

Rare cyclone kills 3 on Yemeni island

Coalition armoured vehicles sent to Yemen loyalists in Taez

ADEN, Nov 2, (Agencies): The Arab coalition battling Iran-backed rebels in Yemen has provided pro-government forces in the besieged city of Taez with dozens of armoured vehicles, military sources and Emirati media reported Monday.

The coalition has sent 30 military vehicles, including tanks, to forces loyal to President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi in Taez, the southwestern gateway to the rebel-held capital, military sources there told AFP.

Meanwhile, 12 pro-government fighters, part of a 500-strong Yemeni force sent from the main southern city of Aden, were killed in a late Sunday ambush by the rebels en route to Taez, military

sources and medics said.

Abu Dhabi-based The National paper said that "UAE-supplied military vehicles have arrived at the front line of the battle for the city of Taez," adding that "dozens" of armoured vehicles were delivered on Sunday to pro-government fighters in the city.

The United Arab Emirates has played a key role in the Saudi-led coalition which has been battling rebels in Yemen since March.

Taez has remained in the hands of fighters loyal to President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. But the Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies have besieged it for months with clashes raging between rival forces.

The Dubai government-owned daily Al-Bayan reported that "coalition forces, reinforced by vehicles and modern arms... have deployed in Taez."

But The National and military sources said that the armoured vehicles were manned by Yemeni fighters.

UAE media reported that more reinforcements are expected to arrive in Taez from Lahj province in the south.

The modern weapons provided by the coalition include US-made anti-tank TOW missiles, according to the Saudi Asharq Al-Awsat daily.

Last week, the coalition dropped arms and ammunition to pro-government fighters in Taez, military sources said.

Coalition support by troops and arms

to loyalists in Aden helped them press on with a July offensive that pushed the rebels out of Aden and four other southern provinces.

The Saudi Press Agency announced late on Sunday that one of the kingdom's guards was killed in cross-border fire from Yemen.

More than 70 people have been killed in Saudi Arabia from border shelling and skirmishes since the coalition campaign began. Soldiers have accounted for most of the border casualties.

The UAE has lost 68 soldiers fighting as part of the coalition.

The Houthis overran Sanaa in September 2014 and went on to seize control of several regions, aided by forces loyal to ousted

president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Also:

ADEN, Yemen: A rare tropical cyclone packing hurricane-force winds killed three people and injured scores on the Yemeni island of Socotra on Monday, residents and officials said, and then headed for an al-Qaeda-controlled town on the mainland.

Amateur pictures and videos on social media, which could not be immediately verified, showed torrents of water washing through the streets of the Socotra provincial capital **Hadibu**.

"Three people were killed, around 100 have been injured," said a local official, without describing the causes of death.

Mohammed Alarqbi of the Socotra Environment Office said torrential rains had pounded impoverished coastal villages.

"Around 1,500 families have fled to the interior and to the mountains. There's absolutely no help coming from the outside."

Situated in the Arabian Sea and slightly larger than **Majorca** or **Rhode Island**, isolated Socotra is home to hundreds of exotic plant species found nowhere else on earth. Its 50,000 residents speak their own language.

Long remote, the island has become especially cut off from mainland Yemen by a seven-month war there between Iran-allied fighters and a coalition of Arab states led by **Saudi Arabia**.

Mullahs should

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since all this is too difficult to achieve?

Instead of all this Tehran should have established good relations with its neighbors to make Iran one of the most effective economies in the world instead of being internationally isolated?

Those who followed closely the behavior of Tehran since 1979 will see an atrocious replica to the Jamal AbdulNasser system of rule — the man who had filled the skies of his country and the Arab world with empty slogans but when the time came to face the reality, he could not stand the Israeli army, which was ironically just one-fifth of the strength of the Egyptian army.

The 1967 war between Egypt and Israel was a 'bloody act' but the price paid by the Egyptians was too high. It is obvious Tehran has been playing the same game through direct or proxy wars. It was a big failure because the living conditions of its citizens have been getting worse by every passing day and the percentage of executions has been increasing.

The prisons are filled to the brim with politicians, prisoners of conscience and the streets are crowded with drug addicts.

According to statistics the percentage of crime has shot up considerably and crimes related to poverty over the past decade has risen by 63 percent. Does all this mean the Iranian society is suffering from severe crisis to the extent the country is unable to protect its citizens?

This miserable of the country situation should push the regime of Mullahs to reconsider all its options and stop putting money on murderers and terrorists to achieve fictitious objectives.

