

MUSCAT (Reuters) – Oman announced on Sunday the lifting of all measures that had been taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, in all venues and for all activities, state TV reported, citing a statement from the government committee dealing with the pandemic.

There have been 389,943 infections and 4,260 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the sultanate since the pandemic began, according to Reuters data.

Failures are often the results of timidity and fears; disappointments are the results of bashfulness; hours of leisure pass away like summer-clouds, therefore, do not waste opportunity of doing good.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Zionists Use Palestinian Teen as Shield

# Hamas Warns Against Al-Quds March

GAZA CITY (Anadolu) – Palestinian resistance movement Hamas’ political chief Ismail Haniyeh on Sunday warned the Zionist regime against allowing a so-called flag march by settlers in occupied East Al-Quds.

On Wednesday, the occupying regime’s public security Minister Omer Barlev and Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai approved the march to pass through Al-Quds’ Old City.

“We follow the threats of storming Al-Aqsa complex and we warn the enemy against taking such moves,” Haniyeh said in a televised speech marking the first anniversary of an 11-day Zionist offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Haniyeh said Hamas “will not allow any desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque or settler arrogance in Al-Quds.”

The Hamas leader called on the Palestinians “to protect Al-Aqsa Mosque and prevent settlers from moving ahead with their plans” against the mosque.

Al-Aqsa Mosque is the world’s third-holiest site for Muslims.

On Saturday, hundreds of Palestinian mourners attended the fu-



A Palestinian worshiper is seen at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of Al-Qud on April 22, 2022.

neral of a 17-year-old Palestinian youth martyred by Zionist troops during a raid on the occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

Tensions are rising in the occupied territories fueled by the regime’s army incursions, arrests and arbitrary killings.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that Zionist troops stormed Haifa Street early on Saturday, setting off a gun battle with local residents.

“A 17-year-old boy was killed, and an 18-year-old was critically wounded by the Israeli occupation’s bullets during its aggression on Jenin,” a statement by the Palestinian Ministry of Health said.

The ministry identified the slain Palestinian teen as Amjad al-Fayed.

Meanwhile, an international children rights organization said Zionist troops used a female Palestinian teenage girl to shield themselves

from incoming bullets during a last week raid in the northern part of the occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

Defense for Children International (DCI) recounted the development involving Ahed Mohammad Rida Mereb, 16, in gruesome detail, Palestinian Wafa news agency reported on Saturday, citing a report by the rights organization.

According to the organization’s Palestine offshoot (DCIP), the incident happened when the forces raided Ahed’s house in the city of Jenin to arrest her 20-year-old brother.

Zionist troops besieged Ahed’s home around 6 a.m. on May 13 in order to arrest her 20-year-old brother, according to documentation collected by DCIP.

“International law is explicit and absolutely prohibits the use of children as human shields by armed forces or armed groups,” said Ayed Abu Eqtaiish, Accountability Program director at the DCIP, adding, “Israeli forces intentionally putting a child in grave danger in order to shield themselves constitutes a war crime.”

## Resistance Group: ‘Suspicious’ Attempts Seek to Trigger Political Unrest in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The leader of the Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq resistance group, which is part of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units or Hashd al-Sha’abi, has warned against “suspicious” attempts to stir up unrest and plunge the Arab country into a political turmoil.

“The countdown for dragging Iraq into a [political] vortex through protest rallies and public unrest has already started,” Qais al-Khazali said in an interview with Iraq’s Arabic-language al-Ahad television network.

“The sole purpose of such demonstrations is to spark off armed clashes under the guise of resistance and struggle,” he added.

“Over the past few days, Erbil has been the breeding ground for groups of militants, whose main objective is

to provoke a conflict. These groups are trained and armed in Erbil and are accommodated in five-star hotels,” the Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq chief noted.

“Currently, a group is trying to create a wave of unrest and insecurity only in the central and southern provinces of Iraq,” Khazali said.

