

Israel says to strike targets in Lebanon, issues evacuation calls

Adraee said the military would hit Hezbollah sites in Kfar Hatta and Ain al-Tinah

● It was the first such warning issued by the Israeli military this year,

● Arabic-language spokesman, Colonel Avichay Adraee, said the villages were Kfar Hatta and Annan in south Lebanon, and Al-Manara and Ain al-Tinah in eastern Lebanon

● Two people were killed in an Israeli strike that targeted a vehicle on Sunday

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military ordered residents of four villages in Lebanon to evacuate immediately yesterday, warning it would soon strike Hezbollah and Hamas targets in those areas.

It was the first such warning issued by the Israeli military this year, as Israel continues to strike targets in Lebanon despite a ceasefire with Hezbollah.

In two separate posts on X, the military's Arabic-language spokesman, Colonel Avichay



A firefighter and a civilian extinguish fire from a car following an Israeli strike in the southern Lebanese village of Khiam

Adraee, said the villages were Kfar Hatta and Annan in south Lebanon, and Al-Manara and Ain al-Tinah in eastern Lebanon.

Adraee said the military would hit Hezbollah sites in Kfar Hatta and Annan and Al-Manara, and Hamas

sites in Annan and Al-Manara. Despite a year-old ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, Israel carries out regular strikes on Lebanon, usually saying it is bombing Hezbollah sites and operatives, and occasionally Ha-

mas targets.

It has also maintained troops in five areas it deems strategic.

Two people were killed in an Israeli strike that targeted a vehicle on Sunday, around 10 kilometres (six miles) from the

border, the Lebanese health ministry said.

Under heavy US pressure and fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Beirut has committed to disarming Hezbollah, which was badly weakened after more than a year

of hostilities with Israel including two months of open war that ended with the November 2024 ceasefire.

Lebanon's army was expected to complete the disarmament south of the Litani River -- about 30 kilometres from the border with Israel -- by the end of 2025, before tackling the rest of the country.

Lebanon's cabinet is to meet on Thursday to discuss the army's progress, while the ceasefire monitoring committee -- comprising Lebanon, Israel, the United States, France and UN peacekeepers -- is also set to meet this week.

On Sunday, Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar acknowledged on X that the Lebanese government and army had made efforts to disarm Hezbollah but said "they are far from sufficient", citing "Hezbollah's efforts to rearm and rebuild, with Iranian support".

Israel has previously questioned the Lebanese military's effectiveness and has accused Hezbollah of rearming, while the group itself has rejected calls to surrender its weapons.

At least 350 people have been killed by Israeli fire in Lebanon since the ceasefire, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry reports.

'Tuna King' pays record \$3.2 mn for bluefin at Tokyo auction

● Self-styled "Tuna King" Kiyoshi Kimura's sushi restaurant chain paid the top price for the 243-kilogramme (536-pound) fish

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

A Japanese sushi entrepreneur paid a record \$3.2 million for a giant bluefin tuna Monday at an annual prestigious new year auction in Tokyo's main fish market, smashing the previous all-time high.

Dave Gershman at the Pew Charitable Trusts' international fisheries team used news of the auction to highlight that stocks of Pacific bluefin tuna were improving after being "near collapse".

Self-styled "Tuna King" Kiyoshi Kimura's sushi restaurant chain paid the top price for the 243-kilogramme (536-pound) fish that was caught off Japan's northern coast.

"I'd thought we would be able to buy a little cheaper, but the



Kiyoshi Kimura (C), president of Kiyomura Corp., the Tokyo-based operator of sushi restaurant chain Sushizanmai, displays a 243-kilogram bluefin tuna at his main restaurant in Tokyo

price soared before you knew it," Kimura said after the pre-dawn auction at Tokyo's main fish market.

"I was surprised at the price... I hope that by eating auspicious

tuna, as many people as possible will feel energised," he told reporters.

The 510.3 million yen price at

the new year's auction was the highest since comparable data started being collected in 1999. The previous high was 333.6 million yen for a 278-kilogramme bluefin in 2019, after the fish market moved from its traditional Tsukiji area in central Tokyo

to a more modern facility.

The top bidder last year paid 207 million yen for a 276-kilogramme bluefin.

Shortly after this year's auction, the tuna was butchered and turned into sushi, selling for around 500 yen (\$3) per roll.

"I feel like I've begun the year in a good way after eating something so auspicious as the year starts," 19-year-old Minami Sugiyama told AFP from a table in one of Kimura's restaurants in Tsukiji.

Fellow customer Kiyoshi Nishimura agreed.

"Even without dipping it in soy sauce, there's sweetness. And the richness, the texture... it just makes you feel happy," the 40-year-old Shinto priest said.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the new year tunas commanded only a fraction of their usual top prices as restaurants scaled back operations.

Gershman said in an emailed statement that a 2017 recovery plan "is working, and if decision makers take further action in 2026, the future for Pacific bluefin will be bright".

"This year, fisheries managers

from Japan, the United States, Korea, and other countries from across the Pacific who target bluefin should agree on a long-term, sustainable management plan that would lock in a healthy population and ensure that the species never again faces the overfishing of the past," he added.



Tuna are among the fastest fish in the ocean – some species, such as the yellowfin tuna, can swim at speeds of up to 75 km/h, thanks to their streamlined bodies and powerful muscles, allowing them to travel vast distances across open seas.