

Iran fires 'dancing missile' for first time

AGENCIES

Iran on Sunday launched a series of advanced missiles targeting Israeli and US positions, including the Sejil missile, which has been used for the first time since the war began on February 28, Iranian news outlet PressTV reported.

The Sejil is an indigenously designed and developed two-stage ballistic missile powered by solid propellant. It is also known by other names, including the Sajil, Ashoura, and Ashura missile.

Iran's Sejil-2 is a two-stage, solid-fuel medium-range ballistic missile with an estimated range of about 2,000 kilometres and a payload capacity of roughly 700 kilograms. Because of its high-altitude manoeuvring ability, it has been nicknamed the "dancing missile", a reference to its capability to evade missile defence systems such as the Iron Dome.



Smoke plumes rise after Israeli bombardment of the village of Kham in southern Lebanon, near the border with Israel, as seen from nearby Marjayoun yesterday. Israel warned that displaced Lebanese driven from their homes by its military would not be able to return until the safety of Israelis living near the border was ensured.

PHOTO: AFP

Talks with Cuba ongoing: Trump warns of possible action after Iran

REUTERS

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the United States could soon reach a deal with Cuba or take other action, signaling that developments in the long-strained relationship may come quickly.

"Cuba also wants to make a deal, and I think we will pretty soon either make a deal or do whatever we have to do," Trump said to reporters on Air Force One. "We're talking to Cuba, but we're going to do Iran before Cuba."

The comments come as tensions between Washington and Havana remain elevated following years of sanctions, diplomatic friction and disputes over migration and security, with regional allies and investors watching closely for signs of a policy shift.

Cuba's President Miguel Díaz Canel said on Friday that the country opened talks with the United States as the island faces one of its most severe economic crises in decades.

"These talks have been aimed at finding solutions through dialogue to the bilateral differences we have between the two nations," Díaz Canel said in a video aired on state television.



Iran wants 'serious review' of Gulf ties

Tehran's envoy to KSA denies role in Saudi oil attacks

REUTERS, Riyadh

Iran's relations with Gulf states will require a "serious review" in light of the US-Israeli war on Iran, limiting the power of external actors so the region can become prosperous, Tehran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia told Reuters on Sunday.

Asked if he was concerned that relations would be harmed by the war, Ambassador Alireza Enayati said: "It's a valid question, and the answer may be simple. We are neighbors and we cannot do without each other; we will need a serious review."

"What the region has witnessed over the past five decades is the result of an exclusionary approach [within the region] and an excessive reliance on external powers," he said in a written response to questions, calling for deeper ties between the Gulf Cooperation Council's six members, along with Iraq and Iran.

➤ **Gulf states suffer over 2,000 missile and drone attacks since war began**

➤ **Iran and Saudi Arabia mended ties in 2023 after years of enmity**

normalized relations with Iran's arch-foe Israel in 2020, has faced the brunt of the attacks. But all Gulf Arab states have been impacted, and all have condemned Iran.

Behind the scenes, analysts and regional sources say there is also growing frustration at the US, long their security guarantor, at dragging them into a war they did not endorse but for which they are paying a hefty price.

In Saudi Arabia, attacks have been concentrated on the eastern region where most of the kingdom's oil is produced, as well as the Prince Sultan Airbase hosting US forces east of Riyadh, and the Diplomatic Quarter on the Saudi capital's western edge, according to Saudi defense ministry statements.

Saudi Arabia and Iran re-established full diplomatic relations in 2023 after years of enmity that saw them back rival political and military factions across the region.

Gulf Arab states have faced more than 2,000 missile and drone attacks since the outbreak of the war on February 28, with targets including US diplomatic missions and military bases but also critical Gulf oil infrastructure, ports, airports, hotels and residential and office buildings.

The United Arab Emirates, which

Israeli strike on Gaza police vehicle kills 9 officers

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry said an Israeli air strike on a police vehicle Sunday evening killed nine officers in the centre of the Palestinian territory, updating an earlier hospital toll of eight.

The strike came as a Hamas delegation was due to meet with Egyptian officials in Cairo.

Gaza's civil defence agency had also reported another four people killed in an earlier Israeli strike. When asked by AFP about both incidents, the Israeli military said it was looking into the reports.

