

## SOUTH LEBANON

Israeli forces open fire on UN peacekeepers

AFP, Beirut

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said yesterday that Israeli soldiers had shot at its peacekeepers from a tank near an army position in the country's south.

UNIFIL has been working with the Lebanese army to consolidate a truce between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah reached last November.

"This morning, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) fired on UNIFIL peacekeepers from a Merkava tank from near a position Israel has



Displaced Palestinians travel with their belongings on the back of a vehicle on a rainy day in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. Heavy rains flooded tents in makeshift camps in Gaza City, as the United Nations warned that Israeli restrictions on aid have left hundreds of thousands of families without adequate shelter. Since the start of the ceasefire agreement last month, at least 266 people have been killed and 635 wounded in Israeli attacks.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ukraine strikes Russia's oil refinery

Says military; Moscow troops advance in Zaporizhzhia region

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine's military said on Saturday it had struck Russia's Ryazan oil refinery, adding that multiple explosions and a large fire had been observed at the site.

No further details about the strike were provided in the military's statement on Facebook. Ryazan is located about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of Moscow.

Ukraine has regularly hit Russian oil refineries with its drones, seeking to degrade Moscow's capacity to finance its full scale invasion launched in February 2022.

Russia said yesterday that its forces had moved forward sharply in Ukraine's south-eastern Zaporizhzhia region, taking two settlements as part of a major push aimed at taking control of the entire Zaporizhzhia region.

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region while keeping the rest of the front stable under intense artillery and drone attack from highly mobile Russian units.

Since advancing into the Dnipropetrovsk region in late June, Russian forces have been pushing there and in the neighbouring Zaporizhzhia region where its forces have moved forward along a relatively broad front by at least 30 km (19 miles) over the past six weeks, according to pro-Ukrainian maps.

Russia's defence ministry said that its forces had taken Mala Toknachka and Rivnopolilla, which put the southern towns of Huliaipole and Orikhiv in danger of being the target of Russian pincer movements.

Meanwhile, Ukraine and Greece signed an agreement in Athens yesterday for the provision of US-supplied liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Kiev throughout the winter months.



established in Lebanese territory," the peacekeepers said in a statement, adding heavy machine gun rounds hit about five metres from their personnel.

The force said the peacekeepers were able to "leave safely thirty minutes later" after the tank withdrew inside the Israeli position. UNIFIL said the shooting "represents a serious violation of UN Security Council resolution 1701", which ended a 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, and also formed the basis of last November's truce.

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