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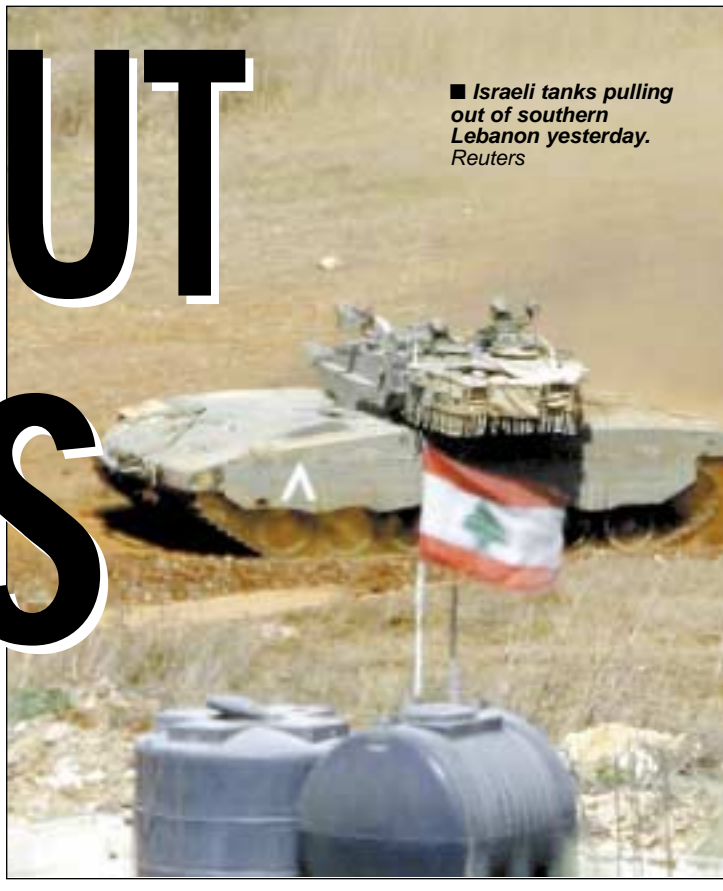
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PULL-OUT BEGINS



■ Israeli tanks pulling out of southern Lebanon yesterday. Reuters

BEIRUT: Israeli forces began leaving parts of south Lebanon yesterday as a UN truce largely held for a second day and the Lebanese army prepared to move south.
But sporadic clashes continued, killing three Hizbollah fighters.
The UN warned that the humanitarian situation was "on the verge of collapse" as tens of thousands of refugees who had fled the month-

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long war between Israel and Hizbollah headed home to battered villages in the south.
In northern Israel, residents also returned after weeks away from their homes to escape cross-border Hizbollah rocket fire.
The Israeli army, which had poured 30,000 troops into the south, plans to start handing over some pockets of territory to UN troops in a day or two, officials and

diplomats said. Israel's top general, Dan Halutz, said forces could complete a withdrawal within seven to 10 days.
In line with the Security Council resolution that halted the fighting, the Lebanese army will begin mov-

ing 15,000 troops south of the Litani River tomorrow, a senior political source said. The force is assembling at various army bases.
Lebanese Defence Minister Elias Al Murr has said the army will not disarm Hizbollah in the south.

The world this morning
2AM LATEST BREAKING NEWS

■ New clamp 'will sink boat tourism'

MANAMA: Strict new regulations concerning passenger boat trips are driving local tourism companies out of business, according to dhow owners. They say the increase in insurance and the Coastguard's order to employ certified captains after the Al Dana tragedy were costly and they would need financial support from the government to sustain their business. The Coastguard has, meanwhile, launched a major campaign to ensure that tourism boats are registered and fully comply with rules and regulations.
Full report - Page 3

■ Nejad rejects UN nuclear 'stick'

TEHRAN: Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday rejected a Security Council resolution that demands Tehran halt sensitive nuclear work, saying the Iranian people did not accept the "language of force".
"If they think they can use a resolution as a stick against us, they should know that Iranian people do not bend to language of force," he told a vast crowd in the north-west province of Ardebil.

■ 16 killed in Iraq
BAGHDAD: A suicide bomber killed nine people outside the offices of a Kurdish political party in northern Iraq yesterday and clashes between gunmen loyal to an anti-American Shi'ite cleric and Iraqi soldiers killed seven in the south.
Full report - Page 2

■ Bush vows war on terror

MCLEAN, Virginia: President George W Bush yesterday seized on last week's alleged plot in Britain to bomb US-bound airliners as evidence that the US-led war on terrorism will last "for years to come". "America is safer than it has been, but it is not yet safe," Bush said after meeting with senior national security aides and touring the US National Counter-Terrorism Centre just outside of Washington.
Charity link denied - Page 26

■ Israeli troops raid refugee camp

NABLUS: Eight Palestinians were wounded and four arrested during an Israeli army incursion into a refugee camp in the northern West Bank yesterday. Palestinian witnesses and security sources said a house was also destroyed in the raid.



■ The damaged car at the scene of the fatal accident. Picture: SHAKER AL ARADI

Teenagers die in car crash

By MAY ASHOUR

MANAMA: Two 17-year-old Bahrainis were killed and two other teenagers injured when their car overturned in Isa Town early yesterday morning.
Driver Raed Abdulrahim Abdulrahman and front seat passenger Mohammed Ali Hussain died when the Mazda they were travelling in flipped over on December 16 Highway, near the National Stadium, at around 5am.
Police said the driver was speeding at the time of the crash and did not have a driving licence.
Two passengers in the back seat, both said to be under-17, escaped with minor injuries

and were taken to BDF Hospital.
They are Abdulla Abdulaziz Abdulla and the driver's younger brother, Rashid Abdulrahim Abdulrahman.
The accident prompted General Directorate of Traffic director of cultural affairs, Major Moosa Al Dossary, to urge young drivers to follow traffic and safety rules.
He also warned parents and adults to be vigilant and educate young people about the dangers of driving without a licence.
31,400 traffic violations -13

The general calm has prompted a chaotic tide of refugees flowing back to southern villages, despite the risk of unexploded munitions left over from the fighting and Israeli leaflet drops warning that it was not safe to return.

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