

What Mojtaba's rise means for Iran

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran's clerical leadership chose confrontation over compromise in appointing Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his father, Ali Khamenei, a move regional officials say is a direct rebuke to US President Donald Trump, who had declared the son "unacceptable".

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in a US-Israeli strike at the start of the conflict, now in its second week. The appointment of Mojtaba as his successor by the Assembly of Experts locks hardliners firmly in control in Tehran - a gamble that could reshape Iran's war with the US and Israel and reverberate far beyond the Middle East.

"Having Mojtaba take over is the same playbook," said Alex Vatanka, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute.

FURTHER CONFRONTATION

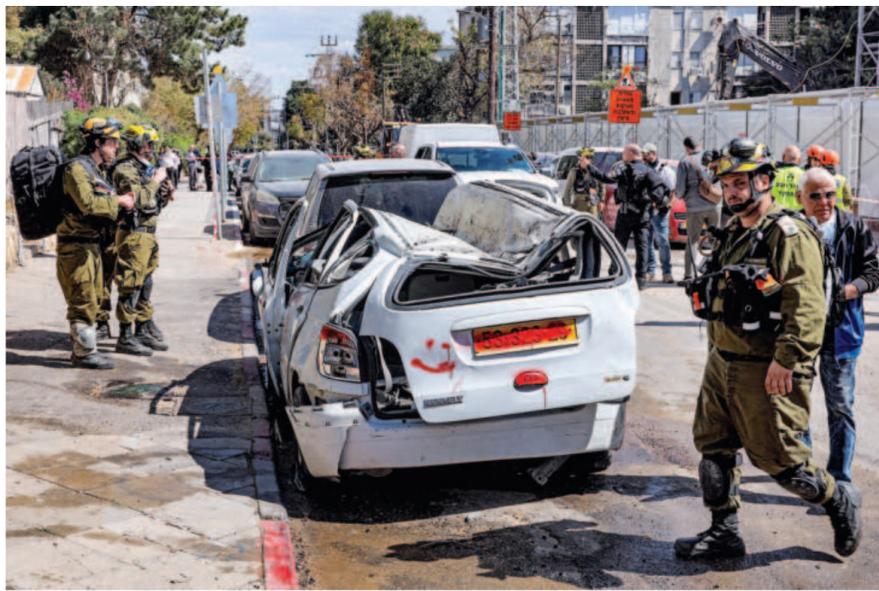
Analysts say the choice of Mojtaba, a deeply hardline cleric whose wife, mother and other family members were also killed in US-Israeli strikes - sends an unequivocal message: Iran's leadership has rejected any prospect of compromise to preserve the system and sees no path forward except confrontation, revenge and endurance.

According to insiders, Mojtaba will face immense internal and external strain from a disaffected population and an escalating conflict, but is expected to move swiftly to consolidate power. "The world will miss the era of his father," a regional official close to Tehran told Reuters. "Mojtaba will have no choice but to show an iron fist... even if the war ends, there will be severe internal repression."

NEW LEADER OPPOSED REFORMISTS

A powerful mid ranking cleric, Mojtaba, 56, has long opposed reformist groups advocating engagement with the West. He amassed influence under his father as a key figure within the security apparatus and the vast business empire it controls, operating for years as Ali Khamenei's gatekeeper and, in practice, a "mini-supreme leader", analysts say.

A Gulf source familiar with regional government thinking said of Mojtaba's appointment: "This tells Trump and Washington that Iran will not back down, they will fight on until the finish."



Israeli security forces and first responders gather near a destroyed vehicle at the site of an Iranian strike that hit a residential neighbourhood in Bat Yam, south of Tel Aviv, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel 'unlawfully' using white phosphorus in Lebanon: HRW

AFP, Beirut

Human Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday accused Israel of "unlawfully" using white phosphorus over residential parts of a southern Lebanese town last week.

"The Israeli military unlawfully used artillery-fired white phosphorus munitions over homes on March 3, 2026, in the southern Lebanese town of Yohmor," the New York-based rights group said in a report.

HRW added that it "verified and geolocated seven images showing airburst white phosphorus

munitions being deployed over a residential part of the town and civil defense workers responding to fires in at least two homes and one car in that area".

White phosphorus, a substance that ignites on contact with oxygen, can be used to create smokescreens and to illuminate battlefields.

But the munition can also be used as an incendiary weapon and can cause fires, horrific burns, respiratory damage, organ failure and death.

Israel launched multiple waves of strikes across Lebanon since last week and sent ground troops into border areas after the Iran-backed

group attacked it.

The Israeli army has since repeatedly called on people living south of the Litani River, around 30 kilometres (20 miles) north of the Israeli border, to leave.

