

## Vaccine Rush & the Muslim Ummah

pg04



# Editorial

Bilal Hasan

January 2020, Jumada Al-Awwal 1442 Hijri

Dear friends!

The so-called world leader America which calls itself the peacekeeper of the world, is now struggling to keep its own land safe. But from whom? Did any of the foreign powers invade it? Did China launch an economic war or Russia started a proxy war? Certainly not. America is today trying to save itself from America. It seems humorous, but in reality, it is a bitter truth.

Some decades ago, some western philosophers like *Francis Fukuyama* were boasting that the world is witnessing the end of history with liberal democracy being the final stage of political evolution. This attitude carried in itself their mentality, a mentality which was not much different from tyrants of the past. Although these thoughts were debated at that time with regards to their validity, we have now witnessed that this same Liberal democracy taking refuge in the streets of Washington. From the mismanaged Covid outbreak to black Lives matter protests and now the recent Capitol hill siege, it reminds us of the famous couplets of Allama Iqbal:

*Tu Ne Kya Dekha Nahin Maghrib Ka  
Jumhoori Nizam  
Chehra Roshan, Androon Changaiz Se  
Tareek Tar!*

**Have you not observed the  
democratic system of the West?  
With a brilliant exterior, its interior  
is darker than Genghis's.**

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Politics is an integral part of our social life and it encompassed human life in various spheres. The Creator of the worlds knows far more than our tiny brain about its essence. For the same purpose, He has ordained us in His holy book and made practical manifestation though his beloved Prophet about how to ensure smooth functioning of society by giving a strong and robust political system. The principles of politics are widely elaborated in the Qur'an and Allah SWT necessitates its implementation, take for instance the verses in Surah Shura which emphasizes on establishing the "deen", which clearly means the establishment of the political system of Islam:

*He has ordained for you (believers) the way which He decreed for Noah, and what We have revealed to you (O Prophet) and what We decreed for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, commanding: "establish the Deen, and make no divisions in it."  
(Ayah 13)*

As a believer in Islam, if we testify that the message of Islam is for all generations to come, we also need to testify that it's political principles are as valid today as they were robust 1400 years ago. If one doubts it, he could take

the lessons from the Seerah and the history of Khulafa e Raashideen and check their validity. These principles, if applied today, will be the final refuge of mankind who is in dire need of a renaissance. Mankind has knocked several doors for refuge but every time it finds itself a bloodthirsty host eager to drink its blood in every possible way. Unfortunately, many of us are unaware of these realities and still try to find political solutions from the west. It is high time for us to realize the political aspect of Islam and try our best in implementing it.

# CREATOR'S CALL

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ عَن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ (٩)  
وَأَنْفِقُوا مِن مَّا رَزَقْنَاكُم مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ فَيَقُولَ رَبِّ لَوْلَا أَخَّرْتَنِي إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ  
فَأَصَدَّقَ وَأَكُن مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ (١٠) وَلَن يُؤَخِّرَ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهَا وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ (١١)

O you who have believed, let not your wealth and your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. And whoever does that - then those are the losers. And spend [in the way of Allah] from what We have provided you before death approaches one of you and he says, "My Lord, if only You would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be of the righteous." But never will Allah delay a soul when its time has come. And Allah is Aware of what you do.

Surah Al-Munafiqun 9-11

Akmal Falahi

Translated by Tufail Ahmed



This is the second and last ruku of Surah Al-Munafiqun. This Surah was revealed in Madina during the year 9 AH after the battle of *Bani Al-Mustaliq*.

*The first Ruku of this Surah describes the characteristics, attributes and mischievous nature of the hypocrites. And in the second Ruku, the believers are told to beware of the deeds that lead to hypocrisy and ways to cure the disease of hypocrisy.*

1. In the first verse, Allah says: (***O you who believe, do not let your wealth and your children distract you from the remembrance of Allah***). It usually happens that when a person becomes too much in love with wealth and children, he becomes oblivious to the remembrance of Allah, and this leads him afflicted with all kinds of evils. And then in order to gain worldly wealth and to keep his children happy through this wealth, sometimes he becomes a hypocrite and gradually he becomes a disbeliever. Therefore, the first prescription for avoiding this disease is that you should always remember Allah. Keep on remembering The Almighty, and create the fear of him within yourself. And before you do anything, keep in mind that there is someone above you who is watching, and whom you are accountable to. And one of the meanings of remembering Allah is that you should try to fulfill every responsibility that Allah has ordained to you. Allah further says that those who are heedless of the remembrance of Allah and fall in love with wealth and children, then they will be the losers.

