amadou Hampaté Bâ, and adapted by Marie-Hélène Estienne who, rather than focusing on the exotic and African folklore, is more interested in "pure human relationships", as Brook said. The play basically deals with the power of both violence and tolerance and features African, British, French and Japanese actors.

## Stories of one for all on the Haima Stage

● *Cuentos de uno para todos* is a show which includes storytelling for adults, teenagers and children from different parts of the world (Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, Tunisia, United States). The stories will be told by Moisés Mendelewicz according to the type of audience and the various circumstance arising. The great storyteller is accompanied by Rosa Robles Quartet, in a show mixing various musical genres such as jazz, soul, bolero and tango. Haima Stage, until 1 August.

## Josep Costa brings the 40s copla hits at La Paloma

● Nowadays the *copla* often evokes the pseudo-culture of Spanish "cañí" society during Franco dictatorship. But in spite of that, some singers such as Quintero, León, and Quiroga created songs with a huge social impact, mainly thanks to radio influence. La Paloma is hosting until 28 July *El vino en un barco*, a show by Josep Costa and with Xavier Torras as a musical director, which aims to recuperate these old hits. C/ del Tigre, 27. 93 317 79 94.

## Exhibitions

## BARCELONA

- **Macba - Museu d'Art.** *Arte y utopía: la acción restringida*. Works by Picasso, Braque, Duchamp and Rauschenberg. Until September 12th. Tickets: 4-7 euros. Macba, Pl. Àngels, 1.
- **CaixaForum.** Exhibition *Estarem segurs mentre totes mogui* by Doug Aitken. Until September 26th. Av. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8.
- **CaixaForum.** *Absència pública*. by Javier Peñafiel. Until October 3rd. Closed on Mondays. Av. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8.
- **Centre d'Art Santa Mònica.** *16 factures*, by Maria Eichhom. Until September 26th. Rbla. Santa Mònica, 7.
- **CCCB.** *Pascal Comelade i la seva orquestra d'instruments de joguina*. A selection of 32 toy instruments. Free entrance. Closed on Mondays. Until August 22nd. Montalegre, 5.
- **Centre Cultural Caixa Catalunya.** *El Cos i el cosmos. Art escultòric del Mèxic precolombi*. Until October 10th. Provença 261-265.
- **Centre d'Art Centre Mònica.** *Apparent Phenomena*, by Joao Tabarra. Until September 26th. Rbla. Santa Mònica, 7.
- **Centre d'Art Santa Mònica.** *Borrowed Scenery (enriched seminaturalistic enclosure)* by Florian Göttke. Free entrance. Until September 26th. Rbla. Santa Mònica, 7.
- **Col·legi d'Arquitectes.** Photograph exhibition *La primera mirada*. Closed on Sundays. Until September 15th. Plaça Nova, 5.
- **Espai Caja Madrid.** *Cuando los cómics se llamaban tebeos*. Original comic works from the 50s and 60s. Until August 12th.
- **Fundació Joan Miró.** *Manifest groc. Dalí, Gasch, Montanya i l'antiart*. Until September 26th. Parc de Montjuïc. Tickets: 3,6 euros. Closed on Mondays. Tel. 93 443 94 70.
- **Institut Francès.** *Boyzone. Imatges del cos*, by Clarisse Hahn. Closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Until September 22nd. Moià, 8. Free entrance. Tel. 93 542 7 171.
- **La Capella.** Exhibition *Qubrum* on Barcelona city configuration. Until September 26th. Closed on Mondays. Hospital, 56.
- **Manuel Mayoral Gallery.** *Dalí. Les inquietuds d'un geni*. Oil paintings, drawings. Until July 31st. Closed on Sundays and Mondays. Consell de Cent 286.
- **Mnac.** *Festins, rituals, cerimònies*. Ancient bronze works from Shangai. Tickets: 4,20. Closed on Mondays. Until September 12th. Palau Nacional de Montjuïc. Tel. 93 22 03 60.
- **Museu d'Arqueologia.** *D'Hèrcules a Superman*. Gods and heroes of the Greek and Roman mythology. Closed on Mondays. Until November 1st. Tickets: 2,40 euros. Pg. Santa Madrona 39-41. Tel. 93 424 65 77.
- **Museu de Ciències Naturals.** *El Museu Martorell, 125 anys de ciències naturals (1878-2003)*. Tickets: 3,5 euros. Until December 31st. Pg. Picasso s/n. Tel. 93 319 68 95.
- **Museu de les Arts Decoratives.** *Objectes/Subjectes*. A vision of Barcelona's de-

