

USD	01	GBP	01	INR	1000	PKR	1000	EUR	01	IRR	1000	AED	01
AFN	81.90	AFN	112.11	AFN	1182	AFN	509	AFN	96.80	AFN	0.37	AFN	21.22

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Two injured after 14 rockets hit Iraq’s Ain al-Assad air base: US Coalition



At least 14 rockets landed on Iraq’s Ain al-Assad air base that hosts American and foreign troops, a spokesperson for the United States-led coalition said on Wednesday, adding that two injuries have been reported.

The base was hit at approximately 12:30 p.m. local time, according to U.S. Army Colonel Wayne Martin, spokesman for the U.S.-led international military coalition.

“At approx. 12:30 PM local time, Ain al-Assad Air Base was attacked by 14 rockets. The rockets landed on the base & personnel casualties were avoided. At first, time critical reports indicate 3 minor injuries, damage is being assessed,” he tweeted.

The spokesman said that two people sustained minor injuries and that damage resulting from the attack was still being assessed.

Washington officials have backed criticism for such attacks, which are common, but an official claim of responsibility has been made yet.

The rocket attack comes just hours after a drone hit Erbil airport in northern Iraq with explosives.

Kurdish security sources said the attack on Erbil airport was aimed at the US base on the airport grounds.

French envoy slams Lebanon PM for shifting blame on economic collapse

The French ambassador rebuked Lebanon’s prime minister for saying the country was under siege and blamed years of “mismanagement and incapacity” by Lebanese leaders for its economic collapse.

The World Bank has called Lebanon’s crisis one of the worst depressions of modern history. The country has lost more than 80 percent of its value and more than half of the population has been propelled into poverty.

French Ambassador to Lebanon Jean Gailly was speaking on Tuesday in response to a speech by caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab, who said emergency that a stage had been imposed on the country and warned of imminent social unrest.

Recounting his comments circulated by the French embassy on Wednesday, Gailly blamed Lebanon’s “political class” for the downfall.

“The what is frightening Mr Prime Minister, is that today this brutal collapse – is the deliberate result of mismanagement and inactivity for years,” she said.

“It is the result of the responsibilities of the political class. This is the reality.”

Diab has been serving in a caretaker capacity since resigning in the wake of the catastrophic Aug. 4 Beirut port explosion. Since then, fractious sectarian politicians have been unable to agree on a new government.

Diab has long demanded reforms to stamp out state corruption and waste – widely seen as root causes of the crisis.

Though Diab’s government was serving in a caretaker capacity, she said it could take steps including implementing a social safety net with World Bank financing.

Saudi Arabia supports Egypt, Sudan ‘water rights’ in dam dispute

Saudi Arabia has thrown its weight behind Egypt and Sudan in their bitter dispute with Ethiopia over a massive hydroelectric dam built by the latter on the Blue Nile, the Nile River’s main tributary.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is the source of an almost decade-long diplomatic standoff between Ethiopia and Sudan. Ethiopia says the project is essential to its economic growth, but the governments in Cairo and Khartoum fear it could threaten their citizens’ water access.

On Tuesday, a day after Ethiopia began filling the dam’s reservoir, Saudi Arabia’s state news agency SPA said the kingdom supported Egypt and Sudan in “peacefully” settling the dispute.

The kingdom adds the agreement should “ensure Ethiopia’s ability to generate hydropower for the benefit of international trade.”

The kingdom calls on the international community to intensify efforts to find a clear mechanism to start negotiations between the three countries to get out of this crisis,” it said.

Former reports said Tunisia had submitted a draft resolution to the UN Security Council, calling on Ethiopia to cease filling the GERD’s reservoir. The U.N. Security Council has not yet taken the body as a body to discuss the dispute on Tuesday.

The draft resolution, drafted by the A.P. news agency, calls on Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan “to resume negotiations at the joint invitation of the Chairperson of the African Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.”

Within a period of six months, the text of a binding agreement on the filling and operation of the GERD.

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Biden calls for door-to-door vaccine push; experts say more is needed

WASHINGTON — Faced with more declines in vaccination rates, President Biden said on Tuesday that his administration would send people door to door, set up clinics at workplaces and urge employers to offer paid time off as part of a renewed push to reach tens of millions of unvaccinated Americans.

But top health experts say that it is simply not enough, and that the president needs to take the politically unpopular step of encouraging states, employers and colleges and universities to require vaccinations to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Instead, in a speech on Tuesday, Mr. Biden doubled down on a voluntary approach that appears to have hit its limit for a large number of Americans who say they have no intention of taking the shot.

“Please get vaccinated now. It works. It’s free,” Mr. Biden said in brief remarks at the White House. “It’s never been easier, and it’s never been more important. Do it now for yourself and the people you care about, for your neighborhood, for your country. It sounds easy, but it’s a patriotic thing to do.”

One numbers have gone up in parts of the country where vaccination rates remain low, fueled by the highly contagious Delta variant. But his new public health officials warned that the administration is not being aggressive enough in waging what the president calls a “war on covid.”

“We’re trying to remain realistic, but I’ve kind of had it,” said Kathleen Sebelius, who was his health secretary for five years under President Obama. “The region’s health insurance should be encouraged to require the vaccine, the shot.”

“I’ll be honest, we’re going to tip the scales on Wednesday, adding that one body had been identified.”

Those on board included six crew and 21 passengers, including two children.

The head of the local government in Palau, Ojia Mokheira, was among the passengers, the Kanakthaka government said.

More than 50 people climbed the coast of the Okhark Sea in the search and rescue operation continued, but fog, strong winds and waves were complicating their efforts.

Russia’s emergency ministry said it planned to deploy divers and a Mi-8 helicopter.

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Officials have said the plane, which belonged to a company called Kanakthaka Aviation, had been downed in a bad landing in the tropical region.

Russia’s Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes and incidents, said it was looking at the crash as a possible accident, poor weather conditions, technical malfunctions, or pilot error.

Russian aviation safety standards have improved in recent years but deadly accidents, especially involving aging planes in far-flung regions, are not uncommon.

In 2015, a plane, which was manufactured from 1989 until 1986 during the Soviet era and was still used in some countries for civilian and military transport, had been involved in several recent accidents. In 2012, an Antonov An-26 plane crashed into a mountain while flying the same route as Tuesday’s flight.

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