

Who might replace Khamenei?

CNN ONLINE
Iran's clerical regime now faces the prospect of trying to find a successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei following his killing in joint US-Israeli strikes. CNN takes a look at some of the contenders for the position, according to experts and analysts.

MOJTABA KHAMENEI



The second son of Khamenei, Mojtaba is known to wield significant influence behind the scenes and has strong links with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the most powerful military body in the country, as well as its Basij volunteer paramilitary force.

ALIREZA ARAFI



A lesser-known figure, Arafi is an established cleric with a track record in government institutions who was also a confidant of Khamenei.

He currently serves as deputy chairman of the Assembly of Experts and has been a member of the powerful Guardian Council, which vets election candidates and laws passed by parliament. He is also head of Iran's seminary system.

He is said to be tech-savvy and fluent in Arabic and English.
MD MEHDI MIRBAGHERI Mirbagheri is a hardline cleric and a member of the Assembly of Experts who represents the most conservative wing of the clerical establishment. According to IranWire, an activist outlet, he is strongly opposed to the West and believes a conflict between believers and infidels is inevitable.

HASSAN KHOMEINI



Khomeini is the grandson of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, giving him religious and revolutionary legitimacy. He serves as the custodian of the Khomeini mausoleum but hasn't held public office and appears to have little influence with the country's security apparatus or ruling elite.

Khamenei: a revolutionary atop Islamic republic

AFP, Paris

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, whose death was confirmed by state media yesterday, was a pillar of the country's theocratic system since the Islamic revolution and saw off multiple crises over the decades, remaining defiant to the very end.

US President Donald Trump posted on his Truth Social site that "Khamenei, one of the most evil people in history, is dead" after the United States and Israel launched a massive wave of strikes targeting sites across Iran, including the supreme leader's Tehran compound.

Hours later, Iranian state television announced Khamenei's death, without referring to the attacks on the compound.

Aged 86, Khamenei dominated Iran since taking on the post for life in 1989 following the death of revolutionary founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

He remained in power after overcoming 1999 student demonstrations, 2009 mass protests sparked by disputed presidential elections and 2019 demonstrations that were brutally suppressed.

He also survived the 2022-2023 "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement sparked by the death in custody of Iranian Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini, who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress code for women.

Khamenei was forced to go into hiding during the 12 day war against Israel in June, which exposed deep Israeli intelligence penetration of the Islamic republic that led to the killing of key security officials in air strikes.

But he survived that war and, after nationwide protests again shook Iran earlier this year, he emerged defiant as ever.

TIGHT SECURITY

Khamenei lived under the tightest security, and his relatively infrequent public appearances were never announced in advance or broadcast live.

As supreme leader, he never set foot outside the country, a precedent set by his predecessor Khomeini following his triumphant return to Tehran from France in 1979.



Khamenei's last known foreign trip was an official visit to North Korea in 1989 as president, where he met Kim Il Sung.

There had long been speculation about his health given his age, but there was nothing in his most recent appearance to fuel any new rumours.

Khamenei's right arm was partially paralysed following an assassination attempt in 1981 that authorities have always blamed on the People's Mujahedin of Iran (MEK) group, one-time allies of the revolution now outlawed in the country.

'AM OPPOSED'

Repeatedly arrested under the shah for his anti-imperial activism, Khamenei shortly after the Islamic revolution became Friday

prayer leader of Tehran and also served on the front line during the Iran-Iraq war.

He was elected president in 1981 following the assassination of Mohammad Ali Rajai, another attack blamed on the MEK.

During the 1980s, Khomeini's most likely successor was seen as the senior cleric Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, but the revolutionary leader changed his mind shortly before his death after Montazeri objected to the mass executions of MEK members and other dissidents.

When Khomeini died and the Islamic republic's top clerical body -- the Assembly of Experts -- met, it was Khamenei they chose as leader.

Khamenei famously initially rejected the nomination, putting his head in his hands in a show of despair and declaring, "I am opposed". But the clerics stood in unison to seal his nomination and his grip on power never slackened.

Khamenei worked with six elected presidents, a far less powerful position than supreme leader, including more moderate figures such as Mohammad Khatami who were allowed to make stabs at cautious reform and rapprochement with the West.

But in the end, Khamenei always came down on the side of hardliners.

He was believed to have six children, although only one, Mojtaba, gained public prominence. He was placed under US sanctions in 2019 and is one of the most powerful backstage figures in Iran.

A family dispute also caught attention: his sister Badri fell out with her family in the 1980s and fled to Iraq in the war to join her husband, a dissident cleric.

Some of their children, including a nephew who is now in France, became vehement critics.

Global travel chaos deepens
Thousands of flights cancelled as Iranian, Israeli air strikes continue for second day

REUTERS, Dubai

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

Key transit airports, including Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the UAE and Doha in Qatar, were shut or severely restricted as much of the region's airspace remained closed after US and Israeli strikes killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday.