At least 394 people have been killed in Israeli attacks, Lebanese authorities said, registering more than half a million people as displaced. "The Israeli military's unlawful use of white phosphorus over residential areas is extremely alarming and will have dire consequences for civilians," Ramzi Kaiss, Lebanon researcher at HRW, was quoted saying in the report.

Govt floats tenders

FROM PAGE 12

of Hormuz, while the US-Israeli war with Iran continues for a tenth day.

Located between Oman and Iran, and connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, the strait is one of the world's most important oil chokepoints.

Bangladesh meets nearly 30 percent of its gas demand through imported LNG, while the country's total requirement stands at about 2,650 mcmfd, as domestic output continues to fall short.

The country also spends roughly \$1 billion per year to import more than 60 lakh tonnes of petroleum and relies heavily on the Hormuz route. It sources most petroleum from the Middle East, and more than half of LNG imports in 2025 passed through this chokepoint.

Dhaka court denies bail

FROM PAGE 2

at Shahidullah Hall crossing and played the historic March 7 speech on loudspeaker.

Police went to the spot on information and detained Shoikot with the help of locals while he was trying to flee.

Later, around 9:20pm, Mamun and Emi, along with 10-15 unidentified individuals, gathered in front of Gate 1 of the National Museum in Shahbagh.

At the time, the accused chanted slogans using loudspeakers and tried to resume activities of the banned organisation, according to case details.

They also obstructed police from performing their duties and attempted to snatch Shoikot from police custody, the case statement said.

At that time, a group of students, led by Ducsu representatives AB Zubair and Musaddiq Ali Ibne Mohammad, held Mamun and Emi and handed them over to the police.

Following the incident, police filed a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act with Shahbagh Police Station yesterday.

Queues at filling stations

FROM PAGE 1

worry about supporting his children in Faridpur. "If I cannot increase my income, my children's Eid will be ruined."

In Chattogram, petrol shortages forced suspension of speedboat services between Sandwip and the mainland, stranding thousands. Speedboat operator Jaglut Hossain Nayan said usually 20 boats carry 2,500 passengers daily, requiring 4,000 litres of petrol. Recently, they managed only 500 litres.

In Bhairab, long queues of fuel trucks lined roads near three major depots after authorities introduced rationing. The depots supply fuel to 10 districts: Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Narsingdi, Gazipur, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj and Kurigram.

Officials at Padma, Meghna, and Jamuna depots said supply was cut by 25 percent.

Jamuna depot in charge Md Matiur Rahman said agent dealers had hoarded fuel, prompting rationing.

Bhairab Tank-Lorry Owners Association

Freight piling up at Dhaka airport

FROM PAGE 1

He said Biman has been operating flights as usual, but it is mainly carrying the perishable goods such as vegetables and fruits on a priority basis. One of the Middle East-based airlines said it would launch chartered flights soon to reduce the backlogs.

Another Middle East-based airlines also carries cargo and transports 25 tonnes of goods every day, but it is not enough because the backlog has already increased significantly, he said.

He added that the airlines will increase the charge after they start operating chartered flights soon.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kabir Ahmed, ex-president of Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA), the logistics providers' platform, said currently nearly 2,000 tonnes of cargo have been stuck at the HSI since the beginning of the war.

Most of the cargo is heading towards the Middle East, he said, adding that goods are brought to HSI for export either to

General Secretary Md Zainal Abedin said many tanker drivers refused to transport fuel as operating half-loaded trucks was not worth their efforts.

Filling station owners also reported severe shortages.

Farhan Noor of Fahad Filling Station in Brahmanbaria said his pump usually needs 18,000 litres daily. It received no fuel for several days. On Monday, he was allocated only 9,000 litres.

Nazmul Haque of Nazmul Filling Station in Narsingdi said his pump received 13,500 litres on Thursday, which was sold by Friday. Yesterday, he got 9,000 litres of diesel but no petrol.

"With the current level of demand, the situation has become extremely tense. It is almost at the point where customers could get into fights over fuel," he warned.

In Bandarban, shortages disrupted transport. Long queues formed at pumps in Bandarban Sadar, with some stations halting octane sales.

Rideshare motorcyclist Uky Sing Marma said he carried a passenger from Thanchi to Bandarban

but could not find fuel to return to Thanchi.

Another rider, Md Nur Hossain, said his family depends entirely on his passenger transport work. "If I cannot get fuel, I cannot work. It will be difficult to run my family," he said.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) set up five regional monitoring cells in Dhaka, Bogura, Khulna, Sylhet, and Barisal, plus a central cell in Chattogram. Energy and Mineral Resources Division Joint Secretary AKM Fazlul Haque will serve as chief coordinator.

