

# INTERNATIONAL

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## What options does Iran have now?

AGENCIES

As Israel-Iran conflict continues, former US nuclear negotiator Alan Eyre told Al Jazeera that Iran's options in the face of the Israeli onslaught are "very bleak" and "very limited".

"They have to respond militarily just to save face domestically. But as we've seen, Israel can take the brunt of a lot of that, and it's very unlikely that Iran can cause enough damage internally in Israel to put any sort of pressure on Israel to stop bombing," Eyre said.

"Iran can use diplomatic means, but they don't have that many allies in the international community. But even if they did, Israel has shown that it's spectacularly unwilling to listen to international opinion when it's pursuing what it considers legitimate military goals."

Iran's best option,

**Iran's best option is to do as much damage as they can to Israel to save face domestically.**

according to Eyre, is "to just ride it out" and do as much damage as they can to Israel to save face domestically.

"Then, once Israel stops bombing, try to take stock, come up with a new defence strategy, which possibly could include, in fact, trying to get a nuclear weapon, as opposed to just maintaining the capability for a nuclear weapon. And that's very worrisome," he added.

Meanwhile, two drones launched from Iran towards Israel were shot down over Iraq by the US-led international coalition to defeat the Islamic State group, two Iraqi military officials told AFP yesterday.

"The international coalition at Ain al-Asad (military base) shot down two Iranian drones that were en route to Israel," one official said, referring to an Iraqi airbase housing foreign troops in western Iraq.



Rescue personnel work at an impact site following a missile attack from Iran, in Bat Yam, Israel, yesterday. Iran and Israel will have peace "soon", US President Donald Trump said in a social media post.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## What are worst-case scenarios in Israel-Iran conflict?

AGENCIES

For now, the fighting between Israel and Iran seems restricted to the two nations. But what if calls to escalate fall on deaf ears? What if the fighting escalates and expands? Here are just a few possible, worst-case scenarios:

### AMERICA GETS DRAGGED IN

For all the US denials, Iran clearly believes American forces endorsed and at least tacitly supported Israel's attacks.

Iran could strike US targets across the Middle East – such as special forces camps in Iraq, military bases in the Gulf, and diplomatic missions in the region. Iran's proxy forces – Hamas and Hezbollah – may be much diminished but its supportive militias in Iraq remain armed and intact.

### GULF NATIONS GETS DRAGGED IN

If Iran failed to damage Israel's well-protected military and other targets, then it could always aim its missiles at softer targets in the Gulf, especially countries that Iran believes aided and abetted its enemies over the years.

But these countries play host to US airbases. If the Gulf were attacked, then it too might demand American warplanes come to its defence as well as Israel's, reports BBC.



### GLOBAL ECONOMIC SHOCK

What if the Israeli attack fails? What if Iran's nuclear facilities are too deep, too well protected?

At the very least, this could force Israel to further attacks, potentially binding the region into a continual round of strike and counter-strike. Israelis have a brutal phrase for this strategy; they call it "mowing the grass".

The price of oil is already soaring. What if Iran tried to close the Strait of Hormuz, further restricting the movement of oil?

What if – on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula – the Houthis in Yemen redouble their efforts to attack shipping in the Red Sea?

Many countries around the world are already suffering a cost of living crisis. A

rising price of oil would add to inflation on a global economic system already creaking under the weight of Trump's tariff war.

### IRAN'S REGIME FALLS

What if Israel succeeded in its long term aim of forcing the collapse of the Islamic revolutionary regime in Iran?

Netanyahu claims his primary aim is to destroy Iran's nuclear capability. But he made clear in his statement yesterday that his broader aim involves regime change.

He told the "proud people of Iran" that his attack was "clearing the path for you to achieve your freedom" from what he called their "evil and oppressive regime".

Bringing down Iran's government might appeal to some in the region, especially some Israelis. But what vacuum might it leave? What unforeseen consequences would there be? What would civil conflict in Iran look like?

Many can remember what happened to both Iraq and Libya when strong centralised government was removed.

So, much depends on how this conflict progresses in coming days.

How – and how hard – will Iran retaliate? And what restraint – if any – can the US exert on Israel? On the answer to those two questions much will depend.

## INDIA PLANE CRASH Second black box found: officials

AFP, Ahmedabad

Investigators in India yesterday recovered the second black box from the London-bound Air India Boeing 787 that crashed in the city of Ahmedabad, killing at least 279 people, authorities announced.

The cockpit voice recorder has been found, PK Mishra, a senior aide to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said in a statement. The flight data recorder was recovered on Friday, one day after the crash.

Only one passenger survived among the 242 travellers and crew on board the Air India jet when it crashed Thursday into a residential area of Ahmedabad, killing at least 38 people on the ground.

"The AAIB has launched a detailed investigation, and the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is conducting a parallel probe under international protocols since the aircraft is American made," Mishra said in a statement.

"Officials confirmed that the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) have been located and secured."

Multiple experts have said it is too soon to say why the jet crashed shortly after takeoff.

Meanwhile, mourners covered white coffins with flowers in India yesterday as funerals were held for some of the victims.

