

[f](#) Share
 [✕](#)
[📧](#)

 1.2k
View comments

 Top

 Home +99



BREAKING NEWS Hundreds of Hezbollah fighters are wounded when their PAGERS explode, sparking panic across Beirut, with sources blaming Israel

- Hezbollah said the incident is the largest intelligence breach in group's history

By [DAVID AVERRE](#) and [WILIAM HUNTER](#)

PUBLISHED: 09:30 EDT, 17 September 2024 | UPDATED: 11:16 EDT, 17 September 2024

[📧](#)
[📱](#)
[✕](#)
[📺](#)

7 shares

1.2k View comments

Hundreds of people, including Hezbollah fighters, were killed or wounded this afternoon when the pagers they used to communicate exploded, according to Lebanese security sources.

The wave of sudden and unexpected detonations, which began around 3:45pm local time (1345 GMT) and lasted roughly an hour, gave way to widespread panic and chaotic scenes across southern Lebanon and the capital **Beirut**.



1.2k View comments Top Home +99

Yet more harrowing clips taken inside Lebanese hospitals showed how some unfortunate victims sustained massive head injuries, gaping wounds in their legs and abdomen, or had their hands blown off by the powerful explosions.

The death toll has not yet been established, but at least one Hezbollah fighter and one child were confirmed dead by multiple security sources and a family member, according to AFP.

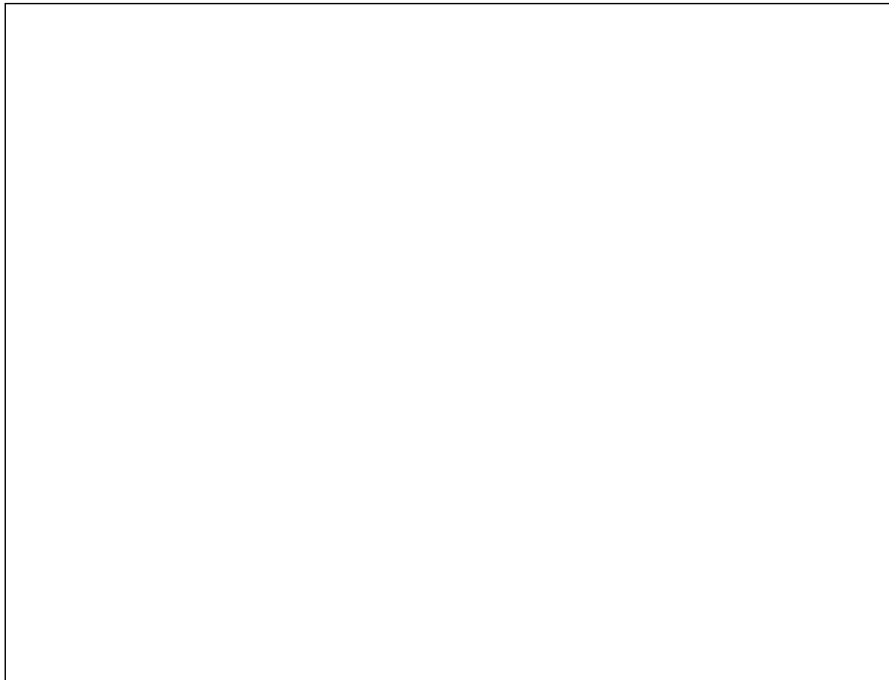
Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, was also injured according to the Mehr news agency.

The shocking incident constitutes the single largest intelligence breach in the militant outfit's history, an official said, with speculation mounting that the technology was somehow hacked or sabotaged by **Israeli** security services.

One source close to Hezbollah told AFP the incident came as a direct result of an 'Israeli breach' of its communications.

A different official told AP on condition of anonymity that the cause of the explosions was likely the lithium batteries that power the pagers, which can catch on fire when overheated.

Israeli officials are yet to comment.

