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Huge arms cache from Iran seized

US Navy intercepts fishing boat smuggling ammunition in the Gulf of Oman

Bahrain Farmers Market to open on December 10
 TDT | Manama

The 10th edition of the Bahrain Farmers Market will open at Budaiya Botanical Garden on Saturday, December 10. Wael bin Nasser Al-Mubarak, the Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture Affairs said the ministry is keen to ensure the success of the market which will open on Saturdays.

Northrop Grumman unveils B-21 nuclear bomber for US



Reuters | Washington

Northrop Grumman Corp on Friday rolled out its new B-21 "Raider" jet, the first of a new fleet of long-range stealth nuclear bombers for the United States Air Force.



UAE National Day
 Marking the 51st National Day anniversary of the UAE, vital establishments and facilities across Bahrain were lit with the UAE flag colours to share the national festivities with the UAE and mark the strong historical ties binding the two brotherly countries.

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● The trawler was carrying more than 1 million rounds of 7.62mm ammunition; 25,000 rounds of 12.7mm ammunition; nearly 7,000 proximity fuses for rockets; and over 2,100 kilograms of propellant used to launch rocket-propelled grenades

● Intercepted by the US Navy's Fifth Fleet in the Gulf of Oman

● The incident marks US 5th Fleet's second major illegal weapons seizure within a month

TDT | agencies

A fishing trawler smuggling "more than 50 tonnes of ammunition rounds, fuses and propellants for rockets" was intercepted by the US Navy's Fifth Fleet in the Gulf of Oman along a maritime route from Iran to Yemen on Dec. 1.

"Navy personnel operating from expeditionary sea base USS Lewis B. Puller (ESB 3) discovered the illicit cargo during a flag verification boarding, marking US 5th Fleet's second major illegal weapons seizure within a month," it added in a statement yesterday.

The trawler was carrying more than 1 million rounds of 7.62mm ammunition; 25,000 rounds of 12.7mm ammunition;



The fishing trawler seized by the US naval forces in the Middle East



The US 5th Fleet operating area includes 21 countries, the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, part of the Indian Ocean and three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, Bab al-Mandeb and Suez Canal.



nearly 7,000 proximity fuses for rockets; and over 2,100 kilograms of propellant used to launch rocket-propelled grenades.

"This significant interdiction clearly shows that Iran's unlawful transfer of lethal aid and destabilising behaviour continues," said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of US Naval Forces Central Command, US 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces.

"US naval forces remain focused on deterring and disrupting dangerous and irresponsible maritime activity in the region."

The direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer of weapons to the Houthis in Yemen violates UN Security Council Resolution 2216 and international law.

Two weeks ago, Tim Hawkins, a spokesman of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, said that the United States is ready to confront any Iranian threats to the region.

In a statement to Al Arabiya, he said that the US is committed to preserving the security of the Straits of the Bab al-Mandeb and the Straits of Hormuz.

US 5th Fleet previously intercepted a fishing vessel illegally shipping lethal aid from Iran to

Yemen on Nov. 8. US Coast Guard ship USCGC John Scheuerman (WPC 1146) and guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) intercepted the vessel in the Gulf of Oman.

A weeklong search assisted by patrol coastal ship USS Hurricane (PC 3) and Navy explosive ordnance disposal technicians from US 5th Fleet's Task Force 56 discovered more than 70 tons of ammonium perchlorate, a powerful oxidiser commonly used to make rocket and missile fuel as well as explosives. US forces also found more than 100 tons of urea fertiliser, a chemical

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 VICE ADM. BRAD COOPER



Ammunition seized from the trawler on display compound with agricultural applications that is also known for use as an explosive precursor.

Help wanted

New York City seeks 'swashbuckling' rat czar

Reuters

Millions of New York rats have been put on notice: the most populous city in the United States is hiring a director of rodent mitigation, a new position that calls for a "swashbuckling attitude".

The new job, posted earlier



this week, is part of the city's attempt to curb an explosion in its rodent population since the pandemic began.

Rat sightings on the streets, in subways and even homes have jumped 71% over in the

A rat runs across a sidewalk in the snow in the Manhattan borough of New York

past two years, according to the city's sanitation department. "There's NOTHING I hate more than rats," Mayor Eric Adams said in a tweet on Thursday in announcing the job posting. "If you have the drive, determination, and killer instinct needed to fight New York City's relentless rat population - then your

dream job awaits." Sidewalk dining outside of restaurants - first allowed in 2020 as a temporary measure to help blunt economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, has been blamed in part for the rat explosion.

The city is exploring ways to allow for permanent "streeteries."