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Bombardment unrelenting in Mideast

IRAN WAR | Rush of U.S. and Israeli attacks delays mourning for Khamenei as Iran threatens more destruction across the region.

By ELENA BECATOROS, JON GAMBRELL AND SAMY MAGDY
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran launched missiles at Israel early Thursday as aerial attacks in the Middle East commenced for a sixth day after an American subma-

rine sank an Iranian warship and Iran threatened the destruction of military and economic infrastructure across the region.

Israel announced multiple incoming attacks, and air sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem shortly after the Israeli military said

it had begun new strikes in Lebanon targeting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group in Beirut's southern suburbs.

The fighting continued after the United States and Israel intensified their bombardment of Iran on Wednesday.

The tempo of the strikes on Iran was so intense that state television announced the mourning ceremony for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed at the start of the conflict,

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would be postponed. Millions attended the funeral of his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989.

The United States and Israel launched the war Saturday, targeting Iran's leadership, missile arsenal and nuclear program while suggesting that toppling the government is a goal. But the exact aims and timelines have repeatedly shifted, signaling an open-ended conflict.

President Donald Trump praised the U.S. military Wednesday for

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ARASH KHAMOOSHI / THE NEW YORK TIMES

A man sits in front of the wreckage of his apartment building in Tehran on Wednesday, after a U.S.-Israeli airstrike. "The enemy is off balance, and we're going to keep them off balance," U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday.

Senators reject bid to limit Trump war powers

VOTE | Proposal would have required congressional authorization for military action.

By ANUMITA KAUR
Seattle Times D.C. correspondent

WASHINGTON — Hours after the Trump administration touted its Operation Epic Fury as a "resounding success" on Wednesday, Democratic senators mounted an unlikely bid to curb President Donald Trump's ability to use additional military forces in Iran without congressional approval.

The measure failed 53-47 after Republicans blocked the effort, rejecting Democrats' pleas to reassert Congress' authority to weigh in on major military actions.

"American families are going to pay for Trump's war," Sen. Patty Murray said on the Senate floor before the vote. "It is up to our Congress to say enough. But we need Republicans to join us."

The war powers resolution, co-sponsored by Sens. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Rand Paul, R-Ky., would have directed the removal of U.S. armed forces from hostilities within or against Iran that have not been authorized by Congress. It was largely symbolic: If the measure had passed the Senate, it would have been unlikely to pass the House and receive Trump's signature.

Still, Wednesday's vote represents the first time Congress formally registered its opinion of a campaign Trump launched without its consent, affirming deep divides on Capitol Hill. Most Republicans approve of the operation, arguing that it was

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Anxious travelers scramble as war strands hundreds of thousands in the region

By MATT SEDENSKY, STEFANIE DAZIO AND RIO YAMAT
The Associated Press

Frustrated and anxious travelers searched Tuesday for any way out of the Middle East and beyond as the widening Iran war choked off commercial air traffic through the region for a fourth straight day, stranding hundreds of thousands of people.

What began Saturday with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran quickly rippled far beyond the immediate conflict zone. With airspace closed or heavily restricted across much of

the Gulf, passengers have been stranded not only in the region but also in cities far from the fighting after their connecting flights were canceled.

"They say 'Get out,' but how do you expect us to get out when airspaces are closed?" said Odies Turner, a 32-year-old chef from Dallas who was stuck in Doha, Qatar. "They just have been canceling every flight. I want to go home."

The U.S. told American citizens to leave more than a dozen countries in the region right away using

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AJIT SOLANKI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man hugs a relative at the airport upon his arrival in Ahmedabad, India, on Wednesday. Over 19,000 flights into and out of the Middle East between the start of the war and Friday have been canceled.

With legislative session winding down, Democrats divided on 'millionaires tax'

DEADLINE | Governor repeats doubts about proposal, suggests issue could return next year.

By SHAUNA SOWERSBY
Seattle Times state politics reporter

OLYMPIA — With just over a week left before lawmakers adjourn, Washington Democrats are still trying to resolve internal disagreements over a major cornerstone of their proposals this year — a tax on high-income earnings that leaders say is the key to balancing the budget and addressing the state's regressive tax structure.

The proposal, dubbed the "millionaires tax" by proponents, is

sponsored by a majority of Democratic lawmakers. But differences within the party over how far to go, and how to structure the tax, threaten to derail the effort this year. While most Democrats back the concept, some have drawn clear lines around what they can support. No Republicans support the proposal.

The bill must ultimately get the approval of Democratic Gov. Bob Ferguson, who has for the third time said the measure still needs

work before he would sign it. For the first time, however, he suggested the clock might run out this year before lawmakers can produce a version he would sign.

In a campaign letter Tuesday, Ferguson wrote that the latest version of the bill, despite multiple amendments, does not meet the conditions he set for signing it. He has said a significant share of the revenue must go toward relief for taxpayers, small businesses and working families.

"Unfortunately, with less than two weeks remaining of the Legislative Session and despite a lot of

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House panel asks Gates, others to testify in Epstein inquiry

By ALEX HALVERSON
Seattle Times business reporter

The House Oversight Committee requested interviews with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and others whose names appeared in correspondence with the accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, as Congress continues to investigate the late New York financier.

The committee has released several troves of documents re-

trieved from Epstein's estate, which brought fresh scrutiny onto Epstein's ties with business titans and politicians. Millions of documents released by the Justice Department in January amplified those connections.

In a Tuesday letter to Gates, the committee's chair, Kentucky Republican Rep. James Comer, wrote that the panel believes Gates has

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