

## International

## ISRAEL, HEZBOLLAH TRADE FIRE

CONFLICT, FROM A-1

Israel and Hezbollah said they aimed only at military targets. Israel said no military target was hit by Hezbollah but that one soldier with its navy was killed and two others were wounded either by an interceptor for incoming fire, or by shrapnel from one. Two Hezbollah fighters and a militant from an allied group were killed, the groups said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the military eliminated thousands of rockets that were aimed at northern Israel and shot down drones heading for the center of the country.

"I repeat — this is not the end of the story," he added.

## Flights diverted

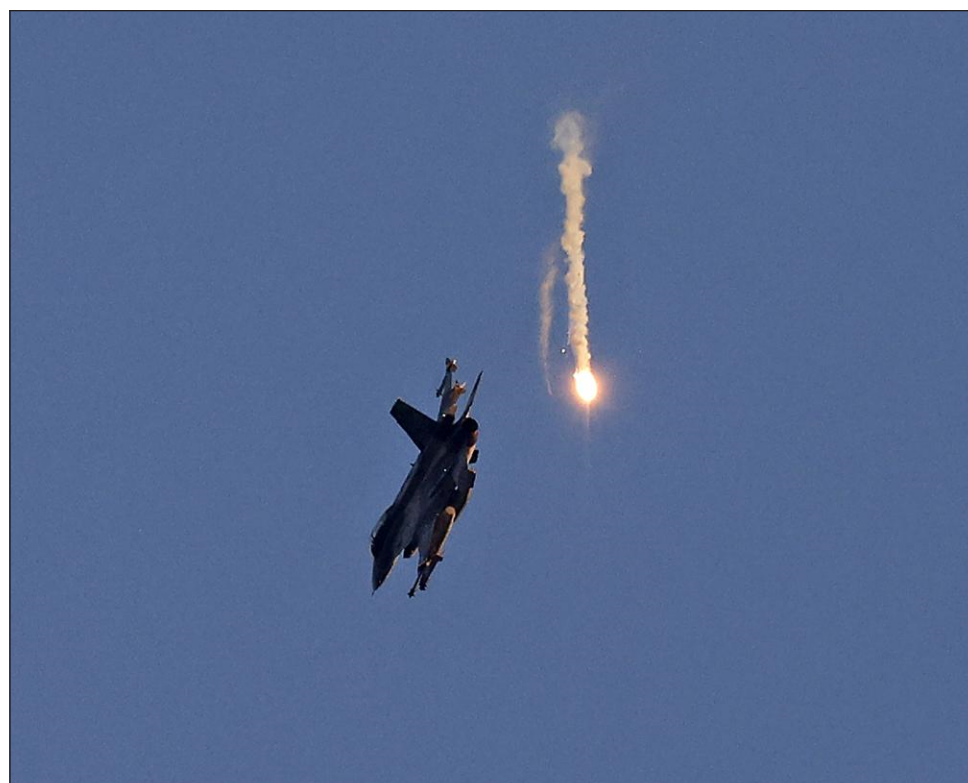
Air raid sirens were reported throughout northern Israel, and Israel's international airport closed and diverted flights for about an hour.

Israel's military spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said about 100 Israeli planes struck 270 targets, 90% of them rocket launchers aimed at northern Israel. He said they were investigating the percentage of incoming rockets and drones intercepted but said the "vast majority" were thwarted.

Hezbollah said its attack involved more than 320 Katyusha rockets aimed at multiple sites in Israel and a "large number" of drones.

Some Israelis were shaken. In the northern city of Acre, retired teacher Saadia Even Tsur, 76, said he was at the synagogue and arrived home five minutes after his bedroom was damaged. "I went up and saw the size of the miracle that happened to me," he said. A window was broken and debris was on the bed.

Lebanon's caretaker



Jalaa Marey/ AFP via Getty Images

An Israeli Air Force fighter jet fires flares as it flies to intercept a hostile aircraft that launched from Lebanon over the border area with south Lebanon on Sunday.

Economy Minister Amin Salam, after an emergency government meeting, said officials were "feeling a bit more optimistic" about a de-escalation after both sides confirmed that the operations had ended.

President Joe Biden was "closely monitoring events in Israel and Lebanon," according to Sean Savett, a spokesman for the National Security Council. The Pentagon said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant, and ordered both U.S. carrier strike groups in the region to stay. The U.S. military has been building up its forces across the region in recent weeks.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. CQ Brown, arrived in Israel late

Sunday for meetings on what the Israeli military called "joint preparations in the region as part of the response to threats in the Middle East."

