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Worldwide accord on 24-hour box rule

SIXTY governments have agreed in principle to a new worldwide maritime security system designed to reduce the liner shipping industry's exposure to terrorist attack.

Signatories to the Proliferation Security Initiative were expected yesterday to recommend the global introduction of the US-inspired advanced cargo declaration regime as a way to better surveying of maritime boxes which may contain weapons of mass destruction.

Defence experts

The PSI forum, consisting of government defence experts and set up by the US last year, was meeting in Oslo after consulting liner shipping at a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.

The two sides agreed in Copenhagen that the advanced cargo declaration regime, otherwise known as the 24-hour rule, was the most efficient way for governments to inspect suspect shipments.

New initiatives in the field of maritime security follow con-

tinuing concern that terrorists are planning to disrupt world trade by targeting the shipping industry.

In a statement released yesterday, the industry said it recognised "the threat from weapons of mass destruction and is prepared to co-operate closely with governments to prevent international terrorism and the illegal transport of weapons."

The statement continued: "For practical and logistic reasons, suspected maritime containerised cargo shipments should be interdicted in port before vessel loading.

Manifest rules

"The concept of other nations adopting 24-hour advance vessel manifest rules — prior to loading — would appear to be an effective instrument to assist governments in the detection of suspected maritime containerised cargo shipments."

The 24-hour rule already applies to US-bound containers. Advanced cargo data filed with US customs authorities operating in ports around the world allow them time to decide if containers need to be inspected prior to loading.

The regime worried the industry when first proposed but has since proved to have increased efficiency as it encourages the spread of electronic data interchange.

"The official PSI meeting is expected to recommend that advanced cargo declarations take place everywhere," said a source close to the talks.

Interception

Industry representatives from Bimco and the UK Chamber of Shipping, among others, stressed to their defence counterparts that interception of suspect containers should take place before loading in order to reduce disruption to world trade.

The highest ranking officer in the Royal Navy told Lloyd's List in an interview published yesterday that al-Qa'eda and other terrorist organisations were plotting to launch attacks on merchant shipping.

Justin Stares
Lloyd's List Correspondent

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

| Vessel | Type | Flag | Class | GT | DWT | Bit | Casualty |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------|-------|--------|--------|------|---|
| <i>ANNA ODEN</i> | ro-ro | SWE | NV | 16,947 | 8,400 | 1979 | Sustained engine breakdown and contacted berth 644 upon arrival at Gothenburg Jul 22. Sustained hole in starboard side in stern above waterline. Quay damaged. No injuries. Assisted by tugs into berth. Towed to repair yard in Gothenburg. |
| <i>CHARLOTTE</i> | barge | NLD | — | — | — | — | Had explosion on board in Rhein-Herne Canal, Essen, Jul 25. Severe damage. Master killed, one other person injured. Investigation under way. Will remain at berth for "some time". |
| <i>CHIBI NO.3</i> | general | — | — | 497 | — | — | Sank in strong winds south of Shanghai Jul 26. |
| <i>FENIX</i> | bulk/ container | PAN | NV | 19,385 | 30,027 | 1985 | Touched bottom in lat 17 56.3S, long 177 11E, Jul 23 while waiting to enter Lautoka to load. Considerable damage to flat bottom and bottom keel. Due to sail Lautoka Jul 27 for Newcastle, NSW, for dry-docking, ETA Aug 1. |
| <i>HIROEI MARU</i> | general | JPN | — | 198 | 562 | 1991 | Reported grounded in lat 34 18N, long 133 37.3E, Jul 22. Scheduled to be towed by a tug late Jul 23. Refloated Jul 23. Reported at Osaka Jul 26. Hole in forepeak tank. To be repaired at Sanuki Shipbuilding. |
| <i>HORIZON</i> | container | MLT | LR | 19,872 | 25,214 | 1982 | Grounded at Sorel Jul 24 due to pilot error. Refloating attempts unsuccessful. Still aground Jul 29, salvage being assessed. |
| <i>KTC 115</i> | barge | CAN | — | 6,430 | — | 1968 | Lost steering in St. Lawrence River Jul 27 while under tow of tug <i>Salvor</i> and grounded in lat 44 20 39N, long 75 55 18W. Salvage efforts under way Jul 27. St. Lawrence Seaway closed. Still aground Jul 29. Seaway reopened. |
| <i>NANTAI-I</i> | general | IDN | KI | 1,179 | 1,340 | 1978 | In collision with <i>Era Baru</i> and sank in the Madura Strait 24 Jul 2004. |
| <i>NIKHIL</i> | general | PAN | BV | 2,337 | 2,811 | 1978 | Capsized and sank while loading a cargo of transformers at Derince Jul 22. One crew member killed. |
| <i>SALVOR</i> | tug | CAN | — | 426 | — | 1963 | Lost steering in St. Lawrence River Jul 27 while towing tank barge KTC 115 and grounded in lat 44 20 39N, long 75 55 18W. St. Lawrence Seaway closed. |
| <i>SETIA JAYA</i> | chem/oil carrier | SGP | NV | 6,379 | 10,951 | 1981 | Reported adrift in lat 02 41.2N, long 85 14.1E, Jul 24, following explosion on board. Damage to engine-room and accommodation. Reported Jul 26 under tow to Sri Lanka by tug <i>Sable Cape</i> . Reported Jul 29 anchored off south coast of Sri Lanka. |
| <i>SHINRYU MARU NO. 12</i> | tug | JPN | — | 46 | — | — | Sank in lat 34 35.8N, long 135 13 E 22 Jul 2004. Under investigation. |
| <i>SHUNHONGHAI 98</i> | bulker | CHN | — | — | — | — | Capsized in Zhu Jiang River, Guangdong province, Jul 24. Seven of the 10 crew rescued. Raised Jul 25. |
| <i>URSULA LEONHARDT</i> | general | MLT | GL | 4,382 | 6,874 | 1974 | Vessel sustained piston problems off Brest Jul 23. Vessel towed by tug <i>Abeille Flandre</i> , arriving Brest same day. In port at Brest Jul 25. Main engine damage reportedly serious. Owner's representatives inspecting damage. |

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGUTOI CHIEF (Papua New Guinea)

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Papua New Guinea police have charged 35 people with piracy following the looting at gunpoint of a vessel in the Gulf of Papua. The pirates struck last week when the "container ship" *Agutoi* (? general cargo *Agutoi Chief* (363 gt, built 1981), ran aground on sandbars near the Gulf province capital of Kerema, about 100km west of Port Moresby. Villagers from Kerema, armed with guns and knives, allegedly boarded the vessel and threatened the master and crew before stealing goods including food and supplies, said southern region police commander John Marru. Mr Marru said a special police unit flew to the Gulf province last weekend, raiding Kerema and surrounding villages before today charging 35 people under the country's Piracy Act. A police officer at Port Moresby's Four Mile Police Station, where the suspects were being held, said police had kept the investigation secret in order to catch the suspects as they tried to sell stolen goods in the Kerema markets. "It was a very successful operation because they didn't know we were coming," he said. "We caught them all together red handed as they tried to sell the stolen goods."

AL FAHAD (Saudi Arabia)

London, Jul 26 — Understand passenger ro/ro *Al Fahad*, anchored towards Shoaiba, 35 kms south of Jeddah, is lying aground in a semi-sunken condition.

ALADIN (Cyprus)

Ferrol, July 23 — General cargo *Aladin* sailed 2230 yesterday for Flushing with its cargo of steel pipes. — Lloyd's Agents.

Zeebrugge, Jul 27 — General cargo *Aladin* arrived Flushing Jul 26 from Ferrol. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ALAMOA (Brazil)

Santos, Jul 26 — Chem.tank *Alamo*a arrived Santos Jul 24 from Aratu. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A woman injured in the Staten Island ferry crash has reached a \$1.125 million settlement with the city, the largest to date. Laura Diaz, 41, suffered a broken leg and pelvis when ferry *Andrew J. Barberi* crashed into a pier near the St. George terminal in Staten Island on Oct 15. She had to have screws put into her leg, said her lawyer, Daniel O'Toole. Diaz was in the hospital for two weeks and is still out of work. "She's still weaning herself off a cane," O'Toole said. "Unfortunately, that pain is going to be

with her the rest of her life." Diaz was on her way home from her job as a federal bankruptcy court clerk on the afternoon of the disaster. She was one of 71 people injured in the crash, which killed 11 people. The settlement came after negotiations with the city corporation counsel. The negotiations were "pretty amicable," O'Toole said, adding that "the city came up with a fair price." It was the 33rd settlement reached in the city involving the ferry crash, said Kate O'Brien Ahlers, a spokeswoman for the corporation counsel. Diaz' settlement, announced yesterday, is worth more than the other 32 cases combined, which totaled about \$600,000. "Ms Diaz had very serious injuries," said corporation counsel attorney, Susan Rogerson Pondish. "We feel this was a reasonable settlement that we hope will assist in bringing closure to her and her family." There are still about 150 ferry-crash cases outstanding, Ahlers said. It's possible that there may be even larger settlements or jury awards in the future, given that most of the cases involving the eleven deaths have not yet been resolved. Earlier this month, the Brooklyn US Attorney's office gained a 30-day extension to freeze new civil actions in the case to keep them from interfering with the criminal investigation. Much of the investigation has focused on the whereabouts of Capt Michael Gansas when the vessel crashed. The city has said that he was not in the pilothouse. Gansas refused to talk with investigators and was fired. Assistant Capt Richard Smith, who was at the helm, told investigators he passed out at the wheel.

ANL PIONEER (Germany)

London, Jul 27 — The Environmental Protection Authority in Victoria has laid charges against several German nationals and two German companies relating to an oil spill by c.c.ANL *Pioneer* at Cape Woolamai in February last year. The charges, filed in the Melbourne Magistrates Court, fall under the Environment Protection Act 1970 and the Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1986 (POWBONS). A hearing date is to be determined. The incident involved a significant amount of oil washing up on Woolamai Beach, affecting the beach and wildlife. Charges laid under the EP Act carry a maximum penalty of \$250,000 and seven years' jail for an individual and \$1m for a company; those laid under the POWBONS Act carry a maximum fine of \$200,000 and two years' jail for an individual and \$1m for a company. The charges were divided among: The operator of ANL *Pioneer*, NSB Niederelbe Schifffahrtsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG (NSB), six charges; NSB agent Andreas Jeromin, six charges; NSB agent Lothar Beyer, two charges; Ship master Wolfgang Munch, one charge; Ship master Erhard Schuschan, 11 charges. The ship's owner, ShipReederei Suderelbe GmbH & Co. Schifffahrts KG, four charges. A large team of people from Marine Safety Victoria, Toll

WesternPort, Skilled Maritime Services, Parks Victoria, LW Marine and Gippsland Ports were involved in the clean-up as part of the Victorian Marine Pollution Contingency Plan.

ANNA ODEN (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Jul 22 — Ro/ro *Anna Oden* (16947 gt, built 1979) hit berth 644 about 0715, today, upon arrival to container terminal Skandia port, Gothenburg. An engine breakdown made it impossible to manoeuvre and vessel hit the berth with stern. Quay sustained damage as well as vessel; alleged hole above waterline starboard side aft. No injuries on board or ashore. The Maritime board inspectors to investigate the cause. The tow company Roda Bolaget sent two tugs, which assisted the drifting vessel to berth. After discharging the cargo, mostly trailers, it will be taken into yard for repairs. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jul 23 — Ro/ro *Anna Oden* sustained a hole in the stern, starboard side, approximate two metres above the waterline, approximately 1.5 by three metres. There is also a large "hole" in the jetty. The vessel's master ordered the engine to run forward but it kept running astern and hit the berth. There was, however, no problem discharging the trailers onboard and later yesterday the vessel was towed by Roda Bolaget to Cityvarvet repair yard in Gothenburg. — Westax Marine Services AB.

ANTARES (Gibraltar)

Montevideo, Jul 28 — Chem.tank *Antares* is still undertaking repairs. It is expected repairs will be concluded in approximately 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents

ARATERE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Jul 23 — Ro/ro *Aratere*, Picton to Wellington with 170 passengers and crew on board, was reported to have mechanical problems in Cook Strait about seven miles south south-west of Wellington Harbour entrance at about 1340 hrs. Wind south south-west 60 knots, moderate swell. The CentrePort Wellington tug *Toia*, rigged with heavy towing equipment, sailed from inner harbour berth at about 1440 hrs and stood-by at Steeple Rock from about 1515 hrs ready to provide assistance. By this time *Aratere* was about nine miles south south-west of Wellington Harbour entrance at about four knots. Mechanical problems were repaired at about 1610 and by 1630 hrs, vessel resumed passage towards Wellington Harbour entrance. Entered harbour at 1725 hrs, *Toia* stood-down at 1750 hrs and *Aratere* completed berthing at the Rail Ferry terminal at about 1850 hrs, with assistance of CentrePort Wellington tug *Kupe*. *Aratere* carried out engine trials in Wellington's inner harbour at about 2015, last night with MSA staff on board. Vessel was cleared to resume service and sailed from its berth in Wellington at about 2210, last night for Picton. Vessel back at Wellington from Picton at about 0630, this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

BB 1138 (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Jul 25 — General cargo *BB 1138*: Repair work on the vessel was completed Jul 2. The vessel is currently trading between Chittagong and Dhaka. — Lloyd's Agents.

BLUE STAR ITHAKI (Greece)

London, Jul 26 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1725, Jul 26, while making arrival manoeuvres at the port of Tinos, passenger ro/ro *Blue Star Ithaki* (10193 gt, built 2000) made contact with its bow to the quay. Following the incident, the vessel made fast at the quay safely. At the time vessel was performing the schedule Naxos-Paros- Mykonos-Tinos-Syros-Piraeus with 490 passengers for Piraeus, 116 for Syros and 147 for Tinos. Due to the contact three women passengers were injured and taken to the hospital for first aid. Later two were released. Following a survey by the marine inspectorate, the vessel was permitted to make one voyage without passengers or cargo, for Syros, in order to carry out repairs.

London, Jul 27 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: After passenger ro/ro *Blue Star Ithaki* had proceeded to Syros to effect repairs to the damages caused when contacting a quay, the vessel's schedule was undertaken by other vessels. The passengers bound for Syros departed at 2115 hrs on board passenger ro/ro *Aeolos Express II*. Those passengers with the destination of Piraeus departed at 2340 hrs on passenger ro/ro *Superferry II* to Rafina, arriving at 0300 hrs and from there they were driven to Piraeus on buses.

BRABANDER

London, Jul 23 — Inland cargo vessel *Brabander* was towed free by tugs *Typhoon* and *Liberte 3* and fishing *En Avant* at 0500, Jul 16. During the night the vessel had discharged 300 tons of its cargo of clay into a barge. After reloading the cargo, the vessel was towed to Deventer. There the cargo of clay was discharged on Jul 19. The vessel was subsequently towed to a repair yard to repair the damage to its rudder and propeller; it has also sustained some dents in its hull.

CAP ANAMUR (Germany)

See under "Miscellaneous."

CAPTAIN DIAMANTIS (Greece)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

CHARLOTTE (Netherlands)

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: A Dutch tanker (inland waterways tanker *Charlotte*) exploded early this morning near Essen, killing the master and wounding four others. The tanker exploded in the Rhein-Herne Canal when the 30-year-old master was trying to clean gas remains in cargo tanks after unloading naphtha in the Essen harbour. The wife of the master and his two young sons, who were living on the boat, as well as a sailor were wounded. The damage to the boat was estimated at euro five

million (US\$ 6.09 million) and the shockwave from the explosion also shattered windows of several houses on the river bank.

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion on board inland waterways tanker *Charlotte* on the Rhine Herne channel killed its master at 0200 yesterday and a crew member was hurt. Five further persons, among them the wife and the two children of the master, were saved from the burning ship. After discharge of naphtha at Essen harbour the tanker anchored some hundred metres at a landing place. The pressure wave from the explosion broke housing and display windows up to 800 metres away. On board the ship a fire broke out, which was extinguished after approximately one and a half hours. The force of the explosion caused the deck to "burst". However, the vessel did not sink. After inspection it was found that at least two of the ships 10 tanks exploded. The cause of the explosion could not be determined. The accident scene remained "locked", since according to the police the danger of further explosions could not be excluded. Meanwhile experts of the fire-brigade, and the office for industrial safety began an investigation. The adjacent resident had been requested during the fire-fighting operations by the fire-brigade to keep windows and doors closed. In addition, the fire-brigade stressed that no dangerous materials had been set free.

London, Jul 28 — German authorities yesterday continued investigating the circumstances that led to the explosion of tank barge *Charlotte* on Sunday. The accident on the Rhein-Herne canal near the city of Oberhausen caused the death of the 30-year-old master. After discharging the naphthaline cargo in the port of Essen, the master had apparently tried to de-gas the vessel. This is necessary before reloading the vessel, but not allowed on the canal. "There is no doubt, that this illegal action happened," a spokesman of the water police in Duisburg said. But it was still unclear what actually caused the explosion, he said. The vessel was only three months' old and had a double hull. The spokesman added that the loss was likely to total several million Euro. About 15 houses had been damaged by the explosion. The canal, which was closed on Sunday, has been reopened. Even after the investigation closes, it will be some time before *Charlotte* is able to leave the berth. The spokesman said the explosion had raised the tanks to such an extent that the vessel would not be able to pass under any bridge.

