

Lloyd's CasualtyWeek

Lloyd's Casualty Week contains information from worldwide sources of Marine, Non-Marine and Aviation casualties together with other reports relevant to the shipping, transport and insurance communities

July 30 2004

Shots fired by pirates in attack on LPG tanker in Indonesia

Armed pirates stormed a gas tanker at anchor in Indonesia, firing several shots at the crew, the latest in a string of attacks in the country's troubled waters, the International Maritime Bureau said yesterday, Reuters reports.

It said five men armed with automatic rifles boarded a liquefied petroleum gas tanker anchored at Anyer on Monday and fired at the crew before escaping with equipment. No one was injured in the shootout but the IMB's director, Captain Pottengal Mukundan, classed the attack as extremely serious.

"This is very dangerous because an LPG tanker is the last place you want to have a gun battle," he said. "It is extremely dangerous and we call upon the Indonesian authorities to patrol anchorages where there are vulnerable vessels."

In its half-yearly piracy report released on Monday the IMB ranked Indonesian waters as the world's most dangerous, with 50 attacks reported, or more than a quarter of the world's total.

The IMB also reported two new attacks in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest sea lanes. It said armed men opened fire on a cargoship after boarding, damaging the vessel. In another attack in the strait, pirates in seven small craft tried to attack another oil tanker at sea but were beaten off by fire hoses.

The watchdog has repeatedly warned of a "potential human and environmental catastrophe" if an oil tanker is deliberately scuttled in the strategic sea lane. Piracy on the high seas fell 22% in the first half of this year but violence against mariners surged, with Indonesian waters still the world's most dangerous, the IMB has reported. It said the number of global attacks on merchant shipping fell to 182, down from 234 for the same period last year.

Deaths at the hands of pirates soared to 30 from 16 in 2003, with troubled Indonesian waters accounting for the highest number of incidents and the greatest violence, the IMB said.

"Reports of violence against seamen have risen. The number of crew killed has almost doubled," Capt Mukundan said in the IMB's

half-yearly report. Ships were boarded in 130 instances and eight were hijacked.

The IMB said there were also signs that seemingly opportunistic small-time crooks were becoming more organised.

Attacks jumped to 445 in 2003, a 20% leap on the previous year and the second highest level since the organisation began compiling statistics in 1991. Indonesia saw 50 attacks, the world's highest and more than a quarter of the total, although the figure was lower than the 64 reported in the first half of 2003.

Forty-seven people were taken hostage in Indonesian waters. Of these, five were assaulted, two injured and five others recorded missing after the attacks.

The IMB said it saw no signs that the attacks would abate "unless Indonesia takes serious steps to address the problem". In the Malacca Strait, which is used by more than 50,000 commercial vessels a year, military patrols began last week. Attacks there rose to 20 from 15 in 2003. Thirty people were taken hostage and four were reported killed in the 805-km channel.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>JOVIAL DUCKLING</i>	bulk/oil	PAN	BV	41,940	70,731	1980	Sustained engine breakdown while transitting Dardanelles and anchored off Karanlik Mevkii Jul 20. Subsequently grounded, trying to refloat by own means, salvage vessels on scene. Engine repaired but still aground Jul 22.
<i>KM AMAMI</i>	general	IDN	—	700	—	—	Capsized and sank between Banda and Buru Islands, Makalu Province, Indonesia, Jul 16. 14 people missing, two rescued by passing vessel.
<i>MALULANI</i>	tug	USA	—	—	—	—	While joint towing crane barge YB 121, with tug Sea Flyer, about 360 miles from Honolulu, Jul 15, barge turned over and is partially submerged.
<i>MARETON</i>	fishing	ESP	—	—	—	—	Taking water and requiring pump in lat 48 20.7N, long 09 24W, Jul 16. Nine crew taken off. Pump on board to deal with water ingress. Arrived Douarnenez Jul 17.
<i>MOHAWK II</i>	training	NOR	—	—	—	1904	In collision with outbound fishing <i>Geertruid Adriana</i> and sank in the Sardijngeul, Flushing, Jul 19. The 20 Sea Scouts rescued by the Coast Guard. Wreck raised Jul 20, and taken into Sloe Harbour, Flushing, same day.
<i>SEA FLYER</i>	tug	USA	AB	199	—	1968	While joint towing crane barge YB 121, with tug <i>Malulani</i> , about 360 miles from Honolulu, Jul 15, barge turned over.
<i>SEA TRADER</i>	ro-ro	MLT	RS	8,454	5,306	1976	Had fire on main deck, due to ignition of petrol that leaked from cars being loaded, while moored at Quay 222, Antwerp, Jul 16. Firefighters on scene. Still on fire Jul 19. Investigation under way. Still moored quay 218/222 Jul 21.
<i>SHENG YIN NO.688</i>	fishing	—	—	—	—	—	Ran aground on southern coast of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, Jul 15. Crew evacuated. Still aground Jul 22. Damaged beyond repair.
<i>SUN YANG 15</i>	product tanker	KOR	—	696	1,879	1986	Partially sank after collision with tanker <i>Yue You 201</i> , in dense fog, 3 miles off Busan Jul 16. Large amount of waste oil leaked from engine-room. All crew rescued. Towed to Sunjin Shipbuilding Co., Busan, Jul 17, for repairs.
<i>YD 121</i>	crane barge	—	—	—	—	—	Turned over while under tow of tugs <i>Malulani</i> and <i>Sea Flyer</i> , Jul 15, about 360 miles from Honolulu. Drifting in semi-submerged condition. Scuttled Jul 21.
<i>YUE YOU 201</i>	product tanker	CHN	CS	1,595	2,013	1980	In collision with tanker <i>Sun Yang 15</i> , in dense fog, 3 miles off Busan 16 Jul 2004. Sustained bow damage. Proceeded to destination, Ulsan. At anchorage Jul 19 for inspection/investigation.

CONTENTS

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

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Piracy	9
Port State Control	9
Seizures & Arrests	9
Pipeline Accidents	9
Pollution	10
Weather & Navigation	10
Earthquakes	16
Political & Civil Unrest	17
Kidnappings	20
Labour Disputes	20
Awards & Settlements	23
Railway Accidents	24
Robberies & Thefts	25
Miscellaneous	25
Fires & Explosions	27
Aviation	30
Product Recalls	34
Port Conditions	34
Port Conditions charts	35



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



Marine

ABALONE (Belize)

Tampico, Jul 21 — General cargo *Abalone* is still breaking up with an advance of 50% and estimated to complete around Aug 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGIOS NEKTARIOS AEGINAS (Greece)

London, Jul 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jul 19, ferry *Agios Nektarios Aeginas* (1089 gt) sustained damage to the port main engine on voyage to Piraeus. The vessel was permitted to depart from Piraeus the next day after a survey by the Marine Inspectorate confirmed successful repairs.

ALADIN (Cyprus)

Ferrol, Jul 22 — Agents of general cargo *Aladin* inform that the vessel may sail today, after trials, bound to Flushing. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALLORA (Honduras)

See "Sweden" under "Port State Control."

ANL INDONESIA (Netherlands)

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Chief Justice Yong Pung How yesterday dismissed an appeal by two navy officers convicted of negligence over a collision that left four fellow crew members dead. The penalties meted out by a district court in April still stand. Chua Chue Teng, a trainee watch officer who had command of RSS *Courageous*, was fined \$8,000 and her supervisor, Ng Keng Yong, was fined \$10,000. They were at the helm of *Courageous* when it collided with c.c. *ANL Indonesia* in January last year. Yesterday, Senior Counsel Steven Chong tried for three hours to convince the CJ the convictions should be set aside. Describing in detail the last few minutes before the collision, the lawyer showed that the navy vessel would have passed ahead of *ANL Indonesia* with 1,500 metres breathing space. In that time, his clients were "dealing with the situation, making assessments and giving orders" to reduce the likelihood of a collision. The four course changes ordered within five minutes were not the actions of "stunt drivers" testing how manoeuvrable their vessel was, he said. If they had not tried to get out of the other vessel's way, the collision would have been "much more serious and there would have been no witnesses, at least not from the *Courageous*". *ANL Indonesia*, on the other hand, had more than three minutes to react, but only attempted evasive action 90 seconds before the crash. Even then, it stayed in auto-pilot mode, rather than switch to manual steering which would have seen the

vessel swing clear much faster. It was *ANL Indonesia's* actions which ultimately caused the collision, argued Mr Chong. However, Deputy Public Prosecutor Hui Choon Kuen countered: "The courts have always frowned upon vessels that have placed another vessel in peril and then criticise them for making errors of judgments later." The DPP agreed *ANL Indonesia* might not have taken the best option. "But was their act so negligent that it eclipses the negligent acts of *Courageous*?" Mr Chong also tried to convince the CJ that Chua, being a trainee watch officer under Ng's supervision, should not be held responsible for her actions. But CJ Yong disagreed. "Both officers must be wrong or both must be right, because both made the same decision." He dismissed the appeal. Grounds for his decision will be released later. The Defence Ministry said it would look through the court's judgment to decide if the two officers, who have been on shore duties since the collision, will keep their jobs.

ARATERE (New Zealand)

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 140 passengers were trapped on the ro/ro *Aratere* (12596 gt, built 1998) late this afternoon as it waited in Cook Strait for a tug to help it into Wellington Harbour. Another 150 travellers wanting to cross Cook Strait on the 1400 hrs sailing of the ferry were waiting at the terminal at Wellington to be taken on the 1730 hrs sailing of another ferry, *Arahura*. The vessel had propulsion problems and was waiting at Sinclair Head at the entrance of Wellington Harbour with 139 passengers for a tug to help it into port. The ferry was to have docked in Wellington at 1300 hrs. Interisland Line marketing manager Peter Monk said the crossing was scheduled to take three hours but the ferry had also been delayed before leaving Picton at 1100 hrs. "We're still trying to ascertain the problem and I don't think we're far away from understanding it," he said. "It's propulsion related. At the moment that's all we know. We're still under power and we've sent a tug out as a precautionary sailing." Staff would try to fix the mechanical problem before the ferry berthed at Wellington.

ASSI EURO LINK (Netherlands)

London, Jul 15 — A report in the July issue of Dredging and Port Construction states: Suction hopper dredger *Prins der Nederlanden* joined specialist diving company Noordhoek under the aegis of the Dutch Rijkswaterstaat (Director General of Public Works and Water Management) to ensure the wrecked remains of ro/ro *ASSI Euro Link* would no longer pose a hazard to navigation. After colliding with ro/ro *Seawheel Rhine* *ASSI Euro Link* sank in 43 metres of water on Jan 25, 2003. Soon after the collision, Rijkswaterstaat put out tenders to have the wreck completely recovered, but the costs proved significantly higher than the amount budgeted. After studying various options the Rijkswaterstaat

decided to dredge the seabed around and under the wreck, causing it to sink below the 29 metre navigable depth. Bunker oil was removed from the wreck in two operations during September and November last year by Noordhoek. A survey showed that the wreck had broken in two. Winter storms had further damaged the wreck, moving the fore section significantly. Thus, the dredging operation began Apr 14, this year, and was completed Apr 23. Thereafter a complete survey showed the highest point of the wreck was now 31.36 metres below MLWS, so given the required depth of 29 metres MLWS, the project was a complete success.

AUKRA (Norway)

London, Jul 22 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 1530, Jul 16, when arriving at Kanestraumen from Halså, ro/ro *Aukra* (813 gt, built 1978) made hard contact with the quay. There were 28 cars on board and 61 passengers. Five of the cars was damaged. One person was sent to hospital with injuries and two of the crew sustained minor injured. The ferry was damaged in the bow section, but was repaired and returned back to regular service on Jul 17.

B.F.T.NO.50 (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1400, UTC: Tank barge *B.F.T.No.50* (2948 gt, built 1972), cargo 37,000 barrels of gasoline, ran onto soft ground in Peekskill Bay, Hudson River, around 1015, local time, Jul 17, while being pushed by tug *Franklin Reinauer* (197 gt, built 1984). Vessel successfully refloated at 2150, local time, same day and proceeded to Newburgh, NY. Inspection by divers revealed only minor paint scratches and vessel was cleared to offload its cargo.

BALTIC FJORD (Norway)

Trondheim, Jul 20 — General cargo *Baltic Fjord* completed repairs and the vessel left the yard on Jul 18, bound for Kristiansund N. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jun 28.)

BOKA STAR (Tonga)

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

BRABANDER

London, Jul 16 — Inland cargo vessel *Brabander*, length 67 metres, loaded with clay, ran aground in the River IJssel near Arnhem at 1700 yesterday and blocked the shipping traffic on the River IJssel. The vessel laid right across the river with its bow on the shore. Tugs tried to refloat the vessel, but did not succeed. Thereafter part of the cargo of clay was discharged during the night. Today three tugs did succeed to pull the vessel free from the shore and the vessel has been towed to Deventer for examination. The cause of the stranding is not yet known and will be investigated by the River police. Shipping traffic has resumed.

BULK TRADER (Greece)

London, Jul 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jul 19, while making berthing manoeuvres at the port of Mandrakiou, Nisiros island, general cargo *Bulk Trader* (1223 gt, built 1970) contacted lightly with the breakwater at slow speed. At the time of the incident the vessel was loaded with 1,850 tons of pumice. On board were nine crew who are in good health. Following the incident the vessel berthed safely at the port.

CAP ANAMUR (Germany)

See under "Miscellaneous."

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

Rotterdam, Jul 16 — SMIT Salvage successfully concluded the bulk *Cape Africa* salvage operation this week with the holed bulk carrier's entry into the port of Cape Town on July 14 under tow of SMIT Salvage tug. The Lloyd's Open Form was terminated on July 15 following an operation that lasted 81 days and included the removal of some 1,900 tonnes of bunker fuel as well as the removal of 140,000 tonnes of iron ore cargo. — SMIT Salvage BV.

CARMELLE NO.5 (Canada)

London, Jul 16 — At 0605, UTC, fishing *Carmelle No.5* (63 gt, built 1988), in lat 4204.45N, long 66 42.20W, 93 nautical miles south-west of Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia, reported a fire in the engine room. The fire was subsequently extinguished, and a tow requested.

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1900, UTC: At 0810, UTC, fishing *Carmelle No.5*, with three persons on board, was taken in tow by vessel *Master Mariner*, bound for West Pubnico, ETA approximately 2000, UTC.

CHELARIS J. (U.K.)

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation into the loss of a Guernsey fishing *Chelaris J.* which sank off the coast of Alderney in October last year has found it capsized while it was trawling. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch spent several months looking into the cause of the accident. It found the vessel capsized after its fishing gear got snagged in a sandbank. High waves flooded the boat and turned it over. Investigators say Guernsey needs to introduce a code of practice and guidance for fishing boats, and an effective fishing vessel survey system. It also says all fishermen sailing on Guernsey-registered fishing boats should have full safety training.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: Problems with the stability of Guernsey fishing *Chelaris J.* were not picked up in safety checks before it sank last year it has been revealed. Investigators found the vessel capsized after its fishing gear snagged in a sandbank. Guernsey harbourmaster Captain Robert Barton said the investigation into the accident had been extensive. He also said it should establish a more effective safety regime in the future.

CMA CGM AEGEAN (Liberia)

Port Said, Jul 15 — C.c. *CMA CGM Aegean* arrived Port Said with the northbound convoy, on Jul 4 and was moored at the container terminal to effect cargo operations, at 1700 hrs. Vessel completed cargo operations at 0800, Jul 5 and sailed at 0930 hrs, the same day. After vessel cleared from Port Said and when it was out of Egyptian territorial waters, the master advised that his vessel had sustained rudder trouble and the vessel was unable to sail. On Jul 8, vessel was taken in tow by a tug, bound for Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, July 22 — C.c. *CMA CGM Aegean* left Piraeus port on July 20 in tow of tug *Panagiotakis Star* for Syros. The vessel remains at Syros roads due to adverse weather conditions awaiting orders from the relevant port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Understand *CMA CGM Aegean* was being taken to Neorion Shipyard, Syros, following discharge of containers at Piraeus.)

CORYO NO.302 (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505*.

COURAGEOUS (Singapore)

See *ANL Indonesia*.

CSCL QINGDAO (Malta)

Busan, Jul 16 — C.c. *CSCL Qingdao* sailed Busan Jul 15 following temporary repairs, bound for Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co, Ulsan, for drydocking and permanent repairs. Understand some three weeks will be required to complete repairs. C.c. *Hyundai Harmony* is still undergoing permanent repairs at Daesun Shiprepair yard, Busan, and is expected to complete repairs at the end of July. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jul 20 — C.c. *CSCL Qingdao* arrived at Mipo on Jul 16.

DA QING 254 (China)

London, Jul 16 — The fire on product tanker *Da Qing 254* in Shanghai Lixin Shipyard on Wednesday (Jul 14) was caused by the errant use of an electric welder, the Shanghai Public Security Bureau said yesterday. The blaze killed one person and left three in critical condition. They were reported to be out of danger yesterday, according to doctors at Shanghai No. 7 People's Hospital. Yang Ye, a bureau spokeswoman, said the 110 police hot line received a report of the fire at 2009, Wednesday. More than 400 firefighters and 30 fire engines were dispatched to the shipyard on Dongtang Road in Pudong. Two fire fighting boats were also sent to the shipyard. Fireman Zou Yuxiang said the vessel was under repair. He said the fire started from a cabin on the second floor and was put out about 2230 hrs. The Youth Daily reported yesterday the crew had tried to put out the fire with extinguishers on the ship but no one bothered to alert the police. Some firemen stationed near the shipyard noticed the heavy smoke rising from the tanker and reported the emergency, the paper said. It is

reported the repair work was almost finished and the ship was scheduled to depart the city today.

DAESHIN (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505*.

DONG HUA MEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Antananarivo, Jul 20 — Understand from our agents in Toamasina that general cargo *Dong Hua Men* left the port at 1905, Jul 18, bound for Durban. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELONA M. (Germany)

London, Jul 22 — German inland general cargo *Elona M.*, 1160 dwt., loaded with a cargo of 1178 tons of basalt blocks, sank off Urk in the IJsselmeer during the evening of Jul 3. The 80 metre long and 9.50 metre wide vessel sank about two miles off Urk in a fairway of about nine metres deep. The Lelystad salvage company Bergings-Transportmij. Scheffer (BTS) commenced the discharge of most of the cargo of basalt stones on Jul 9, using the craneship *Jumbo*. Because of bad weather the salvage had to be interrupted and was stopped several times. By Jul 12, a total of 1,030 tonnes, had been removed. Then preparations commenced to lift the vessel. Three floating sheerleg cranes had slings under the vessel, which "was broken". The cranes were the *Amsterdam*, the *Gazelle* and the *Phoenix*. They succeeded in lifting the vessel on Jul 15 and with the assistance of tugs *Linge* and *Spitsbergen* the convoy was towed to the harbour of Lelystad. The vessel is a total loss and the 54 year old German owner has to look for another vessel, as repairs were not feasible. The vessel will most probably go the shipbreakers in Haarlem after the leaks have been sealed.

ENERGY SEARCHER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 22 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0140, UTC: Drill ship *Energy Searcher* departed a Singapore shipyard Jul 19 and has been anchored at Singapore Anchorage since. ETD is not known.

EUROFAST 1 (Greece)

London, Jul 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1540, local time, Jul 18, while sailing near the islet Doko bound for Spetses ferry *Eurofast 1* (375 gt, built 1996) sustained engine damage. At the time the vessel was performing the Piraeus-Hydra-Spetses-Hydra-Poros-Piraeus schedule. Following the incident the vessel arrived safely at Spetses where departure was prohibited. At 1800, the damage was repaired by the crew and following a survey by the Marine Inspectorate, the vessel departed at 1820. However after 10 minutes *Eurofast 1* returned after sustaining further engine damage. The 145 passengers were forwarded to their destinations on other vessels.

EVANS MCKEIL (Canada)

London, Jul 19 — Tug *Evans McKeil* arrived at Courtright at 1748 hrs, Jul

12 and sailed at 0355 hrs, Jul 13, bound for Windsor(CAN), where it arrived at 1309 hrs, Jul 14.

FLYING DOLPHIN XVIII (Greece)

London, Jul 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Jul 16, hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin XVIII* (130 gt, built 1984) sustained damage to the port main engine while sailing one nautical mile from the port of Agnosta, Skopelos island. At the time the vessel was performing the Skiathos-Glossa-Skopelos-Alonnisos schedule. Following the incident, the vessel returned to the port of Agnosta where the 47 passengers were disembarked and were forwarded to their destinations on another hydrofoil. *Flying Dolphin XVIII* was permitted to depart for Volos without passengers in order to carry out repairs.

Piraeus, Jul 21 — Hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin XVIII* sailed from Perama port on Jul 20 destined for Piraeus port. — Lloyd's Agents.

FORTH GUARDSMAN (U.K.)

London, Jul 20 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 1420, UTC: Ro/ro *Forth Guardsman* (722 gt, built 1983), 13 crew on board, had fire in engine-room and now at anchor in lat 53 24.6N, long 03 28.2W. Engine-room sealed and carbon dioxide deployed, fire under control, awaiting safe period to access engine-room. One crew member suffering from smoke inhalation.

London, Jul 20 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 1633, UTC: Ro/ro *Forth Guardsman*, fire in engine-room in lat 53 24.6N, long 03 28.2W: Four anchors deployed and standby vessel alongside. Awaiting contingency plans from superintendent prior to entering engine-room.

London, Jul 21 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 0549, UTC: Ro/ro *Forth Guardsman* is at anchor in lat 53 24.6N, long 03 28.2W. Vessel's engine-room has been examined. Cable damage has been sustained and vessel is unable to restart generator. *Forth Boxer* is alongside providing power and lighting. A tug will be departing this morning from Holyhead and is expected to be alongside by midday. Intentions are to tow the vessel to Mostyn, where repairs will be effected.

London, Jul 21 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 1407, UTC: Ro/ro *Forth Guardsman* reported under tow by tug *Vanguard* at 1330, UTC. Present ETA at Liverpool Bar 1600, UTC.

London, Jul 21 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 2038, UTC: Ro/ro *Forth Guardsman* reported at Alexander Basin, North-East No.3, Liverpool.

FRANKLIN REINAUER (U.S.A.)

See *B.F.T.No.50*.

GEERTRUID ADRIANA (Netherlands)

See *Mohawk II*.

GLOBAL WINNER (Panama)

London, July 19 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0735, UTC: Bulk *Global Winner* arrived Singapore in tow at 1415, July 17. Vessel is currently at anchorage.

GOUTA (Panama)

See "Non-Compliance With ISPS Code" under "Miscellaneous".

HJELMELAND (Norway)

London, Jul 22 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: At 0930, local time, today, when arriving at Nesvik from Hjelmeland, ro-ro ferry *Hjelmeland* (1183 gt, built 1992) made hard contact with the quay. No injuries to passengers or crew but two cars were damaged. The vessel is in need of repairs. Ro-ro ferry *Sand* replaced *Hjelmeland*.

HYUNDAI HARMONY (Panama)

See *CSCL Qingdao*.

HYUNDAI NO.105 (Panama)

London, Jul 22 — The removal of pollutants from the wreck of the vehicle *Hyundai No.105* is the latest in a series of environmental protection projects undertaken by Wijsmuller Salvage BV. The vessel sank following a collision with the tanker *Kaminesan* in Indonesian waters off Singapore on May 22. The vessel was laden with 4,191 cars and sank in 51 metres of water and now lies inverted on the seabed. 830 tonnes of heavy fuel oil was on board, together with diesel and a significant quantity of lubricating oils. Currently, some 733 tonnes of heavy fuel oil had been removed over a 15-day period. Wijsmuller was contracted by the owner's P&I club to remove pollutants from the wreck.

ILA (Belize)

Vigo, Jul 22 — Trawler *Ila* (1395 gt, built 1969) is still undergoing repairs at Vigo. Expect completion in one month. — Lloyd's Agents.

JACO CARRIER (Norway)

See "United Kingdom" under "Pollution".

JORGEN LAURITZEN (Denmark (Int. Register))

London, Jul 19 — Ref *Jorgen Lauritzen* arrived at Matarani on Jul 13, departing the next day for Puerto Bolivar(ECU).

JOVIAL DUCKLING (Panama)

Istanbul, Jul 20 — Bulk/oil *Jovial Duckling* (41940 gt, built 1980), Singapore for Bourgas, sustained engine breakdown while transitting Dardanelles at 1310, local time, Jul 20, and anchored off Karanlik Mevkii. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Jovial Duckling* sailed Singapore Jun 23 and subsequently passed Port Said Jul 17.)

London, Jul 21 — Following received from GAC, dated Jul 20: A Panama-flagged vessel (bulk/oil *Jovial Duckling*), laden with 69,000 tonnes of iron ore ran aground in the Canakkale Strait, seven miles south of Canakkale City, at 1330 hrs, today. At present, the

grounded vessel is not affecting the flow of traffic in the Strait. Attempts are currently being made to refloat the vessel by her own means, and salvage boats are standing by. Traffic may be suspended during salvage operations, if required by the Master.

London, Jul 21 — Following received from MRCC Ankara, timed 0750, UTC: Bulk/oil *Jovial Duckling*, which grounded yesterday in the Canakkale Strait, after experiencing engine breakdown, is still aground. Two Turkish tugs are on scene.

London, July 22 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 0745, UTC: Bulk/oil *Jovial Duckling*: Vessel's engine has been repaired but vessel is still aground.

KIRAN PACIFIC (Turkey)

London, July 19 — A press report, dated July 15, states: Bulk *Kiran Pacific* was drydocked at Blohm & Voss Dock 11 July 12 for repairs.

KM AMAMI (Indonesia)

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fouteen people were missing after general cargo *KM Amami*, 700 gt, sank in waters off eastern Indonesia, an official said today. The vessel capsized in huge waves Friday (Jul 16) in the Banda Sea between Banda and Buru islands in Maluku province, said Tumorang Hutasoit, chief of the port authority in the provincial capital Ambon. He said the vessel with 14 crew and two passengers was carrying rice, sugar and other goods from the East Java capital of Surabaya to Gorom Island in southern Maluku. The vessel went down about 2400 kilometres east of Jakarta. The Banda Sea has the deepest waters in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago. Hutasoit said he didn't find out about the accident until last night, when two crew members arrived in Ambon after being rescued by a passing vessel.

KRASNOVIDOVO (Russia)

Helsinki, July 19 — General cargo *Krasnovidovo* (1522 gt, built 1980), cargo timber, struck an island in a narrow passage in the city of Savonlinna at approximately 1040 yesterday. The vessel also damaged a pedestrian bridge leading to a castle, situated in an island in the passage. A Finnish pilot was on board while the accident took place and police have stated that alcohol was not a factor in the matter. According to the information given out to public, a strong current could have been the cause for the accident. No technical fault in the vessel has been found nor are the officials expecting one to be found. Afterwards the vessel was taken to Haapavesi in order to establish the extent of damage. The Finnish Accident Investigation Board is investigating the matter. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, July 19 — A press report, dated July 18, states: A Russian wood cargo vessel (general cargo *Krasnovidovo*) was involved in an accident at Olavilinna Castle, Savonlinna. The vessel first struck the

castle wall and then hit a pedestrian bridge, which was badly damaged. No one was injured in the collision. A technical fault was the not the probable cause of the accident as was first thought. The collision appeared to result from the combination of a strong current and a minor steering error. Police stopped the vessel after the accident. A Finnish pilot was on board at the time. Damage to the bridge meant operators had to be conveyed to the castle by a ferry. The opening of the Timo Mustakallio Song Competition was delayed slightly as a result.

KRITI CHAMPION (Greece)

London, Jul 20 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed, 1159, UTC: Product tanker *Kriti Champion* (26874 gt, built 1987), in ballast/not gas free, reported with unspecified engine problems in lat 49 32.5N, long 04 15W at 1129, UTC. (Note — *Kriti Champion* sailed Hamble Jul 19 for Skikda.)

London, Jul 21 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed 0006, UTC: Product tanker *Kriti Champion* has completed repairs and is resuming passage.

LIBERTADOR SAN MARTIN (Panama)

Buenos Aires, Jul 20 — Product tanker *Libertador San Martin* completed repairs Jul 18 and left Tandanon bound Dock Sud to load fuel and then sailed upriver on same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

MALULANI (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Jul 15 — Crane barge *YB 121*, Honolulu for the US West Coast under tow of tug *Malulani* (168 gt, built 1975), turned over Jul 15, approximately 360 miles from Honolulu. The barge was part of a tandem tow, along with tug *Sea Flyer* (199 gt, built 1968). — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: The Coast Guard is warning mariners about a "potential hazard" on the high seas because of a partially submerged barge (*YB 121*) that was last sighted about 350 miles northeast of Honolulu. The 150-foot barge began taking on water Tuesday morning (Jul 13) as it was being towed to San Diego, Coast Guard officials said. The barge, which has a 90-foot crane attached to it, has flipped and is upside down, officials said. Hawaiian Tug and Barge said Hicks Marine, a company out of Seattle, owns the vessel. The Coast Guard said because the vessel is beyond its 200-mile jurisdiction, salvage responsibility lies with the owner.

