



Houthis seize key Red Sea island

The takeover raises fresh concerns over global shipping

● Houthis seize Mayyun Island in Red Sea

● Control gained over Bab al-Mandab Strait

AFP | Sanaa

The Iran-backed Houthis seized control of Yemen's entire Red Sea coast and captured three strategic islands yesterday, in a lightning offensive that cemented their hold on a vital shipping corridor linking Europe and Asia.

The development is likely to deepen the Middle East war's impact on international commerce, months after the strategic Strait of Hormuz was blockaded by Iran, which hailed its Yemeni allies' advance yesterday.

After a week-long offensive that has left hundreds dead, the Houthis appeared to be in control of territory along the Yemeni side of the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and, in turn, the Suez Canal.

A local official with Yemen's government said yesterday that the Houthis had "completed their takeover of the Bab al-Mandab area and Mayyun Island", while a witness said gunmen were "deploying along the Bab al-Mandab shore and are driving around in military vehicles".

The capture of Mayyun island, in the middle of the narrow waterway, heightens the fighters' ability to attack Saudi tankers, which they have been targeting since July.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has relied on the Red Sea ever since Iran's



Fighters loyal to the Houthi authorities, shout slogans during a rally to recruit more fighters, in Sanaa



Mayyun Island covers just 13 square kilometres and sits in the middle of the Bab al-Mandab Strait

Hormuz blockade choked off its shipments via the Gulf.

Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to Iranian supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, congratulated the Houthis on their "resounding victory" yesterday.

"Now the Iranians don't only control Hormuz and the Strait of Hormuz, but they control the other most strategic choke-point in the Middle East," Farea Al-Muslimi, research fellow at the Chatham House think-tank, told AFP.

Oil prices have soared past \$100 a barrel this week, while

average US diesel prices topped \$6 for the first time yesterday -- a potential headache for President Donald Trump ahead of mid-term elections.

A member of the Houthis' politburo had sought to allay fears for global shipping in an interview released yesterday, insisting "there is no cause for international concern".

"Freedom of navigation and international trade in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab are safe and orderly," Hazem al-Assad told the Al-Araby al-Jadeed news outlet.

The Houthi offensive has cost more than 500 lives, and has displaced about 46,000 people, the UN migration agency said yesterday.

It is part of renewed hostilities in divided Yemen's brutal civil war that began with the group's takeover of the capital Sanaa in 2014.

The Houthis carried out their heaviest missile and drone attack in years this week against Saudi Arabia -- Yemen's northern neighbour -- setting oil sites ablaze and wounding 73.

Tech Smart Bahrain can Outsmart Climate Change



KOTA SRIRAJ

Bahrain has been combatting climate change and its consequences in form of rising temperatures, challenging water security conditions amid rising sea levels. Due to these conditions food self sufficiency too is facing an uphill scenario. According to Climate Change Knowledge report, temperatures in Bahrain have been shifting upward at a rate of 0.25 °C per decade since 1970. These conditions have had a domino effect on water security over the past few decades as the rate of groundwater depletion, and saltwater intrusion has increased. Though Bahrain has commendably kept the devastating effects of climate change at bay till date due to timely interventions and initiatives but future climate change combat strategy needs innovation and technology in order to ensure that climate change does not transform into climate crisis for Bahrain.

Radical environmental technologies are the only methods to achieve a definitive edge over climate change and its consequences. Be it extreme heat, water scarcity or food insecurity, desert nations are increasingly moving away from basic and traditional environmental conservation to regenerative infrastructure and circular desert economies. A concept gaining ground in this regard is Blue Carbon Desert Wetlands. Under this initiative artificial coastal wetlands, mangrove forests and salt marshes are created in low lying desert coastlines. These ecosystems thrive in hyper-saline water and trap carbon up to 10 times faster than tropical rainforests. Bahrain already has good extent of mangrove forests especially in Ras Sanad region, at the southern edge of Tubli Bay. This concept can be used to further expand these forests even faster.

