Iran's Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said that some 208 more Iranians have died from Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths to 17,190.

TEHRAN - Speaking at a meeting of the government's economic coordination headquarters, President Rouhani said that moving towards the prosperity and surge in the economy of the country should be based on realities and should not be based on unrealistic analyses of pessimism and tarnishing the image of the country.

Hassan Rouhani who was speaking in the 15th meeting of the government's economic coordination headquarters added, "The realities of the country in the economic field show that by taking advantage of economic capabilities and coordination among all bodies and cohesion in managing and implementing coordinated programs, unprecedented problems caused by maximum enemy pressure can be overcome."

In the meeting, the macroeconomic management road-map of the country in 26 areas was presented and discussed. Referring to the road-map designed, Rouhani said, "The main goal of the economic war imposed by the enemies on Iran is to make the country's management unplanned in its decisions and actions, and in this regard create and induce negative expectations."

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker stated that by the resistance of the people against all kinds of sedition, the country gained such power due to which by taking advantage of the enemies' plots and establishing a new order in the West Asia region.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, in his speech in today's 26th session of the parliament August 2, said, "After the Islamic Revolution, our nation gained tremendous power to protect the Revolution, and after passing through the hardest three decades of the Revolution, we are able to bravely resist in the holy defense."

He added, "With the resistance of the people against all kinds of internal and international sedition in the second and third decades of the revolution, we gained such power that we thwarted the most complex plots of the enemies and established a new order in the West Asia region."

Referring to the road-map designed, Rouhani said, "The main goal of the economic war imposed by the enemies on Iran is to make the country's management unplanned in its decisions and actions, and in this regard create and induce negative expectations."
West Urged to Cease Financing, Harbouring Terrorists

Majlis Ready to Develop Parliamentary Cooperation With Moscow

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf said the Iranian parliament will accelerate the initiative of Iran-Russia joint high council, adding that the parliament is ready to promote parliamentary relations with Russia.

Qalibaf made the remarks Saturday in a meeting with Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs Leonard Slutsky. Referring to the historic agreements between Iran and Russia and describing the meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei as turning point, he stressed the importance of boosting all-out cooperation between two countries in economic, political and cultural fields.

Iran and Russia enjoy joint opportunities which can be used in line with both nations’ interests, he said.

Underlining the importance of materializing strategic cooperation between Iran and Russia, he said both countries are expected to pay more attention to all dimensions of relations namely in economic and trade fields. Qalibaf hailed Iran-Russia cooperation in fighting terrorism in Syria, saying security cooperation can be used as a pattern for reinforcing joint cooperation in other fields.

Slutsky, for his part, congratulated Qalibaf on his election.

He said by maintaining cooperation among Iranian and Russian expert parliamentary committees, “we can hold joint meeting on political, energy and economic fields”.

The two parliaments can help draw national projects and strategic cooperation, Slutsky added.

He emphasized increasing Iran-Russia cooperation in Caspian Sea.

Slutsky invited Qalibaf to visit Russia.

TEHRAN - Iran’s foreign minister blamed the U.S. regime for fighting COVID19 and the need for sharing experiences between both countries in commercial and transportation fields.

In a phone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi on Saturday, President Rouhani said the two sides are determined to forge closer ties.

“Thanks to the very good relations between the two countries and numerous potentialities which exist, the Court by video link. Members of the diplomatic corps, the press and the public will be able to follow the hearings through a live webcast on the Court’s website, as well as on UN Web TV.

Additional Protocol Being Cancelled, If Arms Embargo Extended

MASHhad (IP) - The Deputy-Speaker of Iran’s Parliament said in case the UN Security Council extends arms embargo on Iran, it discards the Additional Protocol, and the cooperation with UN will be terminated.

Although numerous restrictions and sanctions have been imposed on Iran under the shadow of the JCPOA, we hope that the UNSC member states do not make strategic mistakes and mismanagement he stressed.

Iran Should Not Negotiate With U.S.

TEHRAN (MNA) – A lawmaker in the Iranian Parliament said that the Islamic Republic of Iran should not negotiate with the United States since they (U.S.) is not determined to lift sanctions imposed against Tehran.

Ali Akbar Karimi pointed to recent remarks of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, saying that making vital capabilities of Iranian people in the main and vital goal of Americans’ claim to talk with Iran is that the regime between Iran and US is not the goal of U.S. government, rather, (they U.S.) seek to impose a humiliating condition on Iran.