## CULTURAL CENTRES

## BARCELONA

- Articket.** [www.articketbcn.es](http://www.articketbcn.es)
- MACBA** (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona). Plaça dels Àngels. Tel. 93 412 08 10. [www.macba.es](http://www.macba.es)
- CCCB.** (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona). Montalegre 5. Tel. 93 306 41 00. [www.cccb.es](http://www.cccb.es)
- Fundació Joan Miró.** Parc de Montjuïc, s/n. Tel. 93 443 94 70. [www.bcn.fimiro.es](http://www.bcn.fimiro.es)
- Fundació Antoni Tàpies.** Aragó 255. Tel. 934 870 315. [www.fundaciotapies.org](http://www.fundaciotapies.org)
- Palau Robert** (Catalan Information Centre) aims to provide all the information needed to enable residents and visitors alike to get to know Catalonia. Passeig de Gràcia, 107. Tel. 93 238 80 91. [www10.gencat.net/probert/angles](http://www10.gencat.net/probert/angles)
- Gran Teatre del Liceu** (Opera House). La Rambla, 51-59. Tel. 93 485 99 00. [www.liceubarcelona.com](http://www.liceubarcelona.com)
- L'Auditori.** Lepant, 150. Tel. 93 247 93 00. L'Auditori, opened in 1999, is the city's new cultural complex in Barcelona and one of the most popular musical venues in the country. [www.auditori.org](http://www.auditori.org)
- Museu Picasso.** Montcada, 15-23. Tel. 933196310. [www.museupicasso.bcn.es](http://www.museupicasso.bcn.es)
- La Pedrera** (Casa Milà). Provença, 261. Tel. 902 400 973.
- Museu d'Història de Catalunya.** Pl. de Pau Vila, 3 (Palau de Mar). Tel. 93 225 47 00 | 93 225 47 26 | 93 225 47 32. [www.mhcat.net](http://www.mhcat.net)
- Museu Egipci de Barcelona** (Egyptian Museum). Valencia, 284. Tel. 93 488 01 88. [www.fundclos.com](http://www.fundclos.com)
- MNAC** (Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya). Palau Nacional, Parc de Montjuïc. 93 622 03 76. [www.mnac.es](http://www.mnac.es)
- Museu Marítim.** Av. de les Drassanes s/n. Tel. 933 429 920. [www.diba.es/mmaritim/english/index.htm](http://www.diba.es/mmaritim/english/index.htm)
- Teatre Nacional de Catalunya.** Pl. de les Arts, 1. Tel. 933 06 57 06. Ticket sales: 902 33 22 11 or [www.servicaixa.com](http://www.servicaixa.com)
- Caixafòrum.** Avda. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8. Tel. 93 476 86 00.

## Sagrada família.

[www.sagrafamiliaria.org](http://www.sagrafamiliaria.org)

**Museu del Ferrocarril** (Railway Museum). Pl. Eduard Maristany, Vilanova i la Geltrú. 93 815 84 91. [www.ffe.es/vilanova](http://www.ffe.es/vilanova)