MARETON (Spain)

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1154, UTC: Call received from Madrid MRCC at 0639, UTC, that fishing *Mareton* taking water and requiring pump in lat 48 20.7N, long 09 24W. Helicopter Rescue 170 lifted nine crew from vessel and transferred them to Brest. Rescue pump on board vessel is coping with water ingress and vessel

is proceeding to Mondogne, with ETA 0800, UTC, Jul 17. Spanish naval vessel *Atalaya* is maintaining communications with the casualty and will escort it to port.

London, Jul 18 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0910, UTC: Fishing *Mareton* arrived safely at Douarnenez at 0705, UTC, yesterday.

MISS HAYES (U.S.A.)

London, July 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Houston, dated July 18: Late this morning Coast Guard Air Station Houston was called upon to assist fishing *Miss Hayes* (102 gt, built 1979) which was taking on water 30 miles southeast of Galveston. A Dolphin helicopter crew hoisted a dewatering pump to the four person crew on the shrimp boat. A rescue boat from Coast Guard Station Freeport, Texas, provided a boarding team to assist the vessel in distress. The Coast Guard is escorting *Miss Hayes* to Coast Guard Station Freeport.

MOHAWK II (Norway)

London, Jul 19 — At about 0100, local time, today, a collision occurred between the outward bound fishing Arm 20 (trawler *Geertruid Adriana*, 542 gt, built 1986) and the incoming sail training *Mohawk II* in the Sardijneul, Flushing, near buoy SG3. As a result *Mohawk II* sank. The 20 Sea Scouts and their companions were rescued by the Coast Guard and taken to a local hotel. The fairway has been closed and the wreck will be moved as soon as possible.

London, July 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A Dutch fishing boat (trawler *Geertruid Adriana*) struck the side of classic Norwegian sailing ship *Mohawk II* carrying sea scouts during the night. All the scouts and their leaders were rescued, but their 100-year-old vessel sank. The scouts, mostly aged 13-16 years, were sailing on a jubilee cruise when the maritime drama unfolded not far from the Dutch coast. Trond-Marius Melsom of the group arranging the trip, Oslo KFUM Sj-korps, said "*Mohawk II* was hit on its port side by a Dutch fishing boat" just after midnight. Melsom said the vessel sank within three minutes. Some of the 21 persons on board managed to get into lifeboats, "but others had to jump into the sea," Melsom said. They were later plucked out of the water by those in the lifeboats, and Dutch search and rescue crews arrived at the scene quickly. There was no immediate word on the cause of the accident. *Mohawk II* is now lying at a depth of about six metres and the extent of its damage was unknown. Melsom said the vessel will be salvaged. The scouts are all from Oslo and L'renskog, a northern suburb. They were taken to Vlissingen.

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated today, states: Training *Mohawk II* which sank just after midnight yesterday after a collision with the outward bound Dutch fishing vessel Arm 20 (trawler *Geertruid Adriana*), was raised about 1900, local time, today, by the floating sheerleg crane, assisted by two tugs of the salvage and

tug company Mutraship of Terneuzen. *Mohawk II*, now hanging in the hoists, will be taken into Flushing harbour tonight.

London, July 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Dutch maritime authorities say 100-year-old Norwegian sailing ship *Mohawk II* was on the “wrong side” of shipping lanes off the Dutch coast this week when it was struck by fishing *Geertruid Adriana*. The authorities also say the Norwegian crew on board failed to respond to radioed warnings. The vessel was salvaged today and an investigation into the collision is underway. Its Norwegian master, Steinar Dale, has insisted the master of the Dutch fishing boat was at fault. Arjan van Nassau of the Dutch agency monitoring vessel traffic, however, says radar photos showed that the Norwegian vessel was sailing on the wrong side of the channel. He says the Norwegian master failed to report in to the vessel traffic controllers, “and we couldn’t make contact with him when we tried to warn him that he was on a collision course.” The master of the Dutch trawler, meanwhile, received several warnings but was sailing in the correct position, reports newspaper *Aftenposten*. When the two vessels got too close, *Mohawk II* correctly swung to starboard in an effort to avoid a collision. The trawler also should have swung to starboard, but the Dutch master says he couldn’t because he feared he’d run aground. The Dutch authorities, who have all radar photographs on file, say the two masters have different versions of what went wrong. Leaders of the scouting organization deny *Mohawk II* was in the wrong position but would not comment any further, and have hired an attorney.

London, Jul 22 — The Norwegian training *Mohawk II*, which sank just after midnight on Monday Jul 19, and was raised by the floating sheerleg crane *Cormorant*, has been put ashore in the Sloe harbour in Flushing. The damage to the 21 metre wooden sailing vessel, built in 1904, is: a hole of about a square metre, some light hull damage and a broken aftermast. The vessel is currently in a cradle. The authorities, who placed the vessel under the wreck laws, want a large sum from the owners, who are the Norwegian Sea Scouts group. However, as now is known, the vessel was not insured outside of Norwegian territorial waters. The owners are now trying to raise this money from sponsors.

NA MOKU (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Jul 21 — The fuel was pumped off tank barge *Na Moku* and repairs to the pump house are currently in hand by C.K. Welding. The barge did not sink, only the pump house area was affected. Barge is being repaired dockside. — Lloyd’s Agents.

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Jul 16 — General cargo *Nazek T.* sunk at Constantza: At present preparations are being made for a new attempt to lift the vessel from its port side on to its bottom. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Bucharest, Jul 19 — General cargo *Nazek T.* was lifted from its port side to its bottom, part of the bridge now being visible, at about 1400, Jul 17. The next step would reportedly be to seal the hatches, the other openings and access ways with the aim of pumping out the water. Refloating operation would hopefully commence this week and Constantza Port Authority advised that it could take about 14 days. — Lloyd’s Agents.

NCC MEKKA (NIS)

London, Jul 16 — Chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* remains at Rio de Janeiro anchorage. Vessel has commenced transferring its cargo to another Odjell tanker. (See issue of Jun 14.)

Rio de Janeiro, Jul 20 — Chemical tanker *NCC Arar* is now in Rio de Janeiro to receive cargo from chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka*. Transshipment to commence in the following days. — Lloyd’s Agents.

NEPTUNUS (Sweden)

London, Jul 20 — Non specific tanker *Neptunus* is understood to have arrived at and sailed from Sodertalje on/about Jul 17.

NEW ACE (Belize)

Busan, Jul 14 — General cargo *New Ace* arrived Busan Jul 8 from Dalian. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

NO.1 DAE BU (Panama)

See “Typhoon ‘Mindulle’” under “Weather & Navigation.”

NO.11 HAE UN (South Korea)

See *No.5 Dae Un*.

NO.5 DAE UN (South Korea)

Busan, Jul 22 — Non specific tanker *No.11 Hae Un*, 110 gt, Busan for Yoesu, loaded passage with some 153 kilolitres of bunker C and 142 kilolitres of diesel oil, was in collision with fishing *No.5 Dae Un*, 94 gt, off Goje Island, at 0615, today. As a result of the collision, the *No.11 Hae Un* sustained damage to its No. 4 cargo tank, causing some 10 kilolitres of bunker C to leak out into the sea. Marine police vessels are attending at the site to carry out oil clean up operation. Damage to fishing vessel is at present unknown to us. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

NONA MARY (Greece)

London, Jul 20 — Lloyd’s Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Nona Mary* (2206 gt, built 1972), with 16 passengers on board, was not under command due to engine damage while sailing five nautical miles north of Kimolos at 1755, Jul 12. At the time vessel was performing the schedule Lavrion-Syros-Serifos-Sifnos- Kimolos-Milos. The damage was later repaired by the crew and the vessel proceeded to Milos arriving 2135. Departure was prohibited pending survey. At 0430 the next day vessel was not permitted to continue the schedule as spare parts were expected to be delivered to repair damage to the cooling system of the reduction gears of the main engine.

Later that day the damage was repaired and following inspection and successful sea trial, the vessel was permitted to sail for Paros-Naxos-Folegandros-Sikino-Ios-Thirasia-Santorini.

OLYMPIC GALAXY (Greece)

Colombo, Jul 17 — The grounding of bulk *Olympic Galaxy* occurred on Jul 10. The vessel into which part cargo will be transferred is expected in Trincomalee during the evening of Jul 21, from Abu Dhabi. The lightening operation is expected to commence immediately thereafter. The initial estimates are that 4000 tonnes will have to be discharged in order to refloat the vessel. This is expected to take approximately four days, at 1000 tonnes per day. From 0800 hrs to 1730 hrs private labour from outside will be working, while the vessel’s crew will be working thereafter. All crew, including the master, continue to remain on board. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Jul 18 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0900, UTC: Bulk *Olympic Galaxy* is still aground in Trincomalee Bay with salvors still working on refloating efforts.

Piraeus, Jul 19 — Bulk *Olympic Galaxy*, aground in Trincomalee Bay: Lightening vessel, ro/ro *Scan Arctic*, is due on scene am, Jul 22, and will then commence operation to remove cargo. This is expected to take at least 48 hours, after which refloating attempts can be made. — Tsaviris Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Jul 22 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0845, UTC: Bulk *Olympic Galaxy* is still aground in Trincomalee Bay. Lightening operations are expected to commence shortly.

OPDR CASABLANCA (Canary Islands)

See “Brittany, France” under “Pollution”.

ORCHID SEA (South Korea)

See *Xin Wan Da*.

OVALAU (Fiji)

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The environment department is assessing the level of pollution that may have contaminated the waters of Nananu-i-Ra to Rakiraki following the sinking of the ferry *Ovalau* last August. Environment director, Epeli Nasome said students from the Institute of Applied Science at the University of the South Pacific were conducting tests in order to have a correct assessment. “Once the tests are completed, we will have an accurate picture of the degree of pollution that has occurred,” Mr Nasome said. Malake island chief, Ratu Penaia Dimuri said the villagers worried about the destruction of marine life and fish stock from pollutants like oil, caustic soda and other dangerous chemicals that have washed out of the wreck. “The vessel sank in our traditional fishing ground, which is our major source of income. The last thing we want is to have a depletion of the fish stock or poisoned marine life.” Mr Nasome said

the vessel owner, Patterson Brothers Shipping were responsible for salvaging the vessel with the permission of the Marine Board. Mr Nasome said the decision to salvage the wreck lay with the Marine Board. (Note — *Ovalau* sank after hitting a reef in Nanunu-i-Ra passage, off the coast of Rakiraki, 23 Aug, 2003.)

PACIFIC HIGHWAY (Panama)

San Francisco, Jul 19 — Vehicle *Pacific Highway*, which entered San Francisco dry docks Jul 13, sailed Jul 15 following completion of the repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

PETIMATA OT RMS (Bulgaria)

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0955, UTC: Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* is still aground. Cargo discharge is expected to be completed around noon today. The plan is then for the vessel to be towed to Kalundborg Fjord for inspection.

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1606, UTC: Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* has been refloated and is now proceeding, under its own power, to Kalundborg Fjord for inspection.

London, Jul 19 — Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* arrived at Kalundborg on Jul 16 and sailed on Jul 18, bound for Santos.

Terneuzen, July 19 — Multiraship Salvage has completed the salvage of bulk *Petimata OT RMS* grounded in the shallows of the Danish Great Belt. The vessel grounded in Danish waters on July 9, while carrying fertiliser from Ventspils to Santos. Multiraship completed the discharge of enough of the vessel's cargo and bunkers, and after refloating moved the vessel to Kalundborg where it has been inspected and reloaded. Multiraship managing director Leendert Muller says, "We undertook this job on Lloyd's Open Form 2000, and were able to use our tug *Multratug 7* plus two other tugs, a bunker lighter and a chartered Spliethof bulker, *Apollogracht*, to clear the ship of bunkers and take off enough cargo to move the ship to safety." A salvage team of 10 including salvage masters, divers and naval architects under the direction of Muller moved 6,800 tonnes of cargo and 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil before refloating the vessel. — Multiraship Salvage.

PITEA (Togo)

See "Drugs Seized On Togo Flagged Vessel Off Ghana" under "Miscellaneous".

POLAR (Togo)

See "Drugs Seized On Togo Flagged Vessel Off Ghana" under "Miscellaneous".

PONGOLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: General cargo *Pongola*, which went aground on entering the port of Beira on Jul 5, is currently alongside a berth in the harbour discharging its cargo of containers. Once this has been completed an assessment of the damage to the ship will be undertaken before a

decision made as to returning it to Durban either under its own power or under tow. Ocean Africa Container Lines said today that general cargo *UAFL Express* had been chartered in on a 30-day charter to maintain the company schedule between Durban and Mombasa.

London, Jul 19 — Following received from Subtech Salvage (PTY) Ltd, dated today: Following the successful refloating and berthing alongside the Cornelder Container Terminal in Beira of general cargo *Pongola*, all cargo was discharged, following which salvors and ship's surveyors inspected the hull and double bottom structure and found severe bottom damage in places. After temporary repairs in the double bottom tanks, Subtech Salvage is preparing to escort *Pongola* to Durban, with the tug *Toto* in attendance. A salvage team of Salvage Master, Naval Architect and two divers, with portable pumps aboard, will accompany the vessel. Prior to sailing, the ship's engine and steering will be tested. Steaming time of three days to Durban, at reduced power, is anticipated.

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Most of the tar-like oil from the crude oil tanker *Prestige* that sank off Spain's north-west coast two years ago will be recovered by mid October, the company in charge of the cleanup said. Repsol-YPF, the private Spanish oil company, said this week it expects to remove 90 percent of the oil remaining in the wreck. The rest is stuck on the tanker walls and eventually will be eaten away by bacteria. The *Prestige* split apart in a storm off the Galicia coast and sank on Nov 19, 2002, disgorging most of its 77,000 tons of thick, toxic fuel oil onto the beaches of northern Spain and southwestern France. About 13,800 tons remains in the wreck. During a tour of Repsol's technology and research centre in Mostoles, south of Madrid, company officials on Monday (Jul 19) explained the oil salvage technique. Through holes drilled in the vessel, the oil floats out — because it is less dense than sea water — into double-lined plastic bags that are 30 metres tall, equivalent to the height of an eight-store building. The bags are then shuttled to just under the ocean surface for transfer to a vessel. The process takes about four hours for each bag. The oil is then taken to a refinery by land. Oil has never before been removed from this depth. The cost of the project is about 99 million Euros, the government recently said.

PRINCE MOUDI (Lebanon)

Piraeus, Jul 16 — General cargo *Prince Moudi* remains under detention at the port of Kavala, ETD:Unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRINCESS OF THE PACIFIC (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 21 — Salvors from Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp. will attempt to refloat ro/ro *Princess of the Pacific* today. Capt. Edgardo Gualbero,

Malayan Towage CEO said that salvors had finished patching up fractures in the vessel's hull and pumped water out of the vessel. "We are just waiting for the tide to come in before we attempt to tow the vessel out to open water," It has been 28 days since the vessel was stranded off Nogas island. Efforts to repair and refloat the vessel have been hampered by stormy weather conditions. The Philippines is in the midst of the typhoon season. Salvage work is being performed by the salvage tugs, *Monarch* and *Limay* as well as a salvage barge. The tugs are expected to tow the vessel to the nearest safe port. Capt. Gualberto said he is still awaiting instructions from the owners as to which port the vessel will be brought. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ROMSDAL (Norway)

London, Jul 22 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Ro/ro *Romsdal* has completed repairs and on Jul 19 returned to regular service.

SAPPHIRE (Cyprus)

London, Jul 20 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1120, UTC: Passenger *Sapphire* (12263 gt, built 1967) grounded on Mykonos at 1900, local time, yesterday. Vessel refloated at 2215, local time, same day and continued voyage after inspection. (Note — *Sapphire* sailed Piraeus Jul 18 for Turkey.)

SAPPHIRE (Marshall Islands)

Piraeus, July 21 — Passenger *Sapphire* stranded in shallow waters near Mykonos port on July 19. All 258 crew members and 635 passengers were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution or damage reported. The vessel was inspected by its register and the port authorities and sailed July 20 for Iraklion. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAPPHIRE (Marshall Islands, not Cyprus as before reported)

London, Jul 21 — Following received from Department of Merchant Shipping, Ministry of Communications and Works, Cyprus Government: Passenger *Sapphire* was deleted from Cyprus Registry from Jul 7. Vessel's new registry is the Marshall Islands.

SARAH (NIS)

St. Petersburg, Jul 15 — General cargo *Sarah* arrived St. Petersburg Jul 11 from Denmark. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAVA OCEAN (Bahamas)

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0725, UTC: General cargo *Sava Ocean* is now at the port of Thessaloniki where it was towed by tugs *Pantokrator* and *Efstratios*.

Piraeus, Jul 19 — General cargo *Sava Ocean* stranded in shallow waters four nautical miles from Thessaloniki port on Jul 10. The vessel was loaded with a consignment of fertilisers. All crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution or damages were reported. After inspection by the relative port authorities the vessel sailed Jul 17 for the United Kingdom. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Sava Ocean*, loaded with 3000 tons of fertilizer, grounded three and-a-half nautical miles outside the port of Thessaloniki with six crew on board, who did not sustain injury, at 0630, Jul 15. Patrol boats of the Coast Guard, the tug *Efstratios* and the tug *Pantokrator* proceeded to the area. There was no pollution caused due to the incident. *Sava Ocean* refloated without assistance during the evening of Jul 16.

SEA FLYER (U.S.A.)

See *Malulani*.

SEA TRADER (Malta)

Maassluis, Jul 16 — At 1710 today a fire broke out on ro/ro *Sea Trader* (8454 gt, built 1976), 9HNQ5, moored at Quay Nos 218/222 in Antwerp. Fire-brigade and other salvage services are on the spot. Extent of damage to vessel is currently unknown. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Sea Trader* arrived at Antwerp at 1242, Jul 16.)

London, Jul 17 — Ro/ro *Sea Trader* had fire on board at Quay 220, Antwerp, yesterday when a lorry was driven on board and caught fire on one of the decks. The authorities will let the fire burn itself out under controlled conditions because of fears of capsizing the vessel if too much water is pumped on board. People in the nearby villages have been warned to keep their windows closed but it is said that the smoke is not poisonous.

London, Jul 19 — A press report states: "The fire on board ro/ro *Sea Trader*, at Quay 220 in the port of Antwerp, was still not extinguished on Saturday (Jul 17) morning. The fire was significantly reduced and the emission of fumes was also reduced. Shortly after 0800 hrs, the 'catastrophe/emergency plan' was called off." However, the fire is still burning this morning (July 19).

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Merchant Shipping Directorate of the Malta Maritime Authority is investigating a fire that broke out on board the ro/ro *Sea Trader* in the Belgian port of Antwerp last Friday (Jul 16) evening, according to a press statement issued by the Malta Maritime Authority. Preliminary investigations indicate that the fire broke out on the main deck of the vessel due to ignition of petrol that had leaked out from cars that were being loaded on board. No one was injured in the accident and no pollution was caused. However, the vessel and its cargo were extensively damaged by the fire which had spread from the main deck to the superstructure before it was brought under control by firefighters stationed at the port. Merchant Shipping Directorate inspectors are investigating the incident and are liaising with the Belgian authorities who are also conducting their own investigations.

Zeebrugge, Jul 21 — Ro/ro *Sea Trader* is moored at quay 218/222, port of Antwerp; no sailing prospects. — Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

SEABULK PENGUIN I (Marshall Islands)

Walvis bay, July 19 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Seabulk Penguin I*: The explosion was caused by contracted spraypainters in the forepeak tank. Although the incident was fatal for two of the four painters, the damage to the vessel was minimal and the vessel was not delayed in schedule. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SHENG YIN NO.688

Port Moresby, Jul 22 — Fishing *Sheng Yin No.688* was reported to have run aground on Jul 15. The crew's have evacuated the vessel & have arrived at Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu. A surveyor was appointed is now in Vanuatu conducting the survey and has established the following information. The fishing vessel was in transit from Fiji to the fishing grounds off the Solomon Islands and that no catch is on board the vessel. The vessel was carrying 25 tonnes of marine gasoil, but it is reported that this has been lost as the fuel tanks have ruptured. An interview was conducted with the captain/crew members on watch at the time of the grounding. The cause of the damage to the vessel was grounding close inshore on the southern coast of Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu. It is alleged from information acquired that the grounding was due to a course alteration of the auto pilot steering or that the grounding was due to the mechanical or electrical failure of the autopilot/gyro system or by accidental or malicious tampering with the system. However, it has been suggested that had any of the watchkeepers been competent in the most basic aspect of seamanship this grounding would not occurred. Documentation onboard, including crew certificates, along with the vessels' electronic equipment has been removed and are in possession of the Customs & Immigration Authority. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, July 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Taiwanese master and 11 of his Chinese crew are stranded in Vanuatu after their vessel (fishing *Sheng Yin No.688*) ran aground on South Santo last week. It is reported investigations are underway into whether the boat was fishing illegally in Vanuatu's exclusive economic zone. Vanuatu's department of fisheries says the boat, which is damaged beyond repair, was preparing for new fishing grounds around Solomon Islands after its operating licenses for Fiji waters expired. Fisheries Development Officer, Bruce Obed has played down speculation the boat's master may have been trying to fish illegally saying the vessel had no fish on board other than fish baits.

SHOTOKU MARU (Japan)

Moji, Jul 16 — Product tanker *Shotoku Maru* is still undergoing repairs to bottom plating damage, ETC Jul 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHERN TIARE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Jul 20 — General cargo *Southern Tiare* is still berthed at

Napier. It is anticipated that a new rudder will arrive by road from Auckland Jul 21 for fitting. This will be followed by various tests etc. prior to loading. Present ETD is 1600, Jul 23 for the Chatham Islands, subject to any fitting or testing delays. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHGATE (Liberia)

Ponta Delgada, July 19 — Bulk *Southgate* still under main engine repairs at Ponta Delgada. The repairs are being carried out by technicians sent over here for the purpose. Estimated time for completion of repairs and vessel's departure not yet ascertained. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPRING PEACOCK (Panama)

Yokohama, Jul 16 — Bulk *Spring Peacock* arrived Yokohama Jul 15 from Richards Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

ST.CLAIR (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Jul 16 — Bulk *St.Clair* (27482 gt, built 1976) experienced an engine-room fire about 0600 today as the vessel was upbound in the St. Marys River. A fuel or oil line on the starboard engine is reported to have broken, spraying the engine and starting the fire. The engine-room was evacuated and the fire was quickly extinguished with no injuries reported to her crew. The extent of damage was unknown but the vessel has three main engines and was reported to have power after the fire. The vessel was stopped just above Detour, Michigan and may continue upbound later today. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Troy, Michigan, Jul 18 — Bulk *St.Clair* arrived in Superior, Wisconsin, yesterday and entered Fraser Shipyards. The vessel is most likely at the shipyard for repairs to damage from the engine fire it sustained on Friday (Jul 16). The fire occurred about 0600 Friday as the vessel was upbound in the St. Marys River. A fuel or oil line on the starboard engine is reported to have broken, spraying the engine and starting the fire. The extent of damage was unknown but the vessel has three main engines and proceeded to Superior under her own power. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

STENA LYNX III (Bahamas)

London, Jul 19 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Lynx III* (4113 gt, built 1996) arrived Liverpool Jun 24 for engine repairs. The vessel is expected to be out of service until the end of Jul.

STENA SHIPPER (U.K.)

London, Jul 17 — Ro/ro *Stena Shipper* arrived Fredericia Jul 16 from Frederikshavn.

SUK JEONG NO.505 (South Korea)

Busan, Jul 20 — Barge *Coryo No.302* and the tug *Daeshin* have been arrested at Mokpo by local courts at the request of Kim & Chang Law Office, Seoul, Korea acting on behalf of the general cargo *Suk Jeong No.505*. The *Coryo No.302* and *Daeshin* are at present lying afloat moored at Dongmyung Pier, Mokpo, Korea without any repairs.

Salvage operation of the capsized *Suk Jeong No.505* was completed Jul 3 and is at present lying afloat moored at the breakwater in Mokpo, Korea. We understand that the *Suk Jeong No.505* will be towed to a port in China soon for scrap. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SUN RAY (Georgia)

London, Jul 21 — General cargo *Sun Ray* sailed from Constantza on Jul 19, bound for Tuzla.

SUN YANG 15 (South Korea)

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Sun Yang 15* (696 gt, built 1986), bound Busan with 2,000 tons of gasoline, partially sank off South Korea's southeast coast today after colliding with product tanker *Yue You 201* (1595 gt, built 1980) in heavy fog three miles off Busan at 1635 hrs, maritime police said. Much of *Sun Yang 15's* rear section, including its engine-room, sank after the collision, but the vessel did not sink further. All nine crew members on board evacuated the ship on a lifeboat and were later rescued unharmed, police said. The Chinese ship also sustained damage, but was still able to move on its own and continued to its destination, Ulsan. Police said a large amount of waste oil leaked into the sea from *Sun Yang 15's* engine-room and they were trying to remove it, but it was unclear if any of the gasoline cargo has also leaked. Police said they plan to tow *Sun Yang 15* to Busan after transferring the gasoline cargo to another vessel. Police began an investigation to find out what caused the accident, but they suspect the Chinese vessel inadvertently rammed into the rear part of the tanker in the dense fog.

Busan, Jul 19 — Product tanker *Sun Yang 15*, Ulsan for Busan, loaded with 2,000 tonnes of gasoline oil, with nine crew members on board, was in collision with product tanker *Yue You 201*, China for Ulsan, in dense fog three miles south-east of Mipo ferry terminal, Busan, about 1635, Jul 16. As a result of the collision, *Sun Yang 15* sustained heavy damage to its stern area, engine-room was submerged and leaked engine oil over an area one km diameter by 50 metres width from the site. All crew were safely rescued. The *Yue You 201* sustained damage to its bow area as a result. The *Yue You 201* sailed from the site for the destination port of Ulsan, soon after the accident and is at present lying anchored at Ulsan anchorage for inspection/investigation. *Sun Yang 15*, in tow of tugs, arrived at SK Logistics Centre, Busan, evening Jul 17, discharged all cargo on board Jul 18 and shifted to Sunjin Shipbuilding Co., Busan for repairs. The *Sun Yang 15* is at present under repair at Sunjin Shipbuilding Co Ltd, Busan. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

THAILINE 6 (Malaysia)

Moji, Jul 15 — General cargo *Thailine 6* arrived Hakata Jul 14 from Miri and sailed Jul 15 for Sakai. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR HAWK (DIS)

Kochi, Jul 17 — C.c. *Thor Hawk*: The main engine repair work will commence next week after arrival of spares scheduled to arrive Jul 19. The vessel is expected to stay at Kochi for a further period of one month to complete engine repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR TRIBUTE (Thailand)

Bangkok, Jul 16 — Bulk *Thor Tribute* (16794 gt, built 1985), bound for a port in the United States, reported a fire broke out in cargo hold No 3 at 1120, Jun 30, about 180 nautical miles south of Colombo. The master and crew extinguished the fire by flooding the hold with carbon dioxide, and the vessel subsequently deviated to the nearest port, Colombo. A cargo inspection was carried out at Colombo on Jul 8, and most of the kraft paper which was covering the bagged cargo was found to be burned, along with almost 100 bags of the cargo. No significant structural damage to the vessel was found. The vessel departed Colombo Jul 10 for its destination port after discharging all the burnt kraft paper and damaged cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIRELESS (Marshall Islands)

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Chem.tank *Tireless* (18812 gt, built 1980) yesterday drifted into the mainstream of the Karnaphuli river from the jetty of Chittagong port, as its anchor rope was torn by heavy current. The vessel, laden with imported edible oil, escaped major accident at the port channel as it did not collide with other vessels, radio control of the Chittagong port said. The 170-metre vessel with 21,000 tonnes of edible oil arrived at the outer anchorage of the Chittagong port Sunday (Jul 18) and entered the port's RM-4 jetty yesterday afternoon, radio control said. The vessel floated away towards the mainstream at 1830 hrs as soon as the anchor rope torn off during the low tide, a senior port official said. Tugs of the port were sent to the Karnaphuli for towing the trouble-torn vessel, he added.

TMM OAXACA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Malta, Jul 19 — A local press report, dated Jul 17, states: The master of c.c. *TMM Oaxaca* (11153 gt, built 1997) was charged yesterday with damaging tuna cages to the detriment of Melita Tuna Limited. German national Leling Uwe, 45, pleaded not guilty to causing the damage when he steered the vessel *TMM Oaxaca* over the cages off the coast of Delimara on Thursday (Jul 15). Uwe was granted bail against a personal guarantee of Lm10,000. Police Inspector Johan Fenech prosecuted. Dr Edward Zammit Lewis and Dr George Said appeared for Uwe. Dr Beppe Fenech Adami represented Melita Tuna Limited. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *TMM Oaxaca* sailed Valletta Jul 14 for sea trials and passed Malta Jul 15.)

TUVAQ (Canada)

London, Jul 20 — Product tanker

Tuvaq arrived at St. John's(CAN) on Jul 11. Vessel departed on Jul 16, bound for Montreal, where it arrived at 0020 hrs, today.

UNICORN MARINER (Panama)

Incheon, Jul 19 — General cargo *Unicorn Mariner*, laden with used cars and general cargoes, sailed from Incheon at about 0800, Jul 18 bound for Phumy, Vietnam. The temporary repairs at Incheon were effected at the class surveyor's recommendation and the permanent repairs to the next owner's convenient time and place. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

URSA (North Korea)

London, Jul 19 — General cargo *Ursa* passed Istanbul, eastward, on Jul 4. Vessel was next reported passing Istanbul, westward, on Jul 16, on passage from Theodosia for Thessaloniki.

