

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Too much sun. Hair too dry: new beauty products sought

Paris.—L’Oreal, the world’s biggest cosmetics company wants to see more beauty tech like sensory hair brushes that tell you how to care for your hair, and skin patches that let you know how much sun you are getting.

So it said yesterday it was launching a programme of start-up collaborations in Paris as it ramps up digital investments and seeks out new beauty products like its “smart” hair-brushes. L’Oreal makes an ever greater slice of sales online and has rolled out services and items for tech-savvy consumers, such as a phone app for virtual make-up tests.

The French group said it was looking to develop more inventions at a site for start-up companies in Paris, where 10 to 12 firms will work on projects with L’Oreal every year.

“The world of beauty has already become very digitalised ... this will allow us go even further than what we do today,” L’Oreal chairman and chief executive Jean-Paul Agon said, at a reconverted 1920s railway depot in Paris that now houses a start-up campus. Known as “Station F” and launched by billionaire businessman Xavier Niel, it will now have a L’Oreal workshop.

Britain sides with Madrid in Catalonia stand-off

BRITISH prime minister Theresa May said yesterday “people should be abiding by the rule of law and uphold the Spanish constitution”, clearly siding with prime minister Mariano Rajoy in the central government’s standoff with Catalonia.

“I have spoken to Mariano Rajoy this morning as I did earlier this week and made clear that the United Kingdom’s position is very clear,” May told reporters after two days of talks between EU leaders in Brussels.

“We believe that people should be abiding by the rule of law and uphold the Spanish constitution,” May said in Brussels, where EU leaders showed little political support for Catalonia.

New elections

The Spanish government has secured opposition support for dissolving Catalonia’s parliament and holding new elections there in January in its bid to defuse the regional government’s push for independence.

See Inside



Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy with Theresa May.

Sterling bounces back, boosted by progress in Brexit talks

London.— Sterling bounced back from an eight-day low against the euro yesterday, with investors hopeful of a breakthrough in Brexit negotiations after British prime minister Theresa May won a modest reprieve in stalled talks with the European Union.

EU leaders said at a summit in Brussels that they would begin preparations to move into the second phase of Brexit talks in December, a step forward that would allow London to discuss its future trade relationship with the bloc. May said EU leaders need not be concerned

about the current budget plans, that Britain would honour the commitments it had already made as a member of the bloc and that she was optimistic about winning a good Brexit deal.

The pound strengthened to 89.355 pence per euro, having earlier dipped to its

weakest since 12 October. That left it up 0.8 percent on the day.

“The pound has been given a (boost)... by optimistic comments from prime minister Theresa May following her meeting with the EU-27,” said Craig Erlam, analyst at OANDA.



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