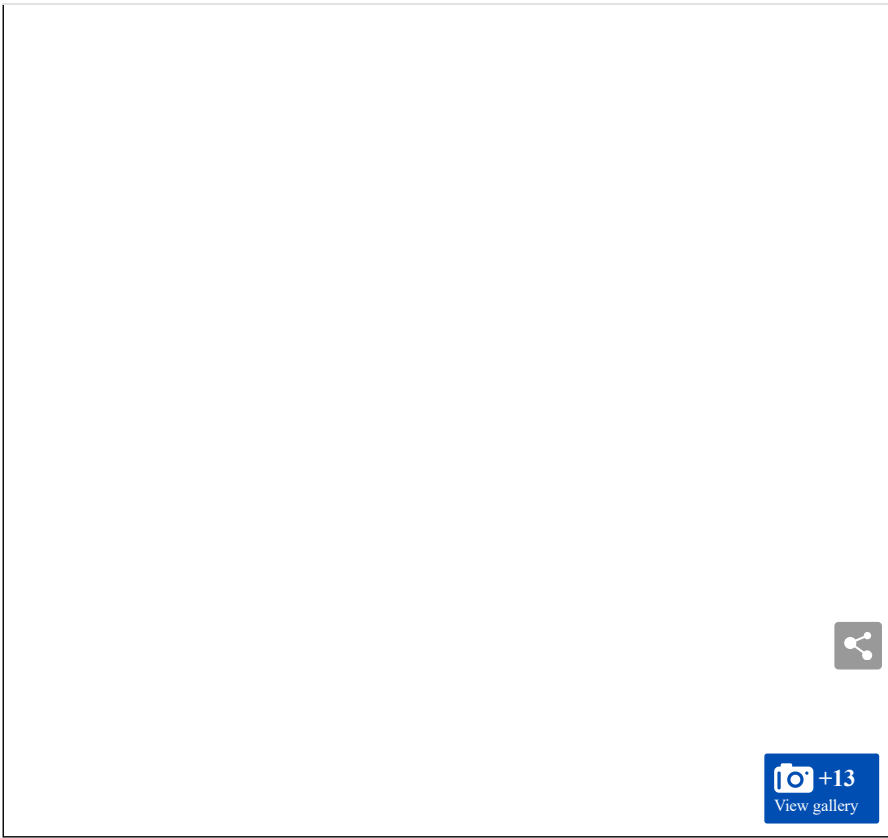




1.2k
View comments

Top

Home



The stunning incident saw scores of Hezbollah members severely injured throughout southern Lebanon and in its capital Beirut

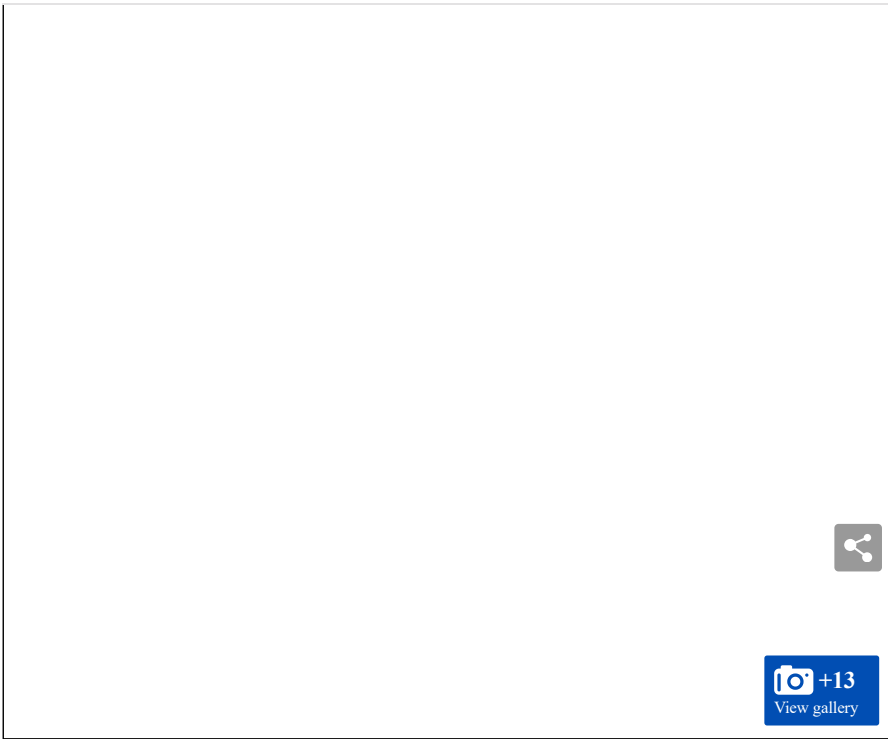


1.2k
View comments

Top

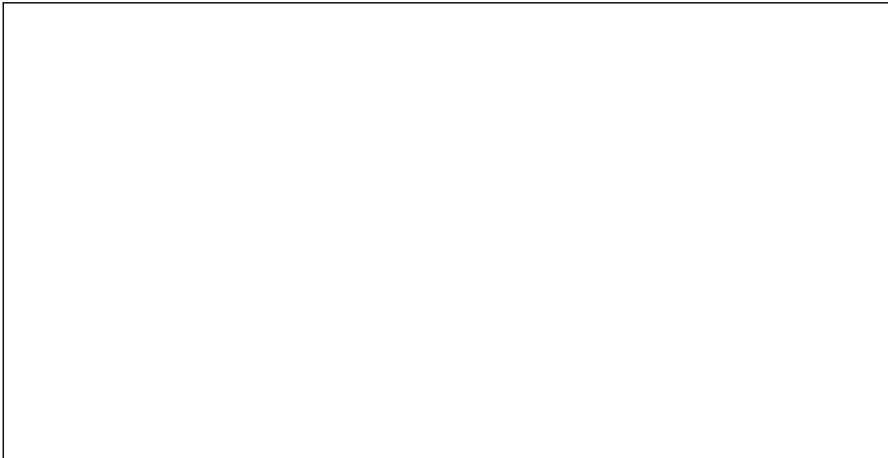
Home

+99



+13
View gallery

An image grab taken from a UGC video posted on social media on September 17, 2024, shows men covered in blood in Beirut's southern suburbs after dozens of Hezbollah group members were injured when their pagers exploded