The Gaza interior ministry, which operates under Hamas authority, accused the Israeli military of committing a "heinous crime this afternoon when it targeted a police vehicle carrying several officers and personnel in the central governorate."

"The attack resulted in the killing of nine officers and personnel," it said in a statement, listing the victims, among them the police chief for the central governorate, Colonel Iyad Abu Yousef. Earlier, th Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir el-Balah said it had received the bodies of "eight martyrs" killed in the strike on the town of Zawaida in central Gaza.



According to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the missile is around 18 metres long, has a diameter of about 1.25 metres, and weighs roughly 23,600 kilograms.

Its solid-fuel design offers a strategic advantage, allowing it to be prepared and launched more quickly than older liquid-fuel systems like the Shahab series. Work on designing the Sejil missile began in the early 1990s.

According to CSIS, the first test launch took place in 2008, when the missile reportedly travelled around 800 kilometres. A second launch was carried out in May 2009 to evaluate improved guidance and navigation systems.

Four additional flight tests have been conducted since 2009.



China leads in patents on anti-drone tech: study

AFP, Paris

China is far outstripping other countries in patents filed for anti-drone technologies, a specialist law firm said yesterday, as the defences' key place in modern warfare is highlighted anew in Middle East fighting.

With 82 patents filed of a total 126 worldwide in the year to March 2025, China dominated the rankings from intellectual property experts Mathys and Squire.

The US accounted for just 22 anti-drone patents and South Korea six. Expanding interest in the field was clear from its growth, up 27 percent from the 99 filed in the previous period.

"It's not surprising that we're seeing a lot of innovation in that area from China," said Mathys and Squire partner Andy White.

Beijing has been making a "concerted effort" to encourage patent-filing by businesses and individuals over the past decade, including with financial incentives, White noted. Most of the patents -- 49 in 2024-25 -- were related to interference and jamming.

But the "next generation" is already in development, the law firm found, highlighting anti-drone lasers (39 patents) and microwave systems (24). "I wouldn't be surprised if in another one or two years, we see (the overall number) increase massively," White said.

The data halting in March 2025 means any developments following the outbreak of war between the US, Iran and Israel are not yet captured.

Drones play a central role in the current Middle East fighting and the past four years of war between Russia and Ukraine. Iranian-designed Shahed drones have been widely deployed in both conflicts and can be tricky to counter.

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Memo No. 22.02.0000.008.07.041.25-150 Date: 16/03/2026

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package Description	Tender Document Last Selling Date & time	Tender Closing/Opening Date & time
I.	1209598	DoE/eGP/2025-26/GR-4	Supply of Refreshment & Lunch packet for meeting, training seminar, workshop etc. organized by DoE, Head office (Framework Agreement)	06 Apr 2026 17:00 Hrs.	07 Apr 2026 14:00 Hrs.

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-632

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Memo No. 35.01.4240.432.04.012.23-422(3) Dated: 16/03/2026

Invitation for e-Tenders (OTM)

Sl. No.	Name of works	Tender ID No.	Tender security	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time
01	04/e-GP/PMP-Roads/JRD/2025-2026 Strengthening by Base Type-I & Dense Bituminous Surfacing-Wearing Course Work at Ch.15+000 (Manosita Women's College) to Ch.30+000 (Amua Zero Point) km of Rajapur-Kathalia-Amua-Bamna-Patharghata Zila Road (Z-8708) (Jhalakathi Part) under Jhalakathi Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	1247 036	45,00,000/-	07-04-2026 05-00pm	08-04-2026 12-00pm

01. These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal.
02. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).

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Memo No. 35.01.8400.466.15.03.25-762 Date: 16-03-2026

Re-Tender Notice (OTM)

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tenders is invited and will publish on 16 March 2026 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following Tender. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

SL.	Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of work	Date & time
1	1237101	e-GP/PMP Road/RRD-03/2024-2025	Surfacing Work by DBS Wearing Course at Ch. 09+000 (Islampur) to Ch. 18+740 (Rajasthali) km at Bangalhalia-Rajasthali-Farua-Bilaichhari-Barkal Road Zilla Highway (Z-1814) under Rangamati Road Division.	Last selling 16.04.2026, 12:00 Closing 16.04.2026, 14:00

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