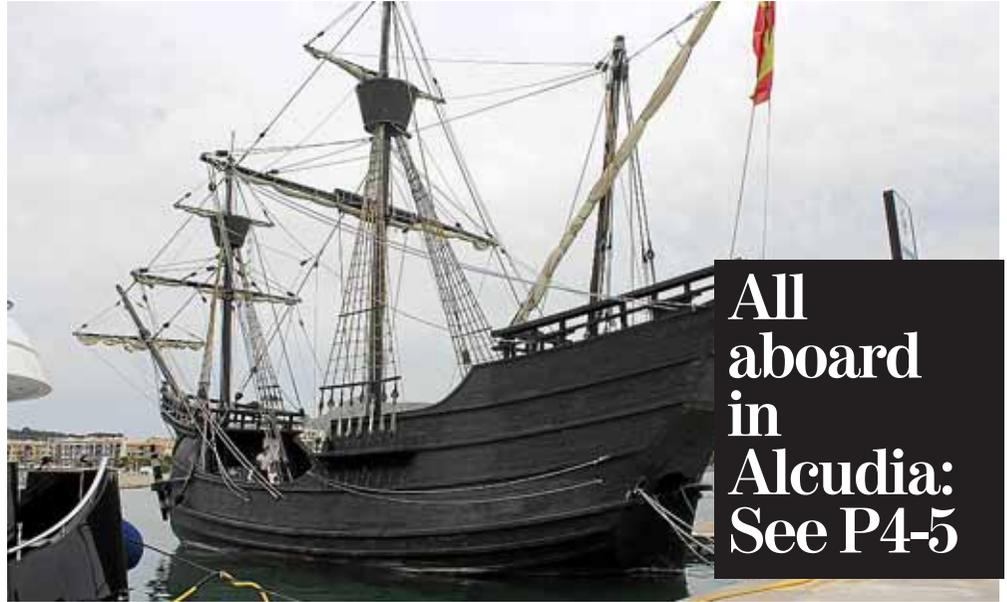


Majorca Daily Bulletin

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All aboard in Alcudia: See P4-5

Bank of Spain says political deadlock could hit growth

SPAIN'S three-month-old political deadlock is unlikely to have stalled an economic rebound but a more prolonged period without a new government could spook companies and consumers, the Bank of Spain said yesterday. Spain's economy is estimated to have

expanded 0.7 percent in the first quarter from the previous one, the central bank said, underpinned by household spending, after output grew 0.8 percent in the third quarter.

Spain's political parties all fell well short of a majority in national elections on Dec. 20 and they have since failed to

agree a new coalition, making new elections in or around June increasingly likely.

For now, many economists believe the turnaround from a deep recession has strong enough momentum to withstand a bout of political uncertainty, as the job market continues to recover.

Monetary easing from the European Central Bank, a weak euro that is sustaining exports and low oil prices are also helping Spain's economy motor on at one of the fastest rates of the euro zone. But the political impasse could start to weigh on spending decisions in the private sector.



Britain's "in" and "out" EU campaigns level, says new poll

THE rival campaigns for Britain to stay in or leave the European Union are tied, an online poll by TNS showed on Friday, less than three months before the country's historic referendum. The 'in' and 'out' camps both had support from 35 percent of respondents in the poll with 30 percent still undecided.

Support for both sides fell by 1 percentage point compared with a previous survey in March.

TNS also showed that people were becoming less sure about the likely outcome of the June 23 referendum with fewer people - 33 percent compared with 41 percent - now saying they expected Britain to remain in the bloc.

The number of people who thought Britain would leave remained stable at 28 percent but those who did not know what the outcome was likely to be rose to 38 percent from 31 percent.

TNS said the poll was conducted between March 24 to 29 with 1,193 adults.

The rain finally arrives in Majorca

It had been forecast, it was badly needed and the rain finally arrived in Majorca yesterday. The unsettled weather is expected to continue over the coming days. See Full Weather Forecast Inside.