## GIRONA

- Museu del Cinema.** C/Sèquia, 1, 17001 Girona. Tel. 972 412 777. [www.museudelcinema.org](http://www.museudelcinema.org)
- Museu del Call.** C/Força, 8, 17004 Girona. Tel. 972 21 67 61. [callgirona@ajgirona.org](mailto:callgirona@ajgirona.org)
- Centre Cultural Caixa de Girona.** C/Ciutadans, 19 17004 Girona. Tel. 972 20 98 36. [www.fundaciocaixadegirona.org/cultura](http://www.fundaciocaixadegirona.org/cultura)
- Museu Dalí.** Opened in 1974, The Museu Dalí contains the broadest range of the artistic career of Salvador Dalí, from his earliest works and his creations within the Surrealist movement up to his last works. Tel. 972 677 500. [www.salvador-dali.org](http://www.salvador-dali.org)

## TARRAGONA

**Museu Nacional Arqueològic de Tarragona.** Plaça del Rei, 5 (Tarragona). Very important archaeological collection from Tarraco, the capital of Roman Spain. Tel. 977 23 62 09. [www.mnat.es](http://www.mnat.es)



**Film** | M. TOPOR / J. CAMPOS

## Kill Bill vol. 2

● Just like in *Kill Bill vol. 1*, the director Quentin Tarantino begins the story in black-and-white and evokes the bloody moments at the Bride's wedding, when she was brutally attacked and left for dead. *Kill Bill vol. 2* continues the story-line which unfolded in the first part of the film: the revenge tale of an expert assassin called the Bride, also known as the Black Mamba, against her former employer, Bill, and the other members of his band. The vengeance is



The film stars Uma Thurman and David Carradine

done and the secrets are revealed; thus, the audience discovers that the Bride's real name is Beatrix Kiddo and at the same time, Bill finally makes his appearance as David Carradine. The Bride (Uma Thurman) has already eliminated two of her rivals, O-Ren Ishii and Vernia Green, but she still has to deal with Budd (Michael Madsen) and the eye-patched Elle Driver (Daryl Hannah), before reaching her ultimate goal: to Kill Bill. *Kill Bill vol. 2* looks west to American and European art movies of the 60's and 70's, and above all, to the thundering spaghetti Westerns of Sergio Leone and Chinese martial arts.

Films showing in original version in Barcelona

### Casa de los babys

USA, 2003. 115'. **Dir.:** John Sayles. **With:** Daryl Hannah, Marcia Gray Harden, Mary Steenburgen, Rita Moreno, Susan Lynch, Maggie Gyllenhaal. Six American women travel to Mexico, where they wait to adopt a baby, but they are all trapped in byreacracy problems. The action takes place in a hotel owned by Madame Muñoz (the charismatic Rita Moreno) in an unidentified South American country, where the well-off women rent suites and wait for the adoption to go through.

### Shrek 2

USA, 2004. 105'. **Dir.:** Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury, Conrad Vernon. Shrek and Princess Fiona return from their honeymoon. After battling a fire-breathing dragon and the evil Lord Farquaad to win Princess Fiona's hand, the ogre has to face now the most difficult challenge: his in-laws. Once at home, they find an invitation to visit Princess Fiona's parents, the King and Queen of the Kingdom of Far Far Away.

### Secretary

USA, 2004. 104'. **Dir.:** Steven Shainberg. **With:** James Spader, Maggie Gyllenhaal. Lee Holloway is a young woman who has just been released from a mental institution where she has been unsuccessfully treated for self-mutilation tendencies. She gets a job at a lawyer's office and starts working for Edward Grey. They soon embark on a personal relationship, and Edward starts to discover what his reely needs are, while helping her unlock her sensuality.

### Das Testament des Dr. Mabuse

Germany, 1933. 80'. **Dir.:** Fritz Lang. Fritz Lang's masterpiece focuses on the terrifying atmosphere in Nazi Germany. Lang uses once again the character Dr. Mabuse (which he also used in 1922), a criminal following Nazi orders in post-war Berlin.

### Kill Bill. Volume 1

USA, 2003. 111'. **Dir.:** Quentin Tarantino. **With:** Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu, Viveca A. Fox, Michael Madsen, Daryl Hannah, David Carradine. The body of a young pregnant woman lies on the floor in a rural church in El Paso. She is wearing a blood splattered wedding dress. Years later, when the Bride awakes from the coma, she she realizes what happened to her and prepares for revenge...