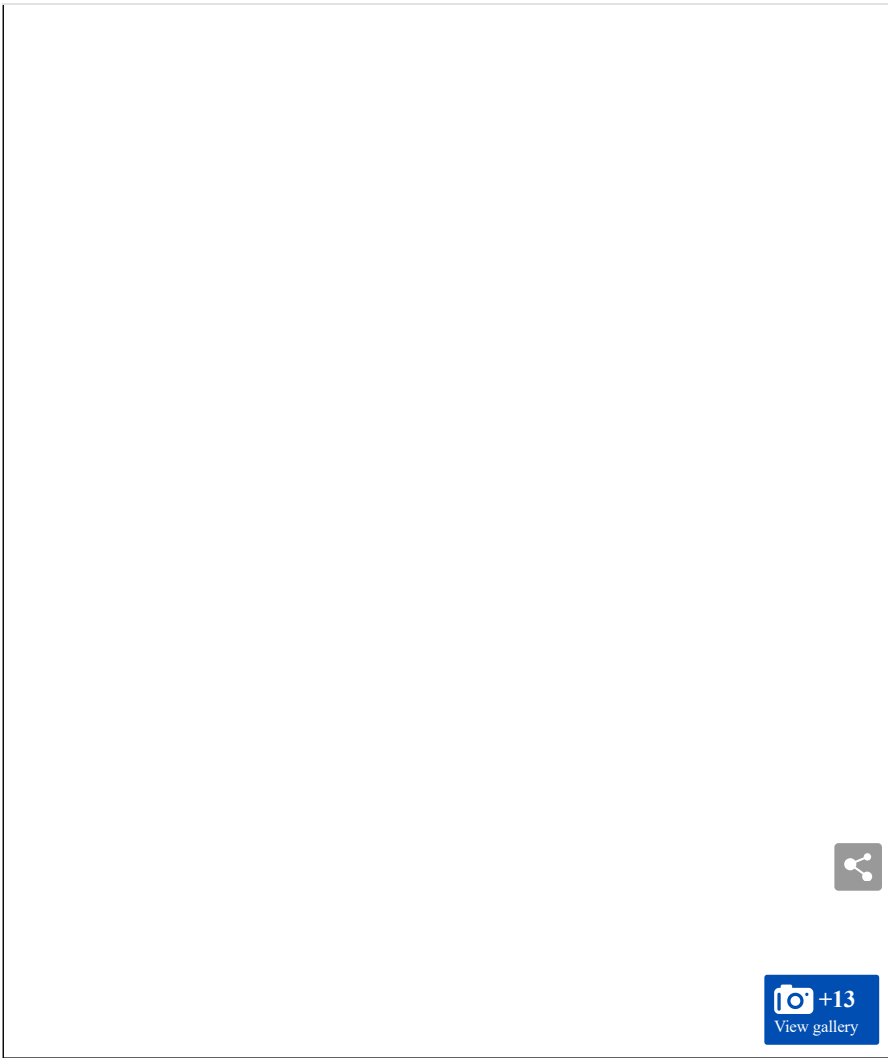




1.2k
View comments

Top

Home



Pagers used by Hezbollah members for vital communications exploded this afternoon, injuring hundreds

