

# US threatens escalation with Iran in nuclear row

Author:

Reuters

ID:

1637962286717598100

Sat, 2021-11-27 00:28

VIENNA: The US has threatened to confront Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency next month if it does not cooperate more with the watchdog – an escalation that could undermine talks on reviving a 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran.

Tehran is locked in several standoffs with the IAEA, whose 35-nation board of governors is holding a quarterly meeting this week.

Former US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the JCPOA, otherwise known as the Iran nuclear deal, that lifted sanctions on Tehran in return for restrictions on its atomic activities.

Trump reimposed debilitating sanctions, after which Tehran expanded its nuclear work and reduced cooperation with the IAEA.

Iran is currently denying the agency access to re-install surveillance cameras at a workshop at the TESA Karaj complex.

The IAEA also wants answers on the origin of uranium particles found at apparently old but undeclared sites, and says Iran continues to subject its inspectors to “excessively invasive physical searches.”

In a statement, it said: “If Iran’s non-cooperation is not immediately remedied ... the board will have no choice but to reconvene in extraordinary session before the end of this year in order to address the crisis.”

It added it was referring “especially” to re-installing IAEA cameras at the Karaj site, which makes parts for advanced centrifuges for enriching uranium. That workshop was struck by apparent sabotage in June, which Iran says was an attack by Israel. Israel has not commented on the incident.

One of four IAEA cameras installed there was destroyed and its footage is missing. Iran removed all the cameras after the incident.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said on Wednesday that he did not know if the workshop was operating again, and that time was running out to reach an agreement, adding no progress had been made on several other disputes.

An extraordinary board meeting would most likely be aimed at passing a resolution against Iran, a diplomatic escalation likely to antagonize Tehran. That could jeopardize indirect talks between Iran and the US on reviving the JCPOA, due to resume on Monday.

Iran wants the lifting of all sanctions in a verifiable process, its Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Friday.



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Protesters, police clash in central Iran after rally over water shortages  
Israel warns US against 'less-for-less' Iran nuclear deal

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## [UN envoy: Sudan's new deal saved the country from civil war](#)

Author:

AP

ID:

1637961559877559500

Sat, 2021-11-27 00:18

CAIRO: The deal struck in Sudan to reinstate the prime minister following a military coup is imperfect but has saved the country from sliding into civil strife, the UN envoy to Sudan said on Friday.

Volker Perthes was speaking of the agreement between Sudan's military leaders and Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was deposed and put under house arrest

following the coup last month that stirred an international outcry. The military takeover threatened to thwart the process of democratic transition that the country had embarked on since the ouster of longtime autocrat Omar Bashir.

The deal, signed on Sunday, was seen as the biggest concession made by the country's top military leader, Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, since the coup. However, the country's pro-democracy groups have dismissed it as illegitimate and accused Hamdok of allowing himself to serve as a fig leaf for continued military rule.

"The agreement of course is not perfect," Perthes said.

"But it is better than not having an agreement and continuing on a path where the military in the end will be the sole ruler."

Both signatories felt compelled to make "bitter concessions" in order to spare the country the risk of more violence, chaos and international isolation, he added.

"It would not have been possible to exclude a scenario which would have brought Sudan to something close to what we have seen in Yemen, Libya or Syria," Perthes said. He spoke to the AP via videoconference from Khartoum. Sudan has been struggling with its transition to a democratic government since the military overthrow of Bashir in 2019, following a mass uprising against three decades of his rule.

The deal that Hamdok signed with the military envisions an independent Cabinet of technocrats led by the prime minister until new elections are held.

The government will still remain under military oversight, although Hamdok claims he will have the power to appoint ministers.

The deal also stipulates that all political detainees arrested following the Oct. 25 coup be released. So far, several ministers and politicians have been freed. The number of those still in detention remains unknown.

"We have a situation now where we at least have an important step toward the restoration of the constitutional order," said Perthes.

Since the takeover, protesters have repeatedly taken to the streets in some of the largest demonstrations in recent years.

Sudanese security forces have cracked down on the rallies and have killed more than 40 protesters so far, according to activist groups.

Further measures need to be taken to prove the viability of the deal, said Perthes, including the release of all detainees, the cessation of the use of violence against protesters and Hamdok's full freedom to choose his Cabinet members.

On Thursday, thousands rallied in Khartoum and in several Sudanese provinces to demand a fully civilian government and protest the deal.

Activists had circulated videos on social media showing tear gas canisters being fired at protesters.

However, the Sudanese police said that protesters had thrown Molotov cocktails and hurled stones at two police stations in the capital of Khartoum, and its twin city of Omdurman, wounding more than 30 policemen. In a statement released late Thursday, authorities said they arrested 15 people.



