



# CATALONIA TODAY

BARCELONA, THE BUSINESS & LEISURE CAPITAL OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

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TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2004

EDITED IN BARCELONA



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BUSINESS, 14



**BRITONS KILLED IN BAGHDAD SUICIDE BOMB ATTACK**  
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## England players try to put a good face on farcical Euro defeat

Once again England have managed to seize defeat from the jaws of victory and while the players make their excuses for the farcical defeat by France the nation is braced once again for disappointment.

Liverpool's Michael Owen, who had a lacklustre game in what, up until the end, was a solid England performance, says they will get over it and that team spirit has not been harmed. David Beckham accepted his share of the blame after missing a penalty.

Meanwhile Spain, whose disappointing record is on a par with England's but at least managed to beat Russia in the opening game, are expected to make some changes before their next match with Greece. Iñaki Sáez, the coach, has called on the nation to have faith in him.

## Single-family houses gobble up Barcelona building land

After centuries of building flats the people of Barcelona have developed a taste for family homes and the trend is leading to a shortage of building land.

According to a report in *El Periódico*, of the nearly 69,000 homes built in Catalonia in 2003, almost a third were single-family residences. The Barcelona metropolitan area, including the Maresme, Baix Llobregat and Alt Penedès, will have exhausted land within 14 years.

Over the past decade, 10 per cent of the half a million homes built in Catalonia have been for single families and 17 per cent were duplexes. Surprisingly, the small units are being built in the most densely populated area, the city of Barcelona itself.

# Poll confirms shift in Catalan politics

### *Humiliating defeat signals decline of Pujol era*

As in Spain, the Socialist Party triumphed in Catalonia and returned a significant victory over the Popular Party and *Convergència i Unió* which under Jordi Pujol ruled Catalonia until last year.

PSC obtained 42 per cent of the vote while PP and CiU managed only 17 per cent each. *Esquerra Repub-*

*licana* consolidated the gains it made in last March's general election. Many will see in the result confirmation that the Pujol era is well and truly over as younger nationalists gravitate towards ERC while CiU, now led by Artur Mas, is unable to shake off the image of being yesterday's party.



Art from pre-Columbian Mexico at La Pedrera, by Fundació Caixa Catalunya

## Exhibit at La Pedrera takes on the cosmos Mexican-style

Until the 10th of October, an art exhibit at La Pedrera explores the way pre-Columbian civilisations perceived the relationship between humans and the supernatural. In the *Fundació Caixa Catalunya* exhibition room, *El cos i el cosmos* offers visitors a glimpse at Mexican life between the years 1200 ad and 1521, with a collection of over 150 sculptures from that period. Divided in four parts, the exhibit deals with the main rituals and festivals that were

### *Sculptures helped humans communicate with the gods and balance the universe*

performed in order to maintain cosmic order. According to pre-Columbian cultures, humanity was responsible for keeping the balance in a universe inhabited by supernatural beings. The sculptures, now seen as works of art, were meant to act as intermediaries in a complex relationship, and were used to help open communication with divine spirits. They reflect the conception of the *cos* (body) and the *cosmos*.

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*War is a good way to make a killing*

XAVIER DIEZ

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*Guided tours to city's hisotric cemeteries*



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# CATALONIA

## COUNTRY OF ENCOUNTERS

EXHIBITION: 14 MAY - 3 OCTOBER 2004. PALAU MOJA. RAMBLA / PORTAFERRISSA. BARCELONA

This exhibition aims at revealing the plural personality of Catalan society by presenting various ways of understanding, explaining and experiencing it. Catalonia, that has been capable of assimilating and synthesising all sorts of influences, also loves its own traditions and significant cultural heritage whilst being extremely attentive to universal trends.

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## European election victory for Catalan socialists

*CiU continues its downward spiral, coming in third after PSC and PP*

While the Spanish Socialist Party has solidified its lead over the Popular Party in Spanish politics by winning the European Parliamentary elections by two percentage points, in Catalonia the Catalan Socialist Party (PSC) celebrated an ample victory over its rivals from the PP and Convergence and Union.

PSC obtained 42.78% of the Catalan vote, well ahead of PP (17.76%) and CiU (17.42%).

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) has solidified its gains from last March's general elections by winning 11.82% of the parliamentary vote. The Green Party (ICV) maintained its traditional base of support by winning 7.19% of the Catalan vote.

The spectacular rise of PSC continues an upward trend that started with the general elections in March,

when it won 39.47%, up from 31.16% in the 2003 autonomous elections.

The spectacular losses of CiU continue a downward trend established in the general elections in March, when it lost about 10% of the support that it won in 2003. In March CiU obtained 20.78% of the vote, compared with 30.94 that it won in 2003. Some will see these latest elections as the latest in a series of losses which brings the political era of Jordi Pujol to a definitive close. CiU, who had become used to having plenty of hegemony over its political opponents, has now slipped down to third place in the world of Catalan politics.

PSC is now better positioned to be the most powerful and stable Catalan political party, while ERC looks like it will hold on to its base of sup-

port without threatening the position of PSC.

Meanwhile the PP continues its steady rise amongst the electorate that began with the municipal elections in 2003, when it captured 11.1% of the vote, followed by 11.89% in the autonomous elections the same year. In the March 2004 elections it obtained 15.89%. The positioning of the PP as the second most voted party in Catalonia were perhaps the most significant aspects of this European Parliamentary election. ERC's 11.8% of the vote gives it almost twice the percentage it had in the 1999 European Elections.

The low voter turnout in Catalonia, 59.75%, was higher than the Spanish average (54%) and the European-wide average (55.8%). The overall picture in Catalonia gives the



Josep Borrell led the PSOE to its best-ever European election result

three leftist parties — PSC, ERC and ICV — a combined total of 62% of the vote.

CiU leader Autur Mas characterised his party's poor showing as "not satisfactory, but surmountable", saying that his party will look

forward to regain lost ground in the municipal elections in 2007. He attributed some of CiU's misfortunes to the low turnout, saying that too many voters did not assign enough importance to the European Elections.

## Roman artifacts unearthed in Lleida

Recent discoveries in Lleida could serve to make it more prominent on archaeological map of Catalonia. Workers renovating a shopping centre in Lleida have discovered artifacts from the Roman era, including part of an old Andalusian city wall and the foundation of the medieval chapel of Sant Esperit, who was worshipped by Lleida residents until the 18th century.

The discovery was made in a small area in a street in the city centre.

Archaeologists also discovered the intact remains of an adolescent male from the Roman era just a few centimetres away from the site of an Arab wall from the 14th century.

The necropolis of the ancient city of Ilera had been built about a half a kilometre from where the youth's body was discovered.

Some archaeologists speculate

that the youth may have received a private burial ceremony away from the main necropolis.

Large blocks of stone found next to the Arab wall attest to the strength of the structure, which had been the city's most prominent building until the 17th century.

Historical experts believe that the remains belonged to an access door to the city's eastern side.

The city plans to cover the ruins after excavation and documentation activities have finished. Other areas in Catalonia where ruins have been discovered include Empuries, which have both ancient Greek and Roman ruins.

Medieval ruins and a necropolis have also been found there.

The most well-known ancient ruins in Catalonia are the Roman ruins in Tarragona, which date back to the first century B.C.

## Catalan birth rate up 27% over last 10 years

Catalonia's "thirty-somethings have finally started making babies. There are 27 per cent more babies being born now than 10 years ago, according to a report by the Centre for Demographic Studies of Catalonia (CEDC). The report was based on information collected by *Benvingut nadó!*, a programme run by Caprabo which registers 80 per cent of all births.

The study is significant because it offers more recent figures than the Institute of Statistics of Catalonia. However, while illustrating new social tendencies, the Caprabo study misses 20 per cent of the population.

The report reports a 5 per cent contribution to the rising birth rate made by the immigrant population. This number could be higher, considering that many immigrants do not participate in the supermarket chain's programme.

By the end of the year, there will have been 4,300 more births than in 2003. This continual growth is due to the fact that the generation born after the baby boomers has begun to have children, the report says. The average age is over 30, as young couples tend to wait longer before having children. Since the 80s, men have delayed parenthood by three years, and women, by four. Despite the increase, Catalonia's birth rate is still very low. As a result, in 25 years half the population could be over 50.

The CEDC found that Catalans are more likely to conceive while on holiday. Multiple births - which for reasons unknown seem to occur most in the province of Tarragona - have doubled in the last 10 years, currently accounting for five per cent of the total. This is probably due to artificial insemination, according to CEDC researcher Pau Miret.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Glòries to be greened

The Glòries Square in the centre of Barcelona will be transformed into an urban park over the next two years in a bid to ease traffic flow and create a greener environment for pedestrians in this part of the city.

As part of the plans, around 200,000 cars that pass over the square each day using Gran Via and Diagonal will be diverted underground to cut back on traffic jams. A new, green square will be built.

### WELFARE

#### Old people get raw deal

Residential homes for old people in Barcelona and in the region of the Ebre have been criticised in a City Council report which describes them as insufficient.

