



160% Surge in monkeypox cases reported in Africa this year for which few treatments, vaccines available

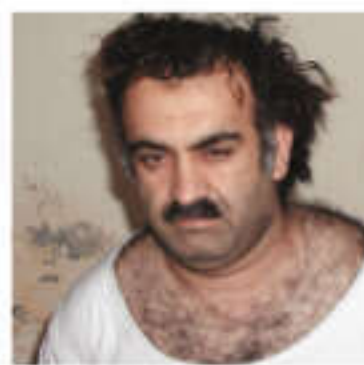
GLOBAL WEATHER table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions.

9/11 accused mastermind, US enter pretrial plea deal

WASHINGTON

THE US announced it entered into a pretrial deal with the accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a Kuwaiti-Pakistani engineer, and two other co-accused in the 2001 terror attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

Wednesday. "The specific terms and conditions of the pretrial agreements are not available to the public at this time," it said. Mohammed and his co-defendants, who have spent almost two decades in the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will enter guilty pleas at a plea hearing that could come as early as next week, according to the letter obtained by CNN.



File photo of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed shortly after his capture in 2003 | AP

during their interrogations was admissible in court.

On September 11, 2001, two hijacked passenger planes hit the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third plane struck the Pentagon in Washington. A fourth plane, heading to

Washington, crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers fought back with the hijackers. Many family members of the nearly 3,000 people who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks want the 9/11 defendants put to death. Since a trial became increasingly unlikely, plea bargains were widely viewed as the only way to resolve the case, the US media reported.

with their alleged roles in the September 11, 2001, attacks against the United States, the release said. The letter says that the families now have 45 days to submit questions to be answered by the alleged co-conspirators by the end of the year.

Before his birth, Mohammed's parents immigrated to Kuwait from Pakistan's Balochistan province. Mohammed, a US-educated engineer, was captured on March 1, 2003, in Pakistan. PTI

Mohd Deif too dead. Iran mulls response

JERUSALEM/BEIRUT

THE Israeli military said on Thursday that it has confirmed that the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an airstrike in Gaza in July. In a statement Thursday, the Israeli military said that following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike. There was no immediate comment from Hamas. Along with Deif and Haniyeh, Israel has vowed to eliminate Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yehya Sinwar, but he has so far remained elusive.

Israel says Sinwar and Deif were the masterminds of the October 7 attack. Deif was one of the founders of Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, in the 1990s and lead the unit for decades. Under his command, it carried out dozens of suicide bombings against Israelis on buses and at cafes and built up a formidable arsenal of rockets that could strike deep into Israel and often did. Meanwhile, Iran and armed groups backed by it are preparing coordinated action meant to deter Israel but avert all-out war, sources and analysts said, after the killings of top Hamas and Hezbollah figures.

On Wednesday, Iranian officials met in Tehran with representatives of the so-called "axis of resistance" — a loose alliance of Tehran-backed groups hostile to Israel — to discuss retaliation for the deaths of Hamas's leader and Hezbollah's top military commander, said a source close to Lebanese group. "Two scenarios were discussed: a simultaneous response from Iran and its allies or a staggered response from each party," the source who had been briefed on the meeting said, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei threatened a "harsh punishment" for killing Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.



EXPRESS READ

Lahore gets record breaking rainfall

Lahore: Pakistan's second-largest city of Lahore was deluged with record-breaking rainfall on Thursday, the national weather agency said, with hospitals flooded, power interrupted and streets in the metropolis submerged. The eastern city was lashed by almost 360 millimetres of rain in three hours, the Pakistan Meteorological Department said. The previous record dates to July 1980, when 332 millimetres fell over three hours. Roads were submerged, bringing traffic to a standstill.

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