

# CasualtyWeek

July 23 2004

## Owner alarm over IACS bulker rules

**I**NDUSTRY fears are starting to emerge that draft common structural rules for tankers and bulkers, first presented by the International Association of Classification Societies barely a month ago, may not be good enough.

First to air its concerns publicly is the London-based Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee, which has praised IACS for entering a dialogue with the industry but questioned whether safety margins embodied in the proposals are high enough.

"We fear that the proposed rules would not result in the construction of robust vessels which are fit for their expected 25-year life span and would consequently not meet the goal of raising standards," said committee chairman Epaminondas Embiricos.

The GSCC said it was particularly concerned in respect to the proposed Joint Bulker Project rules.

These, it claimed, "appear, in several respects, to amount to a lower standard than the current requirements of several of the leading IACS member societies".

Mr Embiricos said the Committee was "extremely concerned" that the draft tanker and bulker rules have incorporated "significantly reduced corrosion allowances, to the extent of up to 50% reductions" from existing standards.

"If adopted, these reduced corrosion allowances, would inevitably result in steel renewals becoming necessary much earlier in a vessel's life and would increase the risk of casualties due to structural failure", warned the GSCC.

The London based think-tank said its view was that the common rules should result in "safe, durable and robust ships".

Other London shipping sources yesterday agreed that the corrosion margins could be a cause for concern, but said that it was too early to draw conclusions from information received.

IACS had yet to make available its comparative studies of designs under the old and new rules, the sources said.

Under the old rules, the corrosion margin is given as a percentage figure of steel plate thickness, but the new rules give an absolute millimetre figure corrosion margin, the very thing owners asked IACS to deliver.

It is understood that internal discussions at the International Chamber of Shipping have focused on the fact that, in some cases, this could mean a lower corrosion margin than before.

Under the old rules, for example, a 20 mm plate has a corrosion margin of 20%, equivalent to 4 mm.

On reaching 16 mm thickness, it is due replacement.

Under the new rules, the corrosion margin is simply 2.5 mm, so a plate would have to be replaced when it got to 17.5 mm thickness.

However, according to an ICS source, this does not necessarily mean plate replaced more often, or less robust ships, because IACS has also told shipowners that it concluded from its own records that, in some areas, ships had not corroded as quickly as had been anticipated.

Under the new rules, the critical corrosion margin is not 2.5 mm at all, but one termed t2.5yrs, denoting a 0.5 mm corrosion margin. Plate would need to be replaced at this point because 0.5 mm was deemed to be the corrosion margin that would last 2.5 years — or the time until the next survey was due.

The comparative design data is also deemed critical because the common rules are newly subject to harmonised fatigue analysis and finite element analysis, through which structures should be more robust than before. The ICS source said that shipowners were thus reserving their position until it had seen the comparative data. The matter would be would discussed on August 25th.

**Nigel Lowry and  
Hugh O'Mahony**  
Lloyd's List Editorial

## Summary of Major Cases in this week's issue of Lloyd's Casualty Week

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ALAMOA	chem tanker	BRA	BV	6,010	9,981	1978	Reported Jul 13 adrift in the vicinity of lat 17 04.02S, long 38 33.93W. To be towed to Santos by a Brazil navy vessel.
CMA CGM	container	LBR	GL	30,280	35,966	1996	Sustained rudder problem shortly after leaving Port Said Jul 5. Taken in tow by tug <i>Matsas Star</i> Jul 8 and arrived Piraeus Jul 14. Sailed in tow of tug <i>Panagiotakis Star</i> for Neorion Shipyard, Syros, Jul 20.
DA QING 254	product tanker	CHN	CS	30,976	50,975	1976	Had fire in accommodation area while berthed at Lixin Shipyard, Shanghai, Jul 14. Fire later brought under control. Serious damage sustained. Repairs completed and returned to service about Jul 16.
EVANS MCKEIL	tug	CAN	—	284	—	1936	Grounded while towing barge <i>Ocean Hauler</i> near light 37, St. Clair River, Jul 10. Tug and barge separated and barge towed to Courtright. Refloated Jul 13. Reconnected with barge same day and sailed.
MINI MOON	general	HND	—	1,881	3,020	1972	Reported Jul 12 to have sunk about four nautical miles off the San Cayetano coast, 30-35 miles south of Quequen. Only one of 11 crew survived (hospitalised). Four bodies found. Six missing. Coast Guard searches underway. Cargo: Urea (2,700 tonnes).
OCEAN HAULER	barge	CAN	—	4,540	—	1997	Grounded while in tow of <i>Evans Mckeil</i> , Jul 10 at light 37, St. Clair River. Refloated by tugs and towed to Courtright same day.
OLYMPIC GALAXY	bulker	GRC	LR	35,417	64,931	1982	Reported Jul 14 grounded in Trincomalee Bay, two miles from discharge jetty. Sitting on a large rock. Two metre hole in No.1 starboard double bottom tank and other indentations. LOF signed. Still aground Jul 22. Cargo: Wheat (61,160 tons).
PETIMATA OT RMS	bulker	BGR	BK	23,363	38,511	1979	Grounded on sand in lat 55 12.4N, long 11 06.6E, Jul 9. Requires cargo discharge for refloating. Refloated Jul 16 by <i>Multratug 7</i> and proceeding Kalundborg fjord for inspection and reloading, where arrived same day. Sailed Jul 18. Cargo: Fertiliser.
SAVA OCEAN	general	BHS	NV	2,026	3,090	1993	Grounded about 3.5 nautical miles from Thessaloniki port, Jul 15. Tugs <i>Pantokrator</i> and <i>Efstratios</i> in attendance. Refloating attempts to be made after divers' inspection. Reported Jul 16 at Thessaloniki where towed by tugs. Sailed 17 Jul. Cargo: 3,000 tonnes fertiliser.
TUVAQ	product tanker	CAN	NV	11,290	15,955	1977	Indentation, 15 ft x 7 ft x 2 ft, found Jul 6 in hull near waterline in lat 63 44N, long 68 31W. No breach of hull integrity, suspect ice damage. Arrived St. John's for repairs Jul 11. Sailed Jul 16. Cargo: Gasoline, diesel & jet fuel.
UNICORN MARINER	general	PAN	LR	2,854	3,180	1991	In collision with tug <i>Kyung Sung</i> in lat 37 5.6N, long 126 16.34E, Jul 8. Sustained bow damage. Reported Jul 12 at Incheon loading. Temporary repairs effected. Permanent repairs deferred. Sailed Incheon Jul 18. Cargo: PKE (2,752 tonnes).
WARWICK	lpg	SGP		5,953	6,996	1996	Grounded close to Santarem port Jul 10. Refloated 15 Jul. In ballast.

# CONTENTS

Reports appear in alphabetical order under the following headings and relevant page number:

<b>Marine, including Overdue &amp; Missing Vessels</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Seizures &amp; Arrests</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Pipeline Accidents</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Weather &amp; Navigation</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Political &amp; Civil Unrest</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Kidnappings</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Labour Disputes</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Awards &amp; Settlements</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Railway Accidents</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Robberies &amp; Thefts</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Computer Systems</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Fires &amp; Explosions</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Product Recalls</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Port Conditions</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Port Conditions charts</b>	<b>33</b>

## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### **ABHIMAN (India)**

Mumbai, Jul 6 — Tug *Abhiman* is still beached at the Darukhana Shipbreakers Yard. As yet the vessel has not been sold to any shipbreaker for demolition. — Lloyd's Agents.

### **ALADIN (Cyprus)**

Ferrol, Jul 13 — General cargo *Aladin* is still under repair at Ferrol and is expected to sail on Jul 16 or 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

### **ALAMOA (Brazil)**

London, Jul 15 — Following navigation warning issued 2339, UTC, Jul 13: Chem.tank *Alamo*a (6010 gt, built 1978) adrift vicinity lat 17 04.02S, long 38 33.93W, at 2153, UTC, Jul 13. (Note — Understood *Alamo*a is to be towed to Santos by a Brazilian Navy vessel.)

### **AN LU JIANG (China)**

Chittagong, Jul 7 — General cargo *An Lu Jiang* is still lying sunken and abandoned outside Chittagong port limit. — Lloyd's Agents.

### **ANDREW J. BARBERI (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: The federal prosecutor overseeing the investigation of last year's fatal crash of ferry *Andrew J. Barberi* suggested today that people involved in the case could be indicted within a month. The accident killed 11 commuters, injured dozens and led to billions of dollars in civil claims. Chief Assistant US Attorney Andrew Hruska asked Magistrate Judge Viktor Pohorelsky to extend until August an order suspending the gathering of evidence for lawsuits against the city. Prosecutors worry that giving plaintiffs' attorneys access to witnesses and documents could damage their criminal case. The judge granted the government's request to extend the ban beyond today, but noted that the investigation was 10 months old and had yet to produce criminal charges. He said he would need evidence of progress before extending the order beyond its new Aug 13 deadline. Hruska replied: "I hope I'll be able to do that in a straightforward way." He also told the judge that another extension of the deadline might be unnecessary. He declined to elaborate on his comments as he left the courtroom, but a law enforcement source familiar with the probe said that prosecutors expected to produce indictments within a month. The vessel slammed into a concrete pier on Staten Island after crossing New York Harbour from Manhattan on Oct 15. The master violated procedure by being out of the vessel's wheelhouse during docking, when his assistant lost control of the vessel, investigators said. The assistant, pilot Richard Smith, said

he passed out at the controls. The criminal investigation expanded its focus from the crew to high-ranking ferry officials and whether they neglected safety rules so grievously that they committed crimes.

### **BOHUSLAN (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Jul 14 — Due to a confusing message through the intercom, while ferry *Bohuslan* (304 gt, built 1913) was departing from the port of Smogen, on the north-west coast of Sweden, yesterday morning, the vessel ran into five yachts tied up for the night at a bridge inside the port and damaged same, together with the old wooden bridge, which also sustained serious damage. At the southern pier where mostly bigger yachts between 30 and 45 foot are tied up, some were quite seriously damaged with cracks and holes in their hulls. *Bohuslan* did not sustain any damage. Investigations confirm there were no technical faults involved in this incident. *Bohuslan* was permitted to leave Smogen port later during the day. — Westax Marine Services AB.

### **BOLD WIND III (Canada)**

London, Jul 12 — At 0805, UTC, Jul 11, fishing *Bold Wind III* (60 gt) was reported aground, in lat 45 54.20N, long 59 58.05W, at the entrance to Louisbourg Harbour.

### **BRITISH ENTERPRISE (U.K.)**

Beira, Jul 8 — Chemical/oil carrier *British Enterprise* refloated Jul 2. Vessel moved to Fuel Discharge Terminal where the local independent surveyor appointed by P&I -Durban, visited the Master for enquiry on the cause of the incident and to assess the extent of the damages. The appointed surveyor cannot release information related to the cause of the incident without having permission from his principals. However, a request has been made to Capt. Bhasin from P&I - Durban who have not given any reply to authorise the surveyor. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beira, Jul 14 — Chemical/oil carrier *British Enterprise* was refloated at 0302, local time, Jul 2 and safely berthed at the Fuel Terminal. The extent of the damage is 5-7% paint damage to hull. *British Enterprise* has sailed for Mombasa. No information regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

### **BUGALED BREIZH (France)**

London, Jul 9 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1120, UTC: Fishing *Bugaled Breizh* is still in Falmouth Bay, with operations to tow it into port still under way

London, Jul 10 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1513, UTC: Fishing *Bugaled Breizh* is still in Falmouth Bay. Operations continue. Two tugs and a French warship remain in attendance.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Attempts to lift the wreck of a French trawler onto a barge for its journey home have not yet

succeeded. Fishing *Bugaled Breizh* is alongside the salvage vessel *Discovery* off the coast of Falmouth. Yesterday night, the effort to raise the fishing vessel onto the barge which will ship it to a dockyard in Brest was not successful. The ongoing attempts to salvage *Bugaled Breizh* have been continually hampered by high winds and heavy seas. There have been reports that the Breton trawler may be loaded onto the barge later today. Meanwhile, Falmouth Coastguards are warning that the wind is likely to become stronger which could cause more delays to the operation.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The body of a French trawlerman missing following an apparent collision off Cornwall, has been recovered from his stricken vessel. Fishing *Bugaled Breizh* was raised yesterday and supported on the surface using floatation tanks and cables. The bodies of two more crew members from the trawler which vanished in January are still missing. *Bugaled Breizh* is still alongside the salvage vessel *Discovery* off the coast of Falmouth. The recovered body, which has yet to be identified, will be taken to a military base in the port of Brest.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Fishing *Bugaled Breizh*, recovered off the coast of Cornwall, is being taken back to France. The journey to take the vessel to Brest is expected to take about a day and a half. French investigators will be able to scour the wreck for clues to the cause of its sinking, once it arrives at a military base in Brest.

London, July 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Bugaled Breizh* was towed into the port of Brest yesterday morning after being taken across the Channel from Falmouth on a barge. The nature of the damage to the boat, in which there are two identical huge dents in either side, below the waterline, appeared to mystify French experts and Gendarmes who have launched an investigation into manslaughter and failing to assist persons in danger. The second dent was not visible when video pictures were recorded by a submarine in January as the vessel was lying on its side. The dents, identical in shape and about nine metres in length, appear to rule out the possibility that the trawler was the victim of a high seas hit-and-run by a large container vessel off The Lizard last January, according to early comments by experts. Maritime consultant at the French Appeal Court Philippe Clouet suggested that the second dent could have been caused by the vessel striking the sea bed. One theory which consultants appointed by the two investigating judges based in Quimper are said to be considering is that the dents were caused by pressure during the six months spent on the sea bed. Experts appointed by the investigating judges based in Quimper are also understood to be looking at the possibility that the sinking was caused by a mechanical leak perhaps due to an accident or a collision. The vessel

will now be placed in dry dock at the military port of Brest, where first detailed examinations are likely to begin tomorrow.

#### **C.CHAMPION (Panama)**

See "Iraq" under "Political & Civil Unrest."

#### **CAP ANAMUR (Germany)**

See under "Miscellaneous."

#### **CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)**

London, Jul 12 — A press release, dated today, states: Bulk *Cape Africa*: Cargo lightening operation continues in False Bay and it is anticipated that, weather permitting, this phase of the salvage operation will be completed over the weekend. The specialised cargo lightening vessel *Bandar* will then sail for Saldanha Bay where the second load of iron ore cargo from *Cape Africa* will be discharged. The salvage team will complete any necessary temporary repairs aboard *Cape Africa* prior to it being towed to Table Bay by salvage tug *Smit Amandla* early next week. It will be towed 20 miles off of the coast and along a predetermined route.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from bulk *Cape Africa* Joint Operations Committee, timed 0900, today: Bulk *Cape Africa*, under tow by salvage tug *Smit Amandla*, will enter the port of Cape Town this afternoon. Yesterday evening, with *Cape Africa* cargo lightening operation complete and the specialized lightening vessel, bulk *Bandar* en route to Saldanha Bay to discharge the final load of iron ore cargo removed from the bulk carrier, the convoy of tug and tow, under escort by SMIT tug *Pentow Service* and the oil pollution vessel *Kuswag IV*, left False Bay en route to Cape Town.

Cape Town, Jul 15 — Bulk *Cape Africa* was towed into Cape Town yesterday by the salvors *Smit Marine* after the cargo of iron ore was transhipped to bulk *Bandar*, two transhipments being required to complete the operation. The iron ore was delivered to the port of Saldanha from where it will once again be shipped and delivered to final destination in Japan. We understand that temporary repairs to *Cape Africa* will be completed at Cape Town over a period of approximately one month. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CAPE BOWEN (Marshall Islands)**

See *GenMar Transporter*.

#### **CAPTAIN DIAMANTIS (Greece)**

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

#### **CMA CGM AEGEAN (Liberia)**

Piraeus, Jul 15 — C.c. *CMA CGM Aegean* (30280 gt, built 1996) arrived Piraeus, (from Port Said) in tow of tug *Matsas Star*, at 1800, local time, Jul 14, with rudder problems. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CMA CGM KALAMATA (Greece)**

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0915, UTC: Following received from Malta today: C.c. *CMA CGM Kalamata* (37134 gt,

built 1991) reported engine-room fire while at Marsaxlokk Jul 9. Fire extinguished in about one hour. (Note — *CMA CGM Kalamata* arrived Marsaxlokk Jul 9 from Port Klang.)

#### **CPT COSTAS (Cyprus)**

Maassluis, Jul 10 — Bulk *Cpt Costas* (70595 gt, built 1981) struck a lock gate at Antwerp during the evening of Jul 10, while entering the lock. The vessel sustained light bow damage, and the lock gate will need to be inspected by an expert. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jul 14 — Bulk *Cpt Costas* sailed Antwerp 0543, Jul 13, destination Santos.

#### **CSCL QINGDAO (Malta)**

Busan, Jul 9 — C.c. *CSCL Qingdao* is undergoing temporary repairs at an anchorage at Busan in order to proceed to a suitable repair yard for permanent repairs, ETC Jul 14. The repair yard for permanent repairs has not been decided to this time. C.c. *Hyundai Harmony* is under permanent repair at Daesun Shiprepair yard, Busan and expected to be completed by the end of July 2004. — Lloyd's Sub-agents

#### **DA QING 254 (China)**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed and four others injured, two seriously, in a fire which broke out last night on board product tanker *Da Qing 254* (30976 gt, built 1976), berthed at the wharf of Lixin Shipyard, Shanghai. The fire broke out at around 1930 hrs in the vessel's accommodation area. The fire was later brought under control. The four injured people were being treated in the No. 7 People's Hospital in Shanghai.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Two workers who were seriously burned in a fire that gutted product tanker *Da Qing 254* last night were in a critical condition, according to doctors at the No. 7 People's Hospital in Shanghai. The fire broke out at around 1930 hrs in the vessel's dormitory area. One person was killed and four others injured, including the two in critical condition, in the fire on the vessel, which was berthed at the Lixin Shipyard wharf, Shanghai. The fire was extinguished at about 2245 hrs, but the vessel was seriously damaged.

Shanghai, Jul 15 — Product tanker *Da Qing 254* caught fire when workers were cutting the steel plates on the 'tweendeck of the steering-room during its repair at the Lixin Shipyard of Shanghai at about 1930, Jul 14. The fire was put out at 2230 the same day. One man died in the incident and four were injured. The cause of the fire has been preliminarily decided as wrongful use of electric welding by the workers. And up to now the extent of damage and intentions regarding repairs are yet to be ascertained. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **DIAMOND RAY (Malta)**

Busan, Jul 14 — Vehicle *Diamond Ray* completed repairs and sailed Ulsan at about 1630, Jul 11, bound Kwangyang. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**DIEPPE (France)**

Le Havre, Jul 8 — Passenger ro/ro *Dieppe* arrived at Le Havre Jul 6 from Dieppe. — Lloyd's Agents.

Le Havre, Jul 12 — Passenger ro/ro *Dieppe*: We contacted Dieppe port authorities and have been told that *Dieppe* is still under repair and should return to a normal service after Jul 25 or 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

**DONA ELVIRA (Panama)**

Monrovia, Jul 14 — Ro/ro *Dona Elvira* remains in port at Monrovia, where arrived Jun 17 from Abidjan. — Lloyd's Agents.

**DONG HUA MEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See *Tireless*.

**DUMIT (Canada)**

London, Jul 14 — Canadian Coast Guard buoy ship *Dumit* (569 gt, built 1979) contacted the bottom in Providence Rapids, Mile 44.7, Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories, in lat 61 16.25N, long 117 36.00W, at 0938, Jul 13. No apparent damage to the vessel.

**DUNIYA JUKHAV**

London, Jul 9 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: Ore/oil *Duniya Jukhav* remains anchored in the Mozambique Channel, effecting repairs.)

London, Jul 10 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1516, UTC: Ore/oil *Duniya Jukhav* remains anchored in the Mozambique Channel, effecting repairs.

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0710, UTC: Ore/oil *Duniya Jukhav* resumed passage yesterday, on completion of repairs.

**ELONA M. (Germany)**

Maassluis, Jul 8 — General cargo *Elna M.* sank due to water in a hatch which wasn't closed sufficiently. The police are investigating the matter. — Lloyd's Sub-agents

**EMIL NOLDE (Malta)**

London, Jul 15 — C.c. *Emil Nolde*, Port Said for Istanbul, passed Dardanelles east Jul 5.

**EVANS MCKEIL (Canada)**

Troy, Michigan, Jul 11 — Tug *Evans McKeil* (284 gt, built 1936), with the barge *Ocean Hauler*, reported running aground near Light 37 in the St. Clair River about 0405 yesterday. Light 37 is located near Robert's Landing, Mich, north of Algonac State Park and south of Marine City, Mich. and across from Port Lambton, Ontario. The barge hit several private docks and it was also reported that a new, 29-ft pleasure craft was also damaged. Early media reports from the area indicated that the master may have been away from the helm and thought he had the automatic pilot engaged when the grounding occurred. Unable to free itself, the *Evans McKeil* called for assistance. The tug *Menasha* departed Sarnia and arrived on the scene shortly after 1400. The McKeil

tug *Paul E. No.1* also arrived at roughly the same time. *Paul E. No.1* and *Menasha* freed the barge *Ocean Hauler* from the *Evans McKeil* and the *Paul E. No.1* then towed the *Ocean Hauler* to the brine dock in Courtright, returning to Robert's Landing about 1815 hrs. *Evans McKeil* lightered fuel into the *Menasha* and shifted ballast in order to raise the stern in an attempt to free itself along with the aid of the *Menasha*, all to no avail. When the *Paul E. No.1* returned to the scene, both tugs again secured tow lines to the *Evans McKeil* to attempt to move it. They just didn't have the power to break the suction, although it moved a small amount. The list on the *Evans McKeil* is about 10-15 degrees to starboard and the vessel is situated about 75-100 ft offshore. The *Evans McKeil* remained aground tonight in the St. Clair River. The Sarnia-based tug *Menasha* was on scene throughout much of the day conducting dive operations on the stranded tug. It is unknown when the tug will be refloated. The *Paul E. No.1* left the scene of the grounding today and was downbound on the Detroit River about 1900 hrs. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1315, UTC: Tug *Evans McKeil* is still aground.

Troy, Michigan, Jul 13 — Tug *Evans McKeil* was freed from its grounding mishap at Roberts Landing, Michigan at about 1245, yesterday afternoon. The vessel had been aground since about 0400, Saturday (Jul 10). Its barge had been released and towed to the brine dock in Courtright, Ontario, mid afternoon Saturday by the McKeil tug *Paul E. No.1*. The Gordon Marine tug *Menasha*, from Sarnia, returned to the area yesterday morning with a dive team to once again assess the hull of *Evans McKeil*. They were joined a short time later by the Malcolm Marine tug *Manitou* from Port Huron, Michigan. Also on scene was the Malcolm Marine workboat *Huron Lady* which was carrying additional crew and safety items including containment booms in the event of a spill. *Manitou* secured a towline to *Evans McKeil* directly astern, and was able to pull the grounded tug free at about 1245 with the very shallow draft *Huron Lady* alternately pushing and pulling the bow of *Evans McKeil*. All four vessels proceeded upriver, with the Malcolm vessels returning to Port Huron and *Evans McKeil* rejoining its barge at Courtright. *Menasha* also accompanied *Evans McKeil* to Courtright and rafted to its port side where it was expected that the Gordon Marine divers would once again enter the water to survey the hull of *Evans McKeil*. The tug was inspected yesterday and cleared to continue sailing. *Evans McKeil* and barge *Ocean Hauler* are expected to depart for Amherstburg, Ontario, about 0200, this morning. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The pilot of tug *Evans McKeil* that nearly destroyed three River Road boat docks and a cabin

cruiser early Saturday (Jul 10) has been cited for negligence, authorities said. Michael Green of St. Catharines, Ontario, could have prevented *Evans McKeil*, and its barge, *Ocean Hauler*, from running aground about two miles north of Algonac State Park off Roberts Landing, officials said. No one was injured. Officials said Green, who faces up to 92 days in jail and-or a \$500 fine, thought the tug was on autopilot when he left the wheel shortly before 0400, Saturday to use the bathroom. Green returned to find the tug and the empty 3,781-ton barge veering toward land. The barge was freed Saturday, but the tug was stuck aground until Monday afternoon. The accident, Berg said, was "absolutely preventable." "There were six passengers on board that vessel and they were all in the cabin," Berg said. "(Green) could have, in this situation, had someone relieve him in the wheel house."

**FE EN PESCA**

London, Jul 15 — Following navigation warning issued Jul 12: Fishing *Fe En Pesca* sunk at lat 44 50S, long 61 21W, unmarked.

**FIRST LIGHT (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1420, UTC: Fishing *First Light* has been towed to Fairhaven Shipyard for repairs.

**FLYING DOLPHIN IV (Greece)**

London, Jul 9 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the evening of Jul 8, hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin IV* (142 gt, built 1976) sustained damage to the seawater pump of the port main engine during departure from Hydra island, bound for Ermioni. The vessel returned to Hydra port where its departure was prohibited. The 57 passengers were forwarded to their destination on board another hydrofoil which left shortly after. The Hydra port authority permitted the vessel to sail this morning in order to proceed to Perama for repairs.

**G.L.227 (U.S.A.)**

See "Hurricane 'Isabel'" under "Weather & Navigation."

**GALILEO (Greece)**

Apapa-Lagos, Jul 9 — Bulk *Galileo*: After due consultations with the Nigerian Ports Authority, Apapa Port Police Station and outside third parties, we must conclude that such an incident as described in a press report by the PM News did not take place in Apapa port last week and therefore is untrue. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GECO SAPPHIRE (Panama)**

Gdynia, Jul 3 — Research *Geco Sapphire* is still in the repair yard at Gdynia. — Correspondent.

**GENMAR TRANSPORTER (Marshall Islands)**

London, Jul 8 — Understand crude oil tanker *GenMar Transporter* (77870 gt, built 1989), outbound, and crude oil

tanker *Cape Bowen* (81310 gt, built 2003), inbound, were in contact at Quanzhou today. (Note — *GenMar Transporter* arrived Singapore Jun 29 from Mina al Fahal and sailed same day for Quanzhou.)

London, Jul 9 — Crude oil tanker *GenMar Transporter* was reported to be at anchor in Quanzhou yesterday after a collision with Columbia Shipmanagement crude oil tanker *Cape Bowen*. According to a General Maritime statement, *GenMar Transporter* had discharged cargo and was leaving the port in ballast. *Cape Bowen*, which was entering the port, was in contact with *GenMar Transporter* around 1320, local time, as it was leaving the pilot pick-up area. *GenMar Transporter* was said to have sustained damage to the No.5 port cargo tank and No.6 port ballast tank. A "small sheen of oil" was reported on site. The condition and location of *Cape Bowen* was not immediately known.

#### **HERNES (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 9 — Bulk *Hernes* is currently reported to be still at Gdansk.

#### **HYUNDAI HARMONY (Panama)**

See CSCL *Qingdao*.

#### **JINGAN NO.6 (China)**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil leak from vessel *Jingan No.6*, which sunk after it was in collision with lpg *Saehan Galaxy* off the shore of northeast China's Lushun City last Thursday (Jul 8), has been brought under control, local maritime authorities said today. The leaked oil from the Chinese vessel formed a belt two to three nautical miles long and 200 metres wide, and the oil slick is floating in a sea area within a radius of three nautical miles, according to sources with the Maritime Affairs Bureau of Liaoning Province. Liaoning Provincial Maritime Salvage Centre and the Maritime Affairs Bureau of east China's Shandong Province jointly sent five vessels and a group of professionals to the accident site to clean up the oil using anti-oil agents and oil-absorbing belts. Experts with the local maritime affair bureau said that the leaked oil mainly included light oil, lubricating oil and oil-contaminated water from the cabin, and there was no possibility that there will be further oil leak. Liaoning Provincial Maritime Salvage Centre is still monitoring the sea area near the accident site and is well-prepared to take immediate steps to deal with any possible situation.

#### **KAMINESAN (Panama)**

London, Jul 12 — Crude oil tanker *Kaminesan* sailed Singapore 2135, Jul 8, bound Fujairah.

