

Regional Overview

Iran sustained and in some areas increased its retaliatory strike tempo on Wednesday into early Thursday, with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Israel all reporting incoming threats and interception activity. Across the Gulf, cumulative casualties since the war began were reported at 13 killed (7 civilians and 6 US military personnel), while Gulf governments continued to emphasise defensive posture and civil protection amid ongoing missile and drone waves.

Israel continued its parallel campaign in Lebanon, with multiple lethal strikes reported across Beirut's perimeter and the Bekaa, as well as continuing attacks along the southern front. Hezbollah activity persisted, including claims of drone attacks on Israeli defence-industrial targets and anti-tank fire injuring Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon. In the background, conflicting reporting around Kurdish militant activity from northern Iraq toward north-western Iran, and separate reports of Baloch militant movement toward Iranian territory, adds uncertainty around whether peripheral fronts may intensify while Iran remains under sustained external pressure.

Maritime risk remains elevated across the Gulf and Gulf of Oman, with IRGC issued threats against vessels navigating the Strait of Hormuz, and multiple tanker incident reports near Fujairah, west of Dubai and off Kuwait. Simultaneously, regional aviation remains heavily constrained with many travellers left stranded, some receiving assistance from their governments, and Emirates maintaining suspension of scheduled services until 7 March.

Direct Impact - By Country

Iran

- Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they launched about 40 missiles at US and Israeli targets on Wednesday
- Israel reported a "broad wave" of strikes against government targets in Tehran, including the presidential office, and reported shooting down an Iranian Yak-130 over Tehran. Explosions were reported around Tehran at dawn.
- Officials reported the death toll has reached 1,045, with alternative reporting citing up to 1,500 killed.
- A US Navy submarine torpedoed and sank the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena in the Indian Ocean roughly 40 nautical miles south of Sri Lanka while it was returning from naval exercises. At least 87 sailors were killed and 32 rescued, with many others initially reported missing.
- Unconfirmed reports indicate Baloch militant groups opposed to Tehran have moved from bases in Pakistan into Iranian territory, raising the possibility of additional insurgent pressure along Iran's border.
- US military officials have warned that the pace of Iranian drone attacks is forcing heavy use of Patriot and THAAD interceptor missiles, raising concerns about interceptor stockpile depletion and reinforcing US efforts to destroy Iranian launch sites, amid broader questions regarding Iran's inventory.
- Reporting cites Ahmad Khatami saying the new supreme leader will be identified soon; Mojtaba Khamenei is widely described as the leading contender, but not confirmed.
- Khamenei farewell/funeral ceremonies were planned for three days, but have been postponed citing "overwhelming demand" and infrastructure needs.

Israel

- Missiles launched from Iran early Wednesday triggered air raid sirens across Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and wider areas; the alert was lifted within minutes and MDA said it received no casualty reports.
- Early Thursday saw renewed Iranian missile launches after a several hour long lull, triggering multiple alerts and explosions heard in Jerusalem; again, emergency services reported no immediate casualties.
- Israel's defence minister publicly threatened to assassinate any successor Iranian leader selected after Khamenei's death.
- Israel's Home Front Command signalled it would ease some restrictions effective midday Thursday due to a decline in missile volume.

Lebanon

- Israeli strikes on Aramoun and Saadiyat (south of Beirut) killed six and wounded eight. Israeli strikes also hit a hotel in Hazmieh and a building in Baalbek, killing four and wounding six, with rescue efforts ongoing.
- Israeli strikes on vehicles along Beirut's airport highway killed three.
- Health ministry reported total casualties rising to 72 killed and 437 wounded, with 83,000 displaced.
- The IDF announced a new wave of attacks in southern Lebanon, including strikes on underground weapons depots and Hezbollah HQ elements, and issued guidance warning residents to move north of the Litani River.
- Hezbollah claimed a swarm of drones targeting Israel Aerospace Industries HQ in central Israel.
- Two Israeli soldiers were moderately injured by anti-tank fire while operating in southern Lebanon.
- Israeli ground activity continued, with references to pushing into several border towns.

United Arab Emirates

- UAE cumulative toll since the conflict began is at 3 deaths and 78 injuries. No new fatalities since Sunday.
- UAE MoD reports that Wednesday saw air defences engage 3 ballistic missiles while 129 drones were detected; 121 intercepted and 8 fell within UAE territory.
- Media Office reiterates that sounds heard across Dubai were from successful air defence interceptions.

Dubai

- An oil tanker to the west of Dubai reported explosions close to the ship. No damage/casualties.