CHIBI NO.3

London, Jul 28 — General cargo *Chibi No.3* (497 gt), loaded with 980 tons of stone, sank in strong winds near a port to the south of Shanghai, leaving four of the nine people on board missing, the Government said yesterday. Maritime authorities sent eight ships to aid in the search for the missing crew, but the likelihood of their rescue a full day after Monday's (Jul 26) accident was small,

the Xinhua News Agency reported. *Chibi No.3* was loaded with stone for a port construction project, the report said.

CMA CGM KALAMATA (Greece)

Valletta, Jul 23 — C.c. *CMA CGM Kalamata* sailed from Marsaxlokk on Jul 22, bound Dunkirk. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONSORT (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Consort* (199 gt, built 1984) pushing a barge (EMI 1150, 3631 gt, built 1984) full of coal up the Hackensack River struck the Whittpenn Bridge connecting Jersey City and Harrison at approximately 0200 today, authorities said. The bridge remained closed to vehicles during today's rush hour, and marine traffic was being kept off that stretch of the river. One crew member suffered a minor injury. The only severe damage to the vessel was in the pilot house, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Matthew Belson. Belson said crew members were being tested for drugs and alcohol.

London, July 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Wittpenn Bridge reopened yesterday afternoon following a weekend closure to fix the structure, which was damaged during a tug (*Consort*) accident early Friday (July 23) morning. At 0200 Friday, the tug hauling coal up the Hackensack River struck the south side of the drawbridge as it passed underneath, damaging a steel beam, officials said. The bridge had been open to one-lane traffic in both directions until 2000 Friday, when it was shut down until yesterday. Joe Fiordaliso, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Transportation, said that a bridge worker radioed the tug operator to tell him that he was going too fast, not allowing enough time for the bridge to clear his path. A Coast Guard marine casualty investigation is ongoing to determine the exact cause of the accident.

CORONA BOREALIS (Canada)

London, Jul 26 — At 1139, EDST, Jul 22, the steering gear of passenger *Corona Borealis* (66 gt, built 1986) failed and the vessel grounded off Ile St. Ours, in the St. Lawrence River, in lat 45 55N, long 73 12W. Passengers were transferred to the hydrofoil *Sirius I*. *Corona Borealis* was later towed to Montreal.

Montreal, Jul 28 — Passenger *Corona Borealis* is presently alongside the pier, but does not seem to be under repair at the moment. There are no local agents to give any details. — Lloyd's Agents.

CSCL QINGDAO (Malta)

Busan, Jul 28 — The permanent repairs of c.c. *CSCL Qingdao* are being carried out continuously at Ulsan and expected to be completed by Aug 2. The permanent repairs to c.c. *Hyundai Harmony* were completed on Jul 26 and the vessel shifted to the container loading wharf in Busan the same day. *Hyundai Harmony* sailed from Busan bound for Ho Chi Minh City, after

completion of cargo loading at about 2200, local time, Jul 26. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

DONG HUA MEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Durban, Jul 27 — General cargo *Dong Hua Men* arrived Durban Jul 23 from Toamasina. — Lloyd's Agents.

DWEEP SETU (India)

London, July 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out this afternoon inside the engine-room of passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* (492 gt, built 1984) of the Lakshadweep administration, which had been drydocked at the Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL). Fire tenders from nearby areas rushed to the spot and extinguished the flames, fire department sources said. The ship had been in the CSL dry dock for the past one month for annual repairs along with four other ships. It is suspected that some welding work going on in the shipyard might have caused the fire. No one was injured.

Kochi, Jul 27 — The fire on board passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* was extinguished within 15 minutes using Kochi Shipyard's own firefighting equipment. The extent of damage is being ascertained by Classification Society surveyors and the owner's representatives. According to the vessel's local agent, the dry docking is not likely to be delayed on account of the fire, as the initial inspection revealed only minor damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

EDGAR B.SPEER (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Jul 27 — Recent efforts to locate the 17-ton rudder and stock lost last December by bulk *Edgar B. Speer* in the lower St. Marys River near Lime Island were unsuccessful, with side-scan sonar and magnetometer searches unable to pinpoint the huge object. It is not known exactly where the vessel was when the rudder detached from the vessel. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

ELEFThERIA (Panama)

Piraeus, Jul 26 — Bulk *Eleftheria* sailed Piraeus Jul 22 for Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

ERA BARU (Indonesia)

See *Nantai-I*.

FENIX (Panama)

Suva, Jul 26 — Bulk/c.c. *Fenix* (19385 gt, built 1985) arrived at Lautoka on Jul 23 for loading of bulk raw sugar. According to the master, at 1848, local time, Jul 23, the pilot was not ready and informed the vessel to anchor, but the master decided to turn around due to no place to anchor outside. As a result, the master reported that the vessel touched the sea bottom in lat 17 56.3S, long 177 11.0E. Currently, the vessel is still at anchor pending final instructions from the owners/managers, whether repairs to vessel will be carried out in Fiji or abroad. Surveyors advised the vessel not to load sugar due to severe damages sustained on the bottom keel. It appears that the vessel

may not load sugar at all, which was supposed to be destined for United Kingdom. An underwater inspection of the hull and underwater machinery of *Fenix* has been carried out to ascertain the damage resulting from the grounding incident. All areas of the hull and all underwater machinery were covered during the inspection. The underwater surveyor, Mr David Evans from m/s Scubahire Limited reported the following: The vessel grounded on a coral ledge while underway ahead. Numerous areas of coral residue are apparent on the forward section of the flat bottom. Considerable damage was observed on the flat bottom, including set-ups to both the shellplate and the frames. The damage was seen to be most severe from the base of the bulb back to approximately frame 175, with minor damage and cosmetic abrasion to the SPC System further aft to at least frame 170. All damage was seen to be confined to the area below the chines, with no damage noted to the bilge keels or the areas of the verticals above the bilge keels. Numerous set-ups were observed, up to 130mm, with many measured at between 100 and 130mm. Up to 16 or more frames were involved in the incident, all of which are set up to some degree. Two breaches were noted in the shellplate. Both were located just inboard of the portside chine, one, of 250mm in length, estimated to be just ahead of Frame No. 180 and parallel with the frame, and the other, 300mm in length, approximately 120mm aft of Frame No. 180, and running longitudinally. Both fractures were confirmed to be breaching the shellplate, with the ingress of salt water apparent in both cases. The propeller and suspended rudder were carefully inspected with underwater lights, and it was confirmed that none of the machinery was involved in the incident. All damage, including cosmetic abrasion to the SPC System, was confirmed to be ahead of the amidships marks. While some set-ups were observed on the starboard side of the bow, bulb and entry area, the more serious damage was seen to be confined the port side of the C/L, and ahead of Frame No. 170. Prior to the vessel going to sea, it is recommended that a comprehensive stress assessment of the affected area and particularly of the frames involved should be undertaken, together with satisfactory repairs to the two breaches in the shellplate. — Lloyd's Agents.

Suva, Jul 27 — Bulk/c.c. *Fenix* will depart Lautoka at 1600, local time, today, for Newcastle, Australia for dry-docking. — Lloyd's Agents.

Suva, Jul 28 — Bulk/c.c. *Fenix* will arrive Newcastle, Australia on/about Aug 1. Classification survey report issued by Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Auckland has two specific conditions. A) The vessel should proceed to a dry-dock in Australia, in ballast, to carry out repairs to the forepeak tank and the No 1 WB tank port. The above tanks should be ballasted to the vessel's waterline during the passage. The master should seek shelter in the event of bad weather. B) Damage to the hull bottom

plating and framing of the forepeak tank and WB tank No 1 port (including the collision bulkhead) is to be permanently repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

FERRIS FLOTEL (South Korea)

See "Typhoon 'Maemi' " under "Weather & Navigation."

FERRY DIAMOND (Japan)

Yokohama, Jul 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Ferry Diamond* (9023 gt, built 1986), proceeding to west Oita, and fishing *Fukutoku Maru No.2* (5 gt), were in collision 3.6 miles, 103 deg from Ushishibana Lighthouse, Oita Prefecture, at 1037, Jul 22. No injuries or pollution. *Ferry Diamond* sustained slight damage and arrived west Oita under own power. *Fukutoku Maru No.2* proceeded to a fishing port under own power. — Lloyd's Agents.

FORTH GUARDSMAN (U.K.)

Liverpool, Jul 26 — Engine repairs to ro/ro *Forth Guardsman*, which are currently in progress in Liverpool, are expected to be completed by tomorrow, at which point the vessel is then expected to depart. — Lloyd's Agents.

FUKUTOKU MARU NO.2 (Japan)

See *Ferry Diamond*.

GHAZI (Panama)

Karachi, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Ghazi*, carrying a load of cargo bound for Dubai, has disappeared in rough seas. The fate of the vessel, owned by a Dubai shipping company, which sailed Karachi Jul 24 on its maiden voyage, is not yet known. The shipping agent of the company, "Serious Logistics", said in Karachi yesterday that the vessel had been due to reach Dubai on Jul 26, but he had lost radio contact with the vessel. He said he had contacted the Maritime Security Agency to search for the vessel. The vessel was carrying 65 containers of mangoes, worth rupees 20 million, in addition to general cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Jul 29 — South Asia Ship Management, the Karachi-based agent of c.c. *Ghazi*, said this afternoon that the vessel, which has been missing in the Arabian Gulf for the last three days due to rough weather, is expected to arrive Rashid Port, Dubai, at 1600, Jul 30. Officials refuted a local report that the vessel was still missing and its fate was not yet known. However, it will be determined after the vessel arrives where it was and how it lost radio contact. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GOUTA (Panama)

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

HELLENIC SPIRIT (Greece)

London, Jul 26 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Jul 25, passenger ro/ro *Hellenic Spirit* (32694 gt, built 2001) sustained damage to the controllable pitch system of the port propeller, 30 minutes after departure from Ancona. At the time, the vessel was performing the schedule

Ancona-Igoumenitsa, with 1165 passengers and 131 crew on board. Following the incident the vessel returned to Ancona where repairs were performed and the vessel finally departed at 0345 hrs, (today) after a delay of eight hours.

London, Jul 27 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1845, Jul 26, passenger ro/ro *Hellenic Spirit* arrived at Igoumenitsa with 1,176 passengers from Ancona. The port authority prohibited the vessel's departure pending an inspection of the repairs to the damage to the controllable-pitch system of the port propeller, which had been sustained the previous day. The 541 passengers bound for Patras were transported to their destination on board buses organised by the ship operators. The passengers with cars and trucks were given a refund. After issuance of a class maintain certificate, the vessel was permitted to depart for Ancona at 2230 hrs, with 348 passengers.

HERNES (Cyprus)

Gdynia, Jul 23 — Bulk *Hernes* is currently undergoing repairs at the Gdansk Shipyard (reconstruction of the bottom). It is anticipated that the vessel will depart around Aug 12. — Correspondents.

HIROEI MARU (Japan)

London, July 23 — Following navigation warning issued at 0620, JST, today: Stranded general cargo *Hiroei Maru*, 198 gt, (built 1991) exists in vicinity of lat 34 18N, long 133 37.3E.

London, July 23 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0710, UTC: General cargo *Hiroei Maru*, JM6085, is still aground.

London, July 23 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 2027, JST: General cargo *Hiroei Maru* grounded at approximately 1700, UTC, July 22. The vessel is scheduled to be towed by a tug at 1800, UTC, today.

London, Jul 26 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1935, JST: General cargo *Hiroei Maru* was refloated at 1755, UTC, Jul 23. Vessel is now at Osaka port. (See issue of Jul 26.)

Yokohama, Jul 28 — General cargo *Hiroei Maru*, proceeding to Osaka, ran aground in the shallows, 221 degrees, 270 metres from Hutaomote Sima Lighthouse, Kagawa Prefecture, at approximately 2300, Jul 22. It was refloated with tug assistance at 0255, Jul 24. No oil spill was observed and it could proceed under its own power. However, in view of holing damage to its forepeak tank, it will be repaired by Sanuki Shipbuilding & Iron Works Co, Ltd. — Lloyd's Agents.

HJELMELAND (Norway)

London, Jul 23 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Hjelmeland* has completed repairs in Stavanger and is now back in normally service between Hjelmeland and Nesvik.

HORIZON (Malta)

Montreal, Jul 25 — C.c. *Horizon* (19872 gt, built 1982) was outbound

from Montreal to Hamburg and Antwerp in loaded condition when at 0320, local time, Jul 24 it ran aground at Sorel in the St. Lawrence river due to an error in pilot navigation. Refloating attempts using four tugs have not been successful. There is no water ingress, no pollution, no danger to the vessel at all other than the fact that it is firmly aground in mud, well out of the channel. No damage to the cargo of containers. It will be necessary to discharge the containers in order to refloat it. The owner's superintendent is on the site now assessing the options. All the concerned parties have been involved and it will be several days before the lightering/salvage/refloating operation gets underway due to the shortage of equipment and costs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, Jul 27 — *Horizon* remains "safely aground" and the owners are receiving salvage offers now. They will evaluate them and possibly put the work in hand by the end of the week. It is expected that the containers will have to be discharged from the deck at very considerable cost. — Lloyd's Agents.

Troy, Michigan, Jul 29 — C.c. *Horizon* went hard aground Saturday morning (Jul 24) near Sorel, Quebec. The vessel was seabound when it lost all power and went aground at a speed of 15 knots. Six tugs tried to free the vessel but were unsuccessful; lightering of containers is the next plan. The vessel is out of the channel. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

HURIS (Papua New Guinea)

See "Papua New Guinea" under "Piracy."

HYUNDAI HARMONY (Panama)

See *CSCL Qingdao*.

HYUNDAI NO.105 (Panama)

Ymuiden, Jul 27 — The operation to remove the oil from vehicle *Hyundai No.105* has been completed. — Wijmuller Salvage BV.

IONIAN SKY (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1640, Jul 22, passenger ro/ro *Ionian Sky* (19539 gt, built 1974), Brindisi-Kerkyra-Igoumenitsa, with 476 passengers and 84 crew on board, sustained damage to its cooling system and as a result was not under command. The incident occurred while the vessel was 20 nautical miles north-east of Otranto, Italy. At 1755, the damage was repaired by the crew and the vessel continued its voyage to Kerkyra, arriving at 2140. On arrival the vessel was surveyed by the marine inspectorate and the repairs were confirmed to be satisfactory.

JENS MUNK (DIS)

London, Jul 23 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: General cargo *Jens Munk* (1501 gt, built 1988) has slight list due cargo shifting in lat 35 20.3S, long 20 04.2E, at 0545, UTC, today. Vessel is

proceeding to Simonstown under its own power. A tug is to stand by as a precaution. (Note — *Jens Munk* sailed Cape Town Jul 22 for Napier.)

London, Jul 24 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Because of bad weather general cargo *Jens Munk* headed to Mossel Bay, where it arrived at 0830 this morning, to re-stow cargo.

London, Jul 26 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1111, UTC: General cargo *Jens Munk* is still at Mossel Bay.

London, Jul 28 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1113, UTC: General cargo *Jens Munk* is still at Mossel Bay.

JINGAN NO.6 (China)

See *Saehan Galaxy*.

JOVIAL DUCKLING (Panama)

London, July 23 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 0535, UTC: Bulk/oil *Jovial Duckling*: Vessel was underway at 2000, UTC, yesterday and dropped anchor at 2215, UTC for an inspection.

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk/oil *Jovial Duckling* was set afloat by tugs, Turkish Coast Guard and Vessel Rescue Administration said today. The ship was pulled by tugs, and then anchored at Karanlik port. Officials said that the cargo ship would set sail once bureaucratic procedures were completed. It was carrying iron ore from Singapore to Burgas port.

Istanbul, Jul 26 — Bulk/oil *Jovial Duckling* completed necessary repairs, by its own means, and on completion of inspection/formalities, sailed from Canakkale at 2015, Jul 24. — Lloyd's Agents

KHANA (Panama)

London, Jul 26 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1905, UTC: Ref *Khana* (3475 gt, built 1988) sustained engine failure, on Jul 24. It is presently under tow of a sistership, about 100 miles north of Adak, bound for South Korea.

KRASNOVIDOVO (Russia)

Helsinki, Jul 28 — General cargo *Krasnovidovo* was checked in Haapavesi on the day of the accident, and then sailed to its original destination of Varkaus, where the timber cargo was unloaded as scheduled. The vessel was inspected at Varkaus by divers, who noted some minor dents, but nothing that needed further repairs. A representative of the vessel's Classification Society also visited the vessel in Varkaus, and found the vessel in satisfactory condition. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. Petersburg, Jul 28 — General cargo *Krasnovidovo* arrived St. Petersburg Jul 22 from Varkaus. — Lloyd's Agents

KTC 115 (Canada)

London, Jul 27 — Tug *Salvor* (426 gt, built 1963) and tank barge *KTC 115* (6430 gt, built 1968) lost steering in American waters, American Narrows,

St. Lawrence River, in lat 44 20.39N, long 75 55.18W, and ran aground at 0510, EST, Jul 27. Calcium chloride leaked from the barge, at a rate of 185 gallons per minute, from tank No.1 (capacity 179,318 gallons).

