



# CATALONIA TODAY

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**Barcelona plans more car-free space for pedestrians**

NEWS, 2



**40 Iraqis killed in Baghdad car bomb attacks**

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## Maragall forecasts new era of economic prosperity

*Catalan economy rose by 2.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2004*

Pasqual Maragall, the president of the Catalan government, announced yesterday that Catalonia will soon be witnessing the birth of a "new era" in capital growth, once his eight-year programme has been fulfilled. The president was speaking at the opening session of the annual meeting of the

*Cercle d'Economia* in Sitges, and promised an audience of Catalan entrepreneurs that his programme is "ambitious" yet at the same time "responsible". The president defended the 2004 budget which had been passed by parliament, but reminded his audience that "the previous gov-

ernment left us with a deficit of nearly 1.2 billion euros. President Maragall bases his programme on five areas: statute reform, a new financing system, investment in infrastructure, a new model for economic growth and a European constitution.

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*"Teach Yourself Catalan" with Alan Yates, every Friday*



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**Middle East conflict is breeding ground for anti-semitism**

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*Peter Sellars, the provocative genius*

MIQUEL PAIROLI

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*Everyone must take a stand on biotechnology*

LLUÍS RIBAS

### Zapatero aims to build bridges at his first EU summit

The Spanish prime minister, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, is attending his first European Union summit in Brussels. He is aiming to build bridges amongst his fellow euro leaders in a bid to remove the spectre of Spain's foreign policy shift towards the United States, under previous government of the Popular Party. Zapatero will be kept busy as the summit attempts tackle some key issues.

### French police swoop to arrest eight suspected member of ETA

A suspected leading member of the Basque terrorist group ETA has been arrested in France alongside seven other suspected members of the outlawed group after police swooped on three cities in the western and central part of the country. The French Interior Ministry confirmed yesterday they had captured Iñaki, suspected of being the recruiter for new members.



England beat Switzerland 3-0, giving their Euro 2004 campaign renewed hope

## Iberian duel

Once again Spain's football pundits throw up their collective hands in despair as the Spanish team's poor play only earns them a draw with Greece. Next Sunday's match with Portugal will be crucial for both

teams - Spain must draw or win to go into the next round, while for Portugal only a win will suffice. The problem is that while Spain's playing seems increasingly leaden and uninspired, the Portuguese seem to

have found something approaching their best form, dispatching the hapless Russia without even breaking sweat.

Sunday's Iberian duel promises to be a thrilling match.