Fujairah

- UKMTO reported an oil tanker hit Tuesday night east of Fujairah by an unknown projectile; no major damage/environmental impact or casualties.

Saudi Arabia

- Saudi MoD reported intercepting two cruise missiles over Al-Kharj and thwarting a drone attack; also reported nine drones intercepted upon entering Saudi airspace. Later reporting indicated an additional three missiles intercepted outside Al-Kharj.
- Saudi MoD stated it intercepted another drone attack on Ras Tanura refinery with no damage in initial estimates; separate reporting cited by Reuters referenced an unknown projectile striking the refinery.

Qatar

- Qatar's interior ministry began evacuating residents living near the US embassy in Doha as a temporary precaution, providing alternative accommodation.
- Reports emerged that Monday saw 2 Iranian Su-24 bombers approach Al Udeid and Ras Laffan before being shot down by F-15s in Qatar's first aerial combat mission.

Kuwait / Bahrain

- Kuwait continued to report drone approaches/interceptions (injuries not confirmed).
- A tanker at anchor off Kuwait reported a large explosion and taking on water; a small craft was seen leaving the area. Casualties unconfirmed.
- No major security incidents reported in Bahrain in last 24h.

Türkiye

- Turkey reported a ballistic munition launched from Iran heading toward Turkish airspace was intercepted by NATO air and missile defence assets; debris fell in Hatay with no casualties.

Oman

- The Omani navy rescued 24 crew members of a container ship struck by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz.
- UK evacuation planning continued through Muscat, including UK charter flights and wider international evacuation coordination.

Iraq

- Iraq experienced a total national blackout, according to the electricity ministry, disrupting electricity supply across multiple provinces and affecting critical services and infrastructure.
- Conflicting reports emerged that Iranian Kurdish militant groups based in northern Iraq may have launched or are preparing a US-backed cross-border offensive into north-western Iran. Some US officials and media reports suggested movement of fighters, while Kurdish regional authorities and Iranian sources denied that any incursion had occurred.
- Separate reporting indicates Baloch militant groups hostile to Tehran have moved from bases in Pakistan toward Iranian territory, raising the possibility of additional insurgent pressure on Iran's south-eastern border if the conflict continues.
- The US embassy in Baghdad urged American citizens to leave Iraq as soon as circumstances permit and advised those remaining to stockpile essential supplies amid the risk of further regional escalation.

Strategic Disruption

- Aviation & Mobility:** UAE aviation remains heavily constrained: DXB advised that most flights remain suspended; Emirates stated all scheduled flights to/from Dubai remain suspended until 7 March, while operating only a limited schedule and prioritising earlier bookings.
- UAE-established air corridors with GCC countries are enabling limited airline operations (approx. 20-30% capacity) to ease stranded passenger backlogs and support emergency travel where conditions permit.
- UAE land border crossings (notably routes involving Oman) continue to shift between closed, restricted (GCC/Omani nationals), and open.

Maritime risk in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding Gulf waters remains elevated. Iran's IRGC continues to claim control of the strait while US Central Command disputes this, and several tanker incidents and rescue operations have been reported across the Gulf and Gulf of Oman. Although the waterway remains technically open, commercial shipping traffic is sharply reduced (up to 80%), reflecting heightened insurance costs and operator caution.

These disruptions are beginning to create secondary economic and logistical pressure across the region, including energy infrastructure precautionary shutdowns, delays to commercial supply routes, and broader uncertainty for regional trade and mobility.

For updated border and airspace information, contact Eigenrac directly for real-time advisory.

Assessment & Near-Term Projections (48-72 Hours)

- Gulf states will maintain a defensive posture and focus on interception and civil protection, with no indication they intend to directly enter the conflict. Interceptions and debris incidents are likely to continue in the near term.
- Reports of Kurdish militant activity along the Iraq-Iran border present a realistic possibility of increased cross-border pressure on Iran, though a sustained offensive remains uncertain and would likely depend on external backing.
- Iraq's nationwide power outage combined with economic disruption linked to the Hormuz crisis could realistically trigger civil unrest and protests if outages persist or government services degrade.
- Terrorism risk, including radicalised lone-actor or coordinated attacks inspired by the conflict, remains elevated across the region.
- Risk of wider interstate escalation:** Despite heightened rhetoric and isolated incidents involving Türkiye, Cyprus, and the Sri Lanka coast, we assess a broader interstate expansion of the conflict beyond the current theatres as **unlikely** at time of writing.