Troy, Michigan, Jul 28 — The McKeil Marine tank barge, *KTC 115*, loaded with calcium chloride, ran aground early yesterday in the St. Lawrence River near Alexandria Bay, NY, and Boldt Castle, both major tourist destinations. Early reports indicated about 12,000 gallons of cargo were spilled. Authorities say the chemical, used to melt ice, is not a threat to people or wildlife in the area. The US Coast Guard has declared a 100-yard security zone around Frontenac Shoal, where the grounding took place. The accident happened when a cable that attached the barge to tug *Salvor* snapped. Traffic was stopped immediately, but one-way passage past the stranding was being allowed by late yesterday. Efforts continued yesterday night to pull the barge free. There is no word of damage to the vessel. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Tank barge *KTC 115*, carrying liquid calcium chloride to Montreal, struck the Frontenac Shoal and started leaking yesterday, forcing the St. Lawrence Seaway to shut down indefinitely. U.S. Coast Guard officials said a steering malfunction on tug *Salvor* pushing the barge caused lines connecting them to break. The craft veered left and hit the rocky shoal just outside the channel at around 0500 hrs. The impact caused 45,400 litres of liquid calcium chloride to leak into the St. Lawrence River. The barge, owned by McKeil Marine Ltd. of Hamilton, was carrying 681,000 litres of the liquid, which is used for snow and ice removal and to keep dust down at construction sites. New York State environment officials said the spill poses no threat to the public. The accident has forced Seaway officials to close the waterway to commercial traffic until the remaining calcium chloride can be transferred to another barge and the wreckage can be removed, the Coast Guard said. So far, five vessels on the Seaway have been affected.

Troy, Michigan, Jul 29 — Tank barge *KTC 115*, which ran aground early Tuesday (Jul 27) in the St. Lawrence River near Alexandria Bay, NY, is still stranded, with tugs continuing to work to free it. Reports indicated about 12,000 gallons of cargo were spilled. The accident happened when a cable that attached the barge to tug *Salvor* snapped. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: St. Lawrence Seaway authorities are investigating the grounding of tank barge *KTC 115* yesterday that dumped 12,000 gallons of calcium chloride into the water and halted shipping traffic for most of the day. Authorities say tug *Salvor* lost control of the tanker barge it was pushing toward Montreal when a rod to the steering gear broke. The barge ran

aground near the shores of Alexandria Bay, NY, on the Frontenac Shoal about 0500 hrs. The American St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation said it was investigating the grounding and is "taking every possible measure to respond to the incident." The U.S. Coast Guard is also investigating the incident. Tara Wilkins, a communication officer with Transport Canada said the Transportation Safety Board was at the scene of the crash yesterday to determine whether there will be an investigation into the grounding. After that, the barge will undergo an inspection from Transport Canada. Andrew Bogora, a communications officer with the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, said that marine traffic was halted for most of the day. "That's to allow divers to conduct their investigation," he said from his office in Cornwall. Shipping traffic resumed moving through the area at 1820 hrs, although the bow of the barge remained grounded late last night. Traffic was restricted to one-way movement until the barge is removed. The American seaway authority said McKeil Shipping, the owner of the barge, has co-operated in the investigation with Jefferson County emergency services, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York Department of Health. Adina Juster, vice-president of the American seaway management corporation, said only eight ships were affected yesterday. Four were forced to dock in Prescott and four more in Cape Vincent, NY, while divers investigated the leak.

LASS MARS (Germany)

Boston, Lincs, Jul 29 — Reported general cargo *Lass Mars* (1515 gt, built 1992) is alleged to have come into contact with the North Sector gate of the lock at King's Lynn on yesterday's pm, tide. The port remains operational. However, details of any damages to the vessel are currently unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

LIGHTING SUN (Pakistan)

Karachi, Jul 26 — Bangladesh Shipping Ministry has directed authorities concerned to take action against owner and master of ferry *Lighting Sun*, which sunk in the river Meghna on May 23. The government took this decision following the recommendations of an inquiry committee, formed by it to probe the launch capsized, which killed 86 people. The ministry asked Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority to suspend temporarily and lodge departmental cases against its drawing officer Siddiqui Rahman and design instructor executive engineer Md Rabiul Islam. It directed Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation to suspend temporarily and take departmental actions against its naval architect, assistant engineer Md Ziaul Islam. It directed the director general of the Department of Shipping to lodge murder cases against the launch owner Momtaz Begum and master Abul Kalam. The ministry also

directed to cancel the licence of the master of the launch. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LIONESS C. (Panama)

New Orleans, Jul 22 — At approximately 1015, local time, today, bulk *Lioness C.* (36137 gt, built 1983) lost rudder control at about Mile 111, Mississippi River. The vessel drifted down river avoiding collision with moored vessels and barges at Mile 111 buoys and was stopped by river tugs. *Lioness C.* is currently at rest at the Mile 111 buoys held in place by the river tugs. It appears that the vessel was departing the Port of New Orleans, it was fully laden with cargo, believed to be grain. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 24 — Following received from the Marine Safety Office, New Orleans, timed 0140, UTC: Restrictions on bulk *Lioness C.* have now been lifted.

LUCY BORCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)

Piraeus, Jul 28 — C.c. *Lucy Borchard* sailed, in tow of tug *Megas Alexandros*, from Chios at 2130, Jul 10, for Piraeus. The vessel arrived Piraeus Jul 12. Minor damages were ascertained. After completion of repairs the vessel sailed Jul 23 for Damietta. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK FLENSBURG (U.K.)

London, Jul 29 — Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 0730, UTC: C.c. *Maersk Flensburg* (9990 gt, built 2002), bound Bremen, and product tanker *Pechora River* (4606 gt, built 2000), bound Tallinn via Kiel Canal, were in collision in lat 52 48.6N, long 04 12.7E, at 0238, UTC, today. As a result *Maersk Flensburg* was holed in stern three metres above the waterline. *Pechora River* sustained only paint scratches. Both vessels continued on voyage. (Note — *Maersk Flensburg* sailed Antwerp 1610, Jul 28. *Pechora River* sailed Antwerp 1620, Jul 28.)

MARETON (Spain)

Brest, Jul 27 — Fishing *Mareton*: Upon completion of provisional repairs, carried out at Douarnenez on Jul 19/20, *Mareton* departed at 1700, Jul 20, for Burela, Spain, where ETA was am, Jul 22. The vessel is expected to be drydocked in Burela for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ferrol, Jul 29 — Fishing *Mareton* arrived Burela on Jul 21 from Douarnenez and is still repairing at Burela, at slipway "Vibu". — Lloyd's Agents.

MISS BERDIE (U.S.A.)

Portland, Oregon, Jul 27 — Fishing *Miss Berdie* departed Fred Wahl Marine Repair Company on Jul 1, but it will be back in the first part of August, for some minor final repairs. Once it has completed the minor repairs it shall be done with all repairs and will return to fishing. — Lloyd's Agents.

MOHAWK II (Norway)

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: YMCA training vessel training *Mohawk II* which sank

off the coast of the Netherlands last week, after it was struck by a Dutch trawler, lacked proper insurance for sailing outside Scandinavia. Due to a mistake during planning the insurance papers were not extended to include continental waters. The Oslo YMCA Sea Scouts now face the possibility that the organisation may have to cover all costs connected with the accident. The raising of the vessel alone cost more than NOK one million. Repairing the 100-year-old sailing vessel will probably cost another several millions. Local politicians in the Netherlands have now initiated a collection of funds to help the Norwegian scouts. The Dutch court has not yet decided who was at fault when the collision occurred.

NANTAI-I (Indonesia)

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Nantai-I* (1179 gt, built 1978) sank in the Madura Strait yesterday after it was in collision with 81-metre-long and 10-metre-wide general cargo *Era Baru*. No fatalities were reported in the accident. The incident occurred as the *Nantai-I* was preparing to dock at Tanjung Perak Port in Surabaya, East Java, while the *Era Baru* was leaving the port for Kupang, the capital of East Nusa Tenggara. Saleh, the captain of *Era Baru*, said bad weather forced him to lose control of the vessel, which then hit the side of the 68-metre-long and 11-metre-wide *Nantai-I*. Police are investigating the accident.

NCC MEKKA (NIS)

Rio de Janeiro, Jul 28 — Chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* completed the transhipment of its cargo to chem tank *NCC Arar* on Jul 23. The vessel is presently in dry dock at Sermetal Repairyard. Provisional repairs are expected to be completed within 15 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

NIKHIL (Panama)

Istanbul, Jul 23 — At 1200, UTC, Jul 22, general cargo *Nikhil* (2337 gt, built 1978), while loading a cargo of transformers at Derince, capsized to starboard, and sank, after one of the transformers caused the vessel to roll. One crew member was killed in the incident. — Lloyd's 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 28 — Non specific tanker *No.11 Hae Un* dry-docked at Sekye Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Yeosu, Korea for permanent repairs on Jul 23. The permanent repairs are expected to be completed on about Jul 30. Understand that fishing *No.5 Dae Un* sustained minor damage at the bow area as a result of collision, which did not require immediate repairs and that the vessel has returned to normal service. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

NSS BONANZA (Panama)

See *Ocean Prince*.

OCEAN PRINCE (Hong Kong)

Yokohama, Jul 27 — Bulk *Ocean Prince* (30053 gt, built 2002), bound Los Angeles, was in collision with bulk *NSS Bonanza* (85902 gt, built 1996), bound Nagoya, 4.5 nautical miles, 276 deg from Suzaki lighthouse in Chiba Prefecture at 0010, Jul 25. *NSS Bonanza* proceeded to Nagoya under own power. *Ocean Prince* anchored off Nojima-zaki and will arrange for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Ocean Prince* sailed Yokohama Jul 24 for Los Angeles. *NSS Bonanza* sailed Kisarazu Jul 24 for Nagoya, where arrived Jul 25.)

Yokohama, Jul 28 — Bulk *NSS Bonanza* sailed Nagoya Jul 27 for Australia. — Lloyd's Agents.

OLYMPIC GALAXY (Greece)

Piraeus, Jul 23 — Bulk *Olympic Galaxy*: Lightering operations commenced around 0600, UTC, today and are expected to take two to three days. Refloating attempts will then be made. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Colombo, Jul 24 — Ro/ro *Scan Arctic* was double banked with bulk *Olympic Galaxy* at approximately 1530, Jul 22. The transferring of cargo could not be carried out on that day as there was a dispute with the Ports Authority regarding permission to transfer cargo to a vessel under a foreign flag in the outer harbour. This issue was resolved subsequently and at approximately 1230, Jul 23, the transfer of cargo commenced. This operation is proceeding smoothly, and by 1500, Jul 24, a quantity of approximately 1,500 tonnes had been transferred from hold Nos. 3 and 5 of *Olympic Galaxy* to *Scan Arctic*. It is felt that by approximately 1500, Jul 25, a total of about 3,000 tonnes would have been discharged. At this stage arrangements will be made for *Scan Arctic* to be shifted. Thereafter tugs would be used to move *Olympic Galaxy*, if it has not refloated by then the transfer operation would recommence. — Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Jul 29 — Cargo was transferred from bulk *Olympic Galaxy* to ro/ro *Scan Arctic* from Jul 23 upto 1200, Jul 27. There was a break at 1100 Jul 25 when salvors stopped the transfer and shifted *Scan Arctic* with a view to floating *Olympic Galaxy*. This attempt failed and *Scan Arctic* was double banked at approximately 0900, Jul 26 and transferring of cargo continued. Finally as per draught a quantity of 4,376 tonnes was transferred and at 1330 hrs *Scan Arctic* cast off. Thereafter the ballast tanks were emptied and tugs *Tsalvaries* and *Maha Nuwara* commenced the attempt to move/float *Olympic Galaxy*. At 1500, Jul 27 *Olympic Galaxy* moved from its grounded position. It shifted approximately 400 metres from this position and weighed anchor. Meanwhile *Scan Arctic* arrived alongside at Prima Jetty Jul 27 and commenced discharge at 0845, Jul 28. It completed discharge at 1950 same day

and sailed at 1028 today. The damage sustained by *Olympic Galaxy* has been filmed and inspected by the class surveyor and he has reported that the vessel is fit to berth at the Prima Jetty for discharge of cargo prior to repairs being effected. However as yet, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority has not cleared the vessel for berthing. This permission is not likely until this evening. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jul 27.)

PARVEEN

Karachi, Jul 24 — Local barge *Parveen*, laden with 360 tonnes of clinkers worth over Tk 1.2 million, imported by Holcim Cement Factory, at Mongla Export Processing Zone, capsized in the river Pashur in Bangladesh on Thursday (Jul 22), according to port and shipping industry sources. The clinkers were loaded in the barge from bulk *Asian Prime*, a flag carrier of Panama, now anchored at Herberia of Mongla Port of Bangladesh. It was feared that the barge capsized due to mechanical faults in which four of its employees were injured. One is undergoing treatment at Mongla Upazila Health Complex while the three others were given first aid. A complaint has already been lodged with Mongla Police Station to investigate the mishap. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Khulna, Jul 28 — Barge *Parveen*, laden with 200 tonnes of cement clinker in bulk, is reported to have capsized in the Pussur River at Mongla, Bagerhat, 45 kms away from Khulna at about 1400, Jul 22. The vessel is still in the same position. No salvage operations have been undertaken by the owners: Messrs. Inland & Overseas Ltd., Khulna, Bangladesh or by any other parties. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PECHORA RIVER (Malta)

See *Maersk Flensburg*.

PONGOLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Jul 23 — General cargo *Pongola* arrived Durban Jul 22 from Beira. — Lloyd's Agents.

Durban, Jul 26 — General cargo *Pongola* entered dry dock at Durban Jul 25 for repairs, which are expected to be completed around the end of September. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Ocean Africa Container Lines general cargo *Pongola* returned to Durban under its own power on Thursday (Jul 22) last week and went directly to the Bayhead ship repair area. The vessel later docked on the floating dock Eldock, owned and operated by Elgin Brown & Hamer, for assessment and repairs. *Pongola* returned to Durban, accompanied by tug *Toto* arriving at 1500, Jul 22. According to preliminary reports *Pongola* has buckled bottom plates and a hogsback caused by the rise and fall of tides as the ship lay stranded on the sandbank. Repairs are estimated to involve some 400 tonnes of new steel.

PRINCESS OF THE PACIFIC (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 27 — Salvors from Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp.

failed to refloat ro/ro *Princess of the Pacific* Jul 21. Capt. Edgardo Gualberto, Malayan Towage CEO said that attempts to tow the vessel to open water were unsuccessful. The vessel was still carrying various types of cargo when the salvage attempt was made. "It was just too heavy," Capt. Gualberto explained. To lighten the vessel, salvors have transferred its cargo to a salvage barge. Another attempt to refloat the vessel will be made between Jul 31 and Aug 2, when the tide is highest, Capt. Gualberto said. This is the third time that salvors had attempted to refloat the vessel. During the first two attempts, tow lines attached to the vessel broke. The vessel was on its way from Manila to Zamboanga port in Mindanao when it developed engine trouble in the vicinity of Nogas island and drifted into shallow waters on Jun 23. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

QADEER UR REHMAN

Karachi, Jul 25 — The local shipping agency Noor Sons informed Maritime Security Agency (MSA) that its 120-foot general cargo *Qadeer Ur Rehman*, which departed Dubai Jul 12 for Karachi, with iron scrap and nine crew members, has capsized in the Arabian Sea. Subsequently, the wreckage of the vessel was spotted 40 nautical miles from Karachi without a crew. It is feared that the crew have drowned. A decomposed body, believed to be a member of the same vessel's crew, washed ashore at Sonara beach yesterday. The shipping agency, Noor Sons, which handled the vessel's operation, said that the crew had remained in touch with it till Jul 15 but since then all efforts to establish contact had failed. A spokesman for the shipping agent said that two search vessels with five divers had been sent to the spot. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The nine crew members from general cargo *Qadeer Ur Rehman* that sank on its way from the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan are probably dead, officials said yesterday. The body of a man washed ashore early yesterday near Sunera Point, about 30 kilometres west of the vessel's destination in Karachi, said Edhi Foundation relief agency's Faisal Edhi. The agency is helping search for the missing sailors. Doctors at a hospital in Sunera Point are trying to establish the identity of the deceased, but they believe he was one of the crew, Edhi said. The Pakistani vessel, carrying food and electrical goods, left Dubai for Karachi on Jul 12 and lost contact with its shipping agent in Karachi on Jul 19, said Maritime Security Agency spokesman Nadeem Tahir. The vessel's wreckage was found three days later about 70 kilometres west of Karachi. No bodies were found but there were no signs of survivors either, he said. Tahir said the shipwreck was likely caused by rough seas, which are common during the monsoon season.

