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SPECTACULAR START TO 2024

Breathtaking fireworks lit up the UAE skies as residents and visitors welcomed the New Year at popular tourist spots and landmark venues across the emirates



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Ahmed Ramzan, Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

US destroys 3 Al Houthi vessels

10 rebels killed as
attack on cargo ship
in Red Sea thwarted

HODEIDA, YEMEN

The US military said yesterday its Navy helicopters fired at Al Houthi rebel boats off Yemen that were attacking a cargo ship, with Yemeni sources reporting 10 rebels killed.

The clash in the Red Sea marked a deadly escalation since the United States set up a multinational naval task force in early December to protect the vital shipping lane against Houthi attacks.

The rebels — who say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in the Israel-

Hamas war in Gaza — have repeatedly fired drones and missiles at passing ships in the straits through which 12 per cent of global trade passes.

Distress call

US Central Command said the Navy had responded to a distress call from the Maersk Hangzhou, a Singapore-flagged, Denmark-owned and

operated container ship that reported coming under attack for a second time in 24 hours while transiting the Red Sea. The vessel had earlier been targeted with two anti-ship ballistic missiles. One was shot down by the US military and the other hit the Maersk Hangzhou. The Houthis had then fired on US helicopters, which "returned fire in self-defence", sinking three of four small boats that had come within 20 meters of the ship. It said the crews of the three vessels were killed while a fourth boat fled the area. "Ten Houthis were killed and two were wounded in the US strike on Houthi boats that tried to stop a vessel in the sea off Hodeida," said a source.

—AFP
SEE ALSO P9

Dubai kicks off New Year with plastic bag ban

NEW RESOLUTION CALLS ON PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROMOTE RECYCLED ITEMS

DUBAI

BY ASHFAQ AHMED

Senior Assistant Editor

Dubai has kicked off the New Year with a giant stride toward providing an eco-friendly lifestyle for all its residents.

Starting today single-use plastic bags will be banned in the emirate, according to a new resolution issued yesterday by Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai.

Culture of reusable products

The resolution is aimed at protecting the environment, and promoting the culture of using reusable products to advance sustainable development.

The move also aims to encourage the private sector to promote the use of recycled products, aligning with circular economy practices that foster sustainable recycling of products in local markets.

The ban will apply to plastic bags starting from January 1, 2024. Non-plastic single-use

WHAT IS BANNED

The resolution also applies to single-use disposable products and recycled ones, including both plastics and non-plastic items, regardless of their material composition. These include **plastic and non-plastic single-use products, as well as food delivery packaging materials, fruit and vegetable wrapping, thick plastic bags, plastic containers, and packaging materials** either partially or entirely made of plastic, such as those used for plastic bottles, snack bags, wet wipes, balloons, and balloon sticks besides food packaging.

These regulations extend to sellers and consumers within the emirate of Dubai, covering private development zones and free zones, including the Dubai International Financial Centre.

products, including single-use bags, will come under the ambit of the ban from June 1, 2024.

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WELCOME



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responsibility to make sustainability not just a
slogan but a sweet reality

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