

## WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

# ISRAELI STRIKES THREATEN IRAN TRUCE



EMILIE MADI, REUTERS

Khadija, who was wounded in an Israeli strike that killed her father, is escorted by family Thursday as they prepare for the burial of Khadija's father at Rafik Hariri University Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon.

## More than 300 killed in Lebanon; US-Iran talks planned

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Reuters

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday he wants direct talks with Beirut, a day after the worst bombardment of the war killed more than 300 people in Lebanon and placed Donald Trump's U.S.-Iran ceasefire in jeopardy.

Trump announced a ceasefire in the six-week-old Iran conflict late Tuesday on social media, just hours before a deadline after which he threatened to destroy Iran's "entire civilization."

In Pakistan, authorities prepared for the first round of U.S.-Iran talks, locking down parts of the capital Islamabad.

But there was no sign Iran lifted its near-total blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which caused the worst disruption to global energy supplies in history, with Israel's ongoing attacks on Lebanon cited as a key sticking point.

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said Thursday that Iran doesn't seek war but won't forfeit its rights.

The statement attributed to Khamenei

was read on state TV. He has not been seen in public since he took over from his father, who was killed on the first day of the war.

Khamenei said Iran will seek retribution for attacks against it and "will take management of the Straits of Hormuz into a new phase." He also vowed to avenge the deaths of his father Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's "martyrs."

### Little traffic

In the first 24 hours of the ceasefire, just a single oil products tanker and five dry bulk carriers sailed through a strait that typically accommodated 140 ships a day before the war, accounting for about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flows.

Trump claimed in a social media post Thursday that oil would start flowing again, though he gave no indication of what actions the U.S. might take.

"Because of me, IRAN WILL NEVER HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON and, very quickly, you'll see Oil start flowing, with or without the help of Iran and, to me, it makes no difference, either way," he said.

In a separate post, Trump said Iran should not charge fees to tankers going through the strait.

"They better not be and, if they are, they better stop now," he said.

Netanyahu, whose government rebuffed a historic offer for direct talks with Lebanon last month, said in a statement that he gave instructions to start peace talks as soon as possible, which would also include disarming Iran-aligned militant group Hezbollah.

"In light of Lebanon's repeated requests to open direct negotiations with Israel, I instructed the cabinet yesterday to start direct negotiations with Lebanon as soon as possible," he said. "The negotiations will focus on disarming Hezbollah and establishing peaceful relations between Israel and Lebanon."

An hour before Netanyahu's statement, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said he was working on a diplomatic track on this matter that was starting to be seen "positively" by international actors.

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## South Central Library catalog system to be offline next week

LINKcat website, app getting major update

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The South Central Library consortium's online catalog system will be unusable most of next week as libraries across south central Wisconsin transition to a new catalog management software.

The LINKcat website and app — which allow users to check their library accounts and access books online — will be down from 5 p.m. Sunday through 12 p.m. Thursday as libraries across the region make the switch to the new system.

The consortium of Dane, Adams, Columbia, Green, Portage, Wood and Sauk counties chose to replace its current management software with SirsiDynix Symphony earlier this year.

The update will allow users to manage Overdrive and Libby checkouts and manage physical and electronic items through the LINKcat website and app.

The LINKcat dashboard will be similar to how it looks now, but with a few improvements, South Central Library Director Shannon Schultz said after announcing the group's decision to implement Symphony.

Following the update, all user

passwords and PINs will be reset to a default password. Staff recommends users update their passwords and PINs the next time they log in to their LINKcat account.

Self-check machines and library catalog computers will be unavailable while LINKcat is offline. Material can be checked out in person with a physical library card, and public computers will still be accessible.