



(From left, clockwise) People gather to mourn the death of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in joint US and Israeli strikes, at a square in Tehran (inset, pro-regime supporters mourn his death); Israeli emergency service officers remove a body bag from the scene of a missile attack near Bet Shemesh, west of Jerusalem; motorists drive past a plume of smoke rising from a reported Iranian strike in the industrial district of Doha. Photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

## Iran vows to avenge Khamenei killing

FROM PAGE 1  
Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian declared Khamenei's killing a "declaration of war against Muslims" and warned: "Iran considers it its legitimate duty and right to avenge the perpetrators and masterminds of this historic crime."

Israel described Khamenei's death as a "first step", and military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani boasted that the joint operation "eliminated 40 senior commanders, including Khamenei, in one minute in two different locations over a thousand miles from Israel in broad daylight".

Yesterday, in an interview with Fox, Trump said that 48 Iranian leaders have been killed in the ongoing US-Israeli bombardments of the country.

Meanwhile, Pezeshkian said a leadership council composed of himself, the judiciary head and a member of the powerful Guardians Council had temporarily assumed the duties of Supreme Leader following Khamenei's death.

Earlier, the parliament's Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said that Iran had prepared for "all scenarios", including the way forward after the death of Khamenei. He said the US and Israel have "crossed our red lines" and "will suffer the consequences".  
The US military said it had sunk an Iranian ship, while Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had launched an attack on the US aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln with four ballistic missiles, state media reported.

In a sign of widening turmoil, Israel's ambulance service said nine people were killed by a missile strike in the town of Beit Shemesh, the United Arab Emirates said Iranian attacks killed three people, and Kuwait reported one dead in Iranian raids.

The Pentagon yesterday said three members of the US military have been killed and five others wounded in the operation against Iran, announcing the first American deaths in the conflict.

"Three US service members have been killed in action, and five are seriously wounded as part of Operation Epic Fury," the Pentagon said, adding several others sustained minor shrapnel injuries and concussions.

The Red Crescent in Iran on Saturday said the joint strikes had left 201 people dead and injured hundreds more. No death toll was released yesterday.

The Israeli military said that over the past day, Israeli planes had conducted strikes to open the "path to Tehran", and the majority of aerial defence systems in western and central Iran had been dismantled.

It added: "Ali Khamenei was targeted in a precise, large-scale operation carried out by the Israeli Air Force, guided by accurate IDF intelligence, while he was in his central leadership compound in the heart of Tehran, where he was together with additional senior officials".

Israeli military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani said many targets remained, including sites of military-industrial production. "We have the capabilities and the targets to keep going on for as long as necessary," he said.  
Asked if Israel was considering

deploying ground forces, Shoshani said that was not under consideration even though Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have urged Iranians to seize a rare opportunity to topple their leaders.  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday also vowed to intensify air strikes on Tehran in the coming days, declaring that the military had mobilised its "full strength" in the campaign against Iran.

Hours after the US and Israel said an air strike killed Khamenei, Iran's state media confirmed the 86-year-old leader had died.

Inside Iran, some grieved for Khamenei while others celebrated



Members of the Iranian community hold placards, wave flags and chant slogans during a rally in Sydney as the news of Khamenei's death spread yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

his death, exposing a deep fault line in a country stunned by the sudden demise of the man who ruled for decades.

Thousands of Iranians were killed in a crackdown authorised by Khamenei against anti-government protests in January, the deadliest wave of unrest since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Footage from Tehran showed mourners packed into a square, dressed in black and many of them weeping.

But videos posted on social media also showed joy and defiance elsewhere, with people cheering as a statue was toppled in the city of Dehloran in Ilam province, dancing in the streets of Karaj city, near Tehran in Alborz province, and celebrating in the streets of Izeh in Khuzestan province. Reuters has verified the locations of these videos.

Khamenei, who built Iran into a powerful anti-US force and spread its sway across the Middle East during his 36-year iron-fisted rule, was working in his office at the time of Saturday's attack, state media said. The raid also killed his daughter, grandchild, daughter-in-law and son-in-law.

Experts said that while his death and those of other Iranian leaders would deal Iran a major blow, it would not necessarily spell the end of Iran's entrenched clerical rule or the sway of the elite Revolutionary Guards over the population.

