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### **Iran fires missiles into Syria in revenge for attacks**

Tehran (AFP) - Iran's Revolutionary Guard said it launched a series of missiles into Syria on Sunday in revenge for deadly attacks on its capital that were claimed by the Islamic State group.

It was the first missile attack by Iran outside its own territory in 30 years, since the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88, media in the Islamic republic reported.

It came hours after supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a statement on his website, vowed Iran would "slap its enemies" in honour of the victims' families, including those killed in Syria and Iraq.

The missiles were fired from western Iran across the border into Deir Ezzor province, in northeastern Syria, targeting what the Guard called "terror bases".

### **Wildfires in Zagros forests**

With the gradual rise in temperatures as summer sets in comes the added risk of wildfires, and on the weekend Iran got a taste of what may be in store in the scorching months ahead.

In two separate incidents on Friday, wildfires burned 150 hectares of Zagros Forests in Kohgilouyeh-Boyerahmad Province and burned 5 hectares in Ilam Province, foreshadowing much larger fires in summer, which is expected to be up to 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than average.

According to IRIB, News Agency, fire broke out in the woodlands around Jozar Village in Kohgilouyeh-Boyerahmad at 8 a.m. and it took local residents and firefighters 12 hours to put it out.

The precise cause of the fire is not yet known, but Muhammad Kazem Nazari, governor of Boyerahmad, told the news agency that the most likely cause of the incident was "carelessness of shepherds, tourists, or the local residents."

## Syria Refugee Crisis

Six years of war has torn Syria apart. Violent reactions to peaceful protests throughout the country descended Syria into chaos in early 2011. Hundreds of thousands have been killed and more than half of the population — 11 million people — have been displaced from their homes. In many cases, children caught up in this crisis have fared the worst, losing family members or friends to the violence, suffering physical and psychological trauma, or falling behind in school.

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## Urmia Lake dries up

Urmia Lake was the largest lake in the Middle East and the sixth-largest saltwater lake on Earth. It now faces a risk of drying up.

Lake Urmia was once Iran's largest lake. In its prime, it was the second largest saltwater lake in the world. But years of man-made disturbance — from the frenzy of 60 years of dam-building to the massive over-use of feeder rivers — had diverted the natural flow of sweet water from the surrounding basin into the salty lake. As a result, it simply dried out. The lake died at the hands of humans.