Karachi, Jul 27 — Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) today said that a search is still going on in deep water for the missing crew of ill-

fated 120-foot general cargo *Qadeer Ur Rehman*, which capsized last week in the Arabian Sea while returning from Dubai. Separately, the underwater divers and volunteers of Edhi Foundation were also searching for the crew at coastlines of Sindh and Balochistan. M/s Mohammed Aslam & Company of Dubai reportedly owned the vessel. The vessel departed Dubai Jul 12 for Karachi, with iron scrap and nine crewmembers, and capsized in the Arabian Sea. Subsequently, the wreckage of the vessel was spotted 40 nautical miles from Karachi without a crew. It is feared that the crew have drowned. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

RODANTHI (Greece)

London, Jul 26 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Rodanthi* (6710 gt, built 1974) sustained damage to the starboard main engine half a nautical mile outside the port of Kalymnos at 0430, Jul 26. At the time the vessel was performing the schedule Piraeus-Leros-Patmos-Kalymnos-Kos-Nisiros-Tilos-Rhodes with 126 passengers on board. The damage was repaired by the crew and the vessel berthed safely at the port of Kalymnos at 0530 where survey by the marine inspectorate confirmed successful repair of the damage and therefore the vessel was permitted to continue normal scheduling.

Piraeus, Jul 27 — Passenger ro/ro *Rodanthi* sustained failure in its right main engine 0.5 nautical miles away from Kalymnos port Jul 26. The vessel's crew members managed to restore the failure and the vessel called Kalymnos port at 0530. After inspection by the local port authorities the vessel sailed the same day with destination Rhodes. — Lloyd's Agents.

S. DURVILLE (Singapore)

See "New Caledonia" under "Labour Disputes."

SAEHAN GALAXY (South Korea)

Seoul, Jul 27 — Lpg *Saeahan Galaxy* is still at Dalian since arrival on Jul 8, the sailing schedule is unknown at present. The vessel has been arrested by the opponent owner and MSA, China, because the oil pollution and loss of life of the crew of *Jingan No.6* are involved. It was reported that the temporary repair of *Saeahan Galaxy* has been carried out but permanent repair schedule is not fixed yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

SALVOR (Canada)

See *KTC 115*.

SAMMARINA M. (Romania)

Bucharest, Jul 14 — Ro/ro *Sammarina M.* is still at Constantza under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAMUR 14 (Russia)

London, July 23 — A press report, dated July 22, states: Russian general cargo *Samur 14* (1649 gt, built 1984, ex *Kapitan Torsukoy*) "ran aground" in Istanbul Strait yesterday. The vessel "ran aground" offshore Bebek district of Istanbul while it was carrying 3,000

tons of sheet iron to Croatia. The crew of the vessel have not yet ask for help, but Coast Guard Department and Ship Rescue Enterprises sent one tug and two boats to offshore Bebek district where the vessel "ran aground".

London, July 23 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 0800, UTC: general cargo *Samur 14*, Ilichevsk for Rijeka, only touched ground lightly and is now at anchorage in Sea of Mamara. (Note — *Samur 14* sailed Ilichevsk July 19.)

SANDSTRAND (Norway)

London, Jul 25 — Following received from Stavanger MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Suction dredger *Sandstrand* (300 gt, built 1965), three persons on board, reported engine problems south-east of Mandal at 1025, UTC, this morning. Tug *Aegir* is rendering assistance and will tow the vessel to port.

London, Jul 27 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0924, UTC: Suction dredger *Sandstrand* arrived Mandal at 1620, local time, Jul 25, in tow of tug *Aegir*.

SAVA OCEAN (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Jul 27 — General cargo *Sava Ocean* sailed Thessaloniki Jul 27 for Immingham. — Lloyd's Agents.

SETIA JAYA (Singapore)

London, Jul 26 — Following notice to mariners broadcast at 0909, UTC, Jul 23: Distress signal received from chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* (6379 gt, built 1981) in lat 02 55.7N, long 84 48.3E, at 0606, UTC, Jul 23. Vessels in vicinity requested to keep a sharp lookout, assist if possible. Reports to Singapore Port Operation Control Centre.

London, Jul 26 — Following notice to mariners broadcast at 0026, UTC, Jul 25: Derelict chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* adrift in lat 02 41.2N, long 85 14.1E, at 0831, UTC, Jul 24.

London, Jul 26 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1430, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya*, S6DU9, is being towed to Sri Lanka by tug *Sable Cape*.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Six sailors including two engineers were killed when chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya*, Maldives for Indonesia, in ballast, exploded in international waters close to the south-east coast of Sri Lanka. The tanker is at anchor several kilometres away from the Southern coast. A team of experts will leave today to make a preliminary assessment to salve the damaged tanker. The ship was abandoned by its crew on Jul 18 (? 23) following the sudden explosion. The ship's agents have contacted the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) for assistance to recover five bodies left behind at the time of evacuation, Ports Ministry sources said yesterday. Fifteen crew members including the master were rescued by crude oil tanker *British Pride*, that was in the vicinity. "We have been informed that six more crew members who had jumped overboard following the explosion are still

missing," ministry sources said. Among the dead were two Myanmar citizens, two Chinese and two Indonesians. The blast had mainly damaged the tanker's engine-room and the accommodation compartments in the lower decks. The reason for the explosion is still unknown and the team which includes the Government Analyst and P&I surveyors will assess whether it is safe to tow the tanker close to Sri Lanka territorial waters to estimate the extent of the damage and investigate the cause of the sudden explosion.

SHINRYU MARU NO.12 (Japan)

London, July 23 — Following navigation warning issued today: Sunken wreck of a tug, length 21 metres, exists in lat 34 35.8N, long 135 13E.

London, July 23 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 2027, local time, today: Tug *Shinryu Maru No.12*, JJ3320, (46 gt, built 1982) sank at approximately 1236, UTC, July 22. Cause of sinking under investigation.

SHOTOKU MARU (Japan)

Moji, Jul 27 — Product tanker *Shotoku Maru* is still under repairs at Shimonoseki and expected to be completed on Jul 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHUNHONGHAI 98

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: One person has been confirmed dead and two others are missing after vessel *Shunhonghai 98*, belonging to the Shunde Honghai Freighter Company, Foshan city, laden with sand and with 10 crew, capsized at 0545 yesterday in turbulent Zhu Jiang River in Guangdong province. Six sailors swam to safety and the a seventh was rescued by the maritime rescuers. Authorities pulled the capsized freighter out of water at about 2000 today. One body was found in the dining room of the vessel. According to technical experts with the Maritime Safety Administration, overloading, travelling at night and the river's strong current may be among the leading factors that have caused the boat to capsize. Rescuers continue to search for the missing men.

SILVER STREAM (U.K.)

London, Jul 24 — Fishing *Silver Stream* sailed Grimsby Jul 20 and subsequently arrived New Holland the same day.

SOUTHERN TIARE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Jul 23 — General cargo *Southern Tiare* is now rescheduled to sail from Napier at 1200, Jul 26 for Chatham Islands. A new rudder is not yet delivered to the vessel at Napier. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jul 21.)

Wellington, Jul 26 — The newly prefabricated rudder arrived at Napier from Auckland on Jul 24 and was fitted to general cargo *Southern Tiare* with the use of a shore crane by local engineers on Jul 25. The vessel will load fuel and cargo today and is expected to sail this afternoon for Waitangi, Chatham Islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

Wellington, Jul 28 — After completing rudder repairs, general cargo *Southern Tiare* sailed from Napier at 1900, local time, Jul 26 for the Chatham Islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHGATE (Liberia)

Ponta Delgada, Jul 26 — Bulk *Southgate*: Main engine repairs completed Jul 25, and vessel left Ponta Delgada 1300, local time, same day for Spain. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOYO MARU (Japan)

London, Jul 26 — Following navigation warning issued today: Research *Soyo Maru*, 892 gt, (built 1994) adrift in lat 38 56.4N, long 134 20.9E, at 2210, UTC, Jul 25.

London, Jul 26 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1935, JST: Research *Soyo Maru* is still adrift. Tug *Suo Maru No.2* is proceeding to assist, and due on scene at approximately 0001, UTC, Jul 27.

London, Jul 27 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, dated today: Tug *Suo Maru No.2* rendezvoused with research *Soyo Maru* at 2220, UTC, Jul 26, and is presently towing the vessel to Kanazawa, ETA 2200, UTC, Jul 27.

SPIRIT OF VANCOUVER ISLAND (Canada)

Vancouver, Jul 22 — Ro/ro *Spirit of Vancouver Island* was only out of service temporarily and is now back on its normal route, ferrying passengers from and to Vancouver Island, British Columbia. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPRING PEACOCK (Panama)

Yokohama, Jul 26 — Bulk *Spring Peacock* sailed Yokohama Jul 23 for Mizushima. — Lloyd's Agents.

ST.CLAIR (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 22 — Bulk *St.Clair* was reported arriving at Superior on Jul 17.

London, Jul 24 — Bulk *St.Clair* arrived Nanticoke Jul 21 and sailed Jul 22 for Superior.

STAR OF THE NORTHWEST (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Scenic-tour boat *Star of the Northwest* (96 gt, built 1978) began taking on water in Resurrection Bay yesterday, forcing 161 passengers and two National Park Service employees to abandon ship, the Coast Guard said. All on board but a half-dozen crew members were transported from *Star of the Northwest* to a competitor's tour boat after the afternoon mishap. The crew remained on board while the boat was towed to safety. The 100-foot vessel began quickly taking on water about 1400 hrs in Eldorado Narrows near Fox Island after striking an unknown submerged object, said Coast Guard Lt. Mike McNeil. No one was injured, but *Star of the Northwest* sustained heavy damage, the Coast Guard said. As many as 30 vessels responded to a distress call from the boat, which is owned by Anchorage-based Major Marine Tours. The company operates two tour vessels out of Seward and one from Whittier.

Passengers and crew members were transferred to tour boat *Greatland* operated by Kenai Fjords Tours. That vessel was among those responding to the distress call, said Russ Mager, owner of Major Marine Tours. Passengers were taken back to Seward, 13 miles to the north. "The passengers are all ashore and everyone is fine," Mager said. Six crew members were on board *Star of the Northwest* as it was towed yesterday evening to Seward, according to the Coast Guard. The vessel was still taking on water, but six pumps appeared to be keeping up with the flooding, McNeil said. Also on board were two Coast Guard members and repair workers from Major Marine Tours who will get the vessel ready for dry dock. McNeil said the Coast Guard was starting an investigation.

STRADA GIGANTE (Italy)

London, July 23 — A press report, dated July 21, states: Ro/ro *Strada Gigante* (14765 gt, built 1977), from Udevalla, arrived Hamburg "Monday" (July 19) with engine problems. Repairs are to be carried out by Barthels & Luders GmbH. Vessel is also to further load trucks and passenger cars for Mersin and Beirut at Shed 81. (Note — *Strada Gigante* sailed Uddevalla July 15 and was reported to have arrived Hamburg 1828, Jul 17.)

Hamburg, Jul 27 — According to the local agents of ro/ro *Strada Gigante*, repairs to the vessel are expected to be completed tonight. Thereafter the vessel will reportedly sail to Mersin, in Turkey. According to the local shipyard of Messrs. Blohm & Voss where repairs took place the relevant costs amount to approximately EUR 150,000.00. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUAM REEFER (Ghana)

Accra, Jul 27 — Ref *Suam Reefer* has become scrap, part of the steel has been cut off and taken away. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNSHINE KING

Manila, Jul 26 — General cargo *Sunshine King* is still lying half-sunk at Zambales. Salvage operations have not yet commenced. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPERFERRY 14 (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 14* is still at its original position in Mariveles, Bataan. As of late last week salvor's tugs were still alongside the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jul 29 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 14* was refloated from its half-submerged position in Sisiman Bay, near the town of Mariveles, and towed to Herma Shipyard, Mariveles, on Jul 27. The Philippine Coast Guard said the vessel was "floated and towed by two tugs under escort of Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue vessel *Davao del Norte* to Herma Shipyard where it is now berthed port side". The vessel arrived at the Shipyard at around 1330 hrs, after which firemen and Coast Guard personnel boarded the vessel to check compartments for toxicity and dangerous gases. After the vessel was declared environmentally

safe, marine surveyors and insurance representatives conducted their own inspections on board the vessel. The Coast Guard said that search and retrieval operations were resumed today for the bodies of at least 50 missing passengers who are presumed to be still inside the vessel. The Coast Guard said that they would provide security for the vessel which has been raided by thieves who have carted away part of the vessel's cargo while it was grounded off Mariveles. The Coast Guard said that 23 personnel are providing dockside security while *Davao del Norte* is guarding the vessel from the sea. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

THETIS

See *Vassilios II*.

TIRELESS (Marshall Islands)

Chittagong, Jul 25 — Chem.tank *Tireless* with 21,000 tonnes CDSO, while at berth RM-4, damaged pontoons and mooring buoys thereafter drifted to mid stream on the night, Jul 19. Consequently vessel including the mooring buoys and pontoons have reportedly been damaged. Vessel is awaiting at Chittagong Outer Anchorage for discharging cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chittagong, Jul 28 — Chem.tank *Tireless* reberthed at river mooring No 4 at 0930, Jul 28, and commenced cargo discharge to the MEB Tank Terminal at 1345, same day. Chittagong Port Authority are reported to have repaired the damaged mooring buoys. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOM T. (Sao Tome & Principe)

Bucharest, Jul 14 — General cargo *Tom T.* remains laid-up at Midia. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRICOLOR (NIS)

London, Jul 28 — The Combinatie Berging Tricolor consortium reported Jul 23: With the delivery yesterday of one more large section from vehicle *Tricolor* wreckage to the scrap site in Zeebrugge all large sections have been removed from the seabed. Up until today the salvage team has removed in excess of 8,500 tons of debris. The team will continue its work on the wreckage with the large grab on *Taklift 4*, which they temporarily detached for the lifting of the last large section of approximately 500 tons. This weekend the grab will be re-attached to *Taklift 4* in Zeebrugge. For the remainder of the operation *Taklift 4* will have to remove relatively smaller parts of the vessel and its cargo, ranging from parts of the car decks, hull sideplates and cars which lay scattered around the area. All activities are currently performed as scheduled. Depending on weather conditions, the work will be finished in September.

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

London, Jul 25 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1325, UTC: General cargo *Ursula Leonhardt* (4382 gt, built 1974) had piston problems off Brest, Jul 23. Vessel was taken in tow

by tug *Abeille Flandre*, arriving Brest same day. Vessel is still at Brest.

Brest, Jul 27 — General cargo *Ursula Leonhardt* arrived Brest at 0240, Jul 24, in tow of tug *Abeille Flandre*. Owner's representatives are still on board, investigating the extent of the main engine damage, which is reported to be serious. No decision has yet been taken about whether to effect repairs locally or tow the vessel to another port. — Lloyd's Agents.

VASSILIOS II (Greece)

London, Jul 27 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During this morning, while transiting the Corinth canal in tow of tug *Thetis*, chem.tank *Vassilios II* (933 gt, built 1976) struck one of the banks of the canal. Previously the vessel had departed, laden, from Hellenic Petroleum Aspropyrgos, bound for Amfilochia. From the contact the tanker sustained a fracture one metre in length and 10-15cm wide to the starboard bow, at a height one metre above the waterline. There was no pollution caused. Following the collision, *Vassilios II* anchored outside the port of Corinth, where it was prohibited to depart pending issuance of a classification maintenance certificate.

Piraeus, Jul 28 — Chem.tank *Vassilios II*, in tow of tug *Thetis*, struck Corinth's canal bank at 1730, Jul 27. A crack of one metre length and 10-15 centimetres width was sustained on the starboard bow of the vessel, one metre above the waterline. No pollution was reported. The vessel sailed, with destination Amfilochia port, after temporary restitution of the damage and inspection by its register. The vessel is expected to call Perama port for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

WISDOM C. (Panama)

Istanbul, Jul 23 — Bulk *Wisdom C.* completed necessary repairs by own means and after inspection/completion of formalities, sailed from Canakkale at 0717 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZIM PIRAEUS (Greece)

London, Jul 27 — C.c. *Zim Piraeus* arrived and sailed Halifax Jul 22. It subsequently arrived New York Jul 24 and sailed Jul 25 for Savannah.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Five men armed with three home-made guns and a bushknife held up ro/ro *Huris* (353 gt, built 1977) at the Ah Tam wharf in Rabaul and escaped with a substantial amount of money in cash and cheques. East New Britain police reported the five men knew the vessel would arrive at the dock in the early hours of

yesterday morning between 0330 and 0400 hrs and were waiting for it. Provincial police commander Superintendent Allan Kundi said *Huris*, owned by Agmark Pacific Limited, was returning from a voyage to Buka and had just docked when the armed men entered the vessel. He said the men used the weapons to threaten the members of the crew. He said they held up the crew and the master of the vessel, tied up their hands and feet and searched the ship. Supt Kundi said the men knew what they were looking for and after finding it, they threatened and forced the master to unlock the secret steel compartment used to keep important documents and money. He said the five took the cash and cheques and escaped. Supt Kundi said the "substantial amount" was for cocoa trading which the ship had been involved in at Buka. He is now appealing to the public to help police with information about the suspects. He said police had "some good leads" and would be making some arrests soon but they needed the community's help.

Seizures & Arrests



ATLANTIC PRINCESS (Bahamas)

Jakarta, Jul 23 — General cargo *Atlantic Princess*, now renamed *Mentari Sejati*, arrived Surabaya Jul 14 from Kupang. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Atlantic Princess* was arrested by mortgagees at Singapore in April, 2003, and was sold May 6, 2003, to an Indonesian-based company.)

