

## **Israel faces new calls for truce after killing of hostages raises alarm about its conduct in Gaza**

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: Israel's government faced calls for a cease-fire from some of its closest European allies on Sunday after a series of shootings, including the mistaken killing of three Israeli hostages, fueled global concerns about the conduct of the 10-week-old war in Gaza.

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## **How one educator is inspiring a love of Arabic as UN marks 11th World Arabic Language Day**

DUBAI: Exactly 50 years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared that it would adopt Arabic as its sixth official language. Thirty nine years later, in 2012, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization established World Arabic Language Day on the anniversary of the world body's adoption of Arabic.

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## **More than 60 dead off Libya in latest migrant tragedy: IOM**

TRIPOLI: Around 61 migrants were missing and presumed dead after their boat sank off Libya's coast, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Saturday, in the latest migrant tragedy off North Africa.

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## **Thousands flee as battle for Sudan's Wad Madani opens up new front**

DUBAI: Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces battled the army outside the central city of Wad Madani on Saturday, pressing an attack that has opened a new front in the eight-month-old war and forced thousands to flee, witnesses said.

Crowds of people – many of whom had taken refuge in the city from violence in

the capital Khartoum – could be seen packing up their belongings and leaving on foot in video posted on social media.

“The war has followed us to Madani so I am looking for a bus so me and my family can flee,” 45-year-old Ahmed Salih told Reuters by phone.

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## [Netanyahu hints at new Hamas talks after hostage deaths](#)

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to confirm on Saturday that new Qatar-mediated negotiations were underway to recover hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, after a source said Israel’s lead negotiator met Qatar’s prime minister.

Netanyahu sidestepped a question at a news conference about a meeting on Friday in Europe between his lead negotiator, Mossad head David Barnea, and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. However, he confirmed he had given instructions to the negotiating team.