

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 3, 2020 ***(14th Elul, 5780)***

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The image shows two items: on the left, the cover of a book titled 'THE HOOD OF HIS GARMENT' with the subtitle 'TOUCHING THE POWER IN GOD'S WORD'. The cover features a close-up of a person's face wearing a hood. On the right, there is a white prayer shawl (tallit) with blue and gold stripes along the edges and a gold tassel (tzitzit).

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For September 2020

UAE Repeals Israel Boycott Law; The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced Saturday it had repealed legislation imposing a boycott of Israel after the two countries struck a US-brokered deal to normalize relations. UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan issued a federal decree "abolishing the Federal Law No. 15 of 1972 regarding boycotting Israel and the penalties thereof," the official WAM news agency reported. "It will be permissible to enter, exchange, or possess Israeli goods and products of all kinds in the UAE and trade in them." The UAE will be the first Gulf state and only the third Arab country to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel—a move condemned by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas as a betrayal. As part of the agreement, Israel agreed to suspend planned annexations in Judea and Samaria, although Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu quickly insisted the plans remained on the table. The UAE's latest move comes ahead of the arrival of an Israeli-American delegation to Abu Dhabi on the first commercial flight from Israel on Monday.

Israel & UAE Banks Seek Partnership Amid Normalization; Israel's Bank Leumi has been negotiating a partnership with an unnamed bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to a Calcalist report on Wednesday, citing Shmulik Arbel, First Executive Vice President and head of the corporate and commercial section of the bank. The report comes amid the recent UAE-Israel normalization agreement that has opened both countries to relations in a variety of areas, from security collaboration to trade. "We started negotiations over the past few days with one of the leading banks in Dubai, to form a partnership that would assist the clients of each of the banks," Arbel added. When asked about the significant business ties that can come from collaboration, Arbel told Calcalist "that in light of the current crisis, the importance of normalizing the relationship between Israel and the UAE becomes even greater," while also suggesting that the normalization agreement represents a highly important breakthrough in the regional status quo for Israel's economic interests.

Ben-Gurion Airport Schedules First-Ever Commercial Flights to UAE; El Al will start offering the first direct commercial flights between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi on Monday, August 31, according to Ben-Gurion airport's departures board. The route is being operated by Israel's El Al, and the first flight will transport Israeli and US officials on the Boeing 737, chosen over the Dreamline 787, as the latter is not yet

equipped with the Israel Aerospace Industries' Skyshield systems. As part of the security requirements, El Al was required to set up an aircraft with the protection system manufactured by IAI. Shortly after the normalization agreement between the UAE and Israel was announced last week, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented that the deal included direct flights between the two countries, with the route passing through Saudi airspace. Saudi authorities have yet to confirm this arrangement, although nor have they denied it. Unlike several other countries in the region, notably Iran and Qatar, Riyadh has not issued public criticism of the normalization agreement.

Israeli Flight to Pass Over Saudi Arabia En Route to Abu Dhabi; Saudi Arabia has permitted an El Al plane that will operate a flight to the United Arab Emirates on Monday to fly over the country's skies, despite the fact that Saudi Arabia does not yet have official relations with Israel. A recent report stated the Saudis had agreed to allow the Israeli plane to pass over their skies due to the fact that senior American officials will be on board. Earlier this week it was reported that US President Donald Trump's son-in-law/advisor Jared Kushner would be on the first direct commercial flight from Tel Aviv to Abu Dhabi. The report also stated Kushner plans to visit Israel, from where he will continue to the UAE, accompanied by a delegation of experts in Israel from various fields, including medicine, aviation and security, and a team from the White House. Over the past few years, there have been rumors of rapprochement between Israel and Saudi Arabia, but Saudi officials have denied those reports.

Moroccan PM Walks Back Anti-Israel Comments; Moroccan Prime Minister Saad Dine El Otmani on Tuesday appeared to walk back his comments in which he said his country would not normalize relations with Israel. El Otmani told the French-language news site Le360 that his comments on the weekend in opposition to normalize ties with Israel were made in his capacity as leader of the Islamist PJD party, not as Prime Minister. He added that he had just been reiterating a long-held position of his party and did not comment further on the matter. El Otmani's comments followed the deal between the UAE and Israel to normalize ties. Morocco and Israel announced the opening of bilateral liaison offices in 1994, but those offices were closed in 2000 due to the wave of violence known as the "Second Intifada". Morocco supported the Palestinian Authority's (PA) unilateral move to gain observer status at the United Nations in 2012. Earlier this year it was reported that Israel and the US were discussing a deal that would see the US recognize Moroccan sovereignty in the Western Sahara and Morocco take steps to normalize relations with Israel.

