

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Thursday, November 25 2021

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.17160 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011

Thirty-one migrants perish trying to cross Channel to UK

London.—Thirty-one people died yesterday after their dinghy capsized while crossing the Channel from France to Britain, in the worst disaster on record involving migrants in the waters separating the countries.

The Channel is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes and currents are strong. Overloaded dinghies often barely stay afloat and are at the mercy of waves as they try to reach British shores.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said 34 people had been onboard, 31 of whom had died, two were rescued and one was still

missing. "There are two survivors... but their life is in danger, they are suffering from severe hypothermia," he said.

"It is a catastrophe for France, for Europe, for humanity, to see these people who are at the mercy of smugglers perish at sea."

More migrants left France's northern shores than usual to take advantage of calm sea conditions yesterday, according to fishermen, although the water was bitterly cold.

One fisherman, Nicolas Margolle, told Reuters he had seen two small dinghies earlier on Wednesday, one with people on board and another empty.

NO MOOR IN PORT OF PALMA!



Palma.—Two giant cruise ships, a Royal Navy aircraft carrier, a Dutch navy destroyer and a number of other vessels are all docking in the port of Palma this morning and there is simply no more

room. As a direct result the aircraft carrier, *Queen Elizabeth*, will moor in a special anchorage area in the Bay of Palma. Two cruise ships which can accommodate 3,000 passengers each and a Royal

Navy aircraft carrier with at least 2,500 people aboard will certainly be a welcome sight for the business community in Palma. The *Queen Elizabeth*, the biggest warship ever built for the Royal

Navy is paying her first ever visit to the Port of Palma. The Dutch destroyer is one of her escorts. They have been away from home for the last six months.



FESTIVE LIGHTS GO ON IN PALMA: SEE FULL REPORT INSIDE TODAY

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