VIKING II

Auckland, Jul 21 — Fishing *Viking II* was brought ashore and found to be a C.T.L. The insurance claim was settled by the hull underwriters and the hull remains have now been sold. However, we do not yet know whether the vessel has been removed by the new owners, or whether they will break it up or if it will be rebuilt. — Lloyd's Agents.

WARWICK (Singapore)

Salvador, July 16 — Lpg *Warwick* grounded in the Amazon River July 10, very close to the mouth of the Tapaj s River, when proceeding upriver, in ballast. Vessel was refloated yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

WISDOM C. (Panama)

Istanbul, Jul 20 — Bulk *Wisdom C.* (23381 gt, built 1980), Iskenderun for Yarmimca, sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles at 2330, local time, Jul 19, and anchored off Bozcaada. — Lloyd's Agents.

XIN WAN DA (Mongolia)

Busan, Jul 19 — General cargo *Xin Wan Da* remains sunk at the site and in view of depth of water at the site, it will probably be left "as is where is". Bulk *Orchid Sea* arrived at Busan at 1250, Jul 8 for crew investigation by the marine police and sailed from Busan at 1455, Jul 9, bound for its discharging port of Incheon. The vessel arrived at Incheon at 0500, Jul 11, and sailed from Incheon at 0400, Jul 15, bound for Dalian for permanent repairs after completion of cargo discharge. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

YB 121

See *Malulani*.

YD 121

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1716, UTC: Crane barge *YD 121* (not YB 121 as before reported) is still reported drifting, but is partly submerged. It is understood that it is unlikely that any attempts to salvage the vessel will be made.

Honolulu, Jul 19 — Crane barge *YD 121* is a hazard to navigation and Hickey Marine hired American Marine Corporation to sink the barge. The American Marine vessel *American Islander* is scheduled to arrive at the crane barge's position at 1600, this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Jul 21 — Tug *American Islander* arrived at crane barge *YD 121* position late yesterday and the barge was scuttled at midnight last night, and no longer a hazard to navigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

YUE YOU 201 (China)

See *Sun Yang 15*.

ZIM PIRAEUS (Greece)

London, Jul 20 — C.c. *Zim Piraeus* arrived at Barcelona on Jul 14, sailing the next day, bound for Halifax. The vessel subsequently passed through the Straits of Gibraltar on Jul 16.



INDONESIA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine Indonesian crewmen are missing after pirates threw them overboard in an attack on their tug *Sunday* (Jul 11), the navy and a reporting centre said yesterday. The nine went missing after an attack on the *Global Semesta Satu* tug in the Bangka Strait south of the Strait of Malacca, said Indonesian navy spokesman Colonel Sumantri. "We are still waiting for news from two ships which have been deployed to arrest the pirates," Sumantri said. The International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre said the pirates boarded the tug and hijacked it, throwing 10 crew members overboard. It said a passing tug later rescued one crew member but the fate of the other nine was unknown.

MALACCA STRAITS

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: A ceremony has been held in the Malacca Straits to mark the beginning of co-ordinated naval patrols between Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. The patrols are a response to fears that the straits are vulnerable to attack from pirates or terrorists. All three countries will contribute up to seven ships to the patrol, with each ship remaining under its own nation's commands. The narrow waterway carries more than a quarter of the world's trade, and almost all the oil imports destined for Japan and China.

Port State Control

SWEDEN

Göteborg, Jul 15 — General cargo *Allora* (285 gt, built 1964) is presently tied up at The Russian Pier in the port of Trollhattan, since one anchor and chain were found to be completely missing and on the other side only part of the anchor remains. The vessel was found also to be in a generally poor condition. *Allora* is now in custody of the Maritime Inspection and its certificate temporarily suspended. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Seizures & Arrests



AGIA ELENI (Greece)

Valletta, Jul 19 — Owners of fishing *Agia Eleni* have advised that the vessel will be moving vessel from Cassar Ship Repair Yard to Manoel Island Marina this week. They are currently awaiting confirmation from the Greek Register that the vessel has been deleted from their registry and are making the necessary arrangements to obtain Panamanian Registry. Vessels' departure from Malta is scheduled for next spring. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANJUN (Hong Kong)

Karachi, Jul 16 — Product tanker *Anjun* sailed from Karachi on Jun 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

APACHE (Honduras)

Reunion, Jul 20 — Fishing *Apache* arrived at Reunion on Jul 1, arrested by French Navy for illegal fishing of toothfish. The vessel remains in the port, pending the Courts decision. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOKA STAR (Tonga)

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

CAP ANAMUR (Germany)

See under "Miscellaneous."

KUN PENG (China)

London, July 21 — A press report, dated today, states: China's first LPG tanker, *Lpg Kun Peng* (2771 gt, built 1991), was auctioned for just over yuan 43 million (US\$5.21 million) after 15 years in service, 1.55 million more than it cost to build, it was reported yesterday. *Kun Peng* has played an important role in transporting gas from northern China to southern China. It was built in December 1990 by the Jiangnan shipyard for the Huizhou Fuel Industrial Corporation (HFIC). HFIC leased the ship with US\$500

million in loans from the Bank of China's Huizhou Branch in 1990 but never repaid the loan or the interest. The company also borrowed yuan 6 million from the bank in 1998 which was also not repaid. The Huizhou People's Intermediary Court ordered HFIC to repay the loans, but the HFIC did not obey the order. The tanker was auctioned in the Guangzhou Maritime Court on July 15 with a reserve price of yuan 8 million.

MERCAN A. (Turkey)

Bahrain, Jul 21 — Understand from local agent that bulk *Mercan A.* is still at ASRY in Bahrain and currently alongside berth No.8. *Mercan A.* is still under repair and the agents have no knowledge of when the vessel will be sailing. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAVSTAR 1 (Panama)

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

PATMOS (Greece)

London, Jul 17 — A report in the Jul 16 issue of "Newsfront" states: Passenger ro/ro *Patmos* (8992 gt, built 1972) has been seized by the Rhodes Tax Office in pursuit of a Euro4,344,111.41 claim against the registered owners, Dane Sea Lines.

RAMBLER (Netherlands)

Massluis, Jul 20 — General cargo *Rambler* is still in Rotterdam. The vessel was released from arrest on Jul 16. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SAINT RAPHAEL II (Greece)

London, Jul 17 — A report in the Jul 16 issue of "Newsfront" states: Non specific tanker *Saint Raphael II* has been seized by private creditors in pursuit of a Euro3,157.84 claim against the registered owners, Alkyonis Petrelefsis II, Naftiki Eteria.

SIDER BAY (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jul 17 — Ref *Sider Bay*, which was reported under embargo at Bilbao in early June, subsequently sailed and passed Cape Finisterre Jun 25.

TAI PING QUAN (China)

London, Jul 19 — General cargo *Tai Ping Quan* remains at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

TALAVERA

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Venice, Jul 21 — General cargo *Talavera* remains under arrest at Chioggia. — Lloyd's Agents.



TINBATTI AREA, INDIA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: A massive fire broke out in the Oil India Limited (OIL)

pipeline at Tinbatti area near Jalpaiguri district tonight. Police said the incident occurred after an oil leakage in the surface area of the pipeline, stretching between Dhaligaon refinery to Barauni in Bihar through New Jalpaiguri, at Kamrangaguri in Tinbatti in the south-western side of the town. Police, however, did not rule out sabotage as the reason behind the fire. Civil administration has put the Army on high alert and sought its help to combat the blaze. Initial reports said several fire tenders from across the region have reached to the spot. The fire fighters, however, could not start their operation as the pipelines passed between the two railway overbridges, which are the only way to the spot. Eye witnesses said a huge explosion rocked the area minutes before the fire broke out. The area, where the fire broke out, is densely populated and there are some road-side markets also. Police were evacuating the people on war-footing. The North East Frontier Railway has suspended all trains in the region.

Pollution



BRITTANY, FRANCE

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: General cargo *OPDR Casablanca* (4115 gt, built 1998) suspected of causing pollution was allowed today to leave a French port after it had put down a deposit of tens of thousands of euros against a possible fine, port authorities said. The vessel, sailing under a Canary Islands flag, is suspected of flushing its tanks off the coast of Brittany. A French surveillance aircraft detected a slick six and a half kilometres long and 40 metres wide in the wake of the vessel. The Spanish captain was given a summons to appear in court in the western French port city of Brest in January of next year to face charges of illegally dumping fuel at sea. He was allowed to sail from the Normandy port of Le Havre after paying a deposit of 300,000 euros. The captain told police the pollution had not been intended but was the result of a technical problem. But experts who boarded the vessel contradicted the story, police said, and found the pollution was deliberate. The vessel was on its way from Vigo in northwest Spain and after the pollution was detected was ordered into Le Havre, the nearer port of Brest being too busy. After four days at the quay it left Le Havre on Saturday night for Hamburg.

FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Officials at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will bring in clean soil and test a local creek for contamination after a sewage spill of about 60,000 gallons. The spill of untreated wastewater occurred Thursday evening (Jul 15) due to a

broken sewer main, according to a news release yesterday from the Fort Bragg-based 18th Airborne Corps. About 10,000 gallons flowed into Big Branch Creek via a storm water pipe. Fort Bragg personnel replaced the damaged main and pumped stagnant sewage out of low-lying areas. Officials said a grease buildup "and other factors" caused the main to clog and eventually burst. Clean soil will be brought to the area and reseeded, and additional cleanup has been contracted to remove contaminated soil. In addition, personnel from the Army post are testing water samples from the creek, officials said.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 21 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1117, UTC: General cargo *Jaco Carrier* (5974 gt, built 1985) on voyage to Aalborg, ETA Jul 23, was reported by fishing vessel *Reward*, which passed 0.2 nautical miles astern of vessel, to be deliberately discharging thick black oil in lat 57 01.8N, long 06 58.5W at 0915, UTC.

Weather & Navigation



AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Parents have been told to keep their children indoors as wild winds and storms continue to batter New South Wales. The public also was warned to stay away from windows as wind gusts reached 120km/h and waves up to 7 metres hammered the coast yesterday. The weather bureau issued the warnings as gale-force winds uprooted trees and tore roofs off properties, blocking roads, while blackouts hit large areas up and down NSW. The SES logged 570 calls for help across the state by yesterday afternoon, while EnergyAustralia received more than 200 calls, many from homeowners in the eastern suburbs where powerlines were down. Rough seas in Sydney Harbour caused ferry services to be cancelled. Temperatures plummeted as low as -9C in some areas, with snow recorded in the Snowy Mountains, through the Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains and as far north as Armidale. State Emergency Services spokeswoman Laura Goodwin described the snowstorms as "the worst in three years". The Bureau of Meteorology forecast the severe weather would continue throughout today, with warnings in place for the Illawarra, Sydney metropolitan area, the Hunter region and the mid-North Coast. The worst-affected areas for snow and ice were west of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains and south of Mittagong on the Hume Highway.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Australia's east

coast was battered by an intense winter storm that whipped up huge waves and gales, sent temperatures plummeting and left a blanket of snow thousands of kilometres long covering drought-parched farmlands in two states. Hundreds of homes were damaged and electricity supplies were disrupted in the states of Victoria and New South Wales. Snow fell the length of the Great Dividing Range, which runs the length of eastern Australia and divides the coast from the country's farmlands. The storm, which hit Australia over the weekend, saw 8 to 10 metre swells pound the east coast yesterday, forcing the cancellation of some Sydney Harbour ferry services and dragging boats from their moorings.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Power is slowly being restored to eastern Victorian properties which lost connections during heavy snow storms at the weekend (Jul 17/18). Many people have been left without adequate heating and access to remote properties has been cut by snow-covered roads.

CANADA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding caused by heavy rain overnight led to a state of emergency being declared yesterday morning in parts of Canada's Ontario Province and Quebec Province. State of emergency was declared in the Ontario city of Peterborough, about 200 kilometres north-west of Ottawa after heavy rain left much of its downtown core underwater. Police said most streets were impassable, with the water almost one-metre deep and lapping at car windows. There have been no injuries reported. The town of Temiscamingue in the Quebec Province on the border with Ontario Province also declared a state of emergency yesterday. The town was isolated because both major roads into it were under water. There was no evacuation order early in the morning, but police said the situation was serious, with a nearby lake threatening to spill its banks.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive thunderstorm pummeled south-west Calgary with rain and hail last night, flooding roads, taking down power lines and spawning lightning strikes that started several small fires. The storm rolled in at about 1900, local time, accompanied by the same kind of heavy winds and rain that have caused havoc this week in Canadian cities stretching from Edmonton to Peterborough, Ont. In Edmonton, the Insurance Bureau of Canada estimates that private property and vehicle damage from Sunday's (Jul 11) rain and hail storm amounted to at least \$60 million. Today, the city was expected to release an estimate of how much it will cost to fix damage to roads, sewers and drainage systems. That number could also be in the tens of millions of dollars. The Ontario city of Peterborough's damage bill could also be high after a storm yesterday dumped 150 mm of rain, with more forecast for today. Temiscamingue, Que, also declared

a state of emergency yesterday after floods closed both major roads leading into the town near the Ontario border.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The economic cost of last week's floods in Peterborough, Ontario, will be "well over Can\$50 million," according a veteran insurance broker. Since last Thursday (Jul 15), insurance brokers have logged more than 1,900 claims for flood damage, said Peter Blodgett of Darling Insurance and Realty yesterday. "With an average claim of Can\$20,000, that's Can\$38 (million) to Can\$40 million," said Blodgett. "And that's a conservative estimate since the claims logged by brokers are not the total claims." That total also doesn't include losses suffered by residents and business operators without flood insurance. Blodgett further estimates the bill for fixing damage to the city's infrastructure at somewhere between Can\$10 million and Can\$25 million. The magnitude of the damage can be seen in the mounds of household items piled in front of hundreds of houses and the odour of raw sewage that lingers in the air. Dozens of residents were still without gas and hydro as the state of emergency entered its fifth day. The declaration will likely be extended throughout the week, deputy fire chief Trent Gervais said, as it allows the city to provide insurance coverage for volunteers helping city crews. The city has been in clean-up mode since Thursday, when an early morning storm dumped almost 200 millimetres of rain, overwhelming the city's sewage system and flooding Jackson Creek. The cost cannot be measured in insurance claims alone, says Walter Johnstone, executive director of the Downtown Business Improvement Area. "People have lost their livelihood and a number of business operators say they don't plan to open again." Many employees who work "downtown" have lost their jobs temporarily and are unsure when their employers will open again, Johnstone said. In addition, owners of downtown buildings could find themselves with large areas they're unable to rent as businesses relocate, he said. City officials would not make any dollar estimate of the total damage but it can be measured in the "tens of millions of dollars," according to fire chief Lee Grant. "It will take months to clean it up." Some roadways will have to be completely rebuilt and there is extensive damage to sidewalks, shoulders and gutters, says Ron Chittick, city administrator. All bridges in the city are being assessed and "we know there are some structural difficulties with at least one bridge," he said.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Compensation for Peterborough's flood victims will be discussed by Ontario's cabinet ministers at a meeting this morning and an announcement was expected early afternoon, government sources said. Premier Dalton McGuinty has asked Peterborough legislature member Jeff Leal to address cabinet to give his first-hand account of how the flood has

affected residents of the devastated central Ontario community, sources said. The Premier, Mr. Leal and Municipal Affairs Minister John Gerretsen were also slated to make an announcement at 1400 hrs, they added. Last week, a major summer storm that was the result of a bizarre weather system originating on the West Coast caused severe flooding in various areas of Peterborough. The storm caused millions of dollars in damage to the city's main commercial area and flooded the basements of hundreds of homes with water and raw sewage as lines backed up. The community of 70,000 has been under a state of emergency for nearly a week. The state of emergency allows Peterborough's mayor to make decisions for the welfare of the city without council approval and also helps the city qualify for emergency financial assistance from the province and Ottawa. Finance Minister Greg Sorbara said Mr. McGuinty and other government officials have toured Peterborough to examine the impact of the storm and flooding.

CHINA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Five people were killed and 11 missing in floods yesterday following more than two weeks of continuous rain in south-west China's Yunnan province, state media said. The floods destroyed 129 houses in Pianma town in remote Nujiang prefecture, 390 kilometres northwest of the provincial capital Kunming, the Xinhua news agency said late yesterday. The area, along the Nujiang, or Salween river, bordering north-east Myanmar, has been hit by continuous rain since Jul 1, it said, with a local reservoir filled to 1.77 metres above the warning line. Rainstorms will continue in the area over the next three days, Xinhua said, citing the local meteorological station. Massive rainfall is threatening large parts of China from Tibet in the southwest to Beijing at the other end of the country, with thousands already evacuated because of floods, the news agency said.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The flood season has swept across China leaving at least 13 people dead and causing widespread destruction, with more than a million people affected in one province alone, state media has said. Southern Guangxi province was hit by unusually heavy rainfall, directly resulting in eight deaths as people were engulfed in mountain torrents or crushed under collapsing houses, the China News Service said. This followed reports from Yunnan province, near the border with Myanmar, that five people had died and 11 were missing in rain-induced floods and mudslides. Several days of massive rainfall in the central province of Hunan caused severe flooding along major rivers, affecting more than 1.3 million people, the Xinhua news agency reported. The number of people who were injured or had fallen ill as a direct result of the floods had reached 1,043 throughout the province as of late today, according to the agency. A total of

52,000 required emergency evacuation in the most critically affected areas. In neighboring Hubei province, the city of Qianjiang saw precipitation of 300 mm over the weekend, the heaviest on record for 24 years. In eastern Shandong province, five people were injured and one remained in critical condition after a tornado and accompanying rainstorm struck, which caused more than 1,200 houses to collapse, Xinhua reported. In Guizhou province, part of China's south-west, continuous rainstorms wreaked havoc in 17 counties, with more than 215,000 people threatened by mountain torrents and landslides. The Chinese government said last week that 555 people have lost their lives so far this year in natural calamities, including floods, landslides and mudflows.

Beijing, Jul 20 — China's president has ordered flood prevention officials to prepare for more flooding after weeks of heavy rain killed at least 296 people and affected millions, state media said. Widespread flooding has forced more than 412,000 people to flee their homes, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said on its Web site. Floods have swept across the northwestern part of Hunan province since last Saturday (Jul 17), affecting 2.68 million people and killing two people in Huaihua, Xinhua said. President Hu Jintao urged flood prevention authorities, local governments and the armed forces to brace for more flooding, the official Xinhua news agency said. By Sunday (Jul 18), flooding had affected 14,000 people, destroyed over 6,000 houses and submerged almost 3,000 hectares of cropland in the eastern coastal province of Shandong, the newspaper said. In the southwestern province of Yunnan and nearby Guangxi, the semi-official China News Service said flooding left at least 14 people dead. About 60,000 people had to be relocated in the central province of Henan after sections of the Lihe river overflowed, the China Daily said. — Reuters.

Beijing, Jul 21 — Mudflows and landslides in southern China have killed at least 10 people in recent days and more rain was forecast as this year's flood-related death toll rose to nearly 400, state media said today. The semi-official China News Service said 381 people had been killed so far by flooding, 98 were missing and nearly 200,000 houses had been destroyed throughout the country. Direct economic losses have reached 14.85 billion yuan, it said. The provinces and regions of Hunan, Yunnan, Henan, Guizhou, Guangxi and Sichuan were the hardest hit, the China News Service said on its Web site, www.chinanews.com.cn. In Binyang county in the southern region of Guangxi, which borders Vietnam, mudflows and landslides killed eight people and injured four on Monday (Jul 19), the Xinhua news agency said. At least 20 people had already died in Binyang in the past month because of heavy rains, Xinhua said. In neighbouring Hunan province, floods killed two people in the county of Huaihua in the northwest, the China Daily said. Some 102,000 people had

fled their homes. The water level in some towns was up to six metres, the newspaper said. On the island province of Hainan, three women were killed yesterday when lightning struck a tree they had gathered under for shelter in a downpour, Xinhua said. In Yunnan province, just west of Guangxi, two people were killed, three injured and 53 reported missing today after a landslide and mudflow in Yingjiang county, it said. A mudflow washed away 49 people in Lushan, Zhidong and Nongpo villages yesterday, it added. The torrential rains had affected nearly 2.7 million people in northwestern Hunan, state media reported earlier. Xinhua reported that due to washed out roads the majority of relief goods were as yet to reach the most affected areas, but various agencies were setting up relief stations where possible. — Reuters.

Beijing, Jul 22 — Three typhoons are heading for China with storms that could kill still more people after 659 died this year in natural disasters such as floods, drought, wind, hail, earthquakes and mudslides. Premier Wen Jiabao urged local governments to take measures to ensure the fewest possible lives are lost. Natural disasters have killed 659 people this year and caused losses of about 39.26 billion yuan (\$4.75 billion), the Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry of Civil Affairs as saying. Floods accounted for more than half the deaths. Three typhoons are forecast to hit China next month, bringing devastating floods, the China Daily said. Floods, drought, wind, hail, earthquakes, heavy snow, freezing, landslides and mud-rock flows have damaged about 18 million hectares of crops, the ministry said. About 1.6 million hectares of arable land yielded no harvest. An estimated 388,000 houses collapsed and 2.4 million were destroyed, forcing the relocation of nearly 1.3 million people. Wen urged local governments to give top priority to ensuring the safety of victims of natural disasters, transferring them to safe places in a timely fashion and supplying food, clothing and temporary lodging, the media said. Floods have claimed 381 lives, left 98 missing and affected 45.7 million people between Jan 1 and Jul 20, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said. The hardest hit provinces and regions were Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan and Chongqing in the southwest, Hubei, Hunan and Henan in central China and Guangxi in the south. Ten bodies were found yesterday in Yingjiang county in the province of Yunnan, which was hit by landslides and mudflows, bringing the death toll to 12, Xinhua said. Forty-eight people were missing and four injured. The waters of the Yuanjiang and Zishui rivers in Hunan, both tributaries of the Yangtze, have risen past the danger mark, Xinhua said. Precipitation in central and south China has been 20 to 50 percent higher than average since June. While most of southern and central China has been plagued by floods, northern provinces are suffering chronic drought. In northeastern

Heilongjiang, riverbeds had dried up after temperatures rose as high as 34 degrees Celsius. — Reuters.

GEORGIA

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Landslides and floods caused by devastating rain in Mestia, Svaneti, wreaked havoc in the mountainous region over night July 15-16, destroying nearly thirty houses and killing one man. Five villages in the Mestia region have been isolated from the region's centre because of the very strong wind and rain, which destroyed the roads. Nearly 30 houses were destroyed, including two that were actually carried away by the flooding. At least 25 kilometres of roads were also destroyed, as were electric transmission lines. The disaster has damaged one of Mestia's major museums. All told the damage is assessed at over GEL 4 million. According to Rustavi-2, the Georgian government will offer aid in this amount for rehabilitation works in the Svaneti region. Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania visited the area of natural disaster on Jul 16.

GERMANY

London, Jul 20 — A 170 tonne crane was blown over when a freak tornado hit the German port of Duisburg on the river Rhine. Port operator Duisport said two areas were affected by the storm damage, and handling was not possible or at least slowed down yesterday. The crane fell onto an inland vessel at handling and storage company Zietschmann. Luckily, the master was not on board at the time. At Rhein-Ruhr Terminal, several boxes were blown into the water. Various gates and roofs in the port area were damaged. A spokeswoman said it was too early to give a figure for total damage.

HURRICANE "CELIA"

London, Jul 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Celia" located near lat 16.5N, long 122.0W, at 0900, UTC, position accurate within 40 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-north-west or 285 degrees at six knots. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 60 nautical miles. Radius of 12 foot seas: 120 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 23: Position predicted to be near lat 17.0N, long 124.5W with maximum sustained winds of 65 knots and gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 60 nautical miles.

INDIA AND BANGLADESH

London, Jul 17 — Floodwaters are continuing to rise in South Asia, where more than 20 million people have been left stranded and hungry in scores of ravaged villages. Officials say more than 11 million people are suffering acutely in India's poorest state, Bihar. More than 100 people have died in the

floods in Bangladesh and India. The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) says urgent action is needed to prevent epidemics of dysentery and cholera in the affected areas. Many of the survivors in Bihar are still clinging to rooftops, and have been without much food for nearly a week. The Indian army is continuing to distribute aid but so far there has not been a large-scale relief effort and water-borne diseases remain a threat. In the Indian state of Assam the chief minister says there is an urgent need for more relief supplies. "The flood situation still remains very critical, with nearly nine million people uprooted from their homes," Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said. Air Force helicopters have been dropping relief and food to the affected people in both Bihar and Assam. However, officials say medical supplies need to be increased to ward off the threat of disease. "The post-flood situation is always very dangerous, when we generally find outbreaks of water-borne diseases among the victims," Assam Health Minister Bhumidhar Barman said. Flood warning officials in Bangladesh say waters rolling down from the north of the country have aggravated problems in central areas. They are warning that more areas around the capital, Dhaka, could be flooded at the weekend. Thirty-three of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been affected, leaving at least three million people homeless or marooned. The situation in north and north-eastern districts has improved. Unicef says the first consignment of one million water purification tablets should be delivered to Bangladesh today. "We want to avoid epidemics which in such cases can spread very rapidly especially with temperatures now above 35 degrees Celsius," Unicef spokesman Damien Personnaz said.

JAPAN

Tokyo, Jul 15 — Hundreds of residents were sifting through the wreckage of their mud and debris-filled homes today, after torrential rains in northern Japan killed 11 people. Further storms were predicted for tomorrow. Unprecedented downpours on Tuesday (Jul 13) caused swollen rivers to burst their banks, touched off landslides in Niigata prefecture, forced thousands to evacuate and left thousands more trapped in their homes awaiting rescue. People from more than 13,000 households were evacuated in Niigata, waiting tensely in public halls and schools for the waters to recede. An elderly man and woman who had been missing were found dead in their homes in Nakanoshima, bringing the death toll to 11, a Niigata prefecture official said. More than 430 mm of rain had fallen in some parts of the region since Monday night. While rain had largely stopped by this evening, a Meteorological Agency official said rainfall of up to 25 mm an hour might hit parts of Niigata tomorrow. Residents in Nakanoshima, where torrents of water rushed through parts of the town on Tuesday after a river burst its banks, began the laborious

process of clearing wreckage from choked streets and shovelling oily-smelling mud from their homes. More than 10 helicopters were sent by the military and local governments to help rescue efforts, and rescuers — including members of the Japanese military — laboured through the night to remove people from their homes. By this morning, all those left stranded in their houses had been rescued, NHK television said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from flooding and landslides caused by torrential rain in northern Japan reached 12, with three people missing, as a major rescue operation continued, officials said. As the rain continued to fall yesterday, police were searching for three missing people, two men in Niigata and a man in Fukushima prefecture, east of Niigata, police spokesmen said. Roughly 400 mm of rain has fallen since Monday (Jul 12) in Niigata, a record for the region, the Defense Agency said. About 136,100 households were ordered or advised to evacuate their homes, 22,900 houses experienced flood damage and at least 39 landslides were reported, officials said.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from flooding that has swept through northern Japan since last week rose to 18 today, as four bodies were found and more rainstorms added to the chaos. Two elderly Japanese were missing. Since last Monday (Jul 12), more than 49 centimetres of rain has fallen in Niigata prefecture - nearly one-fifth the annual average. A 42-year-old woman, who had been missing since Tuesday, was found drowned in a ditch, an official with the state police said today. Local authorities maintained an evacuation order for more than 12,000 households in the prefecture as more rain was forecast to fall. A separate storm to the south, meanwhile, caused floods that killed two men in their 60s and unleashed a landslide that killed a third, in his 70s, a Fukui prefectural police spokesman said. Two others were reported missing in the area, where rainfall was heavy. Authorities advised about 40,000 households along the Asuwa River to seek refuge in shelters. Train services were halted, and bridges spanning the river were washed away. The Self-Defence Forces dispatched troops to help with the rescue and clean-up and to offer water services. The Meteorological Agency warned of further flooding, landslides and overflowing rivers. Rainfall in Fukui for a 24 hour period could total 35 centimetres, the agency said. It was accompanied by lightening and gusts of wind.

KOREA

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Torrential rains destroyed at least 18 houses and flooded 206 other houses, leaving 45 people homeless and 3,517 hectares of farmland swamped for the last six days, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) announced today.

Heavy rain warnings were issued in central regions of the country as an additional 150 millimeters of rain is expected tomorrow. The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) said that Seoul and such central provinces as Kyonggi and Kangwon will be hardest hit by torrential rain accompanied by thunder and lightning, urging further cautions for feared damages. About 10-60mm of rain is forecast in North Kyongsang and North Cholla provinces and 5-10mm in South Kyongsang and South Cholla provinces. In the central city of Taejon, up to 60mm of rain fell from 0700 to 0800 hrs, sweeping major roads and block traffic. Torrential rains also forced seven roads to close in central areas, including Seoul and Uijongbu, due to mud and rocks from a landslide, with Seoul's Chamsu Bridge over the Han River closed for pedestrians today. A total of 45 people lost their homes and were staying in makeshift shelters. The downpours destroyed three houses in North Chungchong Province, 10 in South Cholla Province, four in North Kyongsang Province and one in Incheon. According to the NEMA, 153 houses were flooded in South Cholla Province, 33 in North Kyongsang Province, 17 in Kyonggi Province and 1 in Kangwon Province. In Tanyang, North Chungchong Province, five workers were rescued after being trapped in a collapsed limestone quarry at around 1355, yesterday.