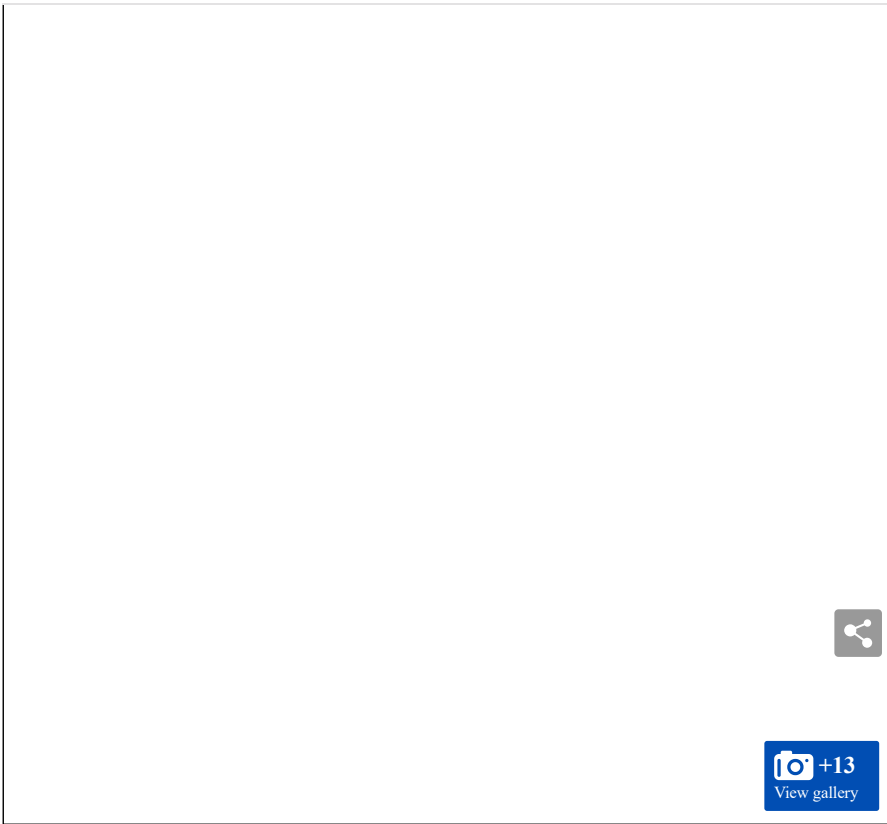
 Share   

1.2k
View comments

Top

Home

+99



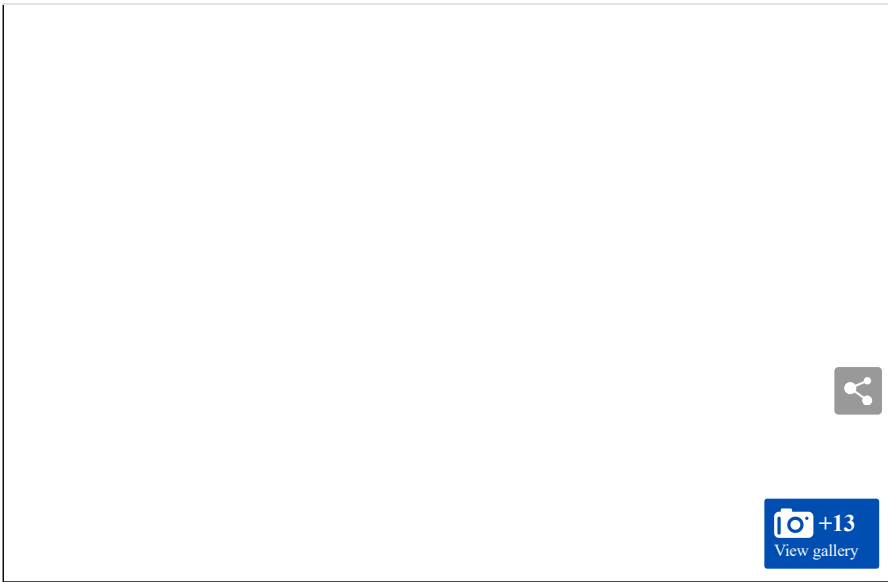
The remnants of what is believed to be a pager carried by a Lebanese militant that detonated earlier today



1.2k
View comments

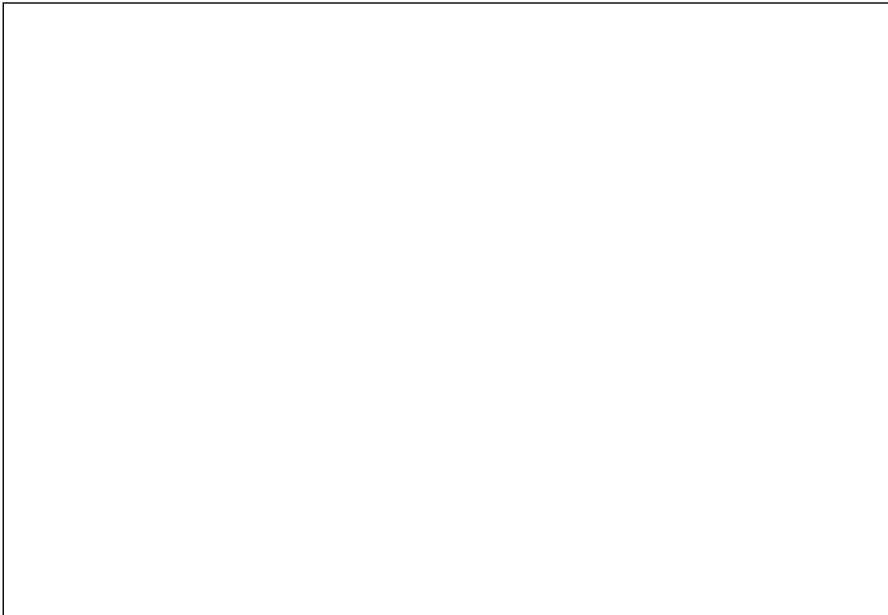
Top

Home



+13
View gallery

Lebanese soldiers and Hezbollah members gather outside a hospital where injured people were being transported, following an incident involving Hezbollah members' wireless devices in Dahieh, Beirut, south Lebanon, 17 September 2024