### La mala educación (Bad Education)

Spain, 2003. 115'. **Dir.:** Pedro Almodóvar. **With:** Fele Martínez, Gael García Bernal, Javier Cámara, Lluís Homar. A young boy is sexually violated by a priest and separated from his friend in a Catholic church. Years later, the two friends meet again. One of them is a transvestite wanting to become an actor while the other one is a successful film director. Together, they recall their childhood and the difficult times they went through at school.

### Spartan

USA-Germany 2004. 116'. **Dir.:** David Mamet. **With:** Val Kilmer, Derek Luke, William H. Macy, Ed O'Neil. A firts-rate thriller about political power and government intrigues. Val Kilmer plays Robert Scott, a special agent hired by the government to find the President's kidnapped daughter, Laura Newton - a first-year student who disappears from campus on a Friday afternoon. Scott has only three days to rescue her, as she disappears on Friday and then press will notice if she doesn't show up to class on Monday. Along the way, he will discover a more dangerous, sinister plot.

### The Butterfly Effect

USA, 2004. 113'. **Dir.:** Eric Bress, J. Mackye Gruber. **With:** Ashton Kutcher, Melora Walters, Amy Smart, Elden Henson. Evan Treborn is a young man who tries to forget his horrible childhood memories. He devises a technique of travelling back in time in order to repair the damage. But every time he goes back into the past, he only makes things worse and he finds it difficult sort things out.

### The Ladykillers

EUA, 2004. **Dir.:** Joel i Ethan Coen. **With:** Tom Hanks, Irma P. Hall, Marlon Wayans. An eccentric professor and his three accomplices plan to rob "Bandit Queen", a riverboat casino on Mississipi. They are staying in Mrs. Muson's house and are going to dig a tunnel to where the money is kept. But dealing with Mrs. Munson appears to be more difficult than they expect.

### Troy

EUA, 2004. 160'. **Dir.:** Wolfgang Petersen. **With:** Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Orlando Bloom, Sean Bean, Brendan Gleeson. In 1193 B.C., Prince Paris (Orlando Bloom), son of Priam, the king of Troy, seduces Menelau's wife, Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world. He convinces her to follow him away from her husband, setting the two nations at war with each other. Menelau and his brother, Agamemnon, go to war against Troy, partly because of Helen, but more because it is an excuse to conquer the Trojans. Achilles, the greatest warrior among the Greeks, helps Agamemnon to fight against Troy.

### Un filme falado

Portugal-France, 2003. 96'. **Dir.:** Manoel de Oliveira. **With:** Leonor Silveira, John Malkovich. Leonor Silveira, John Malkovich. Rosa Maria, a young History teacher at University of Lisboa, goes on a Mediterranean cruise with her daughter, Maria Joana. As they travel from France to Turkey, Rosa Maria talks to her daughter about world history. She plans to meet her husband in Bombay, and then go on holiday together.

### Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself

Dinamarca, 2004. 105'. **Dir.:** Lone Scherfig. **With:** Jamie Sives, Adrian Rawlins, Shirley Henderson. Wilbur is successful with women, he has a good job and a great brother, but despite all that he is not happy. Disappointed with life, he decides to commit suicide, but killing oneself is not as easy as he thinks...

### Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban

USA 2004. 136'. **Dir.:** Daniel Radcliffe. **With:** Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Robbie Coltrane. Potter and his friends find themselves at the Hogwarts school for their third year studies, where they try to find out about the mystery of Sirius Blank - a dangerous magician and complice of Lord Voldemort, who wants to revenge against Harry Potter. At the same time, Harry will discover more secrets from his past.

### Confessions of a dangerous mind

USA, 2004. 113'. **Dir.:** George Clooney. **With:** Sam Rockwell, George Clooney, Drew Barrymore, Julia Roberts. Chuck Barris is a successful showman who led a double life as he also worked as an assassin for the CIA.