By claiming to talk with Iran, Americans want to say that “we could bring back Iran to the negotiating table that the Islamic Republic of Iran retreated from its position so that their request for negotiating with Iran has no other meaning,” Karimi highlighted.
Electricity Production To Increase by 20,000 Megawatts

TEHRAN – Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian during a TV program said that by the end of this government next year, the power production capacity will increase by 20,000 megawatts and it will add to the network.

Ardakanian said despite a decline in the ministry’s budget from the oil revenues comparing to the preceding years, the ministry will increase the production capacity by 20,000 megawatts by the end of next year.

He added that the ministry tried to minimize the power outage, reiterating that all depends on the public cooperation and their management of electricity consumption.

He added that every year the number of electricity outage decreases in the country and it has almost been zeroed because of power shortage. He added that this year the number of big industries being supplied with electricity has soared and it means the number of production lines has increased.

Ardakanian noted that despite decline in oil revenues and fall in the ministry’s budget, the electricity production capacity has been boosted and 20,000 megawatts of electricity will be added to the current amount by the end of the current government next year.

He said 18 dams have been inaugurated or will be inaugurated this year which will boost the power production.

Iran Eyes Increasing Mineral Exports Via Oman

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran’s foreign trade value hit $19,635,000,000 in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (from March 21 to July 22).

Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRACA) Seyed Rouhollah Latifi made the remarks and put the value of Iran’s foreign trade in this period at more than 19.4 million tons.

He also put the proven non-oil export volume, without inclusion of crude oil, fuel oil and kerosene as well as with inclusion of non-oil products, at over 30,285,000 tons, valued at $8,713 billion, showing about 40 percent decline as compared to the last year’s同期.

In this period, 17,903,000 tons of products, valued at $10,922 billion, were imported into the country; registering over 24 percent decrease as compared to the same period of last year, he added.

Islamic Republic of Iran exported more than 30,8 million tons of non-oil goods, valued at $8,511 billion, with 40 percent increase as compared to the same period of last year.

He said Iran’s main export target markets in this period included as follows, China with importing 8,409,000 tons of Iranian products, valued at $2,474 billion, followed by Iraq with importing 6,446,000 tons of products, valued at $1,765,200, United Arab Emirates with importing 4,235,000 tons of products, valued at $4,921 billion, and Russia with importing 1,706,000 tons of products, valued at $1,713 million, IRICA afo described.

IME Posts Trade of Over 2.6m Tons of Commodities in July

TEHRAN - At the end of July 2020, different trading floors of the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trading of more than 2,608,406 tons of commodities, valued at over $469,600,000.

According to the report by the IME’s International Affairs and PR, during July, the oil and petrochemical trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 781,706 tons of various products, worth more than $2,346 million.

On this trading floor, more than 434,379 MT of bitumen, 290,214 MT of polymer products and 189,802 MT of chemical products, 290,090 MT of FTOH, 134,930 MT of lubricate oil, 72,095 MT of sulfur, 4,985 MT of insulation, 3,016 MT of manganese and 3,375 MT of copper were sold as well as 8,720 MT of oil were traded by customers.

The metal and mineral trading floor witnessed trading over 1,820,014 MT of commodities worth more than $2,310 million.

On this trading floor, 735,319 MT of steel, 24,565 MT of ferro silicon, 11,191 MT of polyethylene, 37,870 MT of 54 MT of precious metals concentrates, 94,300 MT of zinc, 200 MT of lead ingot, 16,000 MT of aluminum as well as 31,745 MT of copper were sold by customers.

Furthermore, in agricultural trading floor of the IME more than 1,290 kg of saffron was traded among the customers.

The side market of the IME experienced trading of 300 MT of PDA TAR, a total of 9,959 empty barrels, 4,260 MT of tomato paste, 53 MT of frozen locomotive engine oil, 606 MT of metal scrap as well as 500 MT of Ferro silicon.

Iran Non-Oil Exports Via SP Customs Increase

TEHRAN (MNA) – According to the Head of Department of South Pars Customs, 6,056,447 tons of non-oil goods, valued at $1,467,652,224, were exported via this customs office in first four months of the current year (from March 21 to July 22).

Head of Department of Pars Energy Special Economic Zone’s Customs Amir Abbas Hamidi made the remarks in an interview with Fars News Agency and explained that non-oil exports were mainly in the form of methanol, propane, butane, light- and heavy petroleum products, sulfur, liquefied natural gas, styrene and crude oil were exported from the country in the same period.

Besides, the total value of no-oil products exported via customs office at $1,471,434,513, “these non-oil products were exported to the countries including China, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Egypt and Kuwait.”

Some 6,465 tons of goods, valued at $122,195,965, were transited from the country from March 21 to July 22, showing a 22 percent hike as compared to the same period of last year's同期.

