

**Fresh 'large scale' blasts in Tehran**

AFP

Loud explosions rocked the Iranian capital yesterday, AFP journalists heard from locations in central Tehran.

Soon afterwards, the Israeli military said it had hit a high-ranking Iranian commander in the capital. It later said the air force had launched a new "large scale" wave of strikes on the capital "targeting the Iranian terror regime's infrastructure in Tehran".

Iranian media said "US and Israeli fighters" struck central Tehran and that a building of the body to elect Iran's new supreme leader, south of Tehran, had been hit.



Boys sitting on the side of a road watch as behind a tall smoke plume billows following an explosion in the Fujairah industrial zone



Israeli security forces and emergency personnel stand next to the wreckage of cars at a site struck by a projectile in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv

**Trump says 'too late' for talks**

AFP

US President Donald Trump said that it was too late for talks with Iran.

"Their air defense, Air Force, Navy, and Leadership is gone. They want to talk. I said 'Too Late!'" Trump wrote in a Truth Social post, two days after saying he had agreed to talks.

**China opposed**

AFP

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Israeli counterpart Gideon Saar in a phone call that "China opposes any military strikes launched by Israel and the United States against Iran," according to the Xinhua news agency.

"Force cannot truly solve problems -- instead, it will only bring new problems and severe after-effects."

**Iran appeals to UN Security Council**

Iran urged the United Nations Security Council to take action to stop the war.

"The United Nations Security Council has a duty... if it wishes, it can certainly act, because there is no obstacle to its action except its own will," said foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei.

**Nuclear site damaged**

The United Nations nuclear watchdog said the key Iranian nuclear site of Natanz suffered "recent damage", a day after Tehran said the underground uranium enrichment plant was attacked. "Based on the latest available satellite imagery, IAEA can now confirm some recent damage to entrance buildings of Iran's underground Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant. No radiological consequence expected," the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said.

**War** takes ugly turn

**Ukraine offers Gulf states air defence swap**

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday offered US allies in the Middle East a swap of some of their air defence missiles in exchange for Kyiv's vaunted drone interceptors, to better protect them from Iranian drone attacks.

Russia has been using Iranian-designed Shahed drones throughout its four-year invasion of Ukraine, and Kyiv has developed a range of cheap and effective drone interceptors -- aerial craft designed to hit incoming attack drones mid-air -- that it says are world-leading.

At the same time, Ukraine is struggling with a shortage of PAC-3 air defence missiles -- expensive ammunition fired at incoming Russian missiles to defend Ukrainian cities and critical infrastructure.

"The number one issue is how to protect their skies. We ourselves live with this question," Zelensky said.

"Let's speak about weapons that we're short of: PAC-3 missiles -- if they give them to us, we will give them interceptors," he added.

PAC-3 missiles, he said, do not work to protect against a barrage of hundreds of Shahed drones.

**Iran warns European countries against joining war: foreign ministry**

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran warned European countries yesterday against joining its conflict with Israel and the United States, after Germany, Britain and France said they could take "defensive action" to destroy Iran's missile-launching ca-

pabilities. "It would be an act of war. Any such act against Iran would be regarded as complicity with the aggressors. It would be regarded as an act of war against Iran," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said at a press briefing when asked about the statement.

**Israel first responders say 12 injured after new Iran missile barrage**

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's Magen David Adom emergency services said yesterday they were treating 12 people with injuries following the latest salvo of missiles fired from Iran.

"Medics and paramedics are providing medical treatment and evacuating to hospitals 12 injured people, including a woman of about 40 in moderate condition with blast injuries, and 11 people lightly

injured with cuts from glass shards and blast injuries," an MDA statement said.

Israeli police said officers were operating at several sites in the central and Tel Aviv districts where shrapnel had fallen. AFP footage showed security forces in high visibility vests and helmets deployed at one site. At another, a fire engine was stationed as forces sprayed non-flammable foam on the charred wreckage of cars.

**NATO chief says 'widespread support' for US Iran campaign**

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

NATO chief Mark Rutte said yesterday there was broad backing among US European allies for President Donald Trump's military campaign against Iran.

Washington's bombardment of Iran -- which saw supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khome-

ini killed -- has unleashed airstrikes across the Middle East.

"I feel widespread support in Europe. I was on the phone with many leaders over the weekend and also early this week," Rutte told journalists on a visit to North Macedonia.

"I clearly sensed that taking out the nuclear capability, taking out the ballistic missile

capability, and also Khamenei gone, this is applauded by many of my colleagues in NATO."

Rutte underlined that the NATO military alliance -- founded to protect Europe and North America -- was "not involved" in the military operations.

"But I can assure you that NATO will defend every inch of NATO territory," he said.

**Saudi condemns 'unjustified' Iran attack on US embassy in Riyadh**

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia condemned yesterday an overnight Iranian attack on the US embassy in Ri-

yadh, as Tehran keeps up its retaliation campaign in the Gulf over US and Israeli strikes.

The Saudi foreign ministry in a statement expressed "its strong-

est condemnation and rejection of the heinous attack that targeted the US Embassy building in Riyadh", describing it as "cowardly and unjustified".

**Lebanese president says ban on Hezbollah's military activity 'irreversible'**



The US embassy headquarters in Riyadh is pictured yesterday, after it was hit by drone strikes earlier.