

UAE says Iran must **pay** for 'damages and reparations'

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The UAE said yesterday that Iran should pay for damage caused by its Gulf attacks, adding that it was seeking clarification on how the ceasefire will ensure Tehran ceases hos-

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The UAE "is seeking further clarification on the agreement's

provisions to ensure Iran's full commitment to an immediate

cessation of all hostilities in the region and the complete

and unconditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz", its foreign ministry said in a statement.

Iranian attacks "necessitate a firm position, including ensuring that Iran is held accountable and fully liable for damages and reparations", it added.

Trump to discuss leaving NATO in meeting with Rutte: White House

● The meeting comes one day after the United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will discuss the possibility of leaving NATO when he meets with the alliance's chief Mark Rutte yesterday, the White House said, accusing Washington's partners of "turning their back" on the American people.

The meeting comes one day after the United States and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire. Trump has expressed anger at Western partners' refusal to back his war on Iran, rocking the 77-year-old transatlantic alliance.

"It's quite sad that NATO turned their backs on the American people over the course of the last six weeks when it's the



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio speak with each other as they meet at the State Department in Washington, DC

American people who have been funding their defense," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

When asked if Trump would discuss a possible withdrawal from NATO, Leavitt said: "It's something the president has

discussed, and I think it's something the president will be discussing in a couple of hours with Secretary-General Rutte."

"Perhaps you'll hear directly from the president following that meeting," she added.

Trump has branded NATO partners "cowards" for limiting US forces' access to bases on their territories and for refusing to lead efforts to open the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

But NATO's secretary-general touts a record of pulling Trump back outside -- and will be looking to do so again when he meets the president, as well as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth.

Ahead of the White House visit, Rutte met with Rubio to talk about Iran, Russia's war against Ukraine and NATO responsibilities.

"The two leaders discussed Operation Epic Fury, ongoing US-led efforts to bring a negotiated end to the Russia-Ukraine war, and increasing coordination and burden shifting with NATO Allies," said State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott.

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Israeli forces damage UN convoy vehicle in Lebanon: Rome

AFP | Rome, Italy

Israeli forces fired warning shots at a convoy of Italian UN peacekeepers in Lebanon yesterday, prompting Rome to summon their ambassador to protest.

An Italian convoy from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had been carrying personnel from the town of Shama to Beirut when it was targeted by warning shots fired by the Israeli military, Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said in a statement.

The convoy immediately stopped and returned to base. The incident, in which no injuries were reported, prompted Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to call on Israel to cease attacks in Lebanon.

"The continued Israeli attacks in Lebanon, which have already caused too many deaths and an unacceptable number of displaced people, must cease immediately," Meloni said in a statement in which

she condemned the incident.

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani summoned the Israeli ambassador in Rome Wednesday evening after earlier telling parliament "Italian soldiers in Lebanon are not to be touched".

Tajani told parliament that only one vehicle had been damaged, but Crosetto spoke of "minor damage to the vehicles".

"It is unacceptable that Italian soldiers deployed under the UN flag, tasked exclusively with guaranteeing peace and stability, should be exposed to risky situations by the Israeli army," Crosetto said.

UNIFIL is a peacekeeping mission established in 1978 in southern Lebanon.

Italy currently has 754 troops in UNIFIL, the second-largest contingent after Indonesia's 755, according to UN figures published March 30.

Meloni said that the Italian UNIFIL convoy was "clearly identifiable as such".

Netanyahu says Israel ready to 'return to battle at any moment'

● Israel's main opposition figure Yair Lapid called the truce a "diplomatic disaster"

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel remains prepared to confront Iran if necessary, despite a truce reached between the United States and Iran.

"Let me be clear: We still have objectives to complete, and we will achieve them -- either through agreement or through renewed fighting," Netanyahu said in a televised statement. "We are prepared to return to combat at any moment required. Our finger remains on the trigger. This is not the end of the campaign, but a step along the way to achieving all our objectives."

"Iran enters this pause battered, weaker than ever."

Netanyahu also hit back at opposition leaders who chastised him for agreeing to the truce before Israel achieved its objectives in the war.

"As you know, last night a temporary two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran came into effect, in full coordination with Israel," Netanyahu said in a televised statement. "No, we were not surprised at the last moment," he said. Israel's main opposition figure Yair Lapid called the truce a "diplomatic disaster" for Israel, saying Netanyahu had failed to achieve the country's goals. Netanyahu had set the elimination or at least severe degradation of Iran's nuclear programme as a central goal of the war, describing it as an "existential threat" to Israel.

He had also called to degrade Iran's ballistic missile capabilities, weaken or potentially topple the Iranian regime and curb Tehran's regional influence by targeting its network of allied groups.

US says Iran closing Hormuz would be 'completely unacceptable'

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States said yesterday that Iran must open the Strait of Hormuz "immediately, quickly and safely" after reports that the strategic waterway was shut despite the US-Iran ceasefire.

Any closure "is completely unacceptable," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

"I will reiterate the president's expectation and demand that the Strait of Hormuz is reopened immediately and safely."

Trump will continue to discuss Lebanon with Israeli PM: White House

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will continue to discuss with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the idea of including Lebanon in an Iran war ceasefire deal, his spokeswoman said yesterday. "This will continue to be discussed, I am

sure, between the president and Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu, the United States and Israel and all of the parties involved," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters. The US-Iran truce does not include Lebanon, which was drawn into the war after Iran-backed group Hezbollah launched attacks on Israel.