### The Inheritance

Denmark, 2002. 108'. **Dir.:** Per Fly. **With:** Ulrich Tomsen, Lisa Werliner. Christoffer, the heir of a vast industrial fortune, has decided to abandon the family steel business. He now owns a restaurant in Stockholm, where he is happily married to Maria, a Swedish stage actress. When his father commits suicide, his mother insists that Christoffer takes over the management of the family business.

### Fahrenheit 9/11

USA, 2004. 112'. **Dir.:** Michael Moore. Through facts, documents and interviews, the film criticises George W. Bush and the war in Iraq. Michael Moore explains how Bush acted after the 9/11 attacks, and how later he manipulated the facts to serve his wealthy bankers' corrupt ambitions.

### The Purple Rose of Cairo

USA, 1985. 78'. **Dir.:** Woody Allen. **With:** Mia Farrow, Jeff Daniels, Danny Aiello, Diana Millay. Mia Farrow is Cecilia, is a woman trapped between an abusive marriage and a dead end job, whose only escape from deradful reality is the cinema, where she always watches the same film.

### Barcelona

#### CASABLANCA-KAPLAN

Die Ehe der Maria Braun (V.O.S.E)	16.00-18.15-20.30-22.45
Um filme falado (V.O.S.E)	16.00-18.15-20.30-22.30

#### FILMOTECA DE CATALUNYA

The killing of a Chinese bookie (V.O.S.C)	17.30
Opening night (V.O.S.C)	19.30
Inauguración del campo de San Mamés	22.30
Balneario de Cestona	22.30
El mayorazgo de Basterretxe	22.30
Vitoria en fiestas	22.30
Goyeneche	22.30

#### MÈLIES

La Casita blanca	16.30
An affair to remember (V.O.S.E)	18.15
The purple rose of Cairo (V.O.S.E)	18.15
Elephant (V.O.S.E)	20.30
Midnight (V.O.S.E)	20.35
The age of Innocence (V.O.S.E)	22.15
El gran carnaval (V.O.S.E)	22.15

#### RENOIR FLORIDABLANCA

Incautos	16.00-18.15-20.30-22.45
Fahrenheit 9/11	16.00-18.25-20.40-22.55
Machuca	16.05-18.20-20.35-22.50
L'ultimo bacio	16.10-18.30-20.40-22.50
Shrek 2	16.15-20.05
Isi / Disi: Amor a lo bestia	16.20-18.10-20.10-22.15
Seres queridos	18.10-22.20

#### RENOIR LES CORTS

L'ultimo bacio (V.O.S.E)	16.00-18.15-20.30-22.45
Fahrenheit 9/11 (V.O.S.E)	16.00-18.20-20.35-22.50
Incautos	16.05-18.20-20.35-22.50
Seres queridos	16.10-18.25-20.35-22.50
Isi / Disi: Amor a lo bestia	16.10-18.30-20.40-22.35
Shrek 2 (V.O.S.E)	16.15-20.40
Und führe uns in Versuchung (V.O.S.E)	18.25-22.40

#### VERDI

Operación Algeciras (V.O.S.E)	16.20-18.15-22.35
Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (V.O.S.E)	16.00-18.15-20.30-22.40
Arven (V.O.S.E)	16.00-18.15-20.30-22.40
Spartan (V.O.S.E)	16.00-18.15-20.30-22.40
Kill Bill Vol. 2 (V.O.S.E)	16.30-19.15-22.00
Das Testament des Dr. Mabuse (V.O.S.E)	20.10

#### VERDI PARK

Ludwig (V.O.S.E)	16.00-20.30
Casa de los Babys (V.O.S.E)	16.10-20.30
Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself (V.O.S.E)	16.10-18.15-20.30-22.40
La muerte de nadie	16.15
Iris (V.O.S.E)	18.10-20.10-22.10
Russian Ark (V.O.S.E)	18.20-22.40

