

## **Palestinian man killed in West Bank in settler raid**

RAMALLAH: Israeli settlers attacked two Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank, killing one man and torching a car, Palestinian authorities said.

The Palestinian ambulance service said a 38-year-old man in the town of Qarawat Bani Hassan, in the northern West Bank, was shot in the chest and died as residents confronted settlers and Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli military said soldiers arrived at the scene and used riot dispersal means and live fire to break up the confrontation between residents and settlers.

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## **Saudi FM, Gulf ministers take part in GCC Summit preparatory meeting in Doha**

RIYADH: Saudi minister of foreign affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan was among ministers who met at a preparatory meeting in Doha on Sunday for the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministerial meeting, Saudi Press Agency reported.

The meeting was chaired by Qatar's Prime Minister and foreign minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, who is also chairman of the current session of the ministerial council.

Other GCC foreign ministers and the group's secretary-general, Jassim Albudaiwi, also took part in the session.

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## **Iran says Israeli strike in Syria killed 2 IRGC members while on advisory mission**

TEHRAN: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard stated through its website that two of its forces stationed in Syria were killed in an Israeli airstrike Saturday.

The report on the Guard's news portal identified the two members as Mohammad Ali Ataei Shourcheh and Panah Taghizadeh, and said they were carrying out an

advisory mission in Syria. It did not elaborate on their rank, or the area where they were killed.

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## **No Christmas tree in Bethlehem as holiday pared down over war**

BETHLEHEM: There will be no Christmas tree in Bethlehem this year as the traditional site of Jesus' birth holds pared-down celebrations "without the fanfare and too many lights" in the shadow of the Gaza war. Bethlehem, which neighbors Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank, has been battered by Israeli-Palestinian clashes of years past. But many townspeople have been especially gripped by the current conflict in the Gaza Strip, 50 km away.

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## **Released Israeli hostages call for captives to be freed**

TEL AVIV: Israeli hostages released in the past week by Hamas in Gaza called on Saturday for the immediate release of fellow captives left behind, a day after a temporary truce that had allowed scores to come home broke down. Tens of thousands gathered at a rally in Tel Aviv outside Israel's defense headquarters, where they cheered Yelena Trupanov, 50, standing on a stage just two days after being freed. "I came to thank you because without you I wouldn't be here. Now we must bring back my (son) Sasha, and everyone. Now."