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IRAN ATTACKS ISRAEL

DUBAI
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Night Editor

In the biggest escalation of tensions in the region since the start of war in Gaza on October 7, Iran yesterday launched a barrage of missiles targeting Israel.

“Missiles were launched from Iran towards the State of Israel,” the Israeli military said as sirens sounded across the country, with AFP journalists reporting hearing explosions over Jerusalem. Iran’s official news agency IRNA said it had launched “a missile attack on Tel Aviv”.

The Revolutionary Guards Corps said the attack was in response to Israel’s killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last week as well as the death of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in a Tehran bombing widely blamed on Israel.

White House steps in
President Joe Biden ordered the US military yesterday to “aid Israel’s defence” and shoot

down Iranian missiles targeting Israel, the White House said.

Meanwhile dozens of explosions boomed across Jerusalem on Tuesday night as air raid sirens rang out, AFP journalists reported. The explosions came shortly after the military said that Iran had launched a missile attack targeting Israel.

Oil prices surge

Following Iran’s missile attack on Israel, oil prices surged, potentially increasing the chance of supply disruptions in a region that pumps a third of the world’s crude.

West Texas Intermediate rose more than 5 per cent to top \$71 a barrel, reversing earlier losses. Global benchmark Brent climbed near \$75 a barrel.

Early yesterday, the Israeli military said troops had started “targeted ground raids” in south Lebanon, across Israel’s northern border, though officials have provided few details of the scale of the operation or its timeframe.

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■ Israel intercepts missiles launched by Iran above Tel Aviv yesterday. Air raid sirens sounded in central Israel, the military said, as it launched ground operations into southern Lebanon targeting Hezbollah positions yesterday.

AFP

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