

YEMENI GOVT FORCES RECAPTURE RED SEA PORT OF MOKHA, BAB EL-MANDEB STRAIT FROM HOUTHIS

RIYADH
AGENCIES

YEMENI pro-government forces recaptured Mokha, a Red Sea port city in western Taiz province in southwestern Yemen, from the Houthi group on Monday after “fierce fighting,” Yemen’s state news agency SABA reported.

The Nation’s Shield Forces, Giants Brigades and Tihama Resistance, backed by the Popular Resistance, took control of the city with air support, a military source told the agency. The Houthis had controlled Mokha since early September, the source said.

Fighting at several positions surrounding the city involved various types of weapons and left Houthi fighters dead and wounded, according to the source.

Several Houthi fighters were captured, while others fled, the source added, without providing casualty or prisoner figures.

Yemen’s army said earlier on Monday that government forces had taken control of the strategic Bab el-Mandeb area from the Houthis as part of the ongoing military op-

eration, “Dawn of Yemen”.

Military spokesman Lt Col Majid Abdullah al-Nuzayli said the pro-government Southern Giants Brigades and Nation’s Shield forces had “successfully taken control of Bab el-Mandeb.”

In a series of statements on X, al-Nuzayli said government forces also took control of Dhubab airport and cut the road between Dhubab and Mokha. He said hundreds of Houthi fighters had been surrounded in the Dhubab area and called on them to surrender, adding that some Houthi fighters later fled by boat via the sea.

Earlier in the day, Yemen’s armed forces said they had begun a “strategic offensive” in Yemen’s capital Sanaa.

The Houthis have held the capital and vast parts of the northwest, where most of the population lives. The Yemeni army said earlier that government forces had seized the Dhubab district and strategic positions around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait following clashes with the Houthis.

Yemen’s official Saba news agency said forces from the Nation’s Shield and the pro-government Southern Giants Brigades,



backed by the Popular Resistance, took control of Dhubab in western Taiz province.

A military source told Saba that the forces launched a large-scale operation with air support targeting Houthi positions and forces across several areas of the district.

The forces advanced and took control of key positions while cutting supply lines and routes leading to Bab el-Mandeb, the source said. The source said an unspecified number of Houthi fighters were killed or injured in the clashes, while several military vehicles and equipment were destroyed or damaged.

The Southern Giants Brigades separately

announced the launch of what they called a “decisive” military operation against the Houthis in the Bab el-Mandeb area.

SAUDI-LED COALITION SAYS 100 FIGHTER JETS INVOLVED IN YEMEN OPERATION AGAINST HOUTHIS: The Saudi-led coalition said Monday that 100 fighter jets had participated in the ongoing “Dawn of Yemen” military operation against the Houthis.

The coalition said 324 “high-value targets” had been destroyed since the operation began. In separate statements, it said it was providing round-the-clock air support to Yemeni government forces on the ground and air protection for the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, adding that operations against moving targets were continuing.

YEMENI ARMY SAYS 1,747 HOUTHIS ‘NEUTRALISED’ IN OVER 1,100 MILITARY OPERATIONS: The Yemeni army said that its forces had “neutralised” 1,747 Houthi members in 1,122 military operations across several fronts in the country.

Military spokesman Majed Abdullah al-

Nuzaili said in a statement on US social media platform X that the operations targeted artillery and rocket-launcher positions, defensive fortifications, approach and advance routes, supply lines and means, reinforcements and military buildups, as well as command structures and command-and-control centres belonging to the Houthis.

He said the operations were conducted in Saada, Al-Jawf and Taiz provinces, as well as along Yemen’s western coast.

According to al-Nuzaili, the operations involved warplanes, drones, artillery, missiles, rocket launchers, and snipers.

He said the operations also destroyed or disabled 364 military vehicles and transport and supply assets. Al-Nuzaili added that government forces would continue their operations to retake state territory and institutions and extend national sovereignty.

Presidential Leadership Council Chairman Rashad al-Alimi on Sunday announced the launch of comprehensive military operations against the Houthis, saying the armed forces, security forces and other military formations had been ordered to retake the territory held by the group.

US intends to 'live by' security pact with Saudi Arabia: Rubio



WASHINGTON
AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday that the US intended to uphold its bilateral security commitments with Saudi Arabia amid renewed military confrontations involving Houthi forces in Yemen. “The United States has a defence and security agreement with Saudi Arabia, and we intend to live by it,” Rubio told reporters ahead of a European tour including Iceland, Greece, and Portugal, declining to elaborate on operational specifics. Rubio said that in the face of continuous Houthi attacks, Riyadh had “a right to defend themselves,” adding that Yemeni allied forces were trying to recover areas lost during previous clashes. Addressing control around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Rubio said Saudi and Yemeni troops opposed Houthi domination near the maritime corridor, describing local counter-offensives as an expected development. The remarks follow Monday’s announcement by Rashad al-Alimi, the chair of Yemen’s Presidential Leadership Council, of the launch of a military operation to retake the capital Sanaa with the support of the country’s “brothers and friends” and restore state institutions from the Houthis, who have controlled the city since 2014. Yemeni army units reported securing the Dhubab district and strategic positions along the strait. Washington has so far rejected direct participation in kinetic strikes in support of the campaign, preferring instead to provide intelligence and advisory assistance to Saudi Arabia. A tanker reported multiple explosions near the vessel off Yemen’s coast on Sunday, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO). In a warning, UKMTO said the incident occurred 60 nautical miles south of the port city of Mokha. The tanker’s company security officer reported seeing multiple explosions in close proximity to the vessel, the agency said. “The crew are reported as safe and no environmental impact has been reported,” it added. Authorities are investigating the incident, UKMTO said, advising vessels transiting the area to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity. The warning did not identify the tanker or indicate what caused the explosions.

