

YOUR FULL FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST: SEE INSIDE

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, March 3 2021

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.17465 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A,
Palma 07011

17 million doses of vaccine purchased

Madrid.—Spain will buy 17 million more doses of the coronavirus vaccine made by Moderna as part of a new

contract negotiated by the European Union, government spokeswoman Maria Jesus Montero said yesterday.

The government intends to have 70% of the 47 million population vaccinated by the summer.

Unions cry foul as Inditex shuts stores

Madrid.— Inditex staff in Spain say they are being forced out as the owner of fast-fashion brand Zara rolls out its plan to shut up to 1,200 stores worldwide, despite a company agreement with Spanish unions to project jobs. The world's biggest clothes retailer is closing smaller outlets while expanding flagship stores and the Spanish closures are the first of up to 700 expected

this year in Europe, as well as 100 in the Americas and 400 elsewhere in the world.

Under a December agreement, seen by Reuters, with two Spanish unions, Inditex aims to provide all affected staff with new vacancies matching their old contracts and seniority within 25 km (16 miles) of where they used to work. But unions and staff say it's not going to plan.

SPAIN'S JOBLESS HITS 4 MILLION FOR FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS



London.—The number of jobless people in Spain rose above 4 million for the first time in five years in February, official data showed yesterday, as COVID-19 restrictions ravage the ailing economy.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Spain has lost more than 400,000 jobs, around two-thirds of them in the hospitality sector, which has struggled with limits on opening hours and capacity as well as an 80% slump in inter-

national tourism. Jobless claims rose by 1.12% from a month earlier, or by 44,436 people to 4,008,789, Labour Ministry data showed, the fifth consecutive monthly increase in unemployment.

That number was 23.5% higher than in February 2020, the last month before the pandemic took hold in Spain.

“The rise in unemployment, caused by the third wave, is bad news, reflecting the structural flaws of the labour

market that are accentuated by the pandemic,” Labour Minister Yolanda Diaz tweeted. Restrictions vary sharply from region to region in Spain, with some shutting down all hospitality businesses, though Madrid has taken a particularly relaxed approach and kept bars and restaurants open. A total of 30,211 positions were lost over the month, seasonally adjusted data from the Social Security Ministry showed.

BACK IN BUSINESS BUT ONLY ON THE TERRACE



Bars and restaurants reopened their terraces yesterday as the Balearic government started easing the Covid restrictions. But many hundreds of businesses across the island remained closed because of a lack of a terrace or a large outside seating area. See Report Inside.