Israel said it launched another wave of strikes on Iran yesterday while loud blasts were heard for a second day near Dubai and over Doha after Iran launched retaliatory air attacks on the neighbouring Gulf states.

Dubai International Airport sustained damage during Iran's attacks while airports in Abu Dhabi and Kuwait were also hit. Thousands of flights have been affected across the Middle East, according to FlightAware.

Airspace over Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Israel, Bahrain, the UAE and Qatar remained virtually empty, maps by FlightRadar24 showed early yesterday.

The flight-tracking service said that a new "Notice to Airmen" (NOTAM) had extended closure of Iranian airspace until at least 0830 GMT on March 3.

The airport closures have rippled far beyond the Middle East.



How Iran's theocratic system of power works

REUTERS

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in strikes on Saturday by the US and Israel. The complexities of Iran's ruling system, the ideological nature of its support base, and the power of its Revolutionary Guards make it hard to predict what might come next.

The following explains how the system was meant to operate:

WHO COULD SUCCEED KHAMENEI?

The supreme leader must be a cleric under Iran's system of vilayat-e faqih: guardianship of the Islamic jurist. The theory holds that until the return of the Shia Muslim 12th Imam, who disappeared in the ninth century, power on earth should be wielded by a venerable cleric.

Under Khamenei and his predecessor, the founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the supreme leader has the last say in all matters of state, but the system has never faced such a challenge before.

Khamenei's sway has often been wielded through close advisers. But in the aftermath of Saturday's strikes it is far from clear how many of those top figures have survived.

Khamenei, 86, was never publicly recorded as having named a successor and it's not clear who might replace him if he is confirmed as dead.

His son, Mojtaba Khamenei, has at times been seen as a possible candidate but his fate is also unclear.

WILL IRAN'S THEOCRACY PERSIST?

Iran's clerical elite control powerful bodies that extend their influence throughout the political system. The Assembly of Experts, made up of senior ayatollahs elected every eight years, is the body that appoints the supreme leader. The constitution also gives it power to question and even dismiss a leader, but it has never done so.

In practice the choice would likely be made by the most senior figures in the Islamic Republic and then approved by the assembly. But with some top Revolutionary Guards leaders confirmed as dead, it is far from clear who would sway the decision.

WHAT ROLE COULD IRGC PLAY?

Unlike the ordinary military, which comes under the Defence Ministry in the elected government, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps answers directly to the supreme leader.

Its commander Mohammed Pakpour was killed on Saturday. Formed soon after the revolution, the IRGC's role defending the Islamic system greatly expanded during the 1980-88 war with Iraq and it is now the strongest and best-equipped section of Iran's armed forces.

The Basij militia, a part-time paramilitary force under Guards control, is often used to quell protests inside Iran.

Still, the corps will likely play a major role in what happens to the Islamic Republic next.



Smoke rises after an explosion following Israeli and US strikes on Iran in Tehran yesterday. The US aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln was targeted with four ballistic missiles, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp said in a statement reported by state media.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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স্মারক নং-ডিজিডিএ/বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২৯-০২/০৯/৩৩৮১ তারিখঃ ০১/০৩/২০২৬

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান ও সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্মারক-৪৫.০০.০০০০.১৮২.৮২.০০১.২১ (অংশ-১), ৫৭, তারিখঃ ১৫/০২/২০২৬ বিশেষজ্ঞ পরামর্শক কমিটির সুপারিশের আলোকে টায়ার, ভ্যাট, বিভিন্ন চার্জ, কমিশন এবং কোম্পানিগুলোর সুকিসমস্ত মূল্যাদি বিবেচনায় এনে নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের আমদানিকৃত করোনারী স্টেন্টসমূহের সর্বোচ্চ খুচরা মূল্য (MRP) অনুমোদন/পুনর্নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে, যা আগামী ০১/০৩/২০২৬ইং তারিখ হতে কার্যকর হবে।

