

Iraq reopens airspace

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

Iraq reopened its airspace on Monday, the country's civil aviation body said, following Iran's announcement that it was halting its military operation against Israel.

The Civil Aviation Authority was reopening "Iraqi airspace to flights to and from

all airports" and will continue to "monitor and assess the regional situation", it said in a statement.

It had announced a 72-hour closure of its airspace on Sunday evening after Iranian missile strikes on Israel, the first since a ceasefire in the Middle East war began on April 8.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian yesterday said Tehran remained at the negotiating table after halting attacks on Israel following the first exchange of fire since the April truce.

EU sanctions Iran Guards over closure of Hormuz

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU yesterday imposed sanctions on the spokesman for the naval arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and a regional command over the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Europe has been left on the sidelines as the US war with Iran has shuttered the key waterway and roiled global markets.

The 27-nation bloc said it was blacklisting Mohammad Akbarzadeh, spokesperson for the Guards' naval wing, and

the organisation's Hormozgan Provincial Command.

It also said it was placing Hamid Hosseini, a representative of Iran's oil exporters union, under an asset freeze and visa ban.

European nations, spearheaded by France and Britain, are working on plans to send a naval mission to Hormuz once the fighting stops.

EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas has said the bloc's naval mission, currently in the Red Sea, could take part in the operation.

Israel military says Iran fired nearly 30 missiles since Sunday

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

An Israeli military official said Iran fired nearly 30 missiles towards Israel since Sunday night, in the first exchange of fire between the two countries since a truce in April.

"Last night the Iranian regime began firing ballistic missiles towards Israel... they fired close to 30 ballistic missiles towards Israel," the official told journalists on Monday, adding that Yemen's Houthi rebels separately fired two missiles at the country.

Israel's military said earlier Monday it had struck several targets at a petrochemical complex in Mahshahr in southwestern Iran in retaliation.

"In this complex, chemical materials are produced and used for ballistic missiles that are fired towards here, towards the state of Israel," the official said.

"The strikes and the damage to the complex disrupts their ability to manufacture

various types of weapons."

The Israeli military said it also struck Iranian air defence systems.

The official said the Israeli military chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir had spoken twice to the head of US Central Command (CENTCOM) over the past day.

"Over the past day, the IDF chief of the general staff has spoken twice to the commander of CENTCOM and they are discussing the situation," the official said, without elaborating.

In a separate televised statement, military spokesman Brigadier General Efi Defrin said that Zamir is "conducting continuous operational assessments and remains in close contact" with his counterpart in the United States.

Air raid sirens sounded across large areas of northern and central Israel, with explosions heard over Jerusalem earlier on Monday, AFP journalists reported.

Israel military says struck Iran petrochemical complex in Mahshahr

Jerusalem, Undefined

Iran. Israel's military said Monday it had struck several targets at a petrochemical complex in Mahshahr in southwestern

Iran.

"A short while ago, the Israeli Air Force struck several targets at the petrochemical complex in Mahshahr, in southwestern Iran," the military said.

China's Xi in North Korea for rare visit

AFP | Pyongyang, North Korea

China's President Xi Jinping made a rare visit to North Korea yesterday, where he proclaimed a willingness to bring ties to "new heights" during a meeting with Kim Jong Un.

Xi's trip to Pyongyang is his first since 2019 and comes after he hosted a series of world leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in Beijing.

Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan were warmly greeted at the airport by Kim in a lavish welcome ceremony complete with a red-carpet military salute and cheering crowds, according to Chinese state media.

Some streets in the capital also displayed North Korean and Chinese flags side by side.

Xi told Kim during talks on Monday that he was willing to work together to bring their countries' relations to "new heights", state news agency Xinhua reported.

The two sides should strengthen exchanges "in diplomacy, law



This picture shows a giant screen displayed outside a shopping mall in Beijing on June 8, 2026, showing a news program about the meeting between China's President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held in North Korea.

enforcement, and the military", Xi said.

"No matter how the international situation changes... the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK will not

change."

Xi's trip comes just weeks after he held talks with Trump, during which the White House said the leaders "confirmed their shared goal to denuclearise North Ko-

rea".

Residents living close to the North Korean border expressed hope for greater openness from Pyongyang.

Grant UN access 'without delay'

US demands Iran give UN nuclear watchdog access

● The draft resolution is expected to be submitted for a vote this week.

● To be passed, the draft resolution needs to be submitted and approved by the 35-member IAEA board of governors.

● The IAEA has not had access to some key nuclear facilities in Iran.

AFP | Vienna, Austria

The United States is demanding Iran provide "precise" information on its enriched uranium stockpile and give the UN nuclear agency access "without delay", according to a draft resolution seen by AFP yesterday.

The draft resolution is expected to be submitted for a vote this week to the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that started meeting on Monday.

Last week, the IAEA in a confidential report reiterated that the lack of access to nuclear sites in Iran constituted a "proliferation concern".

The draft resolution affirms that it is "essential and urgent" that Iran "without delay" pro-



Rosette Tannous, wife of Lebanese army captain Elie Khoury who was killed by Israeli bombardment, salutes as mourners carry her husband's coffin past during the funeral in his home village of Kfar Jarra near Jezzine in southern Lebanon

Israel vows to press military campaign in Lebanon

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed yesterday to press on with Israel's military campaign in Lebanon, despite a warning from Iran that any such action would prompt the Islamic republic to take "severe" measures in response.

"The IDF will continue to operate in Lebanon against

the terrorist organisation Hezbollah," Katz said in a statement, adding that Israel would strike Beirut's southern suburbs, known as the Dahiyeh district, in retaliation for every attack on northern Israel. "We categorically reject Iran's threats. Any Iranian attempt to link Lebanon and Iran and attack Israel will be met with great force, as happened yesterday," Katz said.

provides the agency with "precise information on nuclear material accountancy and safeguarded

nuclear facilities in Iran". Tehran must also "grant the agency all access it requires to

verify this information", it adds. To be passed, the draft resolution needs to be submitted and approved by the 35-member IAEA board of governors.

In a press conference after opening the board of governors' meeting, IAEA head Rafael Grossi said he had "sporadic contacts with the foreign minister (of Iran) and others, but basically the channel of communication is broken". "Of course, when you have active shelling or bombing, inspections are not possible, but there are many things that can be done. And the important thing is this dialogue," he said.

The IAEA has not had access to some key nuclear facilities in Iran since Israel, joined by the United States, launched a 12-day conflict in June 2025 that included strikes on nuclear sites.



Prior to US strikes in June 2025, the IAEA calculated that Iran possessed approximately 440 kilogrammes (970 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60 percent. This is close to the 90 percent needed to make a bomb and well above the 3.67-percent limit set by a now-defunct 2015 agreement with Iran. The fate of this stockpile is uncertain.