

Cloud Drift lifts Tylos Plastic Industries Cup

Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club hosts action-packed, eight-race card with eight trophies won | P 12

WORLD 6 Gunmen kidnap over 300 girls in Nigeria school raid

THE DAILY **tribune**



Ben Affleck reflects on playing an alcoholic in 'The Way Back' 10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 India's economy exits recession, recovery seen gathering pace

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Limit social interactions

#Commit4Bahrain

Coalition stops second Houthi attack on Saudi

TDI | agencies

A second attempt by Iran-backed Houthi militia to attack Saudi Arabia, hours after a failed attempt, was thwarted by Arab Coalition yesterday.

The coalition intercepted and destroyed a drone launched by the Iran-backed Houthi militia towards Khamis Mushait, the coalition's spokesperson, General Turki al-Maliki, said yesterday.

"These acts of aggression to deliberately and systematically target civilians and civilian objects by the terrorist, Iran-



Pictures courtesy of AlArabia

backed Houthi militia amount to war crimes."

The Arab Coalition said it would continue to take the

necessary measures to protect civilians in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere per international humanitarian law.



Last update - 9:00 pm
26 February 2021

Individuals vaccinated (First dose)



Bahrain extends dosing interval of Covishield



P4

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

3064160

ACTIVE CASES

6886

DEATHS

442

DISCHARGED

113799

NEW CASES

632

CRITICAL

71

210 fils (includes VAT)



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US strikes Iran-backed militias

- The attacks targeted militia sites on the Syrian side of the Iraqi-Syrian border

- Local sources and one medical source in eastern Syria said at least 17 people had been killed

- The strikes destroyed multiple facilities at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups, including Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada.

TDI | agencies

Iran-backed militias in eastern Syria came under US air strikes yesterday killing one fighter and wounding several others.

"The attack was a calibrated response to rocket attacks against American personnel in Iraq," said a US official.

The attacks, which took place early on Friday Middle Eastern time, were deliberately limited



This picture taken in 2019 shows smoke rising in Syria's Deir Ezzor. (Courtesy of AlArabia/AFP)

President Biden will act to protect American and Coalition personnel. At the same time, we have acted in a deliberate manner that aims to de-escalate the overall situation in both eastern Syria and Iraq

PENTAGON SPOKESMAN JOHN KIRBY

in scope and designed to show that President Joe Biden's administration will act tough but wants to avoid a major regional escalation, US officials added.

The strikes targeted militia sites on the Syrian side of the Iraqi-Syrian border, where groups backed by Iran control an important crossing for weap-

UK backs US action

TDI | Agencies

The United Kingdom yesterday voiced its support to the United States' response against Iranian-backed groups, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said.

"The UK supports the US targeted response against militia groups which attack coalition bases in an effort to destabilize the region. We recognise the threat posed by the militia and share the US aim to work together with partners to de-escalate the situation," Raab tweeted yesterday.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday said that the US gave Russia several minutes of advance warning before it carried out a strike in Syria, the RIA news agency reported.

An Iraqi militia official close to Iran said Friday's strikes killed at least one fighter and wounded four more, hitting positions of the powerful Kataib Hezbollah paramilitary group along the border.

Local sources and one medical source in eastern Syria said at least 17 people had been killed, but gave no further details. That toll could not be confirmed.

The US strikes followed an uptick in anti-US attacks in Iraq. Several attacks, including the one on Erbil airport, have been claimed by little-known groups



which some Iraqi and Western officials say are a front for the established Iran-backed groups like Kataib Hezbollah.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement that US forces had conducted air strikes authorised by Biden "against infrastructure utilised by Iranian-backed militant groups in eastern Syria."

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the decision was meant to send a signal that, while the United States wanted to punish the militias, it did not want the situation to spiral into a bigger conflict.