

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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PALMA BOAT SHOW IS CANCELLED

● The 2020 Palma International Boat Show, originally scheduled for the end of this month and then postponed to early June, has been cancelled. The boat show is organised by the BYBA yacht brokers association and the government's IDI Institute for Business Innovation. They have decided to call the boat show off as it cannot go ahead under conditions of optimal safety for exhibitors and visitors. Exhibitors will be refunded. The IDI and BYBA will now start on arrangements for the 2021 boat show, which is due to take place - as this year's should have done - at the end of April and over the May bank holiday.

The aim will be to continue positioning Palma as the premier fair at the start of the nautical season.

Spain's daily deaths decline as testing increases

Madrid.—Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez yesterday promised more coronavirus testing to try to build on a decline in daily COVID-19 deaths that has allowed Spain to start tentatively reopening its locked-down economy.

Officials hope that more testing will give a better indication of the areas where lockdowns can be eased further.

"Spain is already one of the countries making the most daily tests. More than 20,000, and we are increasing the number," Sanchez told a near-empty parliament.

Spain's daily number of deaths from the coronavirus fell yesterday to 523 from 567, the health ministry said - well below a peak of 950 reached on April 2.

The International Monetary Fund has said Spain's economy is likely to suffer a very heavy impact from the pandemic, and the government is keen to reactivate whatever businesses it can as soon as possible.

On Monday and Tuesday, sectors including construction and manufacturing were



allowed to reopen but, with most people still confined to their homes, shops, bars and public spaces will stay closed until at least April 26.

For the lockdown to be eased more broadly, officials say testing for the virus has to be expanded enough to include people who have mild or no

symptoms, to track the spread in more detail.

The government also said last week it would carry out mass antibody tests on the blood of 60,000 randomly chosen people over three weeks, to begin identifying those who might in theory now be immune after expo-

sure to the virus. However, health and virology experts are not yet certain about the quality of such tests, or how much immunity such antibodies might provide.

Spain remains one of the world's worst-affected countries, with only the United States and Italy recording higher cumulative death tolls than the 18,579 reported yesterday. The official tally of cases rose by just over 5,000 to 177,633, although Fernando Simon, the national emergency coordinator, said the expansion of testing had meant more mild or asymptomatic cases were being recorded.

The World Health Organization said yesterday that countries should wait at least two weeks before evaluating the impact of loosening their lockdowns and deciding whether to go further.

But Spain, having suffered a heavy blow to growth and employment during the euro zone debt crisis, is under acute pressure to restart its economy.

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MARCHING TO HELP THE NHS FIGHT VIRUS WAR

No clear plan for a return to school in the Balearics

● The national ministry of education has arrived at agreement with regional governments regarding the current school year.

In principle, pupils will pass, with their grades for the third term being determined by teachers and based on the previous two terms.

The final assessment will include a report for each pupil that will act as a means of designing extra lessons to compensate for the exceptional circumstances at the end of the current school year, which will end - as had been planned - in June. Some schools will then be open in July for these extra lessons.

During the session in Congress yesterday, the education minister, Isabel Celaá, was criticised by the Partido Popular's Sandra Moneo for not having set out a calendar for a return to schools.

The minister replied: "These are not circumstances which depend on education, but on the ministry of health."

The Balearics education minister, Martí March, expressed his support for the government, stressing that repeating a school year will very much be the exception.