



Tunisian  
democracy  
group wins  
Peace Prize



Violent  
Muslims told  
to leave  
Australia



Blatter fights  
ban amid  
FIFA  
turmoil



150 Fils

## WAVE OF STABBINGS SHAKE ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK

REVENGE ATTACK INJURES TWO PALESTINIANS, TWO ARAB ISRAELIS



Min 26°

Max 38°



WEST BANK: Israeli settler boys throw stones during clashes with Palestinians after a stabbing attack outside the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba in the West Bank yesterday. — AP

## MAID'S HAND CHOPPED OFF IN SAUDI INDIA FUMES, DEPLORES BRUTAL ATTACK

**NEW DELHI:** India said yesterday it had lodged a protest with authorities in Riyadh after a maid from Tamil Nadu allegedly had her hand chopped off by her Saudi employer for complaining about her work conditions. India's foreign minister deplored a "brutal" attack on 55-year-old Kasthuri Munirathinam, who is being treated at a hospital in Riyadh, and which comes weeks after a Saudi diplomat based in New Delhi was accused of rape. "Chopping of (the) hand of (an) Indian lady—we are very much disturbed over the brutal manner in which (this) Indian lady has been treated in Saudi Arabia," Sushma Swaraj said on Twitter. "This is unacceptable. We have taken this up with Saudi authorities," Swaraj added.

A spokesman for the foreign ministry confirmed that Indian diplomats in Riyadh had lodged a formal complaint at the Saudi foreign ministry. Munirathinam, who comes from a village in the southern state of Tamil

Nadu, had suffered a catalogue of abuse since taking up a post as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia three months ago, according to her family. "Her right hand was chopped off by her employer when she tried to escape the daily harassment, torture and abysmal work conditions," her sister S Vijayakumari told AFP by phone from Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai.

Vijayakumari said that her sister had gone to Saudi Arabia to help pay off her family's debts and she had been promised a monthly salary of around 180 dollars. "But she was not paid, she was barely given enough to eat and not even allowed to speak to her family ... Now she only wants to come home," Vijayakumari said. The family says that problems started for Munirathinam—who was one of five domestic workers in the same household—after she complained to the local authorities about her situation. Footage of Munirathinam lying in her Saudi hospital bed was broadcast by

several Indian media outlets. Foreign ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup confirmed to AFP that Munirathinam was still recuperating in the Riyadh hospital but said that efforts were being made to bring her home.

"We are in touch with the woman, hospital and the local police authorities. She will get all possible legal and other help from the embassy," Swarup said. Hundreds of thousands of Indian migrants work in households in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries but complaints about their treatment by their employers often make headlines back home. A video showing a male Indian worker being beaten by his Saudi employer went viral in September, sparking a widespread backlash on social media. There was also widespread anger last month when the first secretary at the Saudi embassy left India under diplomatic immunity after being accused of holding captive and raping two Nepalese maids in his home. — AFP

**JERUSALEM:** A fresh wave of stabbings shook Israel and the West Bank yesterday, including a suspected revenge attack by a Jewish suspect that wounded two Palestinians and two Arab Israelis. Attacks also continued against Israelis and Jews, with a Palestinian stabbing a policeman near a West Bank settlement before being shot dead by the victim, who was lightly wounded. A Jewish 16-year-old was lightly wounded in a new stabbing in Jerusalem by an 18-year-old Palestinian suspect, who was arrested. In the assault by a Jew, the assailant aged about 20 was arrested and told police he carried out the attack in the southern Israeli city of Dimona because "all Arabs are terrorists".

The victims suffered light to moderate wounds. It marked the first such attack against Palestinians after at least 11 stabbings that have targeted Israelis or Jews since Saturday, killing two of them. Later, a woman was shot after a stabbing attempt in northern Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quickly condemned the stabbings by the Jewish suspect, a sign of concerns it could trigger further violence. Palestinians have also rioted in annexed east Jerusalem and the West Bank in recent days, with the unrest raising fears of a wider uprising or even a third intifada.

Hundreds of right-wing Jewish protesters marched in Jerusalem on Thursday night, including some chanting "Death to Arabs" and "No Arabs, No Attacks." Arab Israelis are the descendants of Palestinians who remained after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and hold Israeli citizenship. Tens of thousands of Palestinians also work in Israel, particularly in construction. Friday's stabbing came as Israeli security forces sought to prevent the further spread of Palestinian unrest, with Netanyahu on Thursday night saying the country faced a mostly unorganized "wave of terror".

"These actions are mostly not organized, but they are all the result of wild and untruthful incitement from Hamas, from the Palestinian Authority, from several neighboring counties and, no less, from the Islamic Movement in Israel," he said. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas has spoken out against violence and in favor of "peaceful, popular resistance," but many youths are frustrated with his leadership as well as Israel's government.

### Old City tensions

Jerusalem's Old City was the site of tensions on Friday as Muslims filed toward the sensitive Al-Aqsa mosque compound for the main weekly prayers. Scuffles broke out as a group of about 50 Jews wearing skullcaps or draped in the Israeli flag walked through the mainly Muslim eastern portion of the Old City toward the Western Wall.

Jews shouted "long live the Israeli people" and some of the women made obscene gestures at Muslims, who responded with shouts of "Allahu Akbar". Clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian youths have repeatedly erupted at the Al-Aqsa compound in recent weeks, and police were prohibiting men under 45 from entering the site yesterday. Such measures are often put into effect when tensions flare. The compound is the third-holiest site in Islam and the most sacred to Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount. It is located in east Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community.

Stabbing attacks targeting Jews began on Saturday in the Old City, when two Israelis were killed there, prompting a security crackdown. Security measures were further tightened Thursday, with six metal detectors set up in the Old City and police stationed on rooftops. The Jerusalem mayor went as far as to encourage residents who own guns to carry them around with them, even carrying one himself earlier this week while visiting a Palestinian area of the city where clashes have erupted. — AFP