MALAYSIA

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue workers saved two teenagers from rising waters as a heavy overnight storm hit Malaysia's largest city, inundating homes and uprooting trees, reports said today. No one was injured but the four-hour downpour that lashed Kuala Lumpur during the evening rush hour caused the two main rivers in the city to burst their banks, cutting major thoroughfares and causing traffic snarls. Rescue workers used a rope to hoist two teenagers from a tunnel after they were trapped by rising water while seeking shelter from the rain, the national news agency Bernama reported. Rising waters as high as one metre swept away at least 10 cars, piling them onto one another, north of the capital city, uprooting trees in several other areas. Meanwhile, about 200 homes in five villages were damaged in northern Kedah state during a 30-minute storm yesterday, forcing about the residents to evacuate to nearby government facilities.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: One person was feared dead and 2,000 people were evacuated as floods swamped parts of the east coast of New Zealand's North Island, officials said today. The army was called in to help with evacuations in the Bay of Plenty region after days of torrential rain caused rivers to burst their banks. Civil Defence officials warned the flooding was expected to worsen over the next 36 hours, National

Radio reported. Rescuers said Beverley Mira Freeman, 67, was missing, feared dead yesterday after a huge mudslide smashed her house from its foundations in the Bay of Plenty settlement of Bryans Beach. Police and rescuers were forced to flee shortly later as a second landslide smashed down. Local officials declared civil emergencies in the district around the towns of Opotiki and Whakatane as volunteers raced to reinforce banks against the rising waters. Whakatane District Council's Civil Defence spokeswoman Mary Hermanson said up to 200 people in the inland Waimana farm district were cut off by floodwaters, with no electricity, phones or highway access.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: One person is feared dead and hundreds had been evacuated after rain-swollen rivers flooded parts of New Zealand and dozens of small earthquakes contributed to mudslides, officials said. In the Bay of Plenty region on the east coast of North Island, civil defence authorities declared a state of emergency and evacuated 1,500 people in the past day after 250 mm of rain fell in 48 hours, sending rivers spilling over banks. One woman was believed killed when her house was hit by a mudslide near the small town of Opotiki, about 260 km south-east of Auckland. Rescuers have been unable to reach the area to confirm the death. Rivers were still overflowing their banks in some places, forcing new evacuations. Whakatane District Council spokeswoman Diane Turner said the emergency would remain in force for some days. Levels of many rivers were starting to stabilise and the Meteorological Service lifted its heavy rain warning for the region and was forecasting dry weather. However, power, water and telephone services were cut in many areas, with dozens of country roads blocked by landslides.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A state of emergency remained in force in the Eastern Bay of Plenty overnight as floodwaters receded to reveal the extent of the devastation. Thousands of hectares of farmland and hundreds of homes still lay under water from the region's worst floods in 50 years. The worst appeared to have passed but the cost is expected to run into the tens of millions of dollars. About 250mm of rain fell on the region over 48 hours, claiming two lives, swamping farmland, causing major slips and mudslides and forcing nearly 2000 people from their homes. During the deluge the eastern bay was also hit by more than 100 earthquakes, adding to landslips and other flood damage. Some 500 of the families evacuated during the weekend moved back into their homes yesterday, but a further 1000 from Whakatane, Edgecumbe and Ohope had to spend another night in temporary shelters. Up to 700 people in the inland Waimana farm district, 27km southeast of Whakatane, were still cut off by floodwaters with no electricity, phones or highway access expected for at least three days. Food was flown in and a

young boy was evacuated by air last night after an asthma attack. Reports of looters raiding empty homes forced police and the Army to set up patrols outside the homes. The Government announced a number of assistance measures yesterday. The waterlogged Rangitaiki Plains was the worst affected area after two stopbanks burst on Sunday afternoon, swallowing up hundreds of hectares of farmland. In a bid to counter floodwaters moving down the swollen river towards nearby townships, the Whakatane District Council yesterday made a 10m exit canal in the stopbank of the lower Rangitaiki River to try to drain some of the water. But for farmers in lower-lying areas the worst was not over, with floodwaters still flowing from the breach above Edgecumbe towards their land. During the weekend, thousands of hectares of farmland already under water were hit again when huge volumes of water were spilled from the Matahina hydro-electricity dam. Power station operator TrustPower said the earth dam, on the Rangitaiki River, was filled beyond capacity by the heavy rains. Yesterday afternoon, TrustPower said it was allowing water in the dam to build to a much higher level than normal to try to protect lower lying areas. The civil defence emergency in the district would be reassessed again at 0900, today. Opotiki Mayor John Forbes said it could take a week to clean up all the landslips and there would be major damage to private property and the roads. Insurance Council chief executive Chris Ryan said loss adjusters were having problems assessing damage yesterday as high water levels were still hampering access. But he expected damage costs to run into "the tens of millions of dollars". Prime Minister Helen Clark said she had been advised that 2000ha had been damaged, compared with several hundred thousand hectares covered by the lower North Island floods.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: People across the Bay of Plenty are breathing a sigh of relief today after expected overnight rain turned out to be insignificant. MetService had forecast another 10 to 15 millimetres of rain for the water-soaked region but only two millimetres were recorded. However, the region was hit by another earthquake, this time registering 4.4 on the Richter scale. Civil Defence says up to 1,500 people, mainly from Edgecumbe and the Whakatane suburb of Awatapu, had to sleep in temporary accommodation on Tuesday night. Many of these are expected to be able to return home on Wednesday but some, like Edgecumbe resident Jean Martin, face a more uncertain future. "I've just got to come to terms with the fact that my house is gone and my belongings are gone," says Martin. While river levels are receding, around 70 people in three isolated communities near Ruatoki remain cut off by road from the rest of New Zealand. Civil Defence is airlifting supplies into these people and will review the state of emergency when the region at midday. But a spokeswoman

says there are still concerns about the stopbanks on the Rangitaiki River and local roads. Diane Turner says a massive operation to dam a 150-metre breach of the stop-bank will start today. She says a make-shift road has to be built first so heavy machinery can reach the site.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Power supplies, disrupted by a hurricane that swept over the Irkutsk Region last Friday (Jul 16), were restored today in 30 out of 65 towns and villages in the region, Tass learnt at the regional center for civil defence and emergencies. Wind gusts up to 30 meters per second, breaking boughs and trunks of trees, tore away power lines and toppled pylons of power transmission lines. More than 200 km of power lines were put out of operation. There was no electricity in towns and villages in the Shelekhovsky, Zalarinsky, Cheremkhovsky, Irkutsky and Usolsky districts as well as in residential areas in the cities of Usolye-Sibirskoye, Cheremkhovo, Irkutsk and Angarsk. A state of emergency was imposed on those areas, and a regional center on overcoming aftermaths of the hurricane started its work right away. Dozens of teams of power specialists are engaged in repairs and restoration work. Many of them arrived from cities and areas, not stricken by elements of nature. But it will take several more days to restore completely damaged high-voltage power transmission lines, running in hardly accessible areas.

SOUTH ASIA

Dhaka, Jul 15 — Fifty people are feared dead after a river burst its banks in Bangladesh and 30 people may have drowned after a crowded boat capsized in a river in eastern India as South Asia reeled under monsoon flooding. Surging river waters have covered wide swathes of land following torrential rains in eastern India, Bangladesh and Nepal, leaving more than eight million people marooned or homeless since the start of the month. More than two dozen prisoners swam to freedom from an inundated prison in eastern India because of the flooding that has left a trail of destruction in the region. Officials said 30 people, including six women, were feared drowned when a boat packed with villagers fleeing the floods for dry land capsized in a swollen river in the flood-ravaged eastern state of Bihar. "The boat was carrying around 50 people but 20 managed to swim to safety," government official A.L. Meena said today. In flood-prone Bangladesh, 50 people were feared drowned after the Jamuna River burst its banks and swept through a village near Bogra town, 250 km north-west of Dhaka, witnesses and police said today. "At least 50 people were missing after a village with 250 homes was completely washed away," Moinul Hasan, a village head, said. More than 260 people in South Asia have drowned or been killed by landslides or snakebites as monsoon rains have lashed the largely low-lying region since early July. In impoverished

Bihar, where huge tracts of land are under water, 34 jail inmates in the town of Darbhanga escaped by swimming out while prisoners were being evacuated from the flooded prison. In several areas, people complained of shortages of food and medicine as overflowing rivers swamped roads and rail tracks. Helicopters dropped food and medicines to hundreds of flooded villages, triggering a scramble to grab the aid and authorities reported stray cases of looting of food. "There is a complete breakdown of law and order in Darbhanga. Thousands are marooned and food items and medicines are scarce," said Binay Kumar Jha, a college teacher. In Bangladesh, flooding hit crops — including mainstay rice paddies — submerging one million acres. — Reuters. (See issue of Jul 16.)

Karachi, Jul 20 — Bangladesh state owned airlines Biman Bangladesh Airlines (Biman) and others cancelled seven local and international flights, as floodwaters swamped more than 4,000 feet of the MAG Osmani International Airport runway in Sylhet of Bangladesh yesterday. The runway on the outskirts of the north-eastern city went up to 10 inches under water that damaged about 150 feet of the compound wall on the northern edge of the tarmac on Sunday night (Jul 18). Four flights to Sylhet of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, both local and international, and three of GMG Airlines were cancelled yesterday, officials said. About 90 percent of Sylhet city and its adjacent areas went three-to-four feet under water. Commercial hubs and markets in the city were flooded, costing businesspeople million of dollars in lost property. Rail and road links between the north-east and Dhaka were in on-and-off operation: Sunamganj-Sylhet Road went five feet under water and the rail service remained snapped for five hours as trees blocked the railroads between substations. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Hanoi, Jul 20 — Flash floods caused by torrential rains in northern Vietnam killed one woman, injured seven people and left 20 missing, a local official said today. The drowned woman was a teacher and other victims were of the Tay ethnic minority group in impoverished Ha Giang province's Yen Minh district, 420 km north-west of Hanoi, said the official from the provincial disaster management unit. "The rains were heavy, sweeping away people early yesterday," she said, adding that rescuers were looking for the missing in the mountainous district bordering China since the rains had stopped. — Reuters.

TROPICAL STORM "KOMPASU"

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Kompasu" churned towards southern China today, pelting Hong Kong with rain and gale winds. The Hong Kong Observatory issued a No. 8 storm warning at 1145, which led to the stock market closing, along with banks and other institutions. An observatory spokesman said at noon: "On the present force track, "Kompasu" will be

very close to Hong Kong this afternoon." No damage or injuries were immediately reported. Ferry services were disrupted, with many announcing that they would not operate this afternoon. Local television reported that many workers returned home around midday. Other public transport on land was not immediately affected. The Mass Transit Railway and CityBus said even though the No.8 signal had been raised, their services would continue operating. Local television reported long queues had occurred in bus stops in Tsuen Wan, Central and Mong Kok after the No.8 signal was hoisted. One Dragonair flight to Beijing was cancelled. Hong Kong's telephone network has also been affected by the storm. Calls were made simultaneously after the announcement that the No.8 signal had been hoisted. But the calls jammed the telephone network. Local television reported that many people could not make calls because of network failure. The Education and Manpower Bureau has announced the registration of Primary Six students for Secondary One places have been postponed. Clinics, courts and schools were also suspended due to the storm. "Kompasu", with maximum winds of 75km-an-hour, was about 60km south-east of Hong Kong late this morning, the observatory said. The storm was moving toward the Pearl River estuary in Guangdong province. It was expected to make landfall later today, the observatory said. "Kompasu" was moving west-north-west at about 20 kph. Forecasters said "Kompasu's" fringes could bring strong winds and heavy rains to Hong Kong. Officials warned people to secure items on their balconies or terraces; rains in the morning in the territory were mostly light.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong storm system has closed down Hong Kong, bringing with it heavy rain and forcing millions of people to rush home after the government issued its third highest weather warning. But the territory appeared largely spared by tropical storm "Kompasu" which made landfall in the north-east of Hong Kong this afternoon. "Kompasu" brought with it heavy rain and strong winds, but there were no initial reports of significant damage or flooding. The system had weakened somewhat, with average winds of 63 km/h, the Hong Kong Observatory said in its 1700 hrs bulletin. "Kompasu" was forecast to move north-west at about 16 km/h towards inland Guangdong province on the Chinese mainland. Flights into Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport were still operating and Cathay Pacific Airways, the territory's largest carrier, said services had not been affected as of 1700 hrs. The airport said operations were continuing as per normal. Ferry services in the port city were suspended in the afternoon after winds of up to 70 kilometers per hour begun to affect the harbour.

Hong Kong, Jul 16 — Huang, China's largest fuel oil import terminal, has

been shut due to tropical storm "Kompasu", causing all vessels to cease operations, Chinese shipping sources said today. "The waves are very heavy. All the ships have to stop the discharge operations," one shipping source told Reuters by telephone from Huangpu. However traders expected little impact on the fuel oil market as mid-July deliveries were already slower compared with later in the month. Crude oil tankers *Ban Gong Hu* and *Havildar Abdul Hamid PVC* transporting high-sulphur fuel oil from Singapore were forced to halt discharge operations at the port in southern Guangdong province, the sources said. "The vessels have reached the port and they have discharged a little," one source said. Crude oil tanker *Ellip*, from the *Middle East*, as well as crude oil tanker *Bagi*, from Hong Kong, were also affected, they said. *Bagi* had already discharged around 40,000 tonnes of fuel oil, sources said. "They cannot do anything but to stay put in the anchorage waters," one source said. "Probably by tonight, the typhoon winds would blow onshore," he added. The port could re-open tomorrow or Sunday but traders said the disruption would have limited impact on prices. — Reuters.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tropical storm "Kompasu" slammed into the coast of southern China today, closing Hong Kong's financial markets and bringing the normally bustling territory to a standstill but causing no major damage. The tropical storm — packing winds of up to 70 kilometres per hour — brushed Hong Kong before hitting landfall in southern China. The Hong Kong Observatory raised the number eight signal, the third highest storm warning, at 0345 GMT when strong winds had begun to hit the city. The storm was downgraded around 1100 GMT as the storm moved away from the territory, leaving only patches of rainfall. It earlier put the city at a virtual standstill with the closure of most shops, businesses and schools. It also put a halt on the trading of the financial markets. Two hours before the number eight warning was hoisted, authorities had already urged people to go home, sending thousands of workers streaming out of their offices, braving the strong wind and rain and rushing to catch last-minute buses and ferries to outlying islands before public transport was suspended. Restaurants and shopping centres this afternoon turned eerily quiet as most people chose to stay home, and by late afternoon the streets were deserted. Some of the shop fronts were seen heavily bolted with wood. A total of 30 flights were affected by the storm, according to the government, with two cancellations and 17 delayed arrivals and departures. One flight was diverted, the government said. While cases of fallen concrete or collapsed scaffolding had been reported, there had not been any major flooding, police said. But 12 people were injured badly enough to be sent to hospital, a

government statement said. By late evening, eight had been discharged, the government said.

TYPHOON "MINDULLE"

Busan, Jul 16 — A salvage contract was signed between owners of chemical/oil carrier *No.1 Dae Bu* and Kumho Salvage Co and the vessel was refloated by floating crane Jul 15 and shifted to the inner anchorage Yosu where the vessel was further patched up for watertightness. The vessel is now being shifted to Shinyoung Ship Yard, Yosu, for further inspection and repairs if possible. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A hail storm on Jul 9 caused an estimated \$28.2 million damage in the Colorado Springs area, and the figure could rise. The Rocky Mountain Insurance Association based its estimate on 5,600 auto claims and 3,400 homeowner claims. Some companies have brought in extra agents to deal with the claims. Denver was hit with a storm last month that caused \$146.5 million in claims, the worst storm in more than a decade. In addition, authorities estimate tornado damage in rural Manitowoc County in Wisconsin at one million dollars. Twelve homes and farms sustained damage during a storm on Tuesday (Jul 13).

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Summer storms that swept through northern Illinois last night left tens of thousands of people without power and delayed flights at Chicago's two airports. A city aviation spokeswoman said Midway Airport had delays of one hour for both departures and arrivals, while O'Hare International Airport had delays of up to an hour for arrivals. About 112,000 customers were without power last night, the majority in areas south and south-west of Chicago and in the southwestern suburbs. The communities of Bolingbrook and Crestwood were particularly hard hit, said utility spokeswoman Margaret Amato. She said most of the outages were caused by lightning strikes or by gusting wind.

VIETNAM

Hanoi, Jul 21 — Rescuers in Vietnam have retrieved 18 bodies and widened their search for 16 people still missing after flash floods struck northern Vietnam, state-run television said today. Vietnam Television said the latest flood damage report from Ha Giang province reported 13 bodies had been recovered on Wednesday morning. Another five had been found yesterday. The television bulletin said 10 people were injured. Television footage roads washed away and officials handing out money to anguished villagers in the mist-shrouded town bordering China. The rains that struck the mountainous district early on Monday (Jul 19) had stopped but mudslides and bad roads have slowed the rescue mission, an official said. — Reuter

Earthquakes



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 18, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0831, UTC, Jul 18. The magnitude 5.1 event has been located in Central Afghanistan in lat 33.378N, long 69.578E, depth 10 km.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

London, Jul 16 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0921, UTC, Jul 16. The magnitude 5.3 earthquake was located in the Rat Islands, Aleutian Islands, in lat 51.995N, long 179.863E.

BANDA SEA

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 18, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0256, UTC, Jul 18. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in the Banda Sea in lat 07.259S, long 124.679E, depth 531 km.

CANADA

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 16, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1927, UTC, Jul 16. The magnitude 4.4 event has been located in Southern Yukon Territory, Canada, in lat 64.807N, long 140.539W, depth 0.2 km.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake measuring 6.2 points on the Richter scale struck Vancouver Island off the Pacific coast of Canada early today, but caused little damage and no known casualties. "We have no report of damage" from the tremor said Brad Fraser, spokesman for the city's police department. The quake struck at 0801, GMT and its epicentre was lat 49 69N, long 126 90W. The website of the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center confirmed the same coordinates, and put the magnitude at 6.1.

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated today, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0201, UTC, Jul 20. The magnitude 4.5 event has been located in the Vancouver Island, Canada region, in lat 49.720N, long 126.630W, depth 20 km.

CENTRAL AMERICA

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 16, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1353, UTC, Jul 16. The magnitude 4.2 event has been located off the coast of Central America, in lat 12.906N, long 88.505W, depth 87.8 km.

FOX ISLANDS, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 17, states: A light earthquake occurred at 2034, UTC, Jul 17. The magnitude 4.4 event has been located in the Fox Islands, Aleutian Islands, in lat 51.868N, long 171.522W, depth 40 km.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A minor earthquake shook Indonesia's Madura island in East Java province today but there were no reports of injuries or damage, officials said. The quake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale struck about 0800 hrs was centred in the Java Sea about 160 kilometres, said Edy Waluyo of East Java's meteorology and geophysics office. He said the quake was felt in several towns in Madura but no deaths or damage was reported.

JAPAN

Tokyo, Jul 17 — A moderate earthquake jolted Tokyo and surrounding areas today, but there were no reports of damage or injuries and no danger of tsunami tidal waves. The quake, which measured 5.5 on the open-ended Richter scale, was centred in southern Chiba prefecture, just east of Tokyo. It was strong enough to briefly rattle picture frames against walls in the centre of Tokyo. — Reuters.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter scale shook southern Hokkaido and northeastern Japan early this morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 0558 hrs quake and no tsunami tidal wave warning was issued.

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated Jul 19, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1437, UTC, Jul 19. The magnitude 4.5 event has been located near the east coast of Honsu, Japan, in lat 36.950N, long 141.520E, depth 48.5 km.

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated Jul 19, states: A light earthquake occurred at 2058, UTC, Jul 19. The magnitude 4.9 event has been located in the Hokkaido, Japan region, in lat 42.566N, long 142.944E.

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated Jul 19, states: A light earthquake occurred at 2137, UTC, Jul 19. The magnitude 4.4 event has been located in the Bonin Islands, Japan region, in lat 27.571N, long 139.887E, depth 406 km.

KODIAK ISLAND REGION, ALASKA

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 17, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0343, UTC, Jul 17. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in the Kodiak Islands Region, Alaska, in lat 58.965N, long 153.757W, depth 103.5 km.

KURIL ISLANDS

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated Jul 16, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0824, UTC, Jul 16. The magnitude 4.9 event has been located in the Kuril Islands in lat 49.934N, long 156.153E, depth 50.3 km.

MARIANA ISLANDS REGION

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1416, UTC, Jul 20. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located in the Mariana Islands Region.

MOLUCCA SEA, INDONESIA

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 16, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1526, UTC, Jul 16. The magnitude 4.9 event has been located in the Molucca Sea, Indonesia, in lat 02.444N, long 126.736E, depth 32.5 km.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: One of a series of earthquakes in the Bay of Plenty has claimed a life. The region has had five major jolts yesterday afternoon, with the biggest measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale and centred near Kawerau at a depth of five kilometres. It was big enough to bring down a gum tree in Tauranga's Pye's Pa Road, which fell on three vehicles, killing one of the female occupants. Two other people have been taken to hospital with moderate injuries. Meanwhile, in Kawerau, one of the quakes has triggered a massive slip which has blocked the main road to Rotorua, bringing down several power poles. The fire station's senior officer, Brian Burton, says there are no other reports of major damage.

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 18, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0422, UTC, Jul 18. The magnitude 5.4 event has been located in North Island, New Zealand, in lat 37.849S, long 175.980E, depth 10 km.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated Jul 16, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0327, UTC, Jul 16. The magnitude 4.9 event has been located in Mindoro, Philippines, in lat 13.366N, long 120.216E.

RAT ISLANDS, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated Jul 16, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0921, UTC, Jul 16. The magnitude 4.5 event has been located in the Rat Islands, Aleutian Islands, in lat 52.862N, long 179.942E, depth 50 km.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: A moderate earthquake measuring up to 4.2 on the Richter scale rocked Pacific waters off Russia's Far Eastern Kuril islands late yesterday, local seismologists said early today. The tremor's epicentre was located near the North Kuril island of Paramushir, officials quoted by the RIA-Novosti news agency said. No casualties or damage were immediately reported.

SOUTH OF KERMADEC ISLANDS

London, Jul 21 — A report, dated Jul 20, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1848, UTC, Jul 20. The magnitude 5.2 event has been located south of the Kermadec Islands in lat 32.314N, long 179.696W, depth 23 km.

TURKEY

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A moderate earthquake rattled the town of Sancak, Bingol yesterday evening, but there were no reports of casualties or damage.

The tremor measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale occurred at 2106 in town of Sancak, the eastern Turkish province of Bingöl, the Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory House said in a statement. The quake was also felt in city of Bingöl and environs.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 4.4 on the open-ended Richter scale hit the central Turkish province of Kirikkale today, but there were no reports of casualties. The epicenter of the tremor, which struck at 1214 hrs, 0914, UTC, was at the town of Keskin, some 100 km south-east of Ankara, the Istanbul-based Kandilli seismological institute said.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A minor earthquake shook up parts of southeast Missouri, southern Illinois and western Kentucky. The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 3.5, according to Bruce Presgrave, a geophysicist at the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Centre. Presgrave said the quake was considered minor. There were no immediate reports of damage. The quake occurred around 2230, yesterday. The epicentre was about 10 miles south of Cairo, Ill., in Mississippi County, Mo.

London, Jul 20 — A report, dated today, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1920, UTC, Jul 20. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located off the coast of Oregon in lat 43.680N, long 127.854W, depth 10 km.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ten militant fighters were killed today when they attacked a U.S.-led force near the hometown Mullah Omar, the fugitive Taliban leader, the American military said. "Approximately 40 enemy forces engaged the coalition soldiers who were conducting operations in the area," U.S. spokesman Maj. Rick Peat said in an e-mail. "Approximately 10 enemy forces were killed in action, and five were wounded and captured." Elsewhere, 11 Afghan militia soldiers were killed in an overnight ambush, underlining the violence that officials warn will increase in advance of presidential elections in October. Peat said five militants and five government soldiers also were wounded in the battle near Deh Rawood, 250 miles southwest of the Kabul. Deh Rawood mayor Amir Jan said three of the dead were brothers of a close associate of Omar. Uruzgan police claimed yesterday to have captured Mullah Amanullah, a brother-in-law of Omar, after stopping his car near Deh Rawood. It was not clear what role Amanullah, who uses

one name, held in the Taliban movement, which has fought frequent battles with American forces in the area this year. The 11 militiamen were reportedly ambushed on patrol near Khana Shien in neighbouring Helmand province.

COLOMBIA

Rebel Jungle Camp, Colombia, Jul 21 — Veteran Colombian rebel Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda, reported to be dying of prostate cancer, is in good health according to a top FARC rebel who also denied the group was in tactical retreat from the government's sustained military offensive. Local media reports earlier this year that the 74-year-old leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia was dying of cancer are false, said Raul Reyes, one of the seven-member governing secretariat of the 17,000-strong Marxist rebel army. Reyes offered no proof but Marulanda has been prematurely declared dead by reporters, soldiers or guerrilla deserters many times over the years. Reyes, apparently in good health himself despite rumors he too was terminally ill with prostate cancer, said right-wing President Alvaro Uribe's military offensive against the FARC was doomed to fail. "He hasn't understood the FARC is a political organization, with strength and experience, social and political reasons for its struggle, and for those reasons cannot be defeated," Reyes said. Uribe has mobilized 15,000 troops to hunt FARC leaders in the jungles of southern Colombia. But while military activity and improved air power has stopped big guerrilla operations such as the attacks on villages of the late 1990s, the army has not won decisive victories. Highway patrols have squeezed rebel finances by making mass kidnapping more difficult and government spraying campaigns have attacked cocaine crops they "tax". But despite the year-old military offensive — the biggest in years — Reyes denied the FARC was in retreat and said it gained new recruits daily. "There is no tactical retreat. The FARC continues to fight where it wants." "The FARC has enough support to move throughout the whole country." Reyes also called the government's peace talks with far-right paramilitaries — which the FARC say cooperate with the military — a "pantomime, a deceit". Prospects of fresh talks seem remote. Uribe insists he will talk to any illegal armed group that calls a cease-fire. The FARC demands he withdraw the army from two southern provinces as a condition for negotiations, which it says must address social reform and not just war. The FARC is concentrating on obtaining what it calls a "humanitarian exchange," to swap about 70 hostages for rebels in government jails. But they refuse Uribe's demand that any prisoners released not rejoin guerrilla ranks. The hostages include three Americans — U.S. Defense Department contractors captured in February 2003 — and former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, a dual French-Colombian citizen. "From what other commanders tell me, the prisoners in

their power are in good health," Reyes said, warning against a rescue attempt. "They could get caught in the cross fire." — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Jul 15 — Congo's army has clashed with rebels in the east in the last week and civilians are reported to be fleeing as some 2,000 government soldiers advance, United Nations and military sources said today. The army has repeatedly said it plans an offensive against a renegade general who briefly seized the eastern town of Bukavu last month, diplomats and U.N. officials say, but it was unclear whether the latest violence marked the start of the showdown. Tension has been building since the government sent at least 13,000 reinforcements to the region following the Bukavu insurgency led by General Laurent Nkunda, who later withdrew towards Goma, some 100 km to the north. "Over the last few days, we have fought with Nkunda's men and some of our people have been killed and injured but the situation is now calm," General Mbuza Mabe, a regional army commander loyal to Kinshasa, said. The clashes began on Saturday (Jul 10) and continued until yesterday. International bodies and major powers backing Congo's peace process after a five-year war said they were "deeply worried by the deterioration of the security situation in the east," U.N. peacekeepers, the European Union, the African Union and the five UN Security Council permanent members said in a joint statement. They urged Congolese authorities to be clear on how they were going to deal with Nkunda and to respect the letter and the spirit of the peace pact that ended the war. Mabe denied local media reports that he had given Nkunda an ultimatum to leave his base, but said the renegade officer's presence in his military zone was illegal. Nkunda is a hardliner from Congo's largest rebel group, RCD Goma, formerly backed by Rwanda and now part of the transition government due to take the former Zaire to elections next year. The head of the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Goma said he had received reports of civilians moving towards Minova, where Nkunda is based, "to avoid the pressure of the advancing soldiers". U.N. military sources said Kalehe was calm today but said they had seen some 2,000 government soldiers heading north. Nkunda, who justified taking Bukavu with claims that fellow Congolese Tutsis were victims of a genocide orchestrated by the regional commander, accused Mabe's men of more violations and vowed to fight back. "The situation that we saw in Bukavu is starting again," he said. — Reuters.

GEORGIA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Fighting between Georgia and its breakaway province of South Ossetia flared up again, three days after the two sides signed an

agreement aimed at ending their escalating conflict. Intensive shooting was heard at 2100, local time, yesterday near the town of Achabeti, located near the frontline separating the two sides, Georgia's Rustavi 2 television reported.

