

Synopsis (March 15, 2020)

General News

The Czech Republic declares a state of emergency and closes borders to people from 15 countries hit by the coronavirus

The Czech Republic on Thursday declared a state of emergency and barred travelers from several countries to combat the rapid spread of the coronavirus across Europe. The Czech government said people coming from 15 countries, including the UK, Italy, Germany, Spain, and France, would not be allowed to enter the country for at least 30 days. It also barred citizens from traveling to the countries. The 15 countries listed by the Czech government are: United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, France, Austria, Germany, China, South Korea, Iran, Switzerland, Sweden. Areas where large numbers of people gather, like gyms, libraries, and swimming pools, will also be closed for at least 30 days. Bars and restaurants will have restricted hours. The Czech Republic had reported 96 coronavirus cases as of Thursday afternoon.

DONALD TRUMP BANS FLIGHTS TO USA FROM CZECH REPUBLIC AND EUROPE IN WAKE OF CORONAVIRUS

United States President Donald Trump has announced “strong but necessary” travel restrictions in the wake of the coronavirus that has spread across Asia and Europe at a press briefing last night. Additionally, anyone who has travelled within the Schengen zone within the last 14 days will be barred from entering the United States. Trump stated that the ban on flights from Europe would last for 30 days. That could be extended as the situation surrounding the coronavirus develops around the world. As it is, the ban is one of the largest restrictions in the history of air travel, and could have widespread consequences for the airline industry.

Economic Briefs

CENTRAL BANK CHIEF: ECONOMY IN GOOD SHAPE TO FACE GLOBAL DOWNTURN

The Czech economy is in relatively good condition to face a potential global economic downturn, the governor of the Czech National Bank, Jiří Rusnok, said on Czech Television on Wednesday. The country has very low debts, its banks are in fine shape and it possesses large foreign exchange reserves and its own currency, he said on the programme Interview. Mr. Rusnok also said the Czech economy had sufficient “fiscal space”, with the government able to offset any decline in household demand by an increase in its own expenditures. The central bank chief said he had no doubt that a time would come when the government would have to make serious decisions.

Czech banks to offer postponement on loan payments due to coronavirus

Czech Banks To Offer 3-Month Postponement On Mortgages And Consumer Loans Payments For Those Affected By Coronavirus Outbreak -Banking Association Further Company Coverage: (Prague Newsroom).

Plopsa expanding with theme park in Czech Republic

Plopsa Group plans to open a new indoor theme park in Prague, Czech Republic. The company has teamed up with KAPRAIN and TNI Group to invest in the attraction, which is set to open in 2021. According to Plopsa Fans, Plopsa has two investors for the theme park, which will be based on Studio 100 figure Maya the Bee. The theme park will feature 15 attractions, including a roller coaster, whirligig and tower. It is scheduled to open in autumn 2021. Plopsa Group will work with two local investment companies, real estate and Investment Company TNI Group and investment group KAPRAIN. KAPRAIN owns the shopping centre Premium Outlet Prague Airport, which is where the new indoor amusement park will be built. Plopsa has opened attractions in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Poland. This makes the Czech Republic the fifth country to welcome Plopsa. Steve Van den Kerkhof, CEO Plopsa Group, said: "I am particularly pleased that we can work with the Czech partners and I am convinced that the three of us can turn this into a success story."

Biathlon World Cup in Czech Republic to be closed to fans because of coronavirus

This week's International Biathlon Union (IBU) World Cup in Nové Město na Moravě in the Czech Republic has been closed to the public because of the coronavirus. The IBU confirmed the event, due to begin on Thursday (March 5) and conclude on Sunday (March 8), would go ahead but would be held without spectators due to the outbreak of the virus. In a statement, the IBU claimed the decision to close the competition to fans had been made by the Czech authorities amid concerns over the spread of the virus officially known as COVID-19, which has killed 3,130 people and infected more than 92,000 worldwide. The Czech Republic has so reported five cases, three of which had all recently travelled to Northern Italy, and no deaths. The decision to hold the World Cup behind closed doors has been questioned by French five-time Olympic champion Martin Fourcade. A host of athletes arriving for the World Cup competed at the World Championships in Antholz-Anterselva in Italy last month. There have been 2,036 confirmed cases of the virus in Italy, the most outside of China, South Korea and Iran.