

BAGHDAD (Xinhua) – The Iraqi Health Ministry on Saturday reported 4,293 new COVID-19 cases, the highest daily increase since the outbreak of the disease, while a ministry official called for tougher procedures against violators of preventive measures. The new cases included 1,068 in the capital Baghdad, 462 in Basra, 443 in Erbil, 325 in Karbala, 290 in Najaf and 264 in Wasit, the ministry said in a statement. The nationwide cumulative infections hit 172,583 after 18,295 testing kits were used across the country during the day, the highest daily number so far, according to the statement.

If you find that somebody is not grateful for all that you have done for him, then do not get disappointed because often you will find that someone else feels under your obligation though you have done nothing for him and thus your good deeds will be compensated, and Allah will reward you for your goodness.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Iraqi Parl't Coalition Asks for Sanctions Against UAE



Members of the Iraqi parliament gather to vote on Iraq's new government at the parliament headquarters in Baghdad, September 8, 2014.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – **Al-Fatah Coalition, one of the main Shia parties in the Iraqi parliament, has strongly condemned the recent normalization deal between Abu Dhabi and the Zionist regime, and called for embargos against UAE officials.**

“We ask all Arab and Islamic nations and countries to sanction the UAE rulers and all those who extend their filthy hands towards the Zionist occupiers,” al-Fatah said in a statement on Saturday.

It condemned any normalization of ties with the Zionist regime, warning that the move means recognition of the criminal regime.

The statement reminded of the massacre of Palestinians and occupation of their lands by the regime in the past 70 years, saying that shaking hands with the Zionists means recognition of all their crimes.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday announced a deal brokered by his government between the occupying regime and the UAE which he said would lead to full normalization of ties between the two.

The UAE was the first Persian Gulf Arab state and the third Arab nation - after Egypt and Jordan - to announce active ties with the regime on Thursday.

Most Arab and Muslim nations have historically refrained from maintaining formal diplomatic relations with the regime in protest against its occupation of Palestine.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he is considering breaking off all diplomatic ties with the UAE after the deal.

Turkey said history and the collective conscience of people in the Middle East will not forget and never forgive the “hypocritical behavior” of the UAE in agreeing to normalize ties with the occupying regime.

The Turkish foreign ministry said on Friday the Palestinian people and administration were right to react strongly against the deal.

“The UAE, which is pursuing secret ambitions over a U.S. plan that is stillborn, null and void, ignores the willpower of Palestine,” said a ministry statement.

Meanwhile, leader of Iraq’s Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq resistance movement, affiliated with the Hashd al-Sha’abi popular movement, Qais Khazali condemned the recent deal, warning that the resistance front will not allow implementation of plots to normalize relations with the regime.

“The resistance pivot rejects any normalization of ties with the Quds occupying regime and we will bring to a failure any plot to normalize ties between the Zionists and those who have become similar to them,” Khazali was quoted by the Arabic-language al-Mayadeen news channel as saying on Saturday.

He said the UAE move was an “act of betrayal” and means that its rulers are no more considered Arabs.

Khazali also blasted Saudi Arabia for paving the ground for ties with the Zionists.

UN Voices ‘Concern’ Over Oil Tanker Moored Off Yemen

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – **The UN has once again warned time is running out to prevent a decaying tanker stranded off the coast of Yemen from dumping its load of 1.1 million barrels of oil into the Red Sea.**

“The aging tanker has had almost no maintenance since 2015 and risks causing a major oil spill, explosion or fire that would have catastrophic environmental and humanitarian consequences for Yemen and the region,” Stephane Dujarric, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ spokesman, said in a statement.

The UN says a spill would cause

the closure of the port of Hudaydah, a lifeline for millions of Yemenis who depend on imports of humanitarian aid.

In particular, a potential oil leak into the Red Sea would severely harm Red Sea ecosystems relied on by 30 million people across the region, said Dujarric. “It would moreover force the closure of Hudaydah port for many months, which would exacerbate Yemen’s already severe economic crisis and cut off millions of people from access to food and other essential commodities.”

Spokesman Dujarric said the Secretary-General “urged” the re-

moval of obstacles to mitigate the dangers posed by the Safer tanker without delay.

“He specifically calls for granting independent technical experts unconditional access to the tanker to assess its condition and conduct any possible initial repairs,” he said.

Yemen’s Ansarullah movement warned last week that the responsibility for a possible explosion of an oil tanker falls on Saudi Arabian aggressors and the United Nations.

The movement’s spokesman, Mohammed Abdul-Salam, rejected claims by Saudi Arabia

and United Nations that Yemeni forces prevent UN teams from visiting the stranded oil tanker.

He said Yemen has repeatedly called for the assessment of the tanker, but the demands have been rejected.

He made the comments in reaction to a warning by a number of UN experts who said the ship may cause a humanitarian crisis or even a massive blast, blaming Ansarullah for it situation.

Abdul-Salam stressed that the UN is in no position to talk about humanity after removing the Saudi-led coalition from its child-killer blacklist.