Iran News 3
BERLIN (AFP) - A Berlin protest against coronavirus restrictions drew thousands, from the hard left and right to "resistance", dubbing the pandemic "the biggest conspiracy theory".

Police put turnout at 15,000 -- well below the 500,000 marchers who had announced as they urged a "day of freedom" from months of virus curbs.

"We are the second wave," shouted some as marchers headed for the Brandenburg Gate while others called for "resistance", dubbing the pandemic the "biggest conspiracy theory".

Few protesters wore a mask or respected the 1.5-metre (five-foot) social distancing requirement, an AFP journalist reported, despite police calling on them via megaphone to do so.

Berlin police revealed on Twitter they had launched a legal action against organisers over "non-respect of hygiene rules".

A handful of people held a counter rally, they shouted insults at "Nazis" protesters.

The "Day of Freedom" slogan for the protest echoes the title of a 1935 documentary by Nazi-era film producer Leni Riefenstahl on a party conference by Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' Party.

Several politicians spoke out against the demonstration as Germany seeks to minimise transmission of COVID-19, with the virus having claimed just over 9,000 deaths to Saturday -- a far lower toll than its neighbours.

Saskia Esken of the Social Democrats, a junior coalition partner in Angela Merkel's government, blasted the marchers as "Covidots".

In a tweet Esken railed: "No distancing, no mask. They are not only putting at risk our health but also our success against the pandemic as well as economic recovery, education and society. Irresponsible!"

Jan Redmann, regional head of Merkel's Christian Democrats in the eastern state of Brandenburg, also took aim at the marchers.

"A thousand new infections a day still and in Berlin there are protests against anti-virus measures. We can no longer allow ourselves these dangerous absurdities," Redmann complained.

Despite Germany's comparatively low toll, authorities are concerned at a rise in infections over recent weeks.

"Saturday saw 955 new infections -- a level which the country had not seen since May 9, according to the Robert Koch health institute.

The vaccine will be free of charge, and doctors and teachers would be the first to be vaccinated, Mikhail Murashko told reporters. People will be immunized with the first Russian vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Research Centre, which is currently in process of getting the state registration, Murashko said. However, clinical trials of the vaccine will continue along with its production and use in order to improve it as more details emerge.

The protest movement against the government is the largest outside the country's far-eastern city of Khabarovsk on Saturday to attend another huge protest march against the arrest of the region's popular governor.

For a fourth weekend, demonstrators marched through the streets chanting anti-Kremlin slogans and in support of the governor Sergei Furgal, who was arrested and taken to Moscow last month to face charges of masterminding murders 15 years ago.

The arrest of the 50-year-old -- who was elected in 2018, beating a rival from the majority United Russia party -- has sparked unprecedented protests in the far-eastern region.

Locals see the move as politically motivated and question why he is being tried in the far-away capital. "To grab the governor like that, like the worst bandit, that's splitting into the faces of the country's people," he lamented.

Stasimav Nauzon told AFP at the rally. Furgel, held in Moscow's notorious Lefortovo prison, has been fired, and President Vladimir Putin has replaced him with a new young governor with no ties to the region in a move that has not gone down well in Khabarovsk.

The rally on Saturday was visibly smaller than the previous weekend, which was the largest over 22 days of near daily protests.

Local media estimated turnout at around 30,000 people while the Khabarovsk city hall put the number at just 3,500, claiming there was "falling interest".

"The committee highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic," the WHO said in a statement, and warned of the risk of "response fatigue" given the socio-economic pressures on countries.

"WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high," the committee said.

Israel’s Attacks Violate UNSC Resolution

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon is prepared to defend itself against any attacks, which are in violation of the 2006 UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution, Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on Saturday.

In a televised address, the president said Israel’s attacks in southern Lebanon had once again flouted UNSC Resolution 1701, which calls for full cessation of hostilities and Israel’s withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Aoun asserted that Lebanon remains willing to abide by the resolution and resolving all disputes under UN supervision.

"We are committed to defend ourselves, our land, our water, and our authority. We will not compromise on this matter," he said.

The president’s comments come after Israeli forces bombed the border town of Kafar Shouka on July 27 because of a “security incident.”

On the same day, Lebanon said it would lodge an official complaint with the UNSC.

The Israeli military claimed it had “thwarted an infiltration attempt by Hezbollah” in the Jabal Ros area. Hezbollah, however, denied the claim, saying: “There was no clash or shooting on our part in the events that took place today on the southern border in Lebanon, but rather it was only one party which was the fearful, anxious, and tense enemy.”

It also vowed to respond to the killing of one of its members in “Israelis aggression” in Syria’s capital Damascus last Saturday.

