

That ignited a popular call to arms that galvanized ordinary

bodies in the Tikrit graves, he said.

tioned and brought to Tikrit over the weekend, Mr. Tamimi said.

and lined up face down in adjacent rooms. One survivor saw a

truck.

He was brought to a room at a

had mediated the group's release.

# U.S. to Expedite Support for Yemen Campaign

By ASA FITCH

DUBAI—The U.S. said it is expediting deliveries of munitions and building on intelligence and logistical aid that it is already providing for the Saudi-led military campaign against Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken told reporters in Riyadh on Tuesday that Saudi Arabia "is sending a strong message to the Houthis and their allies that they cannot overrun Yemen by force."

The support, which includes deliveries of precision-guided munitions, comes almost two weeks after a Saudi-led coalition of mostly Arab states began a campaign of airstrikes against the Shiite-linked Houthis.

In Washington, Col. Steve Warren, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said the shipments were "a combination of pre-existing orders made by our partner nations and some new requirements as they expend munitions." He didn't provide details.

Houthi militants overtook Yemen's capital, San'a, in September and took control of the government in February, leading the Saudi-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Blinken, who met with Mr. Hadi and senior Saudi officials on Tuesday, said the U.S. and the Gulf Cooperation Council states



A Saudi soldier at the border with Yemen, where Saudi Arabia is leading a U.S.-backed military campaign.

are working to push all parties in Yemen to commit to a political solution.

Also on Tuesday, the Education Ministry in Ibb province, near the contested southern port city of Aden, said three students were killed and six were injured in a series of explosions that

rocked a military base next to a school.

The ministry attributed the explosions at the Al Hamza military base to the Saudi-led air campaign, but that couldn't be independently confirmed.

Aided by the airstrikes, forces aligned with Mr. Hadi have made

tentative gains in Aden and other southern areas in the past week.

On Tuesday, officials in Aden said that the Houthis held about two-thirds of the city, but that they had lost their grip on the port, a key target, to Mr. Hadi's forces.

As the air campaign contin-

ues, aid agencies are raising concern about shortages of medicine, electricity, potable water and food in Aden and San'a.

The International Committee of the Red Cross began to fly in aid on Tuesday, and the World Health Organization has supplied health kits from local warehouses to 240,000 beneficiaries since March 19.

Agencies said they have been trying to coordinate cease-fires with Saudi Arabia and local authorities to safely send in supplies.

Saudi Brig. Gen. Ahmed Asiri, a spokesman for the coalition carrying out the strikes, said that they were working with humanitarian organizations to facilitate aid deliveries, adding that permission had been given to dock a medical-supply ship heading from Djibouti to Aden.

"The needs are huge and the sooner we are allowed to send additional supplies into the country without restrictions in access, the more lives we can save," said Ahmed Shadoul, WHO's representative in Yemen.

According to the Houthi-controlled Health Ministry, more than 650 civilians have been killed by the Saudi-led airstrikes. An additional 1,350 have been injured, the ministry said.

—Wall Street Journal reporters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and San'a, Yemen, contributed to this article.

## Iran Says Pakistani Militants Killed Eight

By SAIED SHAH

ISLAMABAD—Iran said on Tuesday that militants crossed over from Pakistan and killed eight border guards, a day before Iran's foreign minister is due in Islamabad to press Pakistan to stay out of the Yemen conflict.

Militants from Jaish ul-Adl, a Sunni militant group based in Pakistan's western province of Balochistan, clashed just inside Iran with Iranian border guards on Monday night and killed eight of them, according to Fars, the semiofficial Iranian news agency.

"The armed outlaws fled to Pakistan immediately [after the attack]," said Saeed Montazer al-Mahdi, a senior police official in Tehran, Fars reported.

Pakistan has tried to balance standing by its ally Saudi Arabia, which asked Pakistan to join its military coalition against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, with not alienating Iran.

Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said Saudi Arabia asked for Islamabad's participation not because it needed Pakistan's military assets or manpower, but because it wanted the moral support. "It will be symbolic to be part of the coalition," Mr. Asif said.

Simbal Khan, a security analyst based in Islamabad, said the attack could be an attempt to ignite tensions between Pakistan and Iran ahead of the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Wednesday. But she said the impact of the killings would go in Iran's favor.

"This demonstrates the dangers of getting embroiled in Yemen," Ms. Khan said. "If Pakistan took sides there, such border incidents would increase."

## In Tehran, Turkish Leader Seeks Closer Ties With Rival

By EMRE PEKER

Turkey's president sought deeper economic ties and common ground on Middle East conflicts during a visit to Iran on Tuesday, even as the longtime rivals compete to influence the outcome of wars in Yemen, Syria and

ing countries were on the same page about ending the war in Yemen, where Turkey supports a Saudi-led Sunni coalition against Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels.

Mr. Erdogan also tried to sidestep sectarian tensions between the countries, pressing for an end to conflicts in Iraq and Syria.



### High Hopes

Turkey and Iran are pushing for greater economic integration despite their rivalry

