

Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas supreme leader, killed in airstrike in Iran

Ismail was on Israel's hit-list since Oct 7 attack

Iran and Hamas blame Israel for killing, Israel has not commented

BEIRUT, July 31 (AP)

ISMAIL Haniyeh, Hamas' supreme leader in exile who landed on Israel's hit-list after the militant group staged its surprise October 7 attacks, was killed in an airstrike in the Iranian capital early Wednesday. He was 62.

Iran and the militant blamed Israel for a shock assassination that risks escalating the conflict even as the US and other nations were scrambling to prevent an all-out regional war.

Hamas said Haniyeh was killed at his residence in Tehran in an Israeli airstrike after he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's new President. Israel has not commented on the accusation.



Haniyeh's death makes him the latest Hamas official to be killed by Israel since the Hamas-led October 7 attacks, when militants killed 1,200 people and took about 250

He had attended swearing-in of Iran's new President on Tuesday

hostages. The devastating Israel-Hamas war the attacks set off has become the deadliest and longest in the Arab-Israeli conflict. More than 39,000 Palestinians have been

killed, according to health officials in Gaza.

While Hamas' Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar is believed to have been the mastermind of the attacks, Haniyeh, seen as a more moderate force in Hamas, lauded them as a humiliating blow to Israel's aura of invincibility.

"The Al-Aqsa flood was an earthquake that struck the heart of the Zionist entity and has made major changes at the world level," Haniyeh said in a speech in Iran during the funeral of late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in May.

"We will continue the resistance against this enemy until we liberate our land, all our land," Haniyeh said.

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Iran vows revenge
Israel prepared a harsh punishment for itself: Supreme Leader Khamenei

TEHRAN, July 31 (Agencies)

IRAN has responded angrily to the killing of Ismail Haniyeh the political bureau chief of the terror group Hamas in Tehran.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed revenge on Israel over the killing of Hamas' political chief.

Khamenei said Israel "prepared a harsh punishment for itself" after Ismail Haniyeh was killed in a predawn airstrike in Iranian capital Tehran. "We consider his revenge as our duty," Khamenei said in a statement on his official website, saying Haniyeh was "a dear guest in our home."

Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian said that Tehran will defend its territorial integrity and dignity. He noted that the bond between Iran and Palestine will be stronger than before, 'Al Jazeera' reported.

Haniyeh, who was in Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's President, was killed in an attack.

In a statement, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian said, "Today, dear Iran is mourning its sharer of sorrows and joys, the constant and proud

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167

Toll in Wayanad landslides

■ Over 219 injured ■ 190 still missing

WAYANAD (Kerala), July 31 (PTI)

AS MANY as 167 people have died and over 200 injured in the massive landslides that hit the northern Kerala district of Wayanad a day ago, with the numbers expected to increase as rescuers unearth debris, the district administration said on Wednesday.

The 167 dead include 22 children, it said.

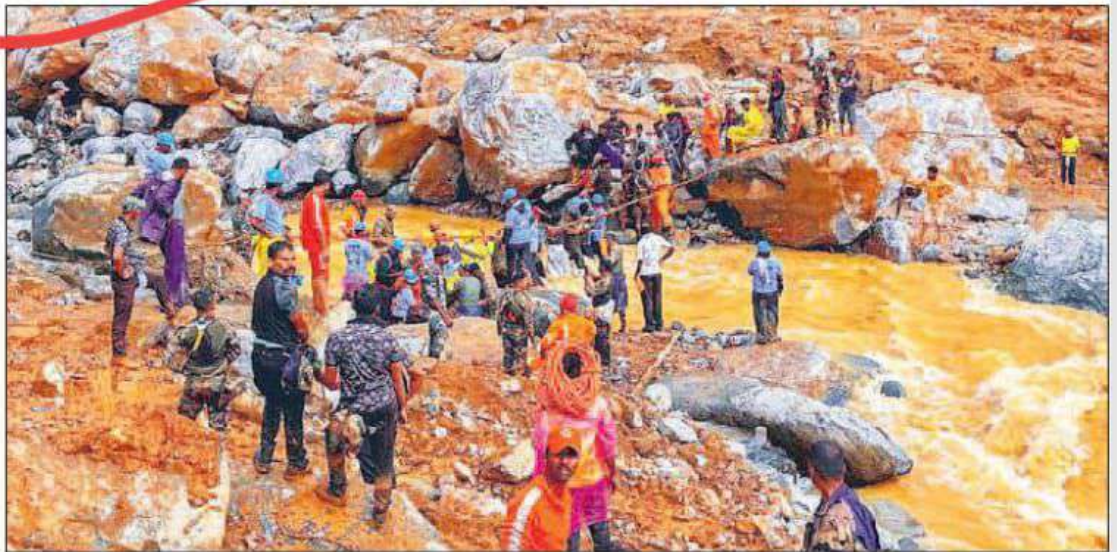
It also said that 96 bodies were identified and post-mortem of 166 were completed.