#### YELMO ICARIA

Secretary (V.O.S.E)	11.20-13.30-15.45-18.00-20.15-22.30
Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself (V.O.S.E)	11.20-13.30-15.45-18.00-20.45-22.50
The Ladykillers (V.O.S.E)	11.20-13.30-15.45-18.00-20.15-22.30
Isi / Disi: Amor a lo bestia	11.20-13.30-15.30-17.45-19.45-22.45
Spider-Man 2 (V.O.S.E)	11.20-14.00-16.45-19.30-22.15
Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (V.O.S.E)	11.30-14.00-16.30-19.00-21.45
Um filme falado (V.O.S.E)	11.30-13.30-15.30-17.30
Iris	11.30-13.45-15.45-17.45-20.00
Incautos	11.30-14.00-16.45-19.15-22.00
Antonia, una historia de Chile	11.30-13.30-15.30-17.30
Kill Bill. Volume 1 (V.O.S.E)	11.30-13.45-16.00-18.15-20.30-22.50
Around the world in 80 days (V.O.S.E)	11.40-14.10-16.45-19.30-22.15
Shrek 2 (V.O.S.E)	11.40-13.45-16.10-18.20-20.30-22.45
Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban (V.O.S.E)	12.00-15.30-18.30-21.30
Kill Bill Vol. 2 (V.O.S.E)	12.00-15.30-18.30-21.30
The Butterfly Effect (V.O.S.E)	19.30-22.00
The day after tomorrow (V.O.S.E)	19.45-22.30
Troy (V.O.S.E)	22.00

### Girona

#### TRUFFAUT

Big fish (V.O)	17.30-20.00-22.30
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### Spiderman 2

USA, 2004. **Dir.:** Sam Raimi. **With:** Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Alfred Molina, James Franco. Now Peter Parker is in college and he has to face new threats to New York City and the people he loves. He works two jobs to pay the rent, while Aunt May struggles with mortgages payments. At the same time, the relations with the people he loves most are crumbling. He wants to reveal his secret to Mary Jane (Kristen Dunst), his friendship with Harry Osborn is stressed by Harry's growing hatred of Spider-man, as he blames him for his father's death.

### The last kiss

Italy, 2003. 1204. **Dir.:** Gabriele Muccino. **With:** Stefano Accorsi, Stefania Sandrelli. The young and handsome Carlo lives a happy life with his girlfriend, but when she gets pregnant, he panicks picturing fatherhood as the end of freedom and youth. On the other hand, the prospect of being a grandmother reminds Anna of her vaguely unsatisfying marriage and her long-gone youth and beauty. Carlos has a bunch of friends who are all trying to escape responsibility and fight against age.

### The Russian Ark

Russia, 2002. **Dir.:** Alexander Sokurov. **With:** Sergei Dontsov, Maria Kuznetsova. Sokurov shot a 96 minute film in one take. The camera follows the steps of a 19th century French diplomat throughout the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. A long walk through the museum reveals a good part of Russia.

### The day after tomorrow

USA, 2004. 125'. **Dir.:** Roland Emmerich. **With:** Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllental. Sudden global warming has devastating consequences for the entire planet. In the middle of this catastrophe is Adrian Hall, a paleoclimatologist (a scientist who studies the ways weather patterns changed in the past), who struggles to save the world from the effects of global warming.

### Machuca

Chile, 2004. 120'. **Dir.:** Andrés Wood. **With:** Federico Lupi, tamara Acosta. After the Pinochet coup d'Etat, little Pedro Machuco, child of a very poor family, starts classes in a private school. He makes friends with Gonzalo and together they will witness the social changes in the country.

### Antonia, una historia de Chile

Spain, 2004. 100'. **Dir.:** Mariano Andrade. Antonia is a successful businesswoman who goes through a depression, meets a former lover, Martin, who had left Chile years before. This encounter makes Antonia's life even more complicated.

