

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

Tuesday, April 1 2014

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Casino evening raises cash for charity: See Full Report on Page 18



## Chinese firm buys luxury Palma hotel, plans Winter tourism drive

● Air China set to have a direct flight to the island and Majorca could become a big Winter

holiday destination for Chinese tourists,

● See Full Report on Page 3

## Future of the BBC World Service in doubt

**B**RITISH lawmakers raised fears yesterday for the future of the BBC World Service, the world's largest international broadcaster, as funding shifts from government grants to financing by domestic television user fees.

Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee said it was concerned that a change in funding and a lack of presence on the BBC's executive or management boards would erode the on-air and on-line influence of the radio and television service. The BBC World Service, which started as the "Empire Service" in 1932, airs news and discussions around-the-clock in 28 languages, reaching about 190 million people a week.

From 1 April, it will no longer be funded by the government via the Foreign Office but from the compulsory 145.50 pound (\$240) annual fee paid by all households with a television to finance Britain's public sector broadcaster.

"We have clear differences with the BBC on governance of the World Service .. It remains to be seen whether they will indeed safeguard the distinct nature of the World Service," the committee said in a report yesterday.