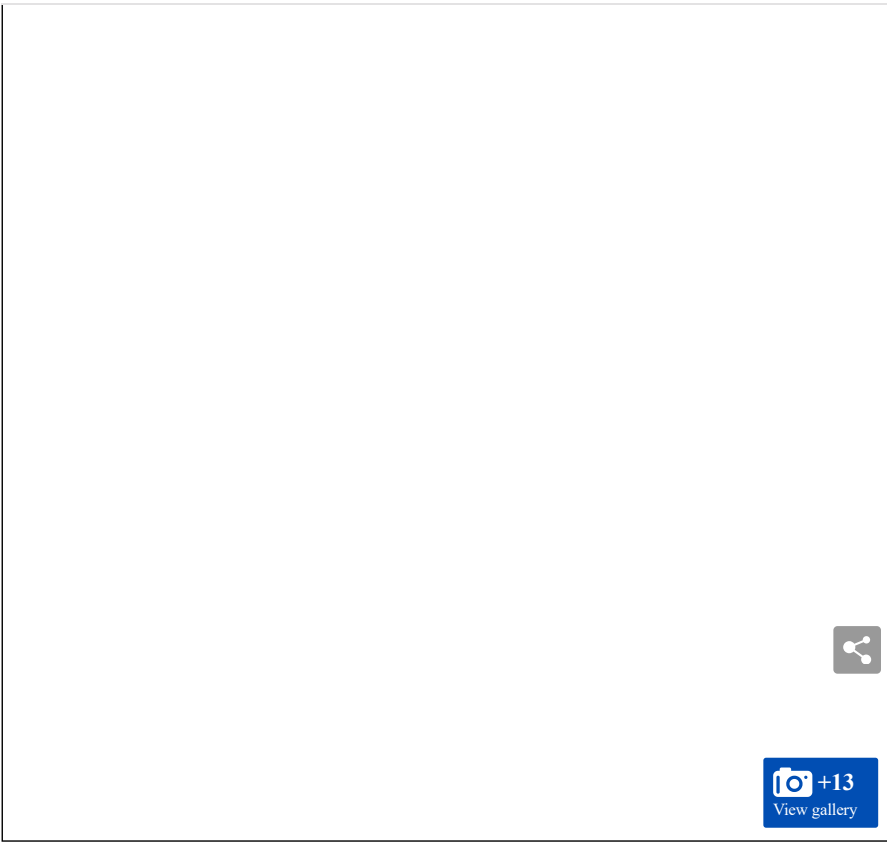


1.2k
View comments

Top

Home

+99



The sudden and unexpected detonations gave way to widespread panic and chaotic scenes in images shared on social media and broadcast by Lebanese and Israeli outlets

TRENDING

Harris takes lead over Trump for the first time in Daily Mail poll

9k viewing now

Huge breakthrough in notorious cold case of Asha Degree

4.1k viewing now

ABC responds to 'whistleblower affidavit' after debate claims

3.4k viewing now



1.2k View comments Top Home +99

using the pagers for their communications, reasoning that modern smartphones would be more susceptible to cyber attacks by Israeli forces.

But just like mobile phones and many other consumer electronics, pagers also rely on rechargeable lithium batteries to function.

The battery fires can burn up to 590 degrees celsius (1,100 F) when ignited.

There has yet to be any official confirmation on what caused the pagers to detonate in unison.

But Lebanese military sources have suggested that the devices were detonated as part of an Israeli attack.

It is possible that Israeli forces or some other actor could have hacked these devices and remotely overcharged the battery, triggering a thermal runaway.

One-way pagers are passive receivers and so cannot be tracked, but when a message is sent it activates every pager transmitter in the area.

By hijacking the broadcast signal, an adversary could have conceivably infected every single pager on the network simultaneously.

A virus could have been implanted into the Hezbollah pager network and allowed to remain dormant on the devices until it had spread widely.

This malware may have been remotely triggered or activated on a pre-programmed timer.

Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) said 'tens of injured have been taken to hospital after the handheld pagers system was detonated using advanced technology' and relayed urgent calls from hospitals in the country's south for people to donate blood.

How could the explosions have been triggered?