### SPORT

#### Catalonia excels at sport

Catalan athletes have achieved success out of proportion to their numbers. They notched up nearly half of Spain's international wins, according to a report from the Generalitat.



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# Barcelona family house trend eats up land

*An economic study warns that land could be used up within 14 years*

At the rate things are going, in little over a decade, Catalonia may have no more room to build new housing, *El Periodico* reported yesterday. The rapid shortages in building land have reached alarming levels especially in the Barcelona metropolitan area, where, since 1993, more than half of family homes in Catalonia have been built.

In 2003 alone 68,798 homes were built in Catalonia, of which 21,798 were single family homes, and 47,202, for multiple families. The Barcelona metropolitan area including Maresma, Bix Llobregat, Garraf, Alt Penedès and the two Vallès - will have exhausted its building land within the next 14 years.

This was the conclusion of the study *Habitatge i consum de sòl* by the economists Agustí Jover and Miquel Morell, and IT expert Àngel Gómez. The findings were reached by analysing data on all houses built in the last decade, available building land, including areas obtained by demolition, and the density by hectare (2.471 acres) with which housing is being planned.

The study emphasises the fact that in recent years more and more single family homes are going up. Between 1993 and 2003, over 530,000 houses were built in Catalonia, 10.41 per cent of which were designed as one family detached homes, 17.55 per cent as duplexes and the remaining 73.03 per cent for

multiple families. The researchers found another surprising development. These single family homes are being built predominantly in the most populated part of Catalonia, its urban capital, at more than twice the rate of other touristy municipalities. "The rampant consumption of land in the Barcelona metropolitan area is overwhelming," economist Miguel Morell told *El Periodico*. In addition, at least four out of 10 of houses built in 2003 in the province of Barcelona were constructed on top of sites that previously contained other buildings.

More than 16,000 cases were found where buildings were demolished in order to make way for the new ones.



The city is stepping away from high rises towards private homes

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## SCIENCE

### Prehistoric eggs unearthed

Eight dinosaur eggs have been found during an excavation of a site in Fumanya near Fígols. The fossilised eggs are 70 million years old and measure 30 centimetres in diameter. They will be taken to the Fígols Museum for further study. "After three weeks work on the excavation workers found the eggs," says the Director of the Museum, Rosa Serra. In 2000 workers discovered more remains from dinosaurs in Fumanya, including bones in an area 34 kilometers square.

## EDUCATION

### Anger over nursery plan

Local people are furious that Barcelona Town Hall is changing the way it educates young children in its nursery schools. Opponents to the new system claim the quality of education is being put at risk because the number of teachers are being reduced to save cash. Already the new system has been introduced in 11 nursery's in the city. But Barcelona City Council said there was no intention to reduce the quality of education for youngsters and that they spent 6000 euros per place in a public nursery.

## ECOLOGY

### Ecotax to reduce damage

The Catalan Republican party ERC want an ecotax introduced in tourist zones across Europe. It says it would help pay for damaged caused to the environment in areas of intense tourist activity.

## FINANCE

### Funfair in the red

The Tibidabo amusement park as accumulated 8.2 million euros in losses since the city of Barcelona took over its management. The number of visitors also continues to fall. Just over 400,000 people visited the park in 2003. In 1993, the park had 777,500 visitors. Convergence and Union leader Xavier Trias has attributed the losses to bad management. In 2002, the managers of the municipal corporation Tibidabo Amusement Park (PATSA) acknowledged that the park had a deficit of 4.1 million euros, and last year the park lost 1.8 million. The rest of the accumulated loss comes from old debts and a reserve fund related to a legal proceeding which has yet to be finalised. CiU recommends turning over management of the park to a private company while retaining ownership of the site property. The party also recommends lowering the general admission price, which is currently 22 euros for adults.

## FORUM

### Visitor numbers falls short of target

The number of visitors to the Forum increased last week but still fall below the target set by the organisers. They were hoping to attract 150,000 visitors but only 121,000 people passed through the entrance gate. In total nearly 591,000 visitors have been to the Forum since it opened last month, which still falls short of the organisers expectations as they wanted to attract 650,000 people. "We are confident that are forecasts can be met and that over the summer more people will continue to visit the event," says Forum spokesman Oleguer Sarsanedas.

# Guided tours now offered for Poblenu cemetery

*Tours also to be offered for Montjuic, Barcelona's largest cemetery*

## ROBERT KIMPLETON

Barcelona has joined cities such as Paris and London in starting to offer guided tours of historic cemeteries.

As of June 8, guided tours are being offered for the Poblenu cemetery, known as *Cemebtiri Vell*, or Old Cemetery.

Similar tours are in the works for the Montjuic cemetery, Barcelona's largest and perhaps most famous cemetery.

The Poblenu cemetery was founded in 1775 by bishop Josep Climent. It was originally envisioned as a cemetery which reflected the revolutionary ideas of the 19th century, but was later converted into a place for the bourgeoisie of the time to bury their dead.

It had to be reconstructed in the latter part of the 19th century after the original site was destroyed by Napoleon's troops in 1813.

The cemetery, which covers 52,000 square metres and has 27,000 sepulchres, is the second largest in Barcelona after Montjuic, which covers more than 550,000 square metres and has more than 150,000 sepulchres.

Montjuic is known for being the burial place for nobility, business leaders, politicians and also famous figures such as painter Joan Miró. Inaugurated in 1883, it had previously been known as the South-West cemetery.

The Montjuic castle was built on top of an ancient Jewish cemetery —

Montjuic means, in essence "Jew Hill" — and today there is a Holocaust memorial bearing the names of Holocaust victims.

In the Poblenu cemetery, tours are available for individuals for groups free of charge.

University of Chicago professor Elisa Martí has recently published a book and DVD about the cemetery which covers its construction, history and information about some of the more distinguished individuals who were buried there, including musician and poet Josep Anselm Clavé.

The tour route has approximately 30 stops, the last one being the most famous sculpture of the cemetery called "The Kiss of Death".



The Poblenu cemetery is the second largest cemetery in Barcelona.

## Three more Catalan beaches meet European standards

Catalonia has 90 blue flag beaches. Since last year, three more beaches were flagged, but one lost the status in the Girona region. Among flagged beaches, the Barcelona region gained 22, that's two more than the previous year. The blue flag recognises the level of health, cleanliness, safety and environmental management of beaches, as spelled out by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), an organisation formed by 34 NGOs and non-profits.

In the greater Barcelona area, 31 beaches were considered for the blue flag. 22 of them, along the coastline of 10 different municipalities, actually qualified. Garraf county, with Sitges leading the way, has obtained the most blue flags, 11



Barcelona gains two more blue flags, giving it a total of 22

in total: seven in Sitges, three in Vilanova and one in Cubelles. Barcelona beaches have five blue flags and the Maresme, six.

The province of Tarragona has the most blue flags in Catalonia.

This year it was given another, making it 37 in all. Tarragona county gained 13 flags, Salou with four, followed by the municipalities of Cambrils, Tarragona and Torredembarra, with three each.

## Noise pollution a target for civic campaign

Barcelona's city council has decided to make noise pollution one of the central themes of its civic responsibility campaign, with a special emphasis on outdoor cafés and bars, which tend to cause conflicts between business owners, patrons and residents.

So far this year the city has denied licenses to 84 establishments for reasons related to noise and management of outdoor terraces. The situation becomes more complicated in summer, when many open air cafés stay open later into the night.

The city will monitor establishments in different districts which have been the subject of noise complaints in the past in districts such as Arc del Teatre, el Eixample, and Sarrrià-Sant Gervasi.

A total of more than 400 estab-

lishments will be monitored throughout the city.

Special signs will be posted in these areas to remind people of the problems of noise pollution. In 2003, there were more than 300 complaints to police related to noise.

The city is also sending special leaflets to citizens with guidelines and recommendations related to noise pollution.

In addition the traditional problem of noise related to the city's nightlife, there will also be a special emphasis on traffic noise and noise that comes from the interior of people's homes such as playing radios and televisions too loudly.

The campaign is also designed to clamp down on excess noise produced by motorbikes and motor-scooters on the streets of Barcelona.

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# Catalonia Today designed for a new readership

*The number of foreign residents moving to Barcelona grew by 34% from 2002 to 2003*

*Catalonia Today serves a readership that has so far had no voice - the growing number of foreign professionals living here, students, tourists and visiting business people.*

The daily newspaper Catalonia Today is designed for a readership which is growing in both numbers and importance within our society. This includes foreign people who come to live in Catalonia, mainly in Barcelona, and the foreign tourists who come to visit every year. It is also aimed at Catalan people who wish to keep up with their English, whether for professional, personal or academic reasons.

The latest official figures show that the number of foreigners from developed countries who are deciding to live in our country, and in particular in the city of Barcelona, is growing in a spectacular way. These are people who are typically far from retirement age, highly qualified, have high disposable incomes and who have found in Catalonia the right place to set up home.

