

INTERNATIONAL

LEBANON INVASION How might Israel strike back against Iran?

REUTERS, Washington

Israel has sworn it will retaliate for Iran's missile barrage on Tuesday, which involved more than 180 ballistic missiles and was largely thwarted by Israel's air defense systems. Below are some ways Israel, backed by the United States, could strike back.

IRAN'S INSTALLATIONS

Some analysts believe Israel is most likely to respond by targeting Iranian military installations, especially those that produce ballistic missiles like the ones used in Tuesday's attacks. It could also take out Iranian air defense systems and missilelaunching facilities.

Strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities could delay Tehran's ability to produce a nuclear weapon. Iran's nuclear program is spread over many



locations, only some of which are built underground.

However, a major attack on its nuclear infrastructure would likely provoke serious consequences, potentially including a sprint by Iran to build a nuclear weapon. Washington has said it would not support such an action by Israel.

Israel could also hit Iran's petroleum industry, which would hurt its economy. Such an attack could provoke Iran in turn to strike oil production facilities in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states.

ECONOMIC, CYBER OPTIONS

US President Joe Biden has said he would impose more sanctions on Iran. Washington's sanctions on Iran already ban nearly all US trade with the country, block its government's assets in the US and prohibit US foreign assistance and arms sales.

Analysts said Israel could also use its cyber warfare abilities to respond to the Iranian strikes.



Members of Israeli security forces push back Palestinian Muslim worshippers from Lions Gate, also known as Bab al-Asbat, ahead of Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Lebanon conflict pushes Gaza truce out of focus

REUTERS, Cairo

Palestinians fear the crisis in Lebanon is diverting the world's attention from Gaza, where Israeli strikes killed dozens more people this late on Tuesday, provoking an Israeli promise of week, and diminishing already dim prospects a "painful" response, some Gazans welcomed for a ceasefire a year into

an offensive that has shattered the enclave.

An escalation in the conflict between Israel and Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah over the past two weeks has led to clashes between Israeli and Hezbollah forces inside Lebanon and fueled fears of a wider regional war.

Both Israel and its Hamas foes in Gaza say the Lebanon conflict could help end the Gaza conflict, but some analysts, officials from mediating countries, and Gazans, are sceptical. "The focus is on Lebanon, which means the war in Gaza isn't ending anytime soon," Hussam

Ali, a 45-year-old Gaza City resident who said his family had been displaced seven times since the

offensive began, told Reuters via a chat app. When Iran launched ballistic missiles at Israel

the salvo visible in the

Sami Abu Zuhri, a



Gaza, he said. But with attention swinging to Lebanon, the offensive in Gaza risked being prolonged, said Ashraf Abouelhoul, managing editor of stateowned newspaper Al-Ahram in Egypt, which has helped to mediate months of ceasefire negotiations.

repair ties

AFP, Male

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu will undertake his first state visit to India tomorrow, aiming to repair frail ties between the two South Asian neighbours.

"President Muizzu remains committed to enhancing bilateral ties with nations that play a crucial role in the development and growth of the Maldives," his office said.

The two sides will focus on "strengthening bilateral cooperation and further enhancing the longstanding relationship between the two nations," the office said in a statement.

HEAVY RUSSIAN STRIKES Ukraine warns of water shortages in Donetsk region

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian officials have warned of possible water supply problems in the eastern Donetsk region, after heavy Russian aerial strikes.

Moscow has targeted Ukraine's utility system throughout the two-and-a-half year war, with concerns rising that the country could face its toughest winter yet.

Donetsk region Governor Vadym Filashkin said Thursday that 260,000 people could be affected by water shortages.



"The north of the Donetsk region will be left without water supply for an indefinite period," he said on Telegram. Russian strikes last month damaged" two water supply facilities, leaving "no possibility to restore the

equipment," he said. The Donetsk regional administration told AFP yesterday there were problems with water pressure across the system.

"There is a problem with water supply to upper floors (of buildings)" it said, without saying how many people were affected.

Pakistan seals off capital ahead of PTI rally 30 protesters arrested

REUTERS, Islamabad

Authorities in Pakistan sealed off the capital, Islamabad, and blocked cellphone services yesterday to prevent an anti-government rally by supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, officials said.

Talking to the media at D-Chowk, Islamabad Inspector General of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said: "Proceedings are under way wherever there are attempts to hurt police or damage property. Till now, there have been over 30 arrests.

It would be the latest in a series of protest rallies since last month to press for Khan's release and agitate against the ruling coalition government, which the party calls illegitimate, saying it was formed after a fraudulent election.