Anti-government demonstrations gripped the Iraqi capital Baghdad, and later swept through several other cities in late 2019.

The demonstrations erupted as a result of public anger at corruption, mass unemployment and failing public services. Reports say some 550 people were killed and 30,000 injured.

Baghdad says foreign-backed elements were behind the unrest.

In another development, Iraq has voiced objection to the mention of

“state of Israel” in the final statement of an Arab inter-parliamentary conference in Egypt.

The objection was raised by Iraq’s Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi who also condemned a few Arab countries’ normalization of ties with the occupying regime.

“The Speaker of Parliament, Muhammad al-Halbousi, registered his objection to the mention of the name ‘State of Israel’ in the final statement,” the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Halbousi’s office as saying on Saturday.

Halbousi, as his office said, stressed “the replacement of the description with the ‘occupying Israeli entity’,” during the emergency conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union on the situation in Palestine, which is cur-

rently being held in Cairo.

“We are facing great challenges that require all of us to take a firm, decisive and real stance that rises to the level of necessity and need,” Halbousi said.

“The escalation has reached to extremes and cannot be tolerated, neglected, or delayed, and today, as representatives of the will of our peoples, we bear moral and religious responsibility before political and official responsibility, and we are called upon by chivalry before interest and need, and conscience before duty,” he added.

Halbousi said the status of Al-Quds and the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the holy Muslim and Christian sites, require an Arab position that works to activate international resolutions issued in favor of the Palestinian cause.

## Ansarullah: Enemies Seek to Weaken Yemen, Destroy National Unity

SANA’A (Dispatches) – Enemies seek to destroy Yemen’s national unity and coherence in order to assert their own dominance in the war-stricken country, says the leader of popular Ansarullah resistance movement.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi made the remarks in a meeting with a visiting delegation of tribal leaders and dignitaries from the southwestern Yemeni province of Ibb on Saturday night.

“Neither can we accept to be ruled by U.S. diktats, nor can recognize traitors and agents who would prefer to be manipulated by Saudi or Emirati officers,” the Ansarullah chief added.

“The main objective of enemies is to eradicate all elements of national unity, coherence and strength in Yemen in order to exert their dominance over the country,” Houthi noted.

“The Yemeni nation is fairly determined to tread the path towards independence and freedom, and block foreign interference,” the Ansarullah chief

said.

The remarks came after Yemeni troops and allied Popular Committees fighters said they shot down a Turkish-built spy drone belonging to the Saudi-led military coalition over the country’s northwestern province of Hajjah.

Yemeni defense forces managed to “shoot down a Turkish-made Karayel reconnaissance drone” owned and operated by the Saudi-led coalition “while it was carrying out hostile missions in the airspace of the Hayran district,” spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree said on his official Twitter account on Saturday.

He noted that the spy drone had been downed with a “homegrown surface-to-air missile,” which has not been unveiled yet, Yemen’s Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported.

Earlier on Saturday, a Yemeni military official said the Saudi-led coalition forces and their allied militants violated the ongoing UN-brokered cease-

fire, which took effect at the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, at least 134 times during the past 24 hours.

The official, who asked not to be named, said the violations included 52 flights of Saudi-led reconnaissance drones in the skies over the provinces of Ma’rib, Ta’izz, Hajjah, Jawf, Sa’ada, Bayda, Dhale, and across the borders.

Saudi Arabia launched the devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with its Arab allies and with arms and logistics support from the U.S. and other Western states.

The objective was to reinstall the Riyadh-friendly regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and crush the Ansarullah resistance movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of a functional government in Yemen.

The war has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and spawned the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

## Syrians: U.S. Spearheaded Massacres in Syria



People flee as heavy smoke rises after a U.S. airstrike in the town of Baghuz, in the countryside of the eastern Syrian province of Dayr al-Zawr, on March 18, 2019.

