

Kuwait arrests 10 Hezbollah members, thwarts 'terrorist' plot: ministry

AFP | Kuwait City, Kuwait

Kuwait arrested 10 militants affiliated with the Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group yesterday, who were accused of plotting "terrorist" actions against vital infrastructure, the interior ministry said.

"The State Security Agency has successfully thwarted a plot for a terrorist operation targeting vital installations," the interior ministry said.

"Ten citizens, members of a terrorist group affiliated with the banned Hezbollah terrorist organisation were apprehended," it added.

Qatar orders departure of two Iranian diplomats over gas facility attack

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Qatar's foreign ministry yesterday ordered Iran's military and security attaches along with their staff to leave the country within 24 hours, following an attack on its massive natural gas facility.

"Both the military attache and the security attache in the embassy, in addition to those working in the two attache offices, persona non grata, and requests that they leave the state's territories within a maximum period of 24 hours," the ministry said, in a social media post.

Saudi Arabia says 5 drones intercepted approaching energy facility in east

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's defence ministry said yesterday that five drones approaching an energy facility were intercepted in the kingdom's east, in the latest strikes to target the Gulf's energy installations.

The official spokesman for the ministry reported the "interception and destruction of 5 drones that attempted to approach one of the energy facilities in the Eastern Region", according to a post on its official X account.

Saudi Arabia says four injured in Riyadh by shrapnel following interceptions

Nuclear plant hit

The UN nuclear watchdog said Iran reported a strike on the country's only operational nuclear power plant but that it caused no damage.

Russia, which helped build the plant and has staff on site, said it had received a report of a missile strike on the plant's inner perimeter and called the attack "completely unacceptable".

War 'will hit all'

Iran's top diplomat said the repercussions of the war in the Middle East would be felt globally.

"Wave of global repercussions has only begun and will hit all -- regardless of wealth, faith, or race," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted on X.

Iranian army chief Amir Hatami threatened to launch a "decisive and regrettable" retaliation for the killing of security chief Larjani.

Iran strikes cause 'extensive damage' at major Qatar gas hub

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Iranian strikes caused "extensive damage" at the world's largest gas hub in Qatar, the Gulf state's energy firm said Thursday, and an AFP journalist saw a vast fire illuminating the night sky visible from roughly 30 kilometres away.

QatarEnergy said emergency teams had been "deployed immediately to contain the resulting fires," at the Ras Laffan facility on the tiny Gulf state's north coast after it was "the subject of missile attacks".

In a statement Qatar's foreign ministry condemned what called a "brutal Iranian attack targeting Ras Laffan" saying the targeting represented a "direct threat to its national security".

The attacks came as Saudi Arabia was hosting foreign ministers from across the Arab and Islamic world for talks in Riyadh to discuss the fallout from the Middle East war.

Doha's defence ministry later said its air defences intercepted two Iranian ballistic missiles targeting Ras Laffan with no reported casualties and civil defence said the fire had been brought under control.

"This will complicate the situation and could have uncontrollable consequences, the scope of which could engulf the entire world," Masoud Pezeshkian wrote on X, adding that such attacks "will yield nothing" for Iran's foes the US and Israel.

Iran launched salvos of drones and missiles towards the Gulf states on Wednesday evening with several strong blasts heard in the Saudi capital Riyadh, according to AFP journalists, and a missile threat intercepted in the UAE, according to authorities.

Four people were injured when shrapnel from a ballistic missile interception fell on a residential area of the Saudi capital Riyadh on Wednesday, the civil defence said.

Riyadh's defence ministry said it intercepted four ballistic missiles on Wednesday with a fragment falling near a refinery south of the Saudi capital.

Multiple drones were also intercepted and destroyed as they headed towards Saudi gas facilities in the kingdom's the Eastern Province.

Israel army silent on attack on Iran's gas facility in Gulf

Israel, US hit Iranian gas facility

US-Israeli strikes hit Iranian facilities at a major Gulf gas field yesterday causing a fire, Iranian state television reported.

"Moments ago, parts of the gas facilities located in the South Pars Special Economic Energy Zone in Asaluyeh were struck by projectiles fired by the American-Zionist enemy," state television reported, citing Ehsan Jahanian, the deputy governor of the southern Bushehr province, where the facility is located.

It added that firefighting teams were dispatched to the scene to contain the fire.

The South Pars/North Dome mega-field is the largest known gas reserve in the world.

The field supplies around 70 percent of Iran's domestic natural gas.

Iran, which shares the massive field with energy giant Qatar, has been developing its side since the late 1990s.

During the 12-day war in June last year, Israel struck Iranian facilities operating at the field.



UAE condemns targeting of South Pars gas field, after Iran blames US, Israel

The United Arab Emirates affirmed that targeting energy facilities linked to the South Pars gas field in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is an extension of the North Field in the sisterly State of Qatar, constitutes a dangerous escalation. Targeting energy infrastructure poses a direct threat to global energy security... It also entails serious environmental repercussions and exposes civilians, maritime security, and vital civilian and industrial facilities to direct risks.

UAE FOREIGN MINISTRY

Israel says killed Iran intel chief, tells military to hunt down officials

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel killed another top Iranian official, intelligence minister Esmail Khatib, and declared yesterday that its military is authorised to kill any senior Islamic republic figure it gets in its sights.

Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian branded Khatib's death a "cowardly assassination".

News of Khatib's death came the day after Iranian security chief Ali Larjani was

confirmed killed in an Israeli strike.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have authorised the IDF to eliminate any senior Iranian official for whom the intelligence and operational circle has been closed, without the need for additional approval," Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz announced.

"We will continue to thwart them and to hunt them all down."

Germany 'would have advised against' war

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Berlin "would have advised against" starting a war with Iran, had it been consulted by the US or Israel.

While Tehran "bears responsibility" for the current

crisis in the region, Merz said, Berlin had "made it clear that we still have many questions regarding this war," and Israel and the US had shown "no convincing plan as to how this operation could succeed".

Qatar says targeting of Iran gas facility 'dangerous and irresponsible'

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Doha yesterday condemned attacks on an Iranian facility on the Gulf coast serving a massive gas field it shares with Qatar.

"Israel's targeting of facilities linked to Iran's South Pars gas field, which represents an extension of Qatar's North Field, is a dangerous and irresponsible step amid the current military escalation in the re-

gion," foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari wrote on X. "Targeting energy infrastructure constitutes a threat to global energy security, to the peoples of the region, and to its environment."

Ben Gurion airport hit by 'debris' after Iranian missile fire

An Iranian missile barrage killed two people near Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv, medics said yesterday, while authorities said falling munitions hit multiple sites in central Israel overnight. Police said a cluster bomb hit a residential building in Ramat Gan, a city just outside Tel Aviv, and the roof collapsed on an elderly couple.

NATO allies in talks on 'best way' to re-open Hormuz strait

Oslo, Norway

NATO chief Mark Rutte said yesterday that the military alliance's members were discussing the "best way" to open the Strait of Hormuz, through which a large chunk of

the world's oil supply normally passes. "I have been in contact with many allies. We all agree, of course, that strait has to open up again. And what I know is that allies are working together, discussing how to do that, what is

the best way to do it," Rutte told a news conference during a visit to a NATO exercise in northern Norway.

"They are working on that collectively, to find a way forward," Rutte added.

Displaced Palestinians gather to receive meals from a charity kitchen during Ramadan in the Nuseirat refugee camp, in the central Gaza Strip. The majority of Gaza's 2.4 million people have been displaced, often multiple times, by the war that began with Hamas's attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023. With displaced families living in tented camps, with serious concerns raised about their living conditions