CAP ANAMUR (Germany)

See under "Miscellaneous."

CAPTAIN DANIEL (Italy)

Venice, Jul 26 — Bulk *Captain Daniel* (3903 gt, built 1976), which arrived at Chioggia on Feb 5, is currently still at Chioggia, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELENI (Romania)

Chennai, July 22 — General cargo *Eleni* was to be scrapped at Chokhani Shipyard, Chennai. The derricks have been scrapped, however, it is understood legal action had been initiated against the vessel. Its scrapping therefore has been put in abeyance and the vessel is presently at Chennai port. — Lloyd's Agents.

EUROPEAN STARS (Italy)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

FESTIVAL CRUISES INC

Barcelona, Jul 23 — Passenger *European Stars* was sold Wednesday (Jul 21) to the company, Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A. Geneva. Next Monday/Tuesday (Jul 26/27) the vessel will leave for Naples to go into a

shipyard until next February, to be reconditioned. — Lloyd's Agents.

FILIPPOS (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Jul 28 — C.c. *Filippos* is still under arrest in Porto Alegre by the judiciary. No prospects for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

GENERAL BERNARDINO

CABALLERO (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Jul 28 — General cargo *General Bernardino Caballero* is still under arrest in Porto Alegre by the judiciary. No prospects for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARGOT (Panama)

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Margot* allegedly hijacked in Haiti at the height of the government crisis in February has a new owner. Jean-Patrick Maignan, a North Miami Beach businessman, bought the vessel at a government auction yesterday at the Broward County Convention Centre in Fort Lauderdale for \$120,000. Maignan was among about 480 people from around the country who came to bid on items seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, both arms of the Department of Homeland Security, or the Internal Revenue Service. Maignan plans to sell *Margot* as soon he can find a buyer in the United States. The Coast Guard intercepted *Margot* in February about 10 miles off Government Cut in Miami with as many as 17 unauthorized and gun-bearing Haitians on board and four Haitian passengers. The boat was headed to South Florida in the midst of violence that preceded Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's departure from the country. Although the ship's crew reported that the vessel had been hijacked, U.S. officials determined the ship had not been hijacked and that there was not enough evidence to warrant prosecution of anyone on board. Federal officials repatriated the 21 Haitians. *Margot* made headlines again in April after officers seized 150 pounds of cocaine concealed in a hidden compartment under the cargo deck of the freighter while docked on the Miami River.

MARISCAL JOSE FELIX ESTIGARRIBIA (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Jul 28 — General cargo *Mariscal Jose Felix Estigarribia* is still under arrest in Porto Alegre by the judiciary. No prospects for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)

Limassol, Jul 26 — Passenger *Queen Constantina* is still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAEHAN GALAXY (South Korea)

See under "Marine."

SEYMOUR (Panama)

Guayaquil, Jul 22 — VATADUR have sold the shipyard and general cargo *Seymour* to ASTIGUAYAS, who recently sold the vessel to new owners. *Seymour* is no longer at the same location. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHAMROCK (French Southern Territories)

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Container shipments in and out of Portland Harbour, Maine, were halted this week after federal authorities detained ro/ro *Shamrock* (4900 gt, built 2000) for the owner's failure to make mortgage payments. Fortis Bank of The Netherlands says the owner of *Shamrock*, a French company, stopped making payments nearly three years ago. The bank has gone to federal court in Portland to demand that the company immediately repay the entire loan with interest, a total of \$14.3 million. US District Judge George Singal signed an arrest warrant for the vessel this month, and US marshals formally seized *Shamrock* when it arrived on the Portland waterfront Tuesday evening (Jul 20). The vessel remained at anchor off Portland's East End yesterday. "If they post a bond, it would be released. Until they figure out a satisfactory way to do that or something similar, it will remain under arrest," said Sarah McDaniel, an attorney in Portland representing Fortis Bank. An attorney representing *Shamrock's* owner, Copropriete du Navire *Shamrock*, said the mortgage had been the subject of negotiations between the companies and that the dispute could be settled without a drawn-out legal fight. "Hopefully, it will get resolved without too much banging around in the court," said Michael Kaplan. Court documents filed by Fortis Bank say *Shamrock's* owner borrowed \$11.6 million to build the vessel, which was launched in 2000. The loan was to be repaid in quarterly payments ranging between \$177,500 and \$397,500, but the vessel owner hasn't made a payment on the loan since Sep 2001, according to the filings. Now Fortis Bank is seeking all principal and interest on the loan. *Shamrock* was built in 2000 to provide more speed and cargo capacity on the weekly trade route between Boston, Portland and Halifax, Nova Scotia, where goods flow to and from the rest of the world. *Shamrock* docks at Portland's International Marine Terminal every Tuesday to unload imports such as machinery and liquor and to load outgoing Maine goods such as eggs and wood products. The sealed containers fit onto truck trailers to be carried to inland destinations. Portland charges *Shamrock* docking fees and has not received a payment for about two months. The \$11,000 outstanding bill is not unusual for the company, however, according to city officials. "If for some reason this case doesn't get resolved and it goes to the extreme and they sell the vessel," then Portland would file a claim for part of the proceeds, said Jeff Monroe, director of ports and transportation for the city. The bigger issue for the city is making sure cargo moves in and out, he said. *Shamrock* is the only container vessel that stops in Portland, and if the dispute is not settled soon, the city will have to work with container carrier companies to bring in a new vessel, according to

Monroe. Nappi Distributors imports beer from Germany through the city's container port. It doesn't have any shipments on *Shamrock* now, however, and could easily shift business to other container ships in Boston, said vice president Elmer Alcott. (Note — *Shamrock* sailed Halifax Jul 19 for Portland, Maine.)

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Ro/ro *Shamrock* is being detained in Portland (Maine) Harbour pending a financial dispute between the owner of the vessel and a Dutch bank. Lawyers representing the vessel's owner and the bank say the ship may be allowed to unload some of its cargo, which includes a shipment of Scottish whisky, within the next day or two. But with the bank's demands for immediate repayment of \$14.3 million unresolved, it was not clear how soon container cargo would start moving through Portland again. "We're still working on that," said Michael Kaplan, a Portland lawyer representing the vessel owner, Copropriete du Navire *Shamrock*. "I assume the parties are talking in Europe," said Peter Plumb, the Portland lawyer representing Fortis Bank. There are 13 people on board, including 11 professional crew and two Canadian cadets. The movement of cargo remains a concern, and the bank and the ship owner were seeking approvals to have *Shamrock* unload Portland-bound cargo while remaining under arrest, lawyers said yesterday. "That would not resolve the global situation, but at least it would help the shippers," Kaplan said. That would be good news for Maine businesses such as White Rock Distilleries of Lewiston, which has a shipment of whisky from Scotland on board the ship.

TAI PING QUAN (China)

London, Jul 26 — General cargo *Tai Ping Quan* remains at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

TALAVERA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Venice, Jul 26 — General cargo *Talavera* (2123 gt, built 1971), which arrived at Chioggia on Jan 24, is currently still at Chioggia, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

YONGTONG (Panama)

London, Jul 26 — Chemical/oil carrier *Yongtong* (1831 gt, built 1979), 3EPD9, which arrived at Hong Kong on Jul 24, is currently reported at Kau Yi Chau Dangerous Goods Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

Pipeline Accidents



GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: A truck drilling a guardrail hole at the second Tacoma

Narrows Bridge project ruptured a four-inch natural gas pipeline near Gig Harbor and caught fire. The fire destroyed the truck. Puget Sound Energy says crews are trying to shut off the ruptured portion of the line without affecting service to customers in the Gig Harbor area.

PORT ARTHUR AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 — A press report dated Jul 27, states: Law enforcement officials blocked traffic on both sides of US 73 for more than an hour when a hydrogen pipeline near Huntsman Corp Chemical was ruptured this morning. A local drilling company accidentally ran into a hydrogen pipeline owned by Air Products while drilling a hole to lay more pipelines off of U.S. 73. "We had a fairly significant pipeline leak, the leak was caused when a third party drilling company was doing some drilling across a bayou located between US 73 Highway and Huntsman," Tom Heller, Air Products plant manager, said. "They came in contact with our pipeline." The ruptured line was five to six feet underwater, Port Arthur Police Department Major John Owens said, and the leak did not pose a threat to local residents. Air Products officials said they saw a sudden decrease in pipeline pressure and took steps to isolate the area where the pipeline rupturing occurred. Plant authorities conducted a risk assessment and noted that hydrogen is neither toxic or polluting, but is flammable, Heller said. Each Air Products pipeline has isolation valves to isolate small areas of the pipe in case of an emergency, Heller noted.

SAMARRA AREA, IRAQ

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

Pollution



BRITTANY, FRANCE

London, Jul 29 — Bulk *Captain Diamantis* arrived Kamsar Jul 18 from Jorf Lasfar and sailed Jul 21.

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

See *KTC 115* under "Marine."

Weather & Navigation



CHINA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods have killed 439 people and caused economic losses of 21.95 billion yuan (US\$2.65 billion) across China this summer, the Civil Affairs Ministry said yesterday. More than 78 million people have been

affected, 275,000 houses destroyed and over 5.16 million hectares of farmland damaged, the ministry said. Since late last month, incessant heavy rains have led to severe mountain torrents, mudflows and landslides in several regions. "The flood situation is grave, especially in Hunan, Henan, Hubei and Yunnan provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region," said Wang Zhenyao, director of the ministry's Disaster Relief Department. He described this year's floods as the worst in decades. Natural disasters including floods, drought, wind, hail, earthquakes, blizzards, extreme temperatures, landslides and mudflows have killed 659 people this year. The economic loss from the calamities was estimated at 39.26 billion yuan. As a result, more than 1.2 million people had been relocated, the ministry said.

HURRICANE "CELIA"

London, Jul 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical Storm "Celia" located near lat 16.4N, long 125.1W, at 0900, UTC, position accurate within 25 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds of 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 50 nautical miles north semicircle, 25 nautical miles south semicircle. At 0600, UTC, Jul 24, position predicted to be near lat 16.5N, long 128.5W, dissipating, with maximum winds of 25 knots and gusts to 35 knots.

HURRICANE "DARBY"

London, Jul 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Darby" located near lat 12.8N, long 117.3W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 25 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 280 deg at 12 knots. Maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 50 nautical miles south-west semicircle, 70 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas: 80 nautical miles. Forecast valid 0600, UTC, Jul 28: Position near lat 13.8N, long 120.9W, with maximum winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles south semicircle. Radius of 34-knot winds: 70 nautical miles south-west semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jul 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Darby": Hurricane centre located near lat 17.0N, long 126.8W, at 0900, UTC, Jul 29. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 295 deg, at 12 knots. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 40 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 35 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds 80 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant.

Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 90 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 130 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 150 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 200 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 300 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 17.6N, long 128.4W. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 40 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 35 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds 80 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 130 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 30: Position lat 18.3N, long 130.6W. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles north semicircle, 15 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 40 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 110 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 130 nautical miles elsewhere.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 23, states: A state of emergency was announced in the Ust-Ordynsky Buryat autonomous district today because of the 200 million rouble damage done on agriculture by yesterday's hurricane, a source in the district administration said. The strong wind ruined grain crops, cut the electricity supply to more than 20 villages, damaged farms and dairy factories.

SOUTH ASIA

Karachi, Jul 23 — Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume flights from Sylhet in north eastern Bangladesh to the capital city Dhaka today, after a successful test flight, and permission granted by the civil aviation authority. The airline suspended all its flights on Jul 19, after the Sylhet MAG Osmani International Airport's runway became heavily flooded. However, the floodwater receded the following day and cleansing the runway was completed later on Jul 20. Rail communication between Sylhet and Dhaka resumed yesterday afternoon. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in India from widespread floods has risen in 293, after another 16 people died in eastern Bihar state. Officials have warned the situation is deteriorating across the east and north-east. The worsening floods have already displaced about 11.5 million people in the states of Bihar and Assam since the annual monsoon rains began mid-June. India's

prime minister, Manmohan Singh, is scheduled to tour parts of Bihar next week to survey relief efforts. Mr Singhe earlier this week took an aerial tour of flooded areas in north-eastern Assam state. The Assam government has described the floods as the worst in 25 years and has demanded \$US479 million in federal aid. The floods have wreaked havoc in the state, washing away 8,500 villages. The death toll from flooding in Bangladesh has risen to 185, as floodwater spread to parts of the capital, Dhaka. Officials say more than 19 million people have been affected by the floods. The death toll was earlier put at 57, but the official BSS news agency says officials have confirmed 185 deaths. The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) has warned the situation in Bangladesh could become critical if heavy rains continue. It is planning to launch an international appeal Monday to raise \$US3.2 million for victims of the flooding.

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A crowded boat ferrying flood refugees to safety in central Bangladesh capsized, drowning seven people as the death toll from this year's monsoon flooding in South Asia reached 705, officials and news reports said today. The floods have killed 396 in India, 202 in Bangladesh, 102 in Nepal and five in Pakistan. Most of the deaths occurred from drowning, building collapses, electrocution from downed power lines, waterborne diseases or landslides.

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Two thirds of Bangladesh has been flooded by the worst monsoon rains in 15 years. Officials say the water and sewerage systems in the capital, Dhaka, have broken down completely. The severe flooding across Bangladesh and parts of India and Nepal has killed almost 570 people in the past month. Millions of people have been forced from their homes and there have been outbreaks of diarrhea and other water-borne diseases.

Lonsdon, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Authorities recovered more than 100 decomposed bodies as overflowing rivers receded in eastern India. Floodwaters, disease and snakebites killed 58 more people in Bangladesh, officials said today, as the death toll from monsoon flooding across South Asia rose above 1,000 victims. The decomposed bodies started surfacing in India's eastern Bihar state, said Upendra Sharma, a deputy secretary in the state's relief and rehabilitation department. Meanwhile, one civilian was killed as an Indian air force helicopter dropping food and evacuating people crashed in Begusarai district, 30 miles south of Patna, the state capital, said Gautam Goswami, a relief officer. Two other civilians on board received minor injuries in the accident. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. In India's northeastern Assam state, rescuers today recovered seven more bodies after a boat capsized in floodwaters, police said. Ten bodies were pulled from the

site yesterday. The boat, ferrying flood victims to safety, was crammed with passengers when it overturned. The new deaths in Bangladesh came as rivers around the capital, Dhaka, burst their banks, leaving 40 percent of the city under water. Government relief workers and volunteers are distributing food, medicines and clothes to people stranded in their homes or sheltering on mud embankments, raised highways, school buildings or mosques. But many complained that not enough relief was getting through. The 58 new deaths occurred due to diarrhea, drowning and snakebites, the government said without providing further details. About 75,000 people have been stricken with diarrhea since the start of the floods in June, it said. The new deaths brought to nearly 300 the number killed in Bangladesh. In Nepal, more than 100 have died. In Pakistan, there have been five monsoon deaths, while in India the death toll has reached some 700 victims. Across all of South Asia, the toll is 1,078.

Dhaka, Jul 27 — Thousands of people in Dhaka have taken boats to go to work after floods inundated large parts of the city, forcing up to 100,000 people to cram into shelters. More than two-thirds of the entire country was under water, officials said. Many streets in the city were waist-deep in water as the country's most severe floods in 15 years worsened. About one-third of Dhaka was under water and boats replaced rickshaws as primary transport as sewage added to problems. Workers and volunteers struggled to plug small breaches on a giant dyke, called the DND embankment, and piled sandbags to block floodwater threatening to overflow it. Civil aviation officials said the city's international airport was safe, but authorities were constantly watching water levels in nearby rivers and canals. Elsewhere in the country thousands of villages were flooded and 35 more people were reported killed since Sunday (Jul 25). At least 285 people have been killed in Bangladesh in drownings, snakebites, boating accidents and house collapses since the floods began three weeks ago. Foreign aid has begun to flow in. The current floods have killed more than 700 people across South Asia, including almost 400 in India's Bihar state. In Bangladesh, the floods have rendered more 10 million people homeless, officials said. In many remote areas, authorities and aid agencies were finding it too difficult to reach relief materials. The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh, an umbrella body of non-government organisations, asked the government, yesterday, to provide helicopters to airdrop relief goods to flooded areas. The government said the request would be considered. At least 50 flood victims died of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in the last one week, health officials said. At least 100,000 more were suffering with the shortage of clean water and the breakdown of the sewage system. This year's flooding could prove more catastrophic as crops, including paddy, on hundreds of square kilometres were

swamped. Roads, train lines and embankments were washed away in 43 of the country's 64 administrative districts. In Narayanganj district, near Dhaka, thousands came to work at garment factories, wading through chest-high water. Industry officials said they could not shut the factories as they needed to keep shipment schedules. — Reuters.

