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US strikes Iran

Trump says three nuclear sites 'obliterated'; Tehran says US has no place in Middle East, its bases 'legitimate targets'

OPERATION MIDNIGHT HAMMER



- Trump tells Iran to accept peace or face tragedy
US says strikes not aimed at regime change
Iran House votes to close Strait of Hormuz
World powers, Arabs condemn US strikes
Iran says facilities evacuated long ago; no radiation detected

- 125 aircraft including seven B-2 bombers took part in the operation
14 bunker buster bombs from B-2 bombers used on Fordow
30 Tomahawk missiles used in attacks on Natanz, Isfahan

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump said US air strikes yesterday had "completely and totally obliterated" Iran's main nuclear enrichment facilities...

Tehran vowed to defend itself and responded with a volley of missiles at Israel that wounded dozens of people and destroyed buildings in its commercial hub, Tel Aviv.

But, perhaps in an effort to avert all-out war with the superpower, it had yet to follow through on its main threats of retaliation - to target US bases.

However, Ali Akbar Velayati, an advisor to Iran's supreme leader, yesterday said that the United States "no longer" has a place in the Middle East after the strikes.

Iran also called the US attack a grave violation of international law that would have "everlasting consequences".

World powers, including China and Russia, and Iran's Arab neighbours, strongly condemned the US air strikes, warning of serious repercussions and calling for a return to diplomacy.

In a televised address to the nation from the White House after the United States joined Israel's air campaign against Tehran, Trump called the US attacks a "spectacular military success."

Trump had earlier stunned the world by announcing on social media that US aircraft had struck Iran's Fordow nuclear enrichment plant, plus the Natanz and Isfahan facilities.

But the fresh US military entanglement comes despite Trump's promises to avoid another "forever war" in the Middle East and a two-week time for diplomacy. Iran has vowed to retaliate against US forces in the region if Washington gets involved.

"Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated. Iran, the bully of the Middle East, must now make peace," said Trump.

"If they do not, future attacks will be far

greater, and a lot easier," added Trump, who was flanked by Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio for his address to US audiences.

He also reached out to Israeli leadership, saying, "I want to thank and congratulate Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu. We worked as a team. Like perhaps no team has ever worked before, and we've gone a long way to erasing this horrible threat to Israel."

"This cannot continue," Trump added. "There will be either peace or there will be tragedy for Iran, far greater than we have witnessed over the last eight days. Remember, there are many targets left. Tonight's was the most difficult of them all by far, and perhaps the most lethal. But if peace does not come quickly, we will go after those other targets with precision, speed and skill."

Trump said earlier on his Truth Social site that a "full payload of BOMBS" was dropped on the underground facility at Fordo, describing it as the "primary site."

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CONSENSUS TALKS

No breakthrough yet on PM's tenure

Most parties agree on 10-year cap; BNP attaches conditions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties, except the BNP and two others, yesterday agreed that an individual cannot be the prime minister for over 10 years.

Yesterday was the 5th day of the second round of talks between the National Consensus Commission and 30 political parties at the Foreign Service Academy.

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said the BNP would not yet support a 10-year cap, unless two issues were settled first: the formation

of the proposed National Constitutional Council and the method for appointing members to the upper house in a bicameral parliament.

These issues, along with the role of the upper house, should be discussed together, not separately, he said.

"Rather than debating the number of terms [an individual can be the PM], we can instead discuss the total number of years one can serve," he added.

The council, according to a reform proposal, would oversee appointments to

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Scope for whitening black money goes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has finally scrapped the controversial provision allowing the legalisation of undisclosed income through the purchase of apartments and land in the upcoming fiscal year.

"We have made one of the most significant decisions regarding undisclosed income by completely withdrawing the provision," said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed at a press conference yesterday after the advisory council approved the Tk 790,000 crore budget and Finance Bill 2025.

The development comes following widespread criticism from civil society, economists and anti-corruption watchdogs, who argued that the provision would legitimise illicit wealth and

discourage honest taxpayers.

The previous government had initially offered a blanket provision for black money allowing it to be whitened at a 15 percent tax rate.

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"But we scrapped that as soon as we came into office. The second option we considered was permitting some exaggerated valuation, but we ultimately decided it was no longer necessary. That provision has been completely withdrawn."

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Police use a water cannon to disperse protesters staging a fast-unto-death in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The demonstrators claimed they were unfairly eliminated during the interview process for registration under the government's Monthly Pay Order scheme for teachers.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

POLL IRREGULARITIES BNP sues 3 ex-CECs, 21 officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has filed a case against 24 individuals, including three former chief election commissioners, 10 election commissioners, and top government and police officials, for their alleged role in irregularities and biasness during the national elections in 2014, 2018, and 2024.

The case was filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in Dhaka yesterday. Earlier, a five-member BNP delegation, led by party executive committee member Salahuddin Khan, also delivered a copy of the case application to CEC AMM Nasir Uddin at the Election Commission.

Talking to reporters, Salahuddin said despite widespread complaints during those elections, the then CECs failed to take any corrective measures.

"We hope the current Election Commission will investigate the matter and take action," he said.

The BNP alleges that in all three parliamentary elections - the 10th in 2014, the 11th in 2018, and the 12th in 2024 - their leaders and supporters were targeted with false cases, abductions,

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Mob assaults ex-CEC Nurul Huda before his arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner KM Nurul Huda, who oversaw the 2018 national polls, was arrested after a mob assaulted him at his Uttara residence yesterday evening.

Hours before his arrest, the BNP filed a case against him and 23 others over electoral irregularities.

EC officials said this is probably the first time a former CEC has been detained over issues related to elections.

Mohidul Islam, deputy commissioner (Uttara division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said a team from the Uttara West Police Station made the arrest around 7:30pm.

He added that Huda was shown arrested in the case lodged against him earlier in the day, and taken into the DB custody for the sake of his security.

A video that was making the rounds on social media shows Huda, dressed in a white T-shirt and lungi, with a garland of shoes around his neck. He is surrounded by a group of unidentified individuals. At one point, a bearded man strikes Huda in the face twice with a shoe, while others nearby appear to attempt to stop the assault.

During the incident, some people were heard chanting slogans: "Rony Bhaier Bhoi Nai, Rajpath chari nai [Don't be afraid, Rony Bhai, we haven't left the streets]."



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