

Israel, Iran trade strikes for third day as hundreds reported dead

AP, DUBAI: Israel unleashed airstrikes across Iran for a third day Sunday and threatened even greater force as some Iranian missiles evaded Israeli air defences to strike buildings in the heart of the country.

ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT

Planned talks on Iran's nuclear programme, which could provide an off-ramp, were cancelled.

Israel's strikes have killed at least 406 people in Iran and wounded another 654, according to a human rights group that has long tracked the country. Washington-based Human Rights Activists. Iran's government has not offered overall casualty figures.

The region braced for a protracted conflict after Israel's surprise bombardment Friday of Iranian nuclear and military sites killed several top generals and nuclear scientists. Neither side showed any sign of backing down.

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Israeli rescuers search through the rubble at the site of an overnight Iranian missile strike in Bat Yam

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tary, in a social media post, warned Iranians to evacuate arms factories, signalling a further widening of the campaign.

Israel, the sole though undeclared nuclear-armed state in the Middle East, said it launched the attack to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. The two countries have been adver-

saries for decades.

Explosions shook Iran's capital, Tehran, around noon and again around 3:30 p.m. Semiofficial news agencies close to Iran's Revolutionary Guard reported one strike in the area of Vali-e Asr Square downtown and another in a neighborhood named for the air force, which is headquartered there.

Sirens went off across much of Israel again around 4 p.m., warning of what would be Iran's first daytime assault since the fighting began. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

US President Donald

Trump has expressed full support for Israel's actions while warning Iran that it can avoid further destruction only by agreeing to a new nuclear deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that if Israel's strikes on Iran stop, then "our responses will also stop." He said the United States "is a partner in these attacks and must take responsibility."

Israel said 14 people there have been killed and 390 wounded. Iran has fired over 270 missiles, 22 of which got through the country's sophisticated multi-tiered air defences

INDIANS IN IRAN URGED TO STAY CAUTIOUS

PTI, TEHRAN: Indians in Iran were on Sunday asked not to panic, exercise due caution and maintain contact with the Embassy of India in Tehran through its social media accounts in view of the current situation in the country following the launch of strikes by Israel. In an advisory, the Indian Embassy here asked all Indian nationals and Persons of Indian Origin to remain vigilant, avoid all unnecessary movements, follow the embassy's social media accounts and observe safety protocols as advised by local authorities.

to make impact, according to Israeli figures. The country's main international airport and airspace remained closed for a third day.

Israeli strikes targeted Iran's Defence Ministry early Sunday after hitting air defences, military bases and sites associated with its nuclear programme. The killing of several top generals and nuclear scientists in targeted strikes indicated that Israeli intelligence has penetrated Iran at the highest levels.

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G7 leaders gather in Canada summit overshadowed by Middle East crisis, Trump's tariffs

AP, BANFF (CANADA): Leaders of some of the world's biggest economic powers will arrive in the Canadian Rockies on Sunday for a Group of Seven summit overshadowed by a widening war across the Middle East and US President Donald Trump's unresolved trade war with allies and rivals alike.

Israel's strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation, which appeared to catch many world leaders unawares, is the latest sign of

a more volatile world as Trump seeks to withdraw the US from its role as world policeman.

Speaking on a flight to Canada to attend the summit, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he had discussed efforts to de-escalate the situation with Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as other world leaders.

Britain is sending Royal Air Force jets and other military reinforcements to

the Middle East.

As summit host, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has decided to abandon the annual practice of issuing a joint statement, or communique, at the end of the meeting.

With other leaders wanting to talk to Trump in an effort to talk him out of imposing tariffs, the summit risks being a series of bilateral conversations rather than a show of unity.



David Mazouz attends the "Money Talks" screening during the Tribeca Festival at Village East Cinema in New York City

Five killed, two missing in Vietnam typhoon floods
HANOI: Typhoon winds and rains that lashed central Vietnam killed five people and left two more missing, according to an official toll, with huge tracts of farmland flooded by the deluge. Typhoon Wutip made landfall in southern China on Saturday with winds gusting up to 128 kilometres per hour (80 miles per hour) and was downgraded to a tropical storm after swooping up the Gulf of Tonkin on Vietnam's flank. Vietnam's agriculture ministry said on Saturday evening that three people had been killed in central Quang Tri province, with two more fatalities and two people missing in Quang Binh province. More than 70,000 hectares (172,000 acres) of cropland were flooded, the ministry said.

Woman arrested over alleged links to Colombia presidential shooting
BOGOTA: A woman arrested Saturday in southern Colombia was suspected of being involved in the attempted murder of presidential candidate Miguel Uribe, police said. Uribe, a 39-year-old conservative senator, was shot twice in the head and once in the leg while giving a speech in a park on June 7 in western Bogota. The alleged shooter, a 15-year-old boy, and an accomplice who was accused of participating in the "logistics" of the attack had already been arrested. On Saturday, a police source informed AFP of a woman - suspected of having links to the attack - who was arrested in the Amazon region of Caqueta.