The Mullahs must heed the advice of the Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir and stop interfering in the affairs of the neighboring countries, withdraw their troops and militias from Syria and Iraq, stop supporting terrorist groups starting with al-Qaeda to Hezbollah in Lebanon and their pro-militias in Iraq and Yemen, to the Islamic State or the so-called DAESH.

Everybody knows that DAESH was born in the Iranian womb. The world will not remain for long with hands crossed. Patience is running out because the spark of Iranian terrorism has reached far and wide.

Kuwait court

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It is noteworthy that the first and second suspects were earlier indicted by the court in the case of the bombing of Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque.

According to the case file, the Public Prosecution accused the seven suspects — two Kuwaitis, two Syrians, two Egyptians and a Saudi — of sending the donations they collected from diwanis of some former lawmakers to DAESH.

They had allegedly placed announcements on the streets and social media, and had organized seminars titled 'Relieve Syrian people and children'. They had also organized campaigns under the slogans 'Rescue your brothers in Syria', 'Rescue Syrian children' and 'Support Syrian people'.

The Kuwaitis and the Saudi were in charge of collecting donations in boxes from people, transporting the boxes and then pulling out the money from those boxes. They sold material donations such as jewelry and vehicles to convert them into cash. The participation of some former lawmakers contributed in gathering huge amounts of money.

The Kuwaiti and Saudi suspects declared that their roles were limited to collecting funds and converting material donations into cash. They revealed that their Syrian and Egyptian accomplices had handled the repatriation of the donations from Kuwait and that they were the ones who knew how, where and to whom the donations were disbursed.

The suspects allegedly transacted through a major money exchange office to send a large part of the funds to DAESH members in Halab, Al-Deer and Al-Zour. Part of the funds was sent to wounded DAESH members in Turkey for settling their hotel bills, and the rest of the money was sent to DAESH members in Jordan.

Rights panel

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concerning the fourth package of the Al-Zour refinery project. The lawmaker wants to know the following:

If the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has sent a letter to the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) to cancel the fourth package of the Al-Zour refinery project, if so, he wants a copy of the letter. He also wants to know if it has been put into practice, and if so a copy of that letter.

He also asked if the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has forward a letter to the CTC to cancel the pipelines tender meant to feed the new refinery No.

Al-Qaeda chief urges militant unity against Russia in Syria

Iran says may 'quit' talks

CAIRO, Nov 2, (Agencies): Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri called on Muslim supporters to band together to confront the threat from the West and Russia in Syria and Iraq, the latest recording suggesting greater unity between al-Qaeda and Islamic State.

"The Americans, Russians, Iranians, Alawites, and Hezbollah are coordinating their war against us — are we not capable of stopping the fighting amongst ourselves so we can direct all our efforts against them?" Zawahri said in an audio recording released on the Internet on Sunday.

It was not clear when the recording was made but references to Russian aggression suggest it was made after Russia, an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, launched air raids against opposition groups and Islamic State in Syria on Sept 30.

Meanwhile, Russia's air force has struck the area around the Islamic State-held ancient city of Palmyra, the defence ministry said Monday, as Moscow pressed on with its bombing campaign in Syria.

"Su-25 jets hit a fortified IS position in the Tadmur area of Homs province," Moscow's defence ministry said in a statement, using the Arabic name for Palmyra.

"As a result of a direct strike, a fortification, an underground bunker and anti-aircraft artillery were destroyed."

It appeared to be the first time that Russia has confirmed a strike close to the UNESCO World Heritage site, after Moscow denied Syrian state television claims that it hit the ancient city in early October.

Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, also said that Russian planes had targeted Palmyra with strikes on Monday.

He said several strikes hit the city's historic citadel, but had no further details. Khaled al-Homsi, an activist from Palmyra, also reported Russian strikes on the citadel on the western edges of the historical site.

"The extent of the damage could not be verified," he told AFP.

Elsewhere in Homs province, the Observatory said at least 10 people had been killed and more wounded in apparent Russian strikes on Al-Qaryatayn, an

2013041/RET due to the cancellation the fourth package of Al-Zour refinery project.

If so, he wants to see a copy of the letter sent to the CTC complete with reasons and what details of the opinion of the CTC for approval or disapproval complete with reasons.

He has asked if the KOC was informed by the CTC not to cancel the pipelines tender meant to feed the new refinery No. 2013041/RET. If so, "please provide me the details complete with correspondence and reasons thereof."

Al-Kandari also wants to know if the KOC has sent a letter to the CTC to re-float the feed tube tender of the new refinery No. 2013041/RET and the names of qualified companies and the estimated value of the new tender.