“خساره” or “Deficit” in Arabic means that a person goes bankrupt and even his real capital cannot be secured.

2. One of the characteristics of hypocrites is stinginess i.e ***the hypocrite is greedy for wealth and does not like to spend it in the way of Allah***. Therefore, in order to avoid this trait of hypocrisy and to reduce the love of wealth, it is being said that whatever wealth you have is not yours but Allah has provided it to you and it is entrusted to you. So spend it in the cause of Allah before the time of your death comes, otherwise, you will be saddened, and then it will become your wish that if you were given a little more respite, you would give charity and be righteous.

“رزق” or “Sustenance” includes all the things that Allah has given us, whether it is ***wealth, knowledge, strength, time or any other ability***. so whatever ability Allah has given, It is being demanded to spend in the way of Allah before the time of death comes.

3. In the last verse, Allah says that your sorrow or wish will not be of any use, because when the time comes for someone to die, then there will be no respite even for a moment. Therefore, sacrifice your abilities in the way of Allah before that time comes. Finally, ***Allah said that He is aware of everything you do***. This is a concept that needs to be remembered at all times. Even if a person intends to do good deeds, he should keep in mind that Allah is watching and He will reward him. And even if he intends evil, he should know that Allah sees and He will punish him. If this concept remembered in the mind, then when a person does a good deed, he will do it with sincerity, and if he intends evil, he will try to avoid evil.

May Allah Almighty help us in this....Aameen

# VACCINE RUSH & THE MUSLIM UMMAH



Ibn Shafi

**A**lmost a year has passed but the struggle still seems to be an unfinished affair. Lock-down, Night-curfews, Travel-ban, working from home, unemployment and masks are strictly adhered to obviate Covid-19 infection. People across the globe are waiting for an effective and affordable vaccine to retain their normal life.

Numerous pharmaceutical giants are engaged in cut-throat competition to be the first in producing a vaccine. To name a few -BioNTech of Germany in association with the United States' Pfizer with 85% private investment of total £2.25bn and AstraZeneca of the United Kingdom with 75% private investment of total £8.19bn which certainly seems to be a billion dollar global private business propelled by unprecedented political, financial and populist dynamics.

Generally, vaccine takes years to complete trial phases and its development to reach the desired efficacy. It is evident from the words of Gregory A. Poland, MD, Director of Mayo Vaccine research Group, "From the creation of the idea to having a marketable vaccine is usually seven to 10 years or more and about 1 billion US dollar." Miraculously, major stalwarts of the game seem to be ready with products, and may be compromised with its content or procedures.

Scenario is a bit different in India where Bharat-Biotech has claimed to break new grounds by producing an indigenous vaccine named as Covaxin. Vaccine production is more of jingoism in India

as compared to capitalist business global-scenario. Nationalist madness associated with everything in the country glooms all serious concerns and criticisms. Loads of questions regarding transparency in trial, reliability of data, regulations and approvals are doing rounds in media with some queries being raised by clinical scientists themselves. CTRI is a tool which facilitates anyone to check the terms of a trial, numbers of participants, and design of trial, methods used for analysis etc. Bharat Biotech or ICMR's (Indian Council of Medical Research)action of not registering the trial of this vaccine with Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI) as required by the law is a grave concern.

The Hindu reported on 14th January 2021that Health ministry of India stated that only 20,000 cases are detected on a daily basis on national scale. 98% is the official recovery rate of covid-19 infected patients and approximately 2% is the death rate. If at all vaccine is so important in such a situation what can a vaccine do to improve the already better situation, Does vaccine producers guarantee that covid-19 will never surge back after vaccination? Are the trial procedure, data and analysis transparent and credible? Who is responsible for varied long and short-term adverse effects of vaccination? With all these questions we still stand bewildered, if vaccine is truly the need of hour or just the need of business and popularity risking human lives and health?

Where many Muslims are confused about use of pork gelatine in the vaccine; others seem to be armed with fatwa about legality of all such ingredients.

Should we stay confused even after being under a guidance of Allah and following the Prophet Mohammad (ﷺ)?

