FULL WHAT´S ON GUIDE OF LOCAL EVENTS: See Inside

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Scores killed as migrant boat sinks off Italy: See Full Report 8

Government now claims there will be more winter tourists

● Just 24 hours after the hoteliers forecast a bleak low season with more hotels closing the Balearic government claims that there will be an increase in winter tourism of eight percent. Palma airport is also forecasting a fall in the number of winter flights.

Palma.—An astonishing "war of numbers" has broken out in the Balearics over winter tourism.

Just 24 hours after local hoteliers forecast a bleak low season with more hotels than ever closing their doors for business, the local ministry of tourism announced that winter tourism would increase by eight percent. This statement also contradicts an earlier report by Palma airport which forecast a 10 percent fall in winter flights this low season. With few tour firms operating a winter programme to Majorca and travel bosses saying that there is no demand for the island during the winter the rosy picture painted by the local ministry for tourism appears difficult to believe. This winter there will be about fifty flights to Majorca from Britain a week. The bad news is that most of them are from London, with only a handful to other airports across Britain. There will be a twice weekly service to Glasgow. **See Reports Inside.**

British teachers join "Green Tea" in Arta: See Page Three Inside

Britain and Germany lead the economic recovery in Europe

London.— A return to growth last month for French and Italian companies buttressed a tentative economic recovery in Europe, where Britain and Germany continued to lead the way, surveys showed yesterday.

Order books in euro zone businesses filled at a faster rate and job cuts slowed to a trickle in September, according to purchasing managers indexes (PMIs) that survey thousands of companies worldwide.

In Italy, the strength of the services PMI surpassed all expectations from economists polled by Reuters, suggesting the euro zone's third-biggest economy was on course to pull out of its longest recession in six decades.

British businesses ranging from huge financial corporations to hairdressers again reported solid growth, rounding off the strongest quarter in more than 16 years.

Overall, the surveys painted a slightly brighter picture than the "weak, fragile and uneven" recovery alluded to on Wednesday by European Central Bank president Mario Draghi.

On balance, they also boded well for the global economy. **See Full Report Inside.**