HASAKAH (Xinhua) – Syrians slammed a recent Pentagon inquiry which rejects accusation that the United States covered up civilian deaths in Syria, saying the United States has been targeting civilians in Syria for long.

In the government-controlled parts of the northeastern province of Hasakah, where the United States has several bases in the Kurdish-controlled zones, Syrians expressed dismay and anger at the Pentagon’s claims that U.S. forces were not responsible for a massacre that took place in the town of Baghuz in the eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr in 2019.

They accused the United States of violating human rights, stealing Syrian resources and endangering the lives of civilians.

Many had even witnessed innocent civilians living in northern and northeastern Syria being killed by U.S. strikes allegedly targeting Daesh terrorists.

Ghaleb al-Anzi, a displaced man from the countryside of Dayr al-Zawr, told Xinhua that the United States does not care about protecting civilians in Syria since he had witnessed what it did.

Abdulkarim Dlainy, another displaced man living in Hasakah, told Xinhua that he was displaced because of the U.S. strikes in northeastern Syria, adding that there is no safety in U.S.-controlled areas.

Ghassan Khalil, the governor of Ha-

sakah, told Xinhua that the United States had leveled several towns in northern and northeastern Syria without any consideration for the civilians living there.

Syria has firmly rejected a Pentagon report that the U.S. military was not at fault for a 2019 deadly airstrike targeting civilians in Dayr al-Zawr, saying American forces must pay for their atrocities and immediately withdraw from the country.

In an executive summary of the U.S. airstrike on March 18, 2019, the Pentagon said the attack, which was claimed to have targeted an encampment for Daesh terrorists in the eastern city of Baghuz and resulted in the deaths of some 70 people, including civilians, did not violate rules of engagement or laws of war.

The summary found that the strike ordered at the behest of the U.S.-allied militants from the Kurdish-led so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) demonstrated awareness for non-combatants, even though “civilians were within the blast radius resulting in CIVCAS,” or civilian casualties.

Reacting to the Pentagon report, Syria’s permanent mission to the United Nations told Newsweek that Damascus viewed the deadly attack in Baghuz as one of many perpetrated as part of what the government considered an illegitimate campaign since Syria’s own armed forces conducted counter-terrorism operations with help from Russia and Iran.

## Afghan Women TV Presenters Cover Faces on Air

KABUL (AFP) – Women presenters on Afghanistan’s leading news channels went on air Sunday with their faces covered, a day after defying a Taliban order to conceal their appearance on television.

Since seizing power last year, the Taliban have imposed a slew of restrictions on civil society, many focused on reining in the rights of women and girls to comply with the group.

Earlier this month, Taliban chief Hibatullah Akhundzada issued a diktat for women to cover up fully in public, including their faces, ideally with the traditional burqa.

The feared Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice ordered women TV presenters to follow suit from Saturday.

But the presenters defied the order and went on air with their faces visible, only to fall in line with the directive on Sunday.

Wearing face-covering veils that left only their eyes in view, women presenters and reporters aired morning news bulletins across leading channels like TOLONews, Ariana Television, Shamshad TV and 1TV.

“We resisted and were against wearing a mask,” Sonia Niazi, a

presenter with TOLONews, told AFP.

“But TOLONews was pressured and told that any female presenter who appeared on screen without covering her face must be given some other job or simply removed,” she said.

“TOLONews was compelled and we were forced to wear it.”

Women presenters were previously only required to wear a headscarf.

TOLONews director Khpolwak Sapai said the channel was “forced” to make its staff follow the order.

“We were told ‘You are forced to do it. You must do it. There is no other way,’” Sapai told AFP.

“I was called on the telephone yesterday and was told in strict words to do it. So, it is not by choice but by force that we are doing it.”

On Sunday, male journalists and employees of TOLONews wore face masks in the channel’s offices in Kabul in solidarity with women presenters, an AFP correspondent reported.

Other women employees of the channel continued to work with their faces visible.