Health officials have begun handing over the first passenger bodies identified through DNA testing, delivering them to grieving relatives in the western city of Ahmedabad, but the wait went on for most families.

**Trump's threats are 'not what allies do' Says Macron during Greenland visit**

AFP, Nuuk

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday criticised US President Donald Trump for his threats to take over Greenland, saying that was "not what allies do", as he arrived in the Danish autonomous territory for a visit.

Macron was visiting the Arctic island to convey a message of "France's and the European Union's solidarity" for "the sovereignty and territorial integrity" of Greenland, he told reporters after he landed in Nuuk.

US President Donald Trump has said he wants the United States to take over the minerals-rich and strategically-located Arctic island for reasons of national and international security.

Macron, the first foreign leader to visit Greenland since Trump's explicit threats to "get" the island, was invited by the prime ministers of Greenland and Denmark.

## Govt hospitals not ready

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However, when asked about their preparedness, the hospital authorities informed the DGHS that the testing machines needed recalibration for being out of use for long.

In addition, they said the hospital does not have any dedicated technicians for the job, according to DGHS sources.

Meanwhile, the DGHS on Thursday supplied test kits to six major hospitals in Dhaka and Chattogram.

Among them, the directors of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Mudda Medical College Hospital and Chattogram Medical College Hospital said they would resume testing from Saturday.

However, as of yesterday, DGHS data showed that the hospitals had not carried out any tests, suggesting they had not resumed testing as planned.

On the other hand, the directors of Kurmitola General Hospital and the DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in Dhaka said they have been continuously testing patients and will continue to do so. Yet, these hospitals also do not appear in the DGHS data.

The Directorate General of Medical Education has already instructed 11 medical colleges outside Dhaka to activate their RT-PCR testing facilities, said its director general Nazmul Hossain.

Five of the medical colleges have already reactivated their equipment, while the others are expected to do so.

within a day or two, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The five that have activated equipment are Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar, Gopalganj, Mymensingh and Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College in Bogura. The remaining six -- Rangpur, Sylhet, Chattogram, Faridpur, Barishal, and Khulna -- are expected to follow soon, he added.

The equipment needs to be calibrated as it has not been used for a long time, so it is taking some time, he said.

Prof Halimur Rashid, line director of the Communicable Disease Control unit at the DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have been supplying test kits to more government hospitals.

Responding to a question, he said offices had just reopened after the Eid vacation and they hope the hospitals will be ready within a week.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project, under which 1,004 employees -- many of them technicians and medical officers -- played a crucial role in Covid testing and treatment during the pandemic, has come to an end.

The project, funded through a World Bank project, concluded in December last year. In May, the DGHS instructed the staff to discontinue their duties.

The workers have been staging a sit-in in front of the DGHS for the past two days demanding payment

of overdue salaries and confirmation of their jobs.

Their absence could hamper Covid testing and treatment, two of the project workers told the correspondent yesterday.

The developments come at a time when the infection rate is seeing a surge from last month, according to Covid-19 surveillance data analysed by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

In the last 24 hours, 26 people tested positive for Covid-19 and one died, raising the death toll to four since June 5, when the country reported its first Covid-related death after a long gap.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education yesterday instructed all educational institutions to engage both teachers and students in awareness campaigns against coronavirus and dengue.

Ex-UP chairman

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cell with two other inmates—one of whom was in court at the time, while the other was asleep.

"He was taken to the jail hospital immediately and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 12:30pm," said Md Farouk, in charge of the DMCH police outpost.

Sujon's body was sent

to the DMCH morgue for post-mortem examination.

His brother, Meraj Matubbor, expressed doubts over the official account, saying, "My brother is not the sort of person to take his own life. We want a proper investigation."

Jail and police authorities said an inquiry is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding his death.

Many countries around the world are already suffering a cost of living crisis. A

## Draft data law

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broad exemptions to law enforcement, tax authorities, researchers, and the media.

Due to a lack of judicial oversight and clearly defined roles, law enforcement agencies could exploit the law to carry out mass surveillance or target political opponents under vague notions such as "public interest," it warned.

Although media and academic exemptions appear to support free speech, they lack clear standards to ensure privacy and the ethical use of data, the organisation said.

Exemptions should be well-defined, proportionate, and independently monitored, and privacy and free expression must be balanced, not sacrificed, Article 19 added.

Moreover, it said the draft law does not clearly define key terms or classify sensitive data such as political opinions, health information, or biometric details.

Without strong safeguards, the law could discourage individuals from speaking out publicly for fear of data misuse.

The law must guarantee the authority's independence through secure tenure, financial autonomy, and protection from political interference, it said.

Article 19 warned.

The organisation expressed concern over a provision requiring individuals to prove harm before they can object to data misuse. This, it said, places an unfair burden on vulnerable individuals, such as journalists and whistleblowers, who are often targets of intrusive surveillance.

People must have the right to prevent harmful data use without first demonstrating damage, particularly when their safety, reputation, or freedom of expression is at stake, it added.

Article 19 also criticised the proposed structure of the data protection authority under the ordinance, saying it lacks institutional independence "due to executive control over its rulemaking and operations."

"An effective data protection authority is a cornerstone of democratic data governance," the organisation said.

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