Regional cells will collect daily data on stocks, distribution, and sales, including floating stocks on vessels. The central cell will compile reports for the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

Officials said authorities were emphasising uninterrupted diesel supply during the irrigation season and pledged to investigate hoarding, smuggling, or adulteration.

Two diesel shipments with 32,000 tonnes arrived at Chattogram port yesterday, according to the BPC.

Freight piling up at Dhaka airport

Middle Eastern countries or for transit at different airports in the Middle East.

The normal capacity of the cargo village at the HSI is nearly 400 tonnes although the airport handles even more during any emergency or peak season.

Most of the Middle East-bound cargo airlines have suspended their flights due to airspace closure, he said.

Bangladesh used to export some goods to Europe or Middle Eastern countries via the Maldives route, but since the beginning of Ramadan, the Maldives route has also been closed, Kabir said.

The Maldives itself has been sending a lot of fruits to different countries on a priority basis as perishable goods during Ramadan, Kabir said.

The Maldives airport is also suffering from the backlogs of cargo because of the war.

Over the last few years, Bangladeshi exporters have been exploring some competitive seaways for safer and easier transportation of export goods.

For instance, a

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
Bangladesh Police			
Police Telecommunication Organization			
Police Telecom Bhabon, Rajarbag, Dhaka.			
Web: telecom.police.gov.bd			
Invitation for International Tender			
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/Suppliers in their official pad for Supplying, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of DMR Trunking (Tier-3) System on Turnkey Basis			
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs	
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Police	
3.	Procuring Entity Name	SP (Logistics), Police Telecom Organization	
4.	Invitation for	Supplying, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of DMR Trunking (Tier-3) System on Turnkey Basis	
5.	Invitation Ref. No.	44.01.0000.057.11.054.25/2162/Betar	
6.	Date	09-03-2026	
Key Information			
7.	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) - (International)	
Funding Information			
8.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB)	
Particular Information			
9.	Tender Publication date	10 March 2026	
10.	Tender last selling date	22 April 2026.	
11.	Tender closing date and time	23 April 2026 at 12:00 hrs.	
12.	Tender opening date and time (Technical offer only)	23 April 2026 at 12:30 hrs.	
Name & address of the office			
13.	Name & address of the office	Bangladesh Police, Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document	ASP (Procurement), Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.	
	Receiving tender document	Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.	
	Opening tender document	Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.	
14.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	25 March 2026, at 12:00 hrs. at Police Telecom Conference Room (1 st Floor), Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
15.	Eligibility of Tenderer	1) Up to date Export license (2) Written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the tender in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Principal (3) Affidavit confirming the legal capacity and financial capability (4) Original full Brochure of products of the Principal (5) Other requirements described in the tender document (PG 5A).	
16.	Brief description of goods:	Supplying, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of DMR Trunking (Tier-3) System on Turnkey Basis	
Sl. No.	Description of Good	Price of tender document (Non-refundable)	Tender security
1.	DMR Trunking (Tier-3) System on Turnkey Basis.	10,000/- (Ten Thousand) Taka only.	TK-15,92,000/- or USS-13,002.00
			150 days from the Date of Opening L/C.
Procuring Entity Details			
17.	Name of official inviting tender	Shahriar Bin Saleh	
18.	Designation of the official inviting tender	SP (Logistics), Bangladesh Police, Rajarbag, Dhaka-1217.	
19.	Address of official inviting tender	Police Telecom Organization, Rajarbag, Dhaka-1217.	
20.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +880 2-8301253 FAX: +880 2-8301404, Mobile: + 88 01320-020041 e-mail: splog.telecom@police.gov.bd	
21.	The tenderers shall submit their Technical and Financial offer in separate sealed envelope. Furthermore both envelopes shall be covered by an outer envelope which is sealed.		
Special instructions			
22.	a) No tender will be received after the deadline of submission time & date.		
	b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason.		
	c) The Procuring entity also reserves the right to omit, increase and/or decrease the quantity of any item(s) of the tender.		
	d) If not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue.		
	e) Evaluation will be done by Lot by Lot basis.		
	f) Date of financial offer opening will be duly informed to the Technically Responsive Tenderers and their local agents.		
	g) The Tenderer must comply with all requirements as per the tender data sheet provided with the tender schedule.		
	h) The Tender Security shall be in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee issued by an internationally reputable bank and shall require to be endorsed by its any correspondent bank located in Bangladesh.		
	i) The Procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Regulation 2025.		
 (Shahriar Bin Saleh) BP 7810126915 SP (Logistics) Police Telecommunication Organization Rajarbag, Dhaka. Mobile: 01320020041 E-mail: splog.telecom@police.gov.bd			