Of course not! Rightly quoted by Maulana Abul Kalam,

***"You (Muslims) are a leader Nation, you are supposed to lead masses and not follow them blindly."***

Muslim scientists from the Golden Age of Islamic civilization were experts of both fields which enabled them advance spectacularly. They not only strived to gain as much information as possible, but they were also able to reorganize the data as per their own perspective, ideology and beliefs. Accordingly, a culture of vibrant and robust arose that it influenced the world with its indelible mark.

Unfortunately today the scenario is diametrically different, where Islamic experts are on one side and modern scholars are on the other. As a result, the masses are profoundly deviated and unaware of the ideology beliefs plus unable to secure fundamental advantage of the 21stcentury advancement.

When a nation discards the activities of thinking and research or intellectual striving to gather and assimilate new knowledge then it resigns itself to stagnation. Stag nation leads to decline and eventually it leads to dominance by foreign power or culture. Such domination extends to all sphere of life.

Life of Ummah, its security and progress lies in dependency and reconstruction of its political-economic-social spheres purely on Quran and Sunnah otherwise we will be doomed and exploited by any tom dick and harry wjust like the present situation.

# An opinion NRC, NPR, CAA protests

Hamza Jamal

With special thanks to Br. Yahya

At present, the Muslim Ummah in India is standing at a critical juncture. After the anti-CAA protests, Muslims in India now had a chance to consider whether the position they adopted in the protests was correct or not. Many questions remain unanswered as to whether it was feasible to protest or not. Was it correct to chant religious slogans in the protests? Or was it necessary to defend the constitution? And many others like alike.

The past is the key to the future. The situation of the Muslims is similar to that of during British Rule. Muslim leaders had different views, as they do today. There were four solutions to the problems given by various peoples.

1. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was one of those early pioneers who recognized the critical role of education in the empowerment of Muslims. *He was of the view that Muslims must not challenge the British rule as he did not consider them as an enemy of the Muslims.* It was based on these ideas that Sir Syed founded MAO college. As a result, *most of the young Muslims who graduated from this college deviated from the principles of Islam* because of a materialistic atheism based education system.

2. Another group was of the view that *joining the Congress and subsequently*

*fighting politically against the British* will give them independence. This group also endorsed secularism and nationalism. This idea was widely accepted by Muslims. As a result, *the idea of a separate Muslim identity slowly vanished.*

3. A third group said that *Muslims should fight against the British not by joining the Congress but by forming a separate movement which was known as the Muslim League.* They believed that fighting alongside the INC meant compromising with its principles which were not acceptable by them. *This ideology was based on Muslim identity and not on Islamic identity. As a result, Pakistan was established as a Muslim state.*

4. However, there was a *group that advocated the idea of Islamic identity and told Muslims to fight for an Islamic state, not for a Muslim state. Maulana Maududi was among this group.* He formed *Jamaat-e-Islami* for this purpose.

Although time has passed, only faces have changed rest being the same. The British rule has been replaced by the far-right party. INC has been replaced with UPA opposition, communists and secularists, etc. The issue of *NPR, NRC, CAA* was a wisdom by Allah to give Indian Muslims a chance to find their true identity and achieve the real purpose of their creation. But unfortunately, we chose the wrong path again.



*Now the question is what should be done?*

In my opinion, *the fourth group was right* and we should follow this view because Muslims are not like any other group that has the same solution to their problems. We must stand up for Islam and not just for Muslims.

*Because the real solution for Muslims lies in the revival of Islam.*

In these circumstances, it is worth considering the verses of Surah Ibrahim because this Surah was revealed a few years before the Hijrat when the situation in Makkah was somewhat similar.

*And those who disbelieved said to their messengers, "We will surely drive you out of our land, or you must return to our religion." So, their Lord inspired to them, "We will surely destroy the wrongdoers. And We will surely cause you to dwell in the land after them. That is for he who fears My position and fears My threat."*

(Surah Ibrahim: 13-14)



