

Ever Given to Leave Egypt on Wednesday after final settlement contract signed

Author:

Mon, 2021-07-05 21:27

CAIRO: Egypt's Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said a final settlement contract would be signed on Wednesday with the company that owns the Ever Given ship, and that participants would be able to watch the ship leaving on the same day.

The owners and insurers of the container ship that blocked the Suez Canal in March said on Sunday that a formal settlement had been agreed in a compensation dispute, and the canal authority said the vessel would be allowed to sail on July 7.

The authority has held the giant ship and its crew in a lake between two stretches of the waterway since it was dislodged on March 29 amid a dispute over a demand for compensation by the SCA.

A statement from SCA said the contract will be signed in the new Marina building, east of the canal, at 11 a.m. in the presence of its Chairman Lt. Gen. Osama Rabie, a representative of the ship-owning company and several ambassadors and international partners.

The Japanese-owned Ever Given had become stuck in high winds and remained wedged across the canal for six days, disrupting global trade.

Rabie confirmed that the Ever Given's owners will present the authority with a gift of a 75-ton locomotive at Wednesday's ceremony.

The chairman added in televised statements that the world is now talking about the achievement of the SCA for saving and floating the ship within a week.

The crisis alerted Egypt and the world to the importance of the canal, he added.

The canal earned revenue of \$3 billion in the first six months of 2021, up 8.8 percent compared with the same period last year, despite the Ever Given accident, Rabie said.

In the first half of this year, 9,760 ships passed through the canal, an increase of 2 percent from the same period in 2020.



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Suez Canal says deal reached to free seized vessel
Early agreement reached in dispute over Suez Canal ship

[Egyptian army official confirms readiness of forces to face regional challenges](#)

Mon, 2021-07-05 21:23

CAIRO: A spokesman for the Egyptian Armed Forces has said that they are aware of the challenges facing the region and are prepared to deal with them.

“It is not wise, in light of our capabilities and high deterrence power, to test the reaction of the Egyptian Armed Forces,” added Gharib Abdel Hafez.

Hafez explained that the Egyptian Navy has undergone significant modernization, increasing its ability to secure the maritime domain along the coasts of the Mediterranean and Red seas.

“Over the past few years, we have established multiple military bases, including the Mohammed Naguib Military Base in July 2017 – which is the largest military base in the Middle East – and the Sidi Barani Military Base,” he said.

A third base, the Berenice Military Base, includes an air and naval base, which secures both the coast of the Red Sea and the strategic south to confront any threats that might affect Egypt’s national security.

On Saturday, the July 3 Naval Base was opened, also an extension of the modernization efforts of the armed forces, which include supplying them with the latest weapons and equipment.

“We had about 47 naval vessels at the opening of the July 3 Naval Base, which included frigates and launchers,” Hafez said.

The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, authorized the flag to be raised, indicating permission for the base to begin operations.

The base, strategically located in the Gargoub area on Egypt’s northwest coast near Libya, is an integrated facility, bringing together training and high combat ability.

The military spokesman indicated that the location of the base allows the naval forces to carry out their tasks in all strategic directions, whether north or west, to serve the current and future goals of the armed forces, also maximizing their ability to prevent smuggling across the Egyptian coasts.

In addition to securing the vital goals of the Egyptian state and its economic gains, the base is also involved in research work, rescue operations and the prevention of illegal immigration.

The Qader 2021 Maneuver, one of Egypt’s largest military exercises, coincided with the opening of the base.

Hafez said that the maneuver reflects the readiness of the Egyptian forces to carry out all combat missions.

“Keeping up with rapid developments in methods of combat and diversifying sources of armament is crucial,” he added.



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Egypt to begin initial handover of New Administrative Capital towers at year-end
Saudi Arabia allocates \$17.25m to support Egyptian SMEs

[Egypt to begin initial handover of New Administrative Capital towers at year-end](#)

Mon, 2021-07-05 21:17

CAIRO: Glass facades featured on a number of towers in the central business district of Egypt's New Administrative Capital will soon be completed, Housing Minister Assem El-Gazzar has said.

The construction will be completed in parallel with the implementation of internal finishing works, he added.

El-Gazzar also said that the initial delivery of some towers will start at the end of 2021. The deliveries of the rest of the towers will follow soon after.

He said the central business district of the New Administrative Capital will consist of 20 towers with various uses, including the Iconic Tower, which is the highest tower in Africa with a height of about 400 meters.

The total investment in the area will be about \$3 billion, he said.

Projects are being implemented in cooperation between the Ministry of Housing, represented by the New Urban Communities Authority, and the China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), El-Gazzar added.

CSCEC one of the largest contracting companies in the world.

The minister said that 53 percent of the work had been implemented in one of the three sectors in the central parks project within the New Administrative Capital.

He added that the central park in the New Administrative Capital will be the largest in the Middle East and second largest in the world, with a length of more than 10 kilometers.

It will contain recreational areas according to international standards. They will be easily accessible through an integrated network of pedestrian and bicycle paths.

The project includes green spaces, lakes, playgrounds, bike lanes, restaurant complexes, recreational areas and an area designated for setting up future investment projects, said El-Gazzar.

He added that the project includes a reading and science lake, an educational park for children, a ceremonial arena, an arts lake, a heritage garden, a country club, a sports club, a central square, a restaurants complex, an open cinema, an interactive garden, an artwork park, a boating lake, a luxury oasis and an Islamic-themed garden.