### Big Fish

USA, 2003. 99'. **Dir.:** Tim Burton. **With:** Ewan McGregor, Alison Lohman, Albert Finney, Jessica Lange, Billy Crudup. Ed Bloom has always exaggerated his exploits as a young man and succeeded in charming everyone, except for his son Will. At his mother's request, the estranged son has come home with his wife to take care of his dying father and to separate fact from fiction.

### The Age of Innocence

USA, 1993. 139'. **Dir.:** Martin Scorsese. **With:** Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder, Alexis Smith, Geraldine Chaplin, Mary Beth Hurt. Society scion Newland Archer is engaged to May Welland, but his well-ordered life is upset when he meets May's unconventional cousin, Countess Olenska.

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# CT BACK

## WEATHER

## CROSSWORD

### Calm and bright

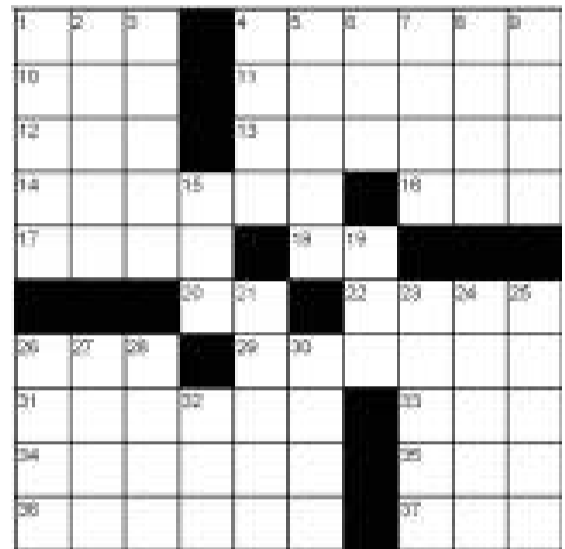
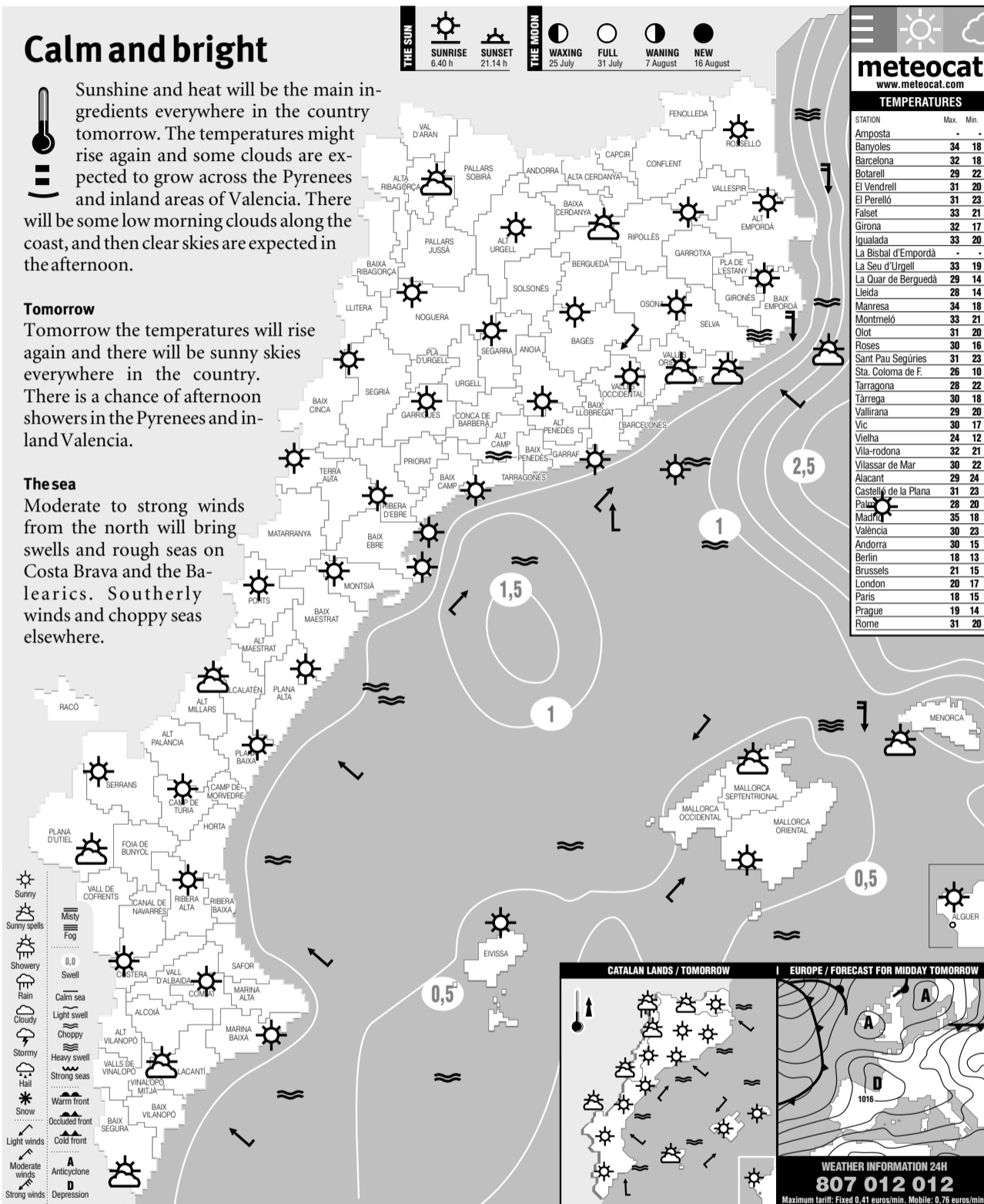
Sunshine and heat will be the main ingredients everywhere in the country tomorrow. The temperatures might rise again and some clouds are expected to grow across the Pyrenees and inland areas of Valencia. There will be some low morning clouds along the coast, and then clear skies are expected in the afternoon.