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Thousands of Sudanese protest against deal between PM Hamdok and military35  
killed in clashes in Sudan's restive Darfur – officials

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## [Iraq sends extra planes to Belarus to repatriate migrants](#)

Author:

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1637961188497537500

Sat, 2021-11-27 00:12

BAGHDAD: Iraq is sending more planes to Belarus to repatriate more than 800 migrants stuck on the border with Poland, adding to around 1,000 already collected since operations started, authorities said on Friday. Hundreds of Iraqis, most of them Kurds, have been flown back since repatriation flights began on Nov. 18 from the ex-Soviet state. Thousands of migrants have been camped on the border there for weeks hoping

to enter the EU, often in bitter conditions – with those returning to Iraq showing injuries from the freezing cold.

Another flight on Friday will bring 431 people, followed by a flight on Saturday to collect 430 more, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Al-Sahaf said. Most of the thousands of Iraqis stranded on the border say they have spent their savings, sold valuables and even taken loans to escape economic hardship in Iraq and start a new life in the EU.

The West accuses Belarus of bringing in would-be migrants – mostly from the Middle East – under the false pretense they would be to cross into EU members Poland and Lithuania.

Belarus has denied the claim and criticized the EU for not taking in the migrants.

Aid groups say at least 11 migrants have died on the two sides of the border since the crisis began in the summer, and have criticized the Polish government over its policy of pushing migrants back.

Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko told migrants on the border with Poland on Friday that he would not try to stop them from reaching the EU, urging Germany to take them in.

In footage released by state media, Lukashenko was shown visiting a center near the Polish border hosting hundreds of migrants who traveled to Belarus in the hopes of reaching Europe.

Lukashenko was shown walking among and talking to the migrants in the center, then addressing them outside from a podium in a campaign-style speech.

Dressed in winter coats as they stood in the cold, the migrants appeared confused, though there were scatterings of applause.

“If anybody wants to go West – that is your right. We will not try to catch you, beat you, and hold you behind barbed wire,” Lukashenko said.

“We will work with you to achieve your dream.”

With many of the migrants hoping to reach Germany, Lukashenko said he was asking the German people to welcome them.

“Please take these people in. This number is not very big. They want to live in Germany – 2,000 people is not a big problem for Germany,” he said.

In recent months thousands of migrants from the Middle East have traveled to Belarus in the hopes of getting across the border into EU member Poland.



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Tunisia rescues 487 migrants in crowded boat off its coast  
UK PM asks France to take back Channel-crossing migrants

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## [Abu Dhabi crown prince holds separate talks with Egypt, Iraq leaders](#)

Author:

Fri, 2021-11-26 02:12

DUBAI: Abu Dhabi Crown Prince on Thursday held separate talks with leaders from Egypt and Iraq to discuss regional security. During his calls with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, the crown prince discussed bilateral relations and various aspects of cooperation and joint work, and ways of developing and expanding them.

They also reviewed a number of regional and international development and “affirmed their mutual keenness to continue consultation and coordination on many issues” and enhance security, stability and development in the Arab

region, state news agency WAM reported.

The crown prince recently concluded a trip to Turkey, the first in 10 years. During his visit, he met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the UAE announced it was setting up a \$10 billion fund to support investments in Turkey.



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Wednesday Abu Dhabi crown prince and US defense secretary discuss strategic  
bilateral relations

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# Arab coalition hits military targets in Yemen's Sanaa

Fri, 2021-11-26 00:57

RIYADH: The Arab coalition said it conducted airstrikes on camps and military targets in Sanaa, state TV reported on Thursday.

The coalition said it used preventive measures to spare civilians and civilian objects from collateral damage, adding the "operation in Sanaa was in compliance with international humanitarian law and its customary rules."

The coalition said it had struck the presidential palace camp in the capital in response threats and after precise intelligence.

Earlier on Thursday, the coalition said it carried out eight operations targeting Houthi elements in Marib.

It said more than 60 Houthi fighters were killed and five military vehicles were destroyed.

The Houthis renewed their offensive on energy-rich Marib in September in an effort to take control of the last remaining internationally-recognized government's strongholds.

It has sparked widespread condemnation as the province has been serving as a safe haven for around one million displaced Yemenis that have been fleeing the fighting since the conflict began in 2014.

Coalition forces have been conducting daily strikes on Houthi targets in and around Marib in recent weeks and began striking locations in the capital, Sanaa, following reports that the Iran-backed militia have been using the airport as a military base and air systems launch site.





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