#### **KIRAN PACIFIC (Turkey)**

London, Jul 13 — Bulk *Kiran Pacific* arrived Hamburg 1051, Jul 12.

#### **KYUNG SUNG**

See *Unicorn Mariner*.

#### **LUCY BORCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 9 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jul 8, c.c. *Lucy Borchard*, with the assistance of strong winds in the area, refloated without assistance and was towed by tugs *Megas Alexandros* and *Kerveros* to a sheltered anchorage at the port of Vollisou Chios. While vessel was grounded the Coast Guard had taken all measures for the prevention of pollution including placing booms around the vessel. The Port Authority of Chios prohibited departure of the vessel pending issuance of a class maintain certificate.

Piraeus, Jul 14 — We were appointed as salvage contractors for c.c. *Lucy Borchard* under Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract signed Jul 7. The earlier reports that the vessel was refloated without assistance was incorrect. In fact, the vessel was refloated with the assistance of the two tugs, *Megas Alexandros* and *Kerveros*. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### **LUJIN-I (North Korea)**

Constantza, Jul 10 — As at Jun 30, general cargo *Lujin I* was still at Midia.

#### **LUKANDI (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 12 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Lukandi* (2914 gt, built 1996), Jelsa for the Netherlands, called at Stavanger with engine problems Jul 6. Vessel completed repairs Jul 10 and proceeded for Rotterdam, where ETA Jul 12.

#### **MARGARETHA (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 11 — C.c. *Margaretha* sailed from Hamburg at 2200, Jul 10, bound for St. Petersburg.

#### **MINI MOON (Honduras)**

Buenos Aires, Jul 12 — General cargo *Mini Moon* (1881 gt, built 1972), Bahia Blanca for Quequen, Necochea, loaded with about 2,700 tonnes of urea, has sunk about four nautical miles off San Cayetano coastal area — approximately 30-35 nautical miles south of the port of Quequen. Our local agents informed us that, of a total of 11 crew members, only one survived and he is currently hospitalised. Another four crew members' bodies were found and the other six men are still missing. Coast Guard personnel are currently searching by aircraft, vessels and shore patrols along the coast in order to find the missing six crewmen. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NAZEK T. (North Korea)**

Bucharest, Jul 9 — Refloating operations of general cargo *Nazek T.* have not commenced yet. However, on Jul 8 attempts were made to lift the vessel on its bottom, in order to facilitate refloating operations. First attempts have failed but hopefully further efforts, to be reportedly made as from tomorrow, Jul 10, will be successful. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NONA MARY (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jul 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Nona Mary* completed repairs and sailed from Perama port Jun 24, bound Lavrion. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **OCEAN PACIFIC I (Panama)**

See "Crew on Panamanian Vessel" under "Labour Disputes."

#### **ODIGITRIA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Jul 12 — Bulk *Odigitria* arrived at Durban Jul 9.

#### **OLYMPIC GALAXY (Greece)**

Colombo, Jul 14 — Bulk *Olympic Galaxy* (35417 gt, built 1982), loaded with 61,160 tons of wheat, in bulk, is reported to have grounded approximately two km from its discharge Jetty (Prima), within Trincomalee Bay and remains aground. The vessel is not leaking oil (bunkers), nor is there any danger of it doing so. A preliminary report by divers indicates that the vessel, a Panamax type bulker with double bottom, is sitting on a large rock that has punctured its bottom plating in way of No.1 starboard double bottom tank, resulting in a hole approximately two metres in diameter in the bottom plating together with indentation of adjacent plating. Perforation of the bottom is reported as limited to the No.1 starboard double bottom tank and the No.1 cargo hold is believed to be in tact with no water ingress, as far as can be established. We will be advised this evening when the lightening operation of the vessel/cargo will commence. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Olympic Galaxy* sailed Fremantle Jun 30 for Trincomalee.)

London, Jul 15 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to bulk *Olympic Galaxy* under Lloyd's Open Form by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Jul 15 — Following received from Tsavlis Salvage, timed 1210, UTC: Bulk *Olympic Galaxy* is still aground. About 5,000 tonnes of cargo has to be discharged before the vessel can be refloated. No pollution.

#### **P&O NEDLLOYD TARANAKI (U.K.)**

Sydney, Jul 15 — Ro/ro/c.c. *P&O Nedlloyd Taranaki* sailed Botany Bay Jul 2 for Melbourne, after completing repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PACIFIC HIGHWAY (Panama)**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Vehicle *Pacific Highway* (48039 gt, built 2000) struck the base of a tower on one of the bridges across San Francisco Bay on yesterday afternoon. No one was injured and damage was minimal when the vessel hit a support tower of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge around 1625, local time, according to Coast Guard spokeswoman Clare Maranda. The vessel was carrying a cargo of automobiles and apparently was avoiding a collision with a sail boat. Traffic was not interrupted and there was no major structural damage to either the bridge or the vessel, which went on to moor for inspection in Benicia.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco timed 0930, UTC: *Pacific Highway* was in contact with Richmond-San Rafael Bridge yesterday afternoon. Vessel sustained some damage and is now anchored at Benicia.

Oakland, Calif, Jul 13 — Vehicle *Pacific Highway*, Tacoma for Benicia, came into contact with a pylon of the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge on Jul 11, reportedly while attempting to avoid a sailing vessel. No damages were reported to have been sustained to the bridge with the exception of some damaged fender pilings. The vessel continued its voyage to Benicia for normal cargo operation but is scheduled to enter San Francisco Dry Dock today for repairs. — Nauticus Surveyors.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco, timed 1700, UTC: Vehicle *Pacific Highway* entered a dry dock in San Francisco yesterday, ETC for repairs unknown. (See issue of Jul 15.)

#### **PETIMATA OT RMS (Bulgaria)**

London, Jul 9 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1120, UTC: Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* (23363 gt, built 1979), Ventspils for Santos, cargo fertiliser, ran aground on sand in lat 55 12.4N, long 11 06.6E, this morning. No injuries or pollution. Vessel requires cargo discharge before refloating can take place. No tugs currently on scene.

London, Jul 10 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1510, UTC: Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* is still aground and it is not expected that the vessel will be refloated until Monday (Jul 12), at the earliest.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* is still aground. No pollution reported. Divers are still carrying out inspections and cargo discharge is required.

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1320, UTC: Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* is still aground. Cargo discharge is taking longer than anticipated due to the angle the vessel grounded.

London, Jul 15 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0855, UTC: Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* is still aground. Cargo discharge is expected to continue for another 10 to 12 hours, then a refloating attempt is expected to be made.

#### **PONGOLA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Beira, Jul 9 — General cargo *Pongola* remains grounded. Despite refloating attempts, no progress has been achieved. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 9 — Following received from Subtech Salvage (Pty) Ltd, dated today: General cargo *Pongola*: Following the award of the LOF 2000 salvage contract to salvors, Subtech Salvage (Pty) Ltd, good progress has been achieved. The vessel has been turned into deeper water, to minimise risk of bottom damage. Due to the decreasing depth of water after spring tides, it has become necessary to lighten the vessel by the removal of cargo and bunkers and this will commence at

noon, tomorrow. The tug *Toto* and cargo barge *Archimedes* have been engaged to receive lightened cargo and bunkers.

Beira, Jul 13 — General cargo *Pongola* refloated at 1213, Jul 12 and came alongside its berth at 1436 hrs. The grounding is reported to have been caused by the bad weather experienced while the vessel was in the access channel coming to berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: General cargo *Pongola*, which ran aground at Beira entrance channel, was refloated yesterday, a report in today's issue of the Maputo daily paper Noticias said. The director of the National Maritime Administration and Inspection Services (SAFMAR), Atanasio Francisco, said that the operation involved lightening the vessel by unloading 58 of the 317 containers that it was carrying, totalling about 8,000 tonnes, and the use of a South African tug. The vessel ran aground about a week ago, while trying to moor at Beira, coming from the port of Durban. It is now safely moored at Beira, where it is to be inspected before it proceeds. "The vessel was stuck for a week, during which time many attempts were made to remove it, and it is now imperative to inspect it to ensure that the crew will be safe," said Francisco. As a result of this incident, and recalling that it was not the first such case, Mozambican Transport Minister Tomas Salomao visited Beira port, and acknowledged that the access channel has been posing some problems to shipping. Salomao instructed the port authorities to improve the marking of the channel to ensure greater safety for vessels. For further improvements, the Beira port authorities are working to dredge both the natural and the artificial access channels.

#### **PRINCESS OF THE PACIFIC (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 14 — Salvors, Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp, are still attempting to release ro/ro *Princess of the Pacific*. Capt. Edgardo Gualbero, Malayan Towage CEO, said that they were in the process of patching up the various fractures in the hull after which the flooded sections would be pumped out. He estimated that it would take at least five more days to refloat the vessel. "The owners are still deciding where the vessel will be towed, although the nearest safe port would be Cebu," he said. Salvage work is being performed by salvage tugs *Monarch* and *Limay* as well as a salvage barge. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **SAEHAN GALAXY (South Korea)**

See *Jingan No.6*

#### **SAGA JANDAIA (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 12 — General cargo *Saga Jandaia* arrived Long Beach Jul 10.

#### **SAND HARRIER (U.K.)**

Falmouth, Jul 13 — Sand suction dredger *Sand Harrier* completed repairs and sea trials and departed at 0825, Jul 10 for Southampton. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAVA OCEAN (Bahamas)**

London, Jul 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0825, UTC: General cargo *Sava Ocean*, C6TC5, (2026 gt, built 1993) grounded approximately 3.5 nautical miles from Thessaloniki port at 0500, local time, today. Vessel is still aground with tugs *Pantokrator* and *Efstratios* in attendance. A diver is to inspect vessel's bottom before refloating attempts made.

#### **SEABULK PENGUIN I (Marshall Islands)**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A second man has died following an explosion on anchor handling tug/supply *Seabulk Penguin I* in the Walvis Bay harbour on Sunday (Jul 4). He succumbed to his burn wounds at the Roman Catholic Hospital in the early hours of yesterday morning. He was one of four men doing maintenance work on *Seabulk Penguin I* at the time of the incident. Yesterday their employer, Wesco Salvage, said the men were spray-painting a tank in the forepeak of the vessel when the blast occurred. The company dismissed police reports that a gas bottle or welding equipment had caused the explosion. Anton Pretorius said that an airless spray was used in paintwork and that while the exact cause of the blast was unknown at this stage, it was suspected that it could have been triggered by the fumes or solvents from the paint. He said there were no other flammable substances in the vicinity at the time. Two of the men working in the tank managed to climb out of the vessel after the incident, while the pair in the store-room had to be rescued by emergency workers. One died on the spot the other is being hospitalised in the Roman Catholic Hospital in Windhoek suffered serious burns but is reported to be in a stable condition. His co-worker is recovering in the Welwitschia Hospital at Walvis Bay. Pretorius said that vessel would still be subject to repair work for another five days. He said the explosion had only caused minor damage to the tug. Wesco Salvage is now consulting with NamPort to put standard procedures in place in an effort to prevent similar accidents from recurring.

#### **SOU MENLINNA III**

Gothenburg, Jul 9 — Ferry *Soumenlinna III* (built 2004), length 33 metres, on service between Helsinki and the island of Sveaborg, had blackout and drifted lightly aground outside Helsinki Jul 5. The ferry was pulled off by a Coast Guard vessel and found to have not sustained serious damage. — Westax Marine AB.

#### **SOUTHGATE (Liberia)**

Ponta Delgada, Jul 14 — Bulk *Southgate* (15274 gt, built 1982) arrived and berthed alongside the quay, inner Ponta Delgada port, Jul 13 for repairs to main engine damage. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Southgate*, Callao for Aviles, was last reported to have passed Panama Canal Jun 21.)

**SPIRIT OF VANCOUVER ISLAND (Canada)**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: There could be longer-than-usual delays on the Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay ferry run for the next couple of days because of a mechanical problem. Ro/ro *Spirit of Vancouver Island* (18747 gt, built 1994) has been taken out of service after springing a hydraulic oil leak. The ferry is expected to be out of service for several days while repairs are made. The smaller *Queen of Saanich* will fill in, starting with the 1500 hrs sailing this afternoon from the Swartz Bay terminal. That means sailings at 1400 hrs and 1800 hrs from Swartz Bay have been cancelled, as well as the 1600 hrs sailing from Tsawwassen. There are no sailing cancellations scheduled for tomorrow, but B.C. Ferries warns there could be some delays at peak times because of *Queen of Saanich's* smaller capacity.

**STENA NAUTICA (Sweden)**

Gdynia, Jul 3 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Nautica* is still repairing at Gdansk. — Correspondent.

**STENA SHIPPER (U.K.)**

London, Jul 9 — Ro/ro *Stena Shipper* arrived at Frederikshavn Jul 7.

**STINICE (Croatia)**

Palermo, Jul 8 — Chemical/oil carrier *Stinice* is expected to arrive Palermo Jul 10-11. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 9 — Chemical/oil carrier *Stinice* departed from Constantza on Jul 8.

**SUNG KYUNG 201 (South Korea)**

Montevideo, Jul 13 — Fishing *Sung Kyung 201* remains at Montevideo. The vessel sustained damage to the ceiling of No.3 generator room, however, for the moment, only cleaning works will be performed, repairs will commence in October. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TIRELESS (Marshall Islands)**

Antananarivo, Jul 9 — Chem.tank *Tireless* sailed Jul 6 for Durban. General cargo *Dong Hua Men* is still at the quay, discharging cement. Surveys have been carried out by surveyors from the P&I Club and Classification Society. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TUVAQ (Canada)**

London, Jul 8 — On Jul 6 a 15ft x 7ft x 2ft deep indentation was found in the hull, amidship, near the waterline of product tanker *Tuvaq* (11290 gt, built 1977), in lat 63 44N, long 68 31W, Frobisher Bay. No breach of hull integrity. Ice damage suspected. The vessel is to depart for a southern port to effect repairs.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Tuvaq*, carrying gasoline, diesel and jet fuel is sitting in Frobisher Bay this morning with a damaged hull. *Tuvaq* is undergoing an inspection to determine if it's safe for the ship to return to St. John's for repairs. Workers noticed the damage as they were unloading the vessel Tuesday evening (Jul 6). Dennis

White, the general manager with the Woodward Group of Companies which owns the vessel, says sea ice is the likely culprit. "We don't know for sure how it happened," he says. "We checked and the vessel did encounter some first-year ice en route to Iqaluit. And we feel that somewhere along the route to Iqaluit, the ice caused damage to the vessel." Damage to the vessel is estimated at about \$20,000. The damage is to the mid-section of a water-ballast tank. Transport Canada has confirmed there's no threat to wildlife or the environment at this time. "There's a pierce in the outside hull," says Wendy Bonvie, a spokesperson with the Canadian Coast Guard. "It's double-hulled, so if the inside hull is not damaged, then nothing will leak." The vessel's owners say they are confident *Tuvaq* will be able to make the return journey safely. They say to minimise further risk of ruptures, they will make adjustments so the damage is above water level.

**UNICORN MARINER (Panama)**

Incheon, Jul 12 — General cargo *Unicorn Mariner* (2854 gt, built 1991), bound Incheon with some 2,752.133 tonnes of PKE, was in collision with tug *Kyung Sung*, Incheon for Busan towing a barge laden with steel, in approximately lat 37 05 06N, long 126 16 34.6E, at about 1223, Jul 8. *Unicorn Mariner* sustained bow damage. *Kyung Sung* sank at the scene, resulting in oil pollution. Four crew members were reportedly injured. *Unicorn Mariner* is currently at Incheon to load cargo. Temporary repairs to the bow area were carried out at the Class surveyor's recommendation, and permanent repairs have been deferred to a time and place convenient to the vessel's owners. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**VASSILIOS XVIII (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jul 13 — Asphalt tanker *Vassilios XVIII* (1471 gt, built 1977), Agioi Theodoroi for Amfilochia, loaded with a consignment of various petroleum products, stranded in shallow waters north of Chephalos island on Jul 10. There were no reported injuries to the vessels eleven crew members. The vessel was refloated later on the same day with assistance of tug *Thiela* and was towed to Amfilochia port. No pollution or damages were reported. After an inspection by the relative port authorities the vessel sailed Jul 12, with a destination of Agioi Theodoroi. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VENTURE SPIRIT (Hong Kong)**

See "Iraq" under "Political & Civil Unrest."

**VENUS (Lebanon)**

Leghorn, Jul 13 — The dismantling of general cargo *Venus* is proceeding satisfactorily and is in hand. It is expected that the wreck will be totally removed by the end of July. — Lloyd's Agents.

**WARWICK (Singapore)**

Salvador, Jul 15 — Lpg *Warwick* (5953 gt, built 1996) grounded close to

Santarem port at 0400, local time, Jul 10. The vessel is still aground and pending authorisation from the Port Authority, refloating attempts will be made today. — Lloyd's Agents.

**YANKCANUCK (Canada)**

Montreal, Jul 8 — The shore crane was overloaded when it boomed down during loading a container on general cargo *Yankcanuck*. As a result, the crane overturned against the vessel's bulwarks. It was a 225-ton crawler with a long boom. No injuries and very minor indents to the vessel. No repairs required to the vessel. The damaged cargo and crane boom were removed ashore. The crane was removed from the area. The vessel completed loading and sailed at 0300, Jul 7 for Voisey's Bay in Labrador. The shore crane is heavily damaged. The vessel is chartered for the season to carry construction material from Becancour to Voisey's Bay to construct the new nickel mine for INCO. — Lloyd's Agents.

**YU BAO NO.1 (Taiwan)**

See *Yuh Pao No.1*.

**YUH PAO NO.1 (Taiwan)**

Suva, Jul 13 — Fishing *Yuh Pao No.1*, not *Yu Bao No.1* as before reported, is still aground and no salvage attempt has been made by the owners. It has been reported that the master has abandoned the vessel after removing most of the navigational aids and engine parts, etc. However, according to a marine surveyor, the vessel can be salvaged from the reef. A local salvage company — Seamech Limited — has expressed an interest in refloating the vessel and towing it to Suva Harbour, at a cost of F\$100,000. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ZIM PIRAEUS (Greece)**

Leghorn, Jul 12 — C.c. *Zim Piraeus* (53450 gt, built 2004), Piraeus for Leghorn with containers, stranded in way of the south entrance of Dock 78 while entering Leghorn with a pilot on board at 1650, local time, Jul 11. A south-west wind of about 17 knots was blowing at the time. The vessel was refloated at 1940 same day with the assistance of six tugs and taking advantage of the high tide. *Zim Piraeus* subsequently berthed safely inside the port. — Lloyd's Agents.

Leghorn, Jul 13 — Examinations of c.c. *Zim Piraeus* have been carried out and no apparent damage has been reported. The vessel is presently in Leghorn roads awaiting orders. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ACCORD (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Chittagong, Jul 7 — General cargo *Accord* is still under attachment and



beached at Shah Amanat beaching yard, Chittagong, where arrived Jul 20, 2001. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AL BIRUNI (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — General cargo *Al Biruni* remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AL IDRISI (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — General cargo *Al Idrisi* remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BOA KING (Cayman Islands)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — Tug/supply *Boa King* (2655 gt, built 2001) remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BROTHER BACHI (Mongolia)**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: A Malaysian ship charterer is seeking the government's help to free product tanker *Brother Bachi* (599 gt, built 1980), detained in Indonesian waters since May 29 for alleged pollution. Millennium Navigation Sdn Bhd reported that the arrest of the vessel has caused the loss of a chartering contract made on May 28 and may lead to legal action against the company as it had failed to fulfill obligations to load palm oil at Pasir Gudang on May 31 to be shipped to Thailand. The vessel and its 12 Chinese and Indonesian crewmen are now being held at the Batam Naval Base. According to Dan Gibas, director of Sonok Ltd (UK), whose company is representing Millennium Navigation, the Indonesian authorities have declined to free the vessel despite several attempts at negotiation. He said he had a meeting with the navy on Jul 6 over the release of the vessel but was unsuccessful. "Our checks revealed that the vessel did not discharge any waste in Indonesian waters. It conducted cleaning of the tank within the vessel. However, it may have made a mistake of stopping in Indonesian waters without permission to carry out internal cleaning of the tanker," said Gibas. He said the Indonesian authorities claimed that they had arrested the vessel and crew under MARPOL regulations. "We are seeking exemption from the international regulation as it is a vegetable oil carrier." Gibas said so far, the Indonesian authorities have not charged the master for the alleged offence. "The Consul at the embassy for the Peoples Republic of China in Indonesia has also made several appeals to its Indonesian counterparts but with no success. We are also seeking legal redress on the matter," said Gibas. He said they were asking the Malaysian government's help to speak to their Indonesian counterparts to free the vessel.

#### **CAP ANAMUR (Germany)**

See under "Miscellaneous."

#### **CLEOPATRA SKY**

Brest, Jul 1 — General cargo *Cleopatra Sky* is still laid up at Brest. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EUROPEAN STARS (Italy)**

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

#### **FESTIVAL CRUISES INC**

Barcelona, Jul 12 — Passenger *European Stars* sailed Barcelona Jul 11, bound Marseilles. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MAHMOUD I (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Jul 7 — General cargo *Mahmoud I* is still under seizure at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ONYX (India)**

Mumbai, Jul 6 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Onyx*, docked alongside at NP Dock, Mumbai, is still under arrest by the Indian Customs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PISHVA (Iran)**

Abu Dhabi, Jul 12 — Ro/ro *Pishva* is still under arrest at Abu Dhabi. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **REMBRANDT (Bahamas)**

Gibraltar, Jul 13 — Passenger *Rembrandt* arrived Gibraltar Jul 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SALEM FOUR**

##### **(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — General cargo *Salem Four* is still under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SALEM TWO (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — General cargo *Salem Two*, renamed *G.H.M.T.*, remains at the port of Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAMURAY (Turkey)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — General cargo *Samuray* remains sunk at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)**

Trieste, Jul 13 — Ro/ro *Sea Serenade* left Trieste port in tow of tug *Resolut*. New owners are Four Seasons Cruise Ltd, South Korea. Sale/date of transfer according to court decree Jun 8. Understood it will stay in Izola Shipyard for one month. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEMELI**

##### **(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Ferrol, Jul 9 — General cargo *Semeli* was taken in tow yesterday by tug *Brucoli* bound to Aliaga, Turkey. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SKANDI PMS 2 (Cayman Islands)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — Tug/supply *Skandi PMS 2* remains at the port of Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SKANDI PMS I (Cayman Islands)**

Alexandria, Jul 12 — Firefighting tug/supply *Skandi PMS I* remains at the port of Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TAI PING QUAN (China)**

London, Jul 13 — General cargo *Tai Ping Quan* remains at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

#### **WORLD DISCOVERER (Bahamas)**

London, Jul 12 — Passenger *World Discoverer* arrived Singapore 1407, Jul 8.

#### **YOUSEF (Panama)**

Beirut, Jul 7 — Ref *Yousef* is still under seizure at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Pipeline Accidents



#### **AL-ASKARI DISTRICT, IRAQ**

See "Iraq" under "Political & Civil Unrest."

## Pollution



#### **BALIKPAPAN, INDONESIA**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: State oil and gas company PT Pertamina has joined hands with 15 other companies to clean up an oil spill on the east coast of Balikpapan. The oil spill happened two weeks ago, and it is expected that the sludge, which has covered waters off the city, could be cleaned up within four days, said Sofyan A.S, a senior official at Balikpapan Environmental Impact Management Agency, yesterday. Some 150 people have been deployed every day since last week to shovel the sludge into sacks and dispose of it at an undisclosed location for reprocessing, said Sofyan.

#### **BRITTANY, FRANCE**

Brest, Jul 13 — Bulk *Captain Diamantis* was suspected by a French Navy aircraft of polluting the sea off Brittany and was subsequently ordered to divert towards Brest. The master of the vessel refused to comply and it pursued its voyage to Jorf Lasfar. The illicit rejection was recorded in a statement together with a set of photographs taken by the aircraft. Legal actions are now due to be taken against the vessel by the Court of Brest. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PORT RIVER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Submarine Corporation says there has been no damage to the marine life in the Port River in Adelaide after a spill involving a submarine last night. It was thought oil had spilled from HMAS *Farncomb* but at first light it was discovered the pollution was not oil but diesel soot that had built up in the submarine's mufflers and was released when the engines were restarted after several weeks idle. Department of Transport workers and the Metropolitan Fire Service worked to

contain the spill, after being alerted by the corporation. Corporation spokeswoman Jayne Correll says the soot does not pose a threat to water life. "Transport SA Marine Division and the Environment Protection Authority came down this morning and the river's been given a clean bill of health," she said. "It's a completely normal part of the submarine process and there's been absolutely no effect on marine life at all."

#### YELLOW RIVER, CHINA

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The most serious pollution in the Baotou section of the Yellow River since 1949 has killed about 40,000 to 45,000 kilograms of fish, local officials said yesterday. From Jun 29 through Jul 1, about 1 million cubic metres of wastewater poured into the Yellow River, said Ha Lun, an Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region's Environment Protection Bureau official. The heavy pollution spanned about 50 kilometres long, the official said, causing a noxious odour and turning the water black. The Baotou city water supply office closed the Yellow River Water Factory and provided citizens reservoir water. That lasted through Jul 3. The pollution also influenced the Ordos and Hohhot sections of the Yellow River, said Liu Wei, an official from the Fishery Supervision Bureau of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. According to an investigation by the regional environmental protection department, two paper companies' draining sewage into the Yellow River caused the pollution, Ha said. The two companies, "SaiwaixinHuazhang" Paper Co Ltd and the "Meilibei Cheng" Pulp Co Ltd, have been shut down, Ha said. The breeding period for the Yellow River's fish is from May to July, and the incident is a serious disaster for the Baotou segment of the River, said an official from the Baotou Fishery Supervision Station. Nearly all of the shrimp have died, and the death rate for wild fish such as Yellow River carp and Yellow River catfish has reached 70 to 80 per cent, and about 20 to 30 per cent of other kinds of fish have died, the official said. The fish resources will likely resume to their original levels in about two or three years, experts said.



#### CANADA

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Severe hail and rain battered parts of Edmonton today, flooding basements and streets and forcing the evacuation of the world's largest shopping mall. Water was ankle-deep in parts of the West Edmonton Mall as second floor pipes burst, causing officials to shut the mall. Thousands of people streamed out into a flooded parking lot, where the water rose as high as waist level.

The mall's NHL-sized ice rink and indoor amusement park were flooded as sections of the roof ripped open. Witnesses inside the mall said they saw a waterfall flowing from the centre's second level. Some streets in the city were impassable as dozens of people waded through knee-deep water.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage was estimated in the tens of millions of dollars today, the day after a severe hailstorm punched holes in and flooded parts of Canada's largest shopping complex - West Edmonton Mall. The clean-up also continued today throughout the city in the wake of a storm that swamped roads, basements and cars with up to 150 millimetres of rain. Mall officials blamed sewer back-ups for the flooding that dumped raw sewage into attractions such as the waterpark, ice rink and other attractions. Mark Holik, the mall's chief of security, estimated damage costs would run in the tens of millions of dollars. He also refuted claims that part of the mall's roof collapsed and defended how his staff handled the evacuation. Elsewhere, hundreds of people in the city's west end worked to clean out flooded basements. City crews worked to repair roads that were damaged by the downpour. Stormy weather also spawned funnel clouds north of the city and a tornado to the east that tore roofs off buildings. Heavy rains have saturated Edmonton for more than a week and in northern Alberta spawned a tornado that damaged buildings in downtown Grande Prairie Thursday (Jul 8).

