

Beirut: At least 18 Syrian army soldiers were killed and multiple others were wounded in an attack by a so-called armed group on military positions in the province of Suwayda in southern Syria, Syrian Defense Ministry spokesman Hassan Abdul Ghani said on Monday. "While the army units were carrying out their assigned tasks to end the conflict, our positions came under attack from illegal armed groups, resulting in the death of 18 of our soldiers and injuries to several others," Ghani said. The spokesman said that the armed conflict stemmed from a months-long power vacuum in Suwayda. Earlier in the day, the Syrian Defense Ministry said that more than 30 people were killed and more than 100 others injured in clashes in Suwayda province.