On the food security front, Bahrain can effectively respond to climate change challenges posed to agriculture by adopting Liquid Nanoclay (LNC) technology. LNC is a technology that mixes fine clay particles with water and sprays it onto desert sand. This bonds the sand particles together, allowing the soil to retain water and nutrients like high-quality agricultural land, turning barren dunes into arable tracts in just a few hours. Similarly, Halophyte Agriculture and Biosaline Farming can also be practiced which will not only help cultivating saltwater-tolerant crops like glasswort, sea aster, and specific strains of quinoa, but because the crop is irrigated directly with untreated seawater the precious freshwater resources are also successfully preserved.

Bahrain can also encourage the large scale adoption of Automated Vertical Desert Farms. These farms can be completely powered by solar energy that use AI-driven aeroponics to grow leafy greens using 95% less water than traditional farming. In addition to these initiatives, Bahrain can also set up Seawater Greenhouses to make agri sector even more climate resilient. Seawater Greenhouses use solar power to pump seawater, which is then evaporated to cool and humidify the air inside the greenhouse. The remaining vapor is condensed into fresh water to irrigate crops, creating a self-sustaining agricultural loop in pure desert sand. Furthermore, with the aid of Agrivoltaics in arid regions, Bahrain can change the narrative of how the agri-sector tackles climate challenges. In this regard, the placement of solar panels directly above desert crops create a shade for the plants, reducing water evaporation by up to 40%, while the moisture transpired by the plants cools the solar panels, increasing their energy efficiency. A Techsmart Bahrain can outsmart climate change.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

Vance assails Democratic 'hate' in fiery US midterm pitch

AFP | Dallas

US Vice President JD Vance accused Democrats of running on "hate" Thursday and urged voters to send them packing in November, using a prime-time convention speech to rally Republicans ahead of the midterm elections.

Taking the stage in Dallas to a huge roar and chants of "JD! JD!", Vance sought to sharpen a convention-long portrayal of Democrats as extremists, say-

ing disagreements within the Republican coalition paled in comparison to those dividing the left.

"This fall, the Democrats are running candidates who will tell your children what they're allowed to say, how they're allowed to live, and, importantly, who they ought to hate," Vance said.

"Because that's what the Democrat Party is about in 2026. It's not about you. It's about foreign fraudsters, and it's about who they hate."



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The India-Russia economic partnership continues to gather momentum. In Delhi, President Putin and I participated in INNOPROM, bringing together several companies from both countries. It reflects the growing depth of our business engagement.

@narendramodi

02



Twenty-five years on, we remember those whose lives were taken on 9/11 and stand with the survivors and families who continue to carry that loss. In the face of terror and hate, we must continue to choose solidarity, tolerance and peace.

@AminaJMohammed

03



September 11, 25 years on. We remember every life lost and the first responders who ran towards danger to save others. Their courage reminds us that even in the darkest moments, humanity can bring out the best in us. We will never forget.

@alexanderdecroo

04



On this 25th anniversary of the attacks on the United States on 9/11, we honour the memory of all those who lost their lives. In that moment of darkness, Allies stood together. For the first and only time in NATO's history, we invoked Article 5. America's friends and Allies in NATO stood with you then and we stand with you today.

@SecGenNATO

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Indonesia seeks to bring back baby orangutans allegedly trafficked to India

AFP | Jakarta

Indonesian authorities are working to repatriate five baby orangutans allegedly trafficked to India, where they were found motherless in a forest, Jakarta's forestry ministry said yesterday.

The critically endangered animals were found Tuesday by rangers patrolling in the Balasore district of India's eastern Odisha state.

Authorities suspect the primates, known for their shaggy red fur, were trafficked into India, sparking a criminal investigation.

The youngsters, estimated to be about one-and-a-half years old, appeared to be healthy and were being cared for at a zoo after their rescue, the ministry said in a statement.



Orangutans sitting next to bananas upon their rescue by officials at the Ranakatha Protected Reserved Forest in Balasore district, in India's Odisha state

Orangutans in the wild are native only to Indonesia's Sumatra island and Borneo, which it shares with Malaysia and Brunei. The five infants appeared to be of Sumatran origin, the ministry said, and DNA tests will be used to confirm where they

were from.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which lists Sumatran orangutans as critically endangered, the young of the species are weaned only at about seven years of age.