Shipping containers have been placed to block Islamabad's entry and exit points, guarded by large numbers of police and paramilitary troops, the officials said, while police banned any gathering in the capital.

South Africa cruise 10, and soon Mlaba sent back Qiana FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 12

Separate pay scale for teachers FROM PAGE 12 the World Teachers' Day today. Student Movement. But it is unacceptable for them to be the World Teachers' Day today. humiliated because of this," said courses overseas will be made Serajul Islam. available to them. 'A teacher is an educated person These steps can strengthen the education sector. A separate pay scale will be introduced for teachers of all levels to enhance their financial benefits," the policy said. The UGC's annual report in 2017 recommended that public university community," he added. teachers be placed under a separate Veteran teacher leader Mazharul pay scale to help improve the quality of higher education. Emeritus Manzoor Professor Ahmed of BRAC University, also the founding director of the university's Institute of Educational Development, blamed bureaucrats and successive governments for failing to implement separate pay structure for teachers. "In such circumstances, talented This has not happened because students are disinclined to pursue a the bureaucrats are opposed to it. Successive governments did not have a political will to establish a separate Mazharul emphasised that pay pay scale.' In August 2015, public university teachers under the banner of the Federation of Bangladesh University Under the MPO system, teachers Teachers' Association (FBUTA), demonstrated demanding a distinct pay scale and review of then proposed 8th National Pay Scale. In July this year, the FBUTA held a for West to lift month-long protest demanding the cancellation of the "Prottoy" pension scheme and a separate pay structure. FBUTA President Prof Akhtarul Islam said that during discussions Mazharul noted that teachers with relevant authorities, they Bangladesh earn less than insisted on a separate pay scale for their counterparts in South Asian teachers at all educational levels. The education adviser and Sheikh countries like India and many other Abdur Rashid, senior secretary of Asian nations. The National Education Policy the Secondary and Higher Education Division, could not be reached over the phone for comment. A top education ministry official, however, said that the matter of a separate pay scale for teachers is not "Opportunities of training for currently a priority for the ministry.

Maldives leader heads to India to

half-ton in 45 balls and ended her knock with six boundaries.

Wolvaardt survived reprieves on five and 33 -- on both occasions a return catch dropped by the bowler and on the first West Indies' Zaida James getting cut on her jaw when the ball ricocheted off the hand.

James, a left-arm spinner who shared the new ball with Chinelle Henry, left the field with a swollen jaw after just bowling one ball of her first over and never returned.

Earlier, the West Indies suffered from regular wicket-fall and struggled to put up a fighting total despite an unbeaten 44 from number-three batter Stafanie Taylor.

Marizanne Kapp, a medium-fast bowler, struck first with the wicket of skipper Hayley Matthews, out for England in Sharjah on Monday.

Joseph, for four.

Mlaba, named player of the match, kept the batters in a spin with her change of pace and angle and took two wickets in two overs to flatten the West Indian batting.

Kapp returned figures of 2-14 including the wicket of Deandra Dottin, who reversed her retirement decision for this edition of the tournament.

"It was a very disappointing game and not the way we wanted to start," said Matthews. "We have a game in two days' time and we have to bounce back quickly."

West Indies face Scotland on Sunday at the same venue, called the ring of fire due to the floodlights all around the ground. South Africa next take on

Tigers see slight rise in number

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released on October 8.

The survey, conducted using camera traps, involved setting up over 1,300 cameras at 665 spots across the Sundarbans.

Out of those 665 spots, 200 were in the Satkhira range, 140 in the Khulna range, 180 in Sharankhola, and 145 in the Chandpai range of the Sundarbans.

This is the first time the census was conducted in all four ranges of the Sundarbans

Contacted, Dr Abu Nasir Mohsin Hossain, divisional forest officer, Sundarban West Division, Khulna, said that one of the most remarkable findings from the survey is the discovery of 18-19 tiger cubs in the sanctuary covering 53 percent of the forest area -- a significant increase compared to previous years.

"In 2014 and 2018, the number of cubs found was only five. So hopefully, in the next census that is going to happen in 2028, we will see a significant rise in the tiger population."

While the tiger population has shown steady growth, the Sundarbans still faces threats such as poaching and habitat loss.

The Bangladesh government has measures, including the Tiger Action was 440.

Plan and the National Tiger Recovery Programme, to address these challenges.

As the country continues its efforts to protect the Bengal Tiger, the future of this iconic species in the Sundarbans looks increasingly hopeful.

SURVEY HISTORY

Previous surveys have shown that the Bengal Tiger population in the Bangladeshi portion of the Sundarbans has fluctuated over time. In 1975, a field survey conducted by Bubert Hendrichs found 350 Bengal tigers

In 1982, Margaret Salter carried out a sample and field survey and estimated that the number of tigers was 425.