Continued  
**SEALED NECTAR**

Issam Diab

## In the Shade of the Message and Prophethood

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was nearly forty, he used to pass long hours in retirement meditating and speculating over all aspects of creation around him. This meditative temperament helped to widen the mental gap between him and his compatriots. He used to provide himself with *Sawiq* (barley porridge) and water and then directly head for the hills and ravines in the neighbourhood of Makkah. One of these in particular was his favourite resort — a cave named *Hira'*, in the Mount *An-Nour*. It was only two miles from Makkah, a small cave 4 yards long and 1.75 yard wide. He would always go there and invite wayfarers to share him his modest provision. He used to devote most of his time, and Ramadan in particular, to worship and meditation on the universe around him. His heart was restless about the moral evils and idolatry that were rampant among his people; he was as yet helpless because no definite course, or specific approach had been available for him to follow and rectify the ill practices around him. This solitude attended with this sort of contemplative approach must be understood in its Divine perspective. It was a preliminary stage to the period of grave responsibilities that he was to shoulder very soon. Privacy and detachment from the impurities of life were two indispensable prerequisites for the Prophet's soul to come into close communion with the Unseen Power that lies behind all aspects of existence in this infinite universe. It was a rich period of privacy which lasted for three years and ushered in a new era, of indissoluble contact with that Power.

## Gabriel Brings Down The Revelation

When he was forty, the age of complete perfection at which Prophets were always ordered to disclose their Message, signs of his Prophethood started to appear and twinkle on the horizons of life; they were the true visions he used to experience for six months. The period of Prophethood was 23 years; so the period of these six months of true visions constituted an integral part of the forty-six parts of Prophethood. *In Ramadan, in his third year of solitude in the cave of Hira', Allah's Will desired His mercy to flow on earth and Muhammad ﷺ was honoured with Prophethood, and the light of Revelation burst upon him with some verses of the Noble Qur'aan.*

'Aa'ishah (رضي الله عنه), gave the following narration of that most significant event that brought the Divine light which would dispel the darkness of disbelief and ignorance. It led life down a new course and brought about the most serious amendment to the line of the history of mankind:

Forerunners of the Revelation assumed the form of true visions that would strikingly come true all the time. After that, solitude became dear to him and he would go to the cave, *Hira'*, to engage in *Tahannuth* (devotion) there for a certain number of nights before returning to his family, and then he would return for provisions for a similar stay. At length, unexpectedly, the Truth (the angel) came to him and said, **"Recite."** **"I cannot recite,"** he ﷺ said. The Prophet ﷺ described: **"Then he took me and squeezed me vehemently and then let me go and repeated the order**

**'Recite.' 'I cannot recite' said I, and once again he squeezed me and let me till I was exhausted. Then he said: 'Recite.' I said 'I cannot recite.' He squeezed me for a third time and then let me go and said:**

**'Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists), has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! and your Lord is the Most Generous.'**  
*[Al Qur'an 96:1-3]*

The Prophet ﷺ repeated these verses. He was trembling with fear. At this stage, **he came back to his wife Khadeejah, and said, "Cover me, ... cover me."** They covered him until he restored security. He apprised Khadeejah of the incident of the cave and added that he was horrified. His wife tried to soothe him and reassured him saying,

**"Allaah will never disgrace you. You unite uterine relations; you bear the burden of the weak; you help the poor and the needy, you entertain the guests and endure hardships in the path of truthfulness."**

She set out with the prophet ﷺ to her cousin *Waraqa bin Nawfal bin Asad bin 'Abd Al-'Uzza*, who had embraced Christianity in the pre-Islamic period, and used to write the Bible in Hebrew. He was a blind old man. Khadeejah said: "My cousin! Listen to your nephew!" Waraqa said: "O my nephew! What did you see?" The Messenger of Allaah ﷺ told him what had happened to him. Waraqa replied: **"This is 'Namus' i.e. (the angel who is entrusted with Divine Secrets) that Allaah sent to Moses. I wish I were younger. I wish I could live up to the time when your people would turn you out."** Muhammad ﷺ asked: **"Will they drive me out?"** Waraqa answered in the affirmative and said: "Anyone who came with something similar to what you have brought was treated with hostility; and if I should be alive till that day, then I would support you strongly." A few days later Waraqa died and the revelation also subsided.

At-Tabaree and Ibn Hisham reported that the Messenger of Allaah ﷺ left the cave of *Hira'* after being surprised by the Revelation, but later on, returned to the cave and continued his solitude. Afterwards, he came back to Makkah.

To be continued.....

# SYRIAN PRISON: Disappearance, Torture and then Murder

Akmal Falahi

Translated by Hamza Jamal

Without any information about his son, “Salvi” waited a long time, he was arrested in 2011, but when the news of his death was received by the government officials, she could not believe it and suddenly Due to the occurrence of this accident, she repeatedly asked, “Is the matter settled?” *Is he really dead?*” The incident took place in the city of Hama, in central Syria.