INDIA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: Firefighters in India's north-eastern state of Assam have put out a gas pipeline blaze caused by an explosion claimed by rebels late today. It was one of a series of blasts which rocked Assam during the day. A fire also erupted on an oil pipeline in the neighbouring state of West Bengal. An outlawed separatist rebel group, the United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa), said it was behind all the incidents. The head of Ulfa's military wing, Paresh Barua, said that his group carried out three blasts in Assam as well as the oil pipeline blast in West Bengal. The fire in the gas pipeline in northern Assam's Baiganbari area was brought under control more than 10 hours after it broke out. Parts of the 40cm pipeline, operated by the state-owned Oil India Limited (OIL), were destroyed. The company's officials said that a huge fire erupted at Baiganbari after the explosion ripped open the pipeline which feeds a liquefied petroleum gas plant at Duliagan town, where the OIL headquarters are located. A fire broke out in an oil pipeline near the Mahananda rail bridge in West Bengal at around the same time as the Assam blast. The army was called out to douse the flames in the oil pipeline and the fire that threatened to engulf a passenger train near a bridge that connects the state to Assam. Two more explosions took place today - one in the Assam capital Guwahati and the other in the western Assam town of Bongaigaon. Six people including three policemen were injured in the blast. Ulfa is targeting oil and gas installations to prevent what a rebel spokesman describes as the exploitation of Assam's oil and gas resources by the federal government.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected militants stormed the house of a retired security forces official in Gurdanwala village in Rajouri district, about 175 kilometres south of Jammu city, in Indian Kashmir today, killing him and his family of four, police confirmed. Police suspect the involvement of the banned Lashkar-e-Toiba militant group in the attack on the home of Abdul Gani, a former officer with the paramilitary Border Security Force.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A priest has been killed and four others wounded during an attack inside a Christian church in Indonesia. Police said gunmen entered the Effata church in Palu, in Central Sulawesi province, yesterday evening. The female priest, 29-year old Reverend Susianti Tinulele, died at the scene as she was preaching a sermon. One of the wounded is in a critical condition. The shooting happened near Poso, which

has seen some of the worst religious violence in recent years. The national police chief, D'ai Bachtiar, flew to Palu earlier today to oversee the investigation, according to local police sources. In Jakarta, Chief Security Minister Hari Subarno said the attack was designed "to create a horizontal conflict" - conflict between different sectors of society. It is the fifth attack on Christians in Central Sulawesi this year.

IRAQ

London, Jul 15 — Vessel loading at Iraq's Khor Al Amaya oil terminal resumed at 0800 hrs, this morning (Jul 15). The terminal is currently loading with flow rate of 15,000 bbls/hr.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: Attackers detonated a car bomb near police and government buildings in the western city of Haditha today, killing 10 Iraqis, while the prime minister said he would create a new security service geared toward halting the insurgency. A decapitated body in an orange jumpsuit was discovered in the Tigris River in northern Iraq last night, the military said. Although it was not identified, there were suspicions it could be that of a Bulgarian driver taken hostage recently and slain. Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said terrorists aiming to undermine Iraq's new government are determined not only to kill civilians and soldiers but to destroy the nation's infrastructure. Militants holding a Filipino truck driver hostage said they would release him when the last Filipino soldier leaves Iraq, according to a statement read on Arab television. The statement on the station Al-Jazeera followed a video of the captive, Angelo dela Cruz, saying he was coming home soon and thanking his government for agreeing to withdraw peacekeepers. The Philippines' withdrawal should happen by the end of the month. Fingerprints from the body found last night were sent to Bulgaria for identification, the Bulgarian government said. Militants led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian accused of attacks and kidnappings in Iraq and elsewhere, killed one of two Bulgarian truck drivers it was holding hostage, the Bulgarian government confirmed yesterday. The group, which has demanded the release of Iraqi detainees, said early yesterday it would kill the second man in 24 hours. The deadline passed with no word on his fate. Elsewhere, gunmen opened fire on cars belonging to Iraq's foreign minister, killing one official and wounding two others, an Iraqi National Guard official said. Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari was not in the two-car convoy at the time the attack about 65 miles south of Kirkuk. Police apparently thwarted an attack in Karbala, chasing a car after receiving a tip it was filled with explosives. Two militants inside detonated their bomb, killing themselves but causing no other casualties. The violence was the latest in a series of deadly attacks by insurgents since the US-led coalition

handed sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government; 65 people have been killed since the Jun 28 handover, 14 of them in a Jul 6 car bombing in the town of Khalis. A suicide car bombing in Baghdad yesterday killed at least 10 people near Iraqi government headquarters, and insurgents assassinated a provincial governor in an ambush of his convoy. At a news conference, Allawi said the new General Security Directorate "will annihilate those terrorist groups, God willing." The prime minister said he had asked Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Morocco and Egypt to contribute troops to the multinational force here to help him secure the country. He also announced that he would make his first foreign tour as prime minister to nearby Arab countries. The attack in Haditha, known as a stronghold of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime, hit a government complex housing police, civil defence and municipal offices. The blast also wounded 40 people, Interior Ministry spokesman Col Adnan Abdel-Rahman said. Elsewhere in Iraq, saboteurs blasted a crude oil pipeline feeding into a main artery in northern Iraq, halting exports to Turkey and directing another blow to the country's key industry. A rocket hit a home in the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, killing four people and wounding three, police and hospital officials said. A second rocket struck a home in a former army base used by Kurdish refugees, injuring four people. A Saudi company employing an Egyptian driver held hostage said it would stop work in Iraq to win his freedom but not pay ransom. Faisal al-Naheet, whose company is a subcontractor for Al-Jarie Transport, said kidnappers were demanding a \$1 million for the hostage.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb targeting Iraq's new justice minister blew up in western Baghdad yesterday, killing four of his bodyguards and wounding seven other people, authorities said. Justice Minister Malik Dohan al-Hassan was not injured. The blast, the latest in a wave of assassination attempts of high-level government officials, ripped through an intersection 500m from al-Hassan's home, striking the tail end of his convoy. "A car was parking on the opposite direction of the road, when the driver, God curse him, saw us and exploded himself," said Loae Hassan, one of his bodyguards. South of the capital, another car bomb exploded outside an Iraqi National Guard headquarters in Mahmudiyah, 30km from Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 47 others, hospital officials said. The blast that struck the minister's convoy carved a crater 2m in diameter and half a metre deep into the pavement.

London, Jul 18 — At least 10 people are feared dead after a US air strike on a house in the flashpoint Iraqi city of Falluja. Witnesses said a US helicopter attacked the house after clashes between troops and gunmen in a nearby area. The US military has confirmed

that it launched an air strike in the south-east of the city — in the so-called Sunni triangle of anti-US resistance.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A US airstrike authorised by Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi hit purported trenches and fighting positions in Fallujah used by al-Qaida linked foreign fighters, killing 14 people early yesterday, Iraqi officials said. Today a car bomb blast rocked a Baghdad suburb, killing at least nine people and wounding 52, an Iraqi health ministry official said. The car bomb detonated at Seidiyeh neighbourhood in the south-west of the capital, near a local police station. Ambulances and Iraqi police raced to the scene and firemen worked to douse the flames. At least nine people were killed, said Saad al-Alami, from the Iraqi health ministry. The US military has earlier said that at least six people were killed and 40 wounded. Militants also fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a fire station in the Baghdad neighbourhood of al-Salihiya, the US military said. One person was wounded. Also yesterday, Philippine leaders said they would finish withdrawing their small contingent of troops from Iraq as early as today in keeping with the demands of kidnappers holding a Filipino truck driver hostage. Also yesterday, two car bombs targeting police exploded in the city of Tikrit, killing two police officers and wounding five others, Iraqi authorities said.

Kirkuk, Jul 19 — Saboteurs below up an Iraqi oil pipeline in the northern domestic network today, a local government official said. The explosion targeted what appeared to be a secondary pipeline running through al-Debis region just northwest of Kirkuk, said district chief Hadi Mustafa. A pipeline network runs around Kirkuk, feeding refineries and power stations and linking oil fields. An export pipeline to Turkey, out of action since May due to sabotage, also passes through the area. Iraq exported 800,000 barrels per day to Turkey before the U.S.-led invasion. Since the end of the war, exports via Turkey have totalled less than 20 million barrels in total with sabotage preventing full operation of the pipeline. — Reuters.

London, Jul 20 — Product tanker *Navstar 1* is reported to have arrived at Alang, India, on Jun 6, to be broken-up. Vessel's final voyage was under the name of *Rhea* and under Georgia flag.

Baghdad, Jul 21 — Two U.S. army soldiers and one marine have been killed in action in Iraq's Anbar province west of Baghdad in the past two days, a U.S. military spokesman said today. The spokesman said the marine was killed yesterday, while one of the soldiers died of battle wounds on the same day. Another soldier died Monday (Jul 19) in action, the spokesman said without giving any more details. The casualties are in addition to another U.S. marine who was already reported killed yesterday in Anbar province. The deaths bring to at least 659 the number of U.S. troops killed in action in Iraq since the invasion last March. — Reuters.

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Bomb and missile attacks have claimed at least eight lives across Iraq early today. A car bomb in south-east Baghdad has exploded killing at least three people and injuring several more. Earlier another car bomb exploded near a hospital in the city of Ramadi, killing another three people. In the latest attack, two people were killed and several others wounded when a missile hit the seventh floor of a hospital in eastern Baghdad.

Baghdad, Jul 22 — U.S. marines killed 25 guerrillas, wounded 17 and captured 25 during several hours of fighting in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi yesterday, a military statement said today. The statement said 13 U.S. marines and one soldier were wounded in the clashes but none of the injuries were life-threatening. The military said the clashes began in the afternoon when guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb near a marine convoy and then opened fire with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. The clashes spread with an estimated 100 insurgents involved, the statement said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil exports from Iraq's northern fields are expected to resume soon after engineers completed repair work on the export pipeline, an industry official said. "The repair work has been completed this morning and we hope to be able to start up the pump in the coming days," said Handar Majod Hassan, a senior official at the state-owned Northern Oil Co.

IRAQ-KUWAIT

Rijeka, Jul 16 — The situation of ro-ro *Star* (ex *Boka Star*) is unchanged. There are still financial requirements of Rijeka Port Authority towards the owners which are not resolved. The verdict and eventual appeal may take a few months. Then after, it will be known whether the vessel will be sold. — Lloyd's Agents.

ISRAEL

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten Palestinians were shot and wounded today, three of them seriously, during intra-Palestinian clashes in Rafah, hospital sources said. The 10 members of the radical Palestinian group Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades were among more than 150 Palestinians who had attempted to storm the headquarters of the Palestinian military intelligence service. Members of the security services opened fire after the assailants destroyed the wall in front of the building in the southern Gaza Strip. The military intelligence service is led by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's nephew Mussa, who was named the new head of the Palestinian general security service at the weekend. The Martyrs Brigade has taken the lead in denouncing the appointment, saying he epitomised corruption within Palestinian ranks.

Beirut, Jul 19 — A bomb blast ripped through Lebanese guerrilla group Hizbollah's stronghold in the southern suburbs of Beirut today, killing a senior

member of the group, witnesses and Hizbollah said. Hizbollah's al Manar television said the bomb killed Ghalib Awali as he got into his car. It described him as "part of the leadership of the Islamic Resistance" — a reference to Hizbollah. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. — Reuters.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An Israeli district court judge has been shot dead in a suburb of the city of Tel Aviv. The man, named as Adi Azar, was shot three times at close range in his car by a man on a motorcycle near his home in Ramat Hasharon, witnesses said. The motive for the killing was not clear, but Israel's Justice Minister Josef Lapid denied reports that it was an act of terrorism. Israeli radio said the attack bore the hallmarks of a professional contract killing, but the 49-year-old judge was not involved in trying criminal cases. The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, which is associated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, said they had carried out the shooting. However, the organisation has previously made false claims about attacks which later turned out to be criminal.

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a suspected weapons-making workshop in a Gaza refugee camp, shortly after midnight. The Israeli military said it targeted a workshop used by the Palestinian militant group Hamas to make weapons used to attack Israel. It said the attack was followed by a "series of explosions indicating... a large amount of explosives inside". Earlier yesterday, a Qassam rocket was fired from Gaza into Israel, damaging a home but not causing any injuries.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb exploded at a bus stop in a Russian city today, killing two people and wounding several others, the Interfax news agency reported. The blast took place around 0815 hrs in Voronezh, about 475 kilometres south of Moscow, the regional office of the Federal Security Service said. A 26-year-old woman was killed and one of the wounded was in a critical condition in a local hospital, the security service said, and Interfax later reported that a 23-year-old man died of his injuries. It said one other injured victim was in intensive care, while three had been released from the hospital. The victims were passengers in a taxi van that had just moved away from the stop, the security service said. Authorities said the bomb exploded several metres away from the stop. Interfax cited a local police official as saying the bomb had the explosive equivalent of 500 grams of TNT and that it had been placed in a garbage container. ITAR-Tass said the bomb had been packed with bolts. The local prosecutor's office opened a terrorism investigation into the blast, but there was no immediate indication of who the suspects might be.

Moscow, Jul 22 — At least eight people were hurt today in two separate blasts at a base of OMON special police near Russia's rebel region of Chechnya, Russian news agencies said. Interfax, quoting local police, said the first explosion, caused by a bomb, occurred outside the OMON base in Makhachkala in Dagestan, neighbouring Chechnya. The agency said the blast occurred as a bus carrying OMON police officers arrived at the base. One of the injured was said to be a woman who was in a serious condition, but the others had only slight wounds. An hour later, a second explosion took place about 50 metres from the base, Interfax said. No-one was injured in this explosion, according to preliminary information, Interfax said. — Reuters.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh, Jul 21 — Saudi security forces killed two militants in a fierce exchange of fire in Riyadh and detained the family of the suspected leader of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network in Saudi Arabia, officials said today. An Interior Ministry statement said three other militants were hurt in the clash in the capital yesterday night. It did not say whether Saleh al-Awfi, believed to be al Qaeda's leader in Saudi Arabia, was among those killed or wounded. Three policemen were also wounded in the latest fighting. — Reuters.

SUDAN

Addis Ababa, Jul 17 — Rebels from Sudan's Darfur region walked out of African Union-mediated peace efforts today, saying they would return only when the government had met their six conditions for talks. The move — which Khartoum said demonstrated the rebels' lack of commitment to peace — deals a blow to efforts to end an 18-month-old conflict in the west of Africa's biggest country that has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. "We'll stay here overnight and then leave (for home)," Ahmed Tugod Lissan of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), said after meeting African Union (AU) mediators in Addis Ababa. "By refusing to accept our demands the government in Khartoum is saying that it is not prepared to discuss the disarmament of the Janjaweed who are conducting ethnic cleansing and genocide against the Africans in Sudan," Lissan said. He said he was speaking on behalf of JEM and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), two rebel groups who launched a revolt in February 2003 in the west of the oil-producing country after long conflict between African villagers and Arab nomads. Disarmament of the Janjaweed Arab militia is one of six conditions the JEM and SLA have set for participation in AU-mediated peace talks aimed at ending the bloodshed. The other conditions are: provide access for an inquiry into genocide charges, prosecute criminals who committed genocide or ethnic cleansing, allow unimpeded humanitarian access, free prisoners of war and set a neutral venue for future talks. After the walkout the AU said its

mediators would intensify consultations with the parties to determine how to advance political dialogue. An AU statement also urged the warring parties to implement a cease-fire signed in April. Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Relations Najeeb al-Kheir Abdul Wahab said the walkout showed the rebels lack of commitment to the spirit of the cease-fire. — Reuters.

Kidnappings



ISRAEL

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Five French citizens have been kidnapped in the Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian security officials. The officials said the two women and three men were abducted by gunmen as they drank coffee in the southern town of Khan Yunis. Witnesses said the five were taken to the headquarters of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in the centre of the town. The witnesses said the building was surrounded by about 25 armed men. Officials said they were doing everything in their power to secure the group's release. The kidnapping was the third in the Gaza Strip in less than 10 hours. Earlier, Colonel Khaled Abu Aloula, Director of Military Co-ordination in the southern part of the territory, was taken from his car as he returned to Gaza City from the town of Khan Yunis. Palestinian security officials said the kidnappers were Palestinian policemen who had recently been fired from their jobs. The officials said that earlier in the day Col Aloula had refused a request to help reinstate them. In the other incident, Palestinian militants freed Palestinian Chief of Police Ghazi Jabali after kidnapping him in a highway ambush that deepened the sense of chaos ahead of an announced withdrawal from Gaza by Israel. Chief Jabali was kidnapped by militants who exchanged gunfire with his bodyguards on the highway 5km south of Gaza City. Two bodyguards were wounded.

Gaza, Jul 17 — Palestinian militants have released two French hostages after kidnapping four French civilians in Gaza in a bid to demand Palestinian President Yasser Arafat make reforms to his government. Gunmen stormed into a restaurant in the Gaza town of Khan Yunis late yesterday, abducted the four French civilians and held them hostage in a nearby Red Crescent building while dozens Palestinian security officers surrounded it for two hours. The two female abductees were seen being helped by Palestinian security officers into an ambulance, which raced away from the scene. The remaining two male captives are still being held hostage in the building. A French consular officer in Jerusalem said the civilians were electricians on a visit to help improve the electricity network in Khan Yunis. The

kidnappers, militants from an offshoot group from Arafat's Fatah faction, demanded Arafat make financial and legal reforms to his government for the release of the captives. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 20 — Karachi Hindu Panchayat yesterday urged the Islamabad to recover rice trader and President Hindu Panchayat, Larkana, Santosh Kumar, who was kidnapped on Jul 4 in village Pakha, near Larkana in Sindh Province of Pakistan. At a press conference at Karachi Press Club, ex-parliamentarian and President Hindu Panchayat Karachi Bhagwan Das Chawla, Tharvani and Inder Lal also demanded effective measures for improving law and order situation and demanded security to the Hindu community in Sindh. They said that the failure of police to recover Santosh Kumar had created much anguish; panic and unrest among the Hindu community and many families have started migrating from interior to big cities of the province for safety. Bhagwan Das Chawla said that kidnapping cases of Hindu community members were on the rise for the last few months and the victims are released after payment of huge ransom amount. The Hindu community leaders urged President General Pervez Musharraf to intervene in the case and ensure safety and security of Hindu community, as well as their assets. President, All-Pakistan Minorities Alliance, Michael Javed warned the government that if Santosh Kumar was not recovered in next three days, they would go on a complete strike closing their businesses and the Christian community would protest shoulder to shoulder with the Hindu community. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Iron Ore Co. of Canada workers began an indefinite strike in a dispute over contracts, the Rio Tinto Group unit and labour union representatives said. Production will be halted in the coming hours and shipments will continue from stockpiles, Montreal-based company spokesman Michel Filion said in a phone interview. Some 1,200 out of 1,800 workers are striking, he said. IOC produced 8.35 million tons of iron ore last year, about 8 percent of Rio's total. "We're prepared to strike until we get some justice and a fair contract," said Wayne Fraser, an official of the United Steelworkers of America in Toronto. About 275 dockside workers in Sept-Iles also went on strike today, said Real Valiquette, regional coordinator for the United Steelworkers of America, in a telephone interview. The dispute

centres on subcontracting, wages and benefits. The workers' contract expired Feb 29 and no further negotiations are planned, Valiquette said. "This is an unlimited strike," Valiquette said. "There's no way we're going to make concessions."

GERMANY

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: DaimlerChrysler AG workers at the Mercedes-Benz division, the world's largest maker of luxury cars, went on strike at factories across Germany to demonstrate against plans to increase working hours without raising pay. More than 60,000 employees took part in the protests, which started last night and are continuing into the afternoon, the company's works council estimated. In Sindelfingen, the biggest Mercedes factory, DaimlerChrysler lost production of about 800 cars as 20,000 employees didn't go to work, the council said. DaimlerChrysler may cut 6,000 jobs at Mercedes-Benz plants in southern Germany should unions fail to agree to 500 million euros in annual cost cuts by the end of the month. The Stuttgart, Germany-based carmaker gave workers a choice of seven measures for saving money from Mercedes-Benz C-Class luxury-car and commercial vehicle production. Employees at Bremen were also involved in today's strike. The protests in Sindelfingen started at 0915, local time, and ended at 1130, local time. About 3,000 workers in Hamburg, Berlin and Dusseldorf staged work stoppages during the night, and protests at other plants will take place later today, the IG Metall union said. DaimlerChrysler employs about 160,000 workers in Germany.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of DaimlerChrysler workers walked off the job yesterday, extending protests against the automaker's threats to cut jobs in Germany if employees don't accept steps to cut labour costs. Some 14,500 workers took part in stoppages at two Mercedes plants near the company's German base at Stuttgart, halting production of some 1,000 vehicles at the Untertuerkheim plant alone, employee representatives said. DaimlerChrysler workers across Germany staged walkouts and protest rallies Thursday (Jul 15), prompting an appeal by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, a Social Democrat, for employees and management to end the dispute, though he said he would not get involved. DaimlerChrysler says labour costs at its plant in Sindelfingen, near its German base at Stuttgart, are higher than at another German factory in Bremen. The company has threatened to move production of future Mercedes-Benz C-class model cars to Bremen and South Africa unless it gets \$620 million in annual savings at Sindelfingen. One of DaimlerChrysler's main targets is to cut the five minutes of paid break time Sindelfingen workers accumulate every hour under the local contract. They won the break time in a 1973 strike. Much of it is now banked

and used for meetings with supervisors or work team members. The struggle over labour costs at DaimlerChrysler's plants are part of a pattern by German industry to press workers for concessions, particularly in the form of longer hours, after three years of economic stagnation.

ISRAEL

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at all three of the nation's seaports will continue today the strike they launched last Wednesday (Jul 15). However, their unions announced they will ease sanctions by raising productivity to 30 percent of the norm, "as a gesture of good faith prior to opening talks with treasury representatives." The National Labour Court last week permitted a partial strike which would not allow workers to reduce productivity below 25 percent. However, the Port Authority says productivity in the past few days has been 15 percent. Raising productivity to 30 percent may also delay Transportation Minister Meir Sheetrit's decision to issue back-to-work orders to some port employees, to ensure ships are loaded and unloaded. Legal sources commented yesterday that the issuance of temporary injunctions is problematic, as the strike is not total and is being conducted according to Labour Court rulings. Despite the strike, workers are allowing passenger ships to launch and loading fresh produce, defense products and "dangerous" goods. They are also allowing the import of gasoline. Manufacturers Association transport division chief Zvi Plada said yesterday that the strike has so far caused NIS 230 million in damage. According to Plada, NIS 490 million in goods are delayed at the ports or at factories without the ability to export them. He also said there are now 32 vessels anchored in or near the ports. Eight vessels that had been on their way to unload goods in Israel were redirected to Cyprus; Alexandria, Egypt and Pireus, Greece. "The strike is dealing a death blow to Israel's foreign trade," Plada stated. Senior business sector sources expressed concern that the port strike could last until July 26, the next scheduled National Labour Court hearing. Marine cargo carrier Zim Israel Navigation is threatening to cease operations in Israel if sanctions at the seaports continue. Senior Zim executives said the company pays \$80,000 for every day one of its vessels is anchored in Israel. The cost of unloading a vessel, which usually amounts to \$100,000, will leap to \$1 million due to the strike.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Negotiating teams from the Histadrut and the Finance Ministry are to convene this morning to try ending a strike in Israel sea ports, entering its 6th day after the government decided to implement reforms in the Ports Authority. Yesterday night's meetings to discuss workers' security and rights ended without results. Sources in the Histadrut told Army Radio that finance

had gone back on agreements made, according to which the state would transfer funds to a special account established as a contingency fund in case the reformed ports authority collapses. Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz and Finance Minister Binyamin Netanyahu agreed Sunday evening to establish negotiating teams for "marathon talks" aimed at settling the port strike while Jordanian and Cypriot stevedores, organised under the aegis of the International Transport Federation (ITF), vowed to support their Israeli counterparts. During the meeting between Netanyahu and Peretz, which was attended by Oded Tyrah, president of the Manufacturers Association, newly-appointed Transportation Minister Meir Sheetrit and Prime Minister's Office director-general Ilan Cohen, Peretz suggested that any advance in the negotiations would be reciprocated with a reduction in the intensity of the strike. Presently, output at the ports is at 25%, in accordance with a Labour Court directive. The ITF's Fair Practices Committee, meeting in Singapore, issued an appeal to the world's port unions not to handle cargoes diverted from Israeli ports. The ITF reports the port of Limassol has already agreed. Cargoes diverted to Jordan from strike-bound Israeli ports may also face problems, the ITF stated. Mazem Maaytah, General Secretary of the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions said the move should be seen as an "opposition to the Sharon government and in accordance with decisions by Arab trade unions to boycott Israeli products and trade." Foreign trade firms said thousands of ships anchored in ports overseas delayed setting sail for Israel, fearing the strike would make unloading impossible.

London, July 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty-eight ships are waiting to be unloaded in Israeli ports as the seaports strike continues. Talks aimed at ending the strike are underway at this time.

Ashdod, Jul 21 — The Israeli Port Authority strike has now ended, pending a further evaluation Jul 25. Production at the Israeli port is now 50% of full production. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 22 — Israeli dockers protesting against port reforms have agreed to increase the number of hours they are prepared to work each shift. The breakthrough came yesterday morning as negotiations between employers and unions continued. However, both shipping lines and shippers said the concession would make little difference to services, with carriers offloading containers at ports across the eastern Mediterranean rather than risk delays in Haifa, Ashdod or Eilat. Dockers said they would raise the time worked from 25% to 50% of normal. The industrial action follows moves by the government to modernise the country's waterfront practices. Relatively little cargo is being shipped in or out of the country at the moment, with even national flag carrier Zim reluctant to bring its vessels into

port and risk lengthy delays. The dockers gesture yesterday was "not a big deal", a spokesman for Zim said. Carriers are unlikely to resume Israeli calls as a result of the move. Vessels are spending up to five times normal in port as a result of the go-slow, according to one line caught up in the dispute. The Israel Shippers' Council estimates that thousands of containers are stranded in neighbouring countries. Neither has the government said yet whether it would compensate importers for the extra costs they face arranging for goods to be delivered to Israel once the industrial action is over, said the council's Aviel Koren. Industry received financial help from the government during a dock strike last year, but has not so far received a similar promise this time round.

PERU

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: At least 76 people have been arrested in Peru during a 24-hour strike against the free market economic policies of President Alejandro Toledo. Many of the arrests were made in Lima, where police used tear-gas to disperse protesters who tried to block roads with tyres and logs. The strike was declared a success by Peru's largest union, the CGTP. But the government said the protest had failed because people were working and public transport was functioning. Some 93,000 police were deployed across Peru to deal with any unrest.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Unionised workers at LG Caltex Oil Corp. have taken over six control rooms at South Korea's second-largest oil refinery in a strike that has forced production cuts of up to 30 percent, the company said today. "Striking workers occupied six control rooms out of 29 from yesterday. However, we don't expect a dangerous situation to arise as we are taking enough safety measures," an official of LG Caltex said on customary condition of anonymity. It was not clear how many workers were occupying the plant in Yeosu near the southern coast. The action by the labour union came after negotiations on wage increases and working hours broke down yesterday. The strike started Wednesday (Jul 14). Since Friday (Jul 16), LG Caltex has cut its crude oil processing capacity of 650,000 barrels a day by 20 percent to 30 percent. "We made the expert workers stay in the core operating facilities to ensure safety measures. Because it is an unprecedented situation, we weren't sure what would happen if all the union members walked out of the plant," said Lee Dong-ik, an official at the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, a labour umbrella group that is representing the LG Caltex union in negotiations with management. The company and the union agree that safety should come first and the union continues to respond to the company's requests on safety issues, Lee said.

