



CATALONIA TODAY

BARCELONA, THE BUSINESS & LEISURE CAPITAL OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

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EDITED IN BARCELONA



**PACO DE LUCÍA
HONOURED WITH
ARTS AWARD**

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**ELEVEN KILLED IN
BAGHDAD SUICIDE
BOMB ATTACK**

NEWS, 5

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Adoption of foreign children doubles over three years

Russia and China are the main destinations for adoptive parents

Increasing numbers of Catalans are opting to adopt children from abroad and over the past three years the number of foreign adoptions has doubled from 558 to 1,042. The Federation of the Associations for Adoption expects the number to rise to 1,400 for 2004. Very few Spanish or Cat-

alan children come up for adoption, forcing childless couples to look abroad, with China and Russia being the current most popular countries. The most recent countries to join the list of those that permit people from abroad to adopt are Ethiopia, Nepal, Mexico and Morocco. It is an ex-

pensive business and can cost as much as 12,000 euros. The Chinese, for example, ask adoptive parents to make a 3,000-euro donation to the local orphanage. In Catalonia the government demands a further 900 euros for a certificate, a fee not levied in other autonomous areas.

OPINION, 6

Islam and the need for positive discrimination

MANUEL MILIÁN MESTRE

OPINION, 6

The driver who races in Catalan colours

ORIOL SERVIÀ

Religious parliament pronounced a success

The week-long Parliament of the World's Religions, held under the auspices of the Forum, ended yesterday with the establishment of a network linking 40 cities with the goal of working towards the parliament's objectives on the issues of water, foreign debt, refugees and religious violence. Organisers expressed satisfaction with the parliament, which attracted over 8,000 visitors from 85 countries.

Beckham's botch shows high price of failure

The ball that David Beckham sent flying into the crowd when he missed the penalty against Portugal that ended England's hopes in Euro 2004 has reached a staggering 10 million euros on an internet auction site. The ball was caught by Pablo Carral, a Spanish fan. The ball's starting price was one euro but within 48 hours had reached 10 million. Bids will be taken until July 22.



Passenger numbers were up at all Catalan airports, with Girona recording a 156 per cent rise over the first six months of year

Record check-in figures as budget flights fuel Catalan air travel boom

Business in Catalan airports is up on last summer with more than two million passengers passing through Barcelona's El Prat airport last month alone, nearly 8 per cent more than during the same period

last year. Visitors from France and the UK showed a rise of over 23 per cent. Girona and Reus airports, both of which are used by budget flier Ryanair, showed significant increase in traffic. One million pas-

sengers passed through Girona airport in the first six months of the year, an staggering increase of 156 per cent, while Reus, with 440,000 travellers, recorded an increase of 55 per cent.

TEATRE VICTÒRIA
1735

Ballet flamenco Juan de Juan

TORERO
coreography by **Antonio Canales**

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Jilted Kluivert looks for wealthy English suitors as Barcelona show him the door