

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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*“British billionaires in millionaire investment on the island”: See Full Report on Page Three*

# Spain replaces Italy as Europe's main destination for migrant crossings



**Madrid.**—Most of the migrants who crossed the Mediterranean to Europe last year arrived in Spain, according to European Union estimates published yesterday, as Italy had the fewest irregular entries in five years. The border and coast

guard agency Frontex estimated that 150,000 people entered the EU through irregular crossings in 2018, the lowest number in five years and far below the peak of more than a million recorded in 2015. The number of arrivals in Italy,

which has taken measures to prevent rescued migrants landing, fell 80 percent to around 23,000, the fewest since 2012.

Meanwhile, arrivals in Spain doubled to 57,000 migrants last year, making the route from Morocco to the Iberian Pen-

insula the most active in Europe. Arrivals in Greece and Cyprus through the so-called Eastern Mediterranean route rose to 56,000 last year, most of the migrants coming from Afghanistan, Syria or Iraq.

## British economic growth slows to a crawl amid Brexit fears

**London.**—Britain's economic growth slowed to a crawl at the end of 2018 and the housing market is stalling, according to data published yesterday, less than three months before Brexit.

A closely watched business survey indicated firms were growing more anxious, while figures from the Bank of England and mortgage lender Nationwide painted a picture of households reining in spending.

Britain is due to leave the European Un-

ion on 29 March but what will actually happen on that day remains far from clear.

The future of Prime Minister Theresa May's deal struck with the EU hangs in the balance as a parliamentary vote looms, raising the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal to smooth the economic shock.

Calls for a second referendum -- which May has rejected -- are growing.

Yesterday's figures indicated that the dis-



array is starting to affect the economy.

Lending to consumers grew at its slowest pace in nearly four years in November and the number of mortgage approvals fell by far more than expected, the BoE said.

Nationwide said its house price index had grown in December at the weakest annual pace in nearly six years.

Overall, Britain's economy looks on track for quarterly growth of just 0.1 percent in the fourth quarter. **See Inside**