Was there any rejection by the internal committee of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on the cancellation of the tender No. 2013041/RET for KOC pipelines for feeding the new refinery project, he asked. He wants details of the minutes of meetings of the committee in connection with the tender.

Finally, he said, "Please provide me a copy of the letter sent by KOC to the CTC." Also give reasons for cancellation of the tender of the pipelines of feeding the new refinery No. 2013041/RET.

Sultan Qaboos

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his country with the approach of cyclone Chapala, according to the official ONA news agency.

Oman meteorology directorate said on Twitter that the cyclone "is still classified as category 2 and expected to weaken to category 1 during the coming hours."

The unmarried sultan has rarely been seen in public since he flew home in March after more than eight months in Germany for medical treatment, prompting uncertainty over his successor.

Sultan Qaboos suffers from colon can-



In this Russian Emergency Situations Ministry photo made available on Nov 2, Russian and Egyptian experts work at the crash site of a Russian passenger plane bound for St Petersburg in Russia that crashed in Hassana, Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Monday. A Russian

cargo plane on Monday brought the first bodies of Russian victims home to St Petersburg from Egypt. (Inset): Photo shows Metrojet Airbus A321-200 flight #7K9268 flight recorder is seen on display at an undisclosed location in Egypt on unday. (AP)

IS-held town.

Russia did not specify when the strikes on Palmyra took place, but said its jets struck over 237 targets in Syria over the past two days in a statement Monday.

Russian warplanes pounded sites belonging to the Islamic State and al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front "terrorist groups" in the Homs, Hama, Latakia, Damascus, Aleppo and Raqa provinces, Moscow said in a statement.

In Aleppo province, Moscow said it hit a training camp for foreign fighters and an improvised explosive device production plant, and destroyed two armoured vehicles in Hama province.

Elsewhere, Iran said on Monday it would quit Syria peace talks if it found them unconstructive, citing the "negative role" of Saudi Arabia, in the latest twist in a spat between the regional rivals that bodes ill for efforts to ease turmoil across the Middle East.

cer, according to a diplomatic source in Muscat.

His two previous public appearances date back to April when he presided over a cabinet meeting and July at the opening of a military museum, according to several sources.

Roaming fees

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in Kuwait to send text messages to customers informing them about the costs of roaming services within GCC region, to announce the reduction of these costs from 199 fils to 166 fils per minute.

'External factors'

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Moscow "cannot exclude any version" of what caused the crash as investigations were still ongoing, but warned against "guessing" at the reason.

Russia has a dismal air safety record, and while larger carriers have begun upgrading ageing fleets, the crash is likely to raise concerns about smaller airlines such as Kogalymavia.

The company's executive Smirnov said the firm had ruled out a technical fault or human error and said the plane had sustained "significant damage to its construction that did not allow it to continue the flight."

"The crew totally lost control and for that reason there was not one attempt to get in contact and report on the accident situation on board," Smirnov said.

The plane was "flying out of control — that is, it wasn't flying, it was falling," he said.

The claims by the airline came as relatives of those who died in the crash began the painful process of identifying their loved ones after a first plane delivered the remains of 140 victims to Saint

Increasingly bad-tempered exchanges between the conservative Sunni-ruled kingdom and the revolutionary Shiite theocracy have dampened hopes of improved ties after the adversaries sat down for their first meeting to discuss the Syria war last week.

"In the first round of talks, some countries, especially Saudi Arabia, played a negative and unconstructive role. Iran will not participate if the talks are not fruitful," ISNA cited deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian as saying.

Delivering unusually personal criticism, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani appeared to reprimand Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, who, on Saturday, lashed out at Tehran for what he termed its interference in regional countries.

"An inexperienced young man in a regional country will not reach anywhere

by rudeness in front of elders," Rouhani was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA on Monday. He did not name the 'young man' but Jubeir was assumed to be his target.

Also:

BEIRUT: The Islamic State jihadist group on Sunday posted a video claiming responsibility for the brutal murders of a Syrian anti-IS activist and his friend in southern Turkey last week.

The video posted online said IS "slaughtered" **Ibrahim Abdul Qader**, 20, and fellow media activist **Fares Hamadi** in **Sanliurfa** on Friday "after they conspired with the Crusaders against the Islamic State".

Abdul Qader had been working with the Raqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) activist group, which sheds light on IS atrocities in areas under jihadist control in Syria.

what caused the crash.

Qatar Airways, budget carrier Jazeera Airways from Kuwait and Bahrain's Gulf Air said late on Sunday that they would avoid flying over the peninsula, according to separate statements emailed to Reuters.