Ex-prince Andrew seeks to 'quash' Epstein search warrants

LONDON
AFP

Disgraced ex-prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor has launched a legal challenge over search warrants for his royal homes issued before his February arrest, Britain’s judiciary confirmed Monday, in an unprecedented royal move in modern times.

The judiciary confirmed the High Court was to hold a private hearing on Thursday, as King Charles III’s brother challenges Thames Valley Police over the searches in Windsor, west of London, and Sandringham, eastern England.

The force arrested Andrew on his 66th birthday on February 19 on suspicion of misconduct in public office related to his links to late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Andrew was released the same day after hours of police questioning, but remained under investigation. He has denied all wrongdoing in his associations with the American financier.

His shock arrest prompted Charles to issue a statement insisting “the law must take its course”.

The Daily Telegraph reported the legal challenge late on Sunday. The newspaper noted it was the first time a member of Britain’s royal family has challenged the lawfulness of criminal proceedings against them since the trial



of Charles I in 1649.

It said his legal team wanted to examine whether the search warrants granted by a judge at London’s Old Bailey court -- formally known as the Central Criminal Court -- were lawful. Andrew’s legal team did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

'JUDICIAL REVIEW': The judiciary’s press office said, “The case concerns an application by Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor for a judicial review to quash search warrants issued by a judge at the Central Criminal Court on 18 February 2026”.Andrew’s arrest and the police searches marked a new low for the ex-prince, who was stripped of his royal titles last year and ousted from his

Windsor home over his Epstein connections. The government has even mulled passing a law to remove him from the line of succession.

Scandal has engulfed the king’s younger brother since one of Epstein’s accusers, Virginia Giuffre, claimed in her posthumous memoirs that she had been trafficked three times to have sex with Andrew when she was a teenager.

The former prince has repeatedly denied the claims. He settled a US civil lawsuit in 2022 brought by Giuffre while not admitting liability.

The Thames Valley Police probe follows new revelations from documents relating to the American financier released by the United States earlier this year, including emails in which Andrew

appeared to share potentially confidential information with him.

EPSTEIN EMAILS: In one November 2010 email seen by AFP, Andrew appeared to share with the US financier reports on his visit to several Asian countries. Epstein had been convicted in the United States in 2008 of procuring a child for prostitution.

At least nine British police forces confirmed they were looking into claims -- some related to Andrew -- stemming from the batch of some three million Epstein files released by the US authorities in January.

However, the Thames Valley investigation appears to be the most advanced.

Its officers, who swooped on the remote Sandringham royal estate in eastern England to detain Andrew, searched his home there and his former Royal Lodge residence in Windsor, west of London. The raid in Windsor lasted six days. In response to Andrew’s legal challenge, Thames Valley Police said in a statement that its “investigation into misconduct in public office continues”.

“We are engaged in legal proceedings in relation to warrants previously obtained,” it added.

“As these legal proceedings are currently ongoing, it would be inappropriate for us to comment further.”

India court seeks explanations from election body in voter list row

NEW DELHI
AFP

India’s Supreme Court ordered the government and the national election body on Monday to explain decisions linked to a large-scale revision of voter rolls that prompted accusations of wrongdoing.

Opposition parties and activists have organised protests and called for the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar, head of the Election Commission of India (ECI), alleging that the revision had improperly removed millions of names from voter lists.

Critics have accused Kumar of acting at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

The ECI, the constitutional body responsible for conducting elections in the world’s largest democracy, has rejected allegations of wrongdoing.

On Monday, a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant issued notices to the government, the ECI and Kumar after hearing petitions challenging decisions linked to the voter list revision. Another hearing is expected to be held next week. One of the petitions sought a probe into ECI records to determine whether its decisions complied with constitutional requirements.

Protests have been held across several cities since a report last month by The Indian Express, which said two of the ECI’s three

members had formally objected at least 14 times to key decisions linked to the voter roll revision.

“Newspaper reports may be 100% correct, partially correct or incorrect. We cannot pass an order on that basis today. We would definitely want their response. If we find there were instances where law wasn’t followed, we can undo it,” broadcaster NDTV quoted the bench as saying.

The ECI says the revision exercise, which started last year, is intended to identify fraudulently registered voters and prevent “foreign illegal immigrants” from voting. Critics say the drive has disproportionately affected marginalised and minority communities, especially Muslims.