German Intel: Iran Seeks Tech for WMDs; The domestic intelligence agency for the German state of Saarland added new weight to intelligence reports from its sister states, which previously confirmed the Islamic Republic of Iran has sought technology for weapons of mass destruction and missile carrier systems. The intelligence report released last week was titled "Overview of the situation," and addressed security threats faced last year by the small west-German state Saarland. "Iran, Pakistan, and to a lesser extent Syria, made efforts to procure goods and know-how for the further development of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems," wrote the intelligence officials for the Saarland. "Delivery system" is typically defined as the capability to launch missiles. Israel, the United States and many Gulf nations believe Iran's regime seeks to develop nuclear weapons.

IDF on High Alert Amid Fears of Hezbollah Attack; The IDF remained on high alert along the northern border with Lebanon over the weekend amid expectations that Hezbollah will continue trying to attack Israeli soldiers deployed nearby. On Wednesday, Israeli attack helicopters and fighter jets struck posts belonging to Hezbollah along the border in response to sniper fire against IDF troops near Kibbutz Menara in the Upper Galilee. It was the third failed attack by Hezbollah since the group's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah vowed to avenge the death of one of his operatives, killed in an alleged Israeli airstrike in Syria in July. The high alert continues as the UN Security Council (UNSC) decided Friday to extend the mandate of the UNIFIL peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon for another year, while slightly reducing its number of troops. The

council added several demands from the Lebanese government to allow UNIFIL to operate more efficiently due to American and Israeli efforts to strengthen the force's authority in the face of Hezbollah activity.

Is Turkey Moving into Northern Lebanon?; According to a report on the pro-Saudi Al Arabiya website, officials in Lebanon are concerned at increased indications of Turkish efforts to build strength and influence in the country. The report quoted two sources in Lebanese intelligence, who mentioned recent Turkish efforts to bring weapons into northern Lebanon. “We are pretty worried about what’s going on. The Turks are sending an incredible amount of weapons into the north,” the website quoted its source as saying. These reports await confirmation, and Al Arabiya is of course a media source linked to Saudi Arabia—a state rival of Turkey’s. But the evidence for a broader Turkish effort to build influence and allies in Lebanon in recent months is considerable, and solid—as are the indications of a Turkish-controlled infrastructure emerging in Sunni northern Lebanon. Both fit with the broader pattern both of Turkish behavior and of broader regional realities.

COVID Cooperation Among UAE and Israeli Health Ministries; Health Minister Yuli Edelstein and UAE Health Minister Abdul Rahman Ben Muhammad al-Avis agreed on Monday on the first act of health cooperation between the countries. Each ministry will appoint a coordinator responsible for communicating with the other country, with an emphasis on the common struggle against the coronavirus. This is the beginning of the collaboration Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said would follow when he signed a peace deal with the UAE earlier this month. According to Worldometers, the UAE has 67,282 cases of the virus and 362 deaths. It has a population of 9.6 million. The health ministers said the cooperation was “excellent news for our countries.” In addition, the two are already setting up delegations of businesspeople from both countries to start a joint business. Once the coronavirus crisis ends, the countries will also work toward creating student exchanges.

Dubai’s Jews Come Out of Hiding Amid Normalization; At just 27 years old, Rabbi Levi Duchman has big shoes to fill. The Brooklyn-born Chabad rabbi in the United Arab Emirates has been helping to quietly build a Jewish community, which this month was able to emerge from its humble shadows. In a quiet suburb of Dubai, local Jews have congregated in the small villa that serves as their synagogue on Shabbat and festivals. That remained a closely guarded secret until this month’s historic normalization of relations between Israel and the UAE. “It is wonderful to share this truth with the government of the State of Israel and the Israeli public,” he said. “We look forward to receiving [Diaspora Affairs] Minister [Omer] Yankelevich in the UAE and hope it will soon be possible for Israeli visitors to visit this beautiful country.”

Pompeo Heads to Israel, Sudan, Bahrain; US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to land in Israel on Monday, the first of several stops in the region. His itinerary includes Sudan and Bahrain, two countries whose ties with Israel have warmed recently and which could follow the United Arab Emirates in normalizing them. He also plans to visit the UAE. The Secretary of State intends to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said in a press conference on Sunday that they will discuss making peace with more Arab countries “in the near future.” The statement from Pompeo’s office said he and Netanyahu plan “to discuss regional security issues related to Iran’s malicious influence” several days after he triggered the “snapback sanctions” mechanism in accordance with the Iran nuclear deal. Netanyahu and Pompeo also are expected to discuss how to implement the Abraham Accord between Israel and the UAE. It also will be on the agenda for Pompeo’s meeting with the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.