Mumbai, Jul 28 — Assam's Numaligarh Refinery is expected to resume operations in the first week of August, a company official said today. The refinery's operations were temporarily stopped a week ago as floods submerged railway tracks used to transport refined products from the unit. "The tracks should be repaired by August 2 unless the flood situation deteriorates. The unit can resume operation after that," the official said. The refinery has a capacity to process 60,000 barrels of crude oil per day. — Reuters.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Deaths from monsoon rains across South Asia reached 1,238 today as Bangladesh remained awash in the worst floods in six years, and waterborne diseases began taking their toll. Diarrhoea caused by drinking dirty water has killed 46 people and afflicted about 80,000 this month, according to the government's Health Directorate. Relief workers warned that the situation could worsen as rivers around Bangladesh's inundated capital, Dhaka, continued to swell. The annual monsoon flooding, fed by melting snow and torrential rains, has left millions across South Asia marooned or homeless. At least 731 people have died in India, 102 in Nepal and five in Pakistan, according to reports from officials. The Bangladesh government said today that 400 people had died since June in the worst floods since 1998. They have engulfed two-thirds of the country, affecting more than 25 million people. Up to 1.3 million displaced people huddled in about 4,000 flood shelters. Villagers have pitched tents on highways or mud embankments with their families and cattle. "The situation in Dhaka and central Bangladesh will not improve until next week," the Flood Forecast and Warning Centre said today. Deaths are caused by drowning, landslides, house collapses, lightning, diseases and poisonous snakes that slither through the water and bite people wading through the water to reach higher ground. In India's north-eastern state of Assam, almost entirely covered by water, the government asked the Red Cross and other relief groups to provide anti-venom for snakebite victims as well as rehydration salts for diarrhoea sufferers. "Along with disease and its prevention, we are battling snakebites," said Bumidhar Barman, the health minister of Assam, where another 45 deaths were reported today. "Snakes, swept by the flood waters from rivers and marches, seem to be lurking around in large numbers, keeping the marooned people on tenterhooks." Some 12 million people are affected in Assam, where floods have caused \$1.08 billion

in damage, said the state's Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. In Dhaka, a city of 10 million people, shanty towns in low-lying areas, residential neighbourhoods and parts of the central business district have been inundated.

TYPHOON "MAEMI"

Busan, Jul 23 — The heavily listing floating hotel *Ferris Flotel* has been undergoing salvage operations using a floating crane and should be righted over the course of the next week. We understand that the hotel will then be repaired to return to normal service but the time schedule for repairs is at present unknown to us. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (See issues of Feb 16 and 18.)

Busan, Jul 27 — After refloating and up-righting, floating hotel *Ferris Flotel* will be shifted to an anchorage at Busan for repairs. Understand that repairs will take some four or five months to complete. It is therefore expected that the floating hotel may return to normal service by the end of this year or the beginning of next year. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TYPHOON "MINDULLE"

Busan, Jul 28 — The owners of chemical/oil carrier *No.1 Dae Bu* made a contract with the Shin Young Shipyard, Yeosu for permanent repairs of machinery only. Hull damage repairs have not yet been decided. The part permanent repairs commenced on Jul 19 and are expected to be completed by Aug 20. — Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

TYPHOON "NAMTHEUN"

London, Jul 26 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Namtheun" near lat 25.4N, long 147.8E, at 0600, UTC, Jul 26. Movement past six hours 320 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles north semicircle, 80 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 26.8N, long 146.6E. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots with gusts to 135 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 45 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 95 nautical miles north semicircle, 85 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 27: Position lat 28.2N, long 145.1E. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles north semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jul 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Namtheun" near lat 28.5N, long 145.4E, at 0600, UTC, Jul 27. Movement past six hours: 325 deg at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 110 knots with gusts to 135 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 30 nautical

miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 130 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 115 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 95 nautical miles south-west quadrant, and 125 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 28: Position lat 31.0N, long 142.1E. Maximum sustained winds: 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 50 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 130 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles south-west quadrant, and 125 nautical miles north-west quadrant.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful typhoon was heading toward Honshu early today, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, warning of high waves in Pacific coastal regions and heavy rain in the Kanto region. Typhoon "Namtheun", the season's 10th, is likely to come close to the southern Izu Islands shortly after noon today and move westward across waters off the Tokai region through tomorrow, the agency said.

London, Jul 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Namtheun" near lat 31.5N, long 139.3E, at 0600, UTC, Jul 29. Movement past six hours 270 deg at four knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 65 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 170 nautical miles south semicircle, 150 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 31.5N, long 138.2E. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 160 nautical miles east semicircle, 140 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 30: Position lat 31.4N, long 136.5E. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 160 nautical miles east semicircle, 140 nautical miles elsewhere.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: People in Iowa whose property was damaged by storms, tornadoes and flooding this spring have received more than \$11 million in federal aid. That's according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is heading the federal aid relief for Iowa victims of weather-related disasters that happened between May 19 and Jun 24. That total includes about \$5.5 million in low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, about \$4.6 million in housing assistance grants and about \$1 million in other needs assistance grants. The average housing assistance award has been \$1,804, and the average other needs

assistance award has been \$998, said Buffy Gilfoil, a spokeswoman for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

VIETNAM

Hanoi, Jul 23 — Soldiers found bodies of 29 people missing in Vietnam's flood-hit north, state media said today, but hopes were fast fading of finding the 16 still missing in the impoverished mountainous provinces of Ha Giang and Cao Bang on the border with China, it said. Tuan Xuan Hien, an official in Ha Giang province said 28 bodies were found in Yen Minh, 420 kms north-west of Hanoi. The body of a teenage girl, swept away in floods in the neighbouring Cao Bang province on Tuesday (Jul 20, was also found, according to the defence ministry-run Quan Doi Nhan Dan (People's Army) daily. Communication with the flood-hit areas has not been restored as mudslides and heavy rains have washed away roads. — Reuters.

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from nearly a week of torrential rain in Vietnam's mountainous north has risen to 31, but another 22 people are missing feared dead. Police and soldiers are continuing the search for the missing and the government has also rushed emergency aid, including tents, boats and life jackets to the worst affected regions. Most of the dead and missing from the heavy rains that began a week ago, triggering flash floods and landslides, were from two villages in Yen Minh district, home to the Hmong and Tay ethnic minorities. An estimated 147,600 hectares of rice fields were flooded across the north of the country. Local authorities have ordered sluice gates opened and pumping stations to operate on full capacity to drain the water.

Earthquakes



BOLIVIA

London, Jul 26 — A report, dated Jul 25, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1401, UTC, Jul 25. The magnitude 5.0 event has been located in Central Bolivia in lat 17.384S, long 68.461W, depth 154 km.

CHILE COAST

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated today, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0132, UTC, July 22. The magnitude-4.4 event has been located off the coast of central Chile in lat 32.551S, long 72.069W.

CHINA

London, Jul 23 — A report, dated Jul 22, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1656, UTC, Jul 22. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in the Xinjiang-Xizang region in lat 35.062N, long 81.216E, depth 10 km.

FIJI

London, Jul 23 — A report, dated Jul 22, states: A light earthquake occurred at 2136, UTC, Jul 22. The magnitude 4.8 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 18.090S, long 178.529W, depth 590 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0003, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located south of Fiji in lat 22.068S, long 179.635W, depth 595 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1417, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 4.8 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 18.146S, long 177.144W, depth 414 km.

GREECE

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: A moderate earthquake shook the southern island of Crete but there were no reports of damage or injuries, authorities said yesterday. The quake, which a preliminary magnitude of 4.9, occurred at 2201, yesterday, about 181 miles south of Athens, the Athens Geodynamic Institute said. The epicentre was near the western city of Hania.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake shook a large swathe of western Indonesia late today, the state news agency Antara said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The earthquake had an initial magnitude of 7.3, the Hong Kong Observatory reported. In Padang, on the western coast of Sumatra island, people fled their homes in panic when the quake struck at about 2135 hrs, Antara reported. The quake was also felt in tall buildings in Jakarta, on the western tip of neighboring Java island, the report said. The Hong Kong Observatory said the quake was centred at southern Sumatra, 65 miles north-west of Palembang.

London, Jul 26 — A report, dated Jul 25, states: A major earthquake occurred at 1435, UTC, Jul 25. The magnitude 7.2 event has been located in southern Sumatra, Indonesia, in lat 02.399S, long 104.024E, depth 575 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0356, UTC, . The magnitude 6.6 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.484S, long 133.039E, depth 14 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0401, UTC, . The magnitude 5.4 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.356S, long 132.772E, depth 14 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0926, UTC. The magnitude 5.0 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.443S, long 132.772E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1318, UTC, Jul 28. The magnitude

4.9 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.455S, long 133.052E, depth 10 km.

IRAN

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 4.2 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale hit the city of Bam in the south-eastern province of Kerman today. According to the seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute, the tremor occurred at 0921, local time. Some residents ran outdoors from the temporary shelters, fearing further tremors. A number of people staged a gathering in the city's main square calling for discontinuance of building new houses there.

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 4 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale rattled the city of Bafq early today. The seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute recorded the tremor at 0806, local time. The quake was epicentered in lat 31.78N, long 55.18E. There were no immediate reports of any casualty or damage to property caused by the quake.

JAPAN

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated Jul 21, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0011, UTCy, Jul 21. The magnitude-4.9 event has been located in the Hokkaido, Japan region, in lat 41.065N, long 143.063E, depth 29.5 km.

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated Jul 21, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0038, UTC, Jul 21. The magnitude-4.9 event has been located in the Hokkaido, Japan region, in lat 41.075N, long 142.970E, depth 32.6 km.

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0945, UTC, July 22. The magnitude-6.2 event has been located in the Ryukyu Islands, Japan, in lat 26.545N, long 128.878E, depth 43.3 km.

London, Jul 26 — A report, dated Jul 24, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1854, UTC, July 24. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Ryukyu Islands, Japan, in lat 26.550N, long 128.720E, depth 37 km.

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 4.6 on the Richter scale shook central and western Japan early today, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 0055 quake.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 4.8 on the Richter scale hit eastern Hokkaido yesterday afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of damage and no tidal wave warnings were issued.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0844, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in the Hokkaido, Japan region, lat 42.871N, long 145.276E, depth 84 km.

KERMADEC ISLANDS AREA

London, Jul 26 — A report, dated Jul 23, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2217, UTC, Jul 23. The magnitude 5.1 event has been located south of the Kermadec Islands in lat 32.888S, long 178.473W, depth 10 km.

MARIANA ISLANDS REGION

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated Jul 21, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0629, UTC, Jul 21. The magnitude-5.4 event has been located in the Mariana Islands Region, in lat 21.114N, long 144.377E, depth 26.1km.

PAKISTAN

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0356, UTC, July 22. The magnitude-5.1 event has been located in Pakistan. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 42 km.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0106, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 5.4 event has been located in the Admiralty Islands region, Papua New Guinea, lat 02.987S, long 147.516E, depth 30 km.

PERU COAST

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated Jul 21, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0735, UTC, Jul 21. The magnitude-4.5 event has been located near the coast of Peru in lat 17.209S, long 70.699W, depth 99.9 km.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 26 — A report, dated Jul 25, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1728, UTC. The magnitude 5.1 event has been located in Mindanao, Philippines, in lat 05.182N, long 125.239E, depth 175 km.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 26, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1615, UTC, Jul 26. The magnitude 4.3 event has been located in Primorye, Russia, lat 42.811N, long 134.015E, depth 453 km.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring three to four points on the Richter scale rocked Sakhalin Island yesterday night. The Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk seismological station told Itar-Tass today the epicentre of the earthquake was located in the Dolinsk district, 32 kilometres north of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. The earth tremors were felt in almost a dozen settlements located near the main Sakhalin city. According to the main civil defence and emergencies directorate of the Sakhalin region, there have been no casualties or damage.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1023, UTC, Jul 28. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in

the Solomon Islands in lat 10.260S, long 161.138E, depth 58 km.

SVALBARD REGION

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated Jul 21, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1125, UTC, Jul 21. The magnitude-4.7 event has been located in the Svalbard region in lat 78.553N, long 07.465E, depth 10 km.

TONGA

London, Jul 23 — A report, dated today, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0204, UTC, Jul 23. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in Tonga in lat 16.623S, long 174.399W, depth 187 km.

TURKEY

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 4.0 on the open-ended Richter scale rocked the eastern Turkish province of Elazig today, but there were no reports of casualties or damage, the Anatolia news agency reported. The epicentre of the earthquake, which struck at 1151 hrs, was located at the town of Sivrice in Elazig, the Istanbul-based Kandilli seismological institute said.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated Jul 21, states: A light earthquake occurred at 2339, UTC, Jul 21. The magnitude-4.6 event has been located off the coast of Oregon in lat 43.716N, long 127.843W, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 23 — A report, dated today, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1821, UTC, Jul 23. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in the Alaska Peninsula in lat 55.017N, long 160.417W, depth 20 km.

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake jolted Ventura and Santa Barbara counties this morning, but authorities say there have been no reports of damage or injuries. The magnitude 4.3 tremor struck shortly before 0600 hrs. It was centred in Ventura County, about five miles south-east of Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County. Carpinteria is about 80 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

London, Jul 26 — A report, dated Jul 24, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1255, UTC, July 24. The magnitude 4.3 event has been located in southern California in lat 34.373N, long 119.440W, depth 8 km.

London, Jul 26 — A report, dated Jul 25, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1517, UTC, Jul 25. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in the Andreanof Islands, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, in lat 51.437N, long 175.148W, depth 1 km.

VANUATU

London, Jul 22 — A report, dated Jul 20, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0340, UTC, Jul 20. The magnitude-5.8 event has been located in Vanuatu in lat 20.329S, long 169.348E, depth 37.1 km.

Political & Civil Unrest**AFGHANISTAN**

Kabul, Jul 23 — Four American soldiers were wounded in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar today when their convoy was attacked with a car bomb, a senior police official said. The convoy was heading towards Kandahar city from a nearby air base when a car filled with explosives blew up, said General Salim Khan. "American forces have cordoned off the site of the blast and are carrying out an investigation." Khan said. — Reuters.

Kabul, Jul 28 — The Medecins sans Frontieres aid group is to pull out of Afghanistan after more than 20 years due to security concerns and lack of progress in an investigation into the killing of five staff, a spokeswoman said today. Its decision will come as a blow to the Afghan authorities, who rely heavily on the United Nations and other aid organisations for humanitarian assistance. The aid group's withdrawal is also another bad signal about the deteriorating security situation, despite the presence of around 20,000 U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan and a landmark presidential election due in just over two months. An MSF statement slammed the U.S. military's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), dozens of which operate around the country, as "the co-optation of humanitarian aid by the coalition for political and military motives". Aid organisations in Afghanistan have long complained that the PRTs, which are used to gather intelligence as well as rebuild schools and wells, blurred the line between humanitarian and military work, and thus endangered aid workers. More than 20 aid workers have been killed already this year in the country, well above the 13 killed in 2003. Aid groups, including the United Nations, are already limited to operating in relatively safe areas. Three foreign MSF staff, from Belgium, Norway and Holland, and two Afghan workers were killed in June on a remote road in the northwestern province of Badghis, which until then had been considered a relatively safe area. Up to that point MSF had been operating in 13 provinces with 80 international volunteers and 1,400 Afghan staff, but its operations thereafter were severely curtailed. Before the killings in June it had been operating in 13 provinces with 80 international volunteers and 1,400 Afghan staff, but its operations were severely curtailed. — Reuters.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Six Afghans, including two local United Nations staff registering voters for upcoming elections, have been killed in a bomb blast inside a mosque in central Afghanistan, according to officials. The attack came as Nobel prize-winning aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres

announced its withdrawal from Afghanistan, almost two months after five of its workers were killed, because of deteriorating security in the run-up to the October polls. The two UN staff were registering voters in the mosque in Ghazni province when the bomb exploded, the US-led coalition said in a statement. At least two other UN staff were injured in the explosion and were airlifted to hospital at the Bagram airbase outside Kabul, the statement said. The UN staff were Afghan nationals, UN spokesman David Singh said. The United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan "personnel were performing voter registration inside the mosque when the improvised explosive device exploded," the coalition statement said. The other four dead were local residents.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jul 22 — Colombian Marxist rebels killed 13 soldiers today in an attack on a bridge in the country's violent south, the army said. It was one of the biggest blows this year against the army, which says it has pushed the rebels into retreat thanks to increases in military spending and the energetic leadership of right-wing President Alvaro Uribe. The soldiers scrambled to repel about 200 guerrillas from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who failed in their objective of blowing up the bridge in Putumayo province, Gen. Eduardo Morales told a news conference. "Thirteen of our men were killed. They were able to repel the terrorist attack by the FARC," Morales said, adding that an unspecified number of men had also been wounded fighting the rebels 29 miles from the town of Mocoa. — Reuters.

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated Jul 22, states: The number of kidnappings in Colombia has almost halved in the first half of the year, the government says. It says 966 people were abducted in the first six months of 2004, compared with 1,906 in the same period last year. A study by the Department of National Planning also estimates kidnapping has cost Colombian society some \$260m over the past eight years. An average of 3,000 people were kidnapped each year between 1996 and 2003, totalling 21,000, it adds. An estimated \$57m in ransom money was paid out in the eight-year period, the AP news agency reported. The majority of the victims spent an average of one month in captivity and their release was secured with a \$20,000 ransom. The researchers estimated that the cost to the Colombian economy was \$150m, including loss of income. The government has also spent \$110m on intelligence, training and equipment in a bid to crack down on abductions. Most of the kidnappings were carried out by Colombia's two main left-wing rebel groups, the Farc and the ELN.