They are attracted not only by the climate and the lower cost of living, but also by the high quality of life, the beauty of the landscape, the good transport system that Catalo-

nia has to offer as well as a state health and education system which is rapidly reaching the standards of the rest of Europe.

According to Barcelona city council, the number of foreigners from developed countries moving to Barcelona increased by 34% between January 2002 and January 2003. This trend was already noticeable back in 2000.

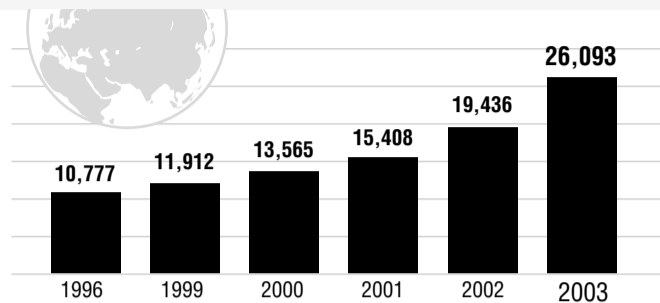
Barcelona is seen by the people who live here as the top city in the world in terms of quality of life, ahead of Paris, Geneva and Madrid, according to a study by consultants Cushman & Wakefield Healey & Baker.

As well as the resident population of foreigners, this newspaper is also aimed at a second kind of reader, namely foreign tourists. The Catalonia brand is one which tourists are coming to know more and more. Together with the Barcelona brand, it generates more and more business and attracts a growing number of visitors.

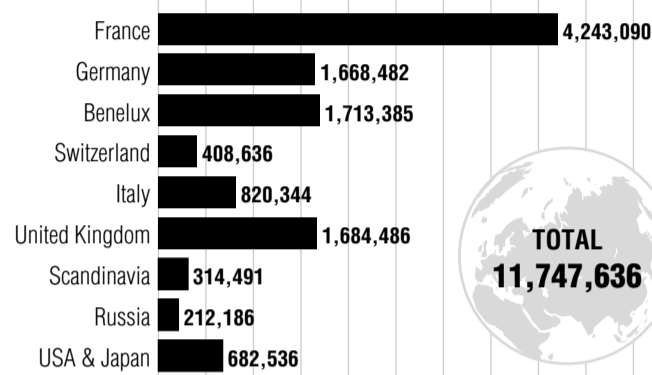
Last year, the number of tourists visiting Catalonia grew by 2.7%, with a marked increase in visitors from Britain. The latest figures show that tourists from developed countries represent around 12 million visitors per year and they are served by an industry which displays a level of quality which only years of experience can provide.

Catalonia is home to eleven universities - eight public and three private - who enjoy a good reputation for quality education. For this reason, it is no surprise that the number

## FOREIGNERS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES RESIDENT IN BARCELONA



## TOURISTS' COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



## TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Regions	2001	2002	Variacion (%)
Costa Brava	4,616,000	5,374,000	16.40%
Barcelona	3,639,000	4,112,000	13%
Costa Daurada	1,774,000	2,145,000	20.90%
Costa del Maresme	983,000	991,000	0.80%
Costa del Garraf	508,000	573,000	12.8%
Pirineus-Prepirineus	415,000	411,000	-0.9%
Catalunya Central	380,000	433,000	14.0%
Terres de Lleida	172,000	164,000	-5.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,487,000</b>	<b>14,203,000</b>	

of foreign students coming to Catalonia, and again, mainly to Barcelona, keeps on growing. Most stay for periods of three months to a full academic year, and while most are motivated to learn the local languages, they will also welcome a source of news and information in a language they already know.

Last but not least, the number of Catalans who have learnt English either at school, at private language

schools or through time spent abroad, keeps on growing. There is also an increasing number of professional people who use English regularly in their working lives either as part of their job in a multinational based in Catalonia or as they liaise with companies abroad. These people are keen to keep up their knowledge of English through regular contact and Catalonia Today is a perfect means to do so.

## Channel 4's Jon Snow among members of editorial board



Catalonia Today is overseen by an editorial board that will act as an independent consultant to, and observer of, the editorial line while staying committed to the main aims of this new journalistic venture. The board will be chaired by professor Miquel Berga, dean of humanities at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and president of the Associació de Professors i Professores d'Anglès de Catalunya. A second member is Alan Yates, author of the well-known manual *Teach Yourself Catalan*, now emeritus professor of Sheffield University; Jon Snow, broadcaster of the highly respected Channel Four News at 7; Martin Frayer, current director of the British Council of Barcelona; Jaume Guillaumet, dean of journalism Studies at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and author of several books on the history of Catalan newspapers; Josep Bosch, veteran journalist with EFE News Agency and currently Spanish press officer at the World Trade Organisation in Geneva; Monica Terribas, presenter of Canal 33 nightly news for Catalan television; and Ivan van Kalmthout, assistant artistic director of the Gran Teatre del Liceu.



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## "Teach Yourself Catalan" and other weekly contributions

The contents of this daily will combine news of general interest with features, interviews and services, but there will also be permanent sections with articles by a wide range of authors. One of the weekly contributions will be from the book "Teach Yourself Catalan" by Anna Poch and Alan Yates, providing our readers content from this fundamental work for learning the Catalan language.

Similarly, literature will be contributed by authors, such as Josep-Lluís González, head of Spanish at Eton College in England. In addition, there will be regular contributions by the food writer Colman Andrews and a fortnightly column on Catalan wine.

The daily will also provide an in-

formation services for the use of its readers, including a what's on section, previews for subtitled films, useful telephone numbers and, of course, the weather. The weather map will appear on the back page and will not only provide the daily forecast for Catalonia but will cover the entire Mediterranean area within the Catalan lands.

We also hope to become a forum for our readers and, as well as letters we welcome suggestions from readers wishing to contribute to the paper. Please email your suggestions and do not send unsolicited articles.

Readers interested in sending letters may do so, via email to [letters@cataloniatoday.info](mailto:letters@cataloniatoday.info).



## DISTRIBUTION

### 30,000 copies a day

30,000 copies of Catalonia Today will be distributed free from Tuesday to Saturday. It will be delivered to over 300 outlets in Catalonia. It will also be available in fifty newsagents in Barcelona, as well as bookshops, libraries, cultural centres, airports, tourism offices, hotels and newspaper bins. For more information, contact: [distribution@cataloniatoday.info](mailto:distribution@cataloniatoday.info)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

### Delivered to your home

Although Catalonia Today is a free newspaper, readers can subscribe and have the newspaper delivered to their homes. For more information, contact: [subscriptions@cataloniatoday.info](mailto:subscriptions@cataloniatoday.info), fax: 932276621 tel: 932276620.

## INTERNET

### Online from 15 June

The newspaper will be online from 15 June, allowing readers to read the paper, manage subscriptions, take out classified adverts or send letters to the editor.

## PROMOTIONS

### The launch campaign

For one month from 15 June, a double-decker bus will roam around Barcelona, the province of Girona and the Costa Daurada, distributing copies of Catalonia Today.

## LIMITED EDITION DVD

### Film on Sant Jordi's Day.

At the launch day presentation, a special limited edition DVD on Sant Jordi's day will be given out. Made by former BBC journalist Brandon Jones, it takes a look at this special day when Catalans traditionally give each other a gift of a book or a rose.

## EL PUNT

### The agreement with El Punt

Catalonia Today has reached an agreement with El Punt allowing it to use the contents of the Catalan daily and benefit from its knowledge of the newspaper business. The El Punt group has 25 years experience as the leader of the Catalan local press and a solid track record in the world of paid for and free newspapers.

# EU: the no-vote wins and ruling parties take a blow

*Less than half of European voters show up at the polls*

## ALEXLEFF

The elections to the EU parliament have produced one clear winner: the abstainers. Indicators show a record low turnout of only 44.2 per cent for the EU as a whole. Participation among the new 10 member states was just 28 per cent. "Regrettably, Europe is too absent from the European elections in east and west," outgoing European parliament president Pat Cox told BBC News. While in theory last Sunday represented one of the biggest exercises of democracy in the world, only about 155 million of some 350 million eligible voters bothered to vote. The results show that centre right parties in the EU secured 36.9 parliamen-

tary seats, compared to 30.1 shared by EU socialists.

Another widespread trend was the heavy blow to existing national governments. Germany's governing Social Democrats suffered their worst results since World War II, with just 21.5 per cent of the vote. In France, the socialist party won 28.9 per cent, leading with a considerable margin ahead of president Jacques Chirac's Union for the Popular Movement. The governing left party in Poland, the largest of the new EU members, won just 9 per cent of the vote, with a turnout of just under 20 per cent.

The eurosceptics came out better than expected. In Britain, for exam-

ple, the UK Independence Party won 17 per cent, leaving the two leading parties for the first time ever with less than half of the vote between them.