Israel has recently increased the number of troops along its northern borders in anticipation of retaliatory attacks by Hezbollah.

Moscow (Reuters) - A dispute between Moscow and Minsk over the detention of more than 50 men who Belarusian authorities said took part in a protest movement against the arrest of the region’s popular governor on Saturday, as the two sides contradicted each other about the group’s plans.

The arrest this week, shortly before an Aug. 9 presidential election in Belarus, could further strain relations between Minsk and its traditional ally Russia, which soured after the neighbours failed to agree on an oil supply contract.

Russia said on Thursday that the men, who it described as employees of a private security firm, had been detained in Belarus after missing their connecting flight to Istanbul. President Alexander Lukashenko cast doubt on this version on Saturday. “There was no Istanbul... It’s clear that the group has had other goals. It is the task of the investigation to find out about those goals,” he said, according to state news agency Belta, after hearing reports from the heads of state security and investigation committee.

He said there had been no agreement with Russia for the men to be in the country, while adding that Belarus is open to cooperate with Russia on the issue.

Belarusian authorities said earlier this week that the men were arrested after Minsk received information that more than 200 fighters had entered the country to destabilize it.

As his plane took off from Minsk on Friday, Alexander Agafonov, the head of the Belarusian investigative group that is handling the case, said that the men - some of whom were wearing army fatigues - had no plans to fly further to Istanbul and were instead aiming to go to Moscow.

On the same day, Lebanon said it would lodge an official complaint with the UNSC.

The committee “highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic,” the WHO said in a statement, and warned of the risk of “response fatigue” given the socio-economic pressures on countries.

"WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high," the committee said.

The president’s comments “highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic,” who said in a statement, and warned of the risk of “response fatigue” given the socio-economic pressures on countries.

The panel gathered for the fourth time over the coronavirus crisis a half a year on from its January 30 declaration of a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) -- the WHO’s highest level of alarm.

"WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 as being very high," said its latest statement.

The committee “highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic, noting the importance of sustained community, personal and international action to prevent transmission of the virus to countries with proven therapeutics and vaccines. The committee also called on the agency to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines across the world,” the statement said.

The panel urged the WHO to support countries in preparing for the rollout of proven therapeutics and vaccines. The committee also urged the agency to accelerate research into the remaining “critical unknowns” of the virus, such as the animal source and potential animal reservoirs.
Record Economic Slumps Hit Europe in Face of Resurgent Virus

PARIS (Dispatches) - Nation after nation across Europe on Friday unveiled the extent of historic economic devastation as the pandemic seized the continent. Six months after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global emergency, the novel coronavirus has infected more than 10 million people and wreaked global economic mayhem.

Europe as a whole was hammered by its sharpest recorded contraction in the second quarter, with GDP down 12.1 percent in the euro zone, 18.5 percent in Portugal, 14.1 percent in Spain and 12.4 percent in Italy.

“The outlook has been revised to negative to reflect the ongoing recession in the U.S. public finances and the absence of a credible fiscal consolidation plan,” Fitch analysts wrote on Friday in a report amending the downgrade.

Record Economic Slumps Hit Europe in Face of Resurgent Virus

Carleigh A. Plein/Reuters

June 2020

The declines were in line with lower energy usage around the globe as the pandemic seized control of the world economy, Fitch said.

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NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Chevron Corporation reported a net loss of US$3.3 billion for the second quarter on the back of impairment charges due to lower commodity price outlook and write-off in Venezuela operations due to the U.S. sanctions. Chevron’s US$3.3 billion net loss for Q2 compares with earnings of US$4.3 billion for the second quarter of 2019, and was the worst loss for the U.S. supermajor since at least 1989, according to Bloomberg’s estimates. The net loss includes impairment of other charges of US$1.8 billion, mostly associated with downwind revisions to Chevron’s commodity price outlook, which the company made in view of the demand collapse and uncertainties on the economic recovery, the company follows the European majors in booking impairment charges after revising down its outlook for oil and gas prices.

“Given the uncertainties associated with economic recovery, and ample and oil gas supply, we took a downward revision to our commodity price outlook which resulted in asset impairments and other charges,” said Michael Wirth, Chevron’s chairman of the board and CEO.

Apart from the impairments due to revised price assumptions, Chevron also fully impaired its US$2.6 billion investment in Venezuela because of uncertainties over the current operations in the country and US sanctions. US$2.6 billion came from several accruals as Chevron plans to cut 13 percent, or around 6,000 jobs, of its workforce.

