

● Iran's health ministry said Sunday that at least 1,200 civilians had been killed and around 10,000 wounded -- figures AFP could not independently verify.

● Saudi Arabia said Sunday that two people were killed and 12 wounded as a projectile landed in Al-Kharj province.

● In Israel, Iranian missile attacks have killed 10 people, according to authorities. Two soldiers were killed in Lebanon, the military said.

● European gas prices surge 30% on Mideast war. The Dutch TTF natural gas contract, considered the European benchmark, jumped to 69.50 euros, before paring gains slightly.

● Hezbollah says fighting Israeli forces who landed in east Lebanon

● US Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Iran of taking the world hostage through its retaliatory strikes and insisted that the United States was on track with its war objectives.

Hezbollah pledges allegiance to new Iran supreme leader

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah yesterday welcomed the selection of Mojtaba Khamenei as Iran's new supreme leader, pledging allegiance after his predecessor and father Ali Khamenei was killed in US-Israeli attacks.

"We in Hezbollah extend our warmest congratulations and blessings on this occasion. We renew our pledge of loyalty to this blessed approach and our steadfastness on the path of allegiance," the group said in a statement.

Hezbollah entered the Middle East war a week ago by attacking Israel in response to Ali Khamenei's killing.

Lebanese president accuses Hezbollah of working towards 'collapse' of state for Iran



Smoke plumes billow from the site of an Israeli air strike in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Beirut



A fireball rises from the site of an Israeli air strike in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Beirut

Khamenei's son **takes charge**

US President Donald Trump said he would hold a news conference Monday, his first formal question-and-answer session with reporters since launching military operations against Iran. Trump said on his Truth Social network that the news conference would take place at around 5:30 pm in the ballroom of his Doral golf club near Miami, where he spent the weekend, before returning to Washington.

AFP | Manama, Bahrain

Iran launched fresh strikes on energy installations in the Gulf yesterday, including a petroleum complex in Bahrain, as oil prices soared on fears over supply disruptions due to the Middle East war.

Bahrain's sprawling Al Ma'ameer oil facility was hit, causing a fire and damage, with the country's state-owned energy firm Bapco declaring force majeure -- the latest Gulf producer to activate the legal clause.

Energy producers in Qatar and Kuwait earlier made similar declarations, which are a warning that events beyond their control

Zelensky says 11 countries asked Ukraine for drone help against Iran

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that 11 countries had tapped Kyiv for help in how to counter Iranian drones.

Ukraine touts itself as having world-class drone defence capabilities, built up through fending off nightly barrages of Iran-style attack drones launched by Russia, an ally of Tehran.

"As of now, there are 11 requests from countries neighbouring Iran, European states, and the US. There is clear interest in Ukraine's experience in protecting lives, relevant interceptors, electronic warfare systems, and training," Zelensky said.

He did not specify which countries

US, Israel 'despair'

Iranian security chief Ali Larijani said the election of Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his father had left Israel and the United States in "despair".

may lead them to miss export targets.

Bapco said it "hereby serves notice of force majeure on its group operations which have been affected by the ongoing regional conflict in the Middle East and the recent attack on its refinery complex", according to a statement posted by the company.

Bahrain later said that the blaze at the oil facility had been brought under control.

Asian stock markets plunged on Monday as oil prices surged, with investors running for the hills as crude rocketed to its highest level since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The market instability came as Iran continued to target the Gulf with missile and drone barrages, with authorities scrambling to contain the fallout.

Two Emirati servicemen were meanwhile killed after their heli-

Putin backs new ayatollah

Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged his "unwavering support" to Khamenei.

"At a time when Iran is confronting armed aggression, your tenure in this high position will undoubtedly require great courage and dedication," the Russian leader added.

icopter crashed due to a "technical malfunction", Abu Dhabi's defence ministry said.

The aircraft went down while the crew were performing national duty inside the country, it added.

Evacuation

Saudi Arabia's defence ministry meanwhile said the kingdom took down and destroyed two waves of drones heading towards the Shaybah oil field in the southeast of the country.

The Emirati military deaths bring to 23 the number of people killed in the Gulf since Iran began its attacks, including 10 civilians and seven US service members.

The latest strikes came after

Iran blames Europe

Iran said European countries including France had created the conditions that led to the United States and Israel attacking the Islamic republic, accusing them of not standing up to Washington's "bullying".

Washington ordered embassy staff to leave Saudi Arabia, following a rash of attacks targeting the kingdom.

The State Department said in a travel advisory it had "ordered non-emergency US government employees and US government employee family members to leave Saudi Arabia due to safety risks".

Drones hit the US embassy in the Saudi capital Riyadh last week, and drones have also caused damage at the US diplomatic missions in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Waves of drones

On Monday, Bahrain said another Iranian drone attack on the island of Sitra injured 32 people overnight. All of the wounded were Bahraini citizens and there were four "serious cases", in-

Qatar arrests 313

Qatari authorities have arrested more than 300 people for sharing images and "misleading information" during days of attacks by Iran, the interior ministry said.

cluding children, the health ministry said in a statement carried by the state news agency.

They included a 17-year-old girl who suffered severe head and eye injuries, and a two-month-old baby, according to the ministry.

Explosions were also heard on Monday both overnight and later in the day in Doha and emergency sirens sounded in Manama, AFP journalists said.

Qatar said it intercepted 17 ballistic missiles and six drones launched from Iran with no casualties reported.

The UAE said its air defences detected 15 ballistic missiles, destroying 12 while three fell into the sea, and intercepted 17 of 18 drones.

Kuwaiti authorities announced a missile and drone attack on Monday and the defence ministry said its military was working to intercept the salvo.

Saudi Arabia says intercepted drone attack targeting oil field

EU ready to 'enhance' operations to protect Mideast maritime traffic

Iran security chief says Strait of Hormuz unsafe as long as war goes on

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's security chief Ali Larijani said yesterday that security in the strategic Strait of

Hormuz cannot be restored as long as the war with the United States and Israel continues.

"It is unlikely that any securi-

ty can be achieved in the Strait of Hormuz amid the fires ignited by the United States and Israel in the region," said Larijani

in a post on X, after France said it and its allies were preparing a "defensive" mission to reopen the waterway.