

# Egypt announces death of doctor due to coronavirus

Author:

Mon, 2020-03-30 19:23

CAIRO: Egypt has announced the first death of a doctor due to coronavirus in the country.

Spokesman for the Egyptian Health Ministry Khaled Megahed confirmed the death of Dr Ahmed Al-Lawah, a professor of clinical pathology at Al-Azhar University, from Port Said Governorate, who tested positive for Covid-19.

Megahed said that as soon as it was reported that Lawah's status was critical and positive for coronavirus, he was transferred to El Tadamon Specialized Hospital in Port Said.

The reception room in the emergency department was equipped with a respirator and ready to receive the physicist, the spokesman said.

After his condition stabilized, Lawah was transferred to an isolation hospital.

Lawah showed signs of improvement last night, however, he suddenly deteriorated and passed away today, the statement said.



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Egypt sets limits for withdrawals and deposits from banks due to coronavirus

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## [UAE extends distance learning until end of academic year](#)

Author:

Mon, 2020-03-30 17:25

DUBAI: Schools and universities in the UAE are to continue online “distance learning” until the end of the academic year in June amid coronavirus fears, the education ministry said Monday.

The state-run news agency WAM said studies would continue online for students in all public and private schools and universities until the end of the 2019-2020 academic year .

The distance e-education system was taken as a precautionary measure to avoid the spread of coronavirus.



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Huawei donates 1,000 tablets to students for virtual learning

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## [Dubai Expo 2020 organizers 'explore possibility' of moving event to 2021](#)

Mon, 2020-03-30 17:08

DUBAI: The Steering Committee of the Expo 2020 Dubai are exploring the possibility of postponing the event until October 2021.

The expo was due to open in October this year, but with the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus, organizers have continued to review the situation.

The statement came after a second virtual meeting of the Steering Committee, with representatives of the countries taking part in the event.

The Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), which oversees the expo events, will now work with its Member States and Expo 2020 Dubai organisers to establish a change in dates before a final decision is made, organizers said in a statement.

“While they remain firmly committed to Expo 2020, many countries have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 and they have therefore expressed a need to postpone the opening of Expo 2020 Dubai by one year, to enable them to overcome this challenge,” Reem Al-Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai, said. “The UAE and Expo 2020 Dubai have listened. And in the spirit of solidarity and unity, we supported the proposal to explore a one year postponement at today’s Steering Committee meeting.”



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Dubai Expo team member tests positive for COVID-19Dubai Expo 2020 to ‘adjust’ preparations due to virus

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# Turkey detains 11 over coronavirus house party

Author:

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Mon, 2020-03-30 12:56

ISTANBUL: Turkish police have detained 11 people, including the organizers and a DJ, after a weekend coronavirus house party in Istanbul where some guests dressed up as doctors, local officials said.

The party, thrown at a villa in the Buyukcekmece district Saturday night, was shared live on social media but received criticism for ignoring social distancing pleas.

"These idiots have organized a home party somewhere in Istanbul" one Twitter user posted.

"How come we will stop the spread of the virus despite those idiots!!!"

Bars and nightclubs have been closed in Turkey by a circular issued by the interior ministry as part of efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

Police watched the social media broadcast then detained 11 people including the organizer, M.S. and M.E.C. and a DJ.

They were charged with "disobeying the regulations on infectious diseases," the Istanbul governor's office said in a statement late Sunday.

The authorities were working to identify other participants, it added.

In the video footage posted, some of those partying could be seen dressed up as emergency doctors with gloves and masks.

"I drank a lot of alcohol. Everyone was dancing with the music. I regret holding such a party at a time of coronavirus," M.S. told the police in his testimony, the private news agency DHA reported.

Elif K., who broadcast the party live on social media, said around 80 people attended the party. "They were drinking and dancing. I later called a taxi and left."

The DHA said police released seven people after questioning them, but the other four were sent to court.

Turkey has so far officially recorded 9,217 cases of the new coronavirus while 131 people have died.

Authorities have taken a series of measures to try to slow the spread of the virus, from suspending international flights to shutting schools.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Turks to stay at home and adapt themselves to "voluntary quarantine" conditions.



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Turkey imposes tighter restrictions in fight against coronavirus  
Turkey could impose stay-at-home order if coronavirus outbreak worsens

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## [Iran virus cases top 40,000](#)

Author:

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Mon, 2020-03-30 09:43

TEHRAN: The number of declared coronavirus infections in Iran topped 40,000 Monday, as the government warned the outbreak could run for several more months and cost over 10,000 lives.

With the tally climbing, President Hassan Rouhani stood accused of failing to take prompt action by some of his political opponents.

The row came as a report by Iran's anti-coronavirus committee said the

country may struggle with the outbreak until at least early summer.

Parviz Karami, who published the study on Instagram, said 11,000 people would die in case of "medium government intervention", including measures already taken by Iran.

Potential fatalities could drop to 7,700 with "maximum" intervention, such as banning movement inside cities and imposing quarantines, he said.

Health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said Monday another 117 people had died from the virus over the past 24 hours and 3,186 new cases had been confirmed, raising the total to more than 41,000.

The death toll had reached 2,757.

According to Jahanpour, 13,911 of those hospitalised have recovered, while 3,511 are in critical condition.

The Islamic republic is one of the countries worst hit by the pandemic.

Iran has been scrambling to contain COVID-19's spread since it reported its first cases on February 19.

After weeks of refraining from imposing a lockdown or quarantine measures, Tehran decided last Wednesday to ban all intercity travel until at least April 8.

There is no official lockdown in Iran's cities although the government has repeatedly urged Iranians to stay at home to contain the spread of the virus. Rouhani's political opponents argued Monday that it was all too little, too late.

"Coronavirus could have been more quickly contained" if measures such as "social distancing and limitations had been considered sooner", judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi said, quoted by ISNA news agency.

Raisi, an ultra-conservative who ran against Rouhani in the 2017 presidential election, said that "time is of the essence".

The Iranian people had started "cooperating" only after authorities appeared to take the threat seriously, the official said.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, a veteran conservative who also stood against Rouhani, charged the administration has mismanaged the crisis.

He accused the authorities of "ignoring reality" and "unjustified optimism". Rouhani had "worsened the crisis, then asked for help and put the blame on others", Ghalibaf tweeted.

The criticism came as Rouhani called on opponents to assist the government's efforts.

"This is not a time for gathering followers. This is not a time for political war," the president said.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei on Monday defended the measures adopted by the administration at a time that the country was under crippling US sanctions.

Washington withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran and reimposed sanctions on Iran in 2018, targeting the crucial oil and banking sectors, among others.

The administration had taken the necessary steps "once notified" of the COVID-19 outbreak, Rabiei told a news conference.

Its approach had been to try to ensure "that both physical distance be kept and people's everyday lives not be disturbed", he said.

"These two make sense together in an economy under sanctions."

According to Rabiei, the administration has endorsed a \$6-billion rescue package to fend off the damage from the outbreak.

It included low-interest loans to businesses to prevent a spike in unemployment and cash handouts to impoverished Iranians. Some of Iran's top hospitals are experimenting with stem cells to "balance immune system response" in infected patients and find a treatment, according to ISNA. Iran also said Monday it has started mass production of "highly accurate" coronavirus testing kits that could produce results within 3 hours.



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Prisoners riot in Iran, region's worst COVID-19 outbreak  
Iran warns of lengthy 'new way of life' as virus deaths rise