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A brutal weekend (Jul 10/11) storm that pushed city damage estimates into the millions left Edmonton drainage systems at the mercy of Mother Nature, city officials said. Early estimates after last week's flooding pegged city cleanup costs at about \$1 million. But after Sunday's downpour, city spokesman David Schneider said it will take a few weeks before city staff can accurately estimate the full repair tab for drainage systems and roads. "Certainly, the damage from all of the storms will easily be in the millions of dollars," Schneider said. By yesterday morning, the city had received reports of about 520 flooded basements, 150 overflowing catch basins and 75 manhole covers that popped off due to pressure, said city drainage operations director Andy Bowen. Two of the city's 68 pumping stations, at Laurier Heights and Castledowns, overflowed, Bowen said. Some pipes in south-west Edmonton were also damaged, he added. Crews were assessing rain-ravaged roads yesterday, cleaning up debris and using winter equipment to plow away hail in some spots, said roadway maintenance spokesman Lloyd Meyer. City 911 operators were inundated with about 130 phone calls every half-hour during the fierce storm, said emergency management officer Staff Sgt. Mike Cook.

#### CHINA

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A severe rainstorm left houses collapsed and flights cancelled in Beijing. In just a few hours late on Saturday (Jul 10), 73 mm of rain hit the downtown area, forcing traffic to a halt and causing severe congestion in key parts of the city, Xinhua reported. By 2130 hrs, more than 200 flights scheduled to leave from Beijing International Airport had been delayed. Six houses collapsed, and two people were injured when the freak weather toppled a power pole.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A thunderstorm killed at least seven people and wounded dozens of others early yesterday evening across Shanghai. The storm also damaged nearly 200 houses and caused a power blackout affecting a large area in the city's northwest. An advertisement supervisor who was working near an exhibition platform for the Shanghai International Race Festival 2004 died after the 400-square-meter platform in the city's Pudong area collapsed during the thunderstorm. Two employees from the advertisement company and three construction workers were also injured in the accident at about 1900, last night. They were sent to the nearby Shanghai East Hospital. The supervisor was pronounced dead on arrival from suffocation, while the other five injured workers are still hospitalized but out of danger, said Liu Zhongming, director of the East Hospital. A gantry crane at a construction site on Cao'an Road was blown down by the storm, killing one and injuring two after crashing more than 50 houses. The storm also killed at least one person and injured more than a dozen others in the Xinjing area of Changning District and Huachao area of Minhang District. More than 130 houses and construction sheds in the two areas were badly damaged by the storm. Meanwhile, Qingpu and Putuo districts each reported one death due to the storm. The heavy, albeit short, thunderstorm also caused some problems for local air traffic. Take-offs and landings were suspended for 15 minutes at the city's southwestern Hongqiao Airport when the heavy rain poured down. The showers didn't affect flights at Pudong International Airport. The city has been suffering from a scorching hot weather that has left Shanghai feeling like a giant steam bath since last Saturday. The hot weather will stick around until at least Friday (Jul 16), local meteorologists forecast yesterday. The ongoing heat wave has pushed demand for power to the highest level in the city history as residents crank up their air conditioners in an effort to cool down. Demand topped 14.28 million kilowatts during the busiest hours yesterday, 670,000 kw more than the biggest demand last year when power shortages caused blackouts and forced many companies to reschedule production away from peak hours, according to Shanghai Electric Power Co. So far there have been no major problems reported with the city's power

grid and no rationing of power use has been enforced. But power authorities are concerned that a prolonged heat wave could create big problems. Local power plants were running at peak capacity yesterday and additional power was bought from other provinces. The hot weather prompted another 3,000 enterprises to give their employees extra holidays, about a week in general, starting this week to reduce the demand for power. About 1,200 enterprises have already shifted production to night hours to avoid peak load times during the day. Another 300 enterprises could be forced to stop production if the power grid is overloaded. Some construction sites for projects considered non-essential have been ordered to shut down as of yesterday.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people died and more than 25 were injured in Shanghai in a storm on Monday (Jul 12) night. Premier Wen Jiabao called the city's Party Secretary Chen Liangyu yesterday, sending his condolence and asking the city to do its best to minimize the consequences of the weather. Technicians worked across the city yesterday to restore power to about 60 places blacked out by the storm. All supplies were restored by 1400 hrs. On the Huangpu River near the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, divers laid cables across a cargo ship that sank after a collision in the storm. Salvage work is expected to last another two to three days, but predicted bad weather for the following days may hold up the process, the local Maritime Safety Administration said. Another storm hit parts of the city last night, but no injuries were reported. A yellow storm alert issued at 1800 hrs was lifted two hours later. Suburban areas including Qingpu and Minhang districts, as well as Chongming County were affected by the storm for about 20 minutes from about 1600 hrs. The ship that sank in the Huangpu was loaded with sand when it was caught in the storm on Monday night. Winds reached 88 kilometers an hour. The ship had struggled to evade a 3,000-ton empty ship that ran transversely toward it in the heavy rain from the upper reach. After the collision, the ship sank in minutes. All six crew members managed to jump overboard and were rescued.

Maritime Safety Administration spokesman Zhou Zhengbao said shipping in the river had been considerably affected because the waterway where the ship went down is rather narrow. "We have sent two patrol ships and have two hired salvage boats at the scene," he said. "They are directing traffic on the site while making preparation for the lift-up of the sunken ship." Two large warships from Jiangnan Shipyard Co Ltd successfully passed the area, escorted by a maritime cruise ship yesterday, officials said. The river 1,000 meters upstream and downstream from the accident site is restricted to one-way traffic to provide space for the salvage work. The plan is for workers to remove silt and sand

from the sunken vessel to reduce its weight before towing it to an anchorage ground near Lujiuzui, officials said.

#### HURRICANE "ISABEL"

London, Jul 15 — Titan Salvage reports: Hopper barge *G.L.227*, 4750 dwt (2368b gt, built 1962), blew free from its moorings during Hurricane "Isabel" (September, 2003) and sunk adjacent to the north island of the Monitor Merrimac Bridge Tunnel in Newport News, Virginia. A Titan team, with the use of a locally procured crane barge, worked throughout the month of May and into early June to cut up and completely remove the barge.

#### JAPAN

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people have died and thousands have been ordered to evacuate after heavy rains caused flooding north of the Japanese capital Tokyo. Victims were drowned or trapped under landslides, which covered their homes in Niigata prefecture, according to local officials. More than 400 mm of rain have fallen in the region since Monday (Jul 12) night, and more is feared. Local authorities have requested military help in the rescue operation. Residents have been seen shovelling mud out of their homes, and many roads remain blocked. Some were said to be choked by falling telephone poles and trees. Japan's Meteorological Agency said more heavy rain was likely. The rain has already broken records for the Niigata region.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Torrential rains and flooding in northern Japan killed at least six people, injured several more and forced nearly 20,000 others to evacuate to higher ground, officials said today. Four people were missing. At the epicentre of the flooding, in Tochio, 135 miles north-west of Tokyo, 17 inches of rain had fallen in two days. Authorities broadened an evacuation order to 19,788 households late today, mostly in the city of Sanjo, north of Tochio. Some 22,300 homes had been flooded, including 14,760 in Sanjo, where the fast-flowing waters of the Ikarashi River broke through a stone-and-dirt embankment in several areas. Dozens of schools were closed. The Self-Defence Forces dispatched some 300 troops to help with rescue and cleanup, while military helicopters airlifted about 451 people from the rooftops of homes and schools, public broadcaster NHK reported. More than 4,000 homes were still without power as of late today, and many were without telephone service after underground connections were severed, said Tohoku Electric Power Co. spokesman Junji Ishiguro. Officials said an estimate of the flooding damage hadn't been tallied yet. In areas where the waters had receded, people swept thick mud from sidewalks and streets and cleared waterlogged and mucky clothes and furniture from their homes.

#### KENYA

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki has declared a national disaster in drought-stricken parts of the country, calling for nearly \$US100 million in emergency aid from abroad to feed about 3.3 million Kenyans facing food shortages. Widespread crop failures from the Rift Valley in central Kenya to the Indian Ocean coast mean the country will need an estimated 156,000 metric tons of food aid in the next six months, Mr Kibaki told diplomats and reporters. Large swaths of Kenya periodically experience droughts, and the country last faced a severe food shortage after below average rainfall during 2000 and 2001. Mr Kibaki said Kenya would need about \$US76 million in food aid from abroad to get through the latest drought. "My Government is appealing to all our friends to come forward with assistance to support our national efforts," he said. An additional \$US32 million would be required to ensure adequate water supplies and proper sanitation, health and education services for those affected by the drought, Mr Kibaki said. A report by UN, Kenyan and international aid officials obtained by The Associated Press said 1.8 million Kenyans were in need of food aid in the next six months. Mr Kibaki did not say why the Government's own estimates were significantly higher, but did warn the country might face even greater food shortages if the next rainy season failed. "If the short rains expected in October-December fail, the country will experience a more severe food shortage, and up to 4.3 million Kenyans - including 1.5 million school children - will require food assistance for another six months," Mr Kibaki said.

#### NEPAL

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Incessant rains in the past few days have claimed at least seven lives and disrupted normal life in parts of eastern and southern Nepal, government officials and media said today. Four people were killed yesterday after a boat capsized in the Rapti river in Dang district in western Nepal, while two others died in floods in Rautahat in the south. On Wednesday (Jul 7), floods killed a 48-year old man in Udaypur district after he was swept away by the swollen Tawa River in Udayapur district, southeast of the capital, police said. Flooding after three days of heavy rains had inundated at least 45 villages, including the Rautahat district headquarters of Gaur, news reports said. Media reports today said normal life in most parts of south-eastern Nepal was disrupted as flooding was reported across thousands of hectares of agricultural land in several districts. According to media and government reports, transportation came to a halt in many areas and the electricity supply in some areas was cut off as power poles were swept away in the floods. In the south-eastern district of Janakpur, hundreds of houses were underwater and transportation

services, including the country's only rail service, were suspended because of incessant rains. Officials said the rains also triggered landslides along the country's main road linking the Kathmandu Valley with southern Nepal. The flow of traffic on the road has been slow and painstaking. Full details of the devastation were still not available and authorities feared the death toll and loss of property could be much higher than presently estimated.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding caused by a week of monsoon rains have left 46 dead, forced tens of thousands of villagers from their homes and damaged crops across Nepal, relief officials have said. The rains also triggered landslides that caused deaths and damaged many roads in the mountain kingdom. Floodwaters swept away 11 people in the Makawanpur district, about 60 kilometres south of Kathmandu, while the Sarlahi district, further to the south, reported 10 deaths from landslides. Two main roads linking the capital with cities in the south and west of the country were washed away and officials said it will be a few days before repairs can be completed. Weather grounded most domestic flights across Nepal yesterday, but in Kathmandu officials expressed hope the situation would improve in two days. While the rest of the country is wet and inundated, the Doti district in far western Nepal is facing a severe drought that has driven local farmers to temples to pray for rain, reports from the region said.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: At least six persons died in floods and landslides in Ramechhap, Siraha and Khotang districts of Nepal yesterday. According to local media reports, in Ramechhap two persons lost their lives Saturday (Jul 10) night when a landslide swept away their home in Salle village. Similarly, two deaths were reported in the Bhuji area of the same district. Electricity supply in Manthali, the district headquarters, remains disrupted for the last three days due to heavy rainfall causing damages to transformers, the reports further said. In Siraha's Bishnupurkatti, one villager was found dead on the banks of Dungdunge Khola Sunday. The area is severely affected by floods. Likewise, reports from Khotang said a 12-year-old child was killed by a landslide in Hatosima village. Meanwhile, the Banepa-Bardibas highway remains blocked due to landslides in over 22 different places.

#### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jul 11 — Lightning has killed four people in Romania during storms that destroyed 400 houses, left dozens of towns and villages isolated and knocked down power and telecommunication lines. The four people were struck by lightning while caught by the storms in fields in central, north and north-eastern Romania. Strong winds, thunder, heavy rain and hailstones followed a week of temperatures up to 37 deg Celsius.

Around 280 villages and towns were left without electricity yesterday, with work continuing to restore power lines in 140 villages, the Public Administration ministry said. Authorities said 4,600 hectares of agricultural land were destroyed by hailstones. The Public Administration ministry warned there was a danger of floods, with rivers likely to swell after the heavy rains. — Reuters.

#### RUSSIA

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Heavy rains that hit the Crimea today caused big mudslides in the mountains. According to the Emergencies Ministry, one such mudslide destroyed a power line to Gurzuf, paralysing trolleybus traffic between Alushta and Yalta for several hours. The road to port of Artek was blocked with rocks.

#### SOUTH AMERICA

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Winter storms have violently struck several South American countries in recent days, leading to eight weather-related deaths in Argentina and Chile, thousands of dead farm animals in Peru and record low freezing temperatures in southern Brazil. In Argentina, where temperatures reached minus 11 degrees Celsius in Tierra del Fuego, in the extreme south, six people died over the weekend. One construction worker died of hypothermia and an elderly man was found dead in a park. Two couples, in separate incidents, were killed by gas poisoning when they left their stoves on to heat up their homes. Heavy snow and rain in southern Peru left 53 people homeless and damaged thousands of houses. Peruvian authorities have dispatched 34 tonnes of shelter material to affected areas and medicine to treat children who live in high altitudes and suffer from pulmonary problems exacerbated by the poor weather. Helicopters have been dropping food and clothing in isolated villages of the Andean nation. The weather has also killed more than 75,000 farm animals, including cows, sheep and llamas, the Peruvian Agriculture Ministry said. In Chile, two people died Monday as rain and 70-kilometre an hour winds swept through the southern part of the country. Rescuers were put on alert to assist people who might lose their homes due to the weather. A 44-year-old man died of hypothermia in the coastal town of Concepcion, where temperatures dropped to near freezing. A second man died electrocuted by street light cables. Two weeks ago, winter weather claimed four lives in Chile, while floods damaged thousands of homes. Paraguayan authorities sent children home from school as they brace for freezing temperatures forecast for this week, while in Uruguay shelters for the homeless have been set up.

#### SOUTH ASIA

Dhaka, Jul 11 — Incessant rain swelled flood waters that have covered large areas of Bangladesh, hampering efforts today to rescue three million

people marooned by rising waters and raising the death toll to 13. Two children died after they were bitten by snakes floating in the roiling waters in northern Kurigram area, officials said. The northeastern town of Sylhet at the centre of the worst-hit district lay under 60 cms of water and neighbouring Sunamganj district was inundated by the Surma and Kushiara rivers, local officials said. Road links between Sylhet and Sunamganj were severed and the railway between Sylhet and Akhaura was threatened by the floods. More rain was forecast in the next few days and could flood areas around the capital, Dhaka, weather officials said. Floods now covered nearly 20 of the 64 administrative districts of Bangladesh, leaving up to three million people marooned, disaster management officials said. Thousands of families had sought refuge on roads and embankments as well as in schools, government buildings and boats after the floods forced them to abandon homes. Relief and rescue operations have yet to start in many areas. Most rivers including the Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Meghna and Padma were above danger levels. Officials said some had burst their banks while others were poised to do so. Chittagong port authorities yesterday asked ships not to enter a flooded channel in the Bay of Bengal. Ships could be in danger because of turbulence in the Karnaphuli river channel. — Reuters.

Guwahati, India/Dhaka, Jul 11 — The Brahmaputra river, swollen by rain and a Himalayan burst dam, has flooded huge swathes of north India and Bangladesh, killing dozens and forcing millions to seek refuge on higher ground. In tea and oil-rich Assam, at least 40 villagers packed into a wooden boat, including many women and children, drowned late yesterday. There were no survivors, a police official said. That brought the death toll from the annual monsoon floods to more than 70 in India and neighbouring Nepal. In neighbouring Bangladesh, officials said 13 people had died and an estimated three million people were marooned — cut off in their flooded homes and on patches of high ground. In the eastern Indian states of Assam and Bihar, military helicopters and soldiers in motor boats tried to rescue thousands of stranded people and dropped cooked food. All rivers in Assam, including the main Brahmaputra, were overflowing after a week of incessant rains. "More than two million people have become homeless because of floods," Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said. In the impoverished state of Bihar, at least 14 people were drowned in two separate incidents yesterday when their boats capsized in the swollen Bagmati river. More than 600,000 people had been affected in Bihar, said state Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Ram Vihar Rai. A dam at Tsatitsu lake in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan had burst, spilling water into tributaries of the Brahmaputra and swelling the floods in Assam, a flood control official said. Floods and landslides have left thousands stranded on high ground in

the neighbouring mountainous kingdom of Nepal, killing at least 12 people, an official said. "People are sitting on roof tops or have climbed trees as flood waters have entered their homes in the southern plains," an Interior Ministry official said. "We are sending rafts and helicopters to rescue the marooned." While Assam and Bihar were battling floods, the north-western and central regions of India have had less rain than normal so far in the June-September monsoon, raising doubts about the fate of major crops such as rice and oilseed. The north-eastern Bangladesh town of Sylhet, at the centre of the worst-hit district, lay under 60 cm of water, and road and rail links were cut or threatened by the rising water. More rain was forecast in the next few days and could flood areas around the capital, Dhaka, officials said. The floods now covered nearly 20 of 64 administrative districts. Thousands of families had sought refuge on roads and embankments as well as in schools, government buildings and boats after the floods forced them to abandon homes. Relief and rescue operations were yet to start in many areas. "We have enough relief goods but it is difficult to reach people in remote villages due to bad weather and a shortage of boats," said relief official M. Mostafa Kamal. — Reuters.

Guwahati, India/Dhaka, Jul 12 — Overflowing rivers, snakebites and landslides have killed dozens of people in South Asia and forced millions from their homes in the worst monsoon flooding in years, officials said today. Over five million people were marooned or left homeless in low-lying parts of eastern India, Bangladesh and Nepal as river waters flooded huge swathes of land. Thousands were stuck on rooftops, waiting for military helicopters to rescue them or provide food. The chief minister of India's north-eastern Assam state, where two million have been made homeless, appealed for international aid today, saying the state was battling the worst floods in recent years. "The floods have damaged the state's infrastructure. The damage has been estimated at rupees 10 billion," Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said. "We need help from the Red Cross to provide relief to the flood-hit people." The state needed blankets, medicines, baby food and tarpaulin sheets, he said. Floodwaters have swept away power lines, embankments, railway tracks, swamped highways and destroyed dozens of small dams in oil-and-tea-rich Assam. More than 150 people have died in the region since the start of the month as heavy rains triggered flooding. Most of the latest deaths came from mountainous Nepal where landslides and swollen rivers have killed at least 24 people since yesterday. "Many people have fled after floodwaters entered their homes. They have sheltered in school buildings or other safe places," an official at Nepal's interior ministry said. Many people died of snakebite as the floods drove snakes into homes. The floods, which have affected one-third of Nepal's area, have hit the impoverished nation's main

rice crop. Two people died in neighbouring Bangladesh today including a child killed when a house collapsed as fast-moving river waters swept through it. In low-lying Bangladesh, thousands of people have fled to government shelters as overflowing river waters reached waist height in many villages and towns. In several flood-hit towns, the supply of drinking water, electricity and gas was cut off. "There is no water to drink, no electricity and no gas to cook," said Shamsuddin Ahmed Khan, a doctor in Sylhet town, some 300 km north-east of Dhaka. Rail links between Dhaka and several north-western districts were severed with tracks submerged in many places. Local weather officials in India's Assam have forecast more rains over the next 24 hours and said all the main rivers in the state were in danger of overflowing, including the Brahmaputra. Schools and colleges have been shut across Assam, and train services disrupted because of the flooding. In Bihar, India's poorest state in the east, helicopters dropped food to thousands marooned by floods. More than 40 people have died in the state since monsoon flooding started in early July. — Reuters.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Ninety-nine people have now died in India's monsoon-linked floods with up to three million people displaced, a government official said. Three people drowned in the north-eastern state of Assam yesterday, taking the death toll in the region from the floods that began mid-June to 64, the official said. The other deaths have been reported from the eastern provinces of Bihar and West Bengal. The floods have so far displaced close to three million people in the north-east, the official said. "Some 400,000 houses were damaged in floods in 18 of the state's 24 districts ... with the overall situation deteriorating very fast," said Assam's chief minister Tarun Gogoi. "The approximate loss caused by the floods is estimated at about 10 billion rupees," he added. Road links between the north-east and the rest of India remained severed for the second day today, while the railways rescheduled or changed routes of trains as water in several areas submerged tracks. Indian soldiers using boats and helicopters have rescued thousands of marooned people across Assam.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An overflowing river swamped dozens of villages in Bangladesh, killing 18 people and leaving 6,000 homeless, while a family drowned in India as monsoon rains swept across South Asia, officials and news reports said today. Since the seasonal flooding began in June, at least 270 people have died in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan from waterborne diseases, electrocution, collapsed buildings and drowning. The worst affected have been people living in mud houses. Monsoon rains have engulfed 25 of Bangladesh's 64 districts since late last month, stranding more than 3 million people in their flooded homes. The floods have killed 44 people

in the delta nation. Today, at least 10 people, including a mother and her young son, died in the hard-hit northern districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj and Sirajganj, United News of Bangladesh reported. In the same northern region eight people, mostly children, drowned yesterday, said Dhaka's Sangbad newspaper. In India's eastern Bihar state, residents on opposite banks of the Burhi Gandak River in East Champaran District exchanged gunshots to prevent one another from slicing off chunks of the embankment, which could divert water to the opposite village, Vinai Kumar, the local administrator said. Two more flood-related deaths were reported from Bihar today, raising the state's flood death toll to 60. In north-eastern Assam state, a family of four drowned after their boat capsized in flood waters yesterday while moving to higher ground. That put the state's flood toll at 39 since June. Authorities in Assam have asked the Red Cross for food, clothes, tents, drinking water and mosquito nets to help more than 2 million victims in 18 of the state's 24 districts. They have also requested doctors, nurses, and medicine. The floods in India have killed a total of 164 people, 39 in Assam, 60 in Bihar, 45 in Kerala, 17 in Uttar Pradesh and three in Tripura. In Pakistan, five people were killed by collapsing homes or roofs in Mardan District in the country's north-west, said Shams-ul Haq, a local government official. About 50 others were injured late Sunday (Jul 11) in several villages in Mardan, near Islamabad. Bangladesh's Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said the flooding there was likely to worsen in the next few days as heavy rains continue and flood waters from neighbouring India reach Bangladesh.

Guwahati, Jul 13 — Landslides triggered by heavy rains have buried at least 12 people in their homes while 19 people drowned in surging river waters as floods ravaged low-lying parts of South Asia. More than seven million people have been marooned or left homeless in villages and towns across eastern India, Nepal and Bangladesh after annual monsoon floods swamped large areas. "There is knee-deep water on the roads and flood water has entered my house. My family and I are forced to live on the roof," said Chandrakant Jha of Darbhanga, 180 km north of Patna, the capital of India's eastern state of Bihar. Authorities said today they were bracing for more flooding as dozens of rivers threatened to burst their banks. Government helicopters dropped packages of food and relief material such as tarpaulin sheets to thousands of villagers in Nepal and India, where thousands were stranded on rooftops. More than 180 people have died in densely-populated South Asia since the beginning of July as heavy monsoon rains caused dozens of rivers to overflow their embankments and set off landslides. Officials in India's tea-rich north-eastern state of Assam, where around two million people have lost their homes because of flooding in the past week, said they

found it hard to cope with the sheer scale of floods. "The state is not adequately equipped to handle the rescue and relief operations," Tarun Gogoi, chief minister of Assam, who appealed for international assistance yesterday, said. In Bihar, where dozens have died in flooding over the past week and more than a million people have been left homeless, many areas had no electricity and soldiers in boats rescued stranded people. In some areas of flood-hit Bangladesh, floods submerged crops and cut rail and road links, pushing up food prices and forcing thousands of people to cram into government flood shelters. Twenty-five of the low-lying country's 64 districts have been hit by flooding and millions marooned. Officials fear outbreaks of water-borne diseases as thousands of drinking wells have been submerged. Authorities in Bangladesh said the flood situation was grim and could get worse as major rivers like the Padma and Jamuna were rising. However, most of the latest deaths were in Nepal, where 12 people were killed in landslides in the east, pushing to 48 the impoverished nation's death toll from landslides, drowning and snake bites this season. Flood waters have washed away bridges and felled electrical lines in some areas. In other areas of the Himalayan kingdom, waters were receding. — Reuters.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Landslides in mountainous Nepal killed 11 people, and eight were reported dead when their vessel capsized in India, bringing the death toll across South Asia from monsoon flooding to more than 300. Torrential rains that began in mid-June have caused landslides, building collapses, drownings, electrocution and waterborne diseases across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Even as large areas of South Asia remained under water, officials in India worried that too much rain in the country's east could mean a weak monsoon — perhaps a drought — for the northern and western region, where farmers are still waiting for the rains to sow crops. The Indian Cabinet met yesterday and asked the Agriculture Ministry to collect reports on crop prospects. Still, the flooding in India's east was likely to worsen with more rain forecast over the next few days, relief officials said. At least 179 people have been killed in India, which has suffered the largest number of deaths. Eight people were reported dead today when a vessel ferrying them to safety across the Burhi Gandak River capsized, said Upendra Sharma, a relief official. Six more deaths were reported elsewhere in India's eastern Bihar state. In neighbouring Assam state, water from the Brahmaputra River cut through its banks and poured into the capital, Gauhati. Four people were killed yesterday when a banana tree raft taking them to higher ground capsized, police said. At least five million people have been displaced or marooned in their homes in Assam, and Indian air force helicopters dropped supplies to some, the government said. In Nepal, landslides swept through five villages

late yesterday, killing 11 people, said Durgaraj Sharma, a disaster management official in the capital, Kathmandu. The government flew rescuers on helicopters to distribute food, cooking utensils and plastic sheets to build temporary shelters. In Bangladesh, the rains have stranded more than three million people in their flooded homes and killed 55 others, most of them children who drowned. In Pakistan, five people have been killed by collapsing homes or roofs, officials said.

#### SWEDEN

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A weekend of torrential rain caused flooding in several regions of southern Sweden, cutting roads and hindering rail traffic, local officials said today. There were no reports of casualties, and weather forecasters said the rain appeared to have peaked late on yesterday. However the small town of Vaernamo, where 128 millimetres of rain fell in two days, was threatened by the waters from a nearby lake. Troops were called out to build barriers of sandbags to prevent the waters of Lake Lagan from overflowing. A main highway linking the capital Stockholm to the city of Malmoe in the south was still cut in several places today, and numerous roads were under water in the province of Smaaland. The national railway company said it would take around three days for train services to be fully restored.

#### TROPICAL STORM "BLAS"

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Blas" swirled off of Mexico's Pacific coast yesterday, but forecasters said it was unlikely to head for land. The storm had maximum sustained winds of about 58 mph and was expected to weaken as it moves over cooler water and starts to fade, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Centre in Miami, Florida. "Blas" was centred roughly 250 miles south-west of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, which could see some rains due to the outer reaches of the storm, forecasters said. The storm was headed towards the north-west.

