

Israel disciplines soldiers over blunders that led to fatal Egyptian border attack

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said Tuesday that it would discipline three officers over a rare attack on the Egyptian border that killed three Israeli soldiers and exposed a series of mishaps earlier this month. An Egyptian security officer slipped into Israeli territory undetected on June 3 and killed the three Israeli soldiers in two separate shootings in the usually quiet border area.

UN food agency says will slash Syria aid by about half

ROME: The UN food agency said Tuesday it will slash aid to Syrians in need of basic food supplies by around half due to a lack of funding. "An unprecedented funding crisis in Syria is forcing the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to cut assistance to 2.5 million of the 5.5 million people who rely on the agency for their basic food needs," the organization said.

Probe into Lebanon's Zahle quake points to quarry blast

BEIRUT: A quarry explosion caused an earthquake in Lebanon that was felt by the residents of Zahle in the Bekaa Valley on June 3, according to the internal security forces. They had opened a probe to determine the cause of the tremor and found that its epicenter was the Qaa Al-Rim region, 4 km from the city of Zahle. According to the investigation, the quake at 2:15 p.m. was "caused by an explosion in quarries in the Tweiti area, owned by two people from the Abu Hamdan family."

Dubai court finds 30 people, 7 firms guilty of \$8.7m online fraud

DUBAI: A Dubai court has found 30 people and seven companies guilty of laundering money and embezzling 32 million Emirati dirhams (\$8.7 million) in an online fraud targeting individuals and businesses, the Emirates News Agency reported.

The 30 gang members were sentenced to a combined total of 96 years in prison and will be deported from the UAE after serving their time.

The court also ordered the defendants to jointly pay a fine of more than 32 million dirhams, while the seven firms were handed a combined total fine of 700,000 dirhams.

Netherlands, Canada take Syria to World Court over torture claims

AMSTERDAM: The Netherlands and Canada are taking Syria to the World Court over torture claims, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said on Monday. In their application, Canada and the Netherlands claim that "Syria has committed countless violations of International law, beginning at least in 2011," and asked for emergency measures to be taken to protect those at risk of being tortured, the ICJ, also known as the World Court, said in a statement.