The ruling Spanish socialists appear to have bucked the trend, winning 43.7 per cent. The result disproves the widespread opinion that José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero's government had only won national elections because of the March 11 terrorist attacks. The governing Catalan socialists beat the centre right party CiU, which recorded its worst results in 25 years. Voting participation in Spain was around 46 per cent, a low turnout when compared to other EU member states.



Parties in power in Germany, France and Poland did very badly

## Two Britons killed in Baghdad bomb attack

At least 11 people were killed in a car bomb attack in central Baghdad yesterday.

Five of the dead worked for General Electric, the American power company. Two of them were British but the nationalities of the others was not known, although there were reports that they included French and US citizens. Dozens of people were injured when the bomb exploded in Tahrir Square, close to a convoy of contractors.

A policeman at the scene told the AFP news agency: "A suicide car bomber in a small Volkswagen Brazilia drove between the cars and

blew himself up." It was a calculated attack and comes when the US-led provisional authority is struggling to upgrade Iraq's electricity generating capacity to 6,000 megawatts as they pledged to do before the hand-over of sovereignty at the end of this month. The capacity is thought to be little over 4,000 megawatts at present.

A second car bomb was reported to have exploded near the town of Salman Pak southeast of Baghdad, killing four people. The previous day a suicide bomber killed at least seven Iraqis near a US base in the city.

## RESIDENCY

### Spanish government to deal with immigration bottleneck

The Spanish government has come up with an emergency plan to deal with the backlog of requests for residency permits by non EU-foreigners. This includes employing 267 more people at immigration offices, changing the appointments system and decentralising service provision. The changes should also reduce the long queues of people to be seen waiting out government buildings in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante, Málaga and Murcia. Until now, applicants have to wait up to six months just to get an appointment to begin renewing their residency or work permits. By the time the appointment is due, for many it is too late as their permits have expired and they become illegal through no fault of their own.

## MACHISMO

### Latin American women winning at work but not at home

Latin American women have made significant progress winning more rights in the workplace in recent decades, but macho attitudes mean they still do most of the work at home. These findings were announced at the 9th Regional Conference on Women organised by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Mexico City recently. Latin American women are now in a better situation than their counterparts in regions such as Africa or the Middle East and some parts of Eastern Europe. Progress has been mainly due to the repeal of explicitly sexist laws, to legislation to combat domestic violence and to the introduction of quota systems to ensure female representation in parliament. In the home, there has been less of a change however. "Women have entered the workplace, but men haven't gone into the kitchen," says Sonia Montañó, head of Women and Development at ECLAC.

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## EDITORIAL

*Not lost in translation*

Catalonia, and in particular Barcelona, is the place to be, the place to visit and for a growing number, the place to live. The influx of new residents, both from the developing world and from advanced countries, is changing the face of Catalonia. It is a big change in a country which, in common with the rest of the Iberian peninsula, has for centuries been a place of emigration and farewell. Ever since Columbus pointed the way to America, many of the best and brightest have tended to leave, a process accelerated by Franco's victory in 1939. There has been little significant immigration anywhere in Spain or Catalonia since the Moors landed in 711.

Northern Europeans, and people from Britain in particular, discovered Barcelona in the boom years of the late Eighties, and soon formed a sizeable resident community. There are now 26,000 registered foreign residents from so-called advanced countries living in the city, 5,000 of whom have settled here in the past two years, and 75,000 in Catalunya as a whole. On the whole these new residents do not want to live in a foreign bubble and wish to integrate into the local community.

Some have done so successfully, typically by marrying in. However, many complain that the welcome they get from Catalans is at best lukewarm and feel that Catalan society is a club that is not interested in admitting new members. For their part, local people point out that it would help if their new neighbours bothered to learn Catalan, which few do, rather than relying on the fact that, in Barcelona at least, one can get by speaking Spanish. One of the roles of *Catalonia Today* will be to foster a greater understanding between these two groups. Barcelona's successful marketing of itself as the cool capital of the Mediterranean brings in millions of tourists who in general, these tourists defy the traditional sun, sea and sangria profile. They are more discerning and are as likely to want to walk in the hills as lie on the beach. Many of these visitors are aware that they have come to a place apart and would like to know more about Catalan culture and tradition. To this end, as well as offering all the information they require to make the most of their stay here, *Catalonia Today* will seek to educate and inform them on the ways of the country. However, the paper does not have a political agenda, nor do its backers. We are here to provide information, not propaganda.

In addition to residents and tourists there are two other groups who either come on a regular basis or stay for periods of several months or even years business people and foreign students. It is estimated that up to 15,000 foreign students will enroll in Catalan universities in the coming year, many of them under Europe's Erasmus scheme. In addition, tens of thousands of people come here to do business every year and *Catalonia Today* will offer Catalan-oriented business news. To all of them the paper will offer ways of reading the world we live in and insights about the ways of the world as seen from a Catalan perspective.

Above all, *Catalonia Today* is a newspaper, not a travel. Like other Catalan dailies there will be an emphasis on local news but it will not be parochial or inward looking. Catalonia is different but it is not an isolated island. It is a small country in a big world that is dominated by the English language. With *Catalonia Today* it has found a new voice.

*Tourists to Catalonia defy the typical Costa Brava sun, sea and sangria profile*

## PLATFORM

XAVIER DIEZ

**War is a great way to make a killing**

War is peace. This disturbing slogan of the Unity party, that omnipresent force in Orwell's horrific novel 1984, which he wrote as a fierce critique of totalitarianism, is once again sadly relevant to events on the world stage. And in fact it expresses an idea that has been repeated throughout history: there is nothing better than an armed conflict - with its appeals for security against a supposed threat and calls for patriotism (which is, according to Oscar Wilde, "the virtue of the vicious") - for hijacking public opinion, ignoring society's real problems and perpetrating the worst crimes with the best of alibis.

Mankind has known this from the days of Thucydides right up to the recent storm in a teacup over the tiny isle of Perejil. However, the war in Iraq is much more than just a large-scale manipulation carried out to conceal their country's real problems from the citizens of the United States (problems such as the economic slump and the dismantling of what is left of their welfare system); this conflict has become the logical sequence of a form of capitalism that is characterised by globalisation, privatisation, de-location, speculation, neo-colonialism and hostility toward social cohesion.

The invasion of Iraq has clearly been a disaster: no weapons of mass destruction have been found, neither democracy or security have been achieved and the country has not stabilised - quite the contrary. And therefore, none of the coalition's official aims have been achieved. In a conventional war, such an outcome would have led to the dismissal of the military and political heads of the operation, for their sheer incompetence.

However, the fact that they are persisting with the same strategy that has produced such appalling results leads us to a worrying hypothesis. What if Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld had actually expected the prolongation of the war? And what if the latter two gentlemen have been reading up on their Orwell? "War is peace" - that is to say, in a permanent state of war, freedoms can be eroded and power seized without opposition.

In fact, the ruling classes of the United States have taken careful note of the addiction to this kind of situation which the Cold War brought about. If we look at some of

the information that has been coming to light recently, such as the claims by Paul O'Neill and Richard Clarke, ex-members of the Bush administration, that the decision to invade Iraq was made prior to September 11 - as well as the curious tactical decision, for the 2003 war, to use a third of the number of the number of troops that were deployed for the war in Kuwait in 1991 - if we analyse what is actually happening in occupied Iraq, a terrible conclusion can be drawn. It may be (to paraphrase Clausewitz) that the war is the con-

times higher than normal.

In addition, as well as the 130,000 soldiers who belong to the coalition, there are over 20,000 mercenaries in companies called Private Military Corporations, comprised of ex-soldiers (in contravention of article 47 of the Geneva convention) who act outside the reach of international law, carrying out "dirty war" missions, for which they are paid over 2,000 euros a month. In the light of this, war has clearly become a business in which the blood of both Iraqi civilians and US soldiers is reduced to the category of a raw material, a kind of red gold. The perpetuation of the war becomes, in the language of neo-liberal economic theory, an "opportunity".

In the same way, the occupation of Iraq has also been used to impose the economic logic of globalisation in a sweeping, unbridled manner. Everything, absolutely everything has been privatised, from petrol to the administration of the sewers (a concession to British companies) as well as services such as health, education and the water supply.

There were two other slogans which the main character in 1984 read on entering the sinister Ministry of Truth: the first, "Freedom is slavery", sums up perfectly the aim of totalitarianism - be it Communist or neo-liberal - to prevent any attempt at creating an alternative world with greater justice. Meanwhile, the second slogan - which reveals a great deal about the level of public opinion in the USA - reads "Ignorance is strength".

*The continuation of the war becomes just another business opportunity*

tinuation of global capitalism by other means.

