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KERALA LANDSLIDES KILL OVER 100

Indian expats' families among victims; 3,069 people in relief camps

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N.R.
Senior Associate Editor
SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Chief Reporter

More than 100 people were killed and many more injured when massive landslides triggered by relentless monsoon rains struck Wayanad district in southern Indian state of Kerala yesterday.

At least 250 people have been rescued from the mud and debris, but the death toll is expected to rise as dozens remain missing. The Army, Navy, and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed in rescue operations.

Homes were buried under sludge, with cars and debris scattered across the disaster zone after being swept away.

"This catastrophe has resulted in the loss of 108 lives," the state's chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a statement. "This is one of the worst natural calamities Kerala has ever witnessed." He said that 3,069 people are now in 45 relief camps in Wayanad. "There are 128 people receiving treatment for injuries. Many who went to sleep last night have been swept away."

Expats lose loved ones

The disaster has had a ripple effect in the UAE with some



■ A view of the destruction caused by the huge landslides in the hilly areas near Meppadi, in Wayanad district in Kerala, yesterday.

expats losing their loved ones. The UAE conveyed its sincere condolences and expressed its solidarity with India over the victims of landslides in Kerala.

The family of Younas Ali Khan, a petrol station worker in

Ajman, was among the victims, his cousin Shameer MS told *Gulf News*.

"Younas' father is my father's brother. My uncle, aunt, and their daughter's family are among the victims," said Sha-

meer. Younas' parents were visiting his sister and her family when the landslides struck.

"They had taken another daughter's child with them. All of them, along with sister's family members and her

husband's family, were swept away."

The news has hit hard for other expats whose extended family members have also been caught up in the tragedy.

SEE ALSO P10

Israel's Beirut strike targets Hezbollah commander

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N.R.
Senior Associate Editor

An Israeli strike hit Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs, days after Israel said it would retaliate over a deadly attack on the annexed Golan Heights blamed on the group.

A source close to Hezbollah said three people were killed and 25 injured in the strike, AFP reported.

"Israel has struck the Beirut southern suburb," the source said, requesting anonymity, with witnesses telling AFP they heard a loud bang and saw plumes of smoke rising.

The Hezbollah commander targeted in the air-strike is reported by multiple media outlets to be Fuad Shukr, also known as Hajj Mohsin, a senior adviser to the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Hezbollah said Israel's assassination attempt of Fuad Shukr has failed and that the leader is alive. Shukr was named by the IDF several years ago as a commander of Hezbollah's precision missile project.

He is also wanted by the United States for his role in the 1983 bombing of a US Marines barracks in Beirut.

SEE ALSO P9

SUMMER TRENDS

HOME IN ON THE HEAT



From creative accent walls and mood lighting to embracing colours making a splash and more, it's a bouquet of interior trends that we have in store for you in our Summer special report. And it's not just interiors turning up the heat

this season. From picking up on prominent sartorial cues to amazing staycation ops and unique experiences to complement your sense of adventure, there's a lot we've managed to pack into this page turner, just so your summer calendar stays sorted.

WORLD

Third child
dies following
mass stabbing
in UK that left 5
critically hurt | P9

ENTERTAINMENT

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