TEROR FIREWORKS

Explosion kills two

Two men have been killed in an explosion in a family firework business in Teror, Gran Canaria.

The men, a father in his 70s and his 36-year-old son, died when materials they were preparing for local festivities ignited. A third man who worked in the small business, called El Secuestro, survived because he was not close to the fireworks at the time.

The explosion caused lateral damages to houses in the area and triggered a fire on the premises and sent sparks into the nearby area, though emergency teams were able to prevent the fire spreading to nearby woodland. A number of storehouses also escaped the blaze.

The factory itself was practically reduced to rubble and ashes as a result of the blast and Francisco Dávila, the company owner and his son Pablo, father of two children, lost their lives instantly, while Francisco Jiménez Dávila, the owner’s nephew, was in the factory office, and managed to escape when he heard the first small blast, running from the office. The second blast caused a shock-wave which miraculously threw him clear of the fire, causing only minor burns.

EXTRA FIRE
City officials claim the wheel will raise the profile of the capital

GRAN CANARIA DOCUMENTARY

Tourist Minister slammed

A Canarian tourism minister Rita Martín has been in the firing line again, this time over her defence of a controversial TV documentary on Gran Canaria’s tourism attractions.

The programme, broadcast by Antena TV, showed less than attractive aspects of beaches on the island, with several images of obese women bathing topless and youths engaging in lewd horseplay. The documentary prompted a flood of complaints by people on the island, where the Tourist Board has already threatened legal action against the channel for its biased reporting. However, at the height of the row, Martín irked Gran Canaria’s authorities by stressing that Antena 3 had not doctored any of the footage. “They filmed what was there so they can’t be accused of faking the shots,” said the minister, adding that she did not consider the documentary had caused a major problem. Gran Canarian businessmen and women disagree and are threatening to boycott the channel for advertising if they do not emit a more balanced programme.

ON YOUR BIKE

Santa Lucía saddles up

The council in Santa Lucía de Tirajana are open to tenders to design a cycling path network for the town of Vecindario at a cost of €20,000.

The borough officials are hoping to encourage the use of bicycles in the urban zone and, according to mobility councillor Luis Campos, increase the numbers adopting this two-wheeled machine as a valid mode of transport, and in general make commuters and shoppers think more of non-motorised forms of getting from A to B, “from an energy as well as an environmental perspective”.

According to Campos the council want to prioritise cycle lanes as well as pedestrian areas in the town and promote healthier lifestyle habits as well as improved traffic information, increased security for commuters and an overall improvement in the quality of life for citizens.