Bogota, Jul 26 — Colombian Marxist guerrillas have kidnapped a Roman Catholic bishop, saying they planned to release him with a message for the government, church leaders said today. The National Liberation Army seized

Misael Vacca, the Bishop of Yopal, near the town of Paya, in mountains 130 miles northeast of the capital Bogota, yesterday, said Monsignor Fabian Marulanda, secretary-general of the Bishops' Conference of Colombia. The rebels told other priests who were with Vacca that they planned to give him a message to deliver to the government and then release him. — Reuters.

Bogota, Jul 27 — Colombian Marxist rebels today freed a Roman Catholic bishop they kidnapped during the weekend, releasing him without a message they had planned to send to the government, the bishop said. The rebels, known by their Spanish initials ELN, told Vacca they taken him to give him a message for the government. But President Alvaro Uribe ordered troops to hunt for the bishop in the mountainous area northeast of the capital Bogota, breaking guerrilla communications. So they let him go. "The person who was supposed to hand over the message (to me) wasn't able to get to the place where they took me," Vacca said. — Reuters.

Bogota, Jul 28 — Colombian far-right paramilitaries said today they wanted peace in an unprecedented appearance in the country's Congress that leftist legislators said lent respectability to men wanted for massacres and drug running. The three leaders of the outlawed United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, told a congressional hearing on their negotiations with the government that they should not serve jail time as part of any peace settlement. Prominent leftist congressmen stayed away from the speeches by men they call criminals. Salvatore Mancuso, AUC military commander, told Congress he took up arms because government forces failed to protect his life and property. "The reward for our sacrifice for our country, for having freed half the country from the guerrillas and preventing another Cuba or the old Nicaragua establishing itself on the nation's soil, cannot be to send us to prison," said Mancuso, a burly rancher, wearing a suit and tie instead of his customary combat fatigues. The United States, which is a strong supporter of Uribe but says it is skeptical about the talks, wants to extradite Mancuso and other far-right warlords, for trafficking cocaine. Ambassador William Wood has said the AUC is more interested in "narcoterrorism" than peace. The AUC leaders arrived in bullet-proof vans with a heavy police escort after flying in to Bogota's military airport. The government gave them permission to leave the rural area in northern Colombia where they are conducting peace talks for 48 hours without fear of arrest. The invitation to address the body came from a group of congressmen. — Reuters.

INDIA

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people have been killed in two separate attacks in Indian-administered Kashmir blamed on separatist militants. A civilian has been killed and more than 30 others

wounded in a grenade explosion in the town of Baramullah. Police say militants were targeting a vehicle carrying Indian border police but it missed and hit the road instead. Earlier, police said suspected separatist militants killed three people in the mountainous Rajouri district. Militants are said to have forced their way into the house of Mohammad Shafi yesterday night and attacked his family. Mr Shafi, his son and daughter were killed in the attack. His wife suffered serious wounds. Police said militants suspected Mr Shafi was a police informer. No militant group has admitted to the attack, which took place in a village some 180 kilometres northwest of the state's winter capital, Jammu.

Srinagar, Jul 28 — Two separatist militants and five Indian soldiers were killed in a night-long gunbattle inside a hotel on Kashmir's famous Dal lake, police said today. Six Indian soldiers were wounded in the exchange of fire after two or three militants launched a suicide attack and fired at Hotel Leeward in Srinagar late yesterday night. The hotel was occupied by soldiers who are in Kashmir to stamp out a 15-year-old revolt by Muslim insurgents against New Delhi's rule. A militant group called Al-Mansurian telephoned newspaper offices late yesterday night saying three of its members had launched the attack to rebut a claim by authorities that a powerful guerrilla group had been wiped out from Srinagar. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian troops shot dead five suspected separatist guerrillas during an anti-rebel operation in the war-torn province of Aceh, the military said yesterday. The five Free Aceh Movement (GAM) fighters were killed in separate encounters in three districts: Aceh Besar, South and West Aceh, on Saturday (Jul 24), said provincial military spokesman Asep Sapari. The military also captured six suspected guerrillas across Aceh on Saturday while another surrendered to a military outpost, Sapari said. Troops confiscated rifles and ammunitions from the dead and those who were captured, he said.

IRAQ

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: US forces have launched an air strike on suspected insurgents in the Iraqi city of Falluja, the US military says. The military said it targeted militants linked to suspected al-Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, adding that it carried out the attack at on between 10 and 12 suspects who were in the courtyard of a house in the city. "The anti-Iraqi forces were struck while in the courtyard of a house; the house was left intact," a statement said. A hospital source said five people were injured in the attack early this morning, including children. In other violence, two US soldiers were killed in a roadside bombing in the northern city of Samarra.

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion has set fire to an oil pipeline north of Baghdad, witnesses and an oil refinery official say. A witness says he heard the blast and saw the pipeline catch fire at a point just south-west of the town of Samarra, 100 kilometres north of Baghdad. An official at Iraq's main northern oil refinery at Baiji, 180 kilometres north of Baghdad, says the blaze is on a pipeline that carries oil from the refinery to Baghdad. Guerrillas frequently attack Iraq's oil infrastructure, setting explosives under pipelines in an effort to disrupt the country's reconstruction. The pipeline attacked today is a subsidiary line and not Iraq's main northern oil export line, which runs north to Turkey.

Baghdad, Jul 24 — Two Pakistanis working for a Kuwait-based company were missing and feared kidnapped yesterday as Iraq's hostage crisis deepened, with at least 22 countries so far affected by the wave of abductions. Pakistan's Foreign Office said two nationals, an engineer and a driver believed to be working for the al-Tamimi Group, went missing late yesterday as they drove towards Baghdad. Over the past 15 months, nationals from nearly two dozen countries have been kidnapped in Iraq, sometimes by criminal gangs, but increasingly by militants seeking to put pressure on governments and foreign companies to pull out of the country. In a step up in sophistication for militants, a senior Egyptian diplomat was seized as he left a Baghdad mosque yesterday. Most of those kidnapped so far have been drivers. Abductions have sharply increased since April, when several dozen people were seized in one month. Around 60 people have been taken hostage since then, officials say. As well as the two Pakistanis and the Egyptian diplomat, three Indians, three Kenyans and another Egyptian - all drivers - were seized in the past week and are still being held. Iraqis have also suffered in the spate of abductions. The chief of Iraq's al-Mansour Construction Company, a state-owned firm, was kidnapped today as he drove to work in Baghdad. In other incidents, Iraqi security forces killed 13 insurgents during heavy clashes south of the Iraqi town of Baquba, which is northeast of the capital, the US military said yesterday. Major Neal O'Brien of the US 1st Infantry Division said Iraqi National Guardsmen and police killed the suspected insurgents after coming under fire as they assisted US forces in carrying out a raid near Buhriz, south of Baquba. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 26 — A militant Islamic group holding seven foreigners hostage in Iraq said it had extended the deadline for negotiations to spare their lives and repeated a demand that their Kuwaiti employer pull out of the country. The hostages — three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian, all truck drivers for a Kuwaiti firm — were seized last week by a little-known group calling itself the "Black Banners" brigade of the Islamic Secret Army. In a video tape released to news companies

today, a masked member of the group read a statement as two armed and masked men stood at his side, behind the kneeling hostages, who were dressed in white smocks. The group said it had decided to extend the deadline in response to an appeal from Sheikh Hisham al-Dulami, the head of what Dulami calls the Detainees' Association and who yesterday declared himself a negotiator for the hostages. It was not clear when the new deadline, which has already been extended once, would end. The Kuwaiti firm, the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company, said yesterday it had received assurances that the captives would be freed. The video statement also warned the Indian government against "attacking the Mujahadeen", although it was not immediately clear what that meant. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 26 — Suspected car bombs hit Baghdad and near a US base in northern Iraq today in fresh security challenges to the interim Iraqi government ahead of a major political gathering expected this week. A U.S. military spokeswoman said five U.S. soldiers and three members of the Iraqi security forces were wounded when a car exploded about 50 metres from the southern gate of the base at an airfield near the northern city of Mosul. Police said the car bomb in Baghdad wounded no one. "A car bomb exploded at 0800 hrs (0400, UTC) near Sarafiya bridge," police Lieutenant Jamal Abbas said. There were also several mortar attacks on Baghdad, and residents said a suspected mortar wounded one man in the city's Batawin district. Police said a mortar also hit the abandoned Higher Education Ministry building, hurting no one. Residents said another mortar landed in some waste ground nearby, also causing no casualties. In Basra, hospital officials said gunmen opened fire on a car carrying several Iraqi women to work, killing two and wounding two others. Despite the violence, Iraq has said it will push ahead with a national conference at the end of this month that is a key step in giving Iraqis a real say in how their country is run. The event will bring together 1,000 Iraqis from across the country to select a 100-member National Council to oversee the interim government until elections next year. It is due to commence about Jul 28 and will last at least two or possibly three days, officials have said, although diplomats have said it might start a little later. In fresh pressure on U.S. allies in Iraq, an Internet statement purportedly from a militant Islamist group today threatened to attack Italy if it did not withdraw its 2,700 troops from Iraq. "This is a warning to the Italian government which has given itself to serving the criminal American crusade to follow the example of others and leave Iraq," said the statement signed by the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades. The same site on Saturday (Jul 24) carried a statement signed by another group claiming to be a branch of al Qaeda in Europe which warned Italy and Australia of "collumns of rigged cars" if they did not pull troops

out of Iraq. Australia, which has 850 troops in and around Iraq, said it would ignore the threats. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 27 — The release of an Egyptian diplomat in Iraq offered a ray of hope today for a dozen other nationals held captive and under threat of execution. Egyptian diplomat Mohamed Mamdouh Qutb was freed overnight after being snatched as he left a Baghdad mosque last Friday (Jul 23). Qutb said no deal had been struck to secure his release. Meanwhile, Kenya's Foreign Minister Chirau Ali Mwakwere said he was hopeful about the fate of three Kenyans being held. "A number of significant developments have taken place. These developments have raised our hopes and left us more optimistic that this unfortunate crisis will be resolved, sooner than later," he said without elaborating. In addition to kidnappings, guerrillas have also intensified a wave of assassinations of senior Iraqi officials since U.S.-led occupiers handed over sovereign powers on Jun 28. A senior official at Mahmudiya hospital south of Baghdad was killed late yesterday, a Health Ministry spokesman said. Kassim Mohamed al-Ubadi, the hospital's assistant director, died in a "terrorist act", the spokesman said, without giving details. Insurgents also fired at least one mortar round in central Baghdad early today, killing an Iraqi civilian and wounding another, police at the scene said. The mortar landed in a residential area near the "Green Zone" compound which houses the Iraqi government and the U.S. embassy, a target of repeated guerrilla attacks. — Reuters.

Baquba, Jul 28 — A minibus packed with explosives exploded near a police station and a market north of Baghdad today, killing 68 people and wounding 30 in the worst attack since the handover of power exactly one month ago. The powerful suicide bomb left a sea of destruction, obliterating market stalls and destroying several buildings. It raised fears of a fresh insurgent campaign just days before Iraq holds a major political conference to plot its future. It was the worst death toll from a single bomb attack in Iraq since a blast outside a mosque in the holy city of Najaf last August killed more than 80 people. Television pictures showed at least a dozen bodies scattered across a street, some of them still on fire. A Health Ministry official said 68 people were killed and 30 wounded in the blast shortly after 1000 hrs (0600, UTC) in Baquba, an often violent town 65 km north of Baghdad. He said the death toll could rise, with many of those injured receiving shrapnel wounds to the chest. Twenty-one people travelling in a minibus alongside the one that detonated were killed, an Interior Ministry source said. The blast also came a month to the day after the interim government took back sovereignty, and three days before a major political conference to chart Iraq's future. There were several other incidents across the country today, creating the impression of a coordinated campaign. A mortar or rocket struck a

busy street in Baghdad, killing one person and wounding five, witnesses said. South of Baghdad, seven members of Iraq's security forces, backed by US and Ukrainian troops, died in a gunbattle in which 35 insurgents were killed, Poland's defence ministry said. No US or Ukrainian forces were wounded or killed. As well as tearing through scores of civilians as they shopped at the market, the Baquba bomb struck a group of men lining up at a nearby recruiting office for the Iraqi police. "We had gathered them at one place to register their names. There was a queue, when suddenly this vehicle appeared and exploded," said a police officer at the scene. The violence comes three days before Iraq is due to convene a national conference in which 1,000 delegates will gather in Baghdad to weigh the country's future and elect a 100-member National Council to oversee the interim government. The event is billed as a crucial next step in Iraq's transition to democracy ahead of elections planned for January, but there are security concerns, particularly with so many people converging on the capital. US troops and Iraqi security forces have been planning the security for weeks and are particularly concerned about suicide car bomb attacks like one that assassinated the former head of the Iraqi Governing Council earlier this year. Fouad Massoum, the organiser of the event, said yesterday he was committed to holding it this month and said the credibility of Iraq's new government depended on it. Conference participants also face the threat of kidnapping after dozens of people, mostly foreign truck drivers, have been kidnapped by insurgents in the past three months and threatened with death if their employers or national governments do not pull out of Iraq. — Reuters.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has called the reported killing of two Pakistanis held hostage in Iraq a crime against humanity. An Arab television station said a videotape from a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq showed the men's dead bodies. The militants had threatened to execute the pair unless their Kuwaiti employers left Iraq. The two, Azad Hussein Khan and Sajjad Naeem, an engineer and driver, were reported missing in Iraq last Friday (Jul 23). In another videotape, militants were shown holding a Somali hostage. On the tape, broadcast by al-Jazeera today, militants belonging to al-Qaeda suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad group threatened to behead the Somali truck driver unless his Kuwaiti employers pulled out of Iraq.

ISRAEL

Tulkarm, West Bank, Jul 29 — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in a West Bank village today, witnesses said, and the Israeli military said two Palestinians were killed in Gaza, apparently by their own bomb. Israeli military sources said gunmen had opened fire on the soldiers as they

mounted an arrest raid in the village of El Ar and in the ensuing battle the patrol shot one of the gunmen, who the military said belonged to the militant Islamic Jihad group. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli military sources said two Palestinians died near a Jewish settlement when an explosive device or belt in their possession apparently went off prematurely. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 24 people were wounded Wednesday (Jul 28) in a bomb blast in Nepal's western city of Nepalgunj, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported today. The bomb blast occurred in the busiest marketplace of Nepalgunj, the largest city in western Nepal, some 600km west of Kathmandu. The anti-government guerrillas planted the bomb targeting police personnel, but the victims were innocent children and poor street vendors, the independent English daily quoted a local police officer as saying.

PAKISTAN

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A roadside bomb exploded today near a vehicle carrying religious students in the southern city of Karachi, killing one person and injuring seven, police said. It was not immediately clear who targeted the pickup truck, which belonged to Jamia Rashidia, one of the main Islamic schools in Pakistan, deputy police inspector General Tariq Jamil said. "Bomb disposal experts, after examining the damaged vehicle, have confirmed that it was a bomb which was probably detonated by remote control," Jamil said. The wounded were all students from the seminary. Police discounted initial accounts that the explosion occurred inside the vehicle. (See issue of Jul 8.)

RUSSIA

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels in Chechnya launched new raids against the federal troops in the past day, killing six of them and wounding 12 others, an official in the Moscow-backed administration said today. Five of the troops died and seven were wounded in rebel attacks on Russian positions which came under fire 19 times in the previous 24 hours, the official said. Another serviceman died when rebels detonated two explosive devices late yesterday outside the main mosque in the Chechen capital, Grozny. The soldier was an ethnic Chechen who served with a federal military unit made up of local residents. Another three soldiers of the same unit were wounded by the blasts, the official said. The bullet-ridden body of a pro-Moscow Chechen police officer, who was kidnapped several days ago, was found today in the eastern city of Gudermes, according to the official. Late yesterday, Russian forces engaged a group of rebels near the southern village of Vedeno and captured one of them after a skirmish which left two federal soldiers wounded, he said. And in the

province of Ingushetia west of Chechnya, a police officer suspected of involvement in last month's rebel raid detonated a hand grenade while being interrogated. The man died in the explosion which also killed two senior police officers, said Yahya Khadziyev, a spokesman for the Ingush police force. (See issue of Jul 23.)

Nazran, Russia, Jul 28 — Russian troops blockaded a Chechen town today and fired heavily into a house holding a group of rebels, killing some, local sources said. Local residents said the streets of Argun, about 10 km east of the capital Grozny, were deserted and all roads out of the town had been blocked. The army command in Chechnya said six rebels had been killed in the town, local news agencies reported. The storm came on the same day President Vladimir Putin told his security forces to do more to end the Chechen war, which has dragged on for a decade with no clear end in sight. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Jul 25 — Eight people were shot dead in an attack on a Tamil rebel safe house near Sri Lanka's capital today, police said. The Tamilnet Web site said those killed were supporters of renegade Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) commander Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, known as "Karuna", and included one of his deputies. "The killings are confirmed, but we can't say who is dead and who is responsible," a police official told Reuters. Tamilnet said the assailants were believed to be gunmen from the main faction of the LTTE. The police official said the killings took place at a residence believed to be a Tamil rebel safe house in Kottawa, an outer suburb of Colombo. Tamilnet said a Sri Lankan military intelligence official was also among the dead. A team of Norwegian negotiators, led by deputy foreign minister Vida Helgesen, is due in the Sri Lankan capital later today in an attempt to re-start the stalled peace process. The peace process faltered in April last year with government and Tigers divided over the agenda for resuming talks. — Reuters.

