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Man Utd run out of patience and sack Mourinho after dire start: Inside



CATALAN

Hunger strikers write to world leaders

● Four jailed Catalan separatist leaders currently on hunger strike sent letters to more than 40 European heads yesterday to protest what they see as mistreatment by the Spanish courts. The dispute between Catalonia's independence-seeking regional government and Madrid has worsened in recent weeks as negotiations have reached an impasse. Pro-independence protests are planned across Catalonia on Friday. "We suffer from a judicial process that severely violates our fundamental rights, including the right to the presumption of innocence," the Catalan leaders wrote in the letter, which was sent to more than 40 European heads of state and government.

Spain's courts are unduly delaying their appeal demands to prevent the separatists appealing at the European level, the Catalan leaders said.

The four signatories went on hunger strike earlier this month to protest their treatment by the Spanish judiciary, though they have no intention of starving themselves to death, one told Reuters last week.

A total of nine Catalan leaders are in jail awaiting trial for their role in the region's failed bid to split from Spain last year.

BENIDORM REJECTS TOURIST TAX



Palma.—One of Majorca's principal competitors for British tourism has rejected calls for the introduction of a tourist tax, bucking the trend which is now becoming commonplace across the country. Benidorm has de-

cidated not to go down the tourist tax route which will be widely welcomed by tourists and the industry.

The Balearic government introduced a tourist tax two years ago but it is still proving controver-

sial with hoteliers claiming that the islands lose their competitive edge. There has also been controversy over how the money from the cash is being spent.

The announcement from Benidorm will be greeted as "food for

thought" by the local tourist industry who fear that a fall in the value of sterling will hit the spending power of British tourists. Benidorm and Magalluf are two of the key resorts for British tourists in Spain.

British government steps up 'no-deal' Brexit preparations: P20