Two Argentine journalists, Carlos Fresneda and Pablo Pardo, have recently warned of the growing privatisation of the US Army, a trend that was established by Dick Cheney when he was Defence Secretary for Bush Sr. And so, in the midst of war, several companies from the current Vice President's milieu have been subcontracted, ensuring that the soldiers' mail arrives late, or to supply food of the poorest quality and petrol at a price two-and-a-half



Were Bush and Rumsfeld banking on a long war?/CHRIS KLEPONIS.EFE

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WHAT THE EUROPEAN PAPERS SAY

FREDERIC BARBERÀ / Lecturer in the Department of European Cultures, Lancaster University

# Why Reagan thought the EU wouldn't work

Several of the world's newspapers, including *Le Monde*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Washington Post*, and *Le Figaro*, give us the keys to identifying and analysing this past week's most significant international events.

For Americans, what mostly captured their attention this week were the various tributes paid to Ronald Reagan, whose remains were flown twice across the United States before reaching their final resting place by the Pacific Ocean.

Americans seem to have been following the G8 summit with little interest (*The Independent* agrees that this annual gathering of the world's richest nations has become redundant), as this was overshadowed by another issue that had emerged in the American press. According to *Le Monde*, various documents issued by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice that found their way into the American papers present a legal basis for the use of torture.

Indeed, the logic of such a justification according to *The Washington Post* is the same as that used by criminal regimes and of dictatorships to authorise torture in the name of national security.

Last Thursday, when during the White House press conference the American president was unexpectedly asked whether he had seen the relevant memo from the Ministry of Justice at the time when it was issued, he simply replied, "I don't remember."

Indeed the European media have devoted many lines in their editorials to what appears to be yet another phase of an ever growing American political scandal with moral implications in the international arena.

Editorial headlines such as "Torture présidentielle" in *Le Courrier* of Geneva and "Tortured Meanings" in *The Guardian* are just a couple of examples.

The airing of this new finding in the international press is certainly not doing much good to a candidate for reelection to the White House who, according to the latest opinion



poll in *The Los Angeles Times*, would now receive 41 per cent of the vote as opposed to the Democrat Kerry's 54 per cent.

Unless major political changes occur in the near future it seems unlikely that Bush will stay in office for a second term as did his father's much admired predecessor, Ronald Reagan. On the death of the latter, the European press has also commented extensively on his political career.

In Britain the journalistic summaries of Reagan's achievements and misdeeds have reached the most passionate levels of both adulation and criticism.

The obituary that appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* consisted of an intelligent eulogy whose spirit is well summarised in the head-

line, "An American president who confounded his critics by playing a crucial role in bringing an end to the Cold War".

Since this text was published only three days before the memorial service held on Capitol Hill, Baroness Thatcher's pre-recorded address could not be alluded to, especially her vehement praise of how her friend and ideological soulmate freed the slaves of communism.

At the other end of the spectrum we find Jonathan Steele, writing from Baghdad for *The Guardian*, for whom President Reagan lied and cheated in the name of anti-communism as the Cold War was fundamentally not about ideology or freedom, it was a contest of power.

Ultimately for Steele, Reagan did not look so freedom-loving when viewed in the light of the Iran-Contra affair. Reagan's grasp of international politics was also highlighted in order to demonstrate the inviability of a new European Constitution that does away with national identities.

For Mark Steyn, writing in *The Daily Telegraph*, Reagan had the idea that the EU would not work. Indeed militant British Euroscepticism paradoxically appeared to be one of the main engines behind a generally dull campaign for the election to the European Parliament this past weekend.

Only some of the parties standing, such as the Green Party were genuinely competing in European terms.

From what the papers say after the results came in, we learn that the impressive results of the UK Independent Party (UKIP), who won over 18 per cent of the vote, were largely a product of voter backlash (*The Guardian*).

According to *The Daily Telegraph*, UKIP's appeal has as much to do with rejecting today's spin-ridden politics as it does with a dislike of Brussels.

Certainly, it is no coincidence that both European and local elections were simultaneously contested in the UK last Thursday.

And the appalling results for Labour, who came in third nationally after the Tories and the Lib Dems, was of little surprise to the party's main leaders, who were mostly subdued throughout the double campaign.

In a similar light, a remark made by the conservative Telegraph in its front page earlier in the week described Tony Blair, the prime minister, as the invisible man of the election battle.

Even *The Guardian* shows no pity for Labour leaders, who are having to learn they have no entitlement to left-leaning voters.

*Le Figaro*, however, provides another perspective, saying that a strong and united Europe is more necessary than ever.

The newspapers were in agreement that France, so often at the forefront of European achievements, must lead the way.

COMMENTARY

AUGUSTÍ COLOMINES i COMPANYS

# A dialogue between religions for world peace

In 1993 Samuel P. Huntington published the article *A Clash of Civilisations*, which provoked widespread discussion on the international situation and the possibility of a clash between civilizations in the context of globalisation. Later, in 1996, Huntington developed this theory in his book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order*, where he made the following comment: "Blood, language, religion, way of life, were what the Greeks had in common and what distinguished them from the Persians and other non-Greeks. Of all the objective elements that define civilizations, however, the most important usually is religion, as the Athenians emphasised."

To a very large degree, the major civilizations in human history have been closely iden-

tified with the world's great religions and people who share ethnicity and language but differ in religion may slaughter each other, as happened in Lebanon, the former Yugoslavia, and the Indian subcontinent. It is clear that, for Huntington and many other people, religion plays a crucial role in forming the individual and social attitudes that establish an imaginary line between self and others. This is so much the case that religion has been the motive of many of the conflicts in human history. This cannot be denied because religious wars have played a decisive role in history; just as social struggles and struggles for national identity play a decisive role in current world events.

Nevertheless, I think that Huntington's theory is too extreme and fatalistic. Further-

more, it is based on the typical elitist conservative prejudice that can be roughly summed up as: We are the best and the others are still uncivilised. Basically Huntington has the very defect he claims to criticise: an excess of fixed beliefs that leads him to raise the alarm instead of looking for what the different religious traditions have in common in order to build peace. Not that it is an easy task to achieve dialogue between religions, but Huntington and others go to the opposite extreme, and adopt an attitude of catastrophic determinism, which rules out from the start the pluralistic nature of humanity and the capacity of the individual to free himself from dogma.

He is even more mistrustful of dialogue because he believes that both religious and national pluralism are a threat to social cohe-

sion. (National pluralism is Huntington's other main obsession.) But if one really hopes to achieve peace, the first requirement is to be informed, and to get to know the other, and to establish peace, the first requirement is to be informed. In the words of Saint John of the Cross, religion is, or should be, the source of love for our fellow men, because we no longer wish to judge ourselves by the criteria of our own self-love and arrogance, but by our capacity for understanding and humility. This is what lies behind the convention of the fourth Parliament of the World's Religions that will take place in Barcelona July 7-13, organised by the Unesco Centre of Catalonia, as part of the Forum of Cultures 2004.

Augustí Colomines i Companys is the Director of the Unesco Centre of Catalonia.

## High speed train runs into trouble with more delays

*Politicians angered that AVE may not reach Barcelona until 2010 and will be slower*

**RICHARD MCCRANN**

The AVE, the high speed train originally due to reach Barcelona in 2005, now may not get there until 2010 and when it does it will be travelling at least 50kph slower than anticipated. The project aims to link Madrid, Barcelona and France with a high speed train that was expected to travel at 350kph. Politicians have been angered by the news that it won't be able to run at more than 300kph, and perhaps even slower. Pasqual Maragall, the Catalan president, is furious at the added delay in bringing the AVE to Barcelona.

"The AVE of Álvarez-Cascos is a hoax," he said, referring to the minister responsible for the project under the former Popular Party government. The current timescale is for the AVE to arrive in Barcelona by 2008. The delay appears to hinge on a plan to build a train station at Barcelona's El Prat Airport for the AVE. The Spanish government claims this will raise costs and delay the project.

Under the previous Spanish government it was agreed to build a train station for the AVE in the town of El Prat de Llobregat and then shuttle passengers to the airport. Maragall wants this plan replaced in favour of a direct link to the airport. The Spanish minister for industry, Magdalena Álvarez, has defended the train's speed deficiencies, blaming state of the art technology used in the construction work as the reason behind its underperformance.

A plan for the renovation of the Sants railway station in Barcelona is set to get the go ahead this month. Under the proposal, the surface area of the station will expand by about 90,000 square metres, most of which will consist of hotel, office and shopping space.

The Catalan government (Generalitat) says it will soon begin construction of a new 26-kilometre metro line that will run from the Sarríà district in Barcelona to Castelldefels.



Under Joan Clos, Barcelona spent nearly 7 million euros on publicity last year

## City spends 24,000 euros a day on publicity

Barcelona residents who have received a high-quality Christmas card from the mayor may have wondered how much the city spends to promote itself in the eyes of its citizens. Some of them will be surprised to learn that between 2002 and 2003 the city spent an average of 24,539 euros per day on advertising, according to accounting figures released for that period.

The 7.8 million spent in 2003 was almost twice the amount originally projected. Opposition political groups *Convergència i Unió (CiU)* and the Popular Party (PP) have criticized the administration of Socialist mayor Joan Clos, saying

that city funds would have better been spent on social programmes or other assistance to needy citizens.

