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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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India-related coronavirus variant could “become a big problem” in UK: expert

LONDON, May 29 (Xinhua) -- The India-related coronavirus variant could “pick up speed and become a big problem” in Britain as the country further eases its lockdown, a British expert warned Saturday.

Britain’s fight against coronavirus could turn bad “very, very quickly” unless the government acts cautiously on easing lockdown further, professor Tim Gowers from the University of Cambridge told The Guardian newspaper.

“So I think if that’s the way you’re going to play things, then you should be very, very cautious about every step you take ... And maybe everything (will) be okay, maybe the number of people who are vaccinated will be just enough,” he said.

“But if it’s not OK, we know, because of mathematics, that things will get bad very, very quickly,” he said. “Or at least, maybe it won’t look that quick to start with, but it’ll grow exponentially. So it’ll pick up speed and become a big problem.”

Meanwhile, Professor Anthony Harnden, deputy chair of Britain’s Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), also warned that the India-related variant is “clearly more transmissible”.

“We need to be reassured that we’re in a very different position now in that we’ve got a highly vaccinated population and we just need to continue moving at speed,” he told the BBC.

“We do know that with this particular variant you do need two doses to offer complete protection, and so we’re very, very keen to make sure that all those, particularly higher risk groups, that’s the over-50s and those with underlying illness, receive their second vaccination as soon as feasible.”

Another 4,182 COVID-19 cases have been reported in Britain, the highest daily total since April 1, according to the latest official figures released Friday.



A citizen receives a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese pharmaceutical company Sinovac in Bangkok, Thailand, May 12, 2021. (Xinhua/Rachen Sageamsak)

It’s also the third day running that the number has been above 3,000. The total number of coronavirus cases in the country now stands at 4,477,705.

Meanwhile, the India-related COVID

variant cases doubled in a week in England to almost 7,000, prompting concerns that the government’s lockdown roadmap will be derailed.

People were also allowed to travel

abroad to a number of “green-list” countries without having to quarantine upon return as the ban on foreign travel has also been lifted.

More than 38.8 million people, or more than 70 percent of adults in Britain, have been given the first jab of the coronavirus vaccine, according to the latest official figures.

Experts have warned that coronavirus may continue to evolve for years to come, and eventually it is likely current vaccines will fail to protect against transmission, infection, or even against disease caused by newer variants.

To bring life back to normal, countries such as Britain, China, Russia, the United States as well as the European Union have been racing against time to roll out coronavirus vaccines.



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LOCAL NEWS

RMB appreciation shouldn't be used to offset bulk commodity price hikes: central bank

BEIJING, May 28 (Xinhua) -- Exchange rates cannot be used as a tool to spur exports, nor should they be leveraged to offset price hikes for bulk commodities, according to an online statement released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) on Thursday.

The managed floating exchange rate system, which is based on market supply and demand and adjusted in reference to a basket of currencies, is suitable for China's national conditions and should be adhered to in the long run, said the PBOC, citing a meeting of the China FX Market Self-Regulatory Framework.

The meeting emphasized that it is crucial to manage market expectations, reiterating a determination to clamp down on all market manipulation behaviors.

China's currency market remains generally stable at present, the meeting concluded, and the two-way fluctuations of the yuan will become the norm in both the short term and long term as the exchange rate is subject to an array of market and policy factors.

Enterprises and financial institutions are urged to actively adapt to exchange rate fluctuations, and they should refrain from currency speculation.



Lebanese soldiers stop pro-Palestinian protesters from crossing Lebanon-Israel border

BEIRUT, May 15 (Xinhua) -- Lebanese soldiers clashed on Saturday with pro-Palestinian demonstrators while trying to stop them from crossing a barbed wire fence between Lebanon and Israel, the National News Agency reported.

Hundreds of protesters took part on Saturday afternoon in demonstrations on Lebanon's borders with Israel in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Lebanese army soldiers were deployed in the area to prevent any escalations from Lebanon.

A day earlier, demonstrations resulted in the killing of one Lebanese citizen by gunshot as the Israeli army fired machine guns, smoke bombs and tear gas towards Lebanese protesters who tried to break into the Israeli side.

This has sparked anger among Lebanese authorities who asked for the intervention of the international community to put an end to Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinians



Editor's Choice



People are reflected in a puddle as they watch the sunset in Moscow, Russia May 27, 2021. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov



President Joe Biden eats ice cream during a visit to Cleveland, Ohio, May 27. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



Residents relax in the Embassy Gardens Sky Pool, a suspended transparent acrylic swimming pool, with the U.S. Embassy building seen behind, London, Britain, May 27. REUTERS/Toby Melville



Pigeon fancier Yonisbel Santana poses for a photo at his rooftop in Havana, Cuba, May 18.



People use their mobile phones to take pictures of waves breaking on a beachfront following Cyclone Yaas in Digha, Purba Medinipur district in the eastern state of West Bengal, India, May 27. REUTERS/Rupak De Chowdhuri



A member of the armed forces takes part in the Flags-In ceremony, where over 1,000 service members place flags in front of more than 260,000 headstones in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, May 27. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

BUSINESS



Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the U.S. that honors soldiers and is observed on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as Decoration Day, this day annually commemorates U.S. soldiers who died while in the military service.

Memorial Day often marks the start of the summer vacation season, and Labor Day its end. Begun as a ritual of remembrance and reconciliation after the civil war, by the early 20th century, Memorial Day was an occasion for more general expressions of memory, as ordinary people visited the graves of their deceased relatives, whether they had served in the military or not.

Memorial Day - 2021

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



On This Day.... We Honor Their Service Throughout Our History



Indianapolis 500 Is A Memorial Day Tradition

The practice of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers is an ancient custom. Soldiers' graves were decorated in the U.S. before and during the American Civil War.

Georgia decorated soldiers' graves in 1862. In 1863, the cemetery dedication at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was a ceremony of commemoration at the graves of dead soldiers.



The Tomb of the Unknowns Located In Arlington National Cemetery.

Following President Abraham Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, there were a variety of events of commemoration. The first wellknown observance of a

Memorial Day-type observance after the Civil War was in Charleston, South Carolina on May 1, 1865.

During the war, Union soldiers who were prisoners of war had been held at the Charleston Race Course; at least 257 Union prisoners died there and were hastily buried in unmarked graves.

Nearly ten thousand people, mostly freedmen, gathered on May 1 to commemorate the dead. Involved were 3,000 schoolchildren newly enrolled in freedmen's schools, mutual aid societies, Union troops, and black ministers and white northern missionaries.

On Memorial Day the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon.

Memorial Day observances in small New

England towns are often marked by dedications and remarks by veterans, state legislators and selectmen.

The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all.



The National Memorial Day Concert takes place on the west lawn of the United States Capitol. The concert is broadcast on PBS and NPR. Music is performed, and respect is paid to the men and women who gave their lives for their country.



Memorial Day Photos From Past Years



COMMUNITY

Why Memorial Day Matters



Freedom Is Never Free

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