The likely source of the explosions is the lithium-ion battery which powers the pagers used by Hezbollah.

While lithium-ion batteries are commonly used in consumer electronics, they can explode violently in some cases.

Lithium-ion batteries detonate due to a phenomenon called thermal runaway, a chemical chain reaction which occurs when the battery experiences a rapid temperature change.

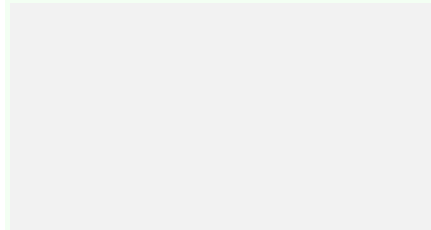
As this chemical reaction progresses it can lead to a sudden release of energy which can cause devices to explode with intense force and heat.

Thermal runaway is triggered when the battery is overheated, punctured or overcharged.

Pagers often use unencrypted communications channels and outdated software, making them extremely easy targets for an attack.

It is conceivable that an adversary of Hezbollah could have hijacked the pagers' broadcast signal and implanted a virus that when activated caused the battery to overheat.

ADVERTISEMENT





where people with their hands bloodied were screaming in pain.

The head of the Nabatieh public hospital in the south of the country, Hassan Wazni, told Reuters that around 40 wounded people were being treated at his facility. The wounds included injuries to the face, eyes and limbs.



Meanwhile, regional broadcasters began displaying CCTV footage which showed what appeared to be a small handheld device placed next to a grocery store cashier where an individual was paying spontaneously exploding.

In other footage, an explosion appeared to knock out someone standing at a fruit stand at a market area.

Lebanon's crisis operations centre, which is run by the health ministry, asked all medical workers to head to their respective hospitals to help cope with the massive numbers of wounded coming in for urgent care.

It also stressed that health care workers should not use pagers.

The Lebanese Red Cross said more than 50 ambulances and 300 emergency medical staff were dispatched to help in the evacuation of victims.

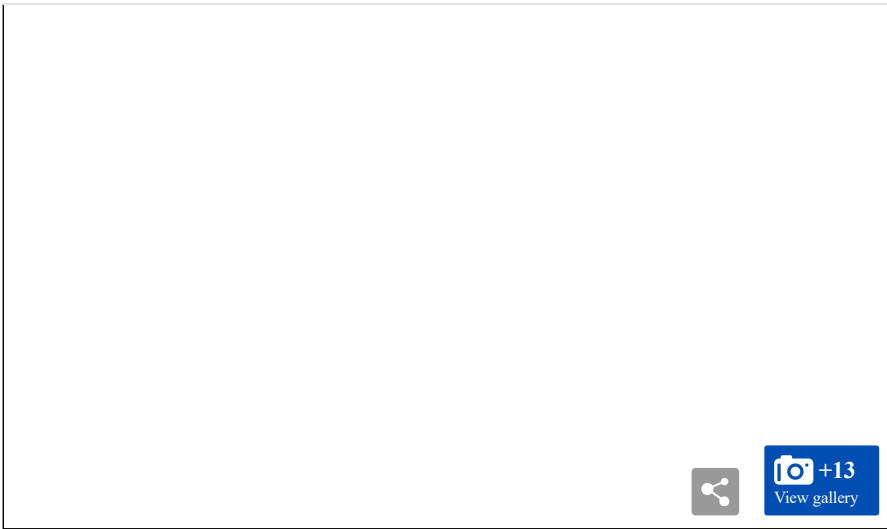


1.2k
View comments

Top

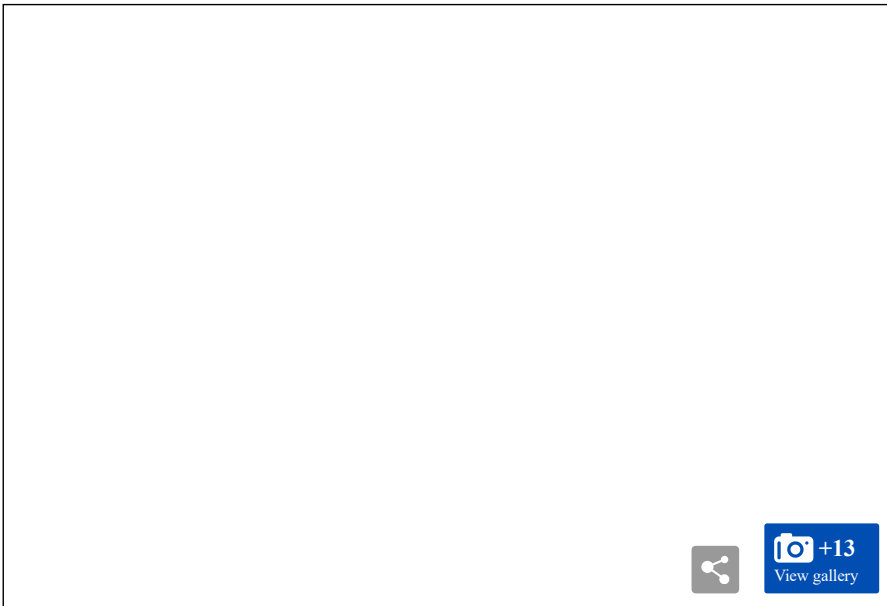
Home

+99



+13
View gallery

Civil Defence first-responders carry a wounded man whose handheld pager exploded at al-Zahraa hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024