It has also been pointed out that 2003 was the third year running that the amount spent on advertising, protocol activities, meetings and conferences has exceeded the amount originally forecast. In 2001, a ceiling on the amount of public money that could be used for such expenditures was set at 5.2 million euros, but the amount actually spent that year turned out to be 8.1 million, representing an increase of 56%. In 2002, the amount projected was 5 million, yet the amount spent was 13.1 million.

## Job losses in Girona as Levi Strauss is set to close factories

Jean manufacturer Levi Strauss is set to close its two factories in Girona with the loss of 285 jobs. The company has been operating out of Bonmati, Girona, for the past 23 years and the city makes around 2.3 million pairs of jeans annually.

Its other factory in Ólvega, Sorria, is also due for the axe, with the loss of 170 jobs.

The move follows a restructuring operation by the American company as it relocates its manufacturing base to Asia, Mexico and East Europe where labour costs are cheaper. Over the past two years it has shed 20% of its workforce and closed six plants in the United States.

The decision by Levi Strauss reflects a trend by other multinational companies to relocate out of Catalonia and reinvest in the new European Union countries and the emerging Far East markets.

The ten new European Union members provide fertile markets for investment by multinationals who are taking advantage of lower operating costs and tax incentives in these former Soviet block countries.

Catalonia has been a major victim of relocation over the past several years as multinational companies move to cheaper markets. It hasn't the industrial power like Germany to stem the flow of jobs out of the country.

In Catalonia during 2004 electronics giants Samsung and Philips both closed their Barcelona factories and reopened in Slovakia, China and Poland with the loss of 534 jobs.

The German company Autotex, which supplies upholstery for car manufacturers also relocated from Barcelona to the Czech Republic this year with the loss of 170 jobs. In 2002 American computer company Hewlett Packard closed a factory in Barcelona and relocated to Singapore. Girona lost the presence of electronics heavy weight Panasonic in 2002 when it moved the plant to the Far East.

The European Commission admits there is a social price to pay for relocation but believes it is a natural process for an enlarged European Union and it will in any case ensure companies remain in Europe, who might otherwise transfer to Asia. "Europe will continue to have many attractive factors that contribute to a favourable global environment such as the quality of its education and infrastructures and public services," says a recent European Executive statement.

The French and Germans claim the wide variation of European taxes favours the new members.



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## US trade deficit reaches record high for second month

*Deficit rise due to higher oil prices and growing appetite of US consumers for imported goods*

### ROBERT KIMPLETON

The United States trade deficit reached a new high of 48.3 million dollars in April, according to figures released by the Commerce Department.

Economists were not expecting the trade deficit to continue to increase after having hit a record high in March.

The deficit rose due to the effects of higher oil prices and the growing tendency of American consumers to buy imported goods.

Imports increased 0.2%, climbing to \$142.3 billion dollars, while exports shrunk by 1.5% to 93.9 billion dollars.

Many economic experts were surprised by the data, as they had predicted that growth in the world economy would result in more exportation by US companies.

The new director of the Federal Monetary Fund Rodrigo Rato urged the United States to make a "concerted effort" to reduce the deficit, and also encouraged the European Uni-

on and Japan to to by adopt structural reforms to that would promote sustained growth and contribute to world economic stability.

Rato, speaking during a seminar commemorating the Bretton Woods agreements, said that the most industrialised countries should commit themselves to stable and sustainable growth because "even if a country is not in a dangerous situation, it could be contributing to imbalances that put the rest of the world in danger".

He also affirmed that the IMF should continue to provide large-scale economic aid to countries that find themselves in exceptional circumstances while at the same time acting as a loan agency to those countries that are having problems meeting balance of payment requirements.

He said the IMF should anticipate the events that will affect the world economy in the coming decades, in particular the growing importance of emerging markets such as India



IMF director Rodrigo Rato has urged the world's most industrialised countries to adopt sound economic policies

and China and the ageing population of industrialised countries.

In the area of crisis management, he said the main question was how to provide a large volume of financial assistance in a way that will promote the implementation of sound economic policies.

He held that the IMF should

make a point to refuse aid in selected situations so as to increase the incentives for aid recipients to adopt sound policies.

To this end, he favoured making eligibility for IMF assistance contingent on the adoption of measures deemed appropriate by the IMF and that there should be a system of en-

sureing that guidelines and regulations are adhered to.

He admitted that it is not realistic to expect the presence of rigorous and efficient supervision to put an end to all financial crises.

The job of the IMF, he said, should be to reduce the impact and duration of such crises.

## Blow to companies over anti-trust claims

The US Supreme Court ruled on Monday in a price-fixing case involving a global cartel that foreign companies cannot pursue anti-trust claims in this country against overseas businesses for transactions outside the United States involving foreign harm.

By a 8-0 vote, the justices set aside a US appeals court ruling that foreign buyers can bring a US anti-trust lawsuit against foreign companies as long as they can show the global cartel affected US commerce. "We conclude that, in this scenario, a purchaser in the United States could bring" a claim under the anti-trust law based on domestic injury, "but a purchaser in Ecuador could not bring" a claim based on foreign harm, Justice Stephen Breyer wrote for the court.



Sara Lee will shed 3% of its workforce, losing 4,000 jobs at five factories

## Wonderbra firm cuts 4000 jobs to save cash

US bra firm Sara Lee said it is to cut just over 4,000 jobs by closing five clothing factories. The plants make the Playtex and Dim underwear brands and most are in Mexico and the Caribbean. One is in the US. The job cuts amount to 3% of the total workforce at Sara Lee, whose two main businesses are underwear and food.

Sara Lee also owns the Wonderbra brand, makes Hanes underwear for men, while its food division produces bread, hot dogs and cheese-

cakes. The redundancies are the latest in a round of cost cutting designed to streamline the company's apparel business and fend off tough competition from rivals such as Vanity Fair and Fruit of the Loom.

Chief Executive Steven McMillan has reduced costs by \$220m (£121.6m) since 2001, Bloomberg news agency reported. The firm has sold some of its clothing factories and is restructuring others ahead of the expiry of a global treaty on garment industry trade quotas.

## Lamy calls for more flexible euro rules

European trade commissioner Pascal Lamy has called for an overhaul of the budget rules underpinning the euro. Mr Lamy said in a press interview that the Stability and Growth Pact needed to be made more flexible.

"The pact is too simply constructed to provide answers to difficult questions," he told the *Berliner Zeitung*, a German daily. He called on the European Commission to put forward draft amendments aimed at making the pact "more intelligent".

However, Mr Lamy stressed that the main elements of the pact, which obliges euro zone members to keep annual budget deficits below 3% of gross domestic product, do not need changing. "We have a single currency, and therefore we should have discipline in budgetary matters," he said.

Germany is currently leading a campaign aimed at diluting measures set out in the draft European constitution which would boost the European Commission's powers to enforce the pact.

Germany's proposed amendments are likely to be discussed later on Monday by European Union foreign ministers. On Thursday, European governments will gather in Brussels to agree a final draft of the

constitution, which sets the legal framework for the EU as it absorbs the 10 eastern and central European countries which joined last month.

Critics have previously argued that the stability pact hampers growth. They say the strict fiscal discipline prevents euro zone governments from boosting public spending to stimulate their economies during downturns.

They have called for the strict deficit limit to be temporarily relaxed when an economy starts to slow down. Big spenders Several of the 12 euro zone nations have already breached the deficit ceiling, with its two biggest economies France and Germany - now on track to do so for the third year running.

France and Germany faced possible penalties for failing to control their spending last year, but other EU countries voted to let them off the hook, denting the pact's credibility. The European Commission has since appealed to the European Court of Justice to let it re-impose sanctions against Paris and Berlin.

When the pact was first drawn up in 1998, ironically the deficit limits were championed by Germany. The EU's largest economy was worried that smaller euro zone nations could not be trusted to maintain fiscal discipline.



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# The spy who saved the day

*Oliver L. Campbell recounts a chance meeting with Garbo, the Catalan spy who tricked Hitler over D-Day*

In 1953 I started work with the Shell Company of Venezuela in their Caracas Head Office. It was a pleasant place to work but far removed from Shell's operations. So in 1955 my bosses decided I should learn what oil was about at the grassroots and so they transferred me to their centre of production operations in Lagunillas on the east coast of Lake Maracaibo.

On arrival in Lagunillas, I was shown my accommodation, which was a room in the bunkhouse, a long and narrow wooden edifice built on stilts with a staircase at either end. It was not the Ritz and I was not surprised to learn it had been constructed in the 1920s. I lived at one end and at the other lived a Spaniard.

He was short, strongly built and always neatly dressed. He was in his late 30s and seemed quite an ordinary sort of chap. We had a nodding acquaintance, though we did not meet often because he was not in the mainstream oil business but gave Spanish lessons to expatriates and their spouses. He was considerably older than I and we had different friends but, occasionally, I saw him at the club and we had a drink together.