According to one estimate, *the number of prisoners in Syrian prisons has reached millions* since the beginning of the 2011 crisis, and according to human rights organizations and relatives of prisoners, they are often subjected to horrific torture. They are deprived of fair trials and None of their relatives are allowed to visit. Relatives of the detainees are in constant distress and anxiety. They are spending their time visiting the security branch and spending their savings to find out where they are in prison, to find out if they are still alive.

Recently, the relatives of the prisoners and the workers of the Syrian authorities said that the register of the citizens has been updated and the word “*deceased*” has been written next to the names of the prisoners who have died in the prisons and their date of death has also been written. When the news reached the citizens last month, many people came to the government officials to find out whether their captive sons were still alive or dead. Fazal Abdel Ghani, president

of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said about *four hundred people had answered “no” to his question, meaning they were no longer alive.* The organization estimates that about *80,000 people are being held in government prisons.*

Relatives offer condolences without the presence of the body of their deceased. No one in Hama, which is controlled by the Assad government, has the courage to express their grief. “My heart was shattered because they were both like roses, and we are not allowed to express our grief even in mourning, but we have to hide our grief,” says Salvi whose two sons die in prison.

*Amnesty International said last year that the prison in Sednaya was a “human slaughterhouse.”*

Relatives in Egypt perform the condolence ceremony without the body present.

Abdul Rahman and his mother informed about the death of Islam Dabas to his father by phone, who is still in prison in Syria.

Sources told Al Jazeera that the Syrian government had informed the people of the town of Yabrud of the deaths of 30 prisoners, who were present during 2014-15. The people of Daria have been informed of the deaths of 300 prisoners, and the people of Kafzita, which is located in Hama, have been informed of the deaths of 10 prisoners.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says at least *71 people have died as a result of torture in Syrian prisons* in May. Forty-one of them were killed by the Assad government, while One person was *killed by an insurgent group*, another by a *Kurdish army* and another by another group.

The highest number of deaths from torture in May was recorded in Hama, at four, followed by four in Homs, three in Aleppo, two in Deir ez-Zor and one each in Daraa and Hasakah.

The group added that *57 people had died in Syria earlier this year* as a result of torture, including 64 by the Syrian government.

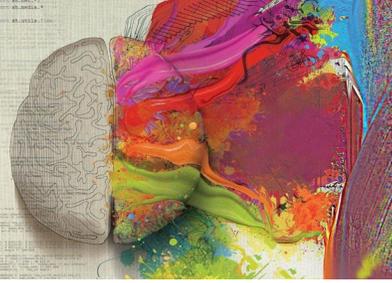
The group said in a statement that it was continuing to use automatic devices and torture in a brutal manner, they added that the torture often led to the emergence of new factions, especially in prisons occupied by the Syrian army, which is constantly committing the crime of clear and widespread torture. According to the statement, other armed groups have also committed this crime, but much less than the Syrian army.

The president of the organization Fazal Abdul Ghani said that crimes against humanity and war crimes are being committed in Syria on a daily basis. He demanded that it was now imperative that the foundations of responsibility for the safety of the people be laid down while the government had failed and all those diplomatic and peace efforts had so far failed.

# RATIONALISM

Osama Azeem Falahi

Translated by Abdul Maruf Sheri



Rationalism is the currency of the present age. Although it is an irony that even a few rational people seem to agree on a fact. Rationalism can be defined as the practice or principle of basing opinions and actions purely on reason and knowledge rather than on religious belief. It considers only materialistic aspects or we can say that aspects which human senses can detect. It discards the opinion based on spiritual aspects. It does not consider any opinion which is based on unseen (Ghaib). The mentality of the present age stands on top of the destroyed building of the Christendom system (Christians' social order). The philosophy of reason is purely European. This philosophy states that everything will be tested on the basis of intellect because according to rationalists, all kinds of information and the ability to distinguish in it belongs only to the intellect. The pioneers of this mentality were Christian Wolff of Germany, Friedrich Nietzsche, Kalman filter, and Bailey of France. Kant, Newton, and Adam Smith have also taken this path.