#### TROPICAL STORM "KOMPASU"

London, Jul 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Kompasu" in lat 21.5N, long 123.5E at 0600, UTC, Jul 14. Movement for the past six hours, 285 degrees at 12 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position at 1800, UTC, today, lat 22.1N, long 121.5E, maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots, radius of 34 knot winds 35 nautical miles. Forecast position at 0600, UTC, Jul 15, lat 22 5N, long 120.1E, maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots, radius of 34 knot winds 20 nautical miles, north-east quadrant over water 30 nautical miles, south-east quadrant 30 nautical miles, south-west quadrant 30 nautical miles.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon standby signal No 1 was hoisted shortly before 2300 last night. The centre of tropical storm "Kompasu" was estimated to be about 710 km east-south-east of Hong Kong and was forecast to move west or west-north-west at about 25 kph entering the South China Sea. The Observatory forecast the chance of a stronger wind signal was slim. Winds today were forecast to be moderate west to south-westerly.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A storm took down trees and power lines and caused property damage but only a few minor injuries. Russell County Sheriff John Fletcher said this morning that three storms converged on his area at once. He said one came from the west, one from the northwest and one from the north, and basically met at Russell. The sheriff says experts are guessing that 12 to 18 twisters touched down in the county last night. Fletcher said he had reports of damage to two houses, a barn, a number of outbuildings and a lot of telephone poles. Officials plan to fly over the county today to assess damage. And Joy Moser of the Kansas adjutant general's office said officials were awaiting damage reports from counties hit by the storms.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A foot or more of rain fell in parts of the north-east, forcing hundreds of people from their homes during the night, rupturing small dams and flooding roads. No injuries had been reported in the stricken areas of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. South-central New Jersey was hardest hit with at least five small dams rupturing during the night, said Kevin Tuno, the Burlington County emergency management coordinator. Many of the dams in the area hold small reservoirs in low-lying residential areas. "We have a lot of houses and vehicles that were damaged," Tuno said today. The heaviest rainfall in Burlington County was 13.2 inches at Tabernacle, the National Weather Service said. Gov. James E. McGreevey said today he plans to declare a state of emergency for the county. More than 500 county residents were evacuated from their homes and from the roofs of cars stalled on flooded roads from late yesterday into early today, and officials said 250 people still couldn't return home by late this morning. Parts of north-eastern Maryland got up to 8 inches of rain that flooded streets and basements yesterday, and some motorists had to be rescued when their cars stalled in deep water, officials said. Most of the water had subsided by this morning and major roads were re-opened, said Harford County official Ernie Crist. However, more than two dozen roads remained closed today in Cecil County, said Frank Muller, director of the county's department of emergency services. Amtrak cancelled three trains and reported many delays on other passenger trains between Washington

and Philadelphia throughout the day yesterday. Poor visibility and water flowing over the tracks forced trains to slow to just 2 mph, or walking speed, at many locations, spokesman Daniel Stessel said. Amtrak's worst problems were in south-eastern Pennsylvania at Marcus Hook and Levittown, where trains had to be halted because of signal problems caused by fallen trees, Stessel said. An estimated 6 inches of rain fell in eastern Pennsylvania's Berks County. Water and mud rushed into a bowling alley yesterday at Pottsville in eastern Pennsylvania after a sodden embankment behind the building collapsed.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Water receded today from some communities that were hardest hit by flooding, but more residents were evacuated because of fears of contamination or electrical shorts. More heavy rain was forecast across the region later in the day. No serious injuries were reported yesterday but floodwater damaged hundreds of houses, stalled cars, breached small dams and closed highways and smaller roads in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. As many as 200 people were told to leave their homes yesterday morning in this south-central New Jersey town because of contaminated water and a threat of electrocutions from short circuits, an official said. The rising morning tide backed up creeks that drain into the lower Delaware River, said David Wyche, assistant public information office for Burlington County. More than 13 inches of rain fell in 12 hours in Burlington County, located in southern New Jersey. It was classified as a "1,000-year" storm, the National Weather Service said. Severe storms with the potential for more heavy downpours were possible late today in the same states hit by yesterday's floods. The National Weather Service said rain could fall at a rate of more than 2 inches per hour. New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey called a state of emergency in two counties yesterday and lawmakers asked President Bush to declare portions of southern New Jersey a federal disaster area. Smyrna, Del., received more than 11 inches of rain, possibly ranking it as a 500-year storm, the weather service said. High water in Maryland damaged about 80 homes, and road flooding and bridge damage closed some highways, tying up traffic through much of the day.

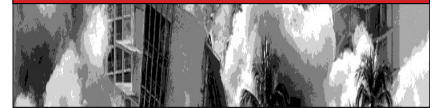
London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of homes and businesses had no electricity today in the path of a long line of thunderstorms that stretched from Tennessee to the Great Lakes. Wind gusted to 80 mph in Kentucky and Tennessee yesterday, and hail stones as big as softballs were reported in parts of Illinois, the National Weather Service said. As the storms passed through central Illinois, a tornado leveled a manufacturing plant yesterday at Roanoke and roofs were blown off several houses, officials said. Workers at Parsons Manufacturing plant in Roanoke, about 20 miles east of Peoria,

went to storm shelters before the twister struck. Utilities around Kentucky reported about 254,000 homes and businesses lost power during the storms, including 115,000 in the Louisville metropolitan area. Chip Keeling, a spokesman for Louisville Gas & Electric, said power had been restored to about 40,000 customers by this morning but some might remain in the dark for an extended period. About 60,000 customers were blacked out in central Tennessee, but service had been restored to about half of them by dawn today, Nashville Electric Service reported. Some 51,000 customers were still without power this morning in Indiana, down from a high of up to 136,000 during the storms, said Cinergy-PSI spokeswoman Angeline Protogere. Some might have to wait until tomorrow for the lights to go on again, she said. One man was killed in Indiana when a tractor tipped over on him while he cleaned up storm debris, officials said. Utilities said at least 10,000 customers lost power in Michigan. Funnel clouds were spotted in Wisconsin near Manitowoc and Clarks Mills. One touched down near Clarks Mills, damaging farm homes and other rural buildings, said Manitowoc County Sheriff's Sgt. Andrew Colborn.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A storm packing high winds ripped through south-central Pennsylvania yesterday, damaging at least 50 homes in a housing development and injuring 24 people, including one critically, authorities said. The storms wreaked havoc with airline schedules as well, delaying flights yesterday to New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport by more than three hours. Other airports along the East Coast, in Baltimore, Washington, Boston, New York and Philadelphia, experienced delays up to an hour. In New Jersey, residents of Lumberton, the town hardest hit by floodwaters, awaited word from inspectors on when they could return to their homes to assess the damage and start cleaning up. In nearby Pemberton Township, nearly three dozen homes were evacuated Wednesday night as emergency management officials released water from a storm-battered dam on Rancocas Creek as a precaution. Inspectors from the state Department of Environmental Protection and other officials had checked the dam early yesterday and determined it was in danger of collapse from a build-up of water. After deciding to release the water, Pemberton Township Mayor Robert McCullough ordered the evacuation of 32 families, said Burlington County spokesman Dave Wyche. Officials warned of probable flooding along the north branch. Storms also moved through Michigan late Tuesday, bringing high winds and hail up to 2 inches in diameter. Damage was mostly limited to downed trees, which cut power to about 54,000. In Kentucky, power outages numbered in the hundreds of thousands statewide as straight-line winds, reaching sustained gusts of 80 mph, toppled trees and power lines. In

Maryland, Gov. Robert Ehrlich declared a limited state of emergency yesterday in two north-eastern counties after floods damaged roads and homes. Meanwhile, the community of Campbelltown, about 16 miles east of Harrisburg, took the brunt of thunderstorms that swept through south-central Pennsylvania, said Jamie Wolgemuth, spokesman for the Lebanon County Emergency Management Agency. At least 20 homes in the 2-year-old Country Squire Estates development were leveled or appeared uninhabitable.

## Earthquakes



### CANADA

London, Jul 15 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1206, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Vancouver Island region in lat 49.700N, long 126.838W, depth 15 km.

### CHINA

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake struck a remote, sparsely populated region of Tibet today, the government said. No injuries or damage were immediately reported. The 6.7-magnitude quake hit a high-altitude area in the Gangdise mountains, about 350 miles west of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing seismological authorities. A magnitude-6.7 quake is capable of causing severe damage, but Xinhua said the area struck today had "little human habitation." The area is about 60 miles north of China's border with Nepal.

### FIJI

London, Jul 15 — A report, dated today, states: A major earthquake occurred at 0427, UTC, today. The magnitude 7.1 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 17.482S, long 179.014W, depth 560 km.

### GUAM

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A quake was recorded at 0825 hrs and was located 45 miles south-east of Hagatna, said Paul Hattori, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Guam office. The quake was 31 miles deep. It was felt in Nimitz Hill and Hagatna, Hattori said. No damages have been reported.

### IRAN

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 4.2 degrees on the Richter scale hit the provincial capital city of Gorgan today. According to the seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute, the tremor occurred at 0913, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualty or damage to property.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 4 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale hit the city of Jiroft in the south-eastern province of Kerman today. According to the seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute, the tremor occurred at 1020, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualty or damage to property.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 3.8 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale hit the city of Golbaf in the south-eastern province of Kerman today. According to the seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute, the tremor occurred at 0911, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualty or damage to property.

#### ITALY

Rome, Jul 12 — An earthquake shook a large area of north eastern Italy today, including the lagoon city of Venice, officials said. No injuries or damage were immediately reported. "It was 5.2 on the Richter scale, pretty strong for the region," a spokeswoman at the National Geophysics Institute said, adding that the epicentre was near Italy's border with Austria and Slovenia. The earthquake struck just after 1500 hrs, (1300, UTC). Ansa news agency said tremors were felt from Bolzano in Italy's Dolomite mountains to Venice. — Reuters.

#### JAPAN

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 4.9 shook the greater Tokyo area yesterday evening. There were no immediate reports of damage. The 2007 quake measured 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in southern Tochigi Prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

#### PAKISTAN

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted several cities in northern Pakistan today but there were no immediate reports of casualties, officials said. Tremors were recorded at 0818, GMT in Islamabad, Peshawar, Abbotabad and Chitral, Seismological Department chief Qamaruz Zaman said. The epicentre of the quake was located some 350 kilometres north-west of Islamabad in the Hindukush mountain range. "It was a moderate intensity earthquake and I don't think it caused any casualties," Zaman said.

#### SLOVENIA

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A climber died during an earthquake measuring at least 4.9 degrees on the Richter scale today in Slovenia's mountainous northwest, Slovenian news agency

STA said quoting unofficial reports. The epicentre of the tremor, which struck at 1504 hrs, was situated close to Kobarid, a town 100 kilometres west of the Slovenian capital Ljubljana and near the border with Italy, Slovenia's national Seismological Institute said in a statement. The quake was felt as far away as the Croatian capital Zagreb. Radio Slovenia said telephone services in the Kobarid region were disrupted briefly by the quake and that mainly older buildings and houses in Kobarid and the surrounding villages were damaged. The quake was also recorded by seismological institutes in the eastern French city of Strasbourg, in Croatia and in Rome, which put the tremor at respectively 5.7, 5.4 and 5.2 on the Richter scale.

#### TAIWAN

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake shook eastern Taiwan today, the Central Weather Bureau said, but no damage or injuries were reported. The 4.8-magnitude quake was centred near the island's east coast, just north of the town of Hsilin, the weather bureau said. Hsilin lies in a sparsely populated mountain area, about 90 miles south of the capital, Taipei.

#### TONGA

London, Jul 15 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1951, UTC, Jul 13. The magnitude 5.4 event has been located south of Tonga in lat 24.110S, long 175.023W, depth 40 km.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Only slight damage was reported this morning as the result of a pair of small earthquakes reported off the central Oregon coast. The larger of the two quakes, only 3 minutes after the first, came at 0945 hrs. According to the U.S. Geologic Survey, it now is said to have a magnitude of 4.9. The U.S.G.S. says the larger quake was centered 21 miles west of Yachats. The smaller quake, was in the same general area but much weaker, with a magnitude of 2.7.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A magnitude 4.1 earthquake shook the central California coast today near where a deadly quake struck in December. A separate 4.0-magnitude quake shook the Riverside County desert southeast of Los Angeles. There were no reports of damage or injury. The coast tremor struck at 1645 hrs and was centered nine miles northeast of San Simeon at a depth of four miles, according to preliminary information from the U.S. Geological Survey. In Riverside County, a 4.0-magnitude quake struck at 1753 hrs and was centered 10 miles north of Mecca, according to a preliminary USGS report.

## Political & Civil Unrest



#### AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people have been killed by a bomb blast in the western Afghan city of Herat, local officials say. Several others were injured by the blast, which took place near a police station. The explosion appears to have been caused by a bomb placed on a bicycle, according to local Afghans. A hospital official has said all the victims were civilians.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Taliban rebels have killed a local police chief in an attack on government offices in the south of the country. At least three other security personnel were reported killed in the attack, one of a spate of fresh confrontations linked to the Taliban. "Police chief Rahmatullah was killed along with three of his men," Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi told the Associated Press news agency. The attack took place in the district of Miana Shien in the province of Kandahar. The Taliban spokesman said the rebels attacked the government offices in Miana Shien early this morning, setting the premises on fire. A government spokesman in Kandahar city confirmed the death of the police chief.

#### BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Jul 9 — The UN peacekeepers in Burundi said today they would be ready to start disarming government and rebel troops next week. President Domitien Ndayizeye this month asked all armed groups that signed a ceasefire to assemble at designated points by Jul 15 to start the demobilisation process. "We have three demobilisation centres; one in northwest Burundi and two in central Burundi. Now we are dealing with the rehabilitation of these demobilisation centres," Colonel Mbaye Faye, in charge of demobilisation at the UN mission said. "We are confident that by Jul 15, all demobilisation centres will be operational for the beginning of the disarmament and demobilisation process," Faye told a news conference. He said all parties — armed groups and the Burundi armed forces — had committed to respect the timetable, saying child soldiers would be demobilised first. But of six factions that have signed the ceasefire, only the former major rebel group Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) has already grouped most of its combatants, estimated at 18,000, at six assembly points. "We are satisfied with the steps made in the process of assembling combatants. The information we have is that over 20,000 combatants have joined these assembling areas," Faye said. He said the funds needed for the



demobilisation were ready. The process will cost a total of \$84.4 million, including donations from the World Bank, UNICEF and Germany. Burundi's interim government is still fighting a Hutu rebel group, the Forces for National Liberation, which has refused to join the peace process. — Reuters.

## COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jul 9 — At least 20 gunmen were killed in eastern Colombia in clashes between rival right-wing paramilitaries despite a cease-fire and peace talks with the government, paramilitary sources said today. The clashes in the oil-rich savannas of Casanare were the latest infighting among the outlaw paramilitaries, a brutal vigilante army targeting Marxist rebels but which has become increasingly split due to cocaine trafficking. Under peace talks, paramilitary commanders are concentrated in a government-designated area in northern Colombia. The government hopes the negotiations will result in the demobilisation of 20,000 gunmen by 2005. But the talks have been undermined by cease-fire violations and accusations that paramilitary groups have been infiltrated by powerful drug lords seeking to legalise their vast fortunes. The clashes in Casanare began yesterday but were still raging on today, paramilitary sources told Reuters. — Reuters

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected leftist guerrillas shot and killed seven rural peasants in an attack on a small village in Colombia's north-west, officials said. The massacre occurred Saturday (Jul 10) in the municipality of San Carlos, 110 miles north-west of the capital, Jorge Mejia, the lieutenant governor of the Antioquia province, told local radio yesterday. Mejia blamed the killings on Colombia's main rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or the FARC. Authorities said hundreds of peasants in this region have been displaced from their homes in recent days amid fighting between FARC rebels and right-wing militia groups.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen people were killed and 13 others injured in last weekend's (Jul 10/11) intense clash between two rival paramilitary factions in eastern Colombia, the Colombian army said yesterday. Thirteen injured paramilitary members were rushed to hospitals in Villavicencio city. The clash broke out between the United Peasant Self-Defence Forces of Casanare (ACC) and the Centaur Block of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) for a dispute of "territorial and cocaine commercialization," which started two weeks ago. Meanwhile, military sources said yesterday that three National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas were killed in combat with government troops in Antioquia state, north-western Colombia.

## INDIA

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed and a dozen others injured in a bomb explosion near Jammu and Kashmir's famed Mughal-built Nishat garden in Srinagar, a police spokesman said today. The spokesman blamed Muslim rebels for the blast, which took place late yesterday. The area was immediately sealed off by the troops, who launched a hunt for the suspects.

## IRAQ

London, Jul 9 — An Iraqi guardsman, three civilians and five US soldiers were killed when insurgents detonated a car bomb and levelled a military headquarters in the city of Samarra with a massive mortar barrage. US troops backed by attack helicopters then fanned out through the city to hunt down the attackers in clashes that lasted into late yesterday afternoon. As many as 44 people were wounded, including 20 US soldiers and four Iraqi guardsmen, the military and hospital officials said. Also yesterday, the Philippines prohibited its citizens from travelling to Iraq to work as contract workers after militants released a videotape threatening to kill a Filipino hostage if the country did not withdraw its troops. At around 1030, local time, yesterday, Iraqi insurgents lashed out at US forces in Samarra, a hotbed of anti-coalition resistance 60 miles north of Baghdad, said Major Neal O'Brien, the spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division. One witness, Khalid Salih, said the gate of the headquarters building shared by US forces and their Iraqi National Guard allies was open when a sport utility vehicle drove in and immediately exploded. Insurgents then launched 38 mortars at the headquarters, destroying the building, Major O'Brien said. Some of the rounds landed in surrounding residential districts. Around 25 minutes after the mortar attack once radar determined where it had originated US soldiers responded with four mortar rounds of their own. Troops moved through the streets to flush out the insurgents, and four fighters shot at the soldiers before taking refuge in a building, Maj O'Brien said. US helicopters swooped in and attacked with Hellfire missiles, killing the four attackers. Before the attack yesterday, a US military convoy in Samarra was targeted by a roadside bomb that wounded one soldier. Late last night, four large explosions were heard at an Iraqi base in the town of Mishahda, 25 miles north of Baghdad. Volleys of gunfire broke out immediately afterward. In another attack, gunmen along the road from Samarra to Balad strafed a truck, killing the two Turkish truck drivers inside and causing the vehicle to flip over, witnesses said. Insurgents have taken many truck drivers hostage in an effort to spread fear and disrupt supply efforts for US forces. Meanwhile, an explosion killed former senior Baath party official, Ali Abbas Hassan, as he left his textile factory in Baghdad, said police Lieutenant Anmar Yassin. Authorities did not know the cause of

the explosion. Early today the Al-Jazeera television network broadcast a video showing masked, armed men threatening to execute two Bulgarian hostages if the US military did not release all Iraqi detainees within 24 hours. The video showed the two unidentified Bulgarians sitting with their hands cuffed, flanked by three masked men. More than 4,000 Filipino civilian contractors serve food, clean toilets and form the backbone of the support staff in Iraq for US forces. The US military would be hard-pressed to operate in Iraq without the extra manpower the Filipinos provide. Word of the capture of a Filipino hostage and the insurgents threat to kill him heaped pressure on Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who decided yesterday to bar more contract workers from travelling to Iraq. She announced no decision on whether to extend the deployment of Manila's 51 troops past their scheduled departure date this month. The hostage was shown surrounded by armed and masked men on a video broadcast by Al-Jazeera on Wednesday. ABS-CBN TV, quoted the Philippine ambassador in Qatar, identifying the hostage as Angelo dela Cruz, a truck driver who crossed into Iraq from Saudi Arabia. The Philippines has been among the biggest supporters of the US-led war on terrorism, in large part because it has faced a Muslim extremist threat of its own.

Riyadh, Jul 10 — Kidnappers holding an Egyptian driver in Iraq are demanding a \$1 million ransom from his Saudi employer for his release, the employer said today. Qatar-based Al Jazeera television reported last week that Mohammed al-Gharabawi, in his 50s, was abducted while delivering petrol products to U.S. forces in Iraq by a group which it said represented the "legitimate Iraqi resistance". Faisal al-Neheit, who owns the transport firm where Gharabawi had worked for eight years, said unidentified callers had telephoned him several times since Wednesday (Jul 7) demanding money. He urged Egyptian authorities to help secure the driver's freedom. "The last call was yesterday evening and the caller demanded one million dollars. I told him I am ready to help free a fellow Muslim but I cannot pay that kind of money," Neheit said. He said three oil trucks went missing last Saturday (Jul 3), along with their drivers. Two Pakistani drivers, who had said they were kidnapped and robbed of their personal belongings, had since returned to Saudi Arabia, he said. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 11 — Five Iraqis were killed in a spate of attacks and insurgents again targeted a gas pipeline near the northern oil city of Kirkuk, as Iraq's interim government confronted a growing hostage crisis. A pipeline connecting the Kirkuk gas fields with the Beiji power plants to the west was attacked with a crude bomb that set a small section of pipeline on fire, said Ahmed al-Hassan, head of security at the Northern Gas Company. The attack there came five days after another pipeline in the gas network was sabotaged. North of Kirkuk, a member

of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and translator for the multinational forces was stabbed to death. Earlier, unknown assailants opened fire at the offices of the Union of Farming Cooperatives, killing a guard, said police Major Burhan Taib. Meanwhile, in the Sunni Muslim stronghold of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, US marines said they shot dead two members of an armed gang who attacked them yesterday, while a hospital official reported that five Iraqis had been wounded. In Baquba, 60 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, four liquor stores were blown up almost simultaneously early yesterday, and one passerby was killed, police said. North of Baquba, three Iraqis, including a 13-year old boy, were wounded when a homemade bomb exploded as a US military convoy was passing, hospital personnel said. In Baghdad, Iraq's interim government said it was doing its utmost to secure the release of four kidnapped truck drivers — from the Philippines, Bulgaria and Egypt — and he urged the three countries not to make concessions to the hostage-takers. The fate of Philippine hostage Angelo de la Cruz, seized last week as he drove into Iraq from Saudi Arabia, remained uncertain yesterday following reports of his release and renewed threats by his captors to kill him unless Manila withdraws its troops from Iraq. At the same time, fear mounted over the fate of two Bulgarians kidnapped on Thursday (Jul 8) and threatened with beheading by an Al-Qaeda-linked group unless US troops freed Iraqi prisoners within 24 hours. Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Passy told AFP no contact had been made with the kidnappers, and stressed the humanitarian nature of Sofia's mission in Iraq. As a result of the recent kidnappings, a senior US trade official said Friday (Jul 9) that many American firms are now too scared to enter the country. "The security concern and the anti-American feeling is preventing US companies from opening offices here," said Eric Nigh, vice president of the Iraqi-American Chamber of Commerce. — Reuters.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents ambushed two US military patrols north of Baghdad yesterday, separate attacks that killed three US soldiers and an Iraqi civilian. Also, the Philippines government rejected an insurgent group's ultimatum to pull its small peacekeeping force out of Iraq. The group has threatened to kill a Filipino man it is holding hostage. A roadside bomb attack on a US patrol in the city of Samarra, a hotbed of violence 60 miles north of Baghdad, killed two soldiers yesterday afternoon and wounded three others, the military said. An earlier attack on a US convoy in Beiji, 90 miles south of the northern city of Mosul, began yesterday morning when a roadside bomb exploded. An enemy vehicle then raced toward the convoy, firing at the soldiers, who shot back and killed the driver, the military said. A soldier and a civilian travelling behind the patrol were killed. A second

soldier was injured and evacuated. Thick black smoke poured over the area from an oil tanker set alight in the attack. The deaths came a day after four US Marines were killed in a vehicle accident near Camp Fallujah in western Iraq. Militants from a group calling itself "The Islamic Army of Iraq - Khaled bin Al-Waleed Brigade" initially gave the Philippines until yesterday night to agree to withdraw its 51-member peacekeeping force by Jul 20 - a month ahead of schedule. The group threatened to kill truck driver Angelo de la Cruz if the Philippines did not comply. The group extended the deadline by two days, until Tuesday (Jul 13), a Philippines government officials said early today. The extension came hours after the government in Manila rejected the militants' ultimatum. A deadline for two other hostages, Bulgarian truck drivers held by a separate group demanding the release of all Iraqi detainees, expired Saturday morning. Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi said yesterday he had unconfirmed information the two were alive. The group holding the Bulgarians, the Tawhid and Jihad movement linked to Jordanian terror suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, also claimed responsibility yesterday for an attack Thursday on a military headquarters in the city of Samarra that killed five US soldiers and an Iraqi National Guardsman.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraqi police pulled off their largest haul since the US-led invasion, netting more than 500 suspected murderers, kidnappers and thieves in a single day as part of a plan to clean up Baghdad's streets. Colonel Adnan Abdul Rhaman, the Interior Ministry's chief spokesman said the coordinated raid was the largest operation since the fall of Saddam Hussein. "About 500 criminals were arrested, suspected of crimes such as stealing, murder, kidnapping and drug selling," he said. Crime has soared in recent months as convicts, freed by former president Saddam Hussein's regime, roamed free and a violent insurgency flared up during the US-led occupation. In a bid to crackdown on professional gangs, some 500 Iraqi police carried out yesterday's operation in the downtown district of Bab el-Sheikh. There was no help from US soldiers who maintain a heavy presence in the Iraqi capital, the spokesman said. The suspects, all Iraqis, were being held for questioning at a Baghdad police department, he said. He says most were criminals arrested during the old regime and pardoned by Saddam on the eve of the war. "Most of the people we caught yesterday were professional crooks," he said. Police colonel Daud Suleiman said one person was killed during the sweep. Meanwhile efforts to secure the release of a Filipino hostage in Iraq, who has been threatened with execution by militants, continue to be burdened by confusion. The government of the Philippines is sending mixed signals about what it intends to do or not do to save the life of a Filipino truck driver and father of eight being held

captive in Iraq. Speaking on the Arabic language satellite channel Al Jazeera, the Philippines Deputy Foreign Secretary said that the process of withdrawing 51 Filipino soldiers and police officers from Iraq would happen as soon as possible. But senior officials in Manila are reported as saying that the government has not shifted from its position that Filipino forces would not leave Iraq until preparations are complete.

Baghdad, Jul 13 — Militants led by suspected al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi have killed a Bulgarian hostage in Iraq and vowed to execute a second Bulgarian within 24 hours, Al Jazeera has reported. A Bulgarian government spokesman confirmed today that one of the Bulgarians had been executed. The Arabic satellite television station said it had decided not to broadcast a video tape from the militants of the execution because it was too "gruesome". Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad group, which has already claimed responsibility for the beheading of an American and a South Korean in Iraq, threatened last Thursday (Jul 8) to kill the Bulgarians within 24 hours unless US-led forces freed prisoners. Sofia had urged the militants to release Georgi Lazov and Ivailo Kepov, who were transporting cars from Bulgaria to Mosul in northern Iraq when they disappeared on Jun 27. Bulgaria has 470 troops based in the southern Iraqi city of Karbala as part of US-led forces and said they would stay as long as they were needed. In a new hostage crisis, Al Jazeera said militants had set a 72-hour deadline to kill an Egyptian if the Saudi company he worked for did not pull out of Iraq. Hostage standoffs in the past few months have posed a major test for Iraq's new interim government, Washington and its allies with troops in the country. The White House urged the Philippines not to bow to the demands of another militant group holding a Filipino hostage and withdraw its troops from Iraq before schedule. Confusion reigned over whether Manila intended to bring its troops home early from Iraq to save Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, threatened with death by the militants. "We believe that a decision by the Philippine government to withdraw their 51 troops ahead of schedule on Aug 20 would send the wrong signal to terrorists," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. Washington was seeking clarification from Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government, said McClellan. Philippine Deputy Foreign Minister Rafael Seguis told Al Jazeera on Monday Manila was offering to withdraw its forces as soon as possible from Iraq to save the truck driver. However, later statements from officials in Manila did not clarify whether Manila planned to pull out its troops by a Jul 20 deadline set by the militant Islamic Army in Iraq group. The militants had extended an execution deadline for de la Cruz to Monday night and had moved him "to the place of implementing the punishment", Al Jazeera said. Militants have seized dozens of foreigners in Iraq since April

to press demands for foreign troops to leave. Many hostages have been freed but at least three have been killed, including the American and the South Korean. Spain withdrew its troops from Iraq after suspected al Qaeda-linked militants attacked packed Madrid commuter trains in March, killing 191 people, in what they said was revenge for Spanish involvement with US-led forces. Honduras and the Dominican Republic later cut short their forces' stay in Iraq. A senior Bush administration official said the US-led coalition was holding together in Iraq, citing a commitment by Australia to increase its number of troops and an El Salvadoran proposal to extend its troop presence in Iraq for up to a year. In the latest violence in the country, Iraqi National Guards fought a gun battle with guerrillas in a car who had fired on their patrol in the northern city of Mosul. An Iraqi officer said one guard and two guerrillas were killed. Nine guards were wounded. Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's interim government remains dependent on 160,000 mostly American foreign troops while it builds up its own forces. — Reuters.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: The crew of crude oil tanker *Venture Spirit* (159456 gt, built 2003) refused to dock at the Iraqi oil terminal of Basrah out of fears of terror attacks, the company that owns the vessel said today. Chief Executive George Chao of Wah Kwong Shipping said he went along with the crew's decision because he was worried about the security situation in Iraq and a recent terror threat against several shipping companies. He said he was concerned about the safety of his crew, the vessel and the oil it was carrying, adding the ship was worth \$100 million. "It's a lot of money," he said. Chao declined to say how much oil the tanker was scheduled to pick up or where it was to have been delivered. The vessel has been under a five-year charter to Teekay Shipping, a crude oil shipper, since last June. Chao said it is now being replaced by another vessel that will pick up the oil at Basrah. The incident came after South Korean intelligence officials said on Saturday (Jul 10) that Islamic militants posted an online message threatening attacks against vessels carrying US military goods in the Middle East. The warning reportedly cited a South Korean shipping company and eight other shipping firms from the United States, the Netherlands and Hong Kong as its targets. However, Hong Kong police said on Saturday that there was no specific intelligence that Hong Kong shipping firms or locally registered vessels are being targeted by terrorists.