Sl No.	Name of Importer & Local Distributor	Name of the Product	Name of the Manufacturer	পূর্বের মূল্য (টাকা)	পুনর্নির্ধারিত মূল্য (টাকা)
1	Advanced Meditech	Alex Plus	Balton S.P Zoo, Poland	60,000.00	57,000.00
		Alex		60,000.00	57,000.00
		Abaris		60,000.00	57,000.00
2	Asia Pacific Medicals Ltd	Coroflex ISAR Neo	B. Braun Melsungen AG, Germany	55,000.00	52,000.00
		Coroflex ISAR		53,500.00	50,000.00
3	Alliance Medical	Amazonia Sir	Minvasys S.A.S France	53,000.00	50,000.00
4	Biva International	MAGMA	Qualimed Innovative Medizinprodukte, GmbH, Germany	37,000.00	30,000.00
		Suna Stent Delivery System		14,000.00	14,000.00
5	Biovascular International,	CRE 8	CID SpA, Italy	56,000.00	50,000.00
		Avantgarde		15,000.00	15,000.00
6	Business Link	Direct-Stent-Siro-Sirolimus Eluting Coronary Stent	InSitu Technologies Inc, USA	66,000.00	62,000.00
		Direct-Stent Cobalt Chromium Coronary Stent		30,000.00	30,000.00
7	Cardiac Solution Ltd,	Orsiro	Biotronik AG Switzerland	63,000.00	60,000.00
		Orsiro Mission		68,000.00	65,000.00
		Pro-Kinetic Energy		20,000.00	20,000.00
8	Cardioline	ITRIX Rapamycin	AMG International GmbH, Germany	36,000.00	36,000.00
		ARTHOS PICO		15,000.00	15,000.00
9	Cardinal Health Care	Genoss DES	Genoss Co, Ltd, South Korea	56,000.00	50,000.00
		genXSync Sirolimus Eluting		Purple Microport Cardiovascular Private Limited, India	50,000.00
10	Cardiode	Limus Track	L2MTech GmbH, Germany	55,000.00	50,000.00
11	Delta Ltd.	Affinity-MS Mini Cobalt Chromium	Umbr Medical Products Inc. USA	60,000.00	55,000.00
12	EPIC Technologies	Yukon Choice PC	Translumina GmbH, Germany	53,000.00	50,000.00
13	Genevic Health Limited	Iht DESTINY BD	Ibrihospitex, Spain	55,000.00	52,000.00
14	Heart Quake Ltd	Euca limus	Eucatech AG, Germany	56,000.00	53,000.00
		CC Flex		15,000.00	15,000.00
15	The Heart Beat	Ivascular angiolite	Life Vascular Devices Biotech S.L (LVDB), Spain	62,000.00	58,000.00
		Inspiron		Soitech Produtos Medicos SA, Brazil	55,000.00
16	Life Line International	Combo Plus-bio-Engineered	Orbus Neich Medical BV, The Netherlands	56,000.00	53,000.00
		Metafor		40,000.00	38,000.00
17	Meril Bangladesh Pvt Ltd	Evermine 50	Meril Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd, India	50,000.00	47,000.00
		BioMime Morph		50,000.00	48,000.00
		BioMime		45,000.00	42,000.00
18	Medibud International	Synsiro Pro	Biotronik AG, Switzerland	60,000.00	56,000.00
19	Mtech Medical Solution,	GuReater CoCr	Jpu Medical Technology (Beijing) Co. Ltd., China	55,000.00	50,000.00
20	M. R. Trading International,	Angiolite	Life Vascular Devices biotech SI, Spain	53,000.00	50,000.00
21	National Health Care	Firehawk	Shanghai MicroPort Medical (Group) Co, Ltd, China	45,000.00	42,000.00
		Firehawk Liberty		58,000.00	54,000.00
22	Ocean Life Limited	Supraflex Cruz	Sahajan and Medical technologies Ireland Ltd, Ireland	55,000.00	52,000.00
		BioMatrix NeoFlex		60,000.00	57,000.00
23	Omega Health Care	BioMatrix Alpha	Biosensors Interventional technologies PTE Ltd, Singapore for Biosensors Europe SA, Switzerland	66,000.00	62,000.00
		Bio Freedom		68,000.00	65,000.00
24	PCI Support,	Yukon Chrome PC	Translumina GmbH Germany	60,000.00	56,000.00
25	M/s. The Spondon Limited	DESyne X2 Novolimus	Elixir Medical Corporation, USA	60,000.00	56,000.00
26	UniMed Limited	ULTIMASTER Tensei	Ashitaka Factory of Terumo Corporation, Japan	66,000.00	65,000.00
27	UniTrade Life Science Ltd.	Abuminus DES+	Concept Medical BV, The Netherlands	63,000.00	60,000.00
28	M/s. Refresh Medical Device	Xlimus	Cardionovum GmbH Germany	58,000.00	55,000.00

১। হার্টের রিং (Stent) এর সর্বোচ্চ খুচরা মূল্য অনুসরণ করে ক্রম-বিক্রয় করতে হবে। ব্যবহৃত হার্টের রিং এর প্যাকেটটি রোগীকে সরবরাহ করতে হবে।
২। Stent এর সর্বোচ্চ খুচরা মূল্য চিকিৎসা প্যাকেজে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা যাবে না। Stent এর নাম, মূল্য ও উৎপাদনকারীর নাম উল্লেখপূর্বক ক্যাশমেমো প্রদান করতে হবে।
৩। হাসপাতাল কর্তৃক স্টেন্ট সরবরাহকারী হতে সার্ভিস চার্জ হিসেবে কোনভাবেই ৫% এর অতিরিক্ত অর্থ আদায় করা যাবে না। উক্ত সার্ভিস চার্জ রোগীর নিকট হতে আদায় করা যাবে না।

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