Over 190 people are missing and more than 300 houses were completely destroyed in the landslides that hit the Mundakkai and Chooralmala areas of the district, they said.

Out of 61 body parts recovered, the post-mortem of 49 was completed, it said.

Of the 167 bodies, 75 were handed over to relatives or next of kin, it further said.

It also said that 219 people were admitted to hospitals from the disaster-hit
(Contd on page 7)



Army personnel carry out rescue operation on the second day following landslides triggered by heavy rain at Chooralmala in Wayanad district of Kerala on Wednesday. (PTI)

Centre sent multiple warnings to Kerala since July 23: Shah

NEW DELHI, July 31 (PTI)

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said, the Centre had sent multiple advance warnings, starting as early as July 23, to the Kerala Government about possible floods and landslide and nine NDRF teams were

rushed to the State the same day.

However, the Kerala Government did not heed to the advance warnings and also did not get alerted even by the arrival of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) battalions, Shah said
(Contd on page 7)



Russian military begins 3rd round of drills with tactical nuclear weapons

MOSCOW, July 31 (AP)

THE Russian military on Wednesday began a third round of drills with tactical nuclear weapons, part of the Kremlin's messaging intended to force the West to limit its support for Ukraine.

The Russian Defence Ministry said the drills will feature units of the central and southern military districts armed with Iskander short-range missiles. They will practice receiving nuclear weapons from storage and deploying them to designated launch areas. The maneuvers will also include air force units that will arm their warplanes with nuclear weapons and perform patrol flights.

The ministry said the drills are intended to maintain troops' readiness for combat missions.

Tactical nuclear weapons include bombs, warheads for short-range missiles and artillery munitions and are meant for use on a battlefield.

They are typically far less powerful than strategic weapons — massive warheads that arm intercontinental ballistic missiles and are intended to obliterate entire cities.

The previous two rounds of the maneuvers were held in May and June. The drills in June were conducted jointly with the armed forces of Russia's ally Belarus.

Last year, Russia moved some of its tactical nuclear weapons into neighbouring Belarus, which also borders Ukraine and NATO members Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has relied on close ties with Russia and provided his country as a staging ground for sending troops to Ukraine in February 2022.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his officials have repeatedly reminded the West about the country's nuclear might in a bid to discourage NATO allies from ramping up their support for Kyiv.

Southern Naval Command dispatches disaster relief team to landslide-hit areas of Wayanad

KERALA, July 31 (ANI)

THE Southern Naval Command dispatched a disaster relief team of 68 personnel from INS Zamorin at Ezhimala to the landslide-affected areas in Kerala's Wayanad, officials said on Wednesday.