Baghdad, Jul 14 — A suspected car bomb explosion today killed at least seven people near a vehicle-choked entrance to the Baghdad compound housing Iraqi government offices and the U.S. embassy. An Iraqi National Guardsman said two of his colleagues were among the dead. He said some of the wounded were from the Defence Ministry, but he had no overall casualty figures. Black smoke billowed into the

air after the explosion, which destroyed at least four cars and knocked pedestrians off their feet. It was first major car bombing in Baghdad since the interim government led by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi took over from U.S.-led occupiers on Jun 28 and took place at about 0930 hrs (0530, UTC) in an area where cars queue to drop visitors to the Green Zone, a huge, heavily defended complex in central Baghdad. — Reuters.

Manila, Jul 14 — Philippine officials were preparing today to withdraw troops from Iraq following demands for a pullout from militants holding a Filipino hostage, but the military said it had yet to receive orders to leave. Militants have threatened to behead truck driver Angelo de la Cruz unless Philippine troops leave by Jul 20. The Philippine air force said it had put two transport planes on standby in Manila to begin an evacuation of troops. A foreign ministry statement, which came after news that a Bulgarian hostage had been executed by his captors, said the number of troops in Iraq had changed to 43 from 51 but did not say when the apparent cut was made. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 14 — A suspected suicide car bombing has killed 11 people and wounded 30 in the first big guerrilla attack in Baghdad since an interim Iraqi government took over from US-led occupiers on Jun 28. "This is naked aggression against the Iraqi people," said Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, standing by burnt-out vehicles near a main entrance to the heavily defended "Green Zone" compound. "We will bring these criminals to justice," he vowed. Gunmen killed the governor of Mosul, Osama Kashmoula, and his two bodyguards in a grenade attack on his convoy today as he was driving towards the northern city. Kashmoula was the most senior official to be assassinated in Iraq since May, when a suicide bomber killed the head of Iraq's now-defunct Governing Council. A US military spokesman said 11 Iraqis had been killed, including four National Guards, and 30 wounded in the Baghdad blast. The blast occurred hours after news that Islamist militants led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had killed one of two Bulgarian truck drivers held hostage in Iraq. They threatened to kill the second within 24 hours unless US-led forces freed prisoners. Bulgaria said it would not pull its 470 troops out of Iraq despite the killing of the driver and the plight of the other. In stark contrast, the Philippines was preparing to bring its soldiers home early to save the life of a Filipino hostage. "He is safe and there is no more risk of him being executed," said a Foreign Ministry official in Manila, referring to kidnapped truck driver Angelo de la Cruz. A Saudi company said it was ready to quit Iraq to meet the demands of militants holding an Egyptian truck driver hostage. "We will withdraw our operation there to save the life of the hostage, our driver," Faisal al-Neheit, owner of Faisal al-Neheit Transport Company, where Mohammed al-

Gharabawi has worked for eight years, told Al Jazeera television. The Baghdad blast occurred at a checkpoint where cars queue for access to the sprawling Green Zone beside the river Tigris. It houses government buildings, the US and British embassies, and the offices of many foreign contractors. "At 0915 this morning a vehicle pulled into the search lane and tried to get into the control point and detonated," a US officer said. "We're pretty sure it was a suicide bomber." Allawi said he believed the bomb attack was a response to a crackdown on criminals, referring to police raids that have netted more than 500 suspects in Baghdad this week. Guerrillas clashed with a US patrol in the western city of Ramadi, a bastion of Sunni Muslim insurgents, and a hospital doctor said three people had been killed and 19 wounded. Iraqi police officer Nawaf Jabbar said a US vehicle had been destroyed and several soldiers wounded in gun battles. In the southern city of Najaf, police said today they had arrested members of a cell linked to al Qaeda and blamed for bomb attacks in Najaf and Kerbala that killed scores of people. — Reuters.

London, Jul 14 — Crude oil tanker *C.Champion* (159530 gt, built 2003) has refused to load at Iraq's Basrah oil terminal because of security concerns, the second Asian-owned tanker that has refused to load there this week, shipping brokers said today. Brokers said the SK-Corp owned vessel refused to load at the terminal and was replaced by another tanker owned by Tankers International that was willing to load there. "We're hearing that *C.Champion* refused to go there because of security and threats against shipping circulating on this site," a broker said, referring to an Iraqi-based web site that allegedly carried a warning from an extreme Islamist group threatening to attack merchant ships that transport supplies for the US armed forces. The site has strongly denied it carried such a warning. At the weekend South Korea warned the country's shipping firms of possible attacks following threats by a militant group posted on an Iraqi-based site. According to the South Korean government the group had threatened to attack nine international shipping companies, including a South Korean firm, if they continued to transport military hardware and supplies for the US armed forces. The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry in South Korea said it had asked Hanjin Shipping Co and seven other shipping firms to strengthen vigilance and urged crew members not to go ashore in Middle East countries. Japanese seafarers, under instruction from their union, are already refusing to call at Basrah because of the security threat. — Reuters.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs drilled holes into a key southern pipeline in Iraq, causing pools of oil to spill on either side of the line, police said today. The breach in the line occurred in the al-Askari district, 12 miles south-west of Basra, said Staff Brig. Gen. Ali al-

Mousawi, the head of the Iraqi Border Police. The pipelines runs to offshore export terminals, but it was not immediately clear if oil exports were affected. Elsewhere, an explosion damaged a portion of a pipeline running between two northern cities, police said. The explosion on the northern pipeline, which feeds the Beiji refinery about 125 miles north of Baghdad, forced the shutdown of the line. It was not expected to affect the refinery, which is also fed by other feeder pipelines, said Col. Adnan Abdel-Rahman, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry. The line was reportedly still on fire. The damage to the pipelines come a little more than a week after exports were cut in half by damage to the smaller of two key export pipelines.

## ISRAEL

Gaza, Jul 10 — Four Palestinians, including three militants, were killed when their car exploded in the central Gaza Strip today in a blast that Palestinian security officials blamed on Israel. But Israeli military sources denied the car blew up as a result of a helicopter missile strike, tank attack or any other military action. Security sources said the blast appeared to have been caused when explosives blew up prematurely. Three of the dead were militants from the Popular Resistance Committees who were in the car during the blast, medics said. The fourth was a motorcyclist who was driving past at the time of the explosion near the central Gaza Jewish settlement of Netzarim. — Reuters.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: One person has been killed and 21 wounded - five critically - by a bomb in Tel Aviv. Police said the device, containing metal bolts, exploded near a bus stop. The militant Palestinian group al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades has reportedly said it carried out the attack, the first of its kind in Israel for four months. Israel's Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, has linked the attack with the World Court ruling yesterday that Israel should dismantle its West Bank barrier. Speaking shortly after the blast, Mr Sharon told a Cabinet meeting that the perpetrators of the attack had been encouraged by the court's decision. "I want to make clear, the State of Israel absolutely rejects the ruling [of the court]. It is a one-sided and politically motivated ruling." Israeli government officials are saying the latest attack underlines the need for the country to continue with the barrier's construction. This latest explosion happened on Har Zion street near the old central bus station at about 0700 hrs (0400, UTC), as the morning rush hour was under way. Tel Aviv police chief Yossi Sedbon said it was caused by a device left in bushes and was not a suicide bombing. The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, said it carried out the attack to avenge "assassinations" of its leaders and the killings of other Palestinians by Israel, Reuters news agency reported.

Jerusalem, Jul 13 — Israel is redrawing the route of its West Bank barrier closer to its borders to ensure Palestinians are not cut off from their lands in keeping with a High Court order, security sources said today. The World Court, the U.N.'s highest judicial arm, branded the barrier illegal and called for its removal in a non-binding opinion last week rejected by Israel and hailed by Palestinians. An Israeli security source said redrafted Defense Ministry guidelines for the barrier — a 100-metre-wide swathe of razor-fringed fencing and concrete walls — would have it run "as close as possible" to the Israeli-West Bank boundary. The barrier henceforth should not isolate nearby Palestinian farmers from olive and citrus groves or maroon villages in enclaves without free access to essential services like schools and hospitals, markets and West Bank cities, the source said. "These are the new guidelines the Defense Ministry intends to operate with. We are obeying our own High Court, not The Hague (World Court)," he told Reuters. — Reuters.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli helicopters fired missiles in two locations in Gaza early today, residents said, sending plumes of black smoke into the air over Gaza City. Two missiles struck the Zeitoun neighbourhood in Gaza City, and a third hit near the Erez checkpoint between Gaza and Israel at the northern edge of the Gaza Strip, residents said. It was not known what the targets were or whether there were casualties. In the past, Israeli helicopters have targeted metal workshops where the Israelis say militants manufacture weapons, including crude missiles they fire at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli towns just outside Gaza.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: The Palestine Liberation Organisation and its governmental entity, the Palestinian Authority, must each pay more than US\$116 million to the estate of a Jewish couple slain near the West Bank eight years ago, a US federal judge has ruled. The decision ends a four-year legal case aimed at linking the Palestinian organisations to the killings. The decision by US District Judge Ronald Lagueux, issued late Monday (Jul 12), upholds Magistrate Judge David Martin's default judgment in April against the PLO and the Palestinian Authority. The rulings hold the organisations responsible for the drive-by shooting of Yaron Ungar, an American citizen, and his Israeli wife, Efrat, in June, 1996. The case was filed in March, 2000, in US District Court in Providence, where the lawyer handling the Ungars' estate is based. It is one of a handful of lawsuits filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1991 seeking damages from organisations said to be responsible for the killings of American citizens. David Strachman, the Providence lawyer appointed by an Israeli court to handle the Ungars' estate, called the ruling a "substantive decision." "It shows average citizens that are attacked have an avenue to use

to go and punish terrorists," Strachman said yesterday. Strachman said the next step will be to try and collect from the organisations. He said the PLO and Palestinian Authority have "easily identifiable" assets located worldwide. The defendants may appeal the ruling to the 1st US Court of Appeals in Boston. The rulings against the PLO and Palestinian Authority follow a January decision by Lagueux holding the militant organisation Hamas responsible for the Ungars' deaths and ordering it to pay \$116 million. Hamas did not send anyone to contest the lawsuit. The Ungars had argued the PLO and Palestinian Authority should also be held liable because, they argued, the organisations provided a safe haven and operational base for Hamas. The default judgment was issued after the PLO did not respond to plaintiffs' requests to make witnesses — including PLO leader Yasser Arafat — available for depositions, and did not engage in discovery, which is the sharing of information in the case. The Ungars were killed in a drive-by shooting near the Israeli village of Beit Shemesh as they were returning home from a wedding.

## NIGERIA

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten persons were feared dead and many others displaced yesterday following a military operation in Amadi-Ama community in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State area. The operation was ostensibly to dislodge and recover weapons from militiamen of Okrika extraction allegedly using the community as hideout. The federal and Rivers State governments have vowed to exterminate those they described as hoodlums and cultists terrorising the people with illegally acquired arms. At least 10 persons were killed either by the militiamen or the soldiers. A source said that about midday last Sunday (Jul 11), three unidentified persons suspected to be members of a faction of militiamen from Okrika had driven into Amadi-Ama, and murdered a boy alleged to be a member of the Bush Boys militia group. The killing, according to the source, heightened tension in the community and as anticipated, there was a reprisal attack on Monday night. Residents said a large contingent of soldiers who entered the community in the early hours of yesterday cordoned that area and proceeded on a house-to-house search for the militiamen. Locals said that no fewer than 10 persons may have been killed in the military operation.

## PERU

See under "Labour Disputes."

## PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels who are said to be protecting illegal fishermen were killed in a clash with government forces off the southern Philippine city of Zamboanga yesterday, the military reported today. The clash with the disgruntled MILF rebels occurred early

yesterday at the vicinity of Barangay Licomo, Vitali district, local Army Infantry Division commander Major General Trifonio Salazar said in a statement. The military today said three members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom was killed during a 45-minute clash at Barangay (village) Tanum in Patikul town, Sulu province in the southern Philippines on Saturday (Jul 10).

#### RUSSIA

Moscow, Jul 13 — Chechnya's elite security force lost 18 fighters in their heaviest engagement with rebels in a year, local officials were quoted as saying today. Interfax news agency quoted Ramzan Kadyrov, son of Chechnya's assassinated president and head of the force, as saying the troops died in fighting at Avtury, a village 20 miles south-east of the regional capital Grozny. "The battle lasted from 2300 hrs yesterday until this morning," Kadyrov said. A Chechen Interior Ministry spokesman contacted by telephone in Grozny confirmed the clash, but gave no figures on losses among pro-government forces. "There was a clash near Avtury and according to our information at least 24 rebels were killed," he said. "We suffered the heaviest losses among Chechen security forces in a single operation in a year," Itar-Tass news agency quoted Kadyrov as saying. Interfax and Tass had earlier quoted the Russian military spokesman in Chechnya, Ilya Shabalkin, as saying Russian commandos ambushed up to 20 rebels near Avtury yesterday and killed some of them before Kadyrov's forces joined the fight. — Reuters.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A landmine explosion in the Chechen capital Grozny has killed one of the bodyguards of the region's pro-Moscow Acting President. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency says the blast hit the convoy of Sergei Abramov as it sped through the capital. Two other people were injured. Mr Abramov is reported to have escaped unscathed.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Roman Catholics and Protestants accused each other today of provoking a riot in Belfast's polarised north side in which 25 police officers and an unknown number of civilians were injured. Several hundred Catholic men and youths attacked British troops and police yesterday night immediately after a small parade by the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's major Protestant brotherhood, had passed by under heavy security. The violence overshadowed a largely peaceful day of mass protests by Orangemen on Northern Ireland's most divisive holiday. Catholic hostility to the Protestants' traditional marches continued to flare today. Youths threw Molotov cocktails at a train carrying Protestants to a parade in Lurgan, 50 kilometres south-west of Belfast, but caused no injuries.

## Kidnappings



#### IRAQ

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 15 — The leaders of different trade organizations led by the Pakistan Medical Association and Larkana Chamber of Commerce and Industry brought out a procession under the banner of the City Action Committee yesterday in Larkana in protest against police failure to recover kidnapped rice trader, Santosh Kumar, on Jul 4, from interior of Sindh Province of Pakistan. The procession emerged from the Hindu Dhramshala (rest house) and marched on main roads of the city, with the participants carrying banners and placards and raising slogans against the kidnapping of Mr Santosh Kumar, also the president of the local Hindu Panchayat. Later, around 100 people, including members of the Hindu community and activists of the City Action Committee, observed a token hunger strike outside the local press club. Meanwhile, the Sindh Balochistan Rice Millers and Traders Association have announced a protest programme against the kidnapping and lawlessness. Gada Hussain Mahesar, the president of the association, in a press statement, said that rice mills would remain closed in the district on Saturday (Jul 17). In the second phase, he claimed that around 750 mills in Sindh and Balochistan would be closed for a day and finally the millers would go on an indefinite strike. He said that rice traders had been special targets of kidnappers, several of them had been kidnapped and had paid ransom to secure their release. Those who failed to pay ransom, he added, had been killed. He appealed the president and the Sindh chief minister to come to the rescue of people of Sindh. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jul 15 — The unknown dacoits have reportedly demanded Rs 15 million (\$0.25 million) for ransom of kidnapped businessman Santosh Kumar who was missing from Jul 4 in Larkana district of Sindh Province of Pakistan. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Labour Disputes



#### BANGLADESH

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Factories and shops were closed and private vehicles off the roads as the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka was shut down by its 13th general strike in

six months. Today's strike was called by the Industrial Workers' and Employees' Protection Coordination Council, a federation of various workers' associations, which is calling for the reopening of closed factories and trade union recognition. The strike is estimated to cost Bangladesh around 60 million dollars in lost business and productivity.

Karachi, Jul 12 — Bangladesh trade unionists under the banner of Industrial Workers-Employees Protection Coordination Committee observed country wide strike yesterday to demand reopening of closed mills and factories, a halt to the government's privatisation policy and implementation of minimum wages for industrial workers. The 11-party alliance, Left Democratic Front, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Sramik League, Jatiya Sramik Federation and Samajtantrik Sramik Front also extended support to the 13th hartal in six months and strike in mills and factories. During the strike at least 35 people were injured in clash with police in Dhaka while workers across the country enforced the strike with some factory owners granting employees a day-off. Thousands walked out of work in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Khulna, while the hartal passed off without violence in Chittagong port city. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### CANADA

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. said yesterday it was "disappointed" that the United Steelworkers of America went on strike Monday (Jul 5) at the Wabush Mines in Canada. A second mine run by Cliffs in Canada also has been idled. The USWA went on strike there, idling Wabush Mines' mining and concentrating facilities in Labrador, Newfoundland. This action was followed by a strike that idled the Wabush pelletizing and shipping facilities in Pointe Noire, Quebec. Randy Kummer, Cliffs senior vice president-human resources, said, "We are very disappointed that the Steelworkers have chosen to discontinue negotiations and have taken this drastic action, particularly since monetary proposals have not been exchanged. The union has elected to take its 575 members out on strike solely over efficiency issues." According to an ad that ran in Northeastern Minnesota newspapers, Cliffs warned it may use replacement workers to help run taconite mines at Hibbing Taconite in Hibbing and United Taconite in Eveleth if a labour agreement with the Steelworkers is not reached by Jul 31, when the current contract expires.

#### CREW ON PANAMANIAN VESSEL

Odessa, Jul 15 — General cargo *Sea Life ex Ocean Pacific I* sailed from Ilichevsk Jul 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### FRANCE

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: French power workers have cut around 3% of state-owned

energy group Electricite de France's (EdF) generation capacity, according to union leaders. The action is timed to coincide with a vote by the French Senate to transform EdF and its sister firm Gaz de France (GdF) into limited liability companies. Unions believe the move will eventually lead to the privatisation of the firms. The CGT union said the cuts, which amount to 2,700 megawatts of power, would continue until 2100 hrs. CGT spokesman Maurice Marion said nuclear production at EdF's power stations in Cattenom, Blayais and Chinon had been affected by the cuts. Meanwhile, workers are planning to demonstrate outside the Senate — which is France's upper house of parliament — later on yesterday. Unions believe plans to change the status of EdF and GdF would eventually lead to widespread redundancies, as well as the erosion of worker benefits, retirement rights and job security. EdF workers achieved their biggest output cuts on Jun 15, when they shut down around 15% of the company's generation capacity. Previous strikes have seen energy supplies cut to Spain, the Eiffel Tower and the homes of senior French politicians, including the country home of Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin. Workers have also pledged to continue their so-called Robin Hood operations, which include reconnecting the homes of customers who have not paid their bills and supplying hospitals, charities and social security buildings with power for free. The most recent wave of strikes, at the beginning of July, marked the official opening up of the electricity and gas market across the European Union, which will see EdF and GdF face increased competition.

#### INDIA

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at Asia's biggest ship breaking yard in Alang, Gujarat, are on a two-day strike to protest the non-reduction of customs duty on incoming ships in the union budget. "We have decided to stop all our activities for two days as a measure of protest," said Gujarat Ship Breakers Association president Raj Bansal.

#### ISRAEL

Ashdod, Jul 14 — Due to sanctions The Israeli Port Authority work process has been slowed down, at Ashdod for the third day and at Haifa for the second day. The sanctions are due to a privatisation bill that the Ministry of Finance has passed to the Knesset, Israeli Parliament. The sanctions may develop into a full strike starting tomorrow pending a court decision. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ashdod, Jul 15 — The Israeli Port Authority started a strike in all sea Ports with no time limit as a protest to the approval of the Port Reform yesterday in the Israeli parliament. In Haifa Port four vessels are currently waiting in the docks for loading/unloading, and three vessels are waiting outside the port. In Ashdod Port 14 vessels are currently waiting in

the docks for loading/unloading, while five other vessels are waiting outside the port. The production at Ashdod port is now only 25% of full production. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ITALY

Genoa, Jul 14 — Genoa port customs staff have been on strike since Jul 8 and negotiations are still ongoing. Customs clearance operations proceeding very slowly. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Jul 15 — Customs strike has been suspended until Jul 30, on which date results of negotiations will be examined. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### PERU

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of workers in Peru have begun a day-long strike against President Alejandro Toledo's economic policies. The government plans to deploy 93,000 police officers to prevent unrest during the protest, which is expected to bring much of Peru to a standstill. The strike was called by Peru's biggest labour unions, which say some 300,000 people will rally in the capital, Lima. Transport in Peru is already in crisis because a top airline has been grounded at a time of peak demand from tourists. The Aero Continente airline was banned from flying on Monday (Jul 12) after the government alleged its aircrafts were not insured and the US announced it was investigating the firm for ties to the drug trafficking trade. The organisers of today's strike say they want better wages and an end to President Toledo's free market economic policies. More than 150 unions - from teachers to construction workers - have signed up for the protest. A leader of the biggest group, the communist-led General Workers Union of Peru, said the government might attempt to discredit the strike by inciting violence and blaming it on the unions. Peru's government says army and riot police units have been enlisted because of fears the demonstrations might be infiltrated by guerrillas from outlawed Marxist rebel army, the Shining Path. Corruption scandals have sent President Toledo's approval plummeting since he took office in 2001.

Lima, Jul 14 — Thousands of Peruvians, some burning effigies of President Alejandro Toledo, have taken to the streets nationwide to tell his unpopular government to change its policies or step down. Peru's first general strike since 1999 began with scuffles between protesters and the police in the capital, Lima, and 52 people were arrested across the country, officials said. At least six were injured, including two babies, radio reports said. Fearing a repeat of a day of arson and looting in the southern city of Ayacucho earlier this month in protests the government said were hijacked by the Shining Path terror group, 93,000 police were on alert and 600 troops helped guard installations such as electricity plants and hospitals. The main square, where the government palace is located, was cordoned off with metal barriers for the one-day action.

Demonstrators blocked roads in a poor district on the edge of Lima and Aymara Indians did the same near the southern border with Bolivia, where a mob lynched a mayor accused of corruption in April. "The demand for Toledo to go is massive. This demonstration is a rejection of the government's economic policies and the whole privatisation process," said Julio Lopez, a student in the southern city of Arequipa. There, protesters pretended to shoot and then burned one effigy of Toledo, while others staged the government's funeral complete with a black coffin and strains of the Last Post. The president took power in 2001 promising change after a corruption scandal cost Alberto Fujimori the presidency. However, Toledo's man-of-the-people image backfired when he failed to meet ambitious promises of jobs and better pay that had been welcomed by a country where over half the population lives on \$1.25 a day. The government says it has hiked public pay 30% and put Peru among the region's fastest growing economies. But Toledo is Latin America's least popular leader, his credibility in tatters after a string of corruption scandals, and polls show his approval rating is 7% or less. The strike was called by top union body, the General Confederation of Workers of Peru, or CGTP, whose president, Mario Huaman, has stopped short of calling for Toledo to quit. However, he told reporters: "More than 85 percent of the population is demanding Toledo go, not me. The voice of the people is the word of God." Prime Minister Carlos Ferrero said despite the protests "the strike call was not heeded. Most people went to work." Many schools, shops and buses were operating in Lima but others were blocked with trucks of bricks and tyres in southern Andean towns including the tourist mecca of Cuzco, and the northern jungle town of Iquitos, according to radio reports. An international bridge into Bolivia was blocked with rocks and protesters shouted "Down with Toledo, Toledo resign! There's no work," in the southern town of Juliaca. Huaman said the strike, backed by Peru's biggest opposition party, APRA, was "widespread." — Reuters.

#### SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of workers at GM Daewoo Auto Technology Co. have gone on strike, calling for wage hikes and the company's acquisition of an old plant of South Korea's former Daewoo Motor. "We launched a partial strike today and this strike will continue until early Thursday next week," a trade union spokesman said. About 3,500 workers laid down tools for two hours during the day shift and will stay away from work for another two hours during the night at the company's Gunsan and Changwon plants, he said. A GM Daewoo spokesman said the strike would cost the company 300 cars per day in terms of lost production. The union spokesman said the workers were seeking a 16.6 percent wage hike, about 160 dollars more on average per month,

and a company promise to take over the Incheon plant of Daewoo Motor by the end of 2005. US auto giant General Motors pledged to buy Daewoo Incheon by the second half of 2006 on condition the aging plant enhances its productivity and the union cooperates in maintaining amicable labour-management relations.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 9, states: A federal judge has ordered an end to a two-week strike by 700 independent truckers at the Port of Miami-Dade, but the drivers vowed to continue their work stoppage. US District Judge Patricia A. Seitz issued a temporary restraining order today, saying the port, Miami-Dade County and a private terminal operator at the port would suffer “immediate and irreparable injury, loss or damage” unless the striking truck drivers were forced to stop the boycott. “We are not going back to work until our demands are met,” striking driver Eladio Marin said. The truckers began their work stoppage Jun 28 as part of a nationwide strike. The drivers are seeking higher wages, saying that long waits at the port make their \$50-a-load payment insufficient. They also say they should not be required to pay for liability insurance, which is deducted from their paychecks. The Miami-Dade port said the strike has cost it hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees; nine loaded vessels have been diverted to other ports. Universal Maritime Services, a private terminal operator, said it has lost 95 percent of its business, at a cost of about \$700,000, because truckers weren’t entering the port to pick up or deliver cargo. Seitz is scheduled to hear a motion for a preliminary injunction against the truck drivers on Thursday (Jul 15). The county, port and Universal Maritime argued that, as independent contractors and non-union members, the truck drivers were violating antitrust law by conspiring to obstruct trade.

#### Awards & Settlements



#### ALLEGED OVERCHARGING FOR ELECTRICITY, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Duke Energy Corp. will take a \$104.9 million second-quarter charge to help foot a \$207.5 million settlement of claims it overcharged for wholesale electricity during the California energy crisis, the company said today. The Charlotte-based energy company said the pretax charge will be reflected in results it is scheduled to release Jul 29. The balance of the settlement will come from \$102.6 million in previously announced reserve and associated offsets, Duke said. The settlement involved federal regulators, the states of Washington and Oregon and

California’s three largest investor-owned utilities, Duke said in a statement. “Today’s announcement brings welcome closure to these protracted proceedings, removing the associated risks and burdens of regulatory and legal uncertainty,” said Fred Fowler, Duke Energy president and chief operating officer. “It also eliminates the time and costs necessary to litigate these issues.” California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said about \$172 million of the settlement will go to California ratepayers, resolving claims that Duke overcharged for wholesale electricity during the state’s 2000-01 energy crisis. “This is a good settlement for residential and business ratepayers, who were stuck with a multibillion dollar tab after energy companies ran amok in an unprecedented gouging spree,” he said. The settlement must be approved by the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Under terms of the settlement, Lockyer is to end civil enforcement actions against Duke, the attorney general said.

#### SEX DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Wall Street brokerage Morgan Stanley today settled a sex discrimination suit brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for \$54 million. In its lawsuit, the EEOC alleged a pattern of discrimination that denied scores of women promotions and gave higher salaries to less productive men. U.S. District Judge Richard Berman had scheduled opening statements for today. Eight women and four men were chosen as jurors on Friday (Jul 9). The CEO of Morgan Stanley and the chairperson of the EEOC, which brought the suit in 2001, had personally become involved in settlement talks over the weekend, Berman said. He said the settlement would include \$12 million for Allison Schieffelin, the former Morgan Stanley bond seller who is the lead plaintiff. Morgan Stanley is to implement “far-reaching” measures — including agreeing to oversight by an outside monitor — to enhance the role of women in its work force. In addition, a retired federal judge is to oversee a \$40 million claims fund for women alleging discrimination at the firm, Berman said. The settlement also provides \$2 million for gender diversity programmes.