Former European diplomats, ministers, officials urge EU to act against illegal West Bank settlements

ANKARA
AGENCIES

Around 500 former diplomats, ministers and European officials called on Monday on the European Union and its member states to take action against Israel’s illegal settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, warning that a planned project near Jerusalem could undermine prospects for a two-state solution. The signatories urged the EU, in an open letter cited by Belga news agency, to take measures against Israel’s planned E1 settlement project, which envisages the construction of more than 1,200 housing units near Jerusalem. The signatories include former Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme, former French Prime Ministers Dominique de Villepin and Alain Juppe, former Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and former Italian Prime Minister Massimo D’Alema. They said the project would divide the occupied West Bank into two parts and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem from the rest of the territory. The letter described a two-state solution as “the only possible outcome that could resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” “Despite the far-reaching consequences of the new land annexation, the EU has taken no measures to deter E1,” the signatories said, criticising the bloc for failing to meet its obligations to respond to violations of international law. They also criticised Germany and Italy for opposing sanctions against Israel.

CRESCENT COTTON MILLS LIMITED



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 68th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Company will be held on Wednesday the 28th October, 2026 at 9.30 a.m. at Registered Office of the Company New Lahore Road, Nishatabad, Faisalabad to transact the following business:

- To receive, consider and adopt the Chairman’s Review Report, the Reports of Directors and Auditors together with Audited Annual Separate and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026.
- To appoint Company’s external auditors and to fix their remuneration.
- To transact any other business with the permission of the chair.

On Behalf Of The Board

Company Secretary

Pezeshkian nominates Mehرداد Akhlaqi as Iran's new defence minister

TEHRAN
AGENCIES

Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian nominated Mehرداد Akhlaqi as the country’s new defence minister, formally submitting his name to Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf in a letter, Tehran Times reported on Monday.

According to Tehran Times, Akhlaqi is a senior official at Iran’s Ministry of Defence and had previously served as the chief executive of the Aerospace Industries Organisation.

IRAN THREATENS TO TARGET US BASES, WARSHIPS IF WASHINGTON LAUNCHES GROUND INVASION: Iran would target all US military bases and American vessels if Washington launches a ground invasion of the country, a senior commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned. Ali Fadavi, head of the advisory group to the IRGC commander-in-chief, made the remarks a day earlier while appearing on an Iranian state television program.

“If the Americans launch a ground

attack, then we will target every location related to the Americans, American bases and every vessel related to the Americans,” he said. Fadavi argued that the US understands military force, saying Americans “understand missiles hitting their warships” and “missiles hitting their bases.”

He also said Iran’s production of military equipment exceeds the rate at which it is being used, claiming the country’s current capabilities have increased significantly compared with the previous two wars.

Turning to the Strait of Hormuz, Fadavi said Iran and Oman should draw up and enforce rules governing the strategic waterway, adding that such rules have already been prepared and are being implemented. He also warned that American vessels would be vulnerable to Iranian attacks if Washington deployed them to the region.

“The Americans can only create tensions through the air, and certainly an increase in tensions will be to the detriment of the Americans,” he said.

Fadavi also said Iran had “in no way attacked a Muslim country,” arguing that

Tehran had instead targeted US military bases located in those countries.

His remarks come amid increased US military activity in the region and heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran. The US has recently moved additional naval and military assets toward the Middle East, including carrier and amphibious forces, while strengthening air and missile defences at bases and facilities in the region. The deployments come amid continuing military confrontation between Washington and Tehran, with Iran repeatedly warning that US bases and naval assets across the region could be targeted in response to attacks on Iranian territory.

ANY FURTHER ENEMY MISTAKE WILL DRAW A CRUSHING RESPONSE: IRANIAN GENERAL: Iran’s Army Commander-in-Chief General Amir Hatami said that despite the casualties of war, its outcome brought honour and pride to the country rather than surrender, according to Press TV.

He said that the enemy, after failing on the military front, had turned to sanctions and economic pressure while pur-

suing measures aimed at creating insecurity and unrest.

IRAN WILL CONTINUE DOCUMENTING WAR CRIMES, PURSUING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ACTION: DEPUTY FM Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, emphasised the need to continue documenting crimes and damages resulting from military aggression by the United States and Israel and reporting them to international organisations, according to IRNA.

Gharibabadi made the remarks in Tehran on Sunday in a meeting on government agencies’ interaction with regional and international organisations.

He spoke on the importance of participating in international organisations, saying they can use their capacities effectively through planning.

Gharibabadi said government bodies should prepare annual plans for cooperation with international organisations of which they are members. They should review their cooperation and assess whether to continue participating.

خطرات پر محسن روزہ پروگرام کی افتتاحی تقریب کے بعد شرکاء کا گروپ فوٹو

تی عمرہ روڈ لاہور 5-0423-5724794

فیروز نواز شریف میڈیکل کمپلیکس،

امینڈ لاهور فیز 1، 5-0423-5724794

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