



President-elect Kirsty Coventry attend for the handover ceremony of the IOC Presidency at Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi attends an extraordinary IAEA's Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, Austria



Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon speaks to the press before a United Nations Security Council emergency meeting in New York



Member of the European Parliament for Place Publique party Thomas Pellerin-Carlin attends the press conference "Our vision for France", in Paris

Israel targets Tehran prison, Revolutionary Guards headquarters

AP, DUBAI: Israel hit Iranian government targets in Tehran on Monday in a series of strikes that followed a salvo of missiles and drones fired by Iran at Israel in the wake of the Trump administration's massive strikes on Iranian nuclear sites the day before.

The Israeli military also confirmed it struck roads around Iran's Fordo enrichment facility to obstruct access to the site. The underground site was one of those hit in Sunday's attack by the United States on three nuclear facilities. The Israeli military did not elaborate.

In Tehran attacks, Israel's Defence Ministry said it hit targets that included the notorious Evin Prison in the Iranian capital and the security headquarters of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guards.

"The Iranian dictator will be punished with full force for attacking the Israeli home front," the ministry said.

The strikes also hit Tehran's Palestine Square and other "military command



A plume of smoke billowing after Israeli strikes in Tehran the same day. Israel said it struck Iran Revolutionary Guards sites in Tehran and the city's notorious Evin prison

IRAN SAYS ITS MILITARY WILL DECIDE 'TIMING, NATURE AND SCALE' OF ITS RESPONSE TO US ATTACKS

AP, UNITED NATIONS: Iran has said that the US "decided to destroy diplomacy" with its strikes on the country's nuclear programme and that the Iranian military will decide the "timing, nature and scale of Iran's proportionate response". Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saied Iravani on Sunday told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council that it called after US strikes on three of its nuclear facilities that "Iran had repeatedly warned the warmongering US regime to refrain from stumbling into this quagmire". The US "decided to destroy diplomacy" with its strikes on Iran's nuclear sites and the Iranian military will decide the "timing, nature and scale of Iran's proportionate response", he said.

centres belonging to the Iranian regime," it said.

According to an Israeli official familiar with the gov-

ernment's strategy, Israel is targeting these sites to put pressure on the Iranian administration but is not actively seeking to topple it. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal government deliberations.

The Israeli move came just hours after President Donald Trump wrote on his Truth Social website: "If the current Iranian Regime is unable to MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN, why wouldn't there be a Regime change?" In Vienna, the head of

US STRIKES ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR SITES CAUSED SEVERE DAMAGE BUT FULL IMPACT UNCLEAR

AP, WASHINGTON: The US military's strike on Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites in Iran has raised urgent questions about what remains of Tehran's nuclear programme and how its weakened military might respond. The decision to directly involve the US comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel on Iran that have moved to systematically eradicate the country's air defences and offensive missile capabilities, while damaging its nuclear enrichment facilities. US and Israeli officials have said that American stealth bombers and a 30,000-pound (13,600-kg) bunker buster bomb they alone can carry offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear programme buried deep underground. "At this time, no one, including the (International Atomic Energy Agency), is in a position to assess the underground damage at Fordo," said UN nuclear chief Rafael Grossi. Iran's foreign minister said Iran reserves the right to retaliate. Social media account associated with Iran's supreme leader publishes post portraying missile strikes

the United Nations nuclear watchdog said he expected there to be heavy damage at the Fordo facility already following the Sunday's US airstrike there with sophisticated bunker-buster bombs.

"Given the explosive payload utilised ... very significant damage ... is expected to have occurred," said Ra-

fael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Several Iranian officials, including Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi, have claimed Iran removed nuclear material from targeted sites ahead of time.

Second batch of 443 Indians leave Israel

PTI, JERUSALEM: The second batch of evacuation of Indian nationals from Israel on Monday saw two groups of 175 and 268 people leave through Israel's border with Jordan and Egypt, taking the total number of Indians taken out of the war-torn country to 603 in two days.

The first batch of 160 people left for Jordan on Sunday from where they had boarded the flight today by 2:15 pm local time, an evacuee onboard the flight told PTI before departure.

The 443 people who crossed the Israeli border on Monday would be taking two separate flights from Jordan and Egypt arranged by the Ministry of External Affairs in coordination with the Indian missions in those countries.

The complex and tightly-coordinated effort between New Delhi and the three missions has brought a huge relief to Indians in Israel constantly grappling with sounds of sirens and frequently taking cover in bunkers and fortified safe rooms from incoming missiles and drones fired from Iran.

Sensing the urgency of the situation, the Embassy of India in Tel Aviv had set up a 24x7 Control Room during the past week to

Evacuation priorities were determined based on medical emergencies, the presence of young children, women, and students

oversee all facets of the evacuation effort.

The Control Room issued advisories as per the evolving situation, directed Indian nationals to register via an online portal, and managed thousands of phone calls and emails while compiling a detailed database of Indian citizens across Israel.

"Evacuation priorities were determined based on medical emergencies, the presence of young children, women, and students. Embassy officials proactively contacted registrants by phone and email to confirm travel details and allocate them to specific evacuation flights," embassy sources earlier told PTI.

The situation on the ground was also being closely monitored at the highest levels of the government, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who remained actively engaged receiving real-time updates on the safety and security of the Indian nationals, the sources said.