#### WORK-RELATED INJURY, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A King County Superior Court jury yesterday awarded \$1.8 million to a man seriously injured four years ago during Seattle Fire Department recruit training. Kevin Locke, now a dispatcher with the department, was injured when he lost consciousness during a rigorous drill in hot weather and fell from a 55-foot ladder, breaking his back and leg and shattering one of his feet. Jurors found that the city and the Seattle Fire

Department instructors at the Washington State Fire Academy in North Bend failed to take adequate care of the new recruits. “The jury took a look at the overall picture of what was going on out at the fire-training academy and felt that the instructors and incident commanders could have been more careful,” said attorney David Wieck, who represented Locke, 43, in the eight-week civil trial. Kathryn Harper, a spokeswoman for City Attorney Tom Carr, said the jury award exceeds any reasonable amount based on the evidence and the city is likely to appeal. Locke, a former triathlete from Mukilteo, had climbed a ladder June 29, 2000, during the last day of his three-month recruit training at the fire academy to “rescue” a 120-pound mannequin from a tower. In his lawsuit, Locke contended that dehydration and fatigue caused by three days of rigorous training without adequate water and rest caused him to lose consciousness and fall as he tried to climb down the ladder. Locke, who testified that he has not fully recovered from his injuries, was in a body cast and required months of physical therapy. The city argued, in part, that Locke should have known his own limits and removed himself from drills he did not feel he could manage. The state Department of Labor and Industries fined the Seattle Fire Department more than \$25,000, finding that the department did not take into account the higher demands placed on the recruits by the hot weather.

#### Railway Accidents



#### ATLANTA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities were on the scene of a train derailment this morning in south-west Atlanta. Six cars of the 20 cars on the CSX train derailed as it was on its way to Waycross, officials said. Three of the derailed cars were carrying chlorine and another was carrying sodium hydroxide, an irritant used in making soap. No one was injured in the derailment, but authorities said they may have to call for an evacuation.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A busy section of Cascade Road between Fairburn Road and Kimberly Road in Atlanta closed this afternoon as a result of an overnight train derailment. The road re-opened in the evening hours. Eighteen of the 84 CSX rail cars overturned, but none of them leaked chemicals. A hazardous materials team showed particular concern for four of the cars after determining three carried chlorine and one contained sodium hydroxide, a severe irritant used to manufacture soap. Fulton fire Captain Markus Jones said in the hours after the derailment, “We would like the

citizens in this area to avoid this area simply because we don't know what we have altogether just yet. We have no injuries that we know of at this time, but we do have all of the resources en route and on the scene." Investigators said that it could be a few weeks before they would be able to determine what caused the accident. "We have an awful lot of people who are here from every department. We'll leave no stone unturned as we go in to seek to see what the cause was. We'll check everything from the structure of the track to the transportation to the geographical area to make sure that everything was the way that it should be," said Craig Camuso of CSX. Only one business in the southwest Atlanta community decided to close until further notice. Motorists were advised to use alternate routes around the affected area. Word of a potential chemical leak put Fulton County and Atlanta authorities on stand-by, but they decided not to evacuate the Cascade Road area. With the hazmat situation cleared, crews were working to right the overturned cars. Officials said the train would not resume its journey to Waycross, GA, until mid-morning tomorrow.

**AUBURN, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: A westbound freight train carrying industrial paper derailed this afternoon as it passed through the city, sending nine cars off the tracks. No injuries were reported. The 14-car Finger Lakes Railway train, which had just arrived from Syracuse, encountered problems around 1345 as it crossed a small bridge spanning the Owasco River Outlet near Auburn state prison. Two of the derailed cars came to rest upside down, one in the water and the other just inches from a row of cars in the parking lot of a restaurant. State Department of Transportation engineers were at the accident scene within minutes to inspect the bridge while DEC officials searched for hazardous materials. None were found. By early evening, cranes were poised to begin clearing the derailed cars so rail traffic could resume.

**BENTON AREA, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Road crews worked to repair an overpass today along Interstate 57 in southern Illinois, a day after a train derailed as it crossed the bridge, resulting in several cars filled with coal crashing onto the interstate. No one was killed, but a truck driver suffered minor injuries when his face was cut by broken glass, state police officials said. There were no other reports of injuries. The train of three locomotives and 136 cars loaded with coal derailed as it crossed a bridge over the roadway. Canadian National Railway Co. officials said eight coal cars fell onto the interstate and four others derailed. Authorities are still investigating the derailment, but State Police Trooper Mark Chaplain said

preliminary reports indicate that the eastbound railroad cars toppled over the side of the overpass after derailling. Tom Zerrusen, a district engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation, said the bridge seemed stable, although a concrete walkway alongside the track crumbled when the train cars fell.

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Part of the North London Line is closed after seven wagons of a freight train derailed at Willesden Junction. The line will be closed until tomorrow after the train, carrying gravel, came off the tracks at 0400, BST, today. Silverlink Trains say passengers travelling from Willesden to Richmond and Clapham Junction will need to find alternative routes. Network Rail said people were not put in danger as there were no passenger services in the area at the time. Engineers will repair the tracks once the derailed carriages have been removed. A full investigation has been launched.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Part of the North London Line is closed for a second day after seven wagons of a freight train were derailed in the early hours of yesterday. The line was closed after the train, carrying gravel, came off the tracks at Willesden Junction at 0400, BST. Silverlink Trains said the line should reopen at about 1030, BST, tomorrow. An investigation into the cause of the derailment has been launched.

**MADHYA PRADESH STATE, INDIA**

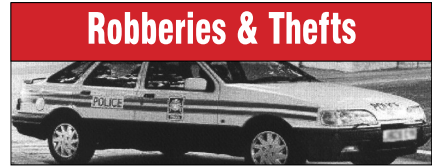
London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Eight bogies of a goods train derailed near a bridge on the river Chambal in Madhya Pradesh state, between Dhaulpur and Morena stations, late yesterday evening. The accident occurred on the main line that connects Delhi and Chennai. Rail traffic has been halted on both the up and down tracks. Trains that run between Delhi and Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mumbai have been affected.

**NEWARK, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An early-morning train derailment in Independence County has led to a lot of activity in Newark today. Authorities say a south-easterly-bound Missouri and Northern Arkansas freight train derailed after it apparently struck a freight car that was sitting idle on the tracks in Newark around 0200 this morning. Three engines and four to five freight cars were reportedly involved in the accident, in which no injuries were reported, although two people were reported taken to a Batesville hospital as a precautionary measure. Rail company officials say they expect to have the wreck site cleaned up by tonight. They also say the train was hauling "commodities," believed to be coal and grain.

**TALLINN AREA, ESTONIA**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: Several coaches of the Moscow-Tallinn train carrying a total of 149 passengers ran off the rails not far from Tallinn today after the drive engine had collided with a tank truck that had unexpectedly blocked the track. The truck's driver was taken to hospital with severe traumas and a woman passenger sitting next to him died on the spot. Rescuers and medics who worked at the site of the collision said there were no dead or injured among the passengers and railway men. Several people needed first aid, however, said Ott Laido, the press secretary of the department for rescue works. The accident might have claimed more lives, but luckily, it occurred in the morning soon after the train had passed checking formalities at the Estonian-Russian border, and none of the passengers were sleeping on the upper racks in the second-class compartments. All the passengers were taken by buses to Tallinn, and traffic on the railway line was soon back to normal.



**MONEY, ROMANIA**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Romanian security guard who stole £1.7m from his security van, has been caught after a week-long manhunt. Petru Nica made off with the money he'd collected from banks across the country, when his security guard partner left the van to buy cigarettes. Officers arrested Nica at an empty villa outside Bucharest after receiving a tip-off. They were also told the money had been hidden in three different locations. Head of Bucharest police Marian Tutilescu said: "We think no more than £50,000 to £100,000 of the money stolen may have been spent."



**BACKDOOR-CGT/SS TROJAN**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A new computer virus is floating around in e-mail land that could allow a hacker to get into your computer through a back door. This latest virus, called BackDoor-CGT or the SS Trojan, has been labelled as a low-profiled threat, but if it ends up on your computer, it could create serious problems. According to McAfee's Web site, the Trojan virus opens a random port on a computer and then sends a notice to the hacker via HTTP.



## Miscellaneous

**CAP ANAMUR (Germany)**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Italian Coast Guard vessels today blocked general cargo *Cap Anamur* (2605 gt, built 1983), carrying Sudanese refugees, as it tried to dock in Sicily after sailing the Mediterranean for three weeks searching for a port of refuge. The vessel's master had called for help, saying the refugees were threatening to jump overboard and that he was heading towards land whether authorised or not, Italian television reported. Ambulances stood by at the dock as the vessel floated about 500 yards offshore, under close watch by Coast Guard vessels. The *Cap Anamur* is operated by a German aid group of the same name. The group said it came across a rubber dinghy on Jun 20 containing 36 Sudanese — many reportedly fleeing a humanitarian crisis in the western province of Darfur — and a man from Sierra Leone. The Italian Interior Ministry, which handles refugee and clandestine immigrants, said the master had requested help, signaling "he was no longer able to guarantee the control of the vessel and the command of the crew" and was concerned about the "psychic-physical" well-being of the passengers. Police and Coast Guard craft had escorted the aid group *Cap Anamur's* vessel towards Porto Empedocle, but then an array of Coast Guard and police vessels moved to guard the entrance to the port, preventing the vessel from docking. The ministry said doctors would examine the passengers and crew and those in need of care would be taken to local hospitals. However, it said the vessel itself would remain blocked outside the port to allow an investigation of what it called "the mysterious aspects regarding the conduct of the ship and crew." It did not elaborate, but some Italian news reports have said authorities suspect that the vessel might have been provoking a standoff to test the immigration policies of European nations. Contacts were under way with German authorities to "verify aspects tied to the position of the master and to follow up on the requests for asylum which supposedly have been made to Germany," the ministry said. The ministry said it was determined to respect human rights while "not giving any leeway to any kind of illicit behavior." As evening arrived, bottles of water were delivered to the vessel by the Coast Guard. Speaking by telephone from the vessel, Elias Bierdal, a *Cap Anamur* spokesman, said: "This situation on board is not bearable any more. The boat people are mentally and physically in a very bad state." *Cap Anamur*, a Cologne, Germany-based group, said the Sudanese gave the vessel's master a

handwritten asylum application late yesterday and that it was sent on to the German government. Germany's foreign ministry declined comment. Earlier, Italian authorities had said the refugees first passed through Malta and should have applied for asylum there. The vessel picked up the men 100 miles from the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa, according to Christopher Hein, director of the Italian Council for Refugees. He said the vessel sailed through Maltese waters but did not stop at the island.

London, Jul 12 — According to press reports, the authorities at Sicily's Porto Empedocle have now decided to allow general cargo *Cap Anamur* to berth there with a view to permitting the migrants on board to disembark.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Italian police have arrested the master of general cargo *Cap Anamur* and an official from a German aid organisation after more than 30 Africans on board the vessel were allowed to disembark in Sicily. Police said the pair were being held for allegedly aiding illegal immigration. Initial checks suggest the Africans involved were not predominantly Sudanese asylum seekers as first reported, but from Ghana and Nigeria. Bernd Goeken, from the German aid group in charge of the vessel gave his reaction to the news. "We are very surprised about this because before it was an arrangement that the vessel can go inside Porto Empedocle and the Sudanese people, the Italian Government would take care of these people," he said. "There was just some questions to the master and to Mr Bierdel, the Chairman of *Cap Anamur*. "Now they change completely, we're arrested, even the vessel is arrested now. We don't know what to do at the moment."

**JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL FINED DUE VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS, RUSSIA**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Russian border guards have imposed a fine of 8.2 million rubles on a Japanese fishing schooner that broke the rules for marine products transportation in Russia's border zone, said sources at the Pacific border department of the Russian Federal Security Service. The schooner deviated from the assigned route and was stopped by Russian border guards in the Tatar Strait near Sakhalin Jun 27. It was carrying a consignment of frozen hunchback salmon. Following an administrative inquiry, its owner and crew were issued a fine, the sources said. "No evidence of poaching was found, but the ship violated the regulations for transporting marine products - it had 101 tons of hunchback salmon in the holds - in Russia's exclusive economic zone," they said.

**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The bird flu strain that killed 24 people in east Asia earlier this year and resurfaced in recent weeks has

become endemic to the region, and the virus could trigger a global health crisis if it goes unchecked, according to a new study. In the study published by the London-based science journal *Nature*, researchers led by a Hong Kong microbiologist found that domestic ducks in southern China had played a key role in the creation of the H5N1 flu virus, while wild birds had probably helped its spread through Asia. Early this year, the virus raged through Asia's poultry farms, and jumped to humans in cases that were mostly traced to direct contact with sick birds, killing 16 people in Vietnam and eight in Thailand. Health officials raised concerns about the illness mutating into a strain that could easily be passed among humans, but said there was no sign that had happened. New outbreaks from the same deadly strain re-emerged in eastern China and two central Thai provinces this week, and Chinese and Thai officials are slaughtering thousands of chickens to halt its spread. Vietnam also has been dealing with bird flu outbreaks in recent weeks. The researchers found that the bird flu strain earlier this year had evolved from the one that crossed over to humans and killed six people in Hong Kong in 1997. The World Health Organization said in a statement the study suggested the virus was more widespread than previously thought and will be more difficult to eliminate.

Bangkok, Jul 13 — Thailand confirmed more outbreaks of deadly bird flu among chickens and wild ducks in provinces near Bangkok today. "The H5N1 bird flu virus was found in wild ducks which live near Bangkok in Phatum Thani province," Agriculture Minister Somsak Thepsuthin told reporters. "We are worried because wild ducks move freely all over the place, hence the virus could easily spread to more areas." The virus has been found in the past few days on a chicken farm in north-central Nakhon Sawan province, farms in Phatum Thani province, north of Bangkok and on several farms in the northern provinces of Uttaradit and Sukothai. Last week, outbreaks of the H5N1 bird flu virus were confirmed in two central provinces, ending Thai hopes that the avian flu outbreak which ravaged poultry farms across Asia earlier this year had been eradicated. Early this year, the H5N1 virus killed 24 people — 16 in Vietnam and 8 in Thailand — who had come into close contact with infected fowl. Thailand, then the world's fourth biggest chicken exporter, said it culled around 60 million chickens and other poultry in that outbreak. China said last week it had culled thousands of chickens and vaccinated many more to try to halt an outbreak of H5N1. There have been no reports of anyone in China or Thailand falling ill from bird flu in the latest outbreaks and late last week, Chinese doctors released 37 people from observation after they had come into contact with infected chickens. Migrating wild birds, especially waterfowl, were widely blamed for spreading the epidemic across much of Asia and forcing

widespread culling. Yukol Limlaemthong, head of the Thai Agriculture Ministry's Livestock Department, told reporters he feared more outbreaks. "There are still some more provinces that we suspect have bird flu because chickens in those areas have died with the symptoms we saw from the bird flu virus. We have sent samples for lab testing," Yukol said. Those provinces, such as Khon Kaen, are in northeast Thailand, Yukol said. "Our assumption is that the bird flu virus is still on the ground. It might take years to get rid of it," he said. Officials have yet to reveal the number of fowl culled in the latest outbreaks, but at least 30,000 have been killed. The government also said today it would not cull wild storks, as it had said it would, even though officials believe they carry the virus. "It is not an effective way to contain the bird flu virus," Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisang told reporters. Yukol also said officials had tracked down 5,000 chickens moved illegally from a farm in Nakhon Sawan province where bird flu had been confirmed. — Reuters.

#### POWER OUTAGE, BAHRAIN

Karachi, Jul 9 — Bahrain Ministry of Electricity and Water said due to overload a number of power plants tripped and as a result a blackout was experienced in several areas in Bahrain on Wednesday (Jul 7). This was the first time in recent history that such a major blackout had affected Bahrain population and industries. Ministry sources said "a technical glitch" had caused a power outage in the stations of Sitra, North Sitra, Alba port, Sanad and Al Buhair. "The power failure led to the rotation of the power cut," a statement said. "Technicians and engineers promptly acted to restore power in the affected areas," the ministry said, offering "apologies for the inconveniences caused by the outage." A ministry statement said electricity will also be cut temporarily tomorrow and Monday morning (Jul 12) in various areas to upgrade the Northern Isa Town power station. "We needed to upgrade the power station after a technical fault was found in the generator on Jun 30." Electricity will be cut in Isa Town, Jurdab, East Riffa, Buhair, Salmabad, Al A'ali, Budaiya, Janabiya, Megsha, Khamis, Saar, Coastal area and the University of Bahrain in Isa Town on both the days from 0500 to 0800 in order for the team to run some tests and inspections. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### POWER OUTAGE, GREECE

Athens, Jul 12 — A power blackout hit the Greek capital around noon today, almost one month before the start of the Athens Olympic Games. Officials are uncertain as to the cause of the failure. "People are calling from various areas across Athens and tell us that the power is out, it looks like it's a general problem," said a technician at the electricity utility's fault centre. He added they did not yet know the reason for the blackout. The main electricity

network may have crashed because of a surge in air conditioner use during a heatwave over the last few days, local media said. Traffic lights turned off across Athens, while some radio reports said the suburban railways and the city's metro system were affected. Initial reports from the utility indicated that other cities across southern Greece had electricity problems as well. — Reuters.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: The worst blackout in more than a decade hit Athens and southern Greece today, leaving millions sweltering in a heat wave and raising concerns about whether the lights would go out at next month's Olympics. The government blamed the outage on "mismanagement" of the electricity grid. Still, officials promised the network was ready to handle the Aug 13-29 Olympics. The blackout knocked out air conditioners as afternoon temperatures soared to 104 deg Fahrenheit. The power failure created enormous traffic jams from failed traffic signals and stalled electric trolleys. Hundreds of passengers on the Athens subway were forced to leave trains and walk, and the fire department received hundreds of calls about people trapped in elevators. The domino-effect outages were traced to an imbalanced flow of electricity that shut down four power-generating stations, according to a senior government official. Greece's Public Power Corp did not explain what caused the blackout, saying only that it knocked out four major plants. The company blamed the state-owned grid operator for the outage. The blackout began at 1239 hrs in Athens and quickly spread. Outages were reported as far as Larissa, 155 miles north of Athens, and the port of Kalamata, 175 miles to the south. It also included some islands in the Aegean and Ionian seas. Power was restored to 70% of the region in about an hour and to all of Athens in just over three hours. Remote areas were affected longer

### Fires & Explosions



#### CONDOMINIUMS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, MURRIETA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Fire gutted 40 condominiums under construction at Jefferson Avenue and Juniper Street today. Damage from the blaze at The Reserves at Madison Park was estimated at \$1 million and the cause of the fire had not been determined, though arson is not suspected, fire officials said. The fire was reported just after 0920 hrs and firefighters had the blaze contained to five buildings in about 20 minutes, said Engineer John Thomas of the Murrieta Fire Department. Coincidentally, all of Murrieta's on-duty firefighters were training at Fire Station No. 1 on

Juniper Street, just two blocks from the construction site, when the fire was reported, Thomas said. About 25 firefighters, including crews from several nearby communities, fought the blaze at the construction site. The fire was limited to five of the project's 32 wood-framed structures — each of the two-story buildings contains eight condominiums. The blaze also charred construction and roofing supplies sitting nearby. The cause of the fire is under investigation. All of the condominiums, which range in size from 800 square feet to 1,250 square feet — have already been sold at prices ranging from the low to the upper \$200,000s, Brennan said. The first occupants of the project were scheduled to move in early next year, said project administrator Brian Boulio. "As soon as we get the OK from our insurance company and the fire department, we'll have to bulldoze everything there and start over," Brennan said. "The delay should be about five months." Firefighters remained on the scene until late this afternoon continuing to pour water on the ruins and on stacks of smoldering building material.

#### FACTORY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A Sydney factory containing a number of smash repair workshops was destroyed today by a suspicious fire emergency services say was the worst of its kind in years. The damage bill is expected to run to millions of dollars. The Botany Road, Alexandria, building, which also housed a car audio store and a taxi holding bay, was engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived at 0130, AEST. Exploding gas bottles and petrol tanks hampered about 60 firefighters as they worked through the night to control the blaze. The factory was destroyed, leaving many cars burnt to the ground and blackened metal hanging from the building's frame. Firefighters sifted through the smoldering wreckage this morning, but investigations were hampered because the site was still unsafe. Insp Earl said the building probably would be demolished and the damage bill would run to millions of dollars. Power outages kept staff in surrounding offices from their workplaces this morning, but they were expected to be allowed to return by mid-afternoon.

#### FOREST, GREECE

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Greek firefighters have extinguished a big forest fire less than four kilometres from the new Olympic village in Athens. It took more than four hours to control the blaze that left one dead and destroyed more than a dozen houses. The Olympic village - which was built to house athletes during the August games - was never in danger, the firefighters said. The cause of the fire that swept over the foot of Mount Parnis was not known. Earlier this week, the Greek civil defence agency warned of possible wildfires near Athens and parts of central Greece

due to soaring temperatures and strong winds. Crews would remain in the area until tomorrow because of fears the strong winds could rekindle the flames, the local deputy fire chief was quoted as saying by the Associated Press news agency. More than 200 firefighters were called in to tackle the fire, while helicopters and firefighting planes had sprayed water on the blaze.

#### **FOREST, RUSSIA**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Nine forest fires have broken out in the Far Eastern territory for the past day. According to operational information of the regional emergencies centre 29 forest fires on the area of more than 950 hectares were registered in the Far Eastern federal district today. Most fires are located in Yakutia. Weather conditions were relatively favourable last spring and in the first month of summer. Frequent and torrential rains helped to put out fires. About 17,000 hectares of taiga have burnt down since the beginning of the fire-prone season.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The area of forest fires exceeded 17,000 hectares in Russia, the information department of the Russian Emergencies Ministry said yesterday. The fire area did not exceed 11,000 hectares in the end of last week. As many as 154 fires including 16 large fires are presently reported in forests, the department noted. Fires engulfed forests in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous area, the Arkhangelsk, Amur, Sverdlov regions, Buryatia, Yakutia and Komi.

#### **LABORATORY, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A London medical lab will remain closed until at least Wednesday (Jul 14) as officials assess how to recover from a Can\$1.5 million fire. But Gamma-Dynacare medical lab at 245 Pall Mall St. will continue testing local patients' samples through its Brampton and Windsor facilities with "minimal" disruption to turnaround times, general manager Barry Irwin said yesterday. Firefighters got a call just before midnight Friday (Jul 9) to the basement of the four-storey building, said fire Capt Gary Fleming. At that point the fire was well under way, he said. Two employees working in the chemistry lab had completed most of their work when they heard the alarm and left the building, Irwin said. Firefighters are still investigating the blaze, but suspect the cause may have been an electrical short-circuit. Just after 1800 yesterday firefighters were called back to the lab after smoke was reported coming from the building. Platoon Chief David van Dijk said residual smoke and heat trapped in the ceiling from the initial fire sparked the second call to Gamma-Dynacare in two days. "We didn't find any live fire, just smouldering," he said. By the time firefighters left the lab after the first fire at 0300 yesterday, the 2,000-square-foot basement laboratory

had sustained structural damage of about Can\$300,000 and the damage to contents was about Can\$1.2 million.

#### **MILL, NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 9, states: Fire investigators are looking for the cause of a massive blaze that gutted an abandoned mill complex in New Bedford last night. No one was injured in the fire, which broke out about 2200 hrs at the Fairhaven Mills complex. It took firefighters about 90 minutes to get the fire under control but crews were still putting out hotspots in the four-storey building early this morning. Every available firefighter was called out to battle the blaze. New Bedford Mayor Frederick Kalisz Jr estimated it will cost the city about \$1 million to clean up the property and make it safe. No one was known to be inside the building but fire officials said squatters were known to cook inside it, using open flames.

#### **MINE, KALGOORLIE AREA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire has caused Aus\$11 million (£4.2 million) worth of damage to a piece of mining equipment in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in West Australia. The fire started about 0300 today in a piece of machinery known as a "shovel" at the KCG mine site on Black Street. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority helped mine workers put out the blaze which was caused by the engine over heating.

#### **OIL REFINERY, MONGSTAD, NORWAY**

London, Jul 13 — Norway's largest refinery, at Mongstad, is running at half capacity after a fire damaged a crude oil unit and injured two people. The blaze early yesterday morning at Statoil's facility has cut the refinery's output to 90,000 barrels per day, but the adjacent terminal's crude oil exports are not affected. Norwegian police and Statoil personnel have inspected the damaged site and found less damage than previously feared. "The extent of the damage is less than expected. The fire was extinguished and the site cooled down quickly and effectively," said Mongstad vice-president Bjorn Kare Viken. "It is still too early to say anything about the cause. The police will have to carry out an investigation, and we will initiate an in-house commission of inquiry." The two injured Statoil employees have been released from hospital. The partially privatised oil firm is set to begin repairs this week, but said the work was expected to take several weeks.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Regulators, the police and owner Statoil are launching an investigation into a fire that broke out at the Mongstad refinery in western Norway today. Production at the refinery was cut in half after the dramatic blaze that left two injured. Two workers at the refinery north of Bergen were treated and released at

Haukeland University Hospital. Both suffered first- and second-degree burns. Now a major effort is underway to find out what went wrong at the refinery. National regulators from Norway's Petroleumstilsynet were sending a crew to Mongstad to investigate, while refinery officials were meeting with police today. The fire, which lasted around two hours, has been described as the worst to hit the refinery since it opened in 1975. Production capacity at the plant was cut to 90,000 barrels a day, from the normal 180,000. Refinery spokesman Kare Ness said he didn't know how long Mongstad would be forced to operate at half its ordinary level.

#### **PAPER MILL, OAKENHOLT, FLINTSHIRE, WALES**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have spent the night tackling a blaze at a paper mill in north Wales. Several tons of paper went up in flames in a storage building at the SCA tissue mill in Oakenholt, near Flint. Thirty firefighters were still trying to put out the blaze early today after the alarm was raised at about 1900, BST, yesterday. Nobody was reported injured in the fire at the Swedish-owned plant. Six teams of fire officers were initially called to the scene, and an aerial platform was used as a water tower. The waste paper building which caught fire measured about 150 m by 100m and is close to the factory's main building. The company was at the centre of a planning row last year when there were local objections to expand the factory. The firm is the world's largest producer of incontinence products and the biggest supplier of toilet paper to the National Health Service.

#### **PREMISES, WINNIPEG, CANADA**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire that destroyed part of a St. James seniors complex under construction caused up to \$4 million in damage, officials say. An initial estimate released yesterday pegged the damage at Sturgeon Creek Retirement Residence at \$1.5 million "and counting," said Robin Alford, a spokesman for Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service. The early-morning fire was so intense it melted venetian blinds in nearby apartments and plastic parts of cars parked across the street. Investigators spent about 11 hours at the scene but haven't released an official cause.

#### **RECYCLING CENTRE, HOWELL, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An early morning fire destroyed part of a recycling center in Howell today. The blaze started at Industrial Resin Recycling Inc — which recycles plastic automotive parts — on West Grand River around 1230 hrs. Some plastic reportedly got caught in a machine and started burning. One of the buildings at the centre was burned to the ground and a second building had significant damage. Pat Cavanaugh, the owner of the plant, said he plans to

rebuild the facility. Eight of the 51 workers at the center were apparently inside when the fire started. They were able to escape quickly, but many of them went back inside to try and save some of the equipment, according to reports. Firefighters from about six departments were called to the scene to assist in extinguishing the blaze. Crews from the Howell department remained at the scene this afternoon to make sure all the hot spots were put out. One firefighter from Howell reportedly had trouble breathing and was sent home for observation. No other injuries were reported.

#### **REFINERY, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fire broke out at the Marathon Ashland Petroleum Refinery in St. Paul Park just before 0600 hrs. A company spokesperson says lightning struck an oil tank which ignited and in turn set off other fires. It took firefighters about three hours to battle the fire. No one was hurt. The refinery takes crude oil from Canada and the US and turns it into products like gasoline, fuel oil, and jet fuel.

