

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi on Saturday called on all countries around the world to cooperate with the Chinese government to eradicate the new coronavirus that has been declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization. "The #Coronavirus is a global tragedy which the whole world should cooperate with the gov & people of #China to get rid of it," Mousavi tweeted. "I am convinced that the Chinese persistence & sense of responsibility will get them through this turbulent stage," he added.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Saturday denounced an American-Zionist scheme, which Washington claims seeks to resolve the Middle East conflict, saying it is doomed to failure and would end in the dustbin of history. "The evil act by the president of the terrorist regime of the United States of America in unveiling the cruel 'deal of the century'... is an unprecedented crime and treason in the contemporary history," the IRGC said in a statement.

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## World Countries Scramble to Curb Epidemic

BEIJING (AP) — China's death toll from a new virus rose to 259 on Saturday and a World Health Organization official said other governments need to prepare for "domestic outbreak control" if the disease spreads in their countries. Beijing criticized Washington's order barring entry to most foreigners who visited China in the past two weeks. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced similar measures on Saturday, following Japan and Singapore. Meanwhile, South Korea and India flew hundreds of their citizens out of Wuhan, the city at the center of an area where some 50 million people are prevented from leaving in a sweeping anti-virus effort. The evacuees went into a two-week quarantine. Indonesia also sent a plane. The number of confirmed cases in China rose to 11,791, surpassing the number in the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The virus's rapid spread in two months prompted the World Health Organization on Thursday to declare it a global emergency. That declaration "flipped the switch" from a cautious attitude earlier to recommending governments prepare for the possibility the virus might spread, said the WHO representative in Beijing, Gauden Galea. Most cases reported so far have been people who visited China or their family members. The agency acted out of concern for poorer countries that might not be equipped to respond, said Galea. Such a declaration calls for a coordinated international response and can bring more money and resources. WHO said it was especially concerned that some cases abroad involved human-to-human transmission. "Countries need to get ready for possible importation in order to identify cases as early as possible and in order to be ready for a domestic outbreak control, if that happens," Galea told The Associated Press. On Friday, the United States declared a public health emergency and President Donald Trump signed an order barring entry to foreign nationals, other than immediate family of American citizens and permanent residents, who visited China within the last 14 days, which scientists say is the virus's longest incubation period. China criticized the U.S. controls, which it said contradicted the WHO's appeal to avoid trav-

el bans, and "unfriendly comments" that Beijing was failing to cooperate. "Just as the WHO recommended against travel restrictions, the U.S. rushed to go in the opposite way. Certainly not a gesture of goodwill," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying. WHO Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in Geneva that despite the emergency declaration, there is "no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade." Meanwhile, the ruling Communist Party postponed the end of the Lunar New Year holiday in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, for an unspecified "appropriate extent" and appealed to the public there to stay home. Another locked-down city in Hubei, Huanggang, on Saturday banned almost all of its residents from leaving their homes in the most stringent controls imposed yet. The government said only one person from each household would be allowed out to shop for food once every two days. "Others are not allowed to go out except for medical treatment, to do epidemic prevention and control work or to work in supermarkets and pharmacies," it said in an announcement. China's increasingly drastic anti-disease controls started with the Jan. 23 suspension of plane, bus and train links to Wuhan, an industrial center of 11 million people. The lockdown has spread to surrounding cities. The holiday, China's busiest annual travel season, ends Sunday in the rest of the country following a three-day extension to postpone the return to factories and offices by hundreds of millions of workers. The official Xinhua News Agency said people in Hubei who work outside the province also were given an extended holiday. The party decision "highlighted the importance of prevention and control of the epidemic among travelers," Xinhua said. Americans returning from China will be allowed into the country, but will face screening and are required to undertake 14 days of self-screening. Those returning from Hubei province will be subject to a 14-day quarantine. Beginning Sunday, the United States will direct flights from China to seven major airports where passengers can be screened. Also Friday, Delta Air Lines and American Airlines suspended all

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## 'Ten-Day Dawn' Celebrations Begin



