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Iran, Israel eliminates new chief of staff

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Crossfire volleys of missiles on fifth day of conflict. Tel Aviv: "We will expand the operation." IEA warns that Iranian nuclear site at Natanz has been hit.



Ali Shadmani. (Photo: ANSA)

TEL AVIV - Israeli forces (IDF) have announced that they have killed Iranian Chief of Staff Ali Shadmani. This was reported by Israeli media. Tehran, for its part, claims to have hit a Mossad headquarters. The IAEA, the international atomic agency, turns the spotlight on the effects of Israeli attacks on the underground portion of Iran's Natanz nuclear site, one of the cornerstones of Iran's program.

The fifth day of the conflict, June 17, 2025, also winds through crossfire volleys of missiles from both countries. Loud booms were heard over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The IDF then announced that it had eliminated Iran's new army chief of staff Ali Shadmani.

The Iranian state television headquarters in Teheeran is on fire after yesterday's Israeli raid. "The smoke that can be seen rising from the building that houses Iranian radio and television is due to the fire being rekindled by the wind," the same TV station reported.

Israeli military operations in Iran will expand, the head of the military intelligence directorate, General Shlomi Binder, later assured. While the Pasdaran confirmed that they had struck the Mossad headquarters in Tel Aviv.

On the diplomatic front, U.S. President Donald Trump, after saying that "everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran, "does not expect Israel to ease its battle against Iran" and seek a ceasefire. Rather Israel, as well as the United States, is seeking a "real end" to the Iranian nuclear issue, namely that Iran "completely give up" its nuclear weapons. What will happen "you will find out in the next two days. You will find out. Nobody has slowed down the attacks so far," Trump told broadcaster Cbs News.

According to an initial IDF assessment, Tehran launched dozens of ballistic missiles, although no casualties would result. One missile reportedly hit a parking lot in central Israel, causing damage and setting an empty bus on fire. A missile also fell on Herzliya. Sirens were activated in Haifa and Galilee: four impact sites following the new attack. The military said in a note that the Air Force was "operating to intercept and strike where necessary to eliminate the threat."

Also hit was the Mossad headquarters in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv. In a televised note, Iran's Guardians of the Revolution claimed to have "struck the Zionist regime's military intelligence center, Aman, and the Zionist regime's terrorist operations planning center, Mossad, in Tel Aviv," which is "currently on fire."

According to Iranian media, missiles fired by the Pasdaran also reached the logistics center of the Intelligence Directorate in Gilot. There is currently no confirmation from the Israeli side. "In today's attack by the armed forces against the Zionist regime, a new missile was used, which the Zionists said they failed to intercept," said Iranian Defense Ministry spokesman Alireza Talaeinik, quoted by the Tasnim news agency.

Iranian army chief of staff in a raid that hit an Iranian army headquarters in downtown Tehran overnight.

Shadmani commanded both the Pasdaran, Iran's Guardians of the Revolution, and Tehran's army. He had been appointed to command the Iranian Armed Forces in place of Alam Ali Rashid, who was eliminated at the beginning of the Israeli military operation against Iran. Prior to assuming his new post, Shadmani had been deputy commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya emergency headquarters and head of the operational division of the Armed Forces General Staff.

The Israeli military said it carried out overnight "several large-scale attacks" including in western Iran. "Dozens of depots and launching facilities of surface-to-ground missiles were hit," as well as "surface-to-air missile launchers and drone storage sites," the IDF said in a statement.

Israel's Operation Rising Lion will continue until the Israel Defense Forces eliminate the threat posed by Iran's nuclear program and missile capability. "We will continue to strike nuclear targets to achieve a better result, according to our plan and with the timetable that satisfies us," General Oded Basiuk, head of the IDF operational directorate, said during a call with reporters. "We are hitting the terror regime, not the people, who deserve a better future. Those who put us in danger are the leadership of Tehran, not the people walking the streets of Shiraz," Basiuk bent, reiterating that the operation is still ongoing and that the ultimate goal is to remove the "existential threat" posed by Tehran's nuclear program.

The military said it will continue to strike nuclear facilities and related targets, including scientists in charge of the program, ballistic missiles, air defenses, military command centers and other targets considered "critical" to the Iranian regime.

So far, more than 200 ballistic missile launchers have been destroyed or neutralized by the attacks, a significant part of Tehran's arsenal, according to Israel.

There were "direct impacts" on the underground part of Iran's Natanz nuclear site during Israel's attacks. This was disclosed by the United Nations atomic monitoring body. "Based on an ongoing analysis of high-level satellite imagery

After yesterday's queues, thousands of people also drove to leave the Iranian capital today, which has been rocked by Israeli bombings. An "exodus" that also follows the warning issued in the night by U.S. President Donald Trump on social Truth: "Everyone should evacuate Tehran immediately." The center appears deserted and many businesses, including the famous Grand Bazaar, have lowered their shutters. Traffic paralyzed on roads westward toward the Caspian Sea and long lines at gas stations, while local authorities continue to claim that everything is under control.

At least three people were killed in yesterday's Israeli raid on the headquarters of state TV station Irib in Tehran. This was reported by the same station, which said that other television employees were injured. "This attack represents the height of cowardice: the Israelis cannot win a real battle and are attacking a civilian building where only the truth is told," said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. "The attack on Iranian radio and television shows the desperation of the Israelis," Araghchi added.

The Iranian foreign minister then stressed that "Iran has never left the negotiating table," but "at this stage our goal is to counter the aggression effectively and firmly." Araghchi then added that "Iran's self-defense will continue against aggression vehemently."

A mega cyber attack has hit Iranian banks linked to the Guardians of the Revolution in Iran, the Pasdaran. This is reported by Israeli broadcaster Channel 11. Iranian media report that all databases of Sepah Bank, one of Iran's largest banks, have been wiped out in a major cyber attack. All its ATMs are down and customers cannot withdraw cash, they added.



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