Diplomats told to shelter in Riyadh

RIYADH

Some Western diplomats in Riyadh were told to shelter in place, diplomatic sources told AFP yesterday as Iran pressed attacks across the Gulf.

The unprecedented air campaign by the Islamic republic targeting US military assets, but also American embassies and civilian infrastructure across the Gulf, continued into its sixth day after US-Israeli air strikes that devastated Iran's leadership.

At least 13 people have been killed in the Gulf, including seven civilians, since Iran began its attacks on Saturday. Washington said six US servicemen were killed, including four in Kuwait.

In addition to the shelter-in-place order to diplomats, in Riyadh, a witness said the diplomatic quarter in the Saudi capital, home to many foreign missions and diplomatic residences, had been closed off.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest main events related to the war in the Middle East:

■ BLASTS IN JERUSALEM

Air raid sirens blared and two blasts were heard in Jerusalem yesterday, AFP journalists reported, after Israel said it had identified missiles launched from Iran.

The blasts came shortly after Israel's air raid warning system sent out an alert to people living across central Israel.

■ IRAN LAUNCHES NEW STRIKES

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said yesterday that they had launched at dawn missiles carrying one-tonne warheads at Israel's main airport, Ben Gurion, and an air force base in the area.

It was unclear if any of the missiles reached the airport. The first two Israeli flights bringing home travellers stranded by the fighting also landed yesterday at the airport, which is closed for commercial traffic.

Iran's military said later yesterday that a naval drone had attacked a US site in Kuwait.

■ OVER 1,000 IRANIANS DEAD

Iran's state-run Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs said yesterday that the death toll from US and Israeli strikes on the Islamic republic has risen to 1,230.

AFP was not in a position to verify the toll.

■ SIX INJURED IN ABU DHABI

Debris from a drone injured six people in an industrial zone of the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi yesterday, while Dubai, Doha and Manama were subjected to missile attacks.

Saudi Arabian officials said they had intercepted three cruise missiles and several drones.

■ FRESH ISRAELI STRIKES

Israel's military said yesterday that it had "just begun a large-scale wave of strikes against infrastructure of the Iranian terror regime across Tehran".

Iranian news agency Tasnim and local media reported several explosions heard in Tehran yesterday morning.

Earlier, AFP journalists heard explosions in Jerusalem as Iran launched a fresh round of missiles at Israel, according to Iranian state media and the Israeli military.

■ ISRAEL KILLS HAMAS OFFICIAL

Lebanese state media said an Israeli strike had killed a senior Hamas official yesterday, the first reported targeted killing of a member of the Palestinian militant group since the war began.

■ AZERBAIJAN PROTESTS IRAN STRIKES

Azerbaijan, a close ally of Israel, yesterday said two people were wounded in drone hits on an airport and near a school in the exclave of Nakhichevan.

Baku warned the attack "will not go unanswered".

Iran denied being behind the attack, saying: "Such actions by the Zionist regime, aimed at disrupting relations between Muslim countries in various ways, are not unprecedented."

■ US WILL 'REGRET' SINKING

Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi accused the US of committing an atrocity by sinking an Iranian navy ship off Sri Lanka. A second Iranian warship headed to Sri Lanka's territorial waters.

■ IRAN SAYS HIT US TANKER

Iran hit a US oil tanker with a missile yesterday, "in the north of the Persian Gulf" and set it on fire, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement reported by state television.

The incident has not been independently confirmed.

■ IRAN INTERNET BLACKOUT

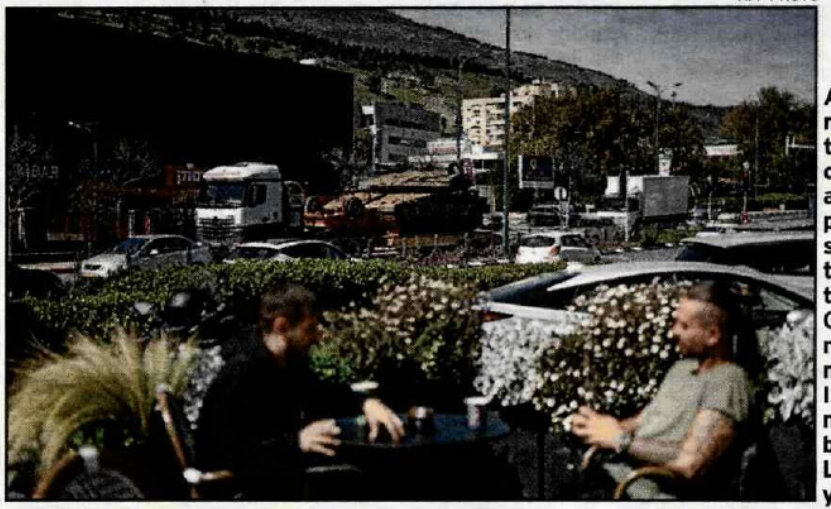
Iran's internet is "around 1% of ordinary levels" with a communication blackout sparked by the war with Israel and the US entering a fifth day, monitor Netblocks said yesterday.

AFP

NO CALL FOR AID

Iran has not requested military aid from its ally Russia since Israel and the US began striking the country last week, the Kremlin said yesterday.

AFP PHOTO



An Israeli military truck carries a tank past men sitting on a terrace in the Upper Galilee region of northern Israel, near the border with Lebanon, yesterday