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visits graves of martyrs at Behesht Zahra cemetery in southern Tehran, Feb. 1, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Ten-day celebrations started across Iran on Saturday to mark the 41st anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Every year, a public ceremony is held at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport in remembrance of the historical return of Imam Khomeini from exile back in 1979. The fate founder of the Islamic Republic arrived in Tehran from Paris at 9:33 a.m. on February 1, 1979, and led a nationwide uprising that culminated in the victory of the Islamic Revolution ten days later. An event is also usually held at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, south of Tehran, to pay tribute to the late leader. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Saturday visited the mauso-

leum. After performing prayers at the, Ayatollah Khamenei also visited the nearby Behesht Zahra cemetery, where Imam Khomeini delivered his first speech after the exile, in an address to five million people. The Leader also paid tribute to Iranian martyrs who have sacrificed their lives since the Islamic Revolution. Imam Khomeini had lived many years in exile, in Iraq and France, before returning home and leading a historical revolution that overthrew the Pahlavi regime on February 11, 1979. The 10-day period from the return of Imam Khomeini until the revolution's victory is celebrated annually in Iran, and is known as the Ten-Day Fajr (Dawn). Despite being contrary to the wishes of Iran's rulers at the time, the Imam's return, after a 15-year exile, was made possible due to the sheer abundance of popular support for the revolutionary leader among the masses. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said that "41 years ago, the most popular revolution took place". He added that Iran's Islamic government resulting from the revolution has relied solely on "the people" ever since.

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) -- The Palestinian Authority has cut all ties with the United States and the occupying regime of Israel, including those relating to security, after rejecting a Middle East "peace" plan presented by U.S. President Donald Trump, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Saturday. Abbas was in Cairo to address the Arab League, which backed the Palestinians in their opposition to Trump's plan. The blueprint, endorsed by Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu, calls for the creation of a demilitarized Palestinian state that excludes Jewish settlements built in occupied territory and is under near-total Israeli security control. "We've informed the Israeli side ... that there will be no relations at all with them and the United States including security ties," Abbas told the one-day emergency meeting, called to discuss Trump's plan. The Zionist regime and the Palestinian Authority's security forces have long cooperated in policing areas of the occupied West Bank that are under Palestinian control. The Palestinian Authority also has intelligence cooperation agreements with the CIA, which con-

tinued even after the Palestinians began boycotting the Trump administration's plan in 2017. Abbas also said he had refused to discuss the plan with Trump by phone, or to receive even a copy of it to study. "Trump asked that I speak to him by phone but I said 'no', and that he wants to send me a letter ... but I refused it." Abbas said he did not want Trump to be able to say that he, Abbas, had been consulted. He reiterated his "complete" rejection of the Trump plan, presented on Tuesday. The blueprint also proposes U.S. recognition of illegal Zionist settlements on occupied West Bank land and of Jerusalem Al-Quds as the occupying regime's "indivisible capital". The Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo said the plan would not lead to a comprehensive and just peace, and that the League would not cooperate with the United States in implementing it. The ministers affirmed Palestinian rights to create a future state based on the land captured and occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, with East Al-Quds as capital, the final communique said. (Continued on Page 7)

## Turkish-Backed Militants Attack Aleppo Syrian Army Advances in Terrorist-Held Idlib

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- The Syrian army on Saturday retook control of two villages in the eastern countryside of northwestern Idlib province as part of an operation to liberate the last major terrorist-held territory in the Arab country. Syria's official SANA news agency reported that army units had engaged in fierce clashes with foreign-backed Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists in Louf and Qamhana villages near the city of Saraqib. The Syrian forces, it added, finally recaptured the two villages and inflicted heavy losses on the Takfiri elements in terms of their personnel and equipment. Idlib and the area north of Aleppo province form part of the only large territory in the hands of terrorists after the Syrian military managed to undo militant gains across the country and bring back almost all of Syrian soil under government control. This week, Syrian troops made rapid advances in Idlib retaking the city of Ma'arat al-Nu'man, which is situated 100 kilometers southwest of the militant-controlled city of Al-Bab. On Saturday, Turkish-backed

militants attacked positions held by the Syrian government forces northeast of Aleppo. Militant sources said the raid was focused on the territory adjacent to Al-Bab and that their elements had taken three villages so far. The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the fierce attack had been "carried out by factions loyal to Ankara." Speaking on Friday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country may launch a military operation in Idlib if the ongoing counter-terrorism operation by Syrian government forces continued there. "Turkey with complete sincerity wants Syria's stability and security, and to this end, we will not shy away from doing whatever is necessary, including using military force," he said. Erdogan further accused Russia of violating agreements to reduce the fighting in Idlib. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was fully compliant with its obligations in Idlib, which was a haven for militants targeting Syrian troops and a Russian airbase in Syria. (Continued on Page 7)

## Palestinians Cut Ties With U.S., Zionist Regime

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