

Iran steel export ban

Iran has banned the export of steel products, Iranian media reported customs authorities as saying, after airstrikes targeted the country's steel industry in the war with Israel and the United States.

The Fars news agency reported a directive from the Islamic republic's customs authorities "regarding the prohibition of the export" of steel products, effective from April 26.

Israeli warning

Israel's military warned residents of more than a dozen villages and towns in southern Lebanon to immediately evacuate and head northwards, saying Hezbollah's "violation of the ceasefire" was compelling it to act.

LNG passes Hormuz

A ship fully loaded with liquefied natural gas (LNG) has passed through the Strait of Hormuz for the first time since the Middle East war virtually closed the route in early March, marine tracking firm Kpler said.

The LNG carrier Mubarak, operated by the Emirati national oil company Adnoc, left the Gulf sometime in April with 132,890 cubic metres of LNG on board, having loaded at Das Island in the United Arab Emirates on March 2, according to Kpler data analysed by AFP.

Four dead in Lebanon

Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes on the country's south on Monday killed four people including a woman and wounded 51 others, three of them children, despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

Italy PM says priority to control rising prices

Rome, Italy

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Tuesday said her current priority was to restrain inflationary pressures on prices, especially energy, given the impact from the US-Israeli war against Iran.

Israel says has 'no territorial ambitions' in Lebanon

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel yesterday said it was not seeking to take territory in Lebanon, as its military issued a wave of new evacuation warnings for towns and villages in the battle-scarred south.

"Israel has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon. Our presence... serves one purpose: protecting our citizens," Foreign Minister Gideon Saar told a news conference.

"No country would be willing to live in such a way with a gun pointed to its head," he said as the military pressed its operations in Lebanon against Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Shortly after a ceasefire with Hezbollah came into effect on April 17, Israel declared a so-called "Yellow Line" -- a strip of Lebanese territory around 10 kilometres (six miles) deep

along the border within which Israeli troops are operating.

"In a reality where Hezbollah and other terror organisations -- including Palestinian terror groups -- are dismantled, Israel will have no need to maintain its presence in these areas," he added.

Despite the ceasefire, Israel and Hezbollah have both engaged in fighting, trading blame over violations of the fragile truce.

Tuesday's evacuation warning was aimed at residents in more than a dozen villages and towns, urging them to immediately head northwards.

"Out of concern for your safety, you are required to evacuate your homes immediately and move... towards the Sidon District," the military's Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee wrote on X.



A woman flashes the V-sign as she rides in the back of a van laden with mattresses, as civilians flee their homes and head north toward the Lebanese capital, hours after a military escalation that included Israeli airstrikes targeting the south

Israel using water access as 'weapon' in Gaza: MSF

There, water denied

Thirst in Gaza

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Israeli authorities are systematically depriving people in Gaza of the water they need to live, Doctors Without Borders warned yesterday, decrying a campaign of "collective punishment" against Palestinians.

The extensive destruction of civilian water infrastructure in Gaza coupled with obstruction of access constitutes "an integral part of Israel's genocide", said the medical charity, which goes by its French acronym MSF.

In a report entitled "Water as a Weapon", MSF said the "engineered scarcity" was occurring alongside "direct killing

of civilians, the devastation of health facilities, (and) the destruction of homes".

Together, this amounted to "the deliberate infliction of destructive and inhumane conditions of life on the Palestinian population in Gaza", warned the report, based on testimonies and data MSF collected in 2024 and 2025.

"Israeli authorities know that without water, life ends," MSF emergency manager Claire San Filippo said in a statement.

"Yet they have deliberately and systematically obliterated water infrastructure in Gaza, whilst consistently blocking water-related supplies from entering."

'Engineered' scarcity

The MSF report, which was slammed by Israel, pointed to data from the United Nations, European Union and World Bank indicating that Israel had destroyed or damaged nearly 90 percent of water and sanitation infrastructure in Gaza.

"Desalination plants, boreholes, pipelines and sewage systems have been rendered inoperable or inaccessible," it said.

The charity documented several incidents where its clearly identified water trucks and boreholes had been shot at or destroyed.

"Palestinians have been injured and killed simply trying to access water," San Filippo said.

The charity said that besides the local authorities, it was the largest producer and main distributor of drinking water in Gaza.

Last month, it provided more than 5.3 million litres of water each day, which meets the minimum needs of more than 407,000 people, or a fifth of Gaza's population.

Perfect storm

MSF said a third of its requests to bring in critical water and sanitation supplies, including water desalination units, pumps, water tanks, insect repellent, chlorine and other chemicals to treat water, had "been rejected or left unanswered".

San Filippo also cautioned that the deprivation of water, "combined with dire living conditions, extreme overcrowding, and a collapsed health system, create a perfect storm for the spread of diseases".

MSF called on Israel to "immediately restore water for people at the required levels in Gaza".

It urged Israel's allies to "use their leverage to pressure Israel to stop impeding humanitarian access".

Children fetch drinking water at the Bureij camp for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip



5.3m

Last month, MSF provided more than 5.3 million litres of water each day



Despite an October ceasefire that largely halted the Gaza war that began after Hamas's 2023 attack on Israel, the territory remains gripped by daily violence as Israeli strikes continue and both the Israeli military and Hamas accuse each other of breaking the truce.

