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## Emirates halts Beirut transits for two days

DUBAI

BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN  
Chief Reporter

Amid the ongoing geo-political unrest in Lebanon, passengers transiting through Dubai and onwards to Beirut today and tomorrow will not be accepted for travel, Emirates said in an advisory issued yesterday.

However, travellers starting their journey in Dubai or Beirut will be accepted for travel, Emirates clarified. An airline spokesperson said, "Emirates regrets any inconvenience caused. Passengers who wish to alter their travel plans should contact their booking agents or the local Emirates office for rebooking options."

Multiple regional carriers and most European airlines have suspended their operations to Lebanon's capital following a rocket strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Saturday.

On Tuesday, Emirates' sister carrier flydubai adjusted its Beirut operations, reducing its daily flights from three to two.

A number of other carriers have suspended, delayed or cancelled flights, although Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport listed arrivals on Wednesday from several airlines.

## Hamas leader Haniyeh assassinated in Tehran

KILLING COULD DERAIL TALKS TO BRING CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N.R.  
Senior Associate Editor

Ismail Haniyeh, political leader of Hamas, was killed in an overnight Israeli strike in Tehran, the militant group said yesterday, a major escalation in the ongoing regional tensions.

Haniyeh was in Tehran for the inauguration of Iran's new president.

Israel, which usually neither confirms nor denies secret operations abroad, declined to comment.

Hamas spokesperson and deputy head Khalil Al Hayya said Haniyeh was hit by a rocket in the room where he was staying, and said Israel would "pay the price" for the "heinous crime." The strike happened at around 2am local time, involving an "airborne guided projectile," Iranian state run media Irna said.

**Embarrassment for Iran**

"The attack shows the gaping hole in Iran's intelligence and security apparatus that is leaking information and is hugely embarrassing for Tehran," Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at Chatham House, told Bloomberg News. The breach is especially bad as it comes just days after Iran's outgoing Intelligence Minis-



AFF

■ Ismail Haniyeh attends the swearing-in ceremony for Iran's new president, at the parliament in Tehran, on July 30.

ter Esmail Khatib said Tehran had curtailed the influence of Israeli intelligence inside the country, she said.

Appointed to the Hamas top job in 2017, Haniyeh moved between Turkey and Doha, escaping the travel curbs of the blockaded Gaza Strip and enabling him to act as a negotiator in ceasefire talks or to talk to Hamas' ally Iran.

**Gaza talks in doubt**

Qatar's Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammad Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani cast doubt over

the success of future mediation between Israel and Hamas.

"Political assassinations & continued targeting of civilians in Gaza while talks continue leads us to ask, how can mediation succeed when one party assassinates the negotiator on other side? Peace needs serious partners," Shaikh Mohammad, who has led Qatar's mediation efforts, wrote on X.

Haniyeh will be buried in Doha on Friday a day after a public funeral ceremony in Tehran, Hamnas said.

SEE ALSO P9

## Kerala landslide death toll hits 270

Pledges of aid for  
rehabilitation pour  
in from UAE-based  
business groups

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN  
Chief Reporter

The death toll in the devastating landslides in the south Indian state of Kerala rose to 270 yesterday, according to Indian media reports.

Nearly 200 others were reportedly missing even as the rescue teams intensified efforts to find survivors trapped under the debris on the second day of the search operations in the landslide-hit areas of Wayanad district.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the rescue operations by the National Disaster Response Force, Indian Army, and other agencies ensured that more than 1,500 people were saved. He also announced the donation pledged by three UAE-based Indian expat businessmen from Kerala among others for the rehabilitation of those who have lost everything in the landslides.

**Aid pledged**

Vijayan said Yusuffali MA, chairman of Lulu Group International, Dr Ravi Pillai, chairman of RP Group, and TS Kalyanaraman, chairman and managing director of Kalyan Jewellers, have offered a donation of Dh2.2 million each



ANI

■ Rescue personnel carry a Wayanad resident yesterday.

to the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. Separately, Dr Azad Moopen, founder chairman, Aster DM Healthcare, pledged Dh1.8 million and MP Ahammed, chairman, Malabar Group, pledged Dh1.32 million.

Meanwhile, more Indian expats in the UAE learned the devastating news of their loved one's deaths as several bodies were pulled out. The victims also included employees of Dr Moopen's Medical College, which comes under the India division of Aster DM Healthcare.

Earlier, the UAE leaders sent messages of condolence on the deaths of the Indian citizens and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, Dr Shamsheer Vayalil, founder and chairman of VPS Healthcare, offered assistance to the CM with the services for extraction support and medical treatment.

SEE ALSO P2, P10

## Seven-month pregnant Egyptian fencer Hafez wins hearts in Paris

Third-time Olympian advanced to last 16 before bowing out

DUBAI

BY NISHITHA RACHEL  
Assistant Social Media Editor

The women's individual sabre competition at the Olympic Games in Paris saw three contestants on the piste (fencing area). Twenty-six-year-old Egyptian fencer Nada Hafez revealed she was seven months pregnant when she competed on the third day of the Olympic Games.

In a post on Instagram that has gone viral, she wrote: "What appears to you as two players on the podium, they were actually three! It was me, my competitor, and my yet-to-come to our world, little baby!"

Hafez added: "I'm lucky to have shared the trust of my husband and that of my family to be able to come this far. This specific Olympics was different: Three times 'Olympian' but this time carrying a little Olympian one!"

Hailing from Cairo, the Olympian beat Elizabeth Tartakovsky of the US 15-13 to advance to the last 16. But she was knocked out after



Nada Hafez reacts after her victory against Elizabeth Tartakovsky of United States.

she lost 15-7 to Jeon Hayoung of South Korea at the Grand Palais. "My baby and I had our fair share of challenges. The roller coaster of pregnancy is tough on its own, but having to fight to keep the balance of life and sports was nothing short of strenuous, however worth it. I'm writing this post to say that pride fills my being for securing my place in the round of 16!"

SPORT

**Djokovic,  
Alcaraz  
close in on  
Olympics  
showdown  
in Paris | P11**



NATION

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## HUAWEI AppGallery and Yalla Ludo Push Mobile Gaming and Esports Scene to New Heights

Setting a new benchmark in mobile gaming and Esports, highlighting their shared commitment to innovation and excellence.

Following the spectacular lightshow on the iconic Burj Khalifa marking HUAWEI AppGallery' successful partnership with Yalla Ludo, AppGallery Gamers Cup (AGC) hosted a spectacular Esports event featuring Yalla Ludo, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, under the guidance of the Emirates Esports Federation.

His Excellency, Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhboot Al Nahayan, President of the Emirates Esports Federation and Mr. Saifi Ismail, President of Yalla Group, awarded the winners with a prestigious trophy.