"Out of an abundance of caution, Qatar Airways will re-route flights to avoid the Sinai Peninsula airspace until more information is known regarding the tragic loss," the Doha-based airline said.

Iran shutting

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that have isolated Tehran and hobbled its economy.

In a separate development that appeared to confirm that Iran had begun implementing its side of the deal, 20 hardline conservative members of Iran's parliament wrote to President Hassan Rouhani to complain about the deactivation of centrifuges in two enrichment plants at Natanz and Fordow.

"Unfortunately in the last two days some contractors entered Fordow and started dismantling centrifuges... they said they could finish the job in two weeks," Fars cited the lawmakers, among those loath to accept the nuclear deal, as saying.

Iran's highest authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, conditionally approved the deal last month, but the lawmakers said that beginning implementation so soon was against his directives.

Centrifuges spin at supersonic speed to increase the ratio of the fissile isotope in uranium. Low-enriched uranium is used to fuel nuclear power plants, Iran's stated goal, but can also provide material for bombs if refined much further, which the West has feared may have been Iran's latent goal.

A clear majority of Iranian legislators said Monday the Islamic republic will not abandon the slogan of "Death to

America" despite its July nuclear accord with world powers.

"The martyr-nurturing nation of Iran is not at all prepared to abandon the slogan of 'Death to America' under the pretext of a nuclear agreement," 192 members of Iran's 290-seat parliament said in a statement carried by state news agency IRNA.

They said the slogan, chanted at the weekly Friday prayers in mosques and at protests, had "turned into the symbol of the Islamic republic and all struggling nations".

Security red-faced

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special aircraft carrying the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd and his accompanying high-level security delegation to Rwanda to participate in the 84th General Assembly meeting of Interpol, reports Al-Rai daily.

Security sources said the Asian was hiding in the plane and was found a few minutes before take-off.

During interrogation he said he did not mean to cause harm to anyone but wanted to migrate to the US and he felt this was the only method.

The captain of the plane then contacted the control tower and returned to the starting point, handed over the suspect to the authorities and the plane took off after half an hour's delay.

The incident took officials at the airport by surprise since the security in the area is more intense than at other airports. The authorities are interrogating the man to find out the truth and why he chose this plane to migrate to Rwanda and then to proceed to the US.

Newswatch

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of Blood Bank in **Jahra** area based on desire of the Amir.

During a session headed by the Deputy Chairman **Meshaal Al-Juwairi**, seven members withdrew over what they claimed was violation of regulations inside the council.

They criticized the failure in the election of a chairman and rapporteur of the Technical Committee until now.

Seres of arguments overshadowed the meeting to the extent that Al-Juwairi found it necessary to suspend it for almost 30 minutes. While the disagreement was raging on, the Chairman of the council **Muhalhel Al-Khalid** was in the relaxation hall.

KUWAIT CITY: Director General of Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) **Musaed Al-Asousi** announced the launch of "Kuwait Finder" app on Android phones following its successful implementation on Apple phones.

Al-Asousi declared that Android users can enjoy the service provided by the app, which is available in English and Arabic.

He explained that the application is user friendly and easy to navigate regardless of the language chosen, adding, "It is easy to switch languages without any need to sign out, and the result of the search will remain the same".

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Monday executed one of its citizens after he was convicted of running over and killing a fellow tribesman, the interior ministry said.

The latest execution in the western city of **Taif** brings to 142 the total number of death sentences carried out in the kingdom this year compared with 87 in all of 2014, according to AFP tallies.

Saad bin Marzooq al-Subaie killed **Hamad bin Mohammed al-Subaie** by running him over with his car following a dispute, said the ministry's statement published on the official SPA news agency. (AFP)

BEIRUT: Lebanese authorities on Monday charged a Saudi prince and nine others with drug trafficking, a week after they were caught in a record drug bust, a judicial source told AFP.

Saudi prince **Abdel Mohsen Bin Walid Bin Abdulaziz** and four others were detained by airport security on Oct 26 after nearly two tons of Captagon capsules and cocaine were found waiting to be loaded onto their private plane at Beirut airport.

A public prosecutor "has charged 10 people, including five arrested individuals — a Saudi prince and Saudi nationals... with smuggling and selling the drug Captagon," the judicial source said. (AFP)

DOHA: US First Lady **Michelle Obama** arrived in Qatar on Monday as part of a two-country Mideast tour, with plans to visit a crucial air base in America's war against the Islamic State group and give a speech on the importance of girl's education.

Obama touched down in Doha, the Qatari capital, on Monday night, the state-run Qatar News Agency reported, without elaborating. (AP)