

Mashhad opens eternal embrace to Martyr Khamenei

National Desk

Millions of Iranians on Thursday paid their final respects as martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was laid to rest after days of nationwide mourning.

The burial ceremony took place at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) in the northern city of Mashhad late on Thursday.

The funeral prayer over his body was held followed by a private farewell ceremony for the family of the martyred Leader and four members of his family, who were assassinated in a US-Israeli airstrike in February.

On Thursday morning, the final funeral procession in Mashhad saw an endless sea of mourners accompany the vehicle carrying the blessed bodies through the streets of the city.

The prayer for the deceased was led by the martyred leader's eldest son, Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei, who performed the ritual prayers over the bodies.

The funeral ceremonies began last Friday with tributes from political officials from over 45 countries and scholars from more than 90 nations.

This was followed by farewell ceremonies at Tehran's Grand Mosalla over the weekend, where hundreds of thousands paid their respects.

On Monday, the bodies were carried through Tehran with similarly massive participation, and on Tuesday, ceremonies were held in Qom and at the Jamkaran Mosque.

The remarkable participation continued internationally, with about 10 million Iraqis gathering in Najaf and Karbala on Wednesday to pay their respects.

Iraqi officials confirmed it as one of the largest funeral gatherings in recent history, with tribal groups accompanying the funeral convoy for miles.

Mourners from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Turkey, and Nigeria crossed geographical boundaries to participate in the historic farewell.

Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky, the leader of



Mourners hold a mass procession on the day of the burial of Iran's late Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated on February 28 in Israeli and US airstrikes, in the holy city of Mashhad, Iran on July 9, 2026

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the Nigerian Islamic Movement, was also present among the mourners, underscoring the global resonance of the martyred leader's message of resistance against oppression.

Mourners carried banners condemning US President Donald Trump and chanting slogans demanding vengeance, with chants of "Revenge! Revenge!" echoing through the streets.

Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated alongside several members of his family on February 28, the opening day of the 40-day war of aggression launched by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran.

Among those martyred were the new



Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei's wife, the late leader's son-in-law, a daughter, and his 14-month-old granddaughter.

Top security official warns anti-Iran attacks will trigger retaliation

International Desk

The head of Iran's top security body on Friday warned that the country will retaliate against any attack on its infrastructure as fighting between Tehran and Washington has flared again following the US attacks on several Iranian cities. "As we have previously declared, any attack on [Iran's] infrastructure will be met with reciprocal response," Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr said in a statement. Zolghadr added that the Israeli regime, which is behind such mischievous acts, will not be safe from the response of Iranian forces.

Fighting picked up again this week between the US and Iran in the most significant exchange of fire since the two sides signed a Pakistan-brokered Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on June 17, which calls for a permanent end to hostilities across all fronts and includes a commitment from both sides to hold further talks on a final agreement in the next 60 days.

Under the 14-point deal, Iran is required to ensure toll-free passage for commercial vessels for at least 60 days, with full restoration of traffic in the Strait of Hormuz within 30 days. Iran's Foreign Ministry said US strikes on Iran constitute a "flagrant violation" of the agreement.

The US military carried out heavy



Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr
● IRNA

strikes overnight between Wednesday and Thursday, saying it targeted 90 military sites in response to what it called Iran's attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

Targeting civilian infrastructure

But Iran accused Washington of also targeting civilian infrastructure in order to detract from the funeral of martyred Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Bridges and railway links between the capital Tehran and northern city of Mashhad, where the Leader was buried on Thursday, were hit.

Two days of US strikes against Iran have killed 14 people and injured 78, according to Iran's Health Ministry. In response to the attacks, Iran's Armed Forces launched a major retaliatory operation, striking 85 US military targets in Bahrain and Kuwait, including facilities linked to the US Fifth Fleet, Camp Arifjan, Ali Al Salem Air Base, and bases in Juffair and Sheikh

Isa.

The office of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the Israeli premier spoke on Thursday with the US president, who informed him of the latest American moves in the Persian Gulf.

