



Taliban push deep into Panjshir Valley holdout

## Climate change blamed for havoc in northeast floods

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SANAA: Shiite Muslim supporters of the Iran-backed Houthi rebels gather to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Shiite Imam Zaid Bin Ali in the Houthi-held Yemeni capital Sanaa. —AFP

# Yemen rebels fire missiles into Saudi

## ‘Children hurt’, 14 homes damaged

**RIYADH:** Two children were hurt and 14 homes damaged as Saudi forces intercepted ballistic missiles fired across the border by Yemeni rebels, scattering debris over the eastern city of Dammam, officials said yesterday. The attack, which took place on Saturday, was the latest in a series by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels who control almost all of Yemen's north. Saudi Arabia intervened in Yemen's war on behalf of the internationally recognized government in 2015, shortly after the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa.

“Saudi Air Defense has intercepted and destroyed (3) ballistic missiles and (3) bomb-laden drones launched by the Iran-backed Houthi militia,”

spokesperson Brigadier General Turki Al-Maliki said in a statement, calling it “brutal, irresponsible behavior” by the Yemeni rebels. A spokesperson at the defense ministry yesterday said that two children were wounded and 14 homes damaged after debris from the interception scattered across Dammam. It was not clear how serious the reported injuries were.

### Houthis say Aramco targeted

Saudi authorities said the ballistic missiles were targeting civilians in the Eastern Province - where Dammam is located - and the southern cities of Najran and Jazan. Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree

said in a video statement that the rebels launched a series of missile and drone attacks on “vital installations”, including military bases and facilities of Saudi oil giant Aramco. A Saudi official told AFP that the rebel claims were “baseless”. No immediate comment was available from Aramco.

Eastern Saudi Arabia is home to major oil infrastructure. A previous attack in September 2019 temporarily halted half of the kingdom's oil production. The Saudi-led coalition fighting the rebels in Yemen told state-run television it would take “strict measures” to protect civilians. In August, the rebels escalated cross-border operations using unmanned aerial vehicles and missiles.

Saturday's interception comes four days after a drone hit Abha International Airport in the south, wounding eight people and damaging a civilian plane.

It also came just a few hours before Hans Grundberg, the UN's new envoy for Yemen, assumed his duties on Sunday. Yemen's grinding conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions, resulting in what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. While the UN is pushing for an end to the war, the Houthis have demanded the reopening of Sanaa airport, closed under a Saudi blockade since 2016, before any ceasefire or negotiations. —AFP

## Algeria places Karoui in pre-trial detention

**ALGIERS:** The runner-up in Tunisia's 2019 presidential election, Nabil Karoui, has been placed in pre-trial detention in neighboring Algeria, accused of “entering the country illegally”, local media reported yesterday. Karoui and his brother Ghazi, an MP, had faced a hearing before a magistrate in the northeastern city of Constantine, the Ennahar newspaper wrote citing “judicial sources”. Constantine prosecutors could not immediately be reached for comment. In July, Karoui's former opponent, President Kais Saied had suspended parliament and granted himself sweeping powers, hitting judges, MPs and businessmen with arrests and trav-

el bans in a supposed anti-corruption purge.

Karoui was arrested in late August by Algerian border police, with Tunisia releasing a warrant for his arrest the day after. Algeria and Tunisia are bound by an agreement stipulating the extradition by either country “of any person prosecuted or convicted” in the other. Any extradition request must be “accompanied by an official document from the authorities”. Karoui founded the private Tunisian channel Nessma TV, which is partly owned by Italy's former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.

He has been under investigation since 2017 in a money laundering and tax evasion case. He was arrested in 2019 and spent more than a month in prison at the height of the presidential election campaign. He was freed but rearrested last December and spent six months in pre-trial detention before being let out again in June. Karoui came second in the 2019 election to Saied, a retired law professor and political newcomer, as the electorate rejected the political class that had ruled since the 2011 revolution. —AFP

## Taliban order university women to wear niqab

**KABUL:** Women attending private Afghan universities must wear an abaya robe and niqab covering most of the face, the Taliban have ordered, and classes must be segregated by sex - or at least divided by a curtain. In a lengthy document issued by the Taliban's education authority, they also ordered that female students should only be taught by other women, but if that was not possible then “old men” of good character could fill in.

The decree applies to private colleges and universities, which have mushroomed since the Taliban's first rule ended in 2001. During that period, girls and women were mostly excluded from education because of rules regarding same-sex classrooms and the insistence they had to be accompanied by a male relative whenever they left the house. There was no order for women to wear the all-enveloping burqa in the new regulations issued late Saturday, but the niqab effectively covers most of the face anyway, leaving just the eyes exposed.

In recent years burqas and niqabs have largely vanished from the streets of Kabul, but are seen more frequently in smaller cities and towns. The decree comes as private universities prepare to open today. “Universities are required to recruit female teachers for female students based on their facilities,” the decree said, adding that men and women should use separate entrances and exits. If it is not possible to hire women teachers, then colleges “should try to hire old men teachers who have a good record of behavior”.

While women now have to study separately, they must also end their lesson five minutes earlier than men to stop them from mingling outside. They must then stay in waiting rooms until their male counterparts have left the building, according to the decree issued by the Taliban higher education ministry.



KABUL: An Afghan burqa clad woman sells face masks to the commuters at a traffic intersection in Kabul yesterday. —AFP

“Practically, it is a difficult plan - we don't have enough female instructors or classes to segregate the girls,” said a university professor, who asked not to be named.

“But the fact that they are allowing girls to go to schools and universities is a big positive step,” he told AFP. Afghanistan's new rulers have pledged to be more accommodating than during their first stint in power, which also came after years of conflict - first the Soviet invasion of 1979, and then a bloody civil war. They have promised a more “inclusive” government that represents Afghanistan's complex ethnic makeup - though women are unlikely to be included at the top levels.

Over the past 20 years, since the Taliban were last in power, university admission rates have risen dramatically, particularly among women. Before the Taliban returned in a lightning military campaign, entering the capital Kabul last month, women studied alongside men and attended seminars with male professors. But a spate of deadly attacks on education centers in recent years sparked panic. The Taliban denied being behind the attacks, some of which were claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State group. —AFP

# CONDOLENCES

**Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,  
management and staff**

convey their deepest condolences to

**Ismael Ibrahim**

**Al-Shenawi Al-Ruwaini**

on the sad demise of his

**Mother**

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her