+13
View gallery

Doctors and bystanders await the arrival of victims injured by exploding pagers

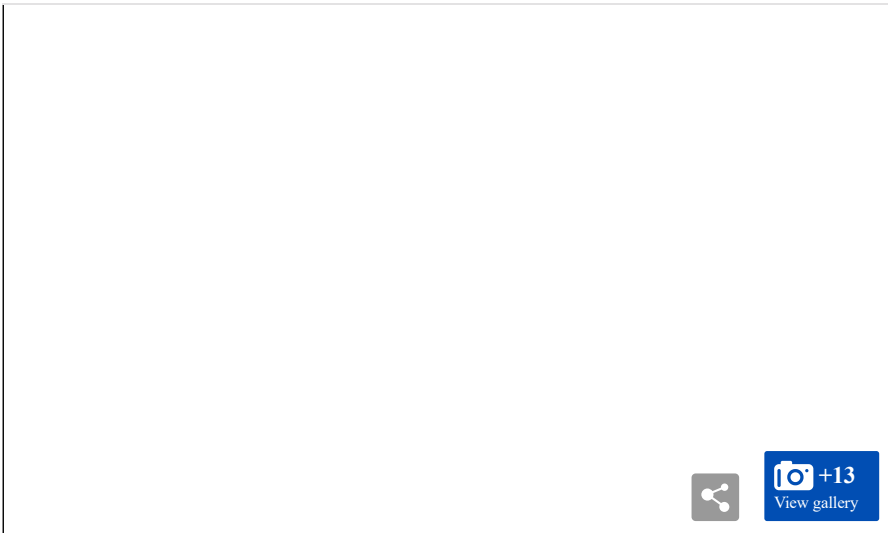


1.2k
View comments

Top

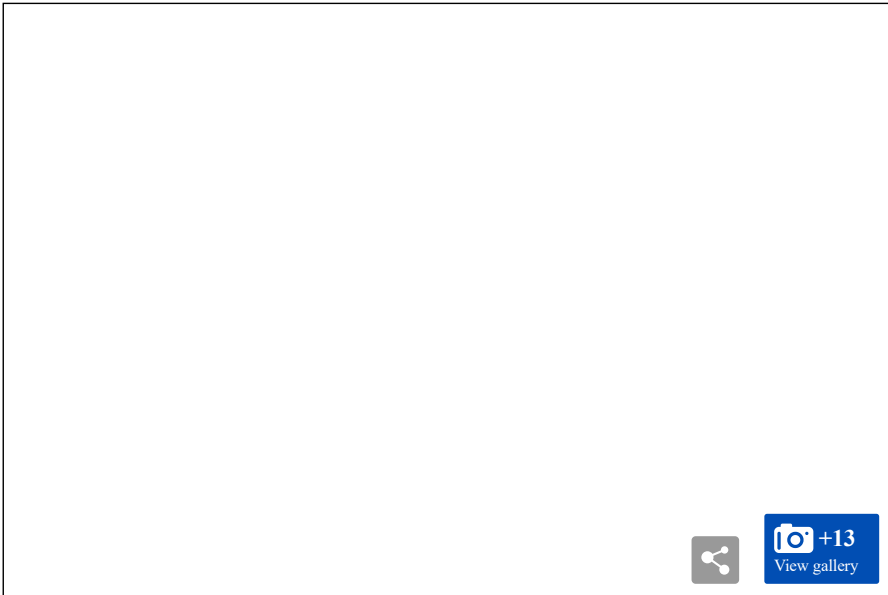
Home

+99



+13
View gallery

People gather outside a hospital, as more than 1,000 people, including Hezbollah fighters and medics, were wounded on Tuesday when the pagers they use to communicate exploded across Lebanon, according to a security source, in Beirut, Lebanon September 17, 2024



+13
View gallery

Police officers inspect a car inside of which a hand-held pager exploded, Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024