Later on Thursday evening, Iranian state media reported an attack on a military headquarters near Bushehr, where a nuclear plant is located. A US defense official however said that Washington was not carrying out any strikes on Iran at the time.

Israeli minister of war affairs, Israel Katz, said Tel Aviv was prepared to resume its military campaign against Iran if needed, vowing to do so "with even greater force."

Qatar also urged the US and Iran to honor their memorandum of understanding and continue talks to prevent further escalation. Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, said in a post on X that he had made the appeal during a call with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty. He also stressed the need to protect freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, warning that safe passage remains essential to regional security. Tasnim news agency reported that a Qatari delegation visited Iran on Friday in an effort to de-escalate tensions and create conditions for broader negotiations.

Pezeshkian hails 'historic presence' at Leader's ceremonies, thanks Iraq hosting

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed profound gratitude for the "historic presence of the people," and the "global accompaniment" witnessed during the funeral processions and mourning ceremonies of martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Addressing the great Iranian nation, Muslim nations, and all freedom-loving peoples of the world, the president on Thursday described the millions-strong gatherings in Tehran, Qom, the holy city of Mashhad, Najaf, and Karbala as a magnificent and enduring manifestation of loyalty, national solidarity, and Islamic unity.

"The glorious and million-strong presence of the people in the farewell and mourning ceremonies... is a lasting symbol of the Iranian nation's devotion and a renewal of the pledge to the ideals of dignity, independence, justice, and progress," Pezeshkian stated.

The ceremonies, part of the multi-day funeral rites for the late Leader, who was assassinated in a US-Israeli airstrike on February 28, have drawn unprecedented crowds across Iran and the holy sites of Iraq. Seas of mourners in black, many traveling long distances and enduring hours of waiting under the summer sun, turned the processions into powerful displays of love and allegiance.

President Pezeshkian highlighted how



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this historic turnout went far beyond a simple farewell. It represented a collective reaffirmation of the path of the Islamic Revolution, with participants from all walks of life, from ordinary citizens to clergy, security personnel, and media, standing shoulder to shoulder in grief and resolve.

The warm hosting by the Iraqi government and people in Najaf and Karbala further exemplified the deep fraternal ties binding the two nations.

Pezeshkian in a separate message posted in Arabic on the social media platform X on Friday thanked the Iraqi government and people for hosting the funeral ceremonies of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, saying Iranians will never forget the historic scenes of solidarity and support.

Pezeshkian expressed his gratitude to Iraqi President Nizar Amidi, Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi, Iraqi officials, religious authorities and the people of Iraq for hosting the body of Ayatollah Khamenei.

'Iran answers vulgarity with action': Araghchi chides Trump

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi deplored the US president's rhetoric against Iranian officials, saying that Iranians will respond to Trump's "derogatory language" with their actions.

"Addressing the Civilized and Courageous Nation of Iran with derogatory language does not diminish its Greatness," Araghchi said in a post on X.

"Iranians are known for their civility, culture, and strong moral values. We do not answer vulgarity with vulgarity, but with action: fearlessly and with great valor," the top Iranian diplomat added.

Araghchi's remarks came after the US President Donald Trump in an interview on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Turkey called Iranian offi-



Abbas Araghchi
● TASNIM

cial "scum". When asked about a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire agreement reached between Tehran and Washington, Trump said, "I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them any more, they're scum... they're led by sick people and they're vicious, violent people."

He accused Tehran of violating the interim deal signed by both countries

in June that called for an end to the conflict, adding that they "lie" and "cheat."

However, in a later news conference, Trump told reporters he did not think the Iran war would start again and said, "Anything that happens will be over quickly."

His comments have prompted responses from several Iranian officials. A senior adviser to Iran's Leader, Ali Akbar Velayati, warned new strikes from the US would be met with an "immediate response."

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi also said Trump's comments "are not a sign of strength, but rather an admission of the failure of a policy built on brute force, sanctions, and threats for years, which could not bring the Iranian nation to its knees."



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