My Spanish acquaintance did not speak about his past, but I knew he had had to leave Spain because he was extremely anti-fascist and at odds with the Franco regime. It was

rumoured he had spent the war years in Great Britain. After having worked in several oil camps, I returned to the Caracas Head Office. However, in 1971, I was transferred again to Lagunillas as the financial controller. Much construction had taken place and there was now a hotel and a commercial centre with shops.

One Saturday I entered one to buy a present for a colleague who was leaving. I went to pay for it and you can imagine my surprise when I saw the proprietor was my Spanish acquaintance of former years. He did not recognise me - I was 15 years older and 20 kilos heavier - and I did not make myself known, I suppose because I felt a little embarrassed. The years passed and I returned to the UK. It is 6th June 1984 and my wife and I are watching a TV programme commemorating the Normandy landings forty years earlier. Suddenly I see a face I recognise among those being honoured. On the screen, as large as life, is my old acquaintance from Lagunillas, Juan Pujol. They refer to him as Garbo and tell us he is the double agent who fooled the Germans into thinking the Allied landings would take place further north around the Pas de Calais.

In 1941 Garbo went to Lisbon, where, telling the Germans he had reached Britain, and he began writ-



As scene from the D-Day landings depicted by the painter Ken Hendricksen

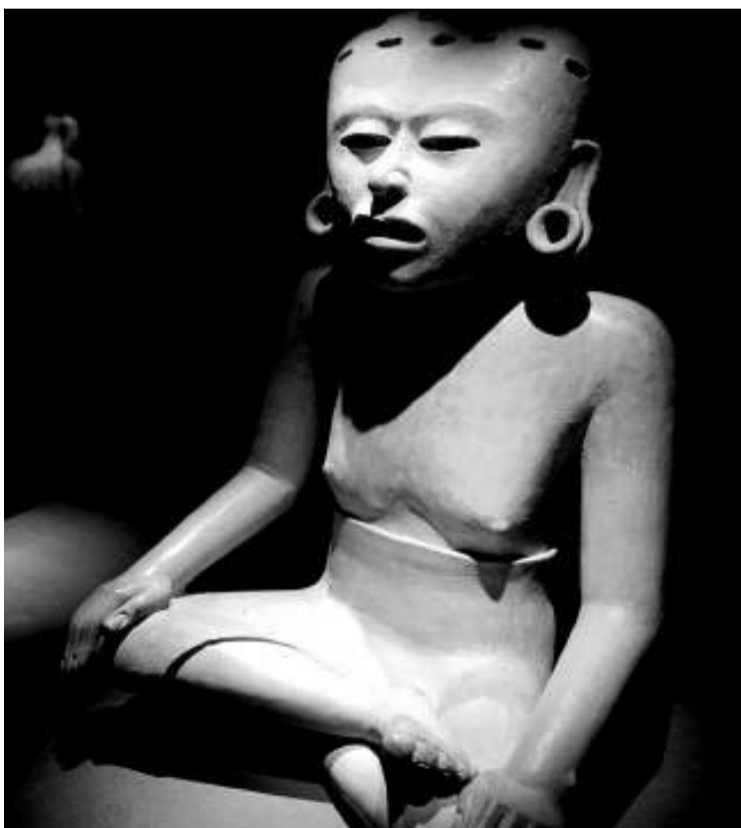
ing reports about British naval and shipping matters, lying about an imaginary network that he was establishing in the country. Realising what an asset Garbo could be for the

war effort, a fight began between the Secret Intelligence Service and the Security Service over who would control him. By 1942 he had become a double agent. Garbo's activities

forced the Germans to reveal several of their agents to British intelligence.

He is a hero and is being feted as one. His fame is such that he has a special audience with the Duke of Edinburgh. The British government awarded Juan Pujol the MBE in 1945 at the end of the war. To me the award has always seemed very little recognition for a man who did so much for the Allied cause. The Germans were more generous: they awarded him the Iron Cross. It was only after the war they learnt that Pujol had deceived them.

Juan Pujol was born in Barcelona, Spain on 14 February 1912 but after the war he lived the rest of his life in Venezuela, a country which he loved. He died in Caracas in October 1988 at the age of 76. I feel humbled to have met a man who did such exceptional things and yet kept them to himself for so many years. This is just a small tribute to Juan Pujol. History will confirm he was an extraordinary man, for few people can have helped the Allied cause more. Who can say how many lives he saved by his actions? The 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings is on 6th June 2004 so this is an appropriate time for all who fought for, and supported, the Allied cause to honour his memory. Barcelona, in particular, should be proud of one of its illustrious sons.



A sculpture exhibit from pre-Columbian Mexico at La Fundació Caixa, La Pedrera

## Sculpture exhibit at La Pedrera takes on the cosmos Mexican-style

**ALEX LEFF**

Starting today, the exhibition room at the Fundació Caixa Catalunya, in La Pedrera, will be home to *El cos i el cosmos*, an exhibit of pre-Columbian sculptures from Mexico. It is a collection of over 150 pieces that reflect a period of over 3,000 years of history.

The exhibit is divided in four areas which display the main rituals and festivals practised to maintain cosmic order, and around which pre-Columbian community life revolved. The exhibit also shows the different cultures that existed from around the year 1200 AD to 1521 AD, ending with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors.

Humanity was responsible for keeping the balance in a universe inhabited by all sorts of supernatural beings. Through a complex system of rituals, divine spirits were sum-

moned and cosmic energy was regenerated, all in an effort to guarantee human survival. The whole population participated in these rituals, from the ruling chiefs down to the peasants.

Nowadays, the works are regarded as art for their great aesthetic

**Humans maintained the cosmic order, sculptures helped them to talk to the gods**

value. In their time, however, the sculptures were conceived to act as intermediaries in the complex and fundamental relationship between humans and the gods.

The show is organised by the National Council for Culture and Art

(CONACULTUA), the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico and the Fundació Caixa Catalunya. *El cos i el cosmos* will be on until 10 October.

The Caixa exhibit coincides with another show dedicated to pre-Columbian art. Until the end of October, the Barbier-Mueller Museum of Pre-Columbian Art is showing *Images of the Body*. The featured artists use impressions and outlines of their own bodies to create images.

The exhibit was designed by American sceneographer Robert Wilson, known in the world of theatre for creating unusual sets. Wilson now involves the spectator in a space where ordinary objects are displayed in a way that makes them seem universal and timeless.

Fundació Caixa Catalunya, c/Provença 261. Barbier-Mueller Museum, c/Montcada 12-14

## Late lapse leaves England singing same old song

*Press holds its fire as Beckham and friends make their excuses for farcical defeat*

Once again England fans watched in disbelief as their side snatched defeat from the jaws of victory with barely a minute left to play. Yesterday the players tried to put a brave face on the farcical defeat when, having dominated France for 90 minutes, they contrived to concede two goals in injury time.

Michael Owen, who was substituted 55 minutes into the game after making little impression on the match, told the BBC: "I would prefer to lose the first game of a tournament like this rather than any other, although it is a bitter blow for us.

"It was a bit of a mugging and hard to take, but we move on to our next games knowing we did ourselves proud apart from two minutes in injury time."

The Liverpool striker had no explanation for what went wrong and how Zinedine Zidane, who had an otherwise uneventful and unimpressive game, managed to score twice.

"It is such a disappointment after we played so well and looked so solid for so long," he said. "When

