

Manchester City overran an out-classed Shakhtar Donetsk to get their Champions League campaign off to a winning start | P12



**Facebook still auto-generating Islamic State, al-Qaida pages**

Washington

In the face of criticism that Facebook is not doing enough to combat extremist messaging, the company likes to say that its automated systems remove the vast majority of prohibited content glorifying the Islamic State group and al-Qaida before it's reported.

But a whistleblower's complaint shows that Facebook itself has inadvertently provided the two extremist groups with a networking and recruitment tool by producing dozens of pages in their names.

**Arab coalition destroys explosive-laden boat**

Reuters | Dubai

The Saudi-led coalition intercepted and destroyed an explosives-laden boat launched by the Iran-aligned Houthi movement from Yemen's main port of Hodeidah, *Al Arabiya TV* said yesterday.

It said the coalition foiled "an imminent terrorist act by the Houthi militia south of the Red Sea" but gave no further details.

There was no immediate confirmation by the Houthi group.

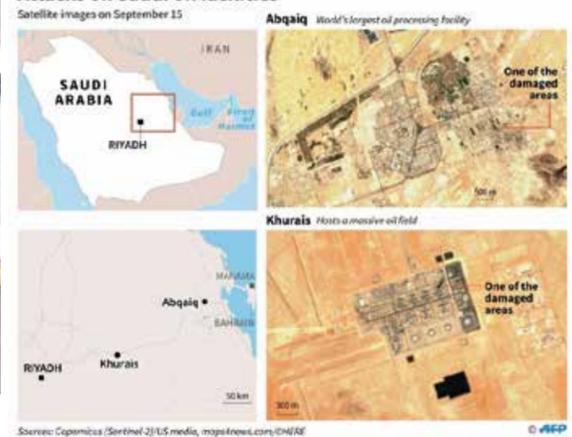
# 'Right to defend'

*Pompeo says US supports Saudi Arabia's right to defend itself*



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks with a Saudi official before boarding his flight from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to the UAE

**Attacks on Saudi oil facilities**



Source: Copernicus (Sentinel-2) US media, maps/news.com/CNA/AF

● **Pompeo says cannot 'tolerate' Iran's behaviour**

● **An international inquiry is underway**

● **UAE joins global maritime security coalition**

● **Kuwait puts oil sector on high alert**

Agencies | Cairo

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday said the United States supports Saudi Arabia's "right to defend itself" in a meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Pompeo condemned the attacks and said Iran's behaviour would "not be tolerated" but said he preferred a "peaceful resolution" to the crisis while in UAE.

"I hope the Islamic Republic of Iran sees it the same way," he told reporters after talks with the leaders of the United Arab

Emirates.

Pompeo arrived in Abu Dhabi from the Saudi city of Jeddah, where late Wednesday he met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has said the assault poses a "real test" of global will.

The two sides agreed "the Iranian regime must be held accountable for its continued aggressive, reckless, and threatening behaviour," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus said.

The "unacceptable and unprecedented attack... not only threatened Saudi Arabian national security but also endangered the lives of all the American citizens living and working in Saudi Arabia," she added.

In an earlier statement, describing the attack as an "act of war" Pompeo said Washington and Riyadh will hold Tehran accountable for the unprovoked strike.

Saudi officials Wednesday unveiled what they said were fragments of 25 drones and cruise missiles fired Saturday at the facilities in the country's east, engulfing them in flames.

"The attack was launched



**We are still striving to build out a coalition in an act of diplomacy while the foreign minister of Iran is threatening all-out war and to fight to the last American**

US SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO

from the north and unquestionably sponsored by Iran," defence ministry spokesman Turki



al-Maliki said.

Tehran-linked Huthi rebels in Saudi Arabia's southern neighbour Yemen have claimed responsibility, but both Washington and Riyadh have ruled that out, saying it was beyond their capabilities.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian also said the Huthi claim "lacks credibility".

Huthi military spokesman Brigadier Yahya Saree also threatened the United Arab Emirates, saying it was ready to attack dozens of targets including the skyscraper-filled cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

US officials quoted said the most damning evidence against Iran was unreleased satellite photos showing Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps making preparations for the attack at its

Ahvaz airbase.

An international inquiry is underway, with the United Nations saying experts had arrived in the kingdom and begun their mission "at the invitation of the Saudi authorities".

**Building a Coalition**

The United Arab Emirates yesterday followed its ally Saudi Arabia in announcing it was joining a global maritime security coalition that Washington has been trying to build since a series of explosions on oil tankers in Gulf waters in recent months.

Pompeo, who arrived in the UAE from Saudi Arabia yesterday, welcomed the move on Twitter: "Recent events underscore the importance of protecting global commerce and freedom of navigation."

**List of Iran targets**

land, the country's biggest oil export facility, the *New York Times* said.

Other potential targets include missile launch sites and other assets of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and bases in the southwest where unusual activity suggests

they had a role in the strikes "Any strikes against Iran would almost certainly be carried out by volleys of cruise missiles from Navy vessels. Strike aircraft would be aloft to carry out attacks if Iranian retaliated against the first wave," the newspaper said.

**Cat walk**

## Black panther found roaming French rooftops

AFP | Lille, France

A black panther found roaming the rooftops near the northern French city of Lille like a stray cat on Wednesday evening was captured after being cornered inside a home, local authorities said.

The regional fire department tweeted pictures of the big cat, one of which showed it peering

in the top-floor window of a three-storey red-brick building.

Another showed it staring out over the city, ears pricked, like one of the stone gargoyles that jut out over the facade of Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris.

"Called out... for a dangerous animal, the northern fire service was confronted with a big feline roaming the gutters," the fire service tweeted.

The regional *La Voix du Nord* newspaper reported that the panther, which had escaped from a private apartment, "stopped sometimes to watch a train pass or a cat slinking by on the pavement below."

The police first threw up a security cordon around the building, and when the cat slipped into the window of an apartment believed to be its home, a veter-



The panther was spotted prowling rooftops in Armentieres, northern France

inarian was called in to dart it with a tranquiliser.

The panther's owner meanwhile is believed to have escaped through the same window, fearing being charged with illegal ownership of a wild animal.

After being tranquilised, the feline, believed to be five to six months old, was taken away in a cage and handed over to France's animal protection league.



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