

**Iran reopens main airports in capital Tehran: aviation authority**

Tehran, Iran

Iran reopened its main Imam Khomeini and Mehrabad airports in capital Tehran on Monday, the country's aviation authority said, after closures caused by the weeks-long war with the United States and Israel.

"Authorization for passenger flights at Imam Khomeini International Airport and Mehrabad Airport has been issued" from Monday, the Civil Aviation Organisation said in a statement, according to ISNA news agency.

It added that passenger flights from 10 airports across Iran "will also be possible from Saturday."

**Qatar flights**

Qatar's aviation authority said it would begin allowing flights from foreign airlines to land at its main airport for the first time since the start of the Middle East war.

"Qatar Civil Aviation Authority has issued a Notice to Airmen announcing the gradual resumption of operations for foreign airlines in the State of Qatar via Hamad International Airport," the body said in a statement.

**'Israel talks separate'**

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said planned talks with Israel aim to end "hostilities" and stressed they were "separate" from Iran-US negotiations.

"The choice to negotiate aims to stop hostilities, end the Israeli occupation of southern regions and deploy the (Lebanese) army all the way to the internationally recognised southern borders" with Israel, Aoun said in a statement.

**Hezbollah MP tells group will break Israel's yellow line**

Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah said his group would work to break the "Yellow Line" that Israel established in southern Lebanon, adding that no one in the country or abroad can disarm the Iran-backed group.

Fadlallah said "we will bring down this Yellow Line through the resistance (Hezbollah)". "The attempt by the Israeli army to establish a buffer zone, under the title of a defensive line, a yellow line, a green line, and a red line... all these lines will be broken, and we will not accept any of them."

Israel says image of soldier striking Jesus statue in Lebanon is authentic

**Israeli soldier vandalises Jesus statue in Lebanon**

AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed "harsh action" yesterday against a soldier caught on camera vandalizing a statue of Jesus Christ in southern Lebanon, as the image spread online.

The photo, which the military determined was authentic, shows an Israeli soldier using a sledgehammer to strike the head on a statue of a crucified Jesus that had fallen off a cross.

The sculpture is located in the Christian village of Debl in south Lebanon, near the border with Israel, the local municipality told AFP, but officials could not say whether it had been damaged.

"I was stunned and saddened to learn that an IDF soldier damaged a Catholic religious icon in southern Lebanon," Netanyahu wrote on X.



An Israeli soldier damages the head of a statue of Jesus, in Debel, Lebanon. (Arab News/REUTERS)

"I condemn the act in the strongest terms. Military authorities are conducting a criminal probe of the matter and will take appropriately harsh disciplinary action against the offender," he added.

The military said it had determined after an investigation that the image circulating on social media was genuine and showed an Israeli soldier operating in southern Lebanon.

It said in a post on its official X account that it viewed the incident with "great severity," adding that the "soldier's conduct is wholly inconsistent with the values expected of its troops."

The army said "appropriate measures will be taken against those involved" but did not go into further detail.

It said it is working with the community to "restore the statue to its place."

**Israel army warns Lebanese against returning to south**

**To talk or not?**

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Sunday he had spoken by phone with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian ahead of anticipated US-Iran talks in Islamabad, and reaffirmed his government's readiness to mediate the conflict. "I had a warm and constructive conversation with President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian this evening on the evolving regional situation," Sharif said in a post on X.

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran insisted it has no plan to attend a new round of negotiations with the United States yesterday, as uncertainty grows over a push to stop the Middle East war from resuming.

US President Donald Trump said he was sending negotiators to Pakistan for talks on ending the war that engulfed the region and rattled global markets, while repeating threats to attack Iran's energy infrastructure if it did not make a deal.

"We have no plans for the next round of negotiation, and no decision has been made in this regard," said foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei. "While claiming diplomacy and readiness for negotiations, the US is carrying out behaviours that do not in any way indicate seriousness in pursuing a diplomatic process," he added, calling the US blockade and cargo ship seizure "clear violations of the ceasefire".

Iran says the US blockade and attack breached the two-week truce set to end overnight today and threatened to retaliate, while Trump says Tehran has breached the ceasefire in the

On Sunday, Trump announced that a massive Iranian-flagged cargo ship "tried to get past our Naval Blockade, and it did not go well for them," adding a US destroyer blew "a hole in the

engine room" before US Marines seized the vessel.

The ISNA news agency later cited a spokesperson for Iran's central command centre as warning that the military "will soon respond and retaliate against this armed piracy and the US military".

Tasnim news agency reported Tehran had sent drones in the direction of US military ships after Touska was seized and "attacked".

**Iran military vows to 'soon respond'**



**US destroyer hits Iran cargo ship**

US Marines boarding and seizing the Iranian-flagged vessel M/V Touska after departing by helicopter from amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli in the Arabian sea on Sunday. A US destroyer fired on and seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman that tried to evade a US naval blockade, the US president and the US military said.

crucial Strait of Hormuz, which it has all but shut.

"We're offering a very fair and reasonable DEAL, and I hope they take it," Trump said in a social media post.

**Tight security**

In spite of the uncertainty surrounding the talks in Pakistan, security has been visibly stepped up in the capital Islamabad.

Authorities announced road closures and traffic restrictions across the city, as well as in neighbouring Rawalpindi.

**Vance, Kushner**

A White House official said Vice President JD Vance would lead the delegation after Trump said he would not, citing security concerns.

He would be joined by Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, the official said.

**Xi calls Saudi CP**

Chinese President Xi Jinping told Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in a phone call yesterday that "normal traffic" through the vital conduit for oil and gas shipments "should be maintained", state media said.

**Iran executions**

Iran hanged two men convicted of having links to Israel's spy agency.

The People's Mujahedin (MEK), an opposition group banned in Iran, confirmed the executions of MEK members Mohammad Masoom Shahi, 38, and Hamed Validi, 48.

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The ceasefire started on April 8, 2026 as a two-week deal. That means it is scheduled to expire around April 22, 2026 (midnight GMT)