

# CATALONIA TODAY

BARCELONA, THE BUSINESS & LEISURE CAPITAL OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2004

EDITED IN BARCELONA



**ANNAN CALLS AIDS  
WEAPON OF MASS  
DESTRUCTION**

NEWS, 5



**FUNDACIÓ LACAIXA  
UNVEILS 30 SHOWS  
IN NEW SEASON**

CULTURE, 11

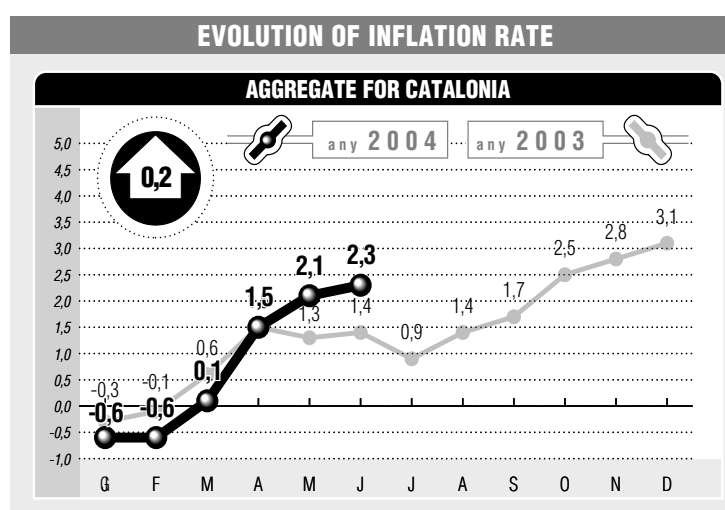
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## Inflation sees steady rise and climbs to 3.5%

According to the latest figures for Spain and Catalonia, the inflation rate is steadily creeping up. The overall rate increased by two decimal points during June in both countries. Prices in Catalonia in

June went up by 0.4 per cent, meaning that over the past six months the Catalan figures are slightly above the national average at 2.3 per cent. The annual rate of 3.9 per cent is above the national average of 3.5 per cent.



## OPINION, 6

*Coming to  
terms with the  
present*

XAVIER DIEZ

## BUSINESS, 10

*EU puts France  
and Germany  
back in dock*

RICHARD MCCRANN

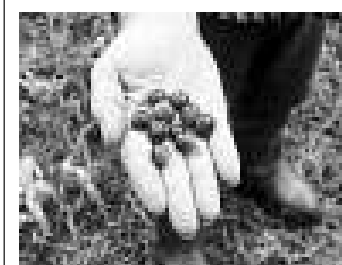
## NEWS, 4

*Olive growers  
take protest to  
parliament*



## BUSINESS, 10

*Natural decaff  
plant sparks war  
over coffee*



## Maragall vows to "breathe new life" into EU trade agreement

President of the Catalan government Pascual Maragall, speaking in Madrid at the Med2003 conference, claimed that the EU trade agreement the Procès de Barcelona was "really working", and vowed to "breathe new life" into the nine-year-old agreement between the EU and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean. However, he admitted that so far this had only been expressed as a formal request to the EU by Spain's Foreign Minister Moratinos. However, Maragall went on to say that he had a meeting scheduled with President Zapatero on 21 July to discuss the matter.



Excellent flamenco guitarists are among the many regular performers to be found around the cathedral / VICTOR PARREÑO VIDIELLA

## Buskers from around the world make Barri Gòtic a musical mecca

Talented musicians from all over the world are winning over the Barcelona public, but they are not doing it at the Forum but in the street. While the Ciutadella bongo players may be seen as a nuisance and the in-

ept recorder players a pain in Plaça del Pi, around the cathedral it is possible to hear music of the highest standard, played on a variety of instruments and in many styles. The majority come from Eastern Eu-

rope, often conservatory-trained, or from Latin America. Among the regular attractions are Los Cocodrilos, a jazz band made up of Russians, English and Catalans who perform most days in the Portal de l'Àngel.