International reactions to the conflict have been mixed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced Khamenei's death as a cynical murder, and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi described it as "blatant killing", while European

Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the death of Khamenei was "a defining moment in Iran's history".

France, on the other hand, expressed satisfaction at the death of "a bloodthirsty dictator who oppressed his people, degraded women, young people and minorities".

After Iran retaliated with airstrikes around the Gulf, Anwar Gargash, adviser to the president of US ally and oil power the United Arab Emirates, urged Tehran to "go back to your senses", saying the war is not with Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours. The UAE has so far borne the brunt of Iran's retaliation.

Earlier, Trump warned that the US

Tarique has taken updates on the condition of Bangladeshi expatriates in Iran and other Middle Eastern countries amid the ongoing war in the region.

The officials said the country had faced similar crises before and although there might be some fluctuations in energy-related matters, overall preparations are adequate and there is no need for undue concern.

They added that if the war continues, global oil prices are likely to rise, which would directly affect Bangladesh's economy as the country imports most of its fuel from the Middle Eastern countries.

If the conflict spreads and disrupts oil supply routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, it could lead to higher fuel prices, reduced remittance flow, and slower economic growth.

For now, the government says it is monitoring developments closely and preparing precautionary measures to safeguard the economy and citizens abroad.

Also, higher oil prices would increase the government's import

would hit Iran "with a force that has never been seen before" if it strikes back after the attacks on it.

In a sign of disruption to energy supplies, at least 150 tankers, including crude oil and liquefied natural gas vessels, dropped anchor in open Gulf waters beyond the Strait of Hormuz and dozens more were stationary on the other side of the chokepoint, shipping data showed yesterday, after the US and Israeli strikes.

In other regional repercussions, Pakistani police yesterday clashed with protesters who breached the outer wall of the US consulate in Karachi, leaving nine people dead, following news of Khamenei's death.

Protests were also held in Iraq and some Muslim-majority countries.

Global air travel remained heavily disrupted as continued air strikes kept major Middle Eastern airports, including Dubai, the world's busiest international hub, closed in one of the biggest aviation interruptions in recent years.

Several blasts were heard for a second day in Dubai and over Qatar's capital of Doha, witnesses said. Dark smoke rose over Dubai's Jebel Ali port, one of the busiest in the Middle East.

Iran, which had said it would target US bases if attacked, hit a range of other targets, keeping the Gulf on edge.

Trump said the air strikes aimed to end a decades-long threat from Iran and ensure it could not develop a nuclear weapon. He also sought to justify a risky gambit that seemed to contradict his professed opposition to American involvement in complex overseas conflicts.

## PM prioritises migrant safety, energy security

FROM PAGE 1  
Meeting sources said Tarique wants to keep a balanced relationship with Iran and the US.

Bangladeshi Muslims have sympathy for Iran and the BNP-led government has to keep a healthy relationship with America, said sources.

The prime minister instructed the authorities to ensure the safety and security of expatriates and also to extend visa validity periods, as many of them are unable to return to their host countries due to flight cancellations and regional instability," said an official, seeking anonymity.

Expatriates currently working in Middle Eastern countries, as well as those planning to travel there for employment, may face problems.

Officials said prolonged instability could slow down construction projects and other economic activities in the Gulf nations, potentially resulting in reduced job opportunities, delayed recruitment, or even job losses.

During yesterday's meeting, the PM instructed the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry to prepare support measures in case any Bangladeshi workers face difficulties due to instability in the region.

The government has also asked the energy ministry to closely monitor global oil and gas prices.

Sources said Bangladesh imports most of its fuel from the Middle East. If the conflict disrupts oil supply routes or increases global prices, the country's import costs could rise sharply.

Officials said the government is also reviewing fuel stock levels to ensure that sufficient reserves are maintained to prevent supply disruptions at home.

"At the moment, there is little chance of an increase in oil prices," said a ministry official.

The civil aviation authority has also been asked to monitor flight routes to and from the Middle Eastern countries.

reported loud explosions and repeated alerts.  
"We are hearing loud explosions and emergency alerts. We received shelter location instructions from the government. They are saying another wave of attack could come within an hour," one expatriate told The Daily Star over the phone.

