

# FULL LOCAL FIVE DAY WEATHER FORECAST: Inside

## Majorca Daily Bulletin

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### Spanish court sentences captain of sunken *Prestige* oil tanker

Madrid.—Spain's Supreme Court sentenced the captain of the *Prestige* oil tanker, which sank off Spain's northwestern coast in 2002, covering thousands of kilometres of coastline in fuel oil, to two years in prison yesterday. The captain, Apostolos Mangouras, pictured, was convicted of recklessness resulting in catastrophic environmental damage, according to a statement by the court, overturning a previous sentence which cleared him of criminal responsibility. The sinking of the Greek tanker, which was sailing to Gibraltar, released an estimated 63,000 tonnes of foul-smelling black fuel along the Galicia coast and forced the closure of the country's richest fishing grounds.



# ROUND 2

● Spain's parties to discuss new government with king next week after election stalemate. This will be the second time that the monarch has brought party leaders together to break the deadlock.

**S**PAIN'S four main party leaders will meet King Felipe for a second time next Monday and Tuesday to see whether any of them can muster enough support to form a government and break a six-week election deadlock, the palace said. Parties on the right and left have been jockeying for power in the month since the 20 Dec. vote, though none is yet in a position to cement an alliance after the political landscape fragmented at the ballot box. The parties held their first con-

sultations with the king last week. Acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who wants his ruling centre-right Popular Party (PP) to form a 'grand coalition' including the centre-left Socialists, admitted after meeting the king last Friday that he did not yet have enough backing to seek a parliamentary confidence vote. In a statement yesterday, the palace said the king would meet Spain's two newcomer parties, the centrist Ciudadanos and the anti-austerity Podemos, on Monday, 1 February.

He will then meet the PP and the second-placed Socialist Party on Tuesday, 2 February. Once a candidate seeks the confidence of parliament, a two-month deadline for the formation of a government comes into effect. After that, a new election would be triggered. But there is no time limit for a party leader to seek a confidence vote, meaning the stalemate could continue until either Rajoy or Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez believe they have enough support to guarantee success in leading a

coalition. Chances of a leftist coalition have improved since Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias said on Friday he was willing to soften his red lines to negotiate a pact with the Socialists. Iglesias has said he wanted to be Deputy Prime Minister. However, any possible deal is still not a certainty, given the Socialists' Sanchez would need to agree pacts with several nationalist and pro-independence parties from the Basque region and Catalonia to gain a majority in the 350-seat parliament.



**STORM ALERT**

**T**HE "remnants" of the storm that brought severe blizzards to the U.S. hit parts of Britain yesterday bringing heavy rain, gales and travel problems. Western areas were hit hard where some schools closed and roads were flooded. Ferries to the Scottish Islands and Isle of Wight were disrupted, and in Edinburgh, a man was hurt when a broken chimney smashed through a bus window.



### "BETTER LIFE..." Denmark passes tough migrant law as Nordic refugee welcome dims

● Denmark's parliament passed measures yesterday aimed at deterring refugees from seeking asylum, including confiscating valuables to pay for their stay, despite protests from international human rights organisations. The measures, which also include extending family reunification among refugees from one year to three years, are the latest sign that the Nordic welcome for refugees is waning as large numbers flee war in Africa and Middle East for a better life in Europe.