Chevron’s adjusted loss posted and adjusted loss of US$3.0 billion, or a loss of US$1.59 per share, for Q2 2020, compared to adjusted earnings of US$4.3 per share for Q2 2019.

Chevron’s adjusted US$1.59 loss per share for this past quarter was worse than analyst estimates of a loss of US$0.93 per share of The Wall Street Journal.

The U.S. supermajor also warned that the bad financial results could drag on into this quarter.

“While demand and commodity prices have shown signs of recovery, they are not back to pre-pandemic levels, and financial results may continue to be depressed into the third quarter 2020,” the company said.

All supermajors reported dismal results for the second quarter, but some of them, like Shell and Total, managed to avoid adjusted losses thanks to their strong oil trading businesses that cushioned the blow from the low oil prices.

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Even what did this criminal U.S. commit in Afghanistan?

What was the attack in Panama for? How many people did the United States kill in the attack? Afghanistan is nearly 100 times more dangerous.

The wedding ceremonies were bombarded by the U.S. planes and helicopters, but the world remained silent towards the crime.

The 21st Century began with the crimes of the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The U.S. supermajors have suffered because of the fear of the media, the Americans who had attacked a wedding ceremony and killing some 400 people in the mosque and set them on fire in order to hide the crimes from the lens.

The then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton openly and ruedly the Americans have founded the Daesh group. The group killed and beheaded over hundreds of thousands of young, old, children, men and women in Iraq and Syria and massacred the whole of the Christian community.

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**Oldham Appoint Australian Kewell as Head Coach**

**LONDON (Reuters) -** Oldham Athletic have named ex-Leeds United and Liverpool forward Harry Kewell as head coach on a one-year contract to extend, the League Two (fourth-tier) club said on Monday.

The 41-year-old former Australia forward replaces Dino Maamria after the Tunison, whose Latins team finished 19th in the standings last season, was sacked on Friday.

**Players Tests Positive For Coronavirus At WTA Palermo Open**

**PALERMO (AP) -** A player has tested positive for Covid-19 at the WTA Palermo Open, which marks the tennis season’s resumption after a five-month break, the WTA and organizers confirmed on Saturday.

The competitor, who had no symptoms, withdrew just minutes before the start of qualifying this weekend for the tournament which gets underway on Sunday August 2.

Her name was not revealed but shortly after the announcement 130th-ranked Bulgarian Viktoria Tomova, who had been due to take part in qualifying, withdrew because of illness.

**Krygsio Pulls Out of U.S. Open Over Virus Fears**

**SYDNEY (AFP) -** Outspoken Nick Kyrgios pulled out of the U.S. Open Sunday, saying he was giving it a miss for “the health risks related to Covid”.

Kyrgios is the only top-10 player to test positive this week for the virus that causes Covid-19.

Kyrgios tested positive in a routine test on Saturday after Australia’s warm-up matches this week.

**Sharapova Recalls Doping Ban**

**London (Dispatches) -** Maria Sharapova says that her drugs ban in 2016 was the fault of her manager at the time, Max Eisenbud.

The Russian was a five-time Grand Slam champion and perpetual contender for the major titles before record-setting provisional 15-month testing positive for Meldonium.

However, she was also high-profile doping shame that has dominated the narrative of her career, and she has lain the blame firmly at the feet of her then manager.

“He didn’t and we know how it turned out. It was a serious mistake.”

**Alonso Cleared To Be Back**

**PARIS (AP) -** F1 star Fernando Alonso cleared to compete in this month’s Formula 1 British Grand Prix after testing negative for Covid-19.

Alonso has been cleared to compete in the British Grand Prix after testing negative for Covid-19, the day before the race.

**Bernal So Happy To Be Back**

**MONDAY AUGUST 3, 2020**

**SILVERSTONE (Reuters) -** Two-times Formula One world champion Fernando Alonso is clear to compete in this month’s British Grand Prix after testing negative for a UK visa hurdle.

McLaren F1 team boss Zak Brown confirmed on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters at the British Grand Prix, Brown said the Spaniard would travel to England on Saturday.

**“But I’m sitting out for the people, for my Aussies, for the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have lost their lives, for all of you.”**

The optimised Kyrgios, ranked just 40 but a major draw, last month blasted the ATP as “useless” for pushing ahead with plans for the U.S. Open, which is scheduled to start in New York on August 31.

He sat out a running battle on social media with some of the top names in the game who played at Novak Djokovic’s recent ill-fated Adria Tour tennis exhibition, blasting their “stupidity” and risky behavior.

Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki all tested positive for COVID-19.

The tennis season has been at a standstill since mid-March due to the virus outbreak worldwide.

**“I’ve always been ready to fight for what I consider my right.”**