

[Shelling kills 16 in northern Syria's Afrin: Monitor](#)

Author:

AFP

ID:

1623526084143039600

Sat, 2021-06-12 19:01

BEIRUT: Shelling of the rebel-held city of Afrin in northern Syria killed at least 16 people Saturday, many of them when a hospital was struck, a war monitor said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a doctor, three hospital staff, three women and a child died at Al-Shifaa hospital in the city which is held by Turkish-backed rebels.

The artillery fire originated from northern Aleppo province where Syrian regime and Kurdish forces are both deployed, the Britain-based group said. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) issued a statement denying any involvement in the shelling.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Syria](#)

[Afrin](#)

UK charity school in Syrian camp destroyed in regime shellingRegime shelling

[Egypt to launch two space research satellites in 2022](#)

Author:

Zaynab Khojji

ID:

1623511164281114000

Sat, 2021-06-12 18:24

CAIRO: Egypt will launch two satellites next year, including NExSat-1, a lightweight vessel that will be used for remote sensing and scientific research, Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Egyptian minister of higher education and scientific research, announced on Saturday.

Space authorities will also launch EgyptSat 2, which weighs 330 kilograms and will use sensor applications to employ a photographic accuracy of two meters from space.

The minister revealed the plans at the European-African Space Forum being held in Lisbon, Portugal. Mohamed El-Koosy, head of the Egyptian Space Agency, was also present.

Abdel Ghaffar said that Egypt will also host the headquarters of the African Space Agency, which includes all 54 countries on the continent.

The Egyptian Space Agency will be equipped with the latest equipment and space technology, he added.

The African Space Agency will be an “essential accelerator” for cooperation with Europe, he said, adding that Egypt will “spare no effort” in promoting multilateral cooperation in space activity.

“All the facilities and infrastructure for space projects are available in Egypt, and we are ready to become a reliable partner,” Abdel Ghaffar said, adding that all support will be “provided to Africa to benefit from space technology and its applications.”

He called on the EU to discuss the establishment of the European-African Space Training Program in Egypt, adding that the Egyptian agency will provide full logistical support for the program, which can provide annual training courses and degrees for African students and researchers.

Abdel Ghaffar said that next month Egypt will also launch a training and capacity-building program for 18 African researchers in various space fields. The Egyptian Space Agency will distribute educational satellite sets among African countries, which will provide researchers and students with experience and technical skills, enabling them to conduct further space research, he said.

“We aim to transform Egypt into a center for training, research and development in space activities, adopt and encourage African youth to explore new horizons in space science, prepare them for the transformation of the digital economy, develop and support emerging technologies, spread the use of

satellite images to support activities, especially in the field of agriculture, and stimulate exploration and innovation and provide social and economic benefits to improve the lives of all Africans,” the minister said.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Egypt](#)

[EgyptSat 2](#)

[NExSat-1](#)

Egypt, Sudan connecting Khartoum with Cairo-Cape Town rail line
Countdown begins to Egypt-Saudi Arabia power link

[‘Intense’ Iran nuclear talks resume as Germany calls for rapid progress](#)

Author:

Associated Press

ID:

1623507365240598800

Sat, 2021-06-12 14:10

VIENNA: Indirect talks between Tehran and Washington on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal resumed in Vienna on Saturday as the European Union said negotiations were “intense” and Germany called for rapid progress.

The sixth round of talks kicked off as usual with a meeting of remaining parties to the deal – Iran, Russia, China, France, Britain, Germany and the European Union – in the basement of a luxury hotel.

The US delegation to the talks, known as the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is based in a hotel across the street as Iran refuses face-to-face meetings.

The talks’ chief coordinator, EU foreign policy official Enrique Mora, who is leading the shuttle diplomacy between Iran and the United States, has said he expects a deal in this round of talks. Other envoys, however, are more cautious, saying many difficult issues are yet to be resolved.

“We are making progress but the negotiations are intense and a number of issues (remain), including on how steps are to be implemented,” an EU spokesman said in a statement to reporters, adding that the aim was “to find ways to get very close to a final agreement in the coming days.”

The deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, imposed strict limits on Iran’s nuclear activities designed to extend the time Tehran would need to obtain enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon, if it chose to, to at least a year from two to three months.

Iran denies ever pursuing nuclear weapons, saying its aims are solely peaceful.

President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the deal in 2018 and reimposed economic sanctions lifted by the deal. Iran responded by breaching many of those limits, producing more enriched uranium than allowed and enriching to higher purity levels, recently to near weapons grade.

“Playing for time is in no-one’s interest,” German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who is not at the talks, told Reuters, urging all sides to show flexibility and pragmatism.

China’s top envoy said the main sticking point was US sanctions. “Our message to them (the United States) is that they should stop shilly-shallying by moving decisively to sanction-lifting,” China’s ambassador to the UN nuclear watchdog, Wang Qun, told reporters.

On the steps Iran must take to return to compliance with the deal, Wang said: “To a great extent, the major issues have been worked out as a matter of principle, though I think there are some fixes (left).”