Massive landslides struck Chooralmala and Mundakkai areas in Wayanad district on Tuesday, killing more than 150 people, including women and children. "Based on the request from the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), the Southern Naval Command dispatched a disaster relief team of 68 personnel from INS Zamorin at Ezhimala to the landslide affected site at 02.30 pm on July 30, 2024," the Southern Naval Command said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to an official statement, the rescue team,

PM Modi monitoring Wayanad landslide crisis: Union Minister George Kurian

WAYANAD (Kerala), July 31 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is closely monitoring the landslide situation in Kerala's Wayanad district, Union Minister George Kurian said here. Kurian, who visited the people affected by the landslide in Wayanad on Tuesday night, said that the Central Government has assured all possible assistance to the State for the rescue efforts of those affected by the tragedy. "The situation is being monitored by the Central Government at the highest level. The Honourable Prime Minister is monitoring the situation and has deputed me to visit the affected areas," Kurian said.



equipped with medical personnel and necessary equipment, arrived at the site at 10 pm the same day.

Additional teams are on standby and will be deployed at short notice as needed. An Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) detachment in Search

and Rescue (SAR) configuration was deployed from Kochi to Calicut at 07.30 am on Wednesday to support the rescue efforts.

The Southern Naval Command noted that adverse weather conditions due to incessant rains are posing chal-

lenges in the area. Efforts are ongoing to provide immediate relief and support to the local population affected by the disaster, it added.

The Indian Army's Southern Command has also begun preparations for erecting a bridge on Meppadi-Chooralmala Road. Bridging assets and a dog squad from Delhi have landed at Kannur Airport. "Preparations for the erection of a bridge on #Meppadi-#Chooralmala Road are underway. Bridging assets from Delhi along with dog squad have landed at Kannur Airport, with further movement to the site being meticulously coordinated," Southern Command Indian Army said in a post on X.

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From :- VSS

Indian students win laurels at international Olympiads

MUMBAI, July 31 (IANS)

INDIAN student contingents have emerged with flying colours at prestigious international Olympiads in Biology, Maths, Physics and Chemistry held this month, earning plaudits from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other bigwigs, officials said here on Wednesday.

The participating teams went through the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) here and bagged several medals and honours for the country, including seven won by Maharashtra students.

It started with the 35th International Biology Olympiad held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. The Indian team bagged one gold (Vedant Sakre of Mumbai) and three silvers (Ishan Pednekar of Ratnagiri; Shrijith Sivakumar of Chennai and Yashaswi Kumar of Bareilly). This was followed by the 65th

International Mathematical Olympiad held in Bath, UK.

The Indian contingents bagged four golds (Adhitya M V Ganesh of Pune; Kanav Talwar of Greater NOIDA; Rushil Mathur of Mumbai and Anando Bhadur of Guwahati), while Arjun Gupta of Delhi got a silver medal and Siddharth Choppara of Pune secured an Honourable Mention.

Next was the 54th International Physics Olympiad held in Isfahan, Iran.

The Indian team secured 2 golds (Rhythm Kedia of Raipur and Ved Lahoti of Indore), plus 3 silvers (Akarshraj Sahay of Nagpur; Bhavya Tiwari of NOIDA and Jaiveer Singh of Kota).

Finally, the 56th International Chemistry Olympiad was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The Indian contingent secured a gold (Devesh P Bhaiya of Jalgaon), 2 silvers (Avaneesh Bansal of Mumbai and Harshin Posina of Hyderabad) while Kashyap Khandelwal of Mumbai got a bronze medal.

Eastern Ladakh row: India, China hold 'constructive' talks

NEW DELHI, July 31 (PTI)

INDIA and China on Wednesday held "constructive and "forward-looking" diplomatic talks to resolve the over four-year border standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh but there was clear no indication of any breakthrough.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for the LAC are "essential basis" for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations.

The talks, held in Delhi under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-

China Border Affairs (WMCC), came days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Vientiane, the capital of Lao PDR.

The MEA described the discussion at the meeting as "in-depth, constructive and forward-looking", adding both sides agreed on the need to jointly uphold peace and tranquillity on the ground in accordance with relevant bilateral agreements and protocols.

However, there was no clear indication of a breakthrough in the talks.

The Chinese delegation was led by Hong Liang, Director

General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Liang also called on Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, according to the MEA.

The previous round of WMCC talks were held in Beijing in March.

"Further to discussions between the two foreign ministers in their recent meetings at Astana and Vientiane, the two sides reviewed the current situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with a view to finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues," the ministry said.