The area of the third residential neighborhood, the Capital Residence, in the New Administrative Capital, falls on an area of 1,016 feddans.

It has eight neighborhoods, and 24,130 housing units are being constructed. They are distributed among 697 residential buildings, covering 19,944 housing units and 328 villas.

The area will include 157 townhouse buildings, with 624 housing units; 64 mixed residential buildings, with 2,560 housing units covering 151,360 square meters, both commercial and administrative; and nine mixed-use buildings, with 674 housing units.

The area of the fifth residential neighborhood – New Garden City – falls on an area of 885 feddans. It includes 295 residential buildings, 105 villas, 175 townhouses and twin houses, 11 mixed housing towers and 96 mixed housing buildings.



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Egypt improves transparency to attract private investments, says minister
Egyptian painter Riham El-Adl wins prestigious Italian art award

[Yemen government seizes control of new areas in Al-Bayda province](#)

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Sun, 2021-07-04 19:36

ALEXANDRIA: Government troops and local tribesmen on Sunday liberated several villages and hilly locations in the central province of Al-Bayda during the second day of a military offensive to push Iran-backed Houthis from the area, government and military officials said.

Yemen's Information Minister Mu'amar Al-Eryani said that government troops scored "major victories" in Al-Bayda after liberating mountains, villages and other military locations, mainly in the Humaiqan area in Al-Zaher district, west of Al-Bayda, adding that loyalists cut off supply lines to pockets of Houthis in Al-Zaher, Al-Jamajem and Al-Nasefa and government forces were

still fighting their way into new areas.

"We commend the great role of the tribal leaders and tribesmen and all the honorable people who supported the heroes of the national army and the popular resistance in the major military operation (in the province)," the Yemeni minister said, noting that dozens of rebel fighters were killed or captured and loyalists seized armed vehicles, trucks and ammunition abandoned by the fleeing Houthis.

On Saturday, Yemen's army started a new offensive to liberate Al-Bayda from the Houthis and relieve pressure on the government forces battling the Houthis in the neighboring Marib province.

State and local media broadcast videos showing what appeared to be government troops on armed vehicles rolling into liberated areas for the first time since 2015 when the Houthis seized control of most of the province districts.

If advances continued on the same scale, local army commanders and analysts said, government troops might be able to liberate Al-Bayda city, the province's capital, and push further into opening new fronts in the neighboring Tamar and Ibb provinces.



For six years, Yemen government troops have been trying to seize control of new areas in Al-Bayda province, but failed to make advances due to stiff resistance from the Houthis.

For the Yemeni forces to keep up the momentum of the offensive, the Yemeni army should mount similar assaults on the Houthis in Hodeidah, Taiz and Abyan to distract their forces, Yasser Al-Yafae, an Aden-based political analyst, told Arab News.

“There are great military successes for the first time since 2015. For this military offensive to succeed, the legitimate government should simultaneously activate other fronts in Taiz, the Western Coast and other area areas,” he said, warning that if the Houthis were allowed to recapture the liberated areas in Al-Bayda they would kill, displace and blow up houses

of tribal leaders who aided government troops.

Meanwhile, at least two soldiers were killed and more than 20 more wounded when an explosion ripped through a mosque at a military base during the afternoon prayer in the southern province of Abyan, a local journalist told Arab News on Sunday.

Dozens of soldiers from the 5th Infantry Brigade were inside the base's mosque when a large explosion, apparently caused by a ballistic missile or explosive-rigged drone fired by the Houthis, killed soldiers and partially destroyed the building.

"Four soldiers were critically wounded. All of the targeted soldiers are from Abyan," said the journalist, who preferred not to be identified.





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Saudi Arabia delivers diesel supplies for Yemen's Mahra power stations
Yemenis express hope that new UN envoy will help to end war

Lebanon medicine importers warn foreign drugs running out

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Sun, 2021-07-04 11:32

BEIRUT: Lebanon's medicine importers Sunday said they had run out of hundreds of essential drugs and warned of further shortages if the cash-strapped central bank did not unblock funds.

Lebanese are grappling with a raft of shortages, from petrol to medication, as the caretaker government discusses lifting subsidies it can no longer afford amid what the World Bank says is one of the world's worst financial crises since the 1850s.

The local currency has lost more than 90 percent of its value on the black market, but the central bank had been providing importers with dollars at the much more favorable official rate to cover a large part of the cost of imported drugs.

Medicine "imports have almost completely ground to a halt over the past month," the association of pharmaceuticals importers said in a statement. The syndicate said the central bank has not released the promised dollars to pay suppliers abroad, who are owed more than \$600 million in accumulated dues since December, and importers cannot obtain new lines of credit.

"Importing companies' stocks of hundreds of medicines to treat chronic and incurable diseases have run out," it warned.

"And hundreds more will run out through July if we cannot resume imports as soon as possible."

Syndicate head Karim Gebara told AFP some drugs to treat cardiac diseases, high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer and multiple sclerosis were already out of stock.

If nothing is done, "the situation will be catastrophic by the end of July," depriving "hundreds of thousands of patients" of their medication, he warned.

On Thursday, President Michel Aoun said he, outgoing ministers and the central bank chief had agreed to "continue subsidising medication and medical supplies" selected by the health ministry according to priority.

The government resigned after a deadly port explosion on August 4 last year, but a deeply divided political class has failed since to agree on a new cabinet to lift the nation out of crisis.



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Delta variant COVID-19 cases rise in Lebanon
Don't sacrifice Lebanon in pursuit of nuclear deal with Iran, analysts caution