

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Four people die following fire in abandoned bank branch

Madrid.—A fire that devastated an abandoned bank branch in Barcelona which was occupied by two families left four people dead yesterday, firefighters said. “Firefighters rescued 4 people and tried to resuscitate 4 more (2 adults, 1 child and 1 baby), who ended up dying,” the Barcelona firefighters said on Twitter. The child was three years old and the baby three months old, local TV station TV3 reported. The other four evacuated people were hospitalised and are now out of danger.

The many abandoned buildings unsuitable for lodging but illegally occupied by homeless people in Barcelona and its neighbouring areas are creating a serious risk. About a year ago, several people died in an abandoned warehouse occupied by scores of squatters in Badalona, a Barcelona suburb.

A police spokesman said two families used to live in the bank branch. The cause of the fire is not known and police are investigating.

THANK YOU MAJORCA

● Royal Navy flagship, *Queen Elizabeth*, leaves Palma with the crew underlining how much they enjoyed their stay and how they want to come back in the future.

Palma. —The Royal Navy flagship, *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, left Palma yesterday after a hugely successful five day visit.

Her crew were full of praise for the island and many went hiking and mountain bike riding in the Tramuntana mountains. Visits to Soller, Valldemossa and ofcourse, Magalluf were all organised for them.

Some even braved the elements and went to the Son Moix stadium on Saturday night to see Real Mallorca play Getafe.

The next stop for the *Queen Elizabeth* is the Spanish navy base at Rota then it is home to Portsmouth for Christmas. Many of her crew will have been away from home for almost seven months.



Showing their colours. Royal Navy sailors at the Son Moix stadium in Palma.

Vaccine under development by Hipra could be booster against variants

Madrid.— An experimental COVID-19 vaccine currently under development by Spanish pharmaceutical firm Hipra could be effective as a booster against variants of the virus, Spain's Science Minister Diana Morant said

yesterday. Morant said a Phase II trial on 1,000 volunteers who have already received another vaccine was producing good results on the alpha and beta variants of the coronavirus. She told reporters after the weekly cabinet

meeting that the vaccine would be a possible booster shot against variants. “Hipra speaks of the ability of its vaccine to recombine variants, and that is one of the improvements that this

vaccine presents compared to those that we have been inoculated with so far,” she said. “It is giving very good results precisely because it is a vaccine that recombines the proteins of the alpha and beta variants...

delta came later and now we have the omicron.” Spain's medicines regulator two weeks ago authorised Hipra to carry out Phase II trials of its vaccine, which uses a recombinant protein like that of U.S. based drug-

maker Novavax. Before any eventual approval for use in humans, Hipra's vaccine candidate must demonstrate that it is safe and effective in the ongoing tests and at the final Phase III stage of clinical trials.