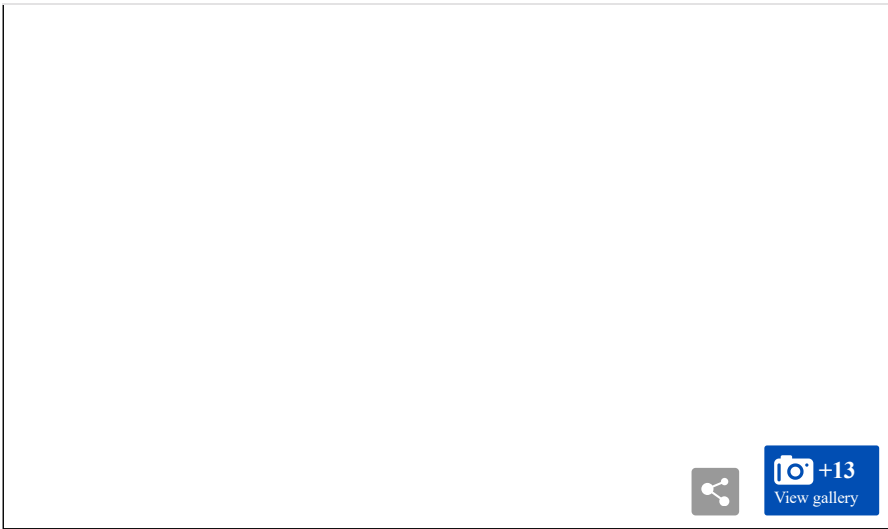


1.2k
View comments

Top

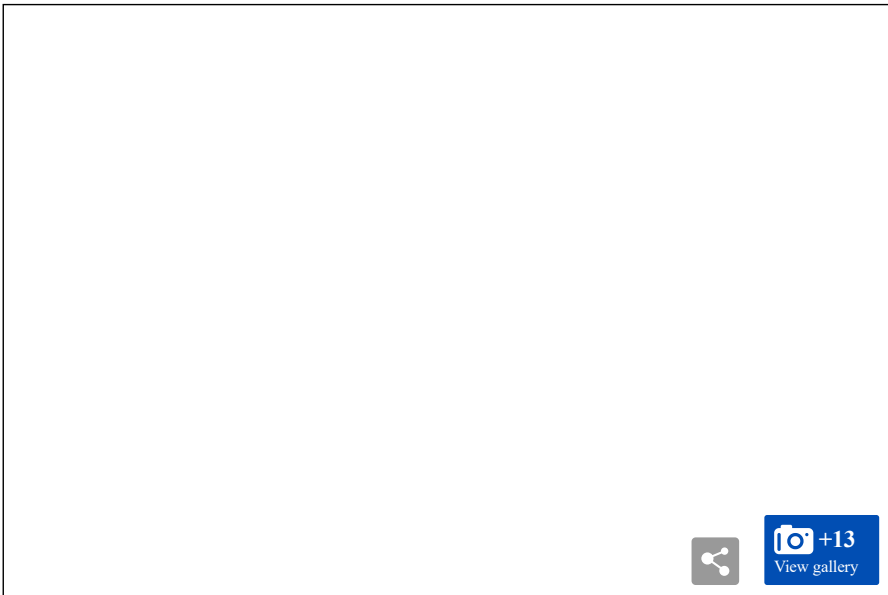
Home

+99



+13
View gallery

Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike on the village of Blida in southern Lebanon, as seen from an undisclosed location in the Upper Galilee, northern Israel, 17 September 2024



+13
View gallery

The Israeli Iron Dome air defense system fires to intercept an attack from Lebanon over the Galilee region, near Kiryat Shmona, as seen from the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024



Israeli forces have traded near-daily fire with the Iran-backed Lebanese group since its ally Hamas launched the October 7 attacks on Israel, triggering the war in Gaza.

The health ministry said an 'Israeli enemy strike' on the border village of Blida killed 'three people and wounded two', without specifying if they were fighters or civilians.

Israel's military said its air force 'eliminated three terrorists' from Hezbollah who were at a 'terrorist infrastructure site' in the Blida area.

Hezbollah did not immediately announce any fighters had been killed, but claimed a series of attacks on Israeli troops and positions near the border on Tuesday.

The NNA reported several Israeli attacks in the south of the country.

The latest deaths came hours after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the political-security cabinet had 'updated the goals of the war' to include 'the safe return of the residents of the north to their homes'.

Almost a year of cross-border violence has displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday that 'military action' was the 'only way left to ensure the return of Israel's northern communities'.

The violence has killed some 627 people in Lebanon, including at least 141 civilians.

On the Israeli side, including in the annexed Golan Heights, authorities have announced the deaths of at least 24 soldiers and 26 civilians.

Hezbollah has repeatedly said that only a ceasefire in Gaza will put an end to its attacks, and diplomatic activity in recent months has sought to avert all-out war.

Share or comment on this article: Hundreds of Hezbollah fighters are wounded when their PAGERS explode, sparking panic across Beirut, with sources blaming Israel

