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US-ISRAEL, IRAN WAR Dhaka calls for maximum restraint

Prioritises expat safety

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has warned that continued hostilities in the Middle East endanger regional peace and civilians, urging all parties to exercise maximum restraint and return to diplomacy, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

It comes as the US and Israel attacked Iran, which responded by striking US bases across the Middle East.

Bangladesh also condemned the violation of sovereignty of some countries in the region, including Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"Bangladesh hopes that calm will prevail at the earliest and peace, security and stability will be restored soonest across the region," the foreign ministry said.

The government said it remained deeply concerned about the safety and security of Bangladeshi nationals

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A passenger checks revised flight schedules at Dhaka airport yesterday, as flights from the capital to several Middle Eastern destinations have been suspended since Saturday afternoon after airports shut down following US and Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's subsequent retaliation in the Gulf.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Migrant workers in limbo as flights to ME uncertain

Govt assures reschedules

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With airlines resuming limited operations after two days of disruption, anxious passengers returned to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday for updates on when they will be able to depart.

Flights to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, and Doha remained suspended, with airport officials reporting around 90 cancellations from Dhaka and Chattogram since Saturday.

They said the disruptions, triggered by a deteriorating security situation in the Middle East, have left thousands of outbound passengers in limbo.

Many feared that missing their scheduled arrival would create complications with employers, while others worried about returning to work in a war zone.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat said suspended Middle East-bound flights would be rescheduled, with measures in place to ensure passengers receive adequate notice.

Speaking to reporters at HSI, he said some planned rotations of Biman Bangladesh Airlines had been kept on hold. "We have resumed some operations today [yesterday]. Flight schedules are being adjusted in consultation with the relevant authorities."

He added that an inter-ministerial coordination team, involving the foreign minister and the expatriates'

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Stern action in the works against extortionists

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will take action against extortionists and "top criminals" and bring those behind such rackets to justice, said Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday.

Suspects have been identified and intelligence agencies are working on the matter, he told reporters.

and that several intelligence agencies were working on the case.

Asked about allegations of extortion in different places in the BNP's name, Salahuddin said those involved should be identified and brought under the law.

The law and order situation has improved since then, he said, adding that the establishment of a political government creates stability,

ICT identifies 'anomalies' in Chankharpul killings probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 has identified "gross anomalies" and serious investigative lapses in the probe and prosecution of the Chankharpul killings during the July uprising.

In its full verdict, signed on February 1, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star yesterday, the three-member tribunal observed that at least 40 to 50 police personnel were deployed in the capital's Chankharpul on August 5, 2024, many of them equipped with firearms and large quantities of ammunition.

However, official records show that only four or five officers returned their weapons and bullets, leaving no account of the remaining firearms.

The tribunal questioned why the case mainly targeted three constables - Md Sujon, Imaj Hossain Emon, and Nasirul Islam - when evidence suggested that widespread gunfire and lethal force were used by many others.

"Should we believe the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

17 killed at pro-Iran protests in Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

At least 17 people were killed yesterday across Pakistan as protesters outraged over the death of Iran's supreme leader took to the streets, with some attempting to storm US diplomatic buildings.

In the Pakistani megacity of Karachi, an AFP journalist witnessed hundreds of pro-Iranian protesters trying to enter the US consulate, prompting clashes with police.

At least 10 people had died and over 70 were injured as of yesterday evening, the office of the Karachi police surgeon said.

Earlier, a hospital toll seen by AFP listed nine people as having died from gunshot wounds.

In the northern city of Gilgit, at least seven people were killed and many more injured in clashes with police, rescue official Zaheer Shah told AFP by phone.

Thousands gathered in the streets of the capital Islamabad, many holding photos of the late Iranian leader Ali Khamenei, with AFP witnessing police deploy tear gas to disperse crowds near the US embassy.

Israel and the United States launched their mass aerial campaign on Iran early Saturday, quickly killing the long-ruling supreme leader and prompting outrage in neighbouring Pakistan.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who has close ties with both the United States and Iran, said yesterday evening that the killing of Khamenei was a "violation" of international law.

"It is an age-old convention that the

Heads of State/Government should not be targeted," Sharif wrote on X.

The "people of Pakistan join the people of Iran in their hour of grief and sorrow and extend the most sincere condolences on the martyrdom" of Khamenei, he added.

At Karachi protest, people chanted slogans against the United States, Israel and their allies.

"We don't need anything in Pakistan that is linked with the US," a protester, Sabir Hussain, told AFP.

Earlier a crowd of young people climbed over the main gate and gained



access to the driveway of the consular building, smashing some windows.

Police fired tear gas at the protesters, who dispersed, the AFP journalist saw.

The embassies of the United States and Britain both urged citizens in Pakistan to be cautious in the country.

Around 4,000 people took to the streets in the capital Islamabad, where AFP journalists heard overhead gunfire, believed to be to disperse the crowd, and

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Man arrested for killing, dismembering roommate

Police say killing followed arguments over trivial issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Obaidullah, whose dismembered body parts were found in different locations across the city between Friday and Saturday, was hacked to death with a machete by his roommate, allegedly over a trivial argument.

The roommate then dismembered the body and dumped the parts in different areas in an attempt to evade arrest, said Harun-Or-Rashid,

deputy commissioner (Motijheel Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, following the arrest of the prime suspect, Shahin Alam, from the capital's Motijheel.

At a press conference held at the DMP Media Centre, the DC said Shahin, an employee of Hirajheel Hotel in the area, killed Obaidullah, a marketing official at Gonoshasthaya Homeo, following arguments over minor issues.

Police identified Shahin

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Afghan, Pak forces battle along border

Two Afghans killed in drone strikes

AGENCIES

Afghan and Pakistani troops battled along their border, Afghan residents and officials told AFP yesterday, with the fighting coming alongside multiple strikes including the former US air base at Bagram.

Months of cross-border clashes have flared since Thursday when Afghanistan launched an offensive along the frontier, with Pakistani forces hitting back on the border and from the skies.

Residents in multiple areas bordering Pakistan told AFP of overnight fighting, while two civilians were killed in drone strikes, according to the Nangarhar province information department and police.

North of the capital Kabul, air strikes "hit Bagram air base" according to a resident who AFP is not naming for security reasons. A second resident said "it was very strong, which shook the area. There was smoke and fire coming out north of the airport", describing the dawn raid as "very terrifying".

The provincial spokesman, Fazl ul Rahim Maskin Yar, said Pakistani jets "attempted to bomb" the base, but there were no casualties or damage.

In Kabul, AFP journalists heard an explosion followed by successive gunfire. Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said "anti-aircraft fire is being directed at Pakistani aircraft".

Pakistan's federal minister of Parliamentary Affairs Dr

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Sanju Samson celebrates after steering India to a five-wicket win over West Indies in a T20 World Cup Super Eight clash in Kolkata yesterday, sealing a semifinal berth against England on Thursday. Samson smashed an unbeaten 97 off 50 balls as India chased down 196 with four balls to spare.

PHOTO: AFP

February remittance crosses \$3b on Eid boost

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 2

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:07	12:45	4:30	6:03	7:30
JAMAAT 5:17	1:15	4:45	6:13	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAR	SEHRI	IFTAR
12	2		6:03
13	3	5:03	6:04
14	4	5:02	6:04