

## **Sudan's RSF commander announces a unilateral truce over Eid**

CAIRO: Sudan's RSF paramilitary commander announced on Monday a unilateral truce during Muslims' Eid al Adha.

General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, said in an audio recording aired on Al Arabiya TV the truce will be effective on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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## **Netanyahu's call to block creation of Palestinian state sparks fury, condemnation**

RAMALLAH: All settler colonialism in the occupied Palestinian territories is illegitimate and illegal, Palestinian officials said on Monday.

Anger and frustration have been growing in response to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state

He reportedly told a closed-door meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel must block Palestinians' aspirations for an independent state and that "we are preparing for post-Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas."

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## **GCC chief praises Gulf countries' efforts to combat illegal drug trade**

RIYADH: The head of the Gulf Cooperation Council said GCC countries are making a significant effort to combat illegal drugs, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Thursday.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Albudaiwi was speaking on the occasion of UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which is observed on June 26 each year.

Fighting drugs required effective international cooperation and the combined efforts of governmental and civil agencies and individuals, he said.

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## **Egypt reveals details of launch of MirSat 2 satellite at cost of \$74m**

CAIRO: Egypt has revealed details of the launch of the MirSat 2 satellite from China in October, at a cost of \$74 million.

The satellite's mission is to take images of Egyptian soil to preserve the environment, as well as to undertake remote sensing.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Rafei, the official in charge of the project, said the installation and testing of the satellite had been completed in cooperation with China, with the \$74 million coming as a grant from Beijing.

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## **India, Egypt raise ties to strategic partnership on Modi's visit to Cairo**

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi signed on Sunday a strategic partnership agreement, underscoring growing ties between the two countries that experts say can spark geopolitical and economic significance.

Modi arrived in Cairo on Saturday afternoon following a four-day trip to the US, marking the first state visit to Egypt by an Indian premier since 1997.