Bangladesh detains Hasina era ex-election chief in rigging case

AFP, DHAKA: A Bangladesh court on Monday remanded in custody the former elections chief for his alleged role in rigging the vote in favour of now-ousted autocrat Sheikh Hasina.

KM Nurul Huda, 77, was ordered to be detained for four days while questioning continues, a day after a mob who smashed into his home and assaulted him eventually handed him to the police.

On Sunday, the powerful Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) filed a case against Huda and other former election com-



Police personnel escort KM Nurul Huda (C), Bangladesh's former Chief Election Commissioner to a court in Dhaka

missioners it accuses of rigging past polls in favour of Hasina, whose 15 years in power end-

ed in a mass uprising in August 2024.

Hours after the case was filed, a mob stormed Huda's home in the capital Dhaka, and dragged him onto the street.

They put a garland of shoes around his neck

and beat him up before handing him over to the police.

The interim government condemned the incident and urged people not to take the law into their own hands.

"Swooping on an accused and physically assaulting him is illegal, contrary to the rule of law, and a criminal offence," the statement read. Interim leader Muhammad Yunus has said elections will be held in early April 2026 -- the first in the South Asian nation of around 170 million people since the student-led revolt ousted Hasina.

Police put a helmet on Huda while taking him to the court for his protection.

Prez Lee picks South Korea's first civilian defence chief in 64 years

AP, SEOUL: South Korean President Lee Jae Myung nominated a five-term liberal lawmaker as defence minister Monday, breaking with a tradition of appointing retired military generals.

The announcement came as several prominent former defence officials, including ex-Defence Minister Kim Yong Hyun, face high-profile criminal trials over their roles in carrying out martial law last year under then-President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was indicted on rebellion charges and removed from office.

Ahn Gyu-back, a lawmaker from Lee's Democratic Party, has served on the National Assembly's defence committee and chaired a legislative panel that investigated the circumstances surrounding Yoon's martial law decree. Yoon's authoritarian move involved deploying hundreds of heavily armed troops to the National Assembly and election commission offices in what prosecutors described as an illegal attempt to shut down the legislature and arrest political opponents and election officials.

SAY NO TO WAR



People hold signs as they demonstrate in front of the White House in Washington, DC against US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites

Over 100 firefighters battle large wildfire on Greek island

AP, ATHENS: More than 100 firefighters assisted by water-dropping helicopters and planes were battling a large wildfire burning near the main town of the eastern Aegean island of Chios Sunday, with emergency services ordering the evacuation of a dozen areas.

The fire department said three separate blazes had broken out in the morning and mid-day Sunday near the town of Chios. The flames were fanned by strong winds, leaving firefighters struggling to contain what turned into one large blaze.

Suicide bomber kills over 22 in Greek Orthodox church in Syria

AP, DWEIL'A (SYRIA): A suicide bomber in Syria opened fire then detonated an explosive vest inside a Greek Orthodox church filled with people praying on Sunday, killing at least 22 and wounding 63 others, state media reported.

The attack took place in Dweil'a on the outskirts of Damascus inside the Mar Elias Church, according to state media SANA, citing the Health Ministry for the toll of dead and wounded. Britain-based war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there were at least 19 people killed and dozens wounded, but did not give exact numbers. Some local media



People and rescuers inspect the damage at the site of a reported suicide attack at the Saint Elias church in Damascus

reported that children were among the casualties.

The attack on the church was the first of its kind in Syria in years, and comes as Damascus under its de facto Islamist rule is trying to win the support of minorities. As President Ahmad al-Sharaa struggles to exert authority across the country, there

have been concerns about the presence of sleeper cells of extremist groups in the war-torn country.

The ministry said one gunman entered the church, fired at the people there before detonating himself with an explosives vest, echoing some witness testimonies.

Earth's satellites at risk if asteroid smashes into Moon: study

AFP, PARIS: If a huge asteroid smashes into the Moon in 2032, the gigantic explosion would send debris streaming towards Earth that would threaten satellites and create a spectacular meteor shower, according to researchers.

Earlier this year there were briefly fears that the 60-metre-wide (200-foot-wide) asteroid called 2024 YR4, which is big enough to level a city, would strike Earth on December 22, 2032.

It was given the highest chance -- 3.1 percent -- of hitting our home planet that scientists have ever measured for such a giant space rock.

Subsequent observations from telescopes definitively ruled out a direct hit on Earth.

However, the odds that it will crash into the Moon have risen to 4.3 percent, according to data from the James Webb space telescope in May.



NASA Administrator Bill Nelson (C) and Associate react to the first full-colour images from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope in a preview meeting with Webb project scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute

A new preprint study, which has not been peer-reviewed, is the first to estimate how such a col-

lision could affect Earth.

It would be the largest asteroid to hit the Moon in around 5,000 years, lead study author Paul Wiegert of Canada's University of Western Ontario told AFP.

The impact would be "comparable to a large nuclear explosion in terms of the amount of energy released", he added.

Up to 100 million kilograms (220 million pounds) of material would shoot out from the Moon's

surface, according to a series of simulations run by the researchers.

If the asteroid hit the side of the Moon facing Earth -- which is roughly a 50-percent chance -- up to 10 percent of this debris could be pulled in by Earth's gravity over the following days, they said.

Earth's atmosphere would protect the surface from the millimetre- to centimetre-sized lunar rocks, Wiegert said.

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