Out of 2,700 employees, about 1,100 workers belong to the union and 800 of them have joined the strike, Lee said.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's government has declared that a strike at the country's second largest oil refinery is illegal and demanded that it be halted. Striking workers halted all production at the LG-Caltex plant on Monday in a dispute over pay. The refinery accounts for about 25% of South Korea's refining capacity and usually produces 650,000 barrels a day. Lee Soo-jung, a spokesman for LG-Caltex, which is a joint venture between South Korea's LG and Chevron Texaco, said the shutdown was costing it about 30 billion won (\$25.92m; £14m) a day. "The union got control of crude oil feed operations, a core unit, so we shut down the refinery for safety reasons," said another LG-Caltex spokesman, Lee Young-won. South Korea's energy ministry said there was no immediate threat to oil supplies in Asia's fourth-biggest economy and LG-Caltex was holding 19 days of oil stocks. The refinery dispute comes after industrial action at a string of firms in key sectors including Hyundai Motors, Kia Motors and KorAm Bank. South Korea traditionally faces a seasonal summer rise in union action for higher wages, but labour unrest in the country has been particularly bad so far in 2004. The Labour Ministry said there had been 337 instances of industrial action so far in 2004, with more workers, including subway unions, threatening to strike. — Reuters.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 15,000 Seoul city subway workers were set to strike today for higher wages and better working conditions, but transit officials took stopgap measures to keep the capital's underground running for six million people who use it daily. Subway workers in the nation's next three largest cities also decided to walk out to back their own demands. Seoul labor-management talks, held under government arbitration, broke up around 1700, yesterday with the two sides still far apart. The unions announced a 0400, strike start time, although the law forbids a walkout until after 15 days of arbitration. "It is an illegal strike," the prosecution said last night. "The prosecution will issue a warrant for labour leaders' arrest and crack down on the illegal strike." The unions disputed the labor commission's decision to send the talks to arbitration, saying they were not consulted. Seoul's commuters have barely recovered from chaos generated earlier this month by a series of new traffic measures - bus-route changes, bus-only lanes, a revamped prepaid transit card and higher bus and subway fares. But city officials said extra subway train drivers and other substitute workers would minimize delays and the subways would operate smoothly. Seoul city's eight subway lines are run by the Seoul Metropolitan Subway Corporation and Seoul Metropolitan Rapid Transit Corporation, both under the city government. Korean National Railroad

operates connecting lines outside the capital's limits but there was no sign its workers planned a walkout. Subway workers in Busan, Incheon and Daegu announced separate strikes, also starting today, after failing to find any middle ground with their respective managements on their own demands for higher pay and more hires. No further details were immediately available. SMSC's 9,164 union workers demanded a 10.5 percent pay increase, while SMRTC's 5,544 union employees wanted an 8.1 percent hike. Also, because of the extra workload generated by introduction July 1 of the five-day workweek, the SMSC union wanted 3,043 more workers hired. The SMRTC union said 3,205 extra workers were needed. Both managements, however, offered three percent wage increases and said they cannot meet the unions' demand for extra workers because it could cost over 10 billion won. "The SMSC recorded 269 billion won losses last year and the total accumulated losses for a few years are over 4 trillion. In this situation, we cannot increase the employees," the SMSC management said. Labour and management in Seoul had held 10 negotiating sessions since July 2 without bridging their differences.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's second-largest oil refinery, which closed two days ago due to strike action, will be unable to resume operations for up to 20 days, a company official said today. "We are assuming that it will take another 20 days to put the facilities into operation. Depending on the situation, it can take less than that or even longer," said Lee Sang-hun, an official at LG Caltex. "We will have to see how the negotiations with the labor union will proceed." LG Caltex, which provides 30 percent of the nation's oil supply, says it still has oil reserves for about two weeks. Out of 2,700 employees at the plant, about 1,100 workers belong to the union and nearly 1,000 union members are on strike. LG Caltex is supplementing its workforce at the plant with 400 office workers, non-union members and retired workers.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at US-owned GM Daewoo Auto and Technology have launched a two-day strike in demand of higher pay and better working conditions. Some 2,700 staff joined the walkout which brought to an immediate halt operations at South Korea's third-largest automaker, company officials said. Union leaders had launched on-and-off partial strikes since earlier this month to press their demands, including a 16.6 percent pay rise, following a series of failed negotiations with management. "All assembly lines remain idle," GM Daewoo spokesman Kim Sang-Won said, referring to operations at the key plants in Changwon on the southern coast and in Gunsan on the west. New union-management talks are to open later today, he said. Unionists claim workers at GM Daewoo get paid far less than those at other domestic

competitors like Hyundai Motor and Kia Motors which reached accords earlier this month on wage increases and large bonuses. Workers at another South Korean automaker Ssangyong Motor Co. are threatening to launch a two-day strike from tomorrow after holding a series of sporadic walkouts since last Monday (Jul 19).

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korean prosecutors have warned unions that leaders of a subway strike face arrest and they may also detain organisers of a walkout paralysing the nation's second-biggest oil refiner if work does not resume soon. The strikes pose a fresh test for President Roh Moo-hyun, a former labour lawyer who has been criticised by employers for being too soft on the unions. State prosecutors said they would seek warrants to arrest leaders of the strike by 7,000 subway workers that the government has declared illegal. They said strike leaders at LG-Caltex Oil Corp could face similar action if work did not resume soon. The strike that began on Sunday as a walkout showed no sign of ending quickly. The subway strike in Seoul and in the three other main cities of Incheon, Pusan and Taegu is over wages and union demands to hire more workers tied to a new five-day work week. The subway management brought in thousands of replacement workers to prevent major disruption of the transport system. One of the two operators in Seoul ordered all striking workers to return by 1100, local time, tomorrow or face punishment. In Seoul, subway trains were running, although in some cases intervals between trains were longer than normal. In a separate development on the labour front, police detained today two union leaders of South Korea's KorAm Bank, on charges of leading illegal action during the bank's recent 18-day strike, Yonhap news agency said. Union members at the country's sixth-largest bank, recently bought by Citigroup Inc, had been in walkout between late June and early July, demanding job security. The central bank, the Bank of Korea, said confrontational labour relations were a key obstacle to lifting depressed business investment in Asia's third-largest economy. Financial markets took the strikes in their stride. Oil refiner LG-Caltex Oil said it had started test operations at one of its main crude distillation units, CDU, and a secondary unit after mobilising substitute workers to restart its refinery. That dispute over wages entered a fourth day with no sign of union and management restarting talks.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: A federal judge has extended for seven weeks a temporary restraining order against striking truck drivers from the Port of Miami-Dade, in order to keep the port open while the truckers find an attorney to fight a county injunction. What started out as a hearing yesterday for a preliminary injunction filed by Miami-Dade County

and Universal Maritime Services against the drivers turned into a classroom, as U.S. District Judge Patricia A. Seitz explained to a group of truckers why she had ordered them to end their "boycott" and the judge herself received a lesson in port operations. Seitz issued the temporary restraining order to end the two-week-old strike today, saying that, as independent contractors, the drivers had no legal right to stop port operations. Nearly all of the 1,700 estimated truckers observed the strike, bringing the handling of cargo to a standstill. The case centres on anti-trust laws that bar companies or individuals from staging boycotts to force up prices. The county, which said 16 vessels had to be diverted during the strike, has argued that the drivers are independent contractors and not employees of trucking companies. The drivers work for some 70 to 80 trucking companies that dispatch them to pick up containers. The trucking companies are not parties in the legal proceedings, but the terminal operators who filed the injunction do not hire drivers or set their salaries — a unique feature of this case that drew the judge's attention.

Miami, Jul 19 — The Mayor of Miami ordered the striking truckers to return to work on Jul 12. Although their demands have not yet been met, most truckers did return to work that day. During the week of July 12-16, there was so much backlog that many customers have over a week's delay in scheduling the delivery of their shipments. This week, things should return to normal. — Lloyd's Agents.

Awards & Settlements



COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, ISRAEL

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated Jul 21, states: A software firm has agreed to pay \$4.1m (£2.2m) compensation to the US music industry for copyright infringement. The software from Israeli company Bridgemar Services, formerly known as iMesh.com, allows people to download music using the internet. Until now, US courts had ruled that software companies were not liable when their products are used by others for copyright infringement. The settlement is seen as a victory for the music industry. Bridgemar Services also agreed, under the settlement, which was approved by a New York court, to change its internet service later this year to prevent consumers from illegally distributing music or downloading songs. Until then the software - which has been downloaded more than 76 million times - will continue to function. In its lawsuit, record companies alleged that iMesh software helped internet users illegally exchange "millions" of songs and sought

\$150,000 (£81,340) in damages for each song, plus attorney fees. Bridgemar spokeswoman Connie Connors said it was too early to know whether iMesh customers will ultimately have to pay for downloaded music. She said it depended on what agreements could be reached with major record labels.

INJURIES DUE COMPANY NEGLIGENCE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Two electricians who were injured at Blandin Paper Company have been awarded nearly \$2 million. After three days of trial and five hours of deliberation, an Itasca County jury found Blandin Paper Company to be 100 percent at fault for the electricians' injuries and that the injuries were a direct result of an accident which occurred while the two were working at the paper company. UPM officials say they will seek a new trial in the case. The incident which led to the case happened on Sep 10, 1997. Gary Corradi of Jacobson and Scott Johnson of Chisholm were doing electrical work for Blandin Paper Company. At the same time, read court documents, the company was cleaning one of its paper machines with a chemical spray which contained NALCO 7577 Alkaline Boilout. Both Corradi and Johnson were sprayed with the chemical. The plaintiffs filed suit claiming that Blandin Paper Company "negligently sprayed plaintiffs Gary Corradi and Scott Johnson with the chemical, failed to co-ordinate the work on the project, failed to warn of the dangers involved in the use of the spray, maintained its premises in an unsafe condition, failed to give adequate instructions and plans, failed to provide adequate safety equipment, continued to spray in the area where the plaintiffs were known to be working and were otherwise negligent." Their attorney, Edward Matonich of Hibbing, said that his clients suffered significant injuries as a result of the spraying. Johnson suffers from respiratory problems. Corradi had damage to an eye which necessitated a cornea transplant in 1999. Johnson was awarded \$930,296.12: \$25,000 for past pain, disability and emotional distress; \$161,902 for past wage loss; \$9,872.62 for past health care expense; \$35,000 for future pain, disability and emotional distress; \$647,607 for future lost earning capacity and \$50,914.50 future health care expenses. Corradi was awarded \$1,018,733.38: \$25,000 for past pain, disability and emotional distress; \$135,984 for past wage loss; \$18,359.95 for past health care expense; \$35,000 for future pain, disability and emotional distress; \$700,000 in lost future earning capacity and \$104,389.43 in future health care expense. Although the incident happened in 1997, Matonich said it took some time to make its way to court because of the uncertainty of his clients' injuries. Grand Rapids Attorney Leif Nelson represented Blandin Paper Company in court. His only comment was that the jury's findings were not backed up with what

was presented in court. "It's our belief that the verdict is not supported by the evidence," said Nelson. UPM, the parent company of Blandin Paper Company, indicated they intend to seek a new trial.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 20, states: An eight-year-old boy left brain damaged at birth has been awarded a compensation deal worth millions of pounds from the NHS Trust responsible. Kieran Douglas was left with cerebral palsy and epilepsy after his birth at All Saints Hospital in Chatham, Kent. Medway NHS Trust admitted at the High Court there had been a negligent delay in delivering Kieran in March 1996. He will receive £650,000 for an adapted home and annual payments which will rise to £100,000 by the time he is 20. Kieran, who now lives in Newbury, Berkshire, was left with no mobility or useful speech and is incapable of doing anything for himself. He was awarded the lump sum and then index linked annual amounts of £60,000 until he is 11 years old. This figure will rise to £75,000 until his 19th birthday and then £100,000 for the rest of his life. In a statement Medway NHS Trust said: "We very much regret the inappropriate action taken at the time of Mrs Douglas' labour and Kieran's delivery at the All Saints Hospital in Chatham on Mar 25, 1996".

PRICE-FIXING, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: Bayer AG, Germany's second-biggest drug and chemical maker, agreed to pay \$66 million to settle a US criminal charge it participated in a global conspiracy to fix prices of chemicals used to make rubber. Bayer agreed to assist the US government's investigation which has already netted the guilty plea of Crompton Corp, which was fined \$50 million for its role in the cartel, the Justice Department said in Washington. European Union and Canadian authorities are also investigating the cartel. Bayer agreed to plead guilty in federal court in San Francisco to one charge of conspiring with other participants to fix prices between 1995 and 2001. The plea bargain "is an important step in our prosecution of a cartel that harmed millions of American consumers who use a broad spectrum of products manufactured with rubber chemicals," said R. Hewitt Pate, the Justice Department's chief antitrust enforcer. Bayer, based in Leverkusen, Germany, said in a statement distributed on the Business Wire that it co-operated with the investigation. "Bayer's clear policy is to comply with antitrust laws and the company will not tolerate violations," the statement said. The guilty plea will expose Bayer to possible civil damages sought by tyre makers and other purchasers of chemicals for making synthetic rubber.

"The fine is a one-time unusual item," said John E. Roberts, a chemical industry analyst at the Buckingham Research Group in New York. Prosecutors said Bayer representatives participated in meetings with other companies where prices were set for rubber chemicals used to improve the elasticity, strength and durability of rubber used in tyres, outdoor furniture, hoses, belts and footwear. Bayer, Crompton and BASF AG, the world's largest chemical maker, have been named in at least 13 antitrust lawsuits filed in US courts accusing the companies of fixing prices for urethane, a component of plastics and synthetic rubber. In May, Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Co, the largest North American tyre maker, accused Crompton, Bayer and other companies of conspiring to overcharge for ethylene propylene diene monomer, or EPDM, synthetic rubber. The Goodyear lawsuit also named Polimeri Europa SpA of Italy and DSM Elastomers BV in the Netherlands. DuPont Dow Elastomers LLC, a joint venture of the two largest US chemical companies, has agreed to pay \$36 million to settle antitrust claims by customers it overcharged for neoprene, a synthetic rubber. A federal judge in Washington gave preliminary approval last month to the settlement, according to documents on the court's Website. DuPont Co., based in Wilmington, Delaware, has agreed to pay 100% of any liability of the joint venture up to \$150 million and 75% of any amount exceeding that figure, DuPont and Dow Chemical Co. said in April. Freudenberg-NOK, an auto parts joint venture of Germany's Freudenberg & Co. and Japan's NOK Corp., also accused Dow, DuPont and Crompton of fixing prices in a separate suit filed in San Francisco.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A railway worker left needing 24 hour care after he was hit by a freight train has been awarded £1m in damages. Michael Smith, 54, from Liverpool suffered severe multiple injuries to his chest and spine and was left physically and mentally disabled. His employer, English Welsh and Scottish Railway International Ltd, was found liable at a previous hearing with £1,000,025 damages agreed today. Mr Smith needs round the clock care at his home in Allerton. He was struck by the car transporter train in September 1997 while working on sidings at Speke, Merseyside for Railfreight Distribution, which was owned by British Rail. The company was bought by English, Welsh and Scottish Rail Distribution which assumed responsibility for all Railfreight Distribution's outstanding legal proceedings. William Norris QC, for EWS, said that it wished Mr Smith well and praised his wife Geraldine, who cares for him, and their three grown-up children.

Railway Accidents



ORRINGTON, MAINE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated Jul 21, states: People who live on Route 15 in Orrington were evacuated from their homes as a precaution tonight after a freight train derailed. Police and firefighters went door to door around 1945 telling people they had to evacuate. Police also shut down Route 15 for about two miles from Snowe's Corner to Center Drive. Orrington Fire Chief Michael Spencer says the train derailed when a switching device malfunctioned and five cars went off the tracks. He says he had to call in a hazmat team because there was a big cloud of smoke coming from one car, and another was leaking some type of liquid. Chief Spencer says neither of those materials are hazardous, in fact he says hazardous materials are not transported on that rail line. Chief Spencer says the conductor and one other person were on board. No one was injured. Springfield Rail owns that part of the railroad and the scene has now been turned over to them, and those who live there have returned to their homes.

SAO JOAO RIVER, PARANA, BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Jul 19 — A cargo train with three locomotives and 45 wagons, transporting corn, sugar and meal, derailed on a bridge over the Sao Joao river, in the Serra do Mar, Parana, today. First information states that 35 wagons fell into the river. Apparently no damages done to the environment and no one killed, according to the Parana Environment Agency. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Rio de Janeiro, Jul 20 — Each of the 35 wagons which fell into the Sao Joao river yesterday carries on average 50 metric tons cargo. The railway link between Curitiba and Paranagua will be stopped for about 10 days, as part of the bridge was damaged. Over this bridge, 28 trains pass a day and the rail line will offer its customers as alternative, transport the cargo to Sao Francisco do Sul or Rio Grande or transport by road. This will cause major impact, as 40 % of the cargo that arrive in Paranagua uses the railroad. The cargo was fully insured and there was no damage to the three locomotives. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The Rail, Tram and Bus Union is concerned about three unrelated, but potentially disastrous incidents in Western Australian over the past week. In the most recent case, a freight train ploughed into an abandoned car on rail lines near Northam on Sunday (Jul 18) night. At

the weekend, the Prospector train was damaged after a picket and wire was placed on the tracks between Kalgoorlie and Perth. Last week near Southern Cross, a carriage believed to be carrying dangerous goods broke away from its train. Union state secretary Bob Christison says the carriage was left on the rail line for hours before it could be reattached. The state's rail safety director has asked the operators involved in the incidents to examine them.

WICHITA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A train derailed in Wichita, sending nearly 20 cars off the tracks. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Train was leaving town yesterday, when the train cars came off the track. The train had 111 cars, and when it happened, the engineer didn't know his cars were off the rail. An alarm sounded, and when he stepped out, he saw the wreckage. No one was injured, the train was carrying grain.

Robberies & Thefts



DIAMONDS, EUROPE

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Two men have been found guilty of taking part in a £23m diamond robbery. Serbian-born Nebojsa Denic is thought to be part of a Balkan gang which robbed jewellers throughout Europe. He and his boss, known as Marco, took three minutes to steal the gems from Graff jewellers in Mayfair, central London last year. Marco escaped. Denic was convicted of conspiracy to rob, as was Montenegro national Milan Jovetic who admitted helping Marco escape with the diamonds. Only £3m of the gems have been recovered - one, a £500,000 blue diamond ring was found in a jar of baby cream at Jovetic's house in Bayswater, west London. Police believe Denic and Marco were members of a Balkan group, known as the Pink Panther gang, which is being investigated over a £17m theft in Tokyo. Marco is also wanted for questioning by police in Spain, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany in connection with armed jewel raids. Denic and Jovetic are due to be sentenced tomorrow.

MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Two men involved in selling stolen high-performance cars worth £6.5m have been jailed. Mohammed Ilyas, from Essex and Majid Ghouse, of London, were two of five men arrested after a 14-month undercover operation by Greater Manchester Police. They were involved in selling up to 150 cars, Manchester Crown Court heard. In June five men -

dubbed the "Gone in 60 Seconds Gang" by police after a car theft film - admitted recruiting thieves from across the UK to steal the cars they sold, for an international crime ring. The men, also from Manchester and Lancashire, produced a list of cars they wanted, which were earmarked for export to the Middle East, the court was told. The operation was run for more than a year between June 2002 and August 2003, before it was shutdown by police, who have so far managed to recover 65 of the vehicles stolen. The cars were stolen all over the UK and Kent Constabulary, and Essex and Merseyside police forces were also involved in the inquiry. Thieves stole mostly Mercedes and BMWs, valued at between £20,000 and £80,000, and also a top-of-the-range Maserati Italian Sports Coupe. It is estimated that in the operation, which began in June 2002, the gang made about £10,000 profit on each car, with an overall take of £1.5m.

Miscellaneous



CAP ANAMUR (Germany)

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: Italy may have to demolish general cargo *Cap Anamur*, currently docked in Sicily under provisions set out by the country's anti-immigration laws, La Repubblica reported today, citing a magistrate close to the investigation. "This is a ship that has assisted illegal immigrants. According to Italian law, therefore, it will be confiscated and will eventually be demolished," the magistrate, who has not been named, was quoted as saying. The cargo vessel is owned by the private German relief agency Cap Anamur, was seized by Italian officials on Monday (Jul 12), shortly after its arrival in Porto Empedocle. Police also arrested its master, first officer and owner, Cap Anamur chief Elias Bierdel. The three are accused of aiding and abetting illegal immigration, a charge that carries stiff prison sentences according to an anti-immigration law approved recently by Italy's centre-right government. The three are currently held in police custody and judges are expected to rule tomorrow whether magistrates had legal grounds to order their arrest. The *Cap Anamur* affair originated several weeks ago, when the vessel rescued 37 shipwrecked African immigrants off Malta and the Italian island of Lampedusa, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. The vessel was initially denied permission to dock in Italy but was eventually allowed to do so after its master said some of the immigrants were threatening to throw themselves overboard. Cap Anamur was told the immigrants had fled the war-torn Darfur region, in Sudan, and that they would be seeking political asylum in Europe. Police in Italy, however, now say the immigrants may have come

from Ghana, Nigeria and Niger. Although a special commission is expected to rule on their asylum status shortly, Italian Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu has already said their applications appear to be "substantially inadmissible". Germany, meanwhile, has already ruled out granting the immigrants asylum. On Wednesday, Interior Minister Otto Schily backed Italy's tough stance on the issue, saying the German aid agency may face prosecution for trying to smuggle illegal immigrants into the European Union. "We saved human lives, we did not commit a crime," Cap Anamur officials were quoted by La Repubblica as saying today. "Perhaps we made some mistakes, and for this we are sorry. But we are not criminals," they added. *Cap Anamur* is a 20-year-old vessel and is the organization's first fully owned vessel, having been purchased in 2003.

Rome, Jul 17 — Italy has denied asylum status to 37 African immigrants who landed in Sicily earlier this week after three weeks on general cargo *Cap Anamur*, Ansa news agency reported today. The Interior Ministry is still considering whether to give humanitarian protection to 23 of the immigrants, which could allow them to stay temporarily in the country, but 14 are due to be expelled from Italy shortly, Ansa said. Italian police arrested the head of the German Cap Anamur aid agency, Elias Bierdel, the vessel's master and a crew member when the *Cap Anamur* docked on Monday (Jul 12) on suspicion of aiding illegal immigration. The three were released from a Sicilian prison yesterday but still face trial and their vessel remains impounded. The Cap Anamur group said it rescued the Africans from a rubber dinghy drifting with engine failure in the Mediterranean. — Reuters.

London, Jul 20 — Three members of the German aid organisation Cap Anamur, among them the master of the general cargo *Cap Anamur*, were released by Italian authorities and returned to Germany over the weekend. Captain Stefan Schmidt, first officer Vladimir Dashkevich, and the head of the emergency doctors organisation Elias Bierdel had been arrested for suspected support of illegal immigration. They were ordered to leave Sicily immediately after their release, but the case will be further investigated. The vessel had pressed Italian authorities to be allowed to enter the Sicilian port of Empedocle with 37 African refugees on board. Permission was granted last Monday. The vessel remains under Italian arrest. Italian media reports pointed out that, under domestic law, the vessel might even be scrapped. This would probably ruin the organisation's work. They had taken the remodelled boxship into operation only this spring. The Italian drama has deeply divided the aid organisation. Internal critics said the vessel should have gone to Germany rather than pressing the Italian authorities and setting up a media event. Mr Bierdel defended his action by saying it had been sensible to remain

in Italian waters where it was possible that even more refugees were to be found in distress at sea.

DAMAGE TO UNDERSEA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLE, SAMAL, PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Samal will be experiencing blackouts in the next few days after an anchor of a vessel plying the island city allegedly damaged the submarine cable of the firm supplying electricity to the area. The submarine cable of Davao Norte Electric Cooperative (Daneco) located along Caliclic in the Island Garden City of Samal (Igacos) was damaged Tuesday (Jul 13) afternoon, immediately causing a total power blackout. In Thursday's Samal power crisis management meeting, Mayor Roger Antalan said they are thinking of asking President Arroyo to declare Igacos under a state of emergency. "It could be justifiable if we ask President Arroyo through Presidential Assistant Jesus Dureza to declare Igacos under a state of emergency because lives and properties are at stake," Antalan said. Suspect Engineer Felix Hibionada, Daneco deputy officer, explained they received reports that vessel *Moses* was reported to have allegedly dropped anchor near the area on Tuesday afternoon a few hours before leaving. "It could be that the butterfly anchor hit the submarine cable and accidentally dragged it when the vessel left the area, destroying the cable in the process," Hibionada said. He added the first thing they need to do is to look for divers who can identify the destroyed portion of the cable and tie it up with markers, then use a barge and a crane to lift up the cable so repairs could be done. "This is not an easy thing to do because the cables weigh from five to 10 tons, and we have already called Manila for assistance to provide Daneco with facilities for repairing the cable," said Hibionada, adding that Manila assured them the facilities will be arriving in two days. Daneco will also be paying for all the expenses for the repairs. Huge damage He also said that replacing the damaged cable would require about 6.8 kilometres of 15BB submarine cable that would cost at least P200 million. Daneco general manager Edgar Savellano, meanwhile, said generators could not yet be installed on the island because the number of consumers has to be considered. "Igacos has only 3,000 plus electric consumers," Savellano said. Vital establishments affected with the power blackout are City Hall, district hall of Babak, district hall of Kaputian, and Samal District Hospital. Representatives from Smart and Globe, the city's giant telecommunications company, both gave assurance that their cellsites in the island will not be affected by the power blackout. Also in Thursday's meeting, both the Philippine Ports Authority and the Coast Guard said they have yet to complete their checkups of vessels that docked in Sta. Ana and Sasa Wharf on Tuesday. The Coast Guard is volunteering a batch of seven divers who are ready to identify the area and the damaged cable.

DRUGS SEIZED ON TOGO FLAGGED VESSEL OFF GHANA

London, Jul 20 — The vessel that had more than two tonnes of cocaine seized by the French Navy off the coast Ghana on Jul 4 was icebreaker *Polar*, not tug *Pitea* as before reported.

HANNES (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Non-Compliance With Isps Code" under "Miscellaneous".

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, MAURITANIA

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Mauritania has appealed for urgent international aid to combat swarms of locusts entering the country. Large numbers have been moving from their spring breeding areas in north-west Africa towards Mauritania, Senegal and Mali. They could be the worst swarms in 15 years, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation says. Mauritania says seven regions have been hit, and it has proposed a \$5m programme to treat the affected areas. Rural Development Minister Ahmedou Ould Ahmedou submitted a plan to treat some 3,000 square kilometres but said this could be a conservative estimate. The FAO issued its first warning of a coming locust plague back in February, when unusually high rates of breeding were detected south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria. Major insecticide spraying programmes were initiated, some funded by western donors, aiming to cut the plague off at source. Summer rains have started in the area, which means the insects will lay more eggs as they travel.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ISPS CODE

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ref *Gouta* (2462 gt, built 1980) that failed to carry out a new international protocol requiring all vessels to be equipped with anti-terror systems has been detained in Penglai City, a coastal city in east China's Shandong Province. The vessel was heading from Panama to Penglai, when the local maritime safety administration found it lacked international security certificates or temporary international security certificates. The vessel could only leave the port after obtaining the necessary security certificates, according to authorities with the local maritime safety administration. An international protocol took effect on July 1 this year to ensure anti-terror safety measures for international vessels and harbours. Under the protocol, over 60,000 international vessels and 20,000 international harbours will have to be equipped with anti-terror systems and related maritime safety administrations could detain or take other imperative measures on the vessels without anti-terror systems.

Gothenburg, Jul 21 — General cargo *Hannes* (2397 gt, built 1971), owned by Naxos Shipping and temporarily laid up in the port of Skarhamn, on the west coast of Sweden, has had her

certificates suspended by the Shipping Inspectors of the Shipping Board. *Hannes* is one of the first vessels in Sweden not having the new Security Certificate/ISPS and is now prohibited from departure of the port. The vessel has for some time been idle in port and is listed for sale. — Westax Marine Services AB.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Bird flu is suspected of spreading to an eighth province in Vietnam, but officials have insisted fresh outbreaks of the disease were under control. Veterinary officials in the southern coastal province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau said hundreds of chickens and ducks had died since July 6, particularly in and around the town of Vung Tau. Blood samples from the dead poultry were sent last week to the southern regional veterinary department in Ho Chi Minh City to test for the presence of the lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu. The results were yet to be released. If presence of the virus is confirmed, Ba Ria-Vung Tau would be the eighth province to be affected by bird flu after the government's highly criticised March 30 declaration that the country was free of the disease. The announcement, which came just 15 days after the disease claimed its 16th fatality, prompted charges from international disease control experts that Hanoi was acting prematurely and recklessly. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned it could take years to eliminate the virus from the environment. New outbreaks have also been reported in the southern Mekong Delta province of Tra Vinh, one of the seven provinces confirmed by the government to be facing a recurrence of the disease.

Jakarta, Jul 22 — Bird flu has re-emerged in Indonesia's East Java, killing nearly 2000 chickens, but the agriculture ministry said yesterday the deadly virus that ravaged Asian poultry flocks early this year was under control. "In June, we had new cases in Tulung Agung in East Java province killing 1760 chickens. However, there were no fresh cases from the other provinces in the country," said ministry spokesman Hari Priono. He did not say if the strain was the same one that killed 24 people in Asia earlier this year. Eight Thais and 16 Vietnamese died after they came in close contact with poultry infected with the H5N1 strain, which was first detected in Hong Kong in 1997. Priono said case in East Java and recent outbreaks in Thailand, China and Vietnam had prompted the government to distribute more than 300 million doses of vaccine across Indonesia to keep the virus from spreading. "The situation is under control through nine strategic methods," said Priono. Authorities say no cases of human infection have been found so far in Indonesia, but outbreaks this year have cost the poultry industry at least 7.7 trillion rupiah. — Reuters.

Bangkok, Jul 22 — The resurgence in Thailand of the deadly bird flu has reached the outskirts of Bangkok, a

senior Agriculture Ministry official said today. Suspected cases of the H5N1 virus were being investigated in two southern provinces not affected by the bird flu epidemic earlier this year, Yukol Limlaemthong, head of the ministry's Livestock Department, told reporters. Fifteen of Thailand's 76 provinces have been hit, including northeastern Nong Khai that borders Laos. "Bird flu is confirmed in three districts of Bangkok. They are Don Muang, Nong Chok and Min Buri," Yukol said, referring to areas on the outskirts of the capital. Thailand, the world's fourth-biggest chicken exporter in 2003, has culled 160,000 fowl since the new outbreak was confirmed on Jul 3, officials said. There have been no reports of anyone falling ill from bird flu in the latest outbreaks, but the government has put Thailand on high alert, ordering officials to rush anyone to hospital who shows symptoms resembling those of bird flu. — Reuters.

