

Global food security, trade

The World Trade Organization warned that the war posed a dire threat to global food security and could weigh heavily on already slowing global trade. "Sustained increases in energy prices could increase risks for global trade, with potential spillovers for food security and cost pressures on consumers and businesses," WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said in a statement.

Hormuz 'safe passage'
Six Western allies -- Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands -- said in a joint statement they were ready "to contribute to appropriate efforts to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz".

US has no 'time frame' to end war
US Defense Secretary Peter Hegseth said the US "wouldn't want to set a definitive time frame" to end the war. "It will be at the president's choosing, ultimately, where we say, 'Hey, we've achieved what we need to.'"

'High time' to end war
UN chief Antonio Guterres called on all parties to end the war. "To the United States and to Israel: it's high time to end this war that is risking to get completely out of control," he told reporters at an EU summit in Brussels. "To Iran, stop attacking your neighbours. They were never parties to the conflict."

Qatar PM says gas hub attack 'clear proof' Iran not only targeting US interests
AFP | Doha, Qatar

Qatar's prime minister said on Thursday Iran's attack on the world's largest gas facility in Qatar was "clear proof" against Tehran's claims of having targeted only US interests in the Gulf. There were "persistent Iranian claims that these attacks are against American interests... and this claim is rejected and cannot be accepted," Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said. "The clear proof of this is the attack that took place yesterday that targeted a natural gas facility in the State of Qatar," he added.



Israeli security personnel secure an area around a rocket partly buried in a field in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights bordering Lebanon.

US approves over \$16 bn in arms sales to Gulf states

Washington, United States
The United States yesterday announced the approval of \$16.46 billion in military sales to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, two Gulf states that have been hit hard by fallout from the Iran war.

Netanyahu says Iran no longer able to enrich uranium, build ballistic missiles

Iran attacks energy facilities

Iran vowed to hit hard if its energy facilities were attacked again. "ZERO restraint if our infrastructures are struck again," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X.

Iran and US trade threats

Doha, Qatar
After Iran hit the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Qatar and threatened to destroy the region's energy infrastructure, Donald Trump warned of a furious US response if such attacks continued. Trump, whose country started the war alongside Israel with their attack on Iran on February 28, said Washington did not know about the strike on South Pars.

Israeli media reports oil refinery in Haifa hit after Iran missiles launched
Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli media reported that an oil refinery in the northern port city of Haifa was hit on Thursday, after the military warned of incoming missiles launched from Iran. Israel's Kan 11 public broadcaster aired images on television showing a thick plume of dark smoke rising from the area of the refinery. In a post on X, Kan reported that there were no concerns that hazardous materials had leaked. But he warned the United States would itself "blow up" the Iranian gas field if Tehran did not stop attacking Qatar.

Iran's military responded yesterday with defiance, saying it had been a "major mistake" to hit South Pars, which supplies around 70 % of the country's domestic natural gas. "If it is repeated, subsequent attacks against your energy infrastructure and that of your allies will not stop until their complete destruction," operational command Khatam Al-Anbiya said in a statement carried by Fars news agency.

Israel military says struck several Iranian naval ships in Caspian Sea
AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said yesterday that its fighter jets had struck several Iranian naval vessels in the Caspian Sea the previous day, including vessels equipped with anti-submarine missiles. The targets included ships equipped with missile systems, support vessels and patrol craft, the military said, adding that a port command centre was also hit in the operation. The targeted Iranian ships were also equipped with aerial surveillance systems and anti-submarine missiles, the military said.

"It is one of the most significant strikes conducted by the IDF since the start of Operation Roaring Lion," the military said in a statement. "We have for the first time carried out strikes in northern Iran in the Caspian Sea," military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani told journalists in a separate briefing. "This is the first time we have done that in our history... We were able to target their naval shipyard where they can fix or build new ships," he said, adding that Israel had struck more than 200 targets across Iran over the past 36 hours.

Oil prices surge, stocks sink on energy shock fears

London, United Kingdom

Energy prices soared and stocks sank yesterday as Iran stepped up attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure, reigniting fears over global supplies and

inflation as well as the likely damage to economic growth. International benchmark Brent crude rose more than five percent to top \$115 per barrel and US contract WTI briefly topped \$100 as Tehran targeted regional installations in retaliation for an Israeli strike on South Pars field, which it shares with Qatar. European gas prices also soared by more than a third on fears of the impact on energy supplies before edging back down.



ATTACKS ON GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

Iran attacked Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG (liquefied natural gas) facility, in retaliation for an Israeli strike on its South Pars gas field on March 18



Map data: OSM, cloud-free composite of Copernicus Sentinel-2 imagery (Feb-Mar 2026), processed by AFP, GEBCO Source: Environmental Defense Fund

AFP

This war will have a much more lasting impact: Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned yesterday the "reckless escalation". He warned that if Middle Eastern energy "production capacities themselves are destroyed, this war will have a much more lasting impact". He called for "direct talks between the Americans and Iranians on this matter". UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office also warned that "attacks on critical infrastructure risked pushing the region further into crisis", after talks with Macron and NATO chief Mark Rutte.

Direct threat to global energy security: UAE

Gulf nations had also warned of the fall-out from Israel's attack on Iran's South Pars gas field, which is part of the South Pars/North Dome megafield, the largest known gas reserve in the world that is shared with Qatar. The United Arab Emirates said that targeting energy infrastructure poses a "direct threat to global energy security".