

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1300h (BST), 27 April 2026

Executive Summary

Talks scheduled between Iran and the US for Saturday (25 April) were cancelled after President Trump prevented negotiators from travelling to Islamabad, citing Iranian infighting and the limited chances for effective talks. The ceasefire has held, however, with no Iranian attacks on Israel or Gulf countries. Iran has also proposed this morning (27 April) to open the Strait of Hormuz in return for the US halting its blockade; Washington has not yet made its response public.

The Israeli military and Hezbollah have exchanged fire since fighting intensified on Saturday, despite a ceasefire being extended last Thursday (23 April). Israeli authorities have since imposed restrictions on gatherings of over 1,500 people in northern Israel and issued evacuation warnings for several towns in southern Lebanon.

Diplomatic

Talks between the US and Iran collapsed on Saturday (25 April). After Iranian officials shared a framework with Pakistan, President Trump announced that US officials would not travel to Pakistan as planned, citing Iranian infighting and the limited prospects for effective talks. Pakistan has consequently eased operational restrictions imposed in Islamabad during planned talks. The indefinite ceasefire announced by the US on Tuesday (21 April) has held despite formal talks stalling.

Clashes between Hezbollah and Israel increased on Saturday, despite an extension to the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon being agreed on Thursday (23 April). Both sides insist they are only retaliating to ceasefire breaches. Iran has threatened in recent weeks that it considers Israeli attacks in Lebanon as a breach of its ceasefire with the US.

Iran has offered to reopen the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for the US halting its blockade on Iranian ports, according to unconfirmed reports published by international media released this morning (27 April).

Iran

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on Iranian nationals to reduce their consumption of electricity on Saturday (25 April), citing the destruction inflicted by US and Israeli airstrikes.

A man accused of working with Israeli intelligence agencies was executed on Sunday (26 April).

The Iranian joint military command threatened on Saturday that Iran will respond militarily if the US blockade continues.

United States

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced on Saturday (25 April) that over USD344m in cryptocurrency assets with ties to Iran have been frozen.

US officials announced on Friday (24 April) that Chinese companies and refineries were sanctioned for buying billions of dollars of Iranian oil. The Hengli Petrochemical (Dalian) Refinery was targeted, which is among the largest independent refineries in China.

Israel

Hezbollah has fired drones and rockets towards northern Israel since Saturday (25 April), primarily toward the Galilee region near the Lebanese border. No injuries have been confirmed so far, but authorities tightened gathering restrictions near the Lebanese border until 2000h (local time) this evening; gatherings are now capped at 1,500 people.

Regional

Lebanon

The Israeli military has struck several areas in southern Lebanon since Saturday (25 April), after Prime Minister Netanyahu authorised widespread attacks following alleged attacks on Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and northern Israel. Attacks have impacted outside the Israeli security zone near the Israeli border, including Haddatha, Yohmor, Deir ez-Zahrani, Kfar Reman and Sammaiyeh. Yesterday (26 April), the Israeli military issued evacuation warnings for several areas outside the Israeli security zone in southern Lebanon, including Mayfadoun, Shoukine, Yohmar, Arnoun, Zawtar al-Sharaivah and Kfar Tebnit.

Today (27 April), Israeli air strikes have been reported in the Bekaa Valley, eastern Lebanon and southern areas of the country. Fatalities and damages are unconfirmed.

The Lebanese Health Ministry has said that Israeli attacks killed 14 people yesterday and seven people on Saturday. Over 47 people have been killed in Lebanon since the initial ceasefire announced on 16 April. Roads in southern Lebanon have consequently become congested as civilians flee impacted towns.

One Israeli soldier was killed, and six others were injured by a Hezbollah drone attack in Taybeh yesterday.

Travel

Aviation

Operations resumed at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport, including flights to Turkey, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Advice

- Do not travel to Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, Dahiye in Beirut, and in the Beqaa Valley.
- Reconsider travel to the Middle East, especially Israel, Iran and Iraq, but also the wider Gulf region.
- Remain aware of ongoing tensions, given the possibility of a sudden resumption in fighting.
- Monitor instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- Avoid any demonstrations or gatherings in the region.
- Globally, reconsider travel to any locations with links to Israel or Judaism.
- If you need further support, or wish to discuss options for evacuation, call NGS.

Contact us

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