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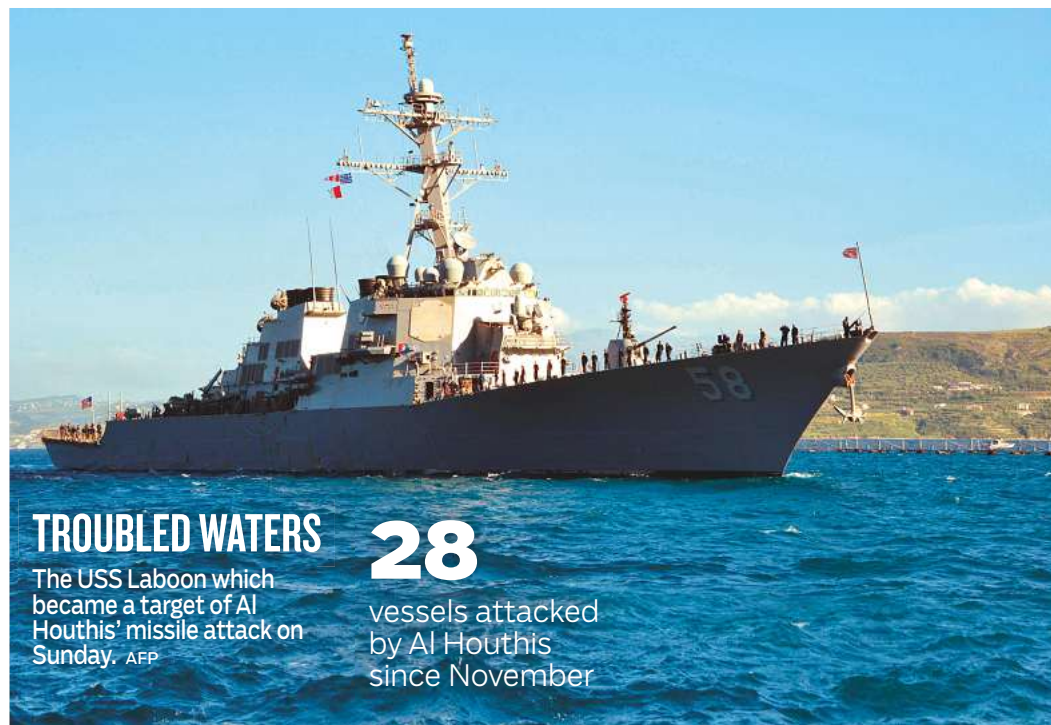


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Houthis attack US warship in Red Sea

CARGO SHIP ALSO STRUCK AS TANKERS AVOID WATERWAY



TROUBLED WATERS

The USS Laboon which became a target of Al Houthis' missile attack on Sunday. AFP

28

vessels attacked by Al Houthis since November

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

Defying the West, Yemen's Al Houthis continued attacking vessels, firing missiles at a US destroyer and an American-owned cargo ship in the last 24 hours as more oil tanker owners stopped sending their ships through the Red Sea.

US fighter aircraft shot down a cruise missile fired from an Al Houthi militant area of Yemen toward USS Laboon in the southern Red Sea, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer on Sunday, while an American-owned cargo ship was hit by a missile off the coast of Yemen yesterday in the International Recommended Transit Corridor, a passage of the Gulf of Aden. According to Ambrey, a British maritime risk company, a fire broke out on board the Marshall Islands-flagged, US-owned bulk carrier, but it remains seaworthy and there were no injuries.

The latest attacks come af-

TARGETS DESTROYED

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said yesterday that his government believed that all planned targets had been destroyed in last week's US-led strikes against Al Houthi rebels.

He also told lawmakers there were no reports of civilian casualties from the joint strikes, which occurred overnight between Thursday and Friday.

ter America and allied nations began strikes on Friday on the Iran-backed militants in Yemen following weeks of assaults on shipping in the Red Sea, heightening fears that Israel's war with Palestinian Hamas militants could engulf the region. So far, at least 28 vessels have been attacked by Al Houthis since they seized the Israeli-linked Galaxy Leader vessel in November.

The first day of US-led strikes on Yemen on Friday hit 28 locations and struck more

than 60 targets with cruise missiles and bombs launched by fighter jets, warships and a submarine. Sites hit included weapon depots, radars and command centres, including in remote mountain areas, the US has said. US forces followed up with a strike Saturday on an Al Houthi radar site.

Wider conflict

The Al Houthis have targeted that crucial corridor linking Asian and Mideast energy and cargo shipments to the Suez Canal onward to Europe, attacks that threaten to widen that conflict into a regional conflagration.

Following the strikes, the US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) based in Bahrain warned all ships to avoid the Bab Al Mandab Strait at the south end of the Red Sea.

In the UAE, businesses are looking to source from alternate markets to counter the rising costs associated with shipments from Europe and the longer time needed to come via the Cape of Good Hope.

SEE ALSO P7, P10

For the love of road safety in Dubai

Austrian expat looks back on his initiative as it turns 10

DUBAI

BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

Thomas Edelmann is no stranger to the UAE. Talk about anything to do with road safety and his is one of the first names that comes to mind. Speaking to *Gulf News* in exclusive interview, he said RoadSafetyUAE, the country's first road safety portal which he founded, has just completed 10 years.

"In my younger years back

in Vienna, my favourite aunt was working for a driving school. I enjoyed visiting her and listening to the instructors at the end of their working day. I guess those days ignited my interest for road safety," he said.

When he was old enough, he pursued his own driving education. "I was lucky enough to do it with the owner of the same driving school."

Fast forward to October 2003, and Edelmann, who had moved to Dubai three years earlier, was motivated enough to start his own initiative to advocate road safe-



■ Thomas Edelmann

ty. "Literally, from the first time we set foot in Dubai, road safety became very important to me. I still remember the first time we came for a familiarisation weekend, when a speeding burgundy car almost hit our taxi while leaving the airport."

As Edelmann sees it, campaigning for the cause of road safety is very important and rewarding. "When you think about how we all move around daily, it is fair to say that road safety touches all of us, every single day."

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NATION

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Emirati, 63, saves eight people from drowning

The men's vessel had capsized due to high waves swept up by rough weather

Sadly, two lives were lost; their floating bodies were recovered by Al Falasi. The saved men included six Indians and two Pakistanis; the victims were two Indians. Dubai Police confirmed the incident to *Gulf News*.

Joy and sorrow

Recalling the joy and sorrow of that day, Al Falasi said: "I began the search mission, which lasted for around half an hour, in the surrounding area. I found eight people, who were frightened and exhausted. I provided them with first aid and motivated them with some words that calmed them down, and I resumed my mission to search for the remaining two people."

He added: "I was constantly monitoring the movements of the waves and sailing the boat in different directions. After a short period, I found them and recovered their bodies."

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In the shimmering blue, he spotted a hint of red – a lifejacket. He rushed to the location and found a survivor of a boating incident.



SPORT

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