## All-out war averted

Danny Citrinowicz, an expert at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, said Hezbollah might be trying to "balance the equation without escalating into war." Each side hopes their narrative will be sufficient for them to declare victory and avoid a wider confrontation, he said.

Hezbollah began attacking Israel almost immediately after the start of the war in Gaza, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel. Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged fire almost daily, displacing

tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border.

Hezbollah, which fought Israel to a stalemate in 2006, is believed to be far more powerful now. The United States and Israel estimate it has some 150,000 rockets and is capable of hitting anywhere inside Israel. The group has also developed drones capable of evading Israel's defenses, as well as precision-guided munitions.

Israel has vowed a crushing response to any major Hezbollah attack. It has an extensive multi-tiered missile defense system, and it is backed by a U.S.-led coalition that helped it shoot down hundreds of missiles and drones fired from Iran earlier this year.

Hezbollah is a close ally of Iran, which has also threatened to retaliate against Israel for the killing of senior Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month. Israel has not said whether it was involved.

Iranian state media played up the Hezbollah attack, calling it a success, but there was no immediate comment from Iranian officials.

The U.S. and other mediators see a cease-fire in Gaza as key to averting a wider Mideast war. Hezbollah has said it will halt its strikes on Israel if there is a cease-fire.

The talks in Cairo on Sunday aimed at bridging gaps in a proposal for a truce and the release of scores of hostages held by Hamas. The talks included CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency.

The Hamas delegation was briefed by Egyptian and Qatari mediators but did not directly take part in negotiations.

In the occupied West Bank, Israel's military said it killed two people who allegedly tried to run over soldiers in Ariel, slightly hurting one.

## Officials: 2 separate bus crashes in Pakistan leave at least 36 people dead

By Munir Ahmed  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Two separate bus crashes hours apart in Pakistan on Sunday left at least 36 people dead and dozens more injured, officials said.

The first happened when a bus carrying Shiite Muslim pilgrims returning from Iraq through Iran fell from a highway into a ravine in southwest Pakistan, killing at least 12 people and injuring 32 others, police and officials said.

The driver lost control on the Makran coastal highway when the brakes failed, while passing through Lasbela district in Baluchistan province, local police chief Qazi Saib said.

Authorities in Baluchistan said that arrangements were being made to send the bodies of the pilgrims to Punjab province for burial. Maryam Nawaz, the chief minister in Punjab, expressed her condolences after the crash.

Hours later, 24 people were killed when a bus fell into a ravine in the Kahuta district of the eastern Punjab province, police and officials said, including two women and a child. Omar Farooq, a senior government official in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, said there were no survivors.

Initially, local police said that there were seven injured, but later doctors and government officials said that everyone on board the bus died in the crash. Raja Moazzam, a rescue official, said most of the bodies had been identified.

According to residents,

the bus crash happened early Sunday and locals initially took part in the rescue work, and ambulances of emergency service crews arrived later.

The bus was heading to the Pakistan-administered disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir — claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan — when it fell from the Panna bridge in the Kahuta district, said Sardar Waheed, a senior government official, adding that heavy machinery was used to lift the wreckage to ensure no one was trapped underneath.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in separate statements, offered their condolences and expressed sorrow over the two crashes. They asked authorities to ensure the provision of the best medical treatment for the injured pilgrims.

The crashes on Sunday occurred days after 28 Pakistani pilgrims were killed in a bus crash in neighboring Iran while heading to Iraq. A Pakistani military plane flew the bodies of the victims home on Saturday to be buried in the southern Sindh province.

Thousands of Shiites travel to Iraq's holy city of Karbala to commemorate Arbaeen — Arabic for the number 40 — to mark the death of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, who became a symbol of resistance during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history.

Bus crashes are common in Pakistan, mostly because of negligence by drivers, who often violate traffic rules.



Aamir Qureski/AFP via Getty Images

People look at the wreckage at the site of a bus accident that killed 23 people after it plunged into a ravine Sunday at Soon village near Kahuta, Punjab province.

SUNDAY

PGFood

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Food trends, nutrition tips and innovative kitchen gadgets

Meals for the week for an array of family sizes

Iconic eats (and food producers) of Western Pa.

New restaurants to try and Eat Pittsburgh neighborhood features

Don't worry, all of this great food coverage is in addition to our popular Thursday PG Food section!

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