

Cassandre Beaugrand and Alex Yee shine in Olympic triathlon after Seine pollution delays | **P16**

Global call for calm

International community on high alert as Haniyeh killing threatens Mideast peace

TDT | Manama

With the sudden escalation of tensions in the Mideast, following Israel's killing of Hamas' political leader Ismail Haniyeh while in Iran, world leaders yesterday called for cooler heads to prevail and avoid actions that would escalate the conflict.

The Israeli attack occurred at 2am local time while the Hamas leader was in Iran to attend the swearing-in of Iran's new President.

According to AFP reports citing Iranian media, the Israeli strike targeted special residences for war veterans in north Tehran where Haniyeh was staying.

An "official and public" funeral ceremony for Haniyeh will be held in Tehran today before his body is flown to Qatar, his base in recent years, for burial tomorrow, Hamas said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the strike on Tehran, and another one on Tuesday in Beirut that killed a top Hezbollah commander, represented a "dangerous escalation".

All efforts, he said, should be "leading to a ceasefire" in Gaza, and the release of hostages taken there from Israel.

The European Union called for "maximum restraint" in the aftermath of Haniyeh's assass-



Palestinians attend a protest in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank following the assassination of Ismail. (AFP)

sination.

"We call on all parties to exert maximum restraint and avoid any further escalation," said Peter Stano, the European Commission's spokesperson for foreign affairs. "No country and no nation stand to gain from a further escalation in the Middle East," the spokesperson stated.

Calling for restraint in the Mideast, the German government said, "It is essential to avoid further escalation and a regional conflagration."

German foreign ministry spokesman Sebastian Fischer said, "We call on all actors to exercise maximum restraint, the logic of tit-for-tat reprisals is the

wrong path."

Russia strongly condemned Haniyeh's killing and said it could "significantly destabilize" the region.

"We believe that such actions are directed against attempts to restore peace in the region and could significant destabilise an already tense situation," Kremlin

spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated.

"It is a completely unacceptable political assassination, and this will lead to a further escalation of tensions," Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov told the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said, "We

Bahrain warns of escalation in region

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain warned of the danger of escalation operations in the region and its repercussions on the security situation, increasing tension and violence, and fueling conflict in the Middle East.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised Bahrain's position against political violence, calling on the Security Council and the international community to support the efforts of the countries of the region to prevent further escalation and tension and their dangerous repercussions on regional security and stability.

are highly concerned about the incident and firmly oppose and condemn the assassination."

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned what he called the "perfidious assassination" of his "brother" Haniyeh.

(Related reports on World Page)

BCFC reports BD3.3 million H1 profit



P6

220 fils (includes VAT)



US downplays 'wider war' fears despite high-profile strikes

AFP | Washington

An Israeli strike that killed a Hezbollah commander in Beirut and the killing of the political leader of Hamas in Tehran "don't help" regional tensions but there are no signs of an imminent wider conflict, the White House said yesterday.

"These reports over the last 24, 48 hours certainly don't help with the temperature going down," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters when asked about the attacks.

"We're obviously concerned about escalation."

Kirby downplayed the risk of an immediate descent into the all-out war that the region has feared since Hamas's October 7 attacks on Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza.

"We don't really think that an escalation is inevitable and there's no signs that an escalation is imminent," he said.

But he said Washington was carefully monitoring developments.

"It's not like we're brushing off concerns at all. We're watching this very, very closely and it's been a chief concern of the president," said Kirby.

The strikes on two of Isra-



US spokesman John Kirby speaks during the daily press briefing. (AFP)

el's arch foes came less than a week after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the White House for talks with

"We don't really think that an escalation is inevitable and there's no signs that an escalation is imminent."

- JOHN KIRBY, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SPOKESMAN

President Joe Biden aimed at pushing a ceasefire in Gaza.

Hamas blamed an Israeli strike for the killing of its po-

litical leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Israel declined to comment on the attack but Netanyahu on Wednesday said his country had delivered "crushing blows" to its enemies, and explicitly mentioned the killing of Hezbollah leader Fuad Shukur in south Beirut.

Kirby said it was "too soon" to tell what impact the strikes would have on talks for a deal to reach a truce and release hostages held by Hamas.

"That doesn't mean we're going to stop working on it. We have a team in the region right now as we speak," he said.

SALE **تزييلات**
25-75% OFF*

homesrus

CITY CENTRE: 17556002
 SEHLA: 17556001

تطبيق الشروط والأحكام
 *Terms and conditions apply