

Islamabad talks offer

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Islamabad is prepared to host negotiations to stop the US-Israeli war with Iran, after mounting speculation it could act as a mediator.

Gulf 'breakdown'

The Gulf states will need to re-evaluate their shared security after the war, which has resulted in a "breakdown of the security system," a Qatar foreign ministry spokesman said.

G7 war discussion

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet G7 counterparts in France on Friday to discuss the war, the State Department said.

While all G7 nations are close US allies, none has unambiguously offered support for the offensive on Iran, angering President Donald Trump.

Trump has since announced his government is speaking with Iran, a claim denied by Tehran.

Iraq deaths

A strike in western Iraq on Tuesday killed 15 fighters, including Saad Dawai al-Baiji, provincial commander and head of operations in Anbar for the former paramilitary coalition Hashed al-Shaabi, also known as the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF).

The PMF is now part of Iraq's regular army but also includes some pro-Iranian groups. It has blamed the attack on the United States.

UAE defence ministry says civilian contractor killed in Bahrain

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The UAE defence ministry said on Tuesday that a Moroccan contractor with the Emirati military was killed in Bahrain in an Iranian attack, with Manama saying the man had been assisting the local armed forces.

"The Ministry of Defence mourns the loss of a Moroccan civilian contractor serving with the UAE Armed Forces, who was martyred during a routine mission in the Kingdom of Bahrain following an Iranian missile attack," the UAE ministry said in a statement on X.

Bahrain's military had announced that a UAE army personnel was killed in its territory while helping Bahraini forces defend against Iranian attacks.



A Palestinian man climbs on the remnants of an Iranian missile that landed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank village of Hares

Iranian media reported US-Israeli warplanes had struck two gas facilities and a pipeline

Strikes continue

War showed no sign of de-escalation

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran and Israel traded fresh strikes yesterday as the Middle East war ground on, though a diplomatic push to bring Iran and the United States to the negotiating table appeared to be gathering pace.

The three-week-old war, sparked by US-Israeli attacks that killed Iran's supreme leader, has upended global energy markets, roiled the world economy and spiralled throughout the region, even dragging in safe-haven Gulf nations.

Speculation has mounted that Pakistan could emerge as a mediator following an offer from its prime minister, a day after US President Donald Trump unexpectedly announced productive talks with Iran -- a claim Tehran

swiftly denied. On the ground, however, the hostilities continued, with Israel's army saying it had conducted a "large wave" of airstrikes across several areas of Iran including the central city of Isfahan.

In Tel Aviv, Israel reported four people wounded after missile fire from Iran, with AFP images showing rub-

ble-strewn streets and the side of a three-storey building in ruins.

Earlier, Iranian media reported enemy warplanes had struck two gas facilities and a pipeline, hours after Trump stepped back from his weekend threat to attack energy sites, citing the attempts at diplomacy.

Bahrain, Kuwait, the United

Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia all said they had intercepted renewed drone and missile attacks, as Iran kept up retaliatory strikes on US-allied Gulf states.

'Friendly countries'

Trump on Monday said his administration was speaking with an unidentified "top person" in Iran, and extended by five days

an ultimatum for the Islamic republic to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or see its power plants obliterated.

But Tehran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said "no negotiations" were underway, accusing Trump of seeking "to manipulate the financial and oil markets".

US media outlet Axios reported that US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner may meet an Iranian delegation for talks in Pakistan as soon as this week, with Vice President JD Vance possibly joining.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that he had spoken with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, promising Islamabad's help to bring peace to the region.

'There's nothing left'

Israel pounded Beirut's southern suburbs throughout the night, while a strike on Bshamoun, south of the capital, killed two people on Tuesday, according to Lebanon's health ministry. "There's g left. It's all burned or destroyed... No walls, the windows are gone, the fa-

cade is gone, all my hard work has been lost," said Abbas Qassem, 55 from Bshamoun, weeping at the damage to his flat. In Beirut, AFP images showed smoke billowing from gutted buildings, as rescuers picked through the rubble and twisted metal. Strikes also targeted sev-

eral service stations linked to Iran-backed Hezbollah, which Israel has vowed to dismantle.

Israel's attacks in Lebanon have killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry, and displaced more than a million others.

Axios reported Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner may meet an Iranian delegation for talks in Pakistan

France urges Israel 'to refrain' from seizing south Lebanon zone

AFP | Paris, France

Israel should "refrain" from sending in forces to take control of a zone in south Lebanon, France's foreign minister told AFP yesterday, saying such a move would have "major humanitarian consequences".

"We urge the Israeli authorities to refrain from such ground operations, which would have major humanitarian consequences and would exacerbate the country's al-

ready dire situation," Jean-Noel Barrot said.

Israel said earlier its military would take control of south Lebanon up to the Litani River, around 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the border.

Lebanon's government has acted against Iranian interests and withdrew its approval of the Iranian ambassador's accreditation

on Tuesday, a decision Barrot hailed as "courageous".

Iranian ambassador Mohammad Reza Sheibani was told to leave Lebanese territory by Sunday.

"I wish to commend the statements and actions of the Lebanese government... which this morning took a courageous decision by expelling the Iranian ambassador," Barrot said, accusing Hezbollah of dragging Lebanon into a new conflict.

Beirut has accused Iran's Revolutionary Guards of commanding Hezbollah's operations in its war against Israel.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the eastern outskirts of the southern Lebanese coastal city of Tyre