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Iran nuclear deal](#)

[Iran](#)

[vienna](#)

Iran sends warships to Atlantic amid Venezuela concerns

[Egypt, Sudan connecting Khartoum with Cairo-Cape Town rail line](#)

Author:

Zaynab Khojji

ID:

1623509483770874300

Sat, 2021-06-12 17:56

CAIRO: Egypt is working with Sudan to connect the Cairo-Cape Town railway route to the Sudanese capital Khartoum, Kamel El-Wazir, Egypt's transport minister, has said.

Speaking on Saturday at a forum for heads of African investment agencies in Sharm El-Sheikh, El-Wazir said that Egypt has taken "huge steps" to boost

connectivity in Africa through infrastructure.

He said that the Egyptian government is constructing the Cairo-Cape Town railway line to connect Egypt with other African countries.

El-Wazir said that the Ministry of Transport is executing 360-kilometer rail lines inside Egyptian territory, in addition to a six-kilometer line across Nasser Lake to Wadi Halfa in Sudan.

The government is executing another line to connect the monorail stretching from Matrouh governorate with a special link to El-Saloum city, he said.

Egypt is also coordinating with the Libyan government to extend a railway line to the city of Benghazi, he said.

Efforts exerted to develop land transport networks, railways, as well as sea and land ports have improved Egypt's rank in the Road Quality Index featured in the Ease of Doing Business' latest report, El-Wazir said.

The report also underlined Egypt's readiness to transfer its expertise in making smart roads to other African countries.

Dhieu Mathok Diing, South Sudanese minister of investment, said that his government hopes that South Sudan will be connected to Egypt via a railway line in two to three years after the Egypt-Sudan link is completed.

Diing said that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's announcement that he is committed to the African agenda for development, as well as Egypt's launching of the Cairo-Cape Town railway line and the Investment Promotion conference are decisions that demonstrate Egypt's keenness to develop African countries.

He said that South Sudan has "high hopes" for the Cairo-Cape Town railway line, adding that the areas which will be included in the project inside South Sudan have been developed.

Diing said: "Cooperation among Africa's great economic powers like Egypt, South Africa and Nigeria with the rest of African countries makes us believe that we can achieve growth, development and African integration."



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Egypt](#)

[Sudan](#)

[South Africa](#)

[Cape town](#)

Countdown begins to Egypt-Saudi Arabia power linkEgypt, Sudan seek global action to end Nile dam deadlock

[Houthis fire 55 Iranian-made ballistic missiles at Marib since start of 2021: Yemen information minister](#)

Sat, 2021-06-12 17:40

AMMAN: Yemen's Information Minister Moammar Al-Eryani criticized on Saturday the Houthi militia targeting of residential neighborhoods, displacement camps and civilians in Marib with more than 55 Iranian-made ballistic missiles since the start of the year.

He said that statistics confirm the militia, which is backed by Iran, has

also launched 12 drones, three Katyusha rockets, six projectiles, and seven explosives from Jan. 1 to June 10.

Al-Eryani added that the statistics also recorded 344 civilian casualties during the same period from Houthi attacks on Marib governorate. 104 civilians, three women, and 15 children have been killed, while 180 civilians, 12 women, and 30 children have been wounded with varying severity of injuries due to the continuous shelling, he said in a series of tweets. The Iran-baked Houthis launched a major offensive to capture the oil and gas-rich province from the internationally recognized government in February, sparking widespread condemnation as the province has been serving as a safe haven for tens of thousands of internally displaced people who have been fleeing the fighting since the beginning of the conflict.

"The terrorist Houthi militia's bombing of residential neighborhoods, civilian objects and displacement camps in the districts of Marib governorate, since the beginning of its massive military escalation, are systematic and deliberate killing of civilians, a violation of international laws and conventions, and amounts to war crimes and crimes against humanity," Al-Eryani said.

He added that the international community, the UN and the permanent members of the Security Council are required to assume their legal and moral responsibilities, and to pressure the militia to stop the daily killing of civilians with revenge motives, in which women and children fall victim. He also pressed the body to re-classify the Houthis as a terrorist organization and prosecute its leaders as war criminals.

Last Saturday, a ballistic missile fired by the Houthis killed at least 21 people, including a 5-year-old girl, and wounded dozens of others in the government-held city

The missile hit a gas station in the Rawdha neighborhood in central Marib, and shortly after the Iran-backed militia launched an explosive-laden drone which destroyed two ambulances that had rushed to the area to transfer the injured to hospitals.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Yemen said the Kingdom and the Arab coalition are constantly working with the two parties to the Riyadh Agreement to complete its implementation.

"We are counting on everyone to put the interests of the Yemeni people above all else, and expedite the return of the Yemeni government to Aden to enable it to perform its duties to alleviate the suffering of the people and complete the implementation of all aspects of the agreement," said Mohammed Al-Jaber.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Moammar Al-Eryani](#)

[Yemen](#)

[Mohammed Al-Jaber](#)

[Saudi Arabia](#)

[Houthis](#)

[Marib](#)

8 killed, 27 wounded after Houthis launch missile, drone strikes on Marib
Houthi blamed for deadly Marib gas station attack, killing 21, jeopardizing Yemen peace-making efforts