Rex Gittins conducted a survey in 1984 covering 110 sq km of the Sundarbans South Wildlife Sanctuary and found the tiger population to be 430 to 450.

In 1992, the forest department collected data from the people working in the Sundarbans area and estimated the number to be 359.

The following year, Dhan Bahadur Tamang conducted a census based on pugmark (tiger footprints) covering 350 sq km of the Sundarbans area and put the number at 362.

In 2004, a pugmark census implemented various conservation conducted said the number of tigers

For over two decades, teachers have been calling for a dedicated pay scale, believing it would draw high-achieving students into the profession.

Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury from Dhaka University pressed his disappointment that some teachers are being "disgraced" in various parts of the country.

"To draw talented students into the teaching profession, we must guarantee respect for the educators. This social respect is tied to their status and salaries. To ensure the teachers' dignity, a distinct pay structure for all educational levels is essential.

"The failure to implement a separate pay scale for teachers stems from the lack of understanding by successive governments regarding its significance. Establishing a distinct pay scale will also help foster apositive relationship between teachers and students," he said.

According to a count by The Daily Star, more than 150 teachers, ranging from secondary to university levels, have been forced to resign since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5. Many of them were subjected to humiliation and harassment by some unruly students.

On August 25, Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said that complaints against specific individuals will be noted and that no one should be compelled to step down.

stressed the need for He maintaining healthy relationships between teachers and students.

In an order released on September the Secondary and Higher Education Division said that forced resignation and harassment of teachers should end immediately.

"It is true that some teachers were against the Anti-discrimination

who deserves respect. When you strip away that respect, they may feel they are no longer teachers.... These attacks are essentially assaults on the education system, and a teacher's humiliation is a humiliation for the entire teaching

Hannan, also the president of Bangladesh Principals' Association, said many teachers at non-MPO secondary schools and colleges are struggling financially due to inadequate salaries. often resorting to private tutoring to make ends meet.

career in teaching.

implementing a separate structure for teachers could help eliminate pay and benefit disparities among them.

at private schools receive a full basic salary, along with Tk 1,000 for house rent and Tk 500 for medical expenses. Currently, teachers of government primary schools are paid under the 13th grade of the National Pay Scale 2015. The basic salary under this grade ranges from Tk 11,000 to Tk 26.590.

2010 said, "If the issue of the status of teachers is limited to rhetoric and the teachers do not enjoy a respectable social status in real terms, the quality of education cannot be improved.

Trump 'not fit to lead' the US

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To win, Harris needs to win over Republicans and independents wary of him without alienating her base, particularly in states like Wisconsin that can swing toward Republican or Democrat and are likely to decide the election.

Cheney was the top Republican on

And Donald Trump is not fit to lead this good and great nation."

On Wednesday, a judge unsealed a 165-page court filing outlining federal prosecutors' case against Trump for his attempt to overturn his 2020 election defeat. Trump has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy and obstruction.

Aman fields and around 100 hectares of vegetable fields have been damaged significantly.

A fisheries official said around 50 fish farms have been flooded already.

Torofdar Mahmudur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Sherpur, said they would start distributing relief materials among the flood victims if necessary. "We are closely monitoring the situation."

Meanwhile, around 30 villages have been inundated in Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila yesterday.

The villages of four unions Dakshin Maizpara, Gamaritola, Ghoshgaon, and Purakandulia -- have been flooded as the Netai river was swelling due to heavy rainfall and an onrush of water from the hilly areas across the border.

Md Akhlak Ul Jamil, executive engineer of WDB in Mymensingh, said water level could rise if it rains for two more days.

Russia calls sanctions on Afghanistan

AFP, Moscow

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday called on the West to lift sanctions on Taliban-led Afghanistan and take "responsibility' for reconstruction efforts in the country.

Moscow is moving towards removing its own designation of the Taliban as a "terrorist" organisation, move that could advance cooperation between Moscow and Kabul.

"We urge Western countries to recognise their responsibility for the post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan, lift sanctions restrictions and return Kabul's expropriated assets," Lavrov said.

The Taliban has been under Western sanctions for more than two decades, measures initially imposed to restrict the financing of al-Qaeda and other organisations designated "terrorist" groups.

that investigated the January 6 riot, He is petty, he is vindictive and he is cruel. earning Trump's disdain and effectively exiling her from the party.

"Our republic faces a threat unlike any we have faced before," Cheney said, pointing to Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election results.

"What January 6th shows us," Cheney said, "is that there is not an ounce, not an the House of Representatives committee ounce, of compassion in Donald Trump.