Afghan Women’s Rights Campaigner Survives Gun Attack

KABUL (AFP) – **Afghan women’s rights campaigner Fawzia Koofi, a member of the negotiating team that will hold talks with the Taliban, has been wounded in a gun attack near Kabul, officials said Saturday.**

Gunmen opened fire on Koofi, 45, and her sister on Friday when they were returning from a meeting in the province of Parwan near the capital, interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian told AFP.

Koofi, a former member of parliament and strong critic of the Taliban, was shot in her right hand, he said, adding that she was in a stable condition.

The Taliban denied they were involved in the attack on Koofi.

The attack drew strong condemnation from Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani -- who described it as a “cowardly attack”,

according to his spokesman Sediq Seddiqi.

Abdullah Abdullah, who heads the national reconciliation council, called on Afghan authorities to bring “the perpetrators of the attack to justice”.

The chief of Afghanistan’s Independent Human Rights Commission, Shaharazad Akbar, also condemned the “horrific attack”.

“Worrying pattern of targeted attacks that can negatively impact confidence in peace process,” she wrote on Twitter.

In recent months, there have been gun attacks against human rights activists and prosecutors in Kabul.

Koofi survived a previous assassination attempt in 2010, when gunmen fired at her as she was returning to the capital after an International Women’s Day event.

She was among the few women in a pan-

Afghan delegation that held several rounds of unofficial dialogue with the Taliban in 2019.

That dialogue came alongside separate negotiations between the militants and the United States in Qatar which finally led to the signing of an agreement between the two in February this year.

Talks with the Taliban are expected within days, aimed at ending the conflict that has ravaged Afghanistan for almost two decades.

Afghan authorities are currently releasing from jails some 400 Taliban militants, fulfilling a key demand from the militant group for any talks.

But the release has raised widespread international concern as some of those militants are accused of killing scores of people.

Zionist Regime Carries Out Fresh Attacks on Gaza



Smoke and flames rise after war planes belonging to the Israeli military carried out airstrikes over the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on August 12, 2020.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – **The Zionist regime’s military has launched fresh aerial and ground attacks against targets across the besieged Gaza Strip, in the latest of a series of attacks carried out overnight this week.**

Late on Friday, the regime’s warplanes, helicopters and tanks once again bombed positions in the blockaded enclave, claiming that they were positions held by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

In a statement issued following the attacks, the occupying regime’s military said that the raids were carried out in response to a number of alleged incendiary balloons sent from Gaza to the occupied territories, and targeted “naval force compound, underground infrastructure and observation posts” belonging to Hamas.

According to the Palestinian Red Crescent, at least a pregnant woman and a three-year-old child sustained injuries in the attacks and were taken to hospital for treatment.

Friday’s attacks on sites allegedly used by Hamas were the sixth such night-time aggression this week.

A day earlier, the regime’s warplanes, attack helicopters and tanks struck a number of positions allegedly belonging to the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement. However, reports coming out of Gaza and videos of the strikes that

circulated online, showed residential buildings and agricultural land have also been hit.

Gaza-based media said the strikes hit targets across the Gaza Strip from Rafah in the southern part of the occupied territory to Beit Hanoun in the north early Thursday.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said in a statement on Thursday that “Israel’s continued escalation on the Gaza Strip and stoppage of fuel shipments [into the territory] constitute a dangerously aggressive and unpredictable act, and the Occupation (the Zionist regime) bears responsibility for all possible consequences.”

Barhoum noted that such aggressive policies are aimed at exacerbating the crises facing Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, paralyzing their daily lives, and disrupting efforts meant to confront the spread of coronavirus amid regional and international silence.

Gaza has been under siege by the Zionist regime since June 2007, which has caused a decline in living standards.

The regime has also launched three major wars against the enclave since 2008, killing thousands of Gazans each time and shattering the impoverished territory’s already poor infrastructure.

The crippling blockade has caused a decline in the standard of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty in the Gaza Strip.

Historic Downtown Cairo Building Collapses

CAIRO (AFP) – **A heritage-listed building in the centre of Egypt’s capital partially collapsed injuring five people Saturday, in the latest such incident, a security source said.**

Authorities who rushed to the building on Kasr al-Nile street, near the iconic Tahrir Square, tended to 14 people including passersby and transported five to hospitals, the source said.

An investigation has been launched to assess the cause of the sudden collapse of the heritage-listed building, Cairo’s governorate said on its Facebook page.

It said the damaged four-story property housed several stores and two residential apartments.

An AFP reporter at the scene surrounded by rubble, full of ambulances and fire trucks, said “the building is gutted and barely

holding up”.

Building collapses in Egypt occur frequently due to lax enforcement of construction and maintenance regulations as well as developers illegally adding floors to boost profits.

In July, a building in the up-market Cairo suburb of Zamalek, close to embassies, showed deep cracks prompting authorities to evacuate residents fearing its collapse.

One of the worst such urban disasters struck in 2014 when a Cairo building caved in, killing 19 people.

Downtown Cairo boasts buildings that are nearly 200 years old, blending Islamic and European motifs, neo-classical columns and ornate decorations.

Many UNESCO-listed have fallen into disrepair and ruin in Egypt’s drive for urban renewal.