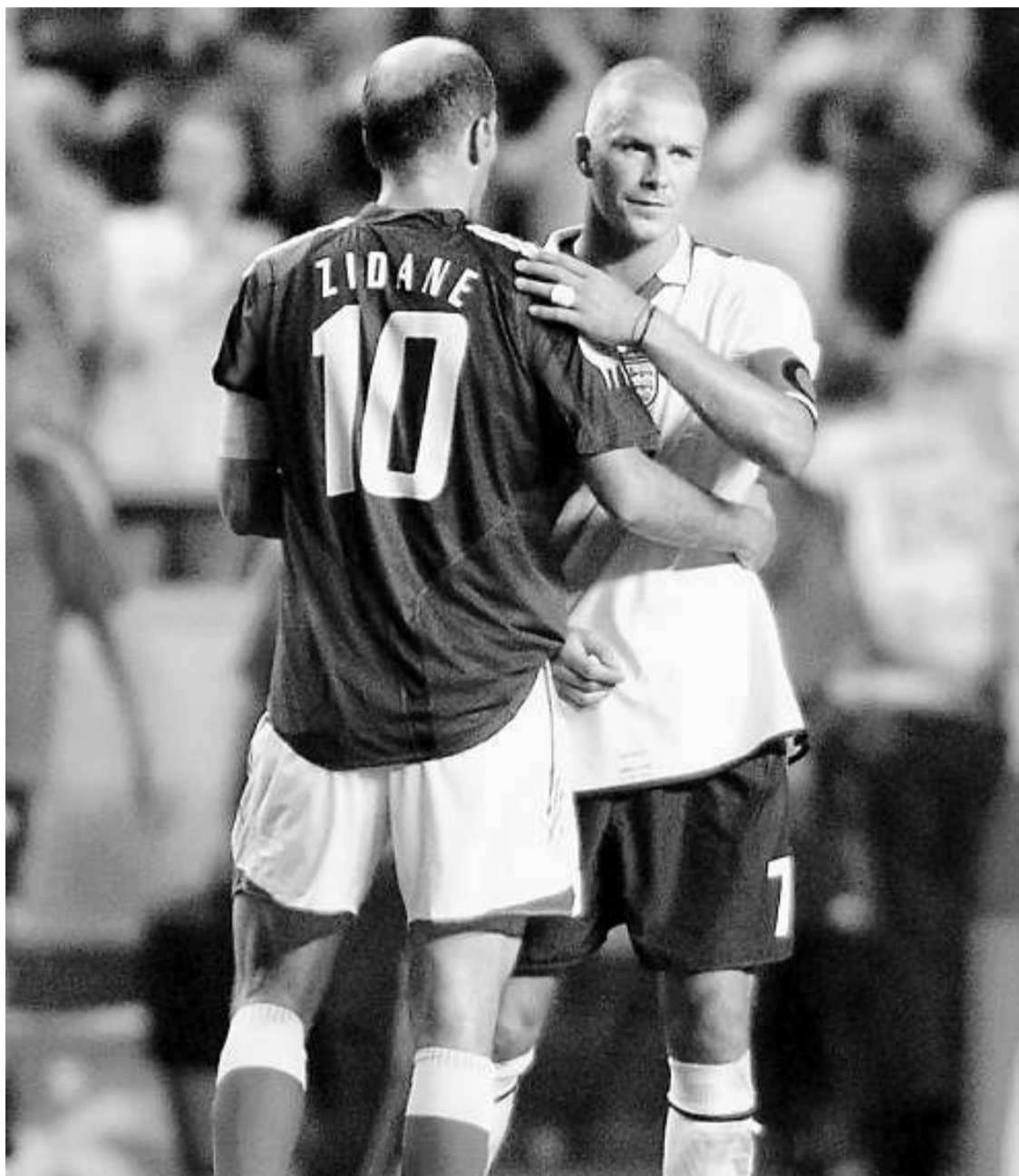
you get into injury time and you are winning, the worst thing you think you can do is draw, so to lose is a real sickener.

"But Zidane's free kick was fantastic and the back-pass that led to the penalty was just one of those things for Steven Gerrard that can happen to anyone."

For the the British press it was time to drag out the "gutted" headlines. "I'm to blame. My penalty miss cost us a win" *The Sun* had David Beckham saying. "Becks in tears as England's glory bid falters" according to *the Mirror*. The more sedate *Guardian* said: "Zidane beats the clock and puts England in deep shock" while *The Daily Telegraph* echoed that with: "England shattered by Zidane."

Frank Lampard, who scored England's goal, said that France's enthusiastic celebrations "might come back to haunt them".

"They were singing French songs of victory but I think it was a bit premature for that and it is not nice to hear, especially when we thought we had won the game."



David Beckham and his Real Madrid team-mate Zinedine Zidane, whose goals snatched victory for France in injury time / EFE



Adisconsolate Raúl is substituted during Spain's opening game. / EFE

## Fans vote for Torres as they seek new saviour for life after Raúl

All washed up at 26? Certainly not, but Raúl, for many years the leader and saviour of Spain and the highest scorer in the national side's history, may not be up to the job any more.

According to a survey published yesterday in the Madrid football daily *Marca*, Raúl should start on the bench. The poll of 15,000 fans showed a majority in favour of Atlético Madrid's Fernando Torres over Raúl as the striking partner for Fernando Morientes. An overwhelming majority voted for Joaquín of Betis to replace Josefa Etxeberria on the right wing, despite the latter's solid performance in the opening game against Russia. There was no dispute, however, about retaining the excellent Vicente on the left.

Although Spain beat Russia 1-0, it was not a convincing victory and the play was sloppy, with many pas-

ses going astray. Iñaki Sáez, the coach, is expected to adjust his starting line-up for the match against Greece. Real Sociedad's Xabi Alonso is likely to be favoured over Rubén Baraja in midfield and Juan Carlos Valerón, who scored the vital goal, may again come on as substitute, his preferred role under Sáez.

"I know the best way to play Valerón," Sáez told a press conference. "It's a switch I have made many times and it always works, like it did on Saturday. Just look at the statistics."

The fans may be disenchanted with Raúl but he is almost certain to start, even if the preferred Raúl-Morientes axis turns out not to be working so well since the pair, inseparable at Real Madrid before the arrival of Ronaldo, have ceased playing together at club level.

Not only is Raúl the captain but

Sáez regards him as essential, both as a player and a leader. However, he has just finished his worst season at Real Madrid and in this competition there is little scope for experiment or error. As Sáez said: "You have to bear in mind that this is not the league, but a brief tournament in which you have to go for it 100 per cent in every match."

Sáez said he was glad there was a debate, but that the decision rested with him: "For some Valerón should be in the starting line-up, others prefer to see him used less. But you have to trust me because when Iñaki Sáez says something he says it for a reason."

"Trust me, don't call me stubborn; I do what I do because I think it's right. The coach's job is to get the best out of his players and to make sure that everyone knows what he wants".









# CT BACK

## WEATHER

## CROSSWORD

### Possible thunderstorms

Partly cloudy mornings on the coast, especially in central and northern parts, with a chance of storms showers and scattered thunderstorms. Sunny in the rest of the country. In the afternoon cloudy again in eastern parts and on the coast, with possible storms and showers, occasionally hailstones. Mostly overcast in northern Valencia and the rest of the coast, with a chance of showers or thunderstorms in the afternoon. Mainly clear skies in the mountains. Heavy clouds in the Balearic Islands, with a strong chance of storms. Similar temperatures or even a little colder. Light winds.

**Tomorrow:** Mainly sunny, but with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms in the mountains. Similar or even colder temperatures.

#### The Sea

The sea will be calmer, with possible swells.

**THE SUN**  
SUNRISE 06.16 h  
SUNSET 21.26 h

**THE MOON**  
WAXING 25 June  
FULL 2 July  
WANING 9 June  
NEW 17 June

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**TEMPERATURES**

STATION	Max.	Min.
Ampostà	29	20
Banyoles	26	11
Barcelona	24	15
Botarell	24	16
El Vendrell	25	16
El Perelló	26	18
Falset	26	16
Girona	24	12
Igualada	27	15
La Bisbal d'Empordà	25	12
La Seu d'Urgell	26	14
La Quar de Berghuedà	22	10
Lleida	20	10
Manresa	29	14
Montmeló	27	14
Olot	25	12
Roses	24	11
Sant Pau Segúries	25	24
Sta. Coloma de F.	21	5
Tarragona	26	18
Tàrraga	24	10
Vallirana	23	15
Vic	24	9
Vielha	18	8
Vila-rodona	24	15
Vilassar de Mar	25	16
Alacant	26	19
Castelló de la Plana	26	19
Palma	25	17
Madrid	27	18
València	24	18
Andorra	21	8
Berlin	19	11
Brussels	23	9
London	27	17
Paris	24	9
Prague	21	11
Rome	26	18

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26	27	28		29	30				
31			32					33	
34								35	
36								37	

- ACROSS**
- Pops. 4. Compel.
  - Unwell. 11. Skylights. 12. Contend.
  - Drives away. 14. Did what you were told.
  - Female sheep. 17. Carved Polynesian pendant.
  - Ouch!. 20. New Hampshire (abbr.). 22. Famous cookies.
  - Skit. 29. All at once. 31. Ado. 33. Thai. 34. Rewrote.
  - Stretch to make do. 36. Malay Peninsula. 37. Pa

- DOWN**
- Turn. 2. Where you were at crime time. 3. Svelte
  - Court suit. 5. Trounce. 6. Epoch. 7. Range. 8. Sailors.
  - Loosen. 15. Yang's partner. 19. Fight. 21. Torn. 23. Quiet.
  - Japanese city. 25. Moved in fright. 26. Excuse me!
  - Musical repeat. 28. Work. 30. Nothing. 32. School group.

- ANSWERS**
- ACROSS**
- Pas. 4 Coerce.
  - Ill. 11 Aurora. 12 Vie. 13 Staves.
  - Obedied. 16 Ewe. 17 Tiki.
  - Ow. 20 NH. 22 Amos. 26 Act. 29 Onrush. 31 Hoopla. 33 Tai. 34 Edited. 35 Eke.
  - Malaya. 37 Dad.
- DOWN**
- Pivot. 2 Alibi. 3 Sleek. 4 Case. 5 Outdo. 6 Era. 7 Rove. 8 Crew. 9 Ease. 15 Yin.
  - War. 21 Holey. 23 Muted.
  - Osaka. 25 Shied.
  - Ahem. 27 Coda. 28 Toil.
  - Nada. 32 PTA.

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