Fires & Explosions



CHEMICAL PLANT, WEWOKA AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated Jul 21, states: Oklahoma Highway 56 was shut down this afternoon one mile north of Wewoka while a fire raged at a chemical plant. Authorities said that the fire started at Cochran Chemical, which makes chemicals used in oilfield production. Witnesses said thick, black smoke could be seen rising from the plant.

COAL MINE, DONETSK REGION, UKRAINE

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 24 miners have been killed and 13 were missing in a gas explosion and fire that ravaged a coal mine in eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian emergencies ministry said. The bodies of 24 miners have been brought to the surface, a ministry spokesman said. Nine miners managed to escape the mine on their own, while 13 were still missing, out of the 46 men who were working 545 metres under the surface when the incident occurred, the spokesman said. The fire broke out at the Krasnolimanskaya mine, in the eastern Donetsk region, while a loud bang was heard almost simultaneously. The work of the rescuers was complicated by the presence of thick smoke inside the mine.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Ukraine suffered its worst coal mining disaster in two years on Monday (Jul 19) when a methane blast ripped through the Krasnolimanska mine in the eastern Donetsk region, killing at least 31 men. Viktor Yanukovich, prime minister and a former governor of the Donetsk region, flew to the scene yesterday, where rescue workers were still

searching for five men stranded underground. However, a fire that burned all night in the shaft left little hope of survivors. The latest accident raised the death toll in Ukraine's coal mines so far this year to over 100.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency workers labored to extinguish a fire deep in a Ukrainian mine today, two days after an explosion killed 31 and left five missing. Nearby, distraught relatives clustered at the mine's entrance. A massive methane and coal dust blast sparked the blaze Monday evening as 48 miners were changing shifts at a coal face 3,180 feet below the surface. Twelve escaped uninjured. Part of the blaze at the Krasnolimanskaya mine was brought under control after workers pumped in water and nitrogen, Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Klyuyev said. But rescuers have struggled for two days with the fire, smoke and high temperatures. Authorities declared three days of mourning for the 31 confirmed dead. A funeral was scheduled for tomorrow. The government said it would set aside about \$1.1 million in financial aid for families of the victims.

COAL MINE, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Poisonous gas and smog prevented rescue work in the Shuangfu Coal Mine in central China's Hunan Province, leaving little chance of survival for the three missing miners. Experts decided to seal the coal mine to extinguish the fire on Saturday (Jul 17). The decision was made on experts' discussion and the approval of the missing victims' families, according to the rescue headquarters. The fire occurred at around 0700 Wednesday in the coal mine in Xiangtan county as the result of a broken cable. Six miners had been killed, three were still missing and 15 were hospitalised including two in serious condition.

COAL MINE, TONGZI COUNTY, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas explosion at a coal mine killed three workers and left another 16 trapped or missing in Tongzi County, south-western Guizhou Province, on Wednesday (Jul 14). The trapped miners could survive, Zhang Shihe, vice director of the provincial work safety administration, said yesterday. More than 100 rescue workers were mobilised. A total of 19 workers were working in the Maolong Coal Mine when the mishap occurred at 1600 on Wednesday.

COAL MINE, YA'AN CITY, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Five people were killed and 15 others injured in a coal mine blast in southwest China's Sichuan Province today, according to local sources. The accident happened at 1000 hrs, today in Baiguowan Coal Mine of Yingjing County, Ya'an City. The accident may have been caused by

a combination of poor ventilation causing the accumulation of gases and misuse of electrical equipment, said the rescue team. An investigation is underway.

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION, MADRID, SPAIN

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Explosions and a major fire at an electrical substation this afternoon sent flames and acrid black smoke over Madrid, and then foul-smelling, inky soot fell back to earth. Firefighters sprayed water in powerful jets on the flames, while police evacuated nearby buildings and streets. No one was reported injured. An electricity outage swept through some downtown neighbourhoods, but within minutes power was restored to most except for the touristy area surrounding the blaze that includes museums, restaurants and Atocha train station. The cause was not immediately identified by authorities. But a worker who had been installing generators at the private electrical utility Union Fenosa's substation said they exploded when they were turned on. Police cordoned off nearby streets and evacuated buildings threatened by the dense smoke, hot flames and possibly the presence of a nearby gas station that might be at risk if the fire spread. Firefighters were still battling the blaze 90 minutes after it started, but the speed and density of the black clouds billowing from the building indicated the fire was still intense and not yet under control.

FOREST, RUSSIA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Eighty-two forest fires covering a total of 6,739 hectares were registered in the Urals federal district over the last 24 hours. People at the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry's information department noted that 32 forest fires over a 206.9-hectare area had been registered in the Sverdlovsk region. 175 fire-fighters, 28 units of special equipment and five aircraft are trying to put out this conflagration. Seventeen forest fires were registered over an area of 36.3 hectares in the Chelyabinsk region; local fire-fighting operations involve 103 people, as well as 40 units of equipment. Eight forest fires covering a 5.89-hectare area took place in the Kurgan region; 64 people and 26 special-equipment units are moving to extinguish the blaze. The Tyumen region, Western Siberia, registered 17 forest fires with a total area of 36.1 hectares; 109 people, 43 units of special equipment, as well as five planes, are involved in fire-fighting operations. The Khanty-Mansiisk autonomous area registered four large-scale fires with a total area of 6,450 hectares; 118 people, 7 units of special equipment and five planes are involved in fire extinguishing. The living vicinities are out of danger. The Yamal-Nenets autonomous area registered four forest fires over a four-hectare area in the past 24 hours. 26 fire-fighters, four units of equipment and aircraft have been pitted against the blaze.

LUMBER YARD, EVERETT, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 20, states: A “highly suspicious” fire early this morning destroyed three pieces of equipment and a trailer at a logging operation, police said. The fire was reported at about 0139 hrs on property owned by the city of Everett in the 3600 block of Eclipse Mill Road in the Riverside area. The fire destroyed equipment owned by Willis Enterprises of Montesano, Grays Harbor County, said Everett Police Sgt. Boyd Bryant. The company leases the property from the city. The equipment included a chipper-shredder, a large earth mover, a log loader and a trailer being used as an office, said Warren Burns, Everett assistant fire chief and fire marshal. Burns said the value of the destroyed equipment would be between \$700,000 and \$1 million if it was purchased new. Bryant described the fire as “highly suspicious,” but said there was no immediate cause. Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) were assisting with the investigation, partly because the agency’s laboratories are better able to identify whether the fire was deliberately set with some type of accelerant, said Bryant. Burns said the pattern of the flames showed the blaze seemed to start with one of the large pieces of equipment and moved to the other equipment, but was stopped before it spread to piles of logs and chipped wood surrounding the fire site.

PREMISES, COVINA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire at an apartment building early yesterday left more than 100 people without a home, officials said. The blaze at the Mountain View Venture complex was reported at 0405 hrs. More than 100 firefighters were dispatched, said Los Angeles County Fire Inspector Ed Osorio. Smoke and fire were pouring from the second floor of the three-story complex when firefighters arrived, Osorio said. The flames were knocked down about 0649 hrs after parts of the second and third floors collapsed. It took firefighters a while to extinguish the blaze at the 36-unit complex because of the evacuation and collapses. The cause of the fire was under investigation. There was no estimate of damage yesterday.

PREMISES, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters from throughout Salt Lake County struggled to prevent a huge six-alarm industrial fire from becoming explosively worse last night. The fire at the Smurfit-Stone Container Corp., 2357 S. 900 West, started about 1910 hrs in a storage facility behind the main building. The fire, which caused an estimated \$4 million in damage, continued to burn strongly into the night. The blaze was tearing through the plant’s stockpile of paper, as well as other manufacturing materials

including flammable chemicals, said Scott Freitag, Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman. There were no reported injuries, and the cause of the fire was not known late yesterday.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Federal officials have not ruled out ecoterrorism as the cause of a \$5.5 million suspicious fire at a paper products warehouse, given claims of responsibility by extremists for two earlier arson fires in Utah. However, there has been no claim of responsibility for this fire. South Salt Lake Fire Chief Steve Foote called Friday’s (Jul 16) six-alarm fire at Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. suspicious, but neither he nor Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokesman Tom Mangan were ready to connect it to other recent fires and acts of vandalism linked to two environmental extremist groups. A preliminary ATF damage estimate was put at \$4.5 million to products and another \$1 to machinery. But damage inside the building did not appear to be as bad as first thought, Vice President Timothy McKenna said. The ATF team, which includes fire engineers, chemists and explosives experts, began their investigation yesterday morning, when aerial photos of the fire scene were among the first tasks undertaken. Some large paper rolls were still burning yesterday, while others have ballooned to nearly 4,000 pounds after being saturated with water. Besides paper rolls, the fire burned stocks of paper bags for concrete, horse feed and other animal food. About two million gallons of water were used on the Friday night fire. Now, much of that water needs to be pumped out of the building before much work can be done inside. The fire started in the middle of a shift change. Federal investigators have started to interview about 120 employees and the first firefighters on the scene. The company also has turned over its surveillance tapes.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 20, states: The bag packaging plant damaged by a six-alarm blaze last Friday (Jul 16) has re-opened. Company officials say they opened the plant today and will return the plant to full operation as soon as possible. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated Jul 21, states: Investigators are now certain that last Friday’s (Jul 16) fire in Salt Lake City was intentionally set. Investigators, say flames, started in one place and, an accelerant was used to quickly spread them. They say, the burn pattern, the fire’s progression and, interviews with witnesses support their conclusion of arson.

RESTAURANT, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Jul 15 — Following received from LaSalle, Quebec, dated today: More than 100 firefighters battled a blaze that broke out at a Montreal restaurant yesterday. The fire caused extensive damage to the La Carreta restaurant, according to Alme Charette, an operations chief with the Montreal

fire department. The blaze started at around 1000 hrs and spread to the second and third floors of the building. Fire officials haven’t determined the cause.

SUBSTATION, MADRID, SPAIN

Madrid, Jul 16 — A huge fire at a Madrid power substation has triggered explosions and led authorities to shut down the centre of the city. Billowing smoke thick enough to block out the sun rose over the Paseo del Prado, Madrid’s main thoroughfare. Eleven people were treated for smoke inhalation, an official said. Police and firefighters cordoned off streets, and the clamour of sirens returned to the neighbourhood around the Atocha station where two of four commuter trains were attacked by suspected Islamic militants on March 11. The doors of the city’s showpiece Prado museum were closed to visitors as an acrid chemical smell permeated the area and several buildings were evacuated. Police said the cause of the fire was unknown. The blaze at the substation, which belongs to Spanish utility Union Fenosa, had been largely brought under control by mid-afternoon, some two hours after it began, said a spokesman for Madrid’s firefighters. However some 8,000 people remained without electricity, Esperanza Aguirre, head of the Madrid regional government, told state radio. “There are 11 people suffering from smoke inhalation,” she added. A brief power cut affected floor trade at the Spanish stock exchange, although there was no impact on electronic trade, which makes up the vast majority of deals. — Reuters.

WAREHOUSE, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters were back at a Milwaukee warehouse this morning five days after it caught fire. Flames were reported coming from the top of the building early this morning. Investigators have not released an official cause for the original fire at 32nd and Hampton that started Sunday (Jul 11). They are looking into the possibility of arson. Demolition of the building was put on hold earlier this week. It was rescheduled for today, but authorities said that there would be no demolition until tomorrow at the earliest. Milwaukee police remain at the scene.

WILDFIRES, CANADA

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Looming hot weather, paired with dry lightning strikes, is sparking new fears for firefighters battling hundreds of wildfires in British Columbia. The British Columbia Forest Service reports 297 fires burning in the province. Officials said dry lightning is predicted for southern British Columbia today and said possible cooler conditions tomorrow will not last long, before hot weather returns. The cost of fighting the fires is estimated at just over \$66 million, up from \$13 million at this time last year.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An out-of-control wildfire burned at least six luxury homes to the ground and came within a half mile of the governor's mansion, officials said. Four firefighters and a television reporter were injured as gusty winds pushed the fire to more than 2,000 acres and spread a plume of smoke over the state capital. Ten other homes, businesses and outbuildings were also destroyed yesterday, and about 550 more were threatened by the blaze, which stretched for about four miles along the city's western edge. "It's absolute devastation up there," Sheriff Ken Furlong said. Furlong said he counted six houses "burned and I mean burned down to their foundations" and another home that was damaged in the area. The homes had a combined value of millions of dollars. U.S. 395, Carson's main street, was temporarily closed, and firefighters had to pull away from homes in some areas because of the intensity of the fire, which was fanned by gusts up to 30 mph, said Scott Huntley, spokesman for the Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Centre. Other significant wildfires were burning in California and Alaska. In California, firefighters working in triple-digit heat slowly gained ground against wildfires that have burned more than 21,000 acres of brush and forest and caused hundreds of people to evacuate homes this week. One of the most difficult fires, well over 7,000 acres in Pine Canyon west of Lake Hughes in Angeles National Forest, was 46 percent contained. Another 80 homes were evacuated yesterday, a day after 500 were emptied Tuesday (Jul 13).

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An army of firefighters struggled yesterday to contain an explosive wildfire that destroyed at least a dozen luxury homes and threatened as many as 1,000 other houses and businesses on the edge of Nevada's capital. Five people have been hurt in the wind-whipped blaze, which quickly charred more than 9,000 acres of dry brush, grass and timber. The flames destroyed at least 12 homes and forced evacuations of hundreds of others, and Assistant Fire Chief Stacey Giomi estimated their value at "several millions of dollars." In California, meanwhile, a fast-moving fire threatened two rural communities in the Angeles National Forest, as firefighters elsewhere made big gains against blazes that have charred about 23,000 acres of brushland and forest this week. The fire in Pine Canyon, about 50 miles north of Los Angeles, grew to nearly 9,000 acres and burned at least one motor home and another structure, said US Forest Service information officer Ed Gililand. Containment was put at 47 percent. About 600 people have been asked to evacuate their homes in Lake Hughes and Elizabeth Lake, and more evacuations were likely, he said. In Alaska, fire crews continued to fight 75 separate blazes, seven of them 100,000 acres or larger. Among the largest was a fire that had spread to within 15

miles of Fairbanks and expanded to half the size of Rhode Island, blackening more than 379,000 acres.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An army of firefighters, helped by diminishing winds, has gained partial control over an explosive wildfire that burned 14 homes and forced evacuations of hundreds of others. Christie Kalkowski of the Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center says more than 1,100 firefighters battling the 7,200-acre blaze had it 30% contained. The wind-whipped fire, with flames reaching 100-foot tall, also has burned one business and 25 garages, barns and other outbuildings since it broke out before dawn Wednesday (Jul 14) on the western edge of Nevada's capital. Five people have been injured. The blaze destroyed exclusive homes in the canyon.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Firefighters kept an explosive wildfire from destroying more homes in Nevada's capital today but warned the flames were still so intense they were burning through retardant dropped by tankers. The 25-square-kilometre fire — revised from an earlier estimate of 37 square kilometres — has torched at least 14 homes as drought conditions, dense smoke, whipping winds and intense flames have challenged firefighters in the hilly terrain. In California, meanwhile, a wind-driven wildfire at the edge of the Angeles National Forest grew to more than 57 square kilometres today, forcing hundreds to flee mountain communities. Smoke drifted 100 kilometres south into the Los Angeles basin. Nevada fire crews have needed a one-kilometre-wide stretch of bare dirt to stop embers from spreading in the state capital, acting fire chief Stacey Giomi said. The fire was listed as 30% contained but officials said the figure means little because of the dry conditions. Five people have been injured and hundreds of homes have been saved, though they remain threatened. The low number of injuries and structure losses was "a miracle," Giomi said. The toll of homes claimed by the wildfire could be as high as 16, Giomi said. One business was destroyed, along with 25 outbuildings since the blaze broke out before dawn Wednesday (Jul 14) on the western edge of Carson City. Dozens of cars, trucks, RVs and other vehicles also burned. Investigators believe the fire may have been started by teenagers who were in a canyon Tuesday. Several juveniles have been interviewed, Carson City Sheriff Kenny Furlong said. The blaze destroyed exclusive homes in the canyon. The wildfire in California's Angeles National Forest had destroyed three homes, five outbuildings and a motorhome since it began Monday, said Anthony Polanco, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The fire was about 36% contained but spreading as winds gusted up to 40 kilometres an hour at the edge of the Mojave Desert. It was one of dozens of small and large wildfires in California. Karen Terrill of the California

Department of Forestry said her department had found 200 fires in the last 48 hours.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: Firecrews fighting the 782,000-acre Taylor Complex fires, in Alaska, had a busy day Saturday (Jul 16) after some blazes started when a temperature inversion lifted. The Porcupine fire, north-east of Tok, made an active run along its northern flank, after the inversion dissipated late Friday afternoon (Jul 15). Another flare-up occurred along the southern edge near the Taylor Highway. There are nine columns of smoke from Tok. The clearing fanned the six-fire complex, but allowed water drops from helicopters that had been grounded because of dense smoke trapped under the inversion. Crews also built fire lines west of the Taylor Highway and north of the Tanana River to ward off the 198,000-acre Porcupine fire from a cabin and other structures near the Tetlin junction, about three miles to the south. The Taylor Highway remained open Saturday, but motorists were urged to limit travel between midnight and 1000 hrs, when fires tend to calm under lower temperatures and higher humidity. Also on Saturday, fire officials there announced two management teams were taking command of three fires each to create two separate entities, the Taylor and Chicken complexes. Altogether, 102 fires were burning in Alaska Saturday, including 20 new fires reported Friday. Fifteen of the new fires were sparked by lightning, according to Bruce Palmer of the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. North-east of Fairbanks, an inversion that had hovered over the 160,000-acre Central Complex lifted late Saturday morning, fanning all seven fires. Aerial crews flew over the complex to assess the degree of activity. With thunderclouds forming, ground crews focused on protecting homes potentially threatened by a fire about three miles south-west of Circle and eight miles north of Central. To the north, the 546,000-acre Solstice Complex fires were quiet even though an inversion lifted and brought light winds, officials said. A layer of haze remained, but it was clear enough to allow helicopters to shuttle firefighters around. A boat also delivered supplies to crews in a remote part of the Pingo fire near the Chandalar River. Crews focused much of their energy on reinforcing a fire line closer to Venetie, about 3 1/2 miles from the Pingo fire. The inversion had been expected to last several days, so when it lifted, fire managers pulled crews from a spot fire on the west side of the Christian River as a precaution against predicted winds. The weather around the 415,000-acre Boundary Fire, north-east of Fairbanks, was clear and sunny and warm, good burning conditions for black spruce. A burnout operation to strengthen a fire line at the south-western end sent up a 20,000-foot plume of smoke that was visible from Fairbanks. The fire is also actively burning in the northern end.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A big wildfire fanned by shifting winds has prompted an evacuation of hundreds of people in northern Los Angeles County, US officials say. More than 600 homes near Santa Clarita were at risk as the fire grew to more than 4,200 acres, the county's fire department said. Some 1,000 firefighters tried to contain the blaze about 20 miles north-west of Los Angeles. The blazes left more than 40,000 acres charred across the state. Shifting winds forced officials to re-order the evacuation in Placerity and Sand Canyon areas, a day after residents there had been allowed to return to their homes. An evacuation centre was set up in Santa Clarita for hundreds of families forced to leave their homes, although there were no reports of casualties. The cause of the fire was not immediately known, but authorities launched an investigation into a possible arson attack.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Winds shifted as expected in northern Los Angeles County this afternoon, giving fresh life to stubborn wildfires. The Foothill Fire increased in intensity as mid-afternoon temperatures soared, with flames jumping fire lines protecting a large subdivision in Santa Clarita. That forced a new round of evacuations in the area. The fire had been considered nearly 40 percent contained at less than 6,000 acres this morning, but the surge in activity later in the day increased the number of homes evacuated to approximately 1,600. No homes were reported lost by late afternoon, although fire crews were scrambling to set up protection around homes less than a mile from the flames.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire in northern Los Angeles County prompted the evacuation of 175 homes as it spread rapidly through desert brush toward stands of dead trees. The fire burned out of control across more than 5,000 acres after erupting yesterday, even as California firefighters gained the upper hand on two other large wildfires. The fire in northern Los Angeles County destroyed a mobile home, an abandoned house and a bridge, said county fire Inspector Mike McCormick. No injuries were reported. Winds gusting up to 25 mph pushed flames past ranch homes in Acton but the blaze moved overnight toward houses in the Little Rock, Bell Springs and Juniper Hills areas, McCormick said. Three Angeles National Forest roads were closed indefinitely, including a popular commuter route from the growing Antelope Valley to Los Angeles. Temperatures reaching the high 90s and brush left dry after years of drought helped fuel a series of southern California fires in the past week. Threatened communities have so far avoided the large-scale loss of homes that occurred during wildfires last fall, but officials warned that the fire season is young. A 6,000-acre fire near Santa Clarita was 81% contained and a 17,418-acre fire near Lake Hughes was 95% contained after it destroyed three homes and a dozen outbuildings. All

residents evacuated from those areas were allowed to return home. Firefighters contained a blaze in Riverside County and made progress against a 1,600-acre fire in central California's Stanislaus County. In Yosemite National Park, a lightning-sparked wildfire spread across more than 4,219 acres and was being allowed to grow on one front. In Alaska, firefighters were battling a 484,000-acre fire on the outskirts of Fairbanks. Heavy smoke continued to hamper efforts to use airplanes to douse the flames, and those conditions were not expected to change this week. The blaze was considered 20% contained. Wildfires already have burned 3.6 million acres in Alaska, which has been having one of its worst seasons in years.

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of residents fled their homes north of Los Angeles as a vicious new wildfire that has ravaged 4000ha of land bore down on them, officials said. The blaze, fanned by gusts of wind and soaring summer temperatures in the US West, burned a historic bridge over a canyon and is threatening about 100 homes, according to officials battling the so-called "Crown" fire. "It's very difficult because of the heat," Anthony Penn of the Los Angeles County Fire Department said. "The wind is averaging 10 miles per hour, and the vegetation is explosively dry." US Forest Service spokeswoman Jody Noiron said officials were facing an unprecedented challenge as three separate blazes burn in the area three months ahead of the usual peak of annual fire season. "What we're experiencing is pretty much unprecedented," she said of the first storms that have collectively charred 12,800ha of vegetation and cost more than \$US25 million to fight. About 2400 firefighters backed by 186 fire engines, 21 water-dropping helicopters and 30 bulldozers — used to clear firebreaks in the face of the advancing flames — were battling the Crown fire. The destruction of the bridge forced firefighters to drive long distances to reach the line of towering flames churning eastward and burning out of control. The fire, which erupted on Tuesday (Jul 20) as firefighters battled a string of blazes across the region, had already run up about \$US5 million worth of damage and firefighting bills, Penn said. Burning near Acton, the blaze has damaged a mobile home and an abandoned house and knocked out power lines as the flames leapt up hillsides left tinder dry by years of drought and intense heat.



AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO DETROIT, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: A Northwest

Airlines DC-9 bound for Nashville turned around about 20 minutes into its flight yesterday after smoke and fumes were detected in the cabin. Flight 1735 from Detroit Metropolitan Airport turned around about 1550 hrs, landed safely and taxied on its own to the gate in Detroit, said Northwest spokesman Thomas Becher. No flames were spotted and Becher was not aware of any injuries. The plane was carrying 106 passengers. Becher said the airline was investigating the cause and checking out the plane yesterday night, but it was early to say what caused the smoke.

CRASH, DARBHANGA, BIHAR STATE, INDIA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A military helicopter on a mission to rescue people stranded in a flooded eastern Indian town crashed yesterday but there were no casualties, an air force official said. The helicopter was trying to reach stranded students of a medical college in the flood-hit town of Darbhanga in Bihar state and crashed at around 1100 hrs when its tail rotors struck the building, air force spokesman Vijender Siwach said. The transport helicopter had already moved to safety 17 female students and had returned to ferry 23 others when the accident occurred. The helicopter crashed with 15 girls on board, other officials said, adding that the students were rescued unhurt and returned to the building.

CRASH, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Authorities today released the name of a pilot killed when his single-engine plane crashed at a private airport in Durham. The victim was Eddie Walston, 55, of Elm City, said Lt. C.R. Vaughan of the Durham County Sheriff's Office. Walston was flying solo from an airport in Wilson, said Randy Smith, co-owner of Lake Ridge Aero Park. He was joining other pilots who were going to a weekly cookout for aviators and residents at the airport. A resident in a nearby subdivision called for help after seeing the Pitts S1-C series aerobatic plane go down at the airport, located off Interstate 85 near the Granville County line, about 1100 hrs, yesterday. A witness reported seeing the plane attempt a landing before circling the air strip and making another try, authorities said. The plane appeared to land nose-first just short of the landing strip. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

CRASH, EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A helicopter slammed into a house in El Dorado County this afternoon and burst into flames, killing one person. Fire crews in El Dorado County raced to the crash that happened around 1600 hrs near Cameron Park. The house is located alongside an airstrip and golf course in the Sierra Nevada foothill community.

It was not immediately clear if the person who was killed was in the helicopter or the house, said El Dorado County Sheriff's Lt. Kevin House. The house was evacuated, and there were no immediate reports of injuries there, said Teri Mizuhara, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

CRASH, MAGARIA, NIGER

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Niger's prime minister, Hama Amadou was unhurt after a helicopter crash yesterday in the east of the country, a source close to him said. Amadou was on a campaign tour for Jul 24 municipal elections when the aircraft he was travelling in crashed into a tree following a technical problem, at Magaria, about 100 kilometres south of Zinder. Other passengers were also unhurt, according to the source.

CRASH, MEDLOW BATH, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Three men have been taken to Katoomba hospital in Sydney's Blue Mountains after their aircraft flipped over at a local airstrip while trying to land. The light aircraft was flying into Medlow Bath from Canberra this morning. The ambulance service says the private aircraft got into trouble when it was hit by a strong gust of wind and flipped over. The three men on board are in hospital with light injuries.

CRASH, OULTON PARK, CHESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter has crash landed at a busy car racing track in Cheshire. It came down at Oulton Park shortly after 1330, BST, watched by thousands of spectators. The 52-year-old pilot, from Chester, suffered minor injuries. A spokesman for Cheshire Police said: "The pilot was travelling from Hawarden airport in north Wales towards Knutsford in Cheshire." "He was forced to make an emergency landing at Oulton Park racing circuit. The pilot was said to have noticed smoke in the cockpit and made an emergency call to Manchester airport before landing. "Upon landing he received minor injuries and the helicopter was seriously damaged," added the spokesman. The racetrack was staging the Formula 3 GT Championships. A spokesman for Mersey Regional Ambulance Service said: "We were called to reports that a helicopter had crash-landed adjacent to the racetrack. "Three vehicles were dispatched to the scene but were stood down after Oulton Park's own medical team dealt with the incident. "We understand no-one has suffered any serious injuries but the pilot is understandably shaken." It is not yet known what caused the emergency landing.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation has been launched into what caused a helicopter to crash land near Oulton

Park motor racing circuit in Cheshire. A 52-year-old businessman from Chester, who was piloting the Enstrom 280 FX Shark three-seater civilian helicopter, managed to escape with minor injuries when he brought his aircraft down yesterday afternoon.

CRASH, RAMENSKOE DISTRICT, RUSSIA

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: According to preliminary reports, three people have been killed in a light aircraft crash in the Ramenskoe district of the Moscow region, the information department of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said today. The aircraft crashed at about 1240, Moscow time, in the vicinity of the Myachikovo airfield. A special commission is working at the scene of the tragedy.

CRASH, WODONGA AREA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A man has died in a helicopter crash, south of Wodonga on the Victoria-New South Wales border. Emergency crews were called to the accident at McDonald's Hill just after 1500, AEST. It is believed the helicopter was being used for agricultural purposes. Police are yet to confirm the number of people on board and whether the dead man was the pilot.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Former Geelong Grammar student was killed on Monday (Jul 19) when his helicopter hit powerlines and crashed near Wodonga. Guy Crossing, the sole occupant of the Bell 47 Soloy helicopter, was crop-dusting near the NSW border, 10 km west of Wodonga, when the accident occurred about 1530 hrs. Police, Air Safety, Worksafe and TXU staff were yesterday examining the site which was strewn with debris including the shattered fibreglass canopy and hundreds of pieces of paper. The mangled, barely recognisable chopper yesterday lay in a steep gully in the Black Range where it landed. The Coroner's Office is investigating the death.

