

Middle East Situation

Information Cut-Off: 1900 (BST), 31 March 2026

Executive Summary

More strikes have been reported across Iran and the wider region.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has threatened to target 15 US and tech companies operating in the region, including Boeing, Google, Apple and Microsoft.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has said that the coming days will be decisive in the conflict, without going into specifics of what the US government intends.

Iran

This afternoon, the Israeli military reported that it had conducted over 230 strikes in the last 24 hours, focusing on Iranian military capabilities. The Iranian government has condemned Israel for targeting pharmaceutical companies, including facilities making cancer medications.

Air strikes were reported on Tehran earlier this afternoon. This afternoon, Iran confirmed the death of another key military figure in an air strike, Major General Jamshid Eshaghi, an adviser to the head of the military.

According to state media, the security forces have arrested 54 people for passing information to Israel or planning attacks within Iran, 41 of them accused of taking pictures of locations after an air strike.

The Iranian government has denied that it launched missiles at Turkey yesterday, claiming that it was a “false-flag operation”.

United States

The US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, who reportedly visited US troops in the Middle East at the weekend, has told the media that the coming days will be decisive in the conflict. He also claimed that more ships are now flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, whilst also stressing that Washington is continuing to pursue negotiations with Tehran. When asked, he did not rule out the deployment of US soldiers onto Iranian territory.

Regional

The IRGC this afternoon threatened to target a list of 15 US and technology companies operating in the region from 2000h (local time) tomorrow, and urged staff and people living near tech sites to evacuate. It named Cisco, HP, Intel, Oracle, Microsoft, Apple, Google, Meta, IBM, Dell, Nvidia, Tesla, GE, JPMorgan and Boeing as potential targets.

The UK government has confirmed that it will be sending additional air defence capabilities to allies in the Gulf region.

Lebanon

The Lebanese army has reportedly evacuated a number of its positions in southern Lebanon in the face of the Israeli advance.

An air strike has hit a building on the approach road to Beirut International Airport. The airport has continued to operate.

Hezbollah has reportedly conducted a series of rocket and artillery attacks against Israeli military positions in southern Lebanon and along the international border.

Bahrain

The government has said that its military has successfully intercepted 182 missiles and 400 drones over Bahrain since the start of the conflict.

Qatar

The Qatari government has suspended the visa-on-arrival facility for Pakistani nationals.

Kuwait

The Ministry of Information has set strict frameworks for media content, amid an apparent concern for the spread of misinformation.

United Arab Emirates

The UAE said this afternoon that its air force has intercepted 12 missiles and 36 drones launched from Iran today.

The Dubai Media Office has warned residents that many accounts, located outside of the UAE, are spreading rumours about life in the city. It quoted statements such as "*I hear explosions in Dubai*" or "*Dubai faces severe shortage of goods*" or "*Life in Dubai has come to a standstill*" as examples of baseless rumours that spread concern.

Saudi Arabia

The Ministry of Defence reported that it had intercepted two drones this afternoon.

Syria

The UN Refugee Agency said that more than 200,000 people have crossed from Lebanon into Syria in March. 90% were Syrian nationals returning home, the remainder being Lebanese nationals uprooted by Israeli attacks.

Iraq

A foreign female journalist has been kidnapped in Baghdad, according to the Interior Ministry.

International

Beijing and Islamabad have agreed to promote a five-point proposal aimed at restoring peace in the Middle East.

Travel

Aviation

Air France has extended the suspension of flights to Dubai, Riyadh, Tel Aviv and Beirut until 19 April.

Advice

- Do not travel to the Middle East.
- Avoid all travel within the region unless safe travel can be guaranteed.
- Shelter in place in a secure location.
- Follow instructions from local authorities and any national embassy guidelines.
- Monitor official updates and ensure phones are set up to receive alerts.
- Avoid any demonstrations or gatherings in the region.
- Globally, reconsider travel to any locations with links to Israel or Judaism.
- If you need further support, or wish to discuss options for evacuation, call NGS.



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