This philosophy has its roots driven from Greek philosophers like Socrates and Aristotle and has evolved to its present state through many periods. In Greece, the reason was a sacred thing so much so that it was seen as the standard of all things, but later the domination of Christianity completely crushed it. At that age, speaking out against the alleged beliefs of Christianity and the Church was made tantamount to inviting one's own death. After studying from Muslims in Spain, when the conflict began between the church and science in Europe, rationality entered a new era. Due to the persecution by the church, the symbol of religion became irrational in the eyes of the rationalists. As a result, a flood of rationalism swept away all religiosity, and ideas from various sources began to emerge. Instead of one single God, different philosophers became gods and their ideas proliferated as if they were being worshiped. In the eighteenth century, rationality regained the place it once had in Greece. But soon the infinite sanctity of the intellect began to decline and experience and sense were also combined with the absolute intellect. Now, not only the intellect is the standard of truth but also experience and sense have come to compete with it. In the nineteenth century, experience and matter took precedence over reason, and nature took the place of God, the culmination of which came in the form of Marxism.

Rationalism is predominant everywhere in Europe today. In Western countries, civilization and culture are dominated by the same thought that the "enlightened philosophers" dreamed of, in order to eradicate religion. This happened so because, for them, religion cannot agree with science and experiments. This is a blatant lie that has been linked to all religions. However, science and experimentation could not coincide with the Christian Church system alone.

Rationalism is based on respect for the intellect and its use. The question arises as to whether it is possible to respect the intellect as much as it is being said. Also, is it possible to make absolute use of it?

Before answering this question, let us look at the rational stages of Europe.

1. Some exaggerated the sanctity of the intellect and made it the only standard of truth.
2. Some exaggerated against intellect and did not consider it worthy of attention.
3. Some people believed in it with observation and experience.

The first and second concepts of rationality are based on extremism. The bearers of the first meaning made it a god, while the bearers of the second meaning (Christians) threw it in the trash.

As for the third meaning, they tried to find a way between the sanctity of reason and contempt; and linked reason with experience and observation. At first glance, this may seem like a better way, but after a little reflection, the ambiguity of this concept becomes clear. The fact is that observation and experience are never final, on the basis of which the intellect can make the right decision. Every day new experiences and observations seem to refute past experiences and observations. There is also a theory in the world about the intellect that only the one who created it can tell what the intellect itself is. He has set a limit for it and kept it subjected to revelation. When the intellect is nurtured in the shadow of revelation, the intellect does not make man arrogant and rebellious, but makes him prostrate before the Creator of the intellect and cries out.

***Our Lord, You have not created these things in vain, exalted are You above such a thing; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire. [Al Qur'an 3:191]***

Unless man submits his intellect to revelation, he will be entangled in the world of thoughts, and will never find the right path. Man's salvation lies in giving the intellect its rightful place and this place can only be told by its Creator.

## Across the Globe

### **Pakistan to UAE: Can't recognise Israel until Palestine resolved**

Pakistan 'will not and cannot establish relationship with Israel until a concrete and permanent solution to Palestine issue is found'. (21 Dec 2020)

### **Dozens killed in Israeli air raids in Syria: War monitor**

More than 18 attacks by Israel on multiple targets near Syrian-Iraq border took place, Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. (13 Jan 2021)

### **Saudi Arabia to reopen Qatar embassy in coming days**

Saudi Foreign Minister Farhan says kingdom 'will restore full diplomatic relations with Qatar'. (16 Jan 2021)

### **B-52 US bombers fly over Middle East; Iran condemns intimidation**

Iranian foreign minister says the US would be better off spending its military billions 'on your taxpayers' health'. (18 Jan 2021)

### **Bangladesh 'set to move' new group of Rohingya to remote island**

About 1,000 Rohingya refugees will be moved to a remote, cyclone-prone island despite calls by rights groups to stop relocation. (27 Dec 2020)

### **ICC prosecutor rejects Uighur genocide complaint against China**

Office of prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said it cannot act on the complaint because China is not a signatory to The Hague-based court. (15 Dec 2020)

### **Pakistan fires 12 police officers for not protecting Hindu temple**

Policemen fired over acts of 'cowardice, irresponsibility and negligence' for not trying to stop the mob as it attacked the temple in Karak district. (15 Jan 2021)

### **Outrage in Sri Lanka over cremation of Muslim COVID victims**

Anger mounts after at least 15 Muslims, including a 20-day-old baby, are cremated against family wishes and funeral rites laid out in Islam. (18 Dec 2020)