#### Tomorrow

Tomorrow the temperatures will rise again and there will be sunny skies everywhere in the country. There is a chance of afternoon showers in the Pyrenees and inland Valencia.

#### The sea

Moderate to strong winds from the north will bring swells and rough seas on Costa Brava and the Balearics. Southerly winds and choppy seas elsewhere.



#### ACROSS

- Abdominal muscles (abbr.).
- Snatch.
- After Sun.
- Venus.
- Self-esteem.
- Symmetrical.
- Chest.
- Digit.
- Afloat.
- Trenton locale.
- Terbium (abbr.).
- Persia.
- Put together.
- Worn out.
- Large cat.
- Old-fashioned dads.
- Boulevard's partner.
- Alternative (abbr.).
- Swank.
- Affirmation.

#### DOWN

- Very tiny animal.
- Fake.
- What people do in their sleep.
- Nimbus.
- Strength.
- Old man.
- Troop.
- Hi!
- Fable.
- Ingest.
- Peanut butter brand.
- Boyfriends.
- Refund.
- Dicken's "\_\_\_\_\_ of Two Cities" (2 wds.).
- Bird homes.
- Academy (abbr.).
- Noah's bird.
- Cowboy fight.
- Turned loose.
- African antelope.

#### ANSWERS

#### ACROSS

- Abs.
- Abduct.
- Mon.
- Urania.
- Ego.
- Radial.
- Bureau.
- Toe.
- Asea.
- NJ.
- Tb.
- Iran.
- Add.
- Effete.
- Cougar.
- Pas.
- Avenue.
- Alt.
- Deluxe.
- Yes.

#### DOWN

- Ameba.
- Bogus.
- Snore.
- Aura.
- Braun.
- Dad.
- Unit.
- Ciao.
- Tale.
- Eat.
- Jif.
- Beaux.
- Repay.
- A Tale.
- Nests.
- Acad.
- Dove.
- Duel.
- Free.
- Gnu.

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