In Abu Dhabi's Musaffah industrial area, several Bangladeshi workers reported explosions during drone interceptions shortly after noon local time.

Authorities advised residents to stay indoors, avoid windows, and remain in safe areas. Debris from intercepted drones was reported near the Etihad Towers complex, while fighter jets were spotted overhead.

Workers in Saudi Arabia, the top destination for Bangladeshi migrants, reported relative calm.

"Everything is quite normal here, and workers are carrying out their duties without disruption," said expatriate Mamonur Rashid in a video message.

Till last night, flights from Bangladesh to several Middle Eastern destinations have been suspended since Saturday afternoon.  
The Bangladesh government has urged migrant workers in Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, and Iraq to stay in safe locations, avoid military installations, and remain indoors unless necessary.

bill, put pressure on foreign exchange reserves, raise electricity generation and transport costs, and ultimately push up inflation, the officials said.

Bangladesh has around 75 lakh migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman. Remittances sent by them are one of the country's main sources of foreign currency.

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## Missile kills Bangladeshi in the UAE

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The UAE defence ministry stated that the other two victims included one each from Pakistan and Nepal.

Contacted, Arman Ullah Chowdhury, counsellor at the Bangladesh embassy in the UAE, said, "We have received the defence ministry statement. We are following up on it on our end."

In Kuwait, at least four Bangladeshi workers were injured during a drone attack near Kuwait International Airport, according to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment in Dhaka.

Aminul Islam from Brahmanbaria, Rakibul Islam from Pabna, Masudur Rahman from Noakhali, and Dulal Miah from Cumilla were all hurt by debris scattered during the attack.

Ministry Senior Secretary Niyamat Ullah Bhuiyan said the government is coordinating with the Bangladesh mission in Kuwait to ensure medical treatment and support.

"We are extremely worried. We don't know the full situation there. We are praying for his recovery," said Aminul's family in Brahmanbaria.

Relatives of Rakibul in Pabna, Masudur in Noakhali, and Dulal in Cumilla echoed similar fears.  
"He told me not to worry, but how can a mother not worry when she hears explosions in the background?" said Rakibul's mother in Pabna.  
In Qatar, Bangladeshi migrants

The Gulf region serves as a major transit hub for Bangladeshi passengers and cargo, and any airspace restrictions could affect travel and trade.

At the meeting, Tarique emphasised that Bangladesh will maintain a balanced diplomatic stance and support peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue.

According to officials, the PM has instructed the foreign ministry to closely follow international discussions and remain engaged with global partners to protect Bangladesh's interests.

He also asked the ministry to stay alert to prevent any internal instability or misinformation that could arise due to international tensions.

Government officials said coordination meetings may be held regularly to review the situation and update response plans as needed.

The premier also asked relevant agencies to prepare clear public communication so that citizens remain informed and do not panic.

"We are not directly involved in the conflict, but we must protect our economic and national interests," said an official familiar with the discussions.

At the same time, officials stressed that Bangladesh's foreign policy remains guided by principles of non-alignment, peace, and regional stability.

After the meeting, PM's Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Ruman told reporters that the prime minister is closely monitoring the situation at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, particularly regarding passengers stranded due to flight disruptions.

Embassies have issued hotlines and safety guidelines, advising workers to carry cash, IDs, health cards, mobile chargers, dry food, and medicines.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened an emergency meeting attended by Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, State Minister Shama Obaid Islam, Prime Minister's adviser Humayun Kabir, and Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam.

Officials also coordinated with the Bangladesh mission in Tehran to ensure the safety of diplomats, staff, and students in Iran.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration Programme and Youth Platform, said embassies should actively communicate with workers, provide regular updates, and engage trusted community leaders to maintain contact.

"Regular alerts and support from embassies reassure workers that the government is with them," he said.

Ariful Haque Chowdhury, Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said embassies have been instructed to identify and bring Bangladeshi citizens to safe locations, assist the injured, and ensure their stay until travel is safe.

He added that authorities are coordinating with hotels and airlines to support stranded workers. "We are tracking every citizen and maintaining contact to provide timely support."