UN Atomic Agency Chief to Iran: Give Us Access Now; The head of the UN’s atomic watchdog agency arrived in Iran on Monday to press for access to sites where authorities are thought to have stored or used undeclared nuclear material. The visit comes as the US is pushing to “snapback” UN sanctions on Iran for allegedly violating its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which the Trump administration unilaterally

withdrew from more than two years ago. Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany, the other signatories to the deal, have declared the US action illegal, saying it can't withdraw from a deal and then use the UN resolution that endorsed it to re-impose sanctions. The International Atomic Energy Agency repeatedly found Iran in compliance with the agreement until last year, when Tehran started openly exceeding some of the deal's limits on nuclear enrichment in response to heavy US sanctions. Iran has said the UN official's visit is an opportunity for greater cooperation and has nothing to do with the US push for more sanctions.

Non-Israeli Border Ban Extended Until October 1; The Israel Airport Authority announced on Sunday that foreigners coming from countries that are not on the green list won't be able to enter Israel until at least October 1. So far, only Israeli citizens and residents were allowed to enter Israel, with a compulsory two-week quarantine from the day of their arrival. Nonetheless, a few exceptions were made for foreigners who were family of couples getting married and for the grandparents who need to attend the birth or the bar/bat mitzvah of their grandchildren. As of now, Israelis are allowed to enter the country without being quarantined for two weeks only if they arrive from one of the following countries: The United Kingdom, Slovenia, New Zealand, Georgia, Denmark, Austria, Canada, Estonia, Rwanda, Italy, Finland, Latvia, Hong Kong, Germany, Hungary, Cyprus, Lithuania, Greece, Croatia and Bulgaria.

Bacteria-Killing Fabric: More Israeli Innovations; Israeli nano-tech firm NanoSono has invented a unique powder of antibacterial metals, among them gold and zinc, that kills any bacteria it comes into contact with. The powder can be used on fabrics in airplanes and hospitals, as well as for masks, among other applications. Certain metals are famous for having antiseptic qualities, CEO Ronen Sarusi said on Monday, which have been incorporated into a powder with a nano-structure that eradicates the bacteria. The metals are housed in tiny structures called dots, each one composed of a shell and core made from different metal parts, Sarusi said. Because the solution is based on the qualities of existing material in the seat fabric or the coating of the plane, the plane will continue to be a germ-free zone for as long as the materials are in it. "We are now testing to see if our solution can also kill the novel coronavirus," he said, "we hope to know for sure in a few weeks."

Israeli Kidney Donations: A New Record; Over the third week of August, twelve kidney transplant operations were carried out in Israel, setting an unprecedented state and possibly worldwide record. Twelve patients in some 24 operating rooms in various hospitals across the country received their new kidneys, owing it to an effort made by Matnat Chaim ("Gift of Life"), a volunteer organization dedicated to encouraging people who are suitable for kidney donations to save lives. The organization was established by Rabbi Avraham Yeshayahu Heber, who died of coronavirus in last April. Rachel Heber, the wife of the deceased Rabbi and the founder of Matnat Chaim, said that "when we started the organization in 2008, we did 4 transplants a year, thinking we hit a record... what happened this week is extraordinary and very gladdening." Since the death of Heber's husband, Matnat Chaim successfully assisted in seventy-three transplants.

1,100-year-old Islamic Coins Found by Israeli Teens; A rare hoard of 425 gold coins from the Abbasid Caliphate, dating around 1,100 years ago, was uncovered by teenage volunteers at an archaeological excavation in the center of the country, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced on Monday. The trove was discovered by a group of young people carrying out volunteer work ahead of their mandatory army service. "It was amazing. I dug in the ground and when I excavated the soil, saw what looked like very thin leaves," said teen Oz Cohen. "Finding gold coins, certainly in such a considerable quantity, is extremely rare. We almost never find them in archaeological excavations, given that gold has always been extremely valuable, melted down and reused from generation to generation," the directors said in a statement. "The coins, made of pure gold that does not oxidize in air, were found in excellent condition, as if buried the day before. Their finding may indicate that international trade took place between the area's residents and remote areas," the statement read.

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