

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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**TORRENTIAL RAIN HITS BONFIRE NIGHT: SEE PAGE 13**



**MAJORCA'S SIKHS CELEBRATE THEIR FOUNDING FATHER**

# BALEARICS REMAINS MARKET LEADER



**Only 1 in 7 Catalans see dispute with Madrid ending in independence**

● Just one in seven people from Catalonia believe the current standoff between Barcelona and Madrid will end in independence for the region while more than two thirds think the process has been bad for the economy, a survey showed yesterday.

Spain's central government took control of the region after local leaders staged a poll on secession, slated as illegal by the Constitutional Court, and then passed a unilateral declaration of independence through the parliament. In response, Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy fired the government, stripped the region of its autonomous status and called a regional election for 21 December.

On Sunday, the first part of the GAD3 survey showed that pro-independence parties would win the election but may not gain the parliamentary majority needed to continue with secession.

Fifteen percent said they believed the process would end in an independent state, according to part two of survey of 1,233 people

conducted between 30 October 30 and 3 November and published in *La Vanguardia*.

Optimism that a negotiated solution would be found was low, with just over a fifth thinking the crisis would lead to talks between regional authorities and Madrid.

The push for independence has dragged Spain in to its worst political crisis since its return to democracy four decades ago and has deeply divided the country, fuelling anti-Spanish feelings in Catalonia and nationalist tendencies elsewhere.

The uncertainty has prompted more than 2,000 companies to relocate their legal headquarters out of the region since 1 October, while the Bank of Spain said if the conflict persists it could lead to slower growth and job creation.

According to the poll, 67 percent said they believed the process had hurt the economy and almost 40 percent said the company exodus would have a negative affect on growth in the short term.

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London.—The politicians were out in force yesterday for the first day of the London World Travel Market. President Armengol, tourism minister Biel Barceló, Palma's mayor, Antoni Noguera, and the president of the Council of Majorca, Miquel Ensenyat, were all present for the event.

It was being said ahead of the fair that the govern-

ments in Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey might be contemplating devaluations in order to boost competitiveness.

As their respective currencies have all either been devalued or undergone market depreciation in the recent past, their capacities for further devaluation might however prove to be limited.

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The Balearic President in London yesterday.