

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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THERE WILL BE NO NEWSPAPER TOMORROW, GOOD FRIDAY, BUT WE WILL BE BACK ON THE NEWSSTANDS ON SATURDAY, IN THE MEANTIME KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND HAVE A HAPPY LOCKDOWN EASTER!



MANAGE YOUR EASTER SHOPPING

● Consumer groups, supermarkets and the local authorities yesterday urged the public to carefully manage their shopping over Easter to prevent long queues. Strict controls are being introduced to restrict numbers plus quantities of essential items purchased.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL FOR SPAIN, BUT...

Palma.—Spain's finance minister, María Jesús Montero, has indicated that there will be some return to normal life after the 26th of April, which is when - for now - the state of alarm will conclude.

In an interview on the Antena 3 TV channel yesterday morning, Montero

said that a return to being "on the streets and in the squares" will come with "clear instructions" from the government.

Will last

She stressed that the only thing that can be "taken for granted" at present is that the state of alarm will

last until 26 April. Prime Minister Sánchez has in fact made clear that the state of alarm will not end then.

Nevertheless, Montero suggested that towards the end of this month, people will be able to gradually go about their day-to-day lives.

Under what conditions has yet to be determined. "There are different scenarios" for health experts to decide.

These scenarios for "de-escalation", she explained, will draw on data over the next couple of weeks.

The data will include the results of tests that the

ministry of health is to carry out. These tests will involve some 60,000 people from different regions of the country.

Sampling

Random sampling plus tests of people going to health centres will help to determine who has had the

virus and whether they have developed "collective immunity" (or herd immunity).

The data will help to show how the disease can develop in the future and guide the "clear instructions" to be given to the public.

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...Spain hits 14,500 deaths, big economic slump forecast

Madrid—Spain's overnight death toll from the coronavirus edged higher again yesterday while the main business lobby warned the economy could slump up to 9% this year if lockdown restrictions remain beyond May.

The health ministry said 757 people died over the past 24 hours, up from 743 people the previous day, marking the second daily

rise in a row and bringing the total death toll to 14,555 - the world's second-highest after Italy.

However, Health Minister Salvador Illa said the numbers were still consistent with a slowdown. The daily percentage pace of increases has roughly halved from the end of March to about 5%.

"There are no good numbers when it comes to

deaths ... (but) we are now in the slowdown phase," he said. Bruce Aylward, senior advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) director-general said Spain's outbreak was "definitely slowing" but he cautioned against over-optimism.

Overall, cases rose to 146,690 from 140,510 on Tuesday.

At the Sur de Madrid cemetery, Reuters TV foot-

age showed local priest Eduard Batubenga giving a short funeral prayer next to a hearse carrying the body of an elderly woman who died at a nursing home from the COVID-19 disease.

Shortly after, a 37-year-old victim was buried.

"Now, sometimes at a set time you get two services. While you are doing one, the other is waiting in line,"

Batubenga said, explaining that daily funerals had shot up to around 40 from 10-15 "on a bad day" before the epidemic.

In a report, the CEOE business association expected the economy to shrink between 5% and 9% this year, sending up to 800,000 people into unemployment, depending on when the restrictions are going to be lifted. It called

on the government to declare a tax moratorium for companies to prevent further damage and allow a speedy recovery, saying that under its most optimistic forecast the economy would rebound 5.2% next year.

The government has so far only said that it expects the virus to bring a recession, without more precise forecasts.