CRASH, WORTH COUNTY, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: An engaged couple and the woman's two oldest grandchildren, all from Indiana, were killed yesterday when a small plane "disintegrated" over southwest Georgia. Pieces of the plane, a single-engine, six-passenger Beechcraft Bonanza, crashed into a cotton field near the Worth/Dougherty county line about 1630 hrs, Worth County Sheriff Freddie Tompkins said. The plane was heading back from Florida and was scheduled to land at a Vincennes-area airport. The wreckage was scattered for a mile, indicating that the accident might have happened at high altitude, said Tompkins. He added that there was a severe thunderstorm at the time of the crash. Before the crash, the pilot radioed an airport in Jacksonville, Fla., and told controllers

he was having trouble, Tompkins said. That was the last word officials had from the plane. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

CRASH, YENISEISK DISTRICT, RUSSIA

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Two people died in a crash of a Kornet floatplane in the Yeniseisk district in the north of the Krasnoyarsk region yesterday, the Siberian regional centre of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry told Itar-Tass. According to the centre's duty officer, according to preliminary information, the commander of the plane and his son were on board. According to data provided by rescuers who flew out to the accident scene on board a Mi-8 helicopter to the Alexandrovsky Shlyuz populated locality, the wreckage of the floatplane and the dead passenger were found 10 km down the Kas river, Yenisei tributary. The pilot of the aircraft has not been found. The two-seat hydroplane was accompanying a group of tourists from Moscow who were rafting in boats down the Kas river. Communication with the tourists was maintained by a satellite phone. The Yenisei transport Prosecutor's Office is investigating the circumstances of the tragedy.

EMERGENCY LANDING, EUGENE, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Alaska Airlines made an emergency landing today in Eugene after losing power to one of its engine. Officials say no one was injured and the aircraft landed safely. The aircraft departed from San Jose, California about 0900 hrs and was flying to Portland. Flight 313 had 94 passengers aboard and five crewmembers. Lou Cancelmi, a spokesman for Alaska Airlines, says a low oil pressure light came on and the pilot made the decision to land the aircraft in Eugene. Alaska Air says there was a problem with one of the engines and mechanics were brought in to fix it.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A SkyWest Airlines flight made an emergency landing at Fairchild Air Force Base minutes after takeoff today from Spokane International Airport, an airline spokeswoman said. Flight 3920, departing for Salt Lake City at 0940 hrs, had unspecified mechanical problems, SkyWest spokeswoman Sabrena Suite said. The pilot landed at the Air Force strip because construction work at the Spokane Airport has shortened its main runway by 3,000 feet. The pilot needed extra runway space to ensure a safe landing, Suite said. The 50 passengers were taken by Air Force buses back to the Spokane Airport after the CRJ200 Canadair landed safely. Passengers were put on other flights, she said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
FIUMICINO AIRPORT, ROME, ITALY**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rome's international Fiumicino airport closed two of its three runways today after an aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing when its engine caught fire. The pilot of the Blue Panorama Airlines flight, heading from Rome to Havana, Cuba, turned back shortly after takeoff, airport officials said. None of the 273 passengers aboard was hurt, although some suffered panic attacks and received medical attention after they were evacuated from the aircraft. "The entire emergency landing operation was completely under control," Blue Panorama Airlines said. Authorities closed the two runways for safety reasons while they made sure the fire was out.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
HEATHROW AIRPORT, LONDON,
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft carrying around 200 passengers made an emergency landing at Heathrow today after the pilot detected a possible fault. The Lufthansa Airbus 300 was on its way to London from Munich when the problem emerged. A helicopter from Solent Coastguard was called in to escort the aircraft to Heathrow, and emergency services were put on standby. A spokesman for Heathrow Airport said the Lufthansa flight 4578 landed safely on the southern runway just after 1600 hrs.

**FLIGHTS REROUTED BACK TO
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Four South African Airways (SAA) flights bound for Cape Town could not land due to bad weather yesterday night, SAA spokesperson Onkgopotse Tabane said. He said flight SA 375, 367, 369 from Johannesburg to Cape Town, and SA 627 from Durban to Cape Town were re-routed back to Johannesburg. "A severe weather warning was received by the airline on approaching the Mother city," he said. According to the South African weather service, the city was fogged out with no indication of clearing anytime overnight. A decision based on the safety of passengers was taken to re-route the aircraft back to Johannesburg, said Tabane. "All passengers were shuttled to nearby hotels for overnight accommodation and given an option to depart first thing this morning with a specially arranged flight." This would combine passengers from all delayed aircraft. Tabane said this aircraft will be SA 3301 departing Johannesburg at 0700. "The airline has also ensured that there will be minimum knock on effect on flights out of Cape Town by combining a number of early morning flights out of Cape Town", he added. He said all passengers on flight SA 302 for 0600 will be transferred to SA 304 for 0630. Passengers on flight SA 306 for 0700 will be transferred to SA 308 for 0730. Flight SA 314, which

was expected to depart at 0800 today will be delayed by two hours, Tabane said.

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

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Six aircraft have conducted 15 sorties for the missing Hornbill Skyways helicopter in the search area between Bario and Ba Kelalan in Sarawak. However, there are still no positive results, said the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre in a statement late this evening. The weather at Bario, Ba Kelalan and Lawas was clouded in the morning but improved in the afternoon which helped the rescue teams in their search to find the aircraft, which went missing since last Monday (Jul 12). It said the US Air Force Orion P3 arrived over the search area at 1635 hrs to continue advanced electronic search and departed at 1830 hrs. "The aerial search for the day was suspended due to failing light and night fall, and is expected to commence at first light tomorrow, weather permitting," it said. It also said that due to the intensifying ground search, presently comprising 1,200 people from the armed forces, other uniformed and government agencies and the public, and the prolonged search, the need for logistics support had also increased tremendously. Thirty-three flights were conducted between Bario and Miri, mainly to ferry supplies and equipment to support search activities as well as ferry personnel, it said. Meanwhile in MIRI, Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan said the Search and Rescue team had identified four likely sites between Bario and Ba Kelalan where the helicopter might have landed. A Nuri helicopter had been dispatched to the four likely areas, located in the dense tropical jungle of Bario and Ba Kelalan to conduct a detail inspection, he said.

**INCIDENT AT BELFAST AIRPORT,
NORTHERN IRELAND**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A plane collided with a baggage truck today as it prepared to take-off from Belfast International Airport. None of the 136 passengers on board the 0930 hrs easyJet flight to Amsterdam was injured. An airport spokeswoman said: "The plane was stationary and it seems the outer casing was damaged in the bump. They were just putting on the last pieces of luggage." As engineers assessed damage to the 737 plane, the budget airline brought in a replacement aircraft. The flight is now scheduled to depart at 1300 hrs. An easyJet spokesman described it as an "unfortunate accident".

**INCIDENT AT FORT LAUDERDALE
EXECUTIVE AIRPORT, FLORIDA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: No one was injured when a Lear jet went off a runway in Fort Lauderdale, just before noon today. The landing gear of the

aircraft was left behind when the Lear jet, owned by 55-112 — an aircraft holding company — went off the end of the runway at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The aircraft was being moved from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport back to the executive airport. The aircraft had been relocated because the executive airport was closed over the weekend. No one was injured in the incident.

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated Jul 20, states: A Lear jet skidded off a runway at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport yesterday, crashing into a dirt embankment and forcing the airport to close for over an hour. Airport officials say two people were on the jet when it crashed around noon on the north-west side of the airport. Neither person on board was injured. Airport firefighters doused the jet with foam to prevent a fire from sparking. The airport, which has two runways, was closed while crews cleaned the mess. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the incident. Some believe weather may have been a factor since storms were moving through the area at the time of the crash.

**INCIDENT AT MEXICO CITY
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
MEXICO**

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated Jul 21, states: An outbound flight slid off the runway before take-off at Mexico City's international airport late today, airport authorities said. The plane was damaged and at least one woman suffered a broken arm. The Aero California flight was bound for Durango in northwestern Mexico, airport spokesman Jose Luis Uribe said. The mishap occurred during heavy rains, but it wasn't clear whether it was caused by water or bad visibility. All take-offs and landings were suspended for more than an hour as airport officials waited for the weather to improve.

**INCIDENT AT NARITA AIRPORT,
JAPAN**

London, Jul 16 — An All Nippon Airways passenger aircraft apparently entered the wrong taxiway for departure from Narita airport yesterday evening and ended up face to face with a JALways aircraft that had just landed, airport officials said today. The departure of ANA flight 2179, bound for Osaka, was delayed an hour as it had to be towed from Taxiway A after coming to a standstill facing JALways flight 948, which arrived from Saipan, around 1800, the officials said. Both aircraft were Boeing 747s and the taxiway was too narrow for them to pass each other.

N1078C

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: The Coast Guard is searching for a commercial helicopter pilot whose chopper went down in the Gulf of Mexico today. The pilot was flying a Bell 206 L-1 helicopter when he made a mayday call about 0930 as he returned from an oil rig about 115 miles

south of Cameron, off the south-west Louisiana coast, according to the Coast Guard. He works for Broussard-based Rotorcraft Leasing. A Coast Guard helicopter crew took off from Houston to search. The crew found a debris field of helicopter wreckage at about noon. A crew aboard a vessel based at Sabine, Texas, is also searching for the pilot. Four helicopters from Petroleum Helicopters Inc. and an offshore supply vessel are assisting.

London, Jul 21 — Bell 206-L1, N1078C, operated by Rotorcraft Leasing Co. LLC, was returning to Cameron Base when may day heard over 123.05 by another aircraft at 1430, Jul 18. One person assumed fatal when wreckage of recovered in Gulf of Mexico.

N1525M

London, Jul 21 — Beech B36TC, N1525M, operated by Equipco Inc., was in communications with ZJX at 10,000 feet and advised of weather. Pilot stated he had a stormscope and moments later radar and communications were lost near Sylvester, Georgia, at 2109, Jul 18. Four fatalities are reported. Other circumstances are unknown. The aircraft was destroyed.

N27VS

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Two people were hurt when a small plane crashed into Lake Lewisville yesterday afternoon. The two occupants of the single-engine aircraft were taken by helicopter to Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration were notified. The Denton County Sheriff's Department was also investigating.

London, Jul 21 — Searey, N27VS, attempted to land on the water when it stalled and crashed at Pilot Point, Texas, at 1940, Jul 17. Aircraft was destroyed. Two persons on board, minor injuries to the passenger are reported.

N4588C

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft carrying a family on a sightseeing trip crashed north of Anchorage, killing all four people aboard. The single-engine Cessna 170 crashed Friday (Jul 16) night near the Parks Highway north of Willow. The aircraft had been returning to Anchorage, about 50 miles south-east of the crash site, after a stop in Talkeetna, about 40 miles north, according to Alaska State Troopers. Steven Linkhart, a Matanuska-Susitna Borough fire chief who responded to the crash, said the plane was mangled, with the tail broken off and one of the wings and the passenger cabin crushed. "It was a very hard impact". The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

London, Jul 21 — Cessna 170B, N4588C, was reported destroyed at mile marker 84 Parks Highway, near Atkasuk Edward Burnell Sr. Memorial Airport, Atkasuk, Alaska, at 0546, Jul 17. Four fatalities and aircraft reported destroyed. Other circumstances are unknown.

N48675

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: The pilot of a crop-duster plane that crashed early yesterday near the Interstate 80 overpass at York is a South Dakota contractor in the state for the summer, an employee of a nearby airfield said. Theresa Bair of Ag Flight, where the plane took off, said pilot Mike Bollweg of Harrold is contracting to spray fields for her company this summer. The pilot had plenty of fuel and the plane was filled with chemical on the way to spray a nearby field when it lost power, York County Sheriff's Lt. Paul Vrbka said. The crash was reported at about 0900 hrs. The pilot was taken to a Lincoln hospital in serious but stable condition, Vrbka said. Witnesses said the plane crashed into an embankment near the overpass shortly after taking off. Crews were still at the scene at 1400 hrs removing the wreckage from the overpass. The Federal Aviation Administration registry listed the plane's owner as Custom Air Inc. of Harrold, S.D. The FAA is investigating the crash, but "details are sketchy at this point," said spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory.

London, Jul 21 — Grumann G-164, N48675, operated by Custom Air Inc., lost power shortly after take-off and crash landed at York, Nebraska, at 1455, Jul 16. The aircraft was destroyed and minor injuries to the pilot are reported.

N7076Z

London, Jul 21 — Piper PA-25-235, N7076Z, approved for agriculture and pest control, was reported coming over hill and having trouble at Norton, Kansas, at 2340, Jul 16. Left wing hit a telephone pole and then aircraft hit ground, travelling approximately 50 yards. Aircraft is reported destroyed and the pilot seriously injured.

N7710M

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft crashed in heavy fog, killing the head of a packaging company and four other people. The single-engine Piper had left Terre Haute, Ind., yesterday on a flight to Wheeling. Air traffic controllers in Pittsburgh contacted authorities after losing the plane on radar in heavy fog. The wreckage was found today near the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport. All five people aboard were killed, including Gary Egbers, the founder and president of Commercial Packaging Inc. of Normal, Ill. Two other victims also worked for the company. The cause of the crash was under investigation.

London, Jul 21 — Piper PA-32R-301T, N7710M, operated by Commercial Bag Co., crashed in a vacant field eight miles south-west of Wheeling Ohio County Airport, West Virginia, at 0310, Jul 19. Local authorities reported five fatalities and substantial aircraft damage.

N807Q

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: No survivors were found in the wreckage of a twin-engined

aircraft that apparently crashed in the mountains of Central California, authorities said yesterday night. Rescuers from the California Civil Air Patrol discovered the wreckage of the aircraft in high, mountainous terrain yesterday, but did not find anyone alive, said Lt. Tiffany Kolosick. The aircraft, which was believed to have been carrying the pilot and two passengers, took off from Visalia Airport Saturday morning (Jul 17) and disappeared after making a brief stop in Bishop. Patrol officials declined to give the exact location where the aircraft was found to keep air traffic to a minimum. Patrol officials didn't know what route the pilot planned to take after leaving Bishop, but believed the aircraft was bound for either Sacramento or Paso Robles. The identities of the pilot and passengers have not been released, although one of the passengers was known to be the pilot's mother.

London, Jul 21 — Baron BE58, N807Q, operated by Darrell Turnell Co., departed Bishop, California, enroute to Visalia, California, and became the subject of an alnot at 0830, Jul 17. The wreckage was located 20 miles west of Bishop, at 12,000 ft level on a steep glacier. Three occupants were fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

N9731V

London, Jul 21 — Cessna 172M, N9731V, was reported destroyed at Brookville, Ohio, at 2258, Jul 18. Two persons suffered fatal injuries and three are in serious condition. The aircraft was destroyed. Other circumstances are unknown.

PK-758

Karachi, Jul 21 — Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said today one of its aircraft, Boeing 747-300, PK-758, grounded at Heathrow, United Kingdom, is likely to return tomorrow after fully being repaired by engineers. A spokesman of Pakistan state owned airline said the aircraft was grounded last Saturday (Jul 17) when it developed some technical problem during its scheduled flight to Lahore (Pakistan). Passengers of PK-758 returned home by a special relief aircraft yesterday, having been stranded in London. A team of PIA engineers have arrived and started repair work.— Lloyd's List Correspondent

SUSPENSION OF PERUVIAN AIRLINE

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Peru's largest airline has transferred ownership to its employees in an attempt to resume grounded flights, the government says. Aero Continente stopped operating more than a week ago, after it was placed on a US blacklist of companies with suspected links to drug traffickers. The blacklisting has meant the company cannot get insurance. The reported transfer of ownership is aimed at removing any suspicion of a connection with drug traffickers. Transport Minister Jose Ortiz told a congressional commission today that

the airline would resume operations under the name Nuevo Continente (New Continent). "I have been officially informed that the company has transferred 100% of its capital to the company's 1,500 managers, employees, flight crews and workers," Mr Ortiz said. He added that the transfer would allow for the company to get insurance "without further difficulties". There was no immediate comment from the airline itself. 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. Airline founder Fernando Zevallos is also on a US blacklist Under US legislation, people placed on the US list of drug traffickers and their businesses are denied access to the American financial system. As a result the world's largest airline insurer, Global Aerospace, cancelled its contract with Aero Continente. Passengers were left stranded across the country when the carrier, which usually handles 60% of Peru's domestic traffic, stopped operating on Jul 12.

VH-CLM

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A Piper Cherokee Six single-propped aircraft, VH-CLM, stolen from a southern Queensland airfield has been found crash landed on a nearby property with the pilot alive, but injured. A 32-year-old man was found near the aircraft with a broken leg. Ben Mitchell, a spokesman for search co-ordinators the Australian Search and Rescue Service (AusSAR), said the aircraft crashed about 2.5km south-west of the St George aerodrome shortly after taking off. He said the aircraft was destroyed. Mr Mitchell said the man had been taken to St George Hospital for treatment. He said earlier the aircraft had been stolen about 0130, yesterday but was not reported missing until 2100 hrs.

Product Recalls



BREAKFAST CEREAL, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of packets of breakfast cereal were recalled today after traces of wire were found in them. Bosses at Kellogg Australia were desperate for packets of Coco Pops and Rice Bubbles to be returned as a precautionary measure. Although the pieces of wire are small they are potentially fatal to small children. The recall notice applies to both individual packs bought in supermarkets and food service catering packs. Kellogg company spokesman John Collignon said the problem was caused by a manufacturing glitch in the company's Botany plant. He explained: "During investigation of a serious consumer complaint, it was found that an isolated incident occurred during production of the cereal which

resulted in small pieces of thin wire mixing with the product. We've had several complaints, and although we believe there's only a few, affected packets, out there, we don't exactly know where they are, so we're recalling all of the products in production. Given that it's thin wire that's mixed with the product, the safety of our customers is our over-riding concern." Mr Collignon urged customers not to panic, but to ring the company's hotline if they had concerns about their products. A statement released by Kellogg last night said the problem leading to the recall would be rectified. It read: "As a result of this incident, Kellogg is fully reviewing manufacturing and operating procedures and will take whatever action is necessary to ensure that this does not happen again. Kellogg apologises to all our consumers and thanks those who alerted the company to the incident. We ask anyone with family and friends who may have purchased these products to contact them in case they may not be aware of this recall." Last night, Lydia Buchtmann from Food Standards Australia New Zealand confirmed the organisation would be co-ordinating a national recall of the products. "We have an excellent national recall protocol, so customers can be assured that the products will be off the shelves very quickly," she said. "Certainly within 24 hours, most of the affected products will be out of harm's way." Consumers who have bought any of the recalled packs are asked to return them to the store of purchase or call the Kellogg Customer Contact Centre. The breakfast packets at risk: They have Best Before dates of APR 05 28, APR 05 29, and APR 05 30 on the top of boxes for the following pack sizes: 450g Kellogg's Coco Pops, 785g Kellogg's Coco Pops, 1.065kg Kellogg's Coco Pops, and the 1.26kg Kellogg's Coco Pops. 300g Kellogg's Rice Bubbles, 530g Kellogg's Rice Bubbles and the 850g Kellogg's Rice Bubbles. Service Catering Packs with the Best Before dates 28 01 05, 29 01 05 and 30 01 05 are also being recalled.

DUMBBELLS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Texas company is recalling about 1.2 million Reebok and NordicTrack dumbbells because the weights can fall off the handles. Jumpking Inc. of Mesquite, Texas, has received nine reports of weights slipping off handles. Five reports involved injuries, including bruising, a broken nose and a broken toe, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Tuesday. Gart Sports, Sears, Target and other retail stores sold the chrome dumbbells nationwide from June 2000 to May 14, 2004, for between \$4 and \$45. Ranging from 2 to 50 pounds, the recalled dumbbells have the Reebok or NordicTrack trademarks printed on them.

FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Ford Motor Co. has recalled nearly 900,000 vehicles in 22

states, including Missouri and Illinois, because of a defective spring. The recall impacts model year 1999, 2000 and 2001 Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable sedans. The cars, sold in cold-weather states, have defective springs that could break when used in high-corrosion areas, such as where salt is used on roads, and puncture a tyre. Ford dealers have been asked to install protective spring shields. The company recently recalled 25,000 Taurus, Sable and Thunderbird 2004 model years for problems with the front seats. Ford said in a statement released to the Business Journal that this is a safety recall program. "At Ford Motor Co. the safety and satisfaction of customers are our top priority. We are voluntary and proactively taking these actions to protect the quality and integrity of these products." Ford said it has notified the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, and that no injuries have been reported from the defects.

FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD SUBARU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jul 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., the maker of Subaru cars, said today it is recalling 67,806 vehicles in its Legacy and Impreza models for free replacement of defective control units for driver-seat air bags. The vehicles to be recalled were manufactured between February 1997 and November 1998, the company said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

HEART PRODUCTS, WORLDWIDE

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: US manufacturing company Boston Scientific is recalling more than 90,000 items of a medical product used in heart surgery procedures. The company says it is undertaking a worldwide recall of the devices, known as stents, after reports that three deaths and 43 serious injuries have been associated with their use in the US. Stents are small expandable tubes that are inserted into diseased arteries to hold them open. Boston Scientific is a world leader in the manufacture of life saving stents. Company President Jim Tobin said patient safety continued to be its highest priority and it regretted the disruption the recall would cause to doctors and their patients. Boston Scientific said that due to the recall, it now expected to record about \$45m in reversals of sales and a write-down charge of about \$50m

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Jul 21 — Vessels are still running late to Australia from the US west coast following continued delays of up to two days in getting labour at terminals in Los Angeles and Long Beach. C.c Maersk Auckland left Los Angeles yesterday, Australian time, now

four days behind schedule. The c.c. *Direct Tui* was one day late on berthing yesterday, Australian time, though this vessel does not call in New Zealand. C.c. *Direct Condor* sailed a week ago running two days late. There have been delays at Los Angeles, the only US port served by the US vessel sharing agreement's southwest loop, since the beginning of July. A possible dispute with the Office Clerk Union in the two ports has been avoided. However, the Pacific Maritime Association employers' group is still training temporary

stevedoring workers. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

PANAMA CANAL

London, Jul 19 — Lock works in the Panama Canal have been completed finished nearly two days ahead of schedule. However, some delays are being experienced by vessels waiting to transit the Canal, as follows: Vessels with beams of 91ft and over, or those with transit restrictions due to their cargo and/or drafts, are facing delays of one-two days in either direction. Traffic

should be back to normal by the beginning of next week. There are no delays for "non-restricted" vessels with beams less than 91ft, transiting in either direction. The next locks outages have been confirmed for August 4-12 at Pedro Miguel and Gatun locks. No severe delays are anticipated during this period.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Jul 10 — Waiting time is presently one day at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	19-21-Jul-2004	Coal: One vessel at berth, 1 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 8/8; up to 2 days delay expected.
Dalrymple Bay	19-21-Jul-2004	Coal: Three vessels at berth, 9 at anchor; 50 vessels due by 28/8; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; 1-5 days delay expected.
Dampier	19-21-Jul-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 4 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 2/7; 1-13 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 14 vessels due by 31/7; 1-12 days delay expected; 72-hour planned maintenance shutdown starting 24/7.
Geelong	19-21-Jul-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed and waiting to load wheat, 3 vessels waiting (Jul 21) of which 2 to load canola, 1 wheat; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	19-21-Jul-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 2/8, all to load wheat; up to 5 days delay (Jul 21) expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	19-21-Jul-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels at berth, 8 at anchor; 25 vessels due by 13/8; 1-10 days delay expected; Barney Point: 6 vessels due by 20/8; up to 2 days delay expected; Barney Point is shut down until 06:00 24/7 for plant maintenance.
Hay Point	19-21-Jul-2004	Coal: One vessel loading, 4 at anchor; 7 vessels due by 1/8; 1-6 days delay expected.
Kwinana	19-21-Jul-2004	Grain: 16 vessels due by 25/8, 13 to load wheat, 2 barley, 1 feed; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	19-21-Jul-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 11/8, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay (Jul 21) expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	19-21-Jul-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: One vessel loading, 2 waiting, 5 at anchor; 20 vessels due by 30/7; Dykes 4+5: One vessel loading, 3 at anchor; 20 vessels due by 30/7; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 1-6 days delay expected. Grain (Jul 21): 2 vessels due by 11/8, both to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	19-21-Jul-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 5 vessels due by 31/7, 2 to load wheat, 1 canola, (Jul 21) 1 barley, 1 faba beans; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	19-21-Jul-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: Three vessels at anchor; 5 vessels due by 25/7; 3- 8 days delay expected; "B" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 27/7; 1-9 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): no vessels at berth, no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 4 vessels due by 26/7; 1-5 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	19-21-Jul-2004	Coal: One vessel at berth, 1 at anchor; 9 vessels due by 15/9; CB1: 2 vessels due by 15/8; up to 9 days delay expected. Grain (Jul 21): 3 vessels due by 7/8, all to load wheat; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Lincoln	19-21-Jul-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 31/7, 1 to load whea/canola, 1 wheat, 1 (Jul 21) barley; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Pirie	19-21-Jul-2004	Grain: No. 2 berth: no vessels. Berth will be closed to shipping from (Jul 21) 1/7 to 9/8 for electrical upgrade in silo control room.
Port Walcott	19-21-Jul-2004	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 9 at anchor; 19 vessels due by 15/8; 1-8 days delay expected; 2 ship loaders are being used on a more frequent basis, requiring 2 loading plans: one for single ship loader, 1 for dual loader operation; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (10 days) so they can co-ordinate stockpiles more effectively.
Brazil		
Paranagua	20-Jul-2004	Fourteen vessels berthed; 25 vessels waiting in roads of which 11 to load (3 pellets, 2 sugar, 2 reefers, 1 soya, 3 others), 14 to discharge (13 fertiliser, 1 full containers); 49 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	20-Jul-2004	Eight vessels berthed; 5 vessels waiting in roads; 29 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	20-Jul-2004	Thirty-two vessels berthed; 28 vessels waiting in roads; 111 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Vitoria	20-Jul-2004	Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 21 vessels waiting in roads; 15 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Port Conditions

Bulgaria		
Bourgas	19-Jul-2004	Nine vessels in port operating; 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load (1 coils, 1 barley), 1 to discharge kaolin, 1 empty vessel, 1 vessel in transit; 7 vessels due.
Chile		
Valparaiso	19-Jul-2004	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 14 vessels due this week.
Colombia		
Buenaventura	21-Jul-2004	Shore crane operational. Seven vessels berthed (1 containers, 2 general cargo, 4 bulkers), no vessels anchored; 25 vessels due (17 containers, 1 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 3 tankers, 2 PCC), with 2 days delay expected for bulkers, 1 day for general cargo.
Egypt		
Alexandria	19-Jul-2004	Twenty-nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 26 general cargo, 1 container, 1 tanker, 1 reefer; 10 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	19-Jul-2004	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 6 general cargo, 1 tanker, 3 container vessels; 3 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	19-Jul-2004	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 23 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	20-Jul-2004	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 6 vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (3 general cargo, 1 bulker); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 12 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	20-Jul-2004	Six vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 1 bulker), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 tanker); 4 general cargo vessels waiting at anchor to discharge; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 13 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	16-Jul-2004	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as no shore cranes available. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draught and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. One container gantry is operational, the second is still under repairs. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Three vessels are currently operating; 22 vessels due by 10/8.
Pakistan		
Karachi	19-Jul-2004	1 vessel loading general cargo at berth, 9 discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 MOL, 1 container), 4 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 MEG, 1 container, 1 crude oil); 2 vessels awaiting orders; 3 vessels due (1 container, 2 general cargo), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	19-Jul-2004	Twelve vessels discharging at berth (11 ore, 1 coal); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 container, 1 MOL), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container, 1 coal, 1 MEG); QICT berth: 2 vessels loading/discharging containers.
Poland		
Gdansk	19-Jul-2004	Ten vessels in port operating of which 5 loading at berth (1 coal, 1 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 tanker), 4 discharging at berth (1 grain, 1 tanker, 1 general cargo), 1 bulker in roads; 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 17 vessels due.
Gdynia	19-Jul-2004	Seven vessels in port operating of which 1 loading general cargo at berth, 4 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 2 general cargo vessels awaiting orders; 17 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 42 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	19-Jul-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading; 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 coils, 1 HBI; 50 vessels due of which 49 to load; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 2 fuel oil.
Tuapse	19-Jul-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 loading gasoline, 1 crude oil; 1 crude (Jul 16) oil vessel in roads; 7 vessels due by 25/7, of which 1 naphtha, 5 gasoil, 1 fuel oil.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	19-Jul-2004	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading, 1 discharging ore; 1 vessel in roads to load sulphur; 36 vessels due.
Mariupol	19-Jul-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading, 1 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 4 steel, 1 fertiliser; 46 vessels due.
Odessa	19-Jul-2004	One vessel in port loading steel; 1 vessel in roads to load fuel oil; 5 vessels due, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 3 steel.

Port Conditions

United States

Houston, TX	20-Jul-2004	Cargill terminal: 1-3 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	20-Jul-2004	Kalama export terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
New Orleans, La	20-Jul-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1 day's delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 5 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: no delays; ADM/Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: undergoing maintenance until September; Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1 day's 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: 7 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Nine-day forecast for Carrollton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 7.0 ft. by 29/7. Mississippi River recommended draught restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. bw.; vessels with draughts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.
Portland, OR	20-Jul-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Seattle, WA	20-Jul-2004	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	20-Jul-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	20-Jul-2004	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

Yemen

Hodeidah	18-Jul-2004	All berths available; Five vessels berthed of which 1 container, 1 general cargo, 1 wheat flour, 1 corn, 1 timber; no vessels anchored; waiting times: general cargo, bagged cargo: up to 2 days; bulk cargo: up to 4 days; containers: no delays expected.
----------	-------------	---

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"