

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #132 April 12 - April 18, 2026

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Account of the main events in the Israel-Hamas war and hostilities by the Iranian Axis



Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, landed in Tehran to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi to mediate negotiations between Iran and the United States.

**Source: Tasnim NewsAgency on Telegram,
<https://t.me/Tasnimnews>**

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- After Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi declared that, in light of the ceasefire in Lebanon, the Strait of Hormuz would be fully reopened to commercial shipping for the duration of the ceasefire, Trump published a series of posts stating that Iran had promised not to use the Strait as a weapon anymore. He said he appreciated the reopening, but added that the American blockade would continue until a deal is reached between Washington and Tehran.
- Despite that announcement, the IRGC condemned Araghchi's statement, reflecting an apparent split inside the Iranian leadership. The IRGC issued several clarifications: civilian ships may pass only between the islands of Hormuz and Larak; the passage of warships is forbidden; every transit requires IRGC approval; and movement will be allowed only as long as the Lebanon ceasefire holds. The broader aim appears to be the creation of a new status quo in which Iran treats the straits as its own controlled leverage and preserves economic pressure as a bargaining tool tied to its uranium stockpile.
- According to the Institute for the Study of War, there is a growing power struggle inside Iran. The new IRGC commander, Ahmad Vahidi, is reportedly pushing aside the civilian leadership, while Araghchi is facing criticism at home. Iranian media and much of the political echelon are said to be lining up more closely with the IRGC's hard line. In this picture, Araghchi is trying to end the campaign, while Vahidi is seeking to use the crisis to consolidate his authority and preserve a more confrontational policy.
- Trump repeated his threats that he could return to military measures and refuse to extend the ceasefire if Iran does not surrender its uranium. On April 18, 2026, a summit was held in Turkey between the foreign ministers of Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, with the aim of extending the ceasefire and preparing for another round of negotiations.

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- Additional comprehensive details were published on Operation Roaring Lion. The Israeli Air Force dropped 19,000 munitions in Iran, in addition to 17,000 munitions delivered by U.S. Central Command. Approximately 1,000 Basij and internal security personnel were killed, and Mojtaba was wounded in an Israeli strike. Iran's two satellite launchers were destroyed, leaving it currently without space-launch capability. Another nine nuclear scientists were killed, and strikes on Arak and other nuclear facilities pushed the nuclear program further backward.
- Iran launched a total of 1,400 ballistic missiles, of which 39% were aimed at Israel and the rest at the Gulf states and Jordan. Out of the 550 missiles fired at Israel, 90 were not intercepted, which was a higher number than in the previous campaign. The stated reason is Iran's broader use of cluster munitions, which complicated interception efforts.
- Iran suffered extensive economic damage, estimated at \$100 billion, roughly one-tenth of its GDP. About 40% of steel production capacity, 75% of petrochemical production capacity, and 23% of gas processing capacity were reportedly destroyed. Rebuilding these capabilities could take many months or even years, depending in part on whether sanctions are eased and foreign assets are unfrozen. Israel and U.S. Central Command are also said to retain options for striking power stations and other energy infrastructure if negotiations collapse.
- In addition, about 250 air defense systems were destroyed, 60% of Iran's ballistic missile launchers were rendered inoperable—though this does not necessarily mean they were destroyed outright—and 4,600 targets were struck in the Tehran area. Some 3,000 components in Iran's weapons production lines were destroyed, and the Israeli Air Force now has nine strike zones across Iran.

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- The Israeli Navy disclosed that its Shayetet 13 commando unit carried out an unprecedented operation during the recent multifront war, at a location “thousands of kilometers” from Israel and in an area where the unit had never operated before. The Navy also revealed that, during the recent war with Iran, an Israeli submarine operated at the greatest distance ever recorded from Israel in the history of the submarine fleet. At the same time, submarines were deployed in three separate arenas simultaneously, with thousands of kilometers between them, highlighting the scale and range of Israel’s naval operations during the conflict.
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- IDF published figures from the Lebanese theater-162 towers were destroyed, 14,900 artillery strikes including 2,500 air sorties were carried out, 5,000 munitions were dropped. Out of 300 drones launched toward Israel, 92% were intercepted, and out of 140 anti-tank missiles, 15 hit their targets. Hezbollah launched a total of 8,000 rockets. Roughly one-third were directed at the Israeli home front, while two-thirds were aimed at the maneuvering ground forces. The comparison between the total rocket volume and the number of attacks toward the civilian rear suggests that although barrages against the home front may appear more visible, the attacks against Israeli forces in the field often involved a larger number of rockets per volley.
- After phone calls with Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Aoun, President Trump announced the commencement of a 10- day ceasefire.

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- The first summit since 1993 was held between senior Israeli and Lebanese officials, mediated by Secretary Rubio. No details were published regarding the substance of the meeting, but statements afterward referred to the goal of disarming Hezbollah. Lebanese President Aoun stated that the IDF must stop its attacks on Lebanese territory. Another summit is expected in the coming days, indicating that this was only the opening stage of a wider diplomatic track.
- French President Emmanuel Macron said that Hezbollah was responsible for the death of a French soldier in an attack on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, a statement that places direct blame on the organization and adds another layer of international pressure on Hezbollah.
- There are currently 55 villages under Israeli control, and the army intends to use the coming days to destroy buildings and terror infrastructure used by Hezbollah, without the risk of rocket fire on the engineering forces operating there.
- Hamas is continuing to refuse to disarm, and in Jerusalem there is still no willingness to support any reconstruction plan before demilitarization. At the same time, pressure is expected to come from the American administration to move forward with planning reconstruction. The Israeli assessment is that at least one more operation in Gaza may be required to push Hamas toward surrender, which will be more effective as the IDF will not have operate around Israeli hostages.
- The Syrian authorities foiled a plot by a Hezbollah-linked terror cell to assassinate a Jewish rabbi in Damascus. Syria's Interior Ministry said that security forces arrested a woman who was a member of the cell while she was attempting to carry out a sabotage attack by planting an explosive device. The incident points to continued covert terrorist activity inside Syria tied to Hezbollah networks.

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- Over the last week in the Judea and Samaria sector, Israel forces arrested 70 wanted individuals, including operatives from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. They also confiscated 12 weapons and seized 100,000 shekels in terror funds.
- Indonesia signed an agreement with the United States to upgrade military relations to the highest level of “Major Defense Cooperation Partnership” (MDCP). This marks a significant strengthening of defense ties between Washington and Jakarta and reflects broader regional military alignment trends.
- The Prime Minister of Italy announced the suspension of the military cooperation agreement with Israel. In response, Hamas issued a statement welcoming the move, calling it “a step in the right direction” and urging all countries around the world to adopt similar measures. The Italian decision was therefore immediately used by Hamas as part of its wider political messaging campaign against Israel.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Xi said that China and Russia must firmly defend the legitimate interests of both countries through closer and more effective strategic cooperation.
- The U.S. Senate voted down two resolutions aimed at blocking the sale of weapons and bulldozers to Israel, but the vote still reflected a striking shift inside the Democratic Party. Senator Bernie Sanders, who authored the initiative, argued that the bulldozers would be used to demolish homes [of convicted Palestinian terrorists] in Judea and Samaria, Gaza, and Lebanon. Although the resolutions failed, the scale of Democratic support for them was politically significant.