

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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**A happy Christmas to all readers. We will be back on the news-stands on Tuesday.**



## THE CRUEL SEA

London.—A record 5,000 migrants are believed to have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea this year, following two shipwrecks on Thurs. in which some 100 people, mainly West Africans, were feared dead, aid agencies said yesterday.

Two overcrowded inflatable dinghies capsized in the Strait

of Sicily after leaving Libya for Italy, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said.

“Those two incidents together appear to be the numbers that would bring this year’s total up to over to 5,000 (deaths), which is a new high

that we have reported during this crisis,” IOM spokesman Joel Millman told a Geneva briefing. The Italian coast guard rescued survivors and had recovered eight bodies so far, he said. IOM staff were interviewing survivors brought to Trapani, Italy, he added.

Just under 3,800 migrants

perished at sea during all of 2015, according to IOM figures.

UNHCR spokesman William Spindler said the “alarming increase” in deaths this year appeared to be related to bad weather, the declining quality of vessels used by smugglers, and their tactics to avoid detection.



### Give me the lion’s share, please Santa!



A lion and lioness open up Christmas presents in their enclosure in Hagenbeck’s zoo in Hamburg. They were certainly well received.

### Cheers to a great Christmas



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