#### **SCHOOL, BIRMINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 firefighters have been tackling a blaze that badly damaged a school in Birmingham. Crews were called to Castle Bromwich Junior School by two police officers who noticed the fire as they drove past at about 0230, BST, today. The blaze destroyed a third of the site at Hurst Street North and is thought to have been started deliberately. The school did not have a sprinkler system. An investigation is under way into the cause of the fire. Various parts of the school, including the reception classrooms, sustained serious smoke damage. Fire investigation officers are expected to remain at the scene for some time.

#### **STEEL PLANT, PORTAGE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire caused up to \$1 million damage and shut down production for at least a few days at a north-western Indiana steel plant, an official said. Equipment that moves a ladle filled with molten steel was heavily damaged and could take days to fix at Beta Steel along US 12 in the city about 10 miles east of Gary, said Fire Chief Tim Sosby. He said a gear about 10 feet in diameter had plenty of grease and other residue built up which ignited, destroying the turret, which moves the ladle from one location to another in the steel-making process. The fire department used about 11,000 gallons of water and about 100 gallons of foam to extinguish the blaze, Sosby said.

#### **WAREHOUSE, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are

continuing to fight a five-alarm fire on Milwaukee's north side. It started late yesterday afternoon at 32nd and Hampton. All seven buildings in the warehouse complex were still on fire as of 0830 hrs. One of the buildings has collapsed and firefighters are worried more could follow. At one point, more than 150 firefighters were on the scene. Fire investigators are calling the fire suspicious.

#### **WAREHOUSE, NORTHFLEET, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 firefighters have been tackling a massive blaze at a paper warehouse in Kent overnight. Kent Fire and Rescue services said the fire at the Kimberley Clarke site in Crete Hall Road, Northfleet, is one of the biggest seen in the county. At its height, 21 fire engines were tackling the fire which began about 1900, BST, yesterday. High winds and exploding gas canisters hampered crews who are expected to have to stay at the site for a few days. The fire service said it was too early to judge what caused the fire, but an investigation would be conducted. Deputy chief fire officer Charlie Hendry said: "This has been quite a difficult fire to tackle just because of the sheer size of it and getting access to the premises. It is a very large building full of bales, some of it full of bale paper and it is burning very severely." The fire service said a 500-ft column of smoke billowed from the warehouse and could be seen from Lambeth in south London. The warehouse, which stands alongside a disused factory on the banks of the River Thames is used for storing paper products.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A paper warehouse hit by one of Kent's biggest ever fires has been so badly damaged it will have to be demolished. The burnt-out frame of the Kimberly Clark distribution centre in Northfleet is still smouldering, two days after Saturday evening's (Jul 10) huge fire. Fire investigation teams said they would not be able to enter the building to conduct an investigation into the cause until Wednesday (Jul 14) at the earliest. Firefighters are still monitoring the scene but officers leading the inquiry said today they were not treating it as suspicious.

#### **WAREHOUSE, RIVERBANK, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Crews battled a three-alarm fire at a warehouse in Stanislaus County today. The fire broke out about 0840 hrs at 5600 Terminal Ave. in Riverbank. The warehouse is the home of Import Export Associates, a company that stores almonds and walnuts. Crews arrived to find flames shooting from the roof of the building and in the grassy area that surrounds the warehouse. More than 40 firefighters were called out to battle the flames, including nine engines, three trucks and air support. "Within a very short period of time we escalated the

alarm level to second and third alarm and the firebrands from this building ignited the fields out here and then it spread across the field to the adjoining neighborhood ... so we had our hand full for a little while," Stanislaus Fire Warden Gary Hinshaw said. No injuries have been reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation and no damage estimate has been released.

#### **WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of hectares of scrubland, pine forests and eucalyptus groves have been reduced to ashes in fires raging since Monday (Jul 12) in Portugal's southern region of Alqueva, officials told a news conference yesterday. Nearly 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) had burned, said forest service head Antonio de Sousa Macedo, after a day of scorching temperatures that reached 37 degrees Celsius. About 160 firefighters with dozens of fire-fighting vehicles, as well as helicopters and water-dropping planes, were battling the fire on three fronts yesterday. Luis Capoulas, governor of Evora district, said authorities hoped to bring the fire "under control this evening, unless there are any sudden changes in the wind". Local police have opened a judicial investigation into the blaze. Aside from the Alqueva fire, more than 80 other blazes were recorded around Portugal yesterday, including 60 which sprung up during the afternoon. Twelve of the 18 regional districts in the country were affected, said Macedo.

#### **WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A pair of wildfires had merged by today as firefighters fought back flames near a mountaintop observatory and nearly 100 summer homes in south-eastern Arizona. Hail and rain fell around the Mount Graham International Observatory, aiding the battle to tame the fires, but lightning started a new blaze yesterday in the steep terrain on the mountain's south side. The biggest fires on the mountain, the lightning-sparked Nuttall and Gibson fires, had joined but were 55% contained, firefighters said. They have charred 29,000 acres on Mount Graham since they began in late June. More thunderstorms were possible today and there was an increased chance of rain tomorrow and Tuesday (Jul 13). "If weather patterns hold as they are, everything will be winding down," fire spokesman Kent Romney said. Fire officials were concerned about possible flooding in mountainside canyons because the fires stripped vegetation that would ordinarily be able to absorb the rain. Crews had been able to protect the observatory and mountain communities of Turkey Flat and Columbine. Bulldozers cleared out vegetation in a 200-foot-wide ring around the observatory, home of some of the world's most advanced telescopes. Fire managers did not know when evacuated residents would be able to return. Residents will be allowed to assess the damage for the first time

tomorrow, fire officials said. "You never want to say that you are 100% sure that everything is safe, but we are feeling real good," said Paul Summerfelt, deputy incident commander for the firefighting team. Fire officials said fighting the blaze had cost \$8 million as of today. Also today, a wildfire on the edge of the Florida Everglades had burned 7,200 acres, but was 50% contained. Billowing clouds of smoke shut down a 10-mile stretch of highway in Miami-Dade County. No injuries were reported and no homes were threatened, said Bob Rehr, a spokesman with the state Forestry Division.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Higher humidity and some rain over the past few days continue to aid workers battling major wildfires in the Interior. Fire information officer Gil Knight said today that construction of a fire line to contain the Boundary complex north of Fairbanks is progressing well along the south-west flank. The 337,100-acre fire is about 20%. The 187,000-acre Wolf Creek complex near Chena Hot Springs is about 10%, Knight said. There's some smoldering and creeping ground fire but little active burning near Chena Hot Springs Resort. The 100-acre Waldron Creek fire, just upstream from the Yukon River crossing, burned one cabin and efforts were being made to protect other structures, fire officials said. The 71 fires burning in Alaska have consumed more than 2.1 million acres so far. Of seven new blazes reported Friday (Jul 9), six were caused by humans.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: A wildfire near a village of about 60 residents almost tripled in size today as warm, dry weather gave new life to it and dozens of other fires in Alaska's Interior. Conditions were drying out, heating up and taking a turn for the worse following several days of rain, officials said. "The humidity has dropped. The temperature is up, the wind has picked up. Our respite is over," said Gil Knight, of the Alaska Interagency Coordination Centre. The 17,000-acre fire, one of the 71 fires already burning statewide, was burning about a mile from the village of Bettles. Fire officials said the blaze was a top priority today. It was not known what caused the fire, which was 10% contained by today. When the fire started last week, crews built a firebreak to protect Bettles, located about 185 miles north-west of Fairbanks. The village, a tourist draw in the late summer, has about 60 year-round residents. About 200 firefighters have set up between 20 and 30 tents around the village. Tourists for the most part were staying away, said Tyler Klaes, whose family owns the Bettles Lodge. Firefighters conducted a burn-out operation on Saturday night (Jul 10), but the backburns jumped the main lines, and aircraft had to dump water on advancing flames. Crews were also monitoring wildfires that had burned 338,600 acres north of Fairbanks. Fires have scorched more than 2.3 million acres in Alaska so far. Meanwhile, in California, firefighters battled a

wildfire near Palm Springs. The fire at the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest scorched nearly 1,500 acres, but had destroyed no homes and was 40% contained. In south-eastern Arizona, about 10 residents were allowed to tour charred areas of Mount Graham today, escorted by US Forest Service officials and sheriff's deputies. The group was to report their findings to the other homeowners. Fire managers did not know when all of the families forced to flee Turkey Flat's 74 cabins and Columbine's 15 cabins would be allowed to return for good. The possibility of falling trees, flash floods in fire-damaged areas and traffic interfering with firefighting efforts was among the concerns. Crews were able to protect the communities and the \$200 million Mount Graham International Observatory from a pair of wildfires that eventually merged. The fires were 65% contained and had burned 29,200 acres by last night. In Colorado, fire officials said a stubborn 300-acre mountainside blaze in eastern Delta County was expected to be fully contained by Wednesday (Jul 14).

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Two wildfires are still burning hard in the brush and forest land of Southern California. Authorities say around seven thousand acres have been burned so far. No homes have been destroyed, although several homes and campgrounds have been evacuated. The causes of both fires are under investigation. Three firefighters suffered heat exhaustion battling a blaze west of Palm Springs that began Sunday afternoon. That blaze is 25% contained, but temperatures in the area are expected to top 100 degrees today. Elsewhere, a fire burning in the Angeles National Forest has blackened more than two thousand acres, prompting the evacuation of a dozen homes. Officials say that fire is 20% contained.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Fed by unusually dry air and gusting winds, wildfires spread quickly through the Interior yesterday, edging near the small village of Bettles and choking the Taylor Highway. The Evansville fire, about a mile outside of Bettles, has tripled in size and become fire crews' top priority, said Bert Plante, an information officer for the Alaska Interagency Coordination Centre at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks. Wind gusts from the south-west kept the fire from spreading any closer to the village of 60 yesterday but sped its growth to 17,561 acres. Five separate fires burned near the Taylor Highway between Tok and Eagle. The rain that aided firefighters battling the state's 71 wildfires is gone, and forecasts call for more hot, dry weather in the Interior over the next few days. The fire danger was high to extreme through most of the state.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Two wildfires that prompted the evacuation of dozens of homes burned out of control today morning after charring 8,400 acres of southern California brush and forest land. No homes were destroyed,

authorities said. The cause of both fires remained under investigation. Three firefighters suffered heat exhaustion yesterday as they battled a 5,000-acre blaze on the edge of the San Bernardino National forest west of Palm Springs. Two campgrounds were evacuated as about 1,000 firefighters, backed by helicopters and aircraft, worked to contain the fire that began Sunday afternoon (Jul 11). The blaze was 25 percent contained late yesterday. In northern Los Angeles County, a 3,400-acre fire in the Lake Hughes area of the Angeles National Forest was 20 percent contained early today. That fire prompted the mandatory evacuation of 10 homes in the Happy Valley community shortly after midnight, county fire Inspector John Mancha said. About 24 homes in nearby communities were evacuated voluntarily yesterday. Hundreds of firefighters were on the line, Mancha said. The blaze started about 1230 yesterday and quickly spread in heavy brush, fanned by wind gusting to around 20 mph, Mancha said. The fire had moved into thick forest that hasn't burned in 75 years, county Fire Department spokesman Mike McCormick said.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews prepared for another day of 100-degree temperatures as wildfires raged out of control in three southern California counties. About 17,000 acres of brush and forest burned in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties. No homes were destroyed but dozens were evacuated since the first fire erupted Sunday (Jul 11). More than 80 homes were evacuated in the Lake Hughes area of the Angeles National Forest. The fire, which destroyed an outbuilding and motor home, was 35 percent contained. More than 500 firefighters from seven agencies were on the line. Fire officials said the blaze appeared to have been caused by humans but it was unclear whether it was deliberately set. In Riverside County, a blaze on the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest burned 3,698 acres. Nearly 1,200 firefighters, backed by helicopters and planes, worked to put out the fire, which began Sunday afternoon. The blaze was 43 percent contained. Officials said the fire started Monday near a power-generating windmill farm in Banning Pass. A second fire in Riverside County erupted yesterday and forced temporary evacuations in the Bundy Canyon area. The fire, located south-west of Lake Elsinore, burned about 350 acres and was 40 percent contained late yesterday night. In eastern San Diego County, a pair of wildfires burned about 8,500 acres of brushy terrain yesterday and prompted the voluntary evacuation of 100 homes in Ranchita, a tiny rural settlement. The fires were 10 percent contained late yesterday, and were sparked by bottle rockets, authorities said. The fires started in the Mataguay Scout Reservation, a 750-acre camp owned by the Boy Scouts of America. About 200 Boy Scouts were evacuated. In Alaska, erratic, gusty winds whipped up several large wildfires, raising concerns for

1,585 firefighters battling 71 wildfires throughout the state. Fires have charred about 2.6 million acres in the state this year, Alaska's fourth worst fire season since 1950.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Despite withering summer heat, firefighters aided by aircraft slowly gained ground today against California wildfires that have burned more than 18,500 acres of brush and forest and caused hundreds of people to evacuate homes. Wet weather headed into the region, bringing hope of relief but also raising fears of flash flooding and new lightning-caused fires. The Federal Emergency Management Agency authorised funds for some of the blazes, which were burning in Los Angeles County, to the east in Riverside County, to the south in San Diego County and in Yosemite National Park in the Sierra Nevada. One of the most difficult fires, 4,700 acres in Angeles National Forest on the edge of the Mojave Desert, was 46% contained. The fire in Pine Canyon prompted voluntary and mandatory evacuations of more than 500 homes yesterday, and an outbuilding and motor home were destroyed. "The fire has been unpredictable, but now firefighters are trying to make a stand at Highway 138, just north of the fire, to attempt to cut it off there," said Los Angeles County fire Inspector John Mancha. More than 1,000 firefighters were on the line. In Riverside County, a 3,698-acre blaze on the edge of San Bernardino National Forest was 50% contained as it burned toward unpopulated terrain. It previously posed a threat to the mountain communities of Idyllwild, Pine Cove and Garner Valley. Nearly 1,200 firefighters worked the blaze. One firefighter suffered a broken leg. Elsewhere in the county, a 350-acre fire southwest of Lake Elsinore was 90% contained and people who had evacuated from the Bundy Canyon area returned home. In eastern San Diego County, an 8,500-acre blaze sparked by illegal fireworks was 66% contained and was expected to be fully surrounded by nightfall today. Some 1,300 firefighters battled the flames, which started as two fires yesterday near Lake Henshaw. Two outbuildings were destroyed and four firefighters were treated for minor injuries, said California Department of Forestry Firefighter Tyler Ashton. The fire prompted evacuation of about 100 rural homes and about 200 youngsters from a Boy Scout camp yesterday, but structures or communities were no longer threatened, Ashton said. In the Sierra, hikers were evacuated and trails were closed in part of Yosemite National Park after a lightning-sparked wildfire grew to 1,300 acres yesterday. The fire was one of nine fires burning in the park from lightning strikes two weeks ago, the National Park Service said.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters in California have been gaining ground against wildfires that have torched more than 19-thousand acres of forest and brush. The blazes have also forced the evacuations of hundreds of homes.

The fires are burning in three southern California counties, as well as in Yosemite National Park in the Sierra Nevada.



#### 9V-TRF

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The family of a New Zealand co-pilot killed in an aircraft crash is to share in a multi-million dollar damages pay-out. A US court has awarded \$66 million to the relatives of three people who died in the Dec 19, 1997, SilkAir jet crash in Indonesia. A Los Angeles Superior Court jury has found defects in the rudder control system of the Boeing 737-300 (9V-TRF) caused the accident, which killed all 104 passengers and crew on board. The co-pilot, 23-year-old Aucklander Duncan Ward, was one of the casualties. An Indonesian inquiry failed to determine why the aircraft suddenly fell from its cruising altitude of 10,600 metres. The US National Transportation Safety Board claimed the pilot deliberately crashed the aircraft but the Los Angeles jury has rejected that.

#### AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jul 11 — Bangladesh Biman Airlines (Biman) said its newly procured aircraft F-28, grounded at Chittagong International Airport due to the engine failure on Tuesday (Jul 6), has started operation again. Biman's Director (Engineering) S Zilani Mahbubur Rahman said the plane was repaired and put into operation yesterday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### C-GKQD

London, Jul 13 — Privately-owned Robinson R44, C-GKQD, was approaching the helipad of a cabin at Beattie Lake, BC on a flight from North Pine, BC. The wind was from the west at 8 to 10 knots. A thunderstorm was located 3 to 5 kilometres to the south. The pilot reported he lost tail rotor effectiveness coincident with a 40 to 50 knot gust from the south. The helicopter began an uncontrolled rotation to the right. After five rotations, when he was unable to regain control, the pilot allowed the helicopter to touch down softly on the lake surface at 1457, PDT, Jul 11. The helicopter sank in 30 feet of water and was substantially damaged. The three occupants, who were uninjured, swam to shore and took shelter in the cabin.

#### CRASH, BILIMBAI AREA, SVERDLOVSK REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Rescue teams have discovered the wreckage of an R-44 helicopter that went missing three days ago. The pilot and two passengers

onboard died. Their bodies have also been found, a duty officer at the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said. He clarified that the helicopter's fragments had been found 700 m away from the Svetofor tourist base near Bilimbai settlement, the Sverdlovsk region. This is where the R-44 was seen for the last time. The identities of the dead have been established. They include two employees of Moscow enterprises, the head of the information department of the Sverdlovsk Railway as well as the pilot, a resident of the Sverdlovsk region. The R-44 helicopter left Pervouralsk for Perm in the morning on Jul 7. It lost contact with the ground services soon after the take-off. An investigation into the accident is under way.

#### CRASH, BORNEO ISLAND, MALAYSIA

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people have been rescued from a remote area of Borneo island after their helicopter crashed in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak, near the Indonesian border. The helicopter was carrying an assistant state minister and five other officials when it went down in wet weather en route from Bario to Bakelalan. The survivors are said to be alive and well and staying at a village near the Malaysian-Indonesian border. Civil aviation authorities say an investigation team has now gone to the crash site near the Apo Duat mountain range.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Malaysian air force and police today found a helicopter that crashed in the eastern Sarawak state on Borneo island, and have confirmed that its six passengers are safe. Search operations began yesterday when the Bell Huey 206 helicopter, which was carrying six people including a senior state official, was reported missing during a flight to one of the rural areas in the state. Rescue officers found the survivors early today at a village near the site of the crash, said officials from Hornbill Skyways, the company which owns the helicopter. The state's assistant minister, Judson Sakai Tagal, and five others were travelling in the helicopter when it lost contact with air traffic control shortly after noon yesterday. Police have said they will be conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the crash.

#### CRASH, JAFFREY AREA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES

See N2489M.

#### CRASH, JALAPA AREA, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

See N530MT.

#### CRASH, JOHANNESBURG AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot and two passengers had a close shave with death after their aircraft crash landed before it could get to a landing strip south of Johannesburg. The four-seater

Girelle took off from the Vereeniging Airfield yesterday, with the pilot, a 20-year-old woman and her 13-year-old brother on board. The aircraft neared the Bara Airfield near Lenasia when it crashed in the veld at 0940. The Johannesburg Light Plane Club and the Syferfontein Experimental Aircraft Club are based at the airfield, which is a private airfield used most often by pilots on joy flights and for "touch-and-goes". Soweto police Captain Mbazima Shiburi said the pilot and passengers had been on a joy flight when the aircraft's engine failed. He said the pilot called his wife from the wreckage, and she reported the crash to police, who summoned the emergency services. Emergency services spokesperson Malcolm Midgley said the pilot, who had broken his right arm and both legs, was airlifted to Milpark Hospital. The unidentified woman and her brother were taken by ambulance to Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital with light injuries. Sister Monique Lanz, deputy nursing service manager-trauma at Milpark Hospital, said the pilot was in a critical condition and would have to undergo surgery before being transferred to the intensive care unit.

#### **CRASH, MOUNT HAGEN AIRPORT, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An Australian pilot in Papua New Guinea escaped unhurt after he made an emergency landing at the Mount Hagen airport. The twin-engine Beechcraft crashed on the runway and burst into flames. Papua New Guinea's Civil Aviation Authority director Andrew Ogil says the cause of the incident is not known.

#### **CRASH, PARIS AIRPORT, LOGAN COUNTY, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Officials in Ohio's Logan County reported that a Cessna 172 Sky Hawk crashed about one thousand yards north-west of the Paris airport. The aircraft departed from the airport between 0600 and 0700 today and was en route to Ozark. There is no word yet on what caused the aircraft to go down, killing the pilot and the passenger. Officials with the Federal Aviation Administration were on the scene and representatives from the national transportation safety board were on the way.

#### **CRASH, PARIS AIRPORT, LOGAN COUNTY, UNITED STATES**

See N46174.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NORTHERN IRELAND**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft has had to make an emergency landing at Belfast International Airport. The emergency services were called to the airport, near Templepatrick in County Antrim, following reports that an incoming flight was experiencing difficulties. The Boeing 737 experienced what has been described as a hydraulic failure, but landed safely. Fire fighters

were standing by as the aircraft flew in but were not needed. It is not believed anyone was injured. Antrim Area Hospital was put on full alert during the emergency at about teatime yesterday.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, CEDUNA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A formal report is being prepared into the emergency landing of a commercial aircraft at Ceduna on South Australia's west coast last night. A Regional Express aircraft with 14 passengers and two crew experienced engine trouble 10 minutes into a flight from Ceduna to Adelaide. The pilot shut down the left engine and safely landed at Ceduna around 1945, ACST. Airline spokesman Peter Leate says special arrangements were made later for the passengers. "There were 14 passengers on the flight and after they arrived back in Ceduna we arranged another aircraft to go out and pick them up from Ceduna and take them back to Adelaide and they were back in late in the evening," he said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 9 — A twin engine prop aircraft carrying 42 passengers and crew made an emergency landing this afternoon at Norfolk International Airport. The Dash-8 aircraft from Allegheny Airlines made the landing after the right engine failed during its flight to Philadelphia. The pilot circled Norfolk, burning off fuel, before making the successful landing around 1245 hrs. No one was injured. The passengers boarded another plane later this afternoon and continued their passage.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Southwest Airlines flight from Raleigh-Durham International Airport to Chicago's Midway Airport made an emergency landing in South Bend, Indiana, yesterday. Southwest flight 933 was on its way to Midway Airport when the pilot reported smoke in the cockpit. Heavy rains forced the aircraft to sit on the runway for several hours before the 110 passengers could be transferred to another Southwest Airlines jet to complete their trip to Chicago.

#### **HELICOPTER MISSING ON FLIGHT FROM BARIO TO BA KELALAN, MALAYSIA**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Signals picked up during an aerial search for a Hornbill Skyways Sdn Bhd helicopter yesterday were not from the missing aircraft, said Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan today. Speaking to reporters in Bario, Dr Chan who is directing the search and rescue operations for seven people on board the missing helicopter, said the signals were actually transmitted from an aircraft which had passed over the area. This was confirmed by the Search and

Rescue Operations Centre in Kota Kinabalu, he said. Meanwhile the search and rescue operation for seven people on board the six-seater Bell 206 helicopter, that went missing en route to Ba Kelalan from Bario on Monday (Jul 12), resumed today. Some 1,000 soldiers, police personnel and villagers are involved in the operation which is in its fourth day. The operation, comprising aerial and ground search, was temporarily halted yesterday evening due to bad weather. Rescuers are combing dense forests near the Sarawak/Kalimantan border and moving towards an area near Ba Kelalan where a column of smoke was spotted yesterday. The helicopter was ferrying Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office Dr Judson Sakai Tagal and six others — pilot Kapt Samsuddin Hashim, Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation (Sesco) chief executive officer Roger Wong Hwa Puang, Padawan Municipal Council chairman Lawrence Th'ng, contractor Datuk Marcus Raja, and Sesco engineers Jason Ng and Ling Tian Ho.

#### **INCIDENT AT KOMATSU AIRPORT, ISHIKAWA, JAPAN**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An All Nippon Airways aircraft carrying 532 passengers and crew lost control in steering and made an abrupt stop on a taxiway at Komatsu airport in Ishikawa Prefecture yesterday shortly after landing, injuring two passengers. A 55-year-old woman sustained a minor injury to her right leg and a man in his 40s hurt his neck, according to ANA and airport officials.

#### **N196BH**

London, Jul 12 — Eurocopter AS 350B-2 (Ecureuil) N196BH, operated by Blue Hawaiian Helicopters, made a hard landing on a road on Mount Mauna Kea, Hawaii, at 2310, Jul 8, while on a flight from Waikoloa, HI, to Hilo, HI. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The seven persons on board suffered minor injuries.

#### **N2489M**

London, Jul 8 — Piper PA-12 (Super Cruiser), N2489M, crashed near Jaffrey, New Hampshire, at 2118, Jul 7, while on a flight from Jaffrey. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was seriously injured.

#### **N4123R**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: A Virginia man whose aircraft crashed into the side of a mountain in Hot Springs still had control of the aircraft while trying to land in poor weather, a preliminary federal report said. Larry Sanders died Jul 2 when his Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six) (N4123R) crashed into the 1,000-foot Indian Mountain. The report from the National Transportation Safety Board said that Sanders was trying to land at Hot Springs Memorial Field. Investigators were able to piece together the last eight minutes before Sanders' crash using information from a handheld global-positioning system found at the

crash site. The report said Sanders had taken off from an airport near Springfield, Kentucky, and was in the air for 2.5 hours. It said Sanders approached the runway from the south-west, but missed the runway and should have turned to the south-east to loop around again. Instead, Sanders' aircraft went north-east. The report stated that weather at the field that morning was poor with low clouds, some rain and lightning, but added that Sanders was rated to fly in poor conditions. The report from the National Transportation Safety Board did not show a cause of the crash. Instead it outlined basic information from investigators about the crash site, aircraft and pilot's flying record. A probable cause report takes several months to finish.

#### **N45032**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A small aircraft crashed in a remote area of Essex County, New York, and burst into flames today, killing the two people who were on board, authorities said. Wreckage from the twin-engine aircraft was strewn about the crash site, which authorities described as a swath of forest land roughly three miles east of Putt's Pond Road in the town of Ticonderoga. The cause of the accident was not immediately known. Matt Watts, second assistant fire chief for the Ticonderoga Volunteer Fire Department, said rescue workers were hoping to bring the bodies out this evening. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the pair departed the Waterbury-Oxford Airport in Oxford, Connecticut, in a Piper PA-31 (Navajo) chartered by Capital Airlines. The aircraft was heading for an airport in Ticonderoga, said the FAA spokeswoman, Arlene Salac. It was not known if the pilot established radio contact with air traffic controllers. Salac said authorities were not given a flight plan, and the pilot was not required to file one on this flight. Federal aviation records show the aircraft, manufactured in 1980, was owned by Haynes Group LLC of Seymour, CT. Investigators from the FAA and National Transportation Safety Board were en route to the scene, Salac said.

London, Jul 13 — Piper PA-31-350 (Navajo Chieftain), N45032, crashed near Ticonderoga, New York, at 1230, Jul 10, while on a flight from Waterbury Oxford, Connecticut, to Ticonderoga. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N46174**

London, Jul 13 — Cessna 172I (Skyhawk), N46174, crashed near Paris, Arkansas (not Ohio as before reported), at 1100, Jul 11, while on a flight from Paris to Ozark, AR. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N4826C**

London, Jul 13 — Convair 440, N4826C, operated by Dodita Air Cargo,

departed San Juan airport on flight to St. Marteen airport when approximately 30 miles south-east of Beef Island airport, the pilot declared an emergency with an engine fire. The pilot ditched the aircraft in the water at Tortola, British Virgin Islands, at 1117, Jul 12. The aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N530MT**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A medical helicopter crashed today just after picking up a woman injured in a hit and run accident, killing her and the three others on board. The Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System helicopter crashed in a heavily wooded area just off Interstate 26, near Jalapa, hospital spokeswoman Betsy McMillan said. Newberry County Emergency Medical Services had requested the helicopter for a pedestrian who was injured at a highway rest stop. Newberry County Sheriff Lee Foster said the helicopter wasn't in the air more than 20 seconds and crashed about 1,000 yards off the highway. The chopper was totally destroyed. There was no word on what caused the crash, which happened during fair weather, McMillan said. Representatives of the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration were en route to investigate, Chief Deputy Jerry Wright said.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A South Carolina hospital helicopter that was transporting a traffic accident victim crashed today, killing four. Officials said they do not know why the helicopter, a Bell 407, crashed less than a minute after picking up a woman who had been discovered along Interstate 29 about 50 miles north-west of Columbia, S.C. The crash was in a heavily wooded area and rescue crews had to use four-wheel vehicles to reach the site. All four people were declared dead at the scene. They included the traffic accident victim, the helicopter pilot, a paramedic and a flight nurse, the Greenville News reported. The helicopter had been dispatched from Spartanburg Medical Center, about 50 miles north of the accident scene, after a helicopter from Columbia to the south was grounded because of fog. Weather was not an obvious reason for the eventual crash, officials said. Authorities said the accident victim had chest injuries and a broken leg after either being hit by or thrown from a vehicle. Both incidents are under investigation.