Cambodia seeks ICJ help over Thai border dispute: PM
PHNOM PENH: Cambodia has asked the International Court of Justice to help resolve a Thai border dispute that turned into a bloody military clash last month, Prime Minister Hun Manet said Sunday. One Cambodian soldier was killed on May 28 as troops exchanged fire in a disputed area known as the Emerald Triangle, where the borders of Cambodia, Thailand and Laos meet. The Thai and Cambodian armies both said they had acted in self-defence, but agreed to reposition their soldiers to avoid confrontations. Thailand has tightened border controls with Cambodia in recent days, while Cambodia ordered troops on Friday to stay on "full alert" and banned Thai dramas from TV and cinemas.

GOLDEN HISTORY



The golden funerary mask of ancient Egyptian King Tutankhamun (1341-1323 BC) is displayed at the Tutankhamun gallery at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo's central Tahrir Square

Putin tells Trump Russia ready for Ukraine talks

AFP, MOSCOW, RUSSIA: Russian President Vladimir Putin told his US counterpart Donald Trump Saturday that Moscow was ready to hold a fresh round of peace talks with Kyiv after June 22, once the sides complete exchanging prisoners and soldiers' bodies. Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky meanwhile did not mention whether Ukraine would agree to the next round of talks, only saying that "the exchanges will be completed and the parties will discuss the next step."

Putin and Trump held a call for the fifth time since the Republican took office and

sought to reset relations with Moscow, in a stark pivot from the approach of his predecessor Joe Biden's administration. Trump's approach has stunned Washington's allies, raising doubts about the future of US aid to Kyiv and leaving Europe scrambling to work out how it can fill any gap in supplies if Trump decides to pull US military, financial and intelligence support. "Both leaders expressed satisfaction with their personal relations" during the call, in which they also discussed the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel, the Kremlin said.

Trump flexes military might at parade as protests sweep US

AFP, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES: President Donald Trump hosted the largest US military parade in decades on his 79th birthday as protesters rallied across the country to accuse him of acting like a dictator.

Trump hailed the United States as the "hottest country in the world" after watching tanks, aircraft and troops file past him in Washington on Saturday to honor the 250th anniversary of the US army.

It formed a stark split screen with turmoil at home and abroad, as police used teargas to disperse protesters in Los Angeles and US ally Israel traded missile fire with Iran in a rapidly escalating conflict



Members of the US Army and armoured vehicles move across the Memorial Bridge during the Army's 250th Anniversary Parade in Washington, DC

in the Middle East.

Trump's parade on an overcast night in Washington came after hundreds of thousands of "No Kings" demonstrators thronged the streets in cities including New York, Philadelphia, Houston and Atlanta.

The Republican largely avoided his usual domestic political diatribes in an unusually brief speech and instead focused on praising the US army, saying that they "fight, fight, fight, and they win, win, win."

The display of military

might comes as Trump asserts his power domestically and on the international stage.

Trump used his parade address to send a warning to Washington's adversaries of "total and complete" defeat, with the United States increasingly at risk of entanglement in Israel's conflict with Iran.

"Time and again, America's enemies have learned that if you threaten the American people, our soldiers are coming for you," Trump said.

Trump had openly dreamed since his first term as president of having a grand military parade of the type more often seen in Moscow or Pyongyang.

Treasure restored: Rare Gandhi portrait up for UK sale

AFP, LONDON: A rare oil painting of Mahatma Gandhi, which is believed to have been damaged by a Hindu nationalist activist, is to be auctioned in London in July.

He was the subject of tens of thousands of artworks, books and films.

But a 1931 painting by British-American artist Clare Leighton is believed to be the only oil portrait he sat for, according to the painter's family and Bonhams, where it will

be auctioned online from July 7 to 15.

"Not only is this a rare work by Clare Leighton, who is mainly known for her wood engravings, it is also thought to be the only oil painting of Mahatma Gandhi which he sat for," said Rhyannon Demery, Bonhams Head of Sale for Travel and Exploration.

The painting is a "likely hidden treasure", Caspar Leighton, the artist's great-nephew, told AFP.

Going under the ham-



Rhyannon Demery, uses UV light to show the spot where the now-restored painting by British-American artist Clare Leighton of Mahatma Gandhi was once damaged at Bonhams auction house in London

mer for the first time next month, the painting is es-

(\$68,000 and \$95,000).

Clare Leighton met Gandhi in 1931, when he was in London for talks with the British government on India's political future.

She was part of London's left-wing artistic circles and was introduced to Gandhi by her partner, journalist Henry Noel Brailsford.

"I think there was clearly a bit of artistic intellectual courtship that went on," said Caspar, pointing out that his great-aunt

and Gandhi shared a "sense of social justice".

The portrait, painted at a crucial time for India's independence struggle, "shows Gandhi at the height of his power", added Caspar.

It was exhibited in London in November 1931, following which Gandhi's personal secretary, Mahadev Desai, wrote to Clare: "It was such a pleasure to have had you here for many mornings doing Mr Gandhi's portrait."