London, Jul 14 — Bell 407, N530MT, departed an auto accident scene en route to Spartanburg Regional Hospital, South Carolina, and crashed under unknown circumstances, while on medical emergency flight with accident victim at Newberry, South Carolina, at 0130, Jul 13. Four fatalities, the aircraft was destroyed.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Federal investigators worked throughout today to remove the wreckage of a medical helicopter (Bell 407 N530MT) that crashed in Newberry County the day before and killed all four people on

board. Members of the National Transportation Safety Board photographed and catalogued each piece of debris from the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System aircraft. They will cull through the information and determine a cause for the crash in about a year, said Jim Silliman, a senior air safety investigator with the agency. The debris stretched about 200 yards through the woods. The helicopter appeared to be intact when it first struck the treetops and no witnesses reported seeing any fire. Officials are still trying to gather the helicopter's maintenance records and the weather conditions at the time of the crash. Fog prevented a Columbia helicopter from coming to the scene, but witnesses reported very little fog around the rest area at the time of the crash. Investigators did recover a device that records the performance of the engine of the helicopter and plan to send it to the manufacturer to try to recover the data. A preliminary report on the accident could be released this week, but will have few details. It takes an average of a year for the NTSB to release a more comprehensive report detailing the cause of the crash. Workers expected to finish collecting the wreckage of the helicopter this afternoon. It will be taken to Atlanta and examined.

#### **N56776**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A father and his son were injured today when their single-engine aircraft crashed moments after taking off from the Mathis Airport in Cumming, Forsyth County, authorities said. The Cherokee 140 four-passenger aircraft crashed in a wooded area at the end of the runway. Airport owner Joe Voyles watched the crash and said he believed a combination of excessive weight and extreme heat caused the crash. "He was a pretty good-size gentlemen and with the weight of his son and the luggage, he never fully got off the runway," Voyles said. "He went the full length and it looked like he stalled and went straight into the woods." Forsyth County Fire Department Lt. Michael Sheuring said pieces of the aircraft were scattered over about a 100-yard area, with some pieces stuck high in trees.

London, Jul 13 — Piper PA-28-140 (Cherokee Cruiser), N56776, crashed near Cumming, Georgia, at 1643, Jul 10, while on a flight from Cumming. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

#### **N7090N**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A small Cessna aircraft crashed in a shallow bay near an airport this afternoon, killing two people and injuring one, state police said. The aircraft was about to land at Atlantic City's Bader Field but instead crashed nose-first into about four feet of water, officers said. The survivor was standing on one wing of the four-seat Cessna when police reached the scene



by boat. Authorities did not disclose which hospital he was taken to. Authorities said the aircraft was arriving from northern New Jersey but they did not immediately know exactly where the flight originated.

London, Jul 13 — Beechcraft Travel Air 95, N7090N, crashed near Atlantic City, New Jersey, at 1623, Jul 11, while on a flight from Pittstown, NJ, to Bader Field, NJ. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third was seriously injured.

#### **N8118L**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The mayor of Racine died yesterday when the helicopter he was piloting crashed in a field south of Rochester. Mayor Gary Landgrebe, 47, was a student pilot. He died at the scene, said Olmsted County Coroner Eric Pfeifer. His flight instructor, Joseph Fishburn of Rochester, was airlifted to Saint Marys Hospital. He was listed in critical condition. The accident happened shortly after noon yesterday when the two-seat helicopter crashed into a grassy field on Ken Schoenfelder's farm in Marion Township. Schoenfelder operates Blue Skies Inc., which offers flight training. Authorities said he owns the helicopter and watched the accident happen. Witnesses reported seeing the helicopter struggling to land and then suddenly flipping upside down and hitting the ground, said Chief Deputy Steve Von Wald, with the sheriff's department. The impact scattered debris on the field in front of the family's farm. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

London, Jul 12 — Robinson R22 Beta N8118L crashed near Rochester, Minnesota, at 1718, Jul 8. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

#### **N8222K**

London, Jul 13 — Gulfstream 4, N8222K, departed dirt strip south-east bound. After take-off aircraft lost power and crashed in a field approximately 10-15 miles south of Eagle Lake airport, Texas, at 2215, Jul 12. Aircraft substantially damaged, no injuries reported.

#### **POWER OUTAGE AT MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: A power failure this morning delayed or forced the cancellation of scores of Northwest Airlines flights around the country. Airline spokeswoman Mary Stanik said the outage took place at a Northwest installation in suburban Eagan, near Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. She said the power failure created a computer problem, but she would not give details. Flights that already had taken off were not affected, and power was restored in about 45

minutes, she said. Departing flights were returning to normal by this afternoon, but cancellations and delays were expected into the evening, the airline said. In all, 60 Northwest flights were cancelled, plus about 150 flights on its subsidiary airlines, Mesaba and Pinnacle, Stanik said. She had no information on how many flights were delayed. The outage caused tie-ups on the ground because arriving aircraft could not go to their gates until the departing Northwest flights could leave. Northwest is based in Eagan and has US hubs in Minneapolis; Detroit; and Memphis, Tenn. Stanik said the airline would investigate the incident. The airline let its customers reschedule their flights without penalty.

#### **SUSPENSION OF PERUVIAN AIRLINE**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of passengers were stranded after Peru's authorities grounded its largest airline Aero Continente because it could not get insurance. The airline was last month put on a US government blacklist of companies with suspected links to drug traffickers. Aero Continente has strongly denied any such links, but the blacklisting means no company will insure the firm. It comes amid Peru's tourist season, and the Copa America soccer tournament held in cities across the country. The company's insurance expired last Saturday (Jul 10), and the government agreed to act as guarantor while a replacement insurer was secured. The Transport Ministry said in a statement yesterday that it was suspending Aero Continente's flights as a replacement insurer could not be found. It added that a contingency plan would be put in place for other airlines to take over Aero Continente's routes, which make up 60% of the Peruvian market. Airline spokesman Gonzalo Iwasaki told CPN radio that the firm had been surprised by the government's decision. The cancellations led to stranded passengers in Cusco, Pucallpa, Chiclayo, Trujillo and Iquitos, according to Reuters news agency. Washington put Aero Continente's founder Fernando Zevallos on a blacklist of foreign "drug kingpins" at the beginning of June. It ordered the US-assets of both Mr Zevallos - who denies any wrongdoing - and Aero Continente to be frozen. Under US legislation, people placed on the US list of drug traffickers and their businesses are denied access to the American financial system. Mr Zevallos, 46, currently faces trial in Peru on cocaine trafficking charges. The US Drug Enforcement Administration says it has launched more than 30 investigations into Mr Zevallos. He insists he is the victim of character assassination by convicted drug dealers turned informers, overzealous US drug agents and business rivals.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Hundreds of travellers in Peru have remained grounded for a second day, after the government stopped flights by the

country's leading airline. The decision against Aero Continente was taken yesterday, after its insurance expired at the weekend. The airline has been put on a US government blacklist of companies with suspected links to drug traffickers. Aero Continente has strongly denied any such links - but the blacklisting means no company will insure the firm. Football fans have been stranded in Lima and other cities across the country. Because of flight cancellations, hundreds of people have also been unable to leave in tourist sites like the former Inca capital of Cusco and Iquitos.

#### **TURBULENCE ON FLIGHT FROM CHANGSHA TO SHANGHAI, CHINA**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A domestic flight en route from Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, to Shanghai encountered a strong current above east China's Zhejiang Province yesterday evening, and the ensuing violent turbulences injured eight passengers and crew members. None of the injuries were critical, according to sources with the China Eastern Airlines, the operator of the MD-82, with a flight number of MU5302. Of the eight people, four were slightly injured and have returned home after necessary medical exams and treatment. The other four are now still hospitalized for further observation, the sources added. The aircraft took off at 1920 yesterday from Changsha and it was hit by a wind shear an hour later while flying at an altitude of 7,500 metres. The wind shear induced violent turbulence on the aircraft, leaving some passengers who failed to fasten their safety belts injured, together with a few stewards in the cabin. The accident happened when it was lowering its flight altitude for a landing in Shanghai, sources with the airlines said.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Two China Eastern flight attendants and two passengers remained in hospital yesterday after being injured when their plane hit strong turbulence on a flight to Shanghai on Monday night (Jul 12). One flight attendant suffered a broken nose and the other a broken leg. The aircraft dropped 600 metres "over a very short period of time" and jolted violently at least three times about 2020 hrs when it was over Zhejiang Province.

## Product Recalls



#### **BMW MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: German luxury carmaker BMW AG is recalling 4000 vehicles worldwide due to defective control units in V8 and V12 gasoline engines. BMW said on its website that new vehicles registered between May 13

and Jul 6 are affected. "Due to a temporary production fault of a supplier, deficient parts were supplied and installed in new 5-, 6- and 7-Series and X5 models with V8 or V12 cylinder petrol engines," the company said. The engines of these vehicles may cut off after a short running time, which could lead to failure of the power steering, as well as the brake booster following repeated operation of the brake, potentially causing an accident, BMW said. The company is notifying owners by mail. The company says owners should not drive the cars, and should call their dealer for more information.

#### **BOTTLED WATER COOLERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jul 13 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall 145,000 Elkay hot/cold bottled water coolers in voluntary co-operation with Elkay Manufacturing Company, of Oak Brook, Ill. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. These electric water coolers can overheat and present a fire hazard. There have been 14 reports of overheating, but no injuries reported. These 115 volt hot/cold bottled water coolers have both cold and hot water faucets. Most of the coolers are white, but some are granite coloured. The water coolers have the name "Elkay" on the serial number plate on the back of the unit. The five design names are: Classic, Legend, Eclipse, Sentry and Legend Countertop. Consumers should go to the Elkay recall Web site at [www.coolerfix.com](http://www.coolerfix.com) and type in their serial number to determine if the water cooler is recalled. The recall also includes a small number of point-of-use water coolers sold for commercial use. Commercial customers are being directly notified of the recall. Point-of-use water coolers have the water plumbed directly to the units. Sold to bottled water companies and other businesses in the U.S. and Canada, who in turn sold or leased the recalled coolers from 1997 through 2002. Recalled coolers also were sold at BJ's Wholesale Club and Sam's Club stores nation-wide from 1999 through October 2003. Prices ranged from \$139 to \$149. Manufactured in U.S.A. and Malaysia. Consumers should unplug the recalled water coolers immediately. Commercial customers who lease or own Elkay hot/cold bottled and point-of-use water coolers also should check their cooler to see if it is recalled, and unplug the cooler if it is recalled. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, SOUTH KOREA**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Honda Korea Co., the South Korean subsidiary of Japanese auto giant Honda Motor Co., will recall a number of units of the Accord and other models because of engine defects, the Ministry of Construction and Transportation said today. The recall will affect 342 Accord V6 and L4 vehicles imported between

Nov. 10 last year and June 22 this year, according to the ministry.

#### **HUNTING TREE STANDS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jul 6 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 78,000 Big Foot Series and Lite Foot Series hunting tree stands in voluntary co-operation with Rivers Edge/Ardisam, Inc., of Cumberland, Wis. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. If the strap mounting bracket loosens or rotates, the strap hook can release, causing the tree stand to detach from the tree. If this occurs, the consumer could fall to the ground. Rivers Edge/Ardisam, Inc. has received three reports of consumers falling when their stands detached. Two of these consumers reportedly suffered serious injuries, including broken bones. The recalled Big Foot and Lite Foot Series hunting tree stands are "hang-on" stands that can be identified by a yellow warning label affixed to the stand that reads: "Rivers Edge Hunting Products." These tree stands have dual post seat uprights and a gold-coloured strap hook bracket. Only these model tree stands with the gold-coloured bracket are included in this recall. Sold in hunting stores and catalogs nationwide beginning in January 1998 for between \$60 and \$120. The tree stands were manufactured from January 1998 through July 2001. Manufactured in U.S.A. Consumers should contact Rivers Edge/Ardisam, Inc. to receive free replacement hardware for self-installation. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **MITSUBISHI FUSO MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said today it will recall about 2,600 vehicles after discovering problems with wheel hubs produced between 1994 and 1995.

#### **STEEL TOE BOOTS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jul 14 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 10,000 pairs of Georgia Boot Steel Toe Logger Boots in voluntary co-operation with Georgia Boot, of Frankin, Tenn. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The boots may have been mislabelled to indicate that they are resistant to electrical current, which is incorrect. This may result in a serious shock or electrocution to consumers. Georgia Boot has not received any reports of incidents. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. The recalled steel toe logger boots are brown and black and have laces that tie up to the calf. The recalled boots have stock numbers of G8320, G8322, and G9360, which can be found on a label under the tongue of the boot. The same label has stitching of the "Georgia Boot" name. Sold at retail shoe stores nation-wide and independent

retail stores sold these boots from October 2002 through April 2004 for between \$80 and \$150. Manufactured in United States. Consumers should stop using the boots immediately and return them to the company for a free repair. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **TOY JEWELLRY IN VENDING MACHINES, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jul 8 — In co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, four toy jewellery importers today announced the voluntary recall of 150 million pieces of toy jewellery sold in vending machines across America. CPSC has determined that some of this toy jewellery contains dangerous levels of lead, posing a risk of lead poisoning to children. Only about half of the 150 million pieces of toy jewellery actually contains lead, but, because it is difficult to distinguish the lead jewellery from the non-lead jewellery, the industry decided to recall all of it. The four firms are A & A Global Industries, Inc., of Cockeysville, Md.; Brand Imports, LLC, of Scottsdale, Ariz.; Cardinal Distributing Co. Inc., of Baltimore, Md.; and L. M. Becker & Co., Inc., of Kimberly, Wis. CPSC has received one report of lead poisoning when a child swallowed a piece of toy jewellery containing lead that was previously recalled. No reports of injury or illness have been received for the recalled products announced today. Young children sometimes mouth or swallow items like these, and lead can leach from the jewelry into the child's body. Lead poisoning in children is associated with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, hearing problems and growth retardation. The four firms have advised the Commission that they have stopped importing toy jewellery with lead and are committed to working with the CPSC staff on eliminating hazardous levels of lead in future importations of toy jewellery. This toy jewellery recall involves various styles of rings, necklaces and bracelets. The rings are gold- or silver-coloured with different designs and paint finishes with various shaped center stones. The necklaces have black cord or rope or gold- or silver-coloured chains. The necklaces have pendants, crosses or various geometrical designs or shapes, and can include gemstones. The various styles of bracelets include charm bracelets, bracelets with medallion links, and bracelets with faux stones. All the jewellery was manufactured in India. The toy jewellery was sold in vending machines located in malls, discount, department and grocery stores nation-wide from January 2002 through June 2004 for between \$0.25 and \$0.75. The industry estimates that this toy jewellery is kept in homes for a short period of time, but parents should look for these items in their homes. — Consumer Product Safety Commission

#### **TRAVEL LITE SWINGS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jul 13 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

announces the recall of 140,000 Travel Lite Swings in voluntary co-operation with Graco Children's Products, of Exton, Pa. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The swing's carrying handle can fail to stay in place properly and drop or be pushed down, hitting a child in the head. Additionally, the three-point seatbelt can fail to prevent a child from leaning forward or to either side, posing a risk that the child can fall forward and strike his/her head on the floor or the swing's frame. Graco has received about 28 reports of incidents involving the handle falling down on young children; in addition, Graco has received 100 reports of children falling forward or to the side. Injuries resulting from these incidents include bloody or swollen lips, red marks, bumps and bruises. The recalled Travel Lite portable swings have an adjustable reclining seat, a rotating handle and a canopy and include model numbers 1850JJP, 1850JGB, and 1870DAL. The swings, which were manufactured between May 2003 and Dec 11, 2003, also have a serial number between 050503 and 121103. Both the model and serial numbers can be found on a white label underneath the seat. The swings have the words, "Graco" and "Travel Lite swing" printed on each side, and have buttons on the handle to activate lights and music. On the underside of the handle are multicolored designs of the sun, moon, and stars that light up when the light button is pressed. Sold at

discount, department and juvenile stores from June 2003 through June 2004 for about \$60. Manufactured in United States. Consumers who have a Travel Lite swing with a three-point seatbelt (waist belt and crotch strap only) or a Travel Lite swing without a red handle release button should stop using it immediately and contact Graco for a free repair kit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**WALL PLUG ETHERNET BRIDGES, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jul 14 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 53,500 Wall Plug Ethernet Bridges in voluntary co-operation with NETGEAR Inc., of Santa Clara, Calif. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The plastic housing on these units can detach, posing a shock hazard. NETGEAR has received one report from a consumer of a detached casing. No injuries were reported. The Wall Plug Ethernet Bridge is used to extend internet availability throughout a home or business. It is 2.75 in high, 3.5 in wide, and 2 in thick, with a grayish silver plastic housing. "NETGEAR" is written on the top of the housing. The plastic housing contains a label with the model number and the serial number on it. The model number is XE102 and the serial numbers are XE12A32LB000001 through XE12A32LB005000 and XE12134LB005021 through

XE12143LB053586. Sold at various electronics stores, Web sites, and through the NETGEAR Web site from February 2003 through May 2004 for between \$50 and \$80. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the product immediately. Remove electrical power source to the receptacle and unplug the unit. Contact the company for a free repair kit. The free repair kit when affixed will ensure that the plastic housing will not become loose or separated. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.



**ISRAEL**

See under "Labour Disputes."

**ITALY**

Genoa, Jul 7 — Port situation Jul 7: Genoa: One container vessel awaiting berth. Savona: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jul 2.)

Genoa, Jul 13 — Genoa: One bulk carrier awaiting berth, average delay 12 to 24 hours. Savona: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Port Delays**

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	14-Jul-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 5 vessels due by 25/7; up to 2 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion
Dalrymple Bay	14-Jul-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 4 anchored; 49 vessels due by 28/8; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; depending on type of cargo required, delays of up to 5 days can be expected, although 1 vessel may have to wait 14 days.
Hay Point	14-Jul-2004	Coal: 2 vessels loading, 3 anchored; 11 vessels due by 1/8; 1-6 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. The outloading system will be out of action from 12-23/7 for conveyor belt replacement. During this time, berth 1 will be closed from 12-18/7 and berth 2 from 19-23/7.
Newcastle	14-Jul-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels loading, 3 waiting; 22 vessels due by 26/7; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel loading, 1 waiting; 17 vessels due by 30/7; 1-4 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule. Grain: 2 vessels due by 20/7, both to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	14-Jul-2004	Coal: 1 vessel anchored; 11 vessels due by 15/9; CB1: 3 vessels due by 27/7; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 2 vessels due by 22/7, both to load wheat; 3-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	14-Jul-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 7 vessels due by 23/7; 1-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; maintenance dredging for ca. 4.5 hours will be carried out ca. 13/7; shiploader No. 2 will be shut down for maintenance for 96 hours from 21.00 hrs. 18/7 to 21.00 hrs. 22/7 "B" berth: 4 vessels anchored; 9 vessels due by 20/7; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; maintenance dredging for ca. 4.5 hours will be carried out ca. 13/7; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel berthed and loading; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 3 vessels due by 19/7; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2004 These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

**Port Conditions**

Dampier	14-Jul-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 9 vessels due by 26/7; 1-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, long delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; there will be an 18 hour maintenance shutdown starting 18/7 and a possible 36 hour maintenance shutdown starting ca. 27/7; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 8 anchored; 11 vessels due by 22/7; up to 16 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; a 72 hour planned maintenance shutdown will commence 21/7.
Port Walcott	14-Jul-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 13 vessels due by 23/7; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant available, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time.
Geelong	14-Jul-2004	Grain: 2 vessels waiting, 1 to load wheat, 1 barley; 5 vessels due by 19/7, 1 to load wood-chips, 2 wheat, 2 canola; up to 12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Portland	14-Jul-2004	Grain: 4 vessels due by 28/7, 1 to load wood-chips, 1 faba beans, 1 barley, 1 wheat; no delays expected.
Port Adelaide	14-Jul-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 6 vessels due by 25/7, 3 to load wheat, 1 canola, 1 barley, 1 faba beans; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Wallaroo	14-Jul-2004	ETSA maintenance will take place from 19-21/7 and there will be no movements or shipping during this period
Port Pirie	14-Jul-2004	Grain: No. 2 berth: no vessels scheduled. Berth will be closed to shipping from 1/7 to 9/8 for electrical upgrade in silo control room.
Port Lincoln	14-Jul-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 25/7, 2 to load wheat, 1 wheat/canola; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	14-Jul-2004	Iron ore: 1 vessel anchored; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 1 vessel waiting to load wheat; 3 vessels due by 18/7, all to load wheat; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Kwinana	14-Jul-2004	Grain: 15 vessels due by 9/8, 4 to load barley, 11 wheat; 2-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Albany	14-Jul-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 27/8, all to load wheat; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Esperance	14-Jul-2004	Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 31/7; no delays expected. Grain: 6 vessels due by 31/7, 2 to load feed, 1 oats, 2 barley, 1 unknown cargo; up to 5 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion.

**Brazil**

Paranagua	13-Jul-2004	Fifteen vessels berthed of which 2 soya loaders, 1 full container discharger, 4 fertiliser dischargers, 4 reefer loaders, 1 sugar loader, 3 other loaders/dischargers; 22 vessels waiting in roads of which 9 to load (2 pellets, 1 sugar, 1 reefer, 1 soya, 4 others), 13 to discharge (11 fertiliser, 2 full containers); 45 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	13-Jul-2004	Two vessels berthed of which 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 sawn timber loader; 3 vessels waiting in roads; 33 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	13-Jul-2004	Twenty-three vessels berthed of which 1 fertiliser discharger, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 1 bulk soya loader, 5 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 2 bulk pellets loaders, 10 sugar loaders, 1 other loader; 25 vessels waiting in roads; 94 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termares: 1 Ro/Ro loader/discharger; Rodrimar: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cosipa: 1 bulk coal loader; Ultra fertil: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader, 1 bulk soya loader; Santos Brasil: no vessels; Cutrale: no vessels; Dow: 1 chemical products discharger.
Sao Sebastiao	13-Jul-2004	Four vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 4 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	13-Jul-2004	No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 pig-iron loader, 1 rails loader, 1 granite loader, 1 full container loader; Tubarao: 3 iron ore loaders; Praia Mole: 3 steel products loaders, 2 coal dischargers; Portocel: 1 cellulose loaders; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 19 vessels waiting in roads; 12 vessels due over the next 7 days.

**Bulgaria**

Bourgas	12-Jul-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 scrap, 2 coils, 2 containers), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 iron ore, 2 containers); 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 coils, 2 empty; 8 vessels due of which 4 to load (1 coils, 1 scrap, 1 containers, 1 steel sheet), 4 to discharge (1 containers, 2 zinc concentrate, 1 salt).
---------	-------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Colombia**

Buenaventura	13-Jul-2004	Shore crane operational. Ten vessels berthed (3 containers, 3 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 1 bulker anchored; 25 vessels due (17 containers, 6 bulkers, 1 tanker, 1 PCC), with 2 days delay expected for bulkers.
--------------	-------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Egypt**

Suez Canal	11-Jul-2004	Twenty-one vessels transiting Northbound, 23 Southbound.
------------	-------------	----------------------------------------------------------

**Port Conditions**

<b>Georgia</b>		
Supsa	12-Jul-2004	Terminal shut down for maintenance of off-shore cargo lines until approx. 19/7.
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	13-Jul-2004	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 tanker); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchor to discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	13-Jul-2004	No labour problems. Four vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (1 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker, 1 passenger vessel); 1 bulker waiting at anchor to discharge, 2 tankers waiting at anchor to load/dischARGE; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 24 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	12-Jul-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 5 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 3 vessels due by 13/7.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	13-Jul-2004	Two vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 1 ethanol), 5 discharging at berth (2 DAP, 1 general cargo, 1 jute, 1 phosphate), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); no vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 1 HSD vessels due, with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	13-Jul-2004	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 iron ore), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 3 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 iron ore, 1 VCM, 1 fuel oil).
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	12-Jul-2004	Ten vessels loading at berth (4 coal, 4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 3 discharging at berth (2 bulkers, 1 general cargo); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels waiting in roads (1 coal, 1 bulker); 23 vessels due.
Gdynia	12-Jul-2004	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 1 general cargo vessel awaiting orders; 20 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 51 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	12-Jul-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 bulk cement, 2 steel billets, 1 steel sheets/pipes, 1 bulk sugar), 1 discharging bulk sugar, 2 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 coils, 1 equipment, 1 WRIC, 1 bulk cement; 59 vessels due of which 58 to load (4 HBI, 1 pig-iron, 7 coils, 4 bulk ammonium nitrate, 7 aluminium, 4 steel sheets, 1 pipes, 3 bulk urea, 3 steel billets, 2 flowers, 5 bulk NPK, 1 bulk coils/slabs, 2 scrap, 1 zinc, 4 copper, 1 bulk cement, 2 slabs, 1 vehicles, 1 lead, 1 paper, 2 diesel oil, 1 UAN solution), 1 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 7 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
Tuapse	12-Jul-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 loading gasoline, 1 naphtha; 1 fuel oil vessel in roads; 6 vessels due by 13/7, of which 2 crude oil, 4 gasoil.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Okarem	12-Jul-2004	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Ilechevsk	12-Jul-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 sulphur, 4 steel products), 2 discharging ore, 1 loading/discharging containers; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 manganese ore, 2 steel products; 23 vessels due, of which 15 to load (10 steel products, 4 oil, 1 paper), 6 to discharge steel products, 2 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	12-Jul-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 2 steel, 3 coal, 1 equipment, 1 fire-clay, 1 sulphur; 1 steel vessel undergoing survey; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 steel, 1 coal; 39 vessels due, of which 36 to load (19 steel, 1 ferrous metals, 7 coal, 1 sulphur, 5 fire-clay, 1 fertiliser, 2 sunflower beans), 2 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 bauxite), 1 to discharge/load fluorspar/coal.
Odessa	12-Jul-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading metal, 2 discharging sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load metal, 2 to discharge sugar; 59 vessels due, of which 20 to load (19 metal, 1 ferrous metals/coal), 1 to discharge chemicals, 38 to discharge/load containers.
Sevastopol	12-Jul-2004	One vessel in port loading fuel oil; 1 vessel in roads to load steel; 5 vessels due, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 3 steel.
<b>United States</b>		
Beaumont	13-Jul-2004	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Corpus Christi	13-Jul-2004	Interstate grain terminal: 1-2 days delay.
Kalama, WA	13-Jul-2004	Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay expected.

**Port Conditions**

New Orleans, LA	13-Jul-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: undergoing maintenance until September; Cargill/Reserve: no delays; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 4 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	13-Jul-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	13-Jul-2004	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected.
<b>Yemen</b>		
Hodeidah	11-Jul-2004	All berths are vacant; 1 wheat flour vessel berthed, no vessels anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/containers/bagged cargoes: no delays; bulk cargoes: up to 2 days.

**Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.**

**Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, nor accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences.**

**Copyright © Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc 2004. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.**

**ISSN 0047 4908**

**Lloyd's is the trademark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of "Lloyd's"**