TURKEY

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small bomb exploded in an empty restaurant in southeastern Turkey today, causing some damage but no injuries, the Anatolia news agency reported. The restaurant, located in Mazgirt, a town in the predominantly Kurdish province of Tunceli, was closed at the time of the blast, the agency said. Nobody claimed responsibility. Paramilitary police launched an investigation into the attack, the agency said. Autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels have carried out bomb attacks in the region in the past. Militant leftist and Islamic groups also are active in Turkey. Turkey's overwhelmingly Kurdish southeast has seen a surge in violence since the rebels announced June 1 that they were giving up a five-year unilateral cease-fire, saying Turkey had not responded in kind.

UGANDA

Kampala, Jul 28 — Ugandan troops killed more than 30 Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in an attack in southern Sudan that may also have killed the leader of the cult-like group, the army said today. Army spokesman Shaban Bantariza said it was not yet clear whether self-proclaimed mystic and LRA chief Joseph Kony was among the dead after this afternoon's raid east of Juba. Bantariza said Ugandan troops also captured 29 people including four of Kony's wives and several children who are thought to be Kony's in the raid, which he said the raid near Biriniang village was launched with the support of Sudan's government, but without its troops' direct involvement. — Reuters.

Kidnappings**COLOMBIA**

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

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 27 — Sindh Government Home Minister Rauf Siddiqi told the assembly that efforts were being made for the safe recovery of the kidnapped businessman and rice trader, Santosh Kumar abducted for ransom from interior of Sindh Province of Pakistan on Jul 4. He asked the opposition members of house not to politicise this matter as it was the matter of a human life and needed serious attitude. The minister expressed feared that the kidnappers might take extreme step if the matter was politicised. Meanwhile, Adviser to Sindh Chief Minister Mir Sultan Ahmed Khuhawar has assured the relatives of the kidnapped businessman that the government is making all-out efforts for his safe recovery. The Chief Minister, Dr Arbab Ghulam Rahim, is keenly interested in this matter and the government of Sindh has suspended two high rank police officials of Larkana district in this regard, he said. The new DPO Larkana, Nadir Ali Khoso, has been given the task of the recovery of Santosh Kumar, he said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Labour Disputes**CANADA**

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Over 500 auto parts workers in Oshawa, Ontario, began a strike today after contract talks broke off with TDS Automotive, which supplies parts to General Motors. Bargaining agent Fred Moore said

operations at two GM plants will be affected by the strike. Issues in the contract talks included wages, pensions and benefits, Moore said.

Toronto, Jul 26 — Workers at autoparts supplier TDS Automotive rejected a new deal today, extending a strike that forced General Motors of Canada to idle two plants in Ontario and send about 6,000 workers home. Canadian Auto Workers spokesman Dan Garvey said union members voted against a deal that the union recommended, but did not discuss details about what was offered. "Members have decided to go back to the (bargaining) table for better wages after over a year of salary freeze and we are committed to whatever it takes to reach a reasonable settlement," Garvey said. Contract talks between TDS and its union broke down yesterday night and the roughly 550 workers manned picket lines. General Motors scrapped the second shifts at two Oshawa plants because of a shortage of parts after TDS workers went on strike. GM spokeswoman Pam McLaughlin said GM's third shift was still scheduled at Oshawa Plant 1, which makes Chevrolet Impala and Monte Carlo models. Oshawa Plant 2, where the Buick Regal and Grand Prix are made, has only two shifts. — Reuters.

Toronto, Jul 27 — General Motors of Canada was forced to idle two plants for a second day today after workers at key supplier TDS Automotive rejected a tentative contract offer and remained on strike. "We do not have our day shift running in plant one or plant two and we are in a holding pattern, waiting to understand the outcome of any potential settlement," said GM spokeswoman Pam McLaughlin. Contract talks between the autoparts maker and its union had foundered over wages, and workers rejected a new tentative deal late yesterday. The two GM plants, which make Chevrolet Impala, Monte Carlo, Buick Regal and Pontiac Grand Prix models, normally produce 2,630 vehicles a day, McLaughlin said. About 6,000 employees have been sent home. The TDS strike was not affecting any other GM plants. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The CEO of the Ports Authority, Amos Ron, yesterday said he will recommend to the finance and transport ministers to issue immediate issue orders to implement the new Ports Law. Ron wants the law to take effect without waiting for an agreement between the authority and the workers. He said port workers were not obeying the return to work order the National Labor Court issued on Thursday (Jul 22). The orders required strikers to return to full work on Friday at 0600 hrs. Ron said the workers are continuing with the strike, maintaining about a third of their normal output. "The Histadrut and unions have lost control of the workers," Ron said. "We are reaching anarchy in the ports and it is impossible to continue." Implementing the new law would end

negotiations. One of the heads of the Haifa port union, David Peretz, said: "We have ended the strike as ordered by the court, but the CEO of the Ports Authority does not understand that workers are not robots who can be controlled with the push of a button."

Ashdod, Jul 28 — The strike by Israeli Port Authority workers is continuing. Due to the ongoing strike, the number of vessels that are declaring end of voyage and unloading their cargoes in ports other than the destination port in the Bill of Lading are increasing. To date, there have been 77 such vessels. This strike is also in breach of a court decision taken last Friday (Jul 23). A meeting between the parties concerned is due to take place this evening, in order to resolve the situation. This strike is causing heavy damage to the Israeli Economy, with losses already estimated at shekels three billion. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW CALEDONIA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: A strike in New Caledonia is reportedly preventing cargo being off-loaded at the capital's main wharf. The union of Kanak and Exploited Workers began blocking access to the wharf in Noumea on Saturday (Jul 24) and negotiations with the wharf's management have been inconclusive. The strike is preventing the unloading of a container ship (believed to be general cargo *S. Durville*, 3949 gt, built 1984) from Brisbane. The carrier is waiting in Noumea Bay with 210 containers of essential items, including food and dairy products from New Zealand. The situation could deteriorate further with the scheduled arrival of two more container ships later this week. (Note — *S. Durville* sailed Brisbane Jul 20 for New Caledonia.)

Noumea, Jul 29 — At 0400, local time, this morning, the terminal locked by dockers strike pickets was liberated by the police force. The vessels on mooring can now unload their cargoes normally. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in New Caledonia armed with batons and shields have moved onto the Noumea wharf to break up a five-day union blockade. The blockade had prevented the unloading of several shiploads of cargo. One ship, general cargo *S. Durville*, which arrived from Australia at the weekend, had been unable to dock and offload items including food and dairy products. New Caledonia's Kanak and Exploited Workers Union was refusing to allow anybody access to the wharves in protest against recent moves by shipping companies to consolidate their operations by replacing two ships with one. The police acted after a court ordered that the blockade be lifted. *S. Durville* and another ship from French Polynesia that had been held up have now been unloaded.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Unionised subway

workers in Incheon ended a strike yesterday as the labour and management reached a compromise after marathon talks. All of the 289 striking workers in the city will return to work today and the subway operations will be normalised from 0900 hrs. They reached an agreement on major points, such as a 3-percent pay raise, hiring of 35 employees during the latter half of the year and a reduction to 174 working hours per month. But around 10,000 subway workers in Seoul and two other cities Pusan and Taegu continued strikes for the second consecutive day yesterday. No major disruptions of subway operations have been reported so far, but some are speculating that the walkout may be extended as the unions and managements are not yet conducting negotiations. The subway unions in Seoul, Taegu and Pusan are demanding a wage increase and recruitment of more workers to make up for hours lost with the implementation of the five-day workweek. Even though the unionists of Seoul's two subway operators lowered the number of additional workforce they demanded from about 6,200 to 2,700, they are pledging to prolong the walkouts until their demands are met.

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea lost more working days to strikes between 2000 to 2002 than Japan, the United States and several European countries, according to a report commissioned by South Korea's central bank. The report was produced by the Institute for Monetary and Economic Research, a research center run by the Bank of Korea. Lost working days per 1,000 workers averaged 111 in South Korea between 2000 and 2002, according to the report. In recent days, subway workers in several South Korean cities, including Seoul, ended strikes that had forced managers to hire thousands of nonunion workers. A strike however, continues at LG Caltex, which supplies one-third of the nation's fuel.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Refining operations at South Korea's strike-hit LG Caltex Oil Corp. have recovered to 80% as of today from 78% yesterday, but the company is unsure when full normalisation will be possible. So far, 118 workers have returned to their jobs, while 711 remain on strike. As of today, the refiner's total crude oil and oil product reserves stood at an average 15 days, from 12 days yesterday, including 11 days' worth of gasoline and 27 days worth of jet fuel. The National Labour Relations Commission, a government agency mediating the standoff between LG Caltex's management and the labor union, ordered both sides last week to settle for a 4.5% basic salary increase. So far, the union has rejected the agency's efforts to mediate. LG Caltex workers initially sought a 10.5% pay rise and a 38-hour work week, but later conceded that it would accept a 42-hour work week if the company hires more employees and guarantees job security

to contract workers. The company has set a Thursday (Jul 29) deadline for striking workers to come back to work. The company didn't detail what measures it will take if the workers don't meet the deadline.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 100,000 staff in job centres and benefits offices are due to start a two-day strike today. Members of the Public and Commercial Services Union are protesting over a pay deal imposed last year. Union leader Mark Serwotka also said a controversial system for judging staff performance was "unfair and divisive". The government says the strike is neither justified nor necessary and claims it has been timed to hit services offered to vulnerable people. Job centres and benefit offices across England, Wales and Scotland will be affected by the industrial action. The government says it has contingency plans in place to keep services running. The strike is the third of a series of walk-outs - others were held in February and April this year. It centres around a pay deal for last year which the union says is too low, with starting salaries of £10,300. The Department of Work and Pensions has yet to start negotiations on the pay for 2004. It waited until this month's government spending deal before finalising its plans but says payments will be backdated. A bonus system called the Performance Development Scheme has proved a major sticking point. The union says it is based around quotas so no matter how well people work, half of all staff will receive a lower bonus. Mr Serwotka said together the two issues had combined to produce a "double whammy" for staff in job centres, benefit offices, the pension service and the Child Support Agency. "Senior management have seriously misjudged the level of opposition to their tactics of imposing discriminatory and derisive pay deals and their continuing refusal to engage with the union to sort this pay mess out," he said, adding that any disruption to the public was "regrettable" and there should be "serious talks". The PCS says it now has 97,300 members - and a recent ballot suggested 98% have no confidence in senior managers. Sir Richard Mottram, permanent secretary at the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that workers had been given a fair deal. He said: "I don't think this sort of strike is either justified or necessary. In the case of their pay award, we've implemented an award worth more than 5% on average for all our people and 8% for our most junior front line staff. That by any standards is a good award. In the case of the dispute over the Performance Development system, we are reviewing that currently. We've invited the views of staff and we've asked the unions to contribute as well, so why do we need industrial action?"

Awards & Settlements



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated Jul 26, states: A jury has awarded a \$1-million medical malpractice verdict to a Holiday woman who said her husband's doctor wrongly prescribed pills that killed the 71-year-old. The verdict came late Friday (Jul 23) after a weeklong trial, and the award to Joan Harvey is believed to be one of the largest ever in west Pasco. The jury gave her \$400,000 for past suffering and \$600,000 for future pain. Wayne Harvey died of a heart attack on July 4, 2000. His ordeal began in March of that year when blood tests showed he had a high platelet count. His family doctor referred him to Pasco-Hernando Oncology Associates in New Port Richey. Dr. Gajanan Anant Kulkarni prescribed Agrylin to treat thrombocytosis, a condition in which there are too many platelets in the blood and clotting can occur. But Harvey began to experience breathing problems, and on June 24, 2000, he checked into Community Hospital in New Port Richey and was placed on a respirator. On June 28, his situation had worsened and he was transferred to Tampa General Hospital, where he died. Jurors also found a Community Hospital doctor partially responsible for Harvey's death. Dr. Lalit Gupta is liable for 25 percent of the jury award. Attorney Wil Florin argued that Kulkarni should never have prescribed Agrylin, given Harvey's health history, and failed to remove him from the drug when complications arose. According to the Web site for Agrylin, it should be used with caution by people with known or suspected heart disease. Harvey underwent coronary bypass surgery in 1989. Tests in 2000 ruled out heart problems, but Florin said Kulkarni should have taken chest X-rays to investigate the cause of the labored breathing. Harvey also continued taking aspirin while on Agrylin, meaning he was on two blood thinners. "That raised the risk of internal bleeding," said Florin, adding the doctor should have told Harvey not to take aspirin. An X-ray taken at Community Hospital revealed fluid in Harvey's lungs, Florin said. Still, Kulkarni did not take him off Agrylin. That did not happen until Harvey reached Tampa General Hospital, where a tube was inserted into his lungs, which were found to be filled with blood. "He basically got there too late for them to save him," Florin said. The defense argued that Harvey died of a viral pneumonia for which there is no test. It also pointed a finger at Dr. Gupta of Community Hospital, saying he was in primary control of Harvey once he entered the hospital and was therefore responsible. Though Gupta was not

named in the suit, the jury found him partly responsible for Harvey's death and 25 percent of the verdict is against him.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: The family of a three-year-old boy who died after undergoing a tonsillectomy was awarded \$1.8 million dollars in damages today. Matthew Kuttner died in January 2001 after surgery in Hutchinson, Minnesota. A jury in McLeod County District Court found that Hutchinson Area Health Care and Dr. Mark Montgomery were negligent, and that the negligence led to Kuttner's death. Montgomery failed to remove a piece of Kuttner's body tissue, likely a tonsil, after surgery. The tissue blocked the boy's airways and suffocated him. The jury found Montgomery was 60 percent at fault and Hutchinson Area Health Care was 40 percent at fault.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The family of a woman who died after giving birth to twins has been awarded £1m damages after a health trust admitted medical negligence. Dr Sandhya Senanayake, an anaesthetist at Basildon Hospital, Essex, died in 2002, after being admitted to hospital for a planned caesarean. The 39-year-old bled to death shortly after her twins were delivered. The claim was settled today after Basildon and Thurrock hospital NHS Trust admitted liability. Dr Senanayake's husband, Ranjana Suraweera, of Basildon, Essex, attended the High Court in London to be told of the £1,050,000 settlement. The compensation claim was brought by Mr Suraweera on the basis that his wife's death was caused by the negligence of medics who failed to diagnose and treat her bleeding in time. At an inquest in 2003, the coroner recorded a verdict of death by "medical misadventure to which neglect contributed." Most of the settlement is intended to compensate for the loss of Dr Senanayake's income and to pay for childcare for the twins, Rekha and Meth.

PROFESSIONAL DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A Connecticut jury has awarded \$5.5 million to three Yale University radiologists who say Yale retaliated against them for criticizing policies they said had "the potential to cause serious harm to patients." The university plans to appeal the state Superior Court verdict. Yale spokesman Tom Conroy said yesterday that the university believes the state statute protecting free speech in "matters of public concern" should not apply in this case. "Our view was that this was a workplace dispute," he said. The three physicians — Drs. Morton Burrell, Arthur Rosenfield and Robert C. Smith — said policies implemented by a new department chairman beginning in 1995 threatened patient care. Those changes, according to the complaint,

included understaffing, poor training, pressure to hurry reports before diagnostic films were properly read and poor supervision of less-experienced physicians. As one example, they cited major errors and misdiagnoses that were made in 14 separate cases on two separate days in November 1999, including the missed diagnosis of an abdominal aortic aneurysm in one patient and a missed rectal cancer diagnosis in another. In response, the doctors were accused of "making waves" and subjected to demotions and reduced salaries. Smith, according to the lawsuit, was told he "had no future" at Yale and eventually left to attend law school. The jury said Yale retaliated against the three for speaking out and the university should compensate the doctors for both past and future economic losses. Jurors also found that Yale acted "with reckless disregard" to the physicians' right to speak out. The judge will set additional punitive damages later.

PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two former Boston Chicken executives have agreed to pay \$2.18 million to settle a class-action lawsuit that accused them of hiding the company's true financial condition with inaccurate financial statements. Under the agreement, former Boston Chicken chief executive Scott Beck will pay \$896,000 and former chief financial officer Mark Stephens will pay \$1.28 million. Beck and Stephens didn't admit to any wrongdoing. The settlement was disclosed in documents filed in U.S. District Court in Denver on Friday (Jul 23). The settlement will be paid to investors who purchased Boston Chicken stock between Feb 6, 1995, and Oct 4, 1998. The agreement requires court approval. A total of 24 class-action suits were filed in 1997 and 1998 against the company and also named Arthur Andersen, Merrill Lynch & Co., Alex. Brown & Sons and Morgan Stanley & Co. The suits were consolidated in 1998. Those firms agreed to pay \$19.4 million to settle the suit in 2002. Boston Chicken filed for bankruptcy in 1998.



Railway Accidents

AYDIN, TURKEY

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger train in Aydin, Turkey, yesterday slammed into a minibus, killing 15 people, five of them children, officials told said. Six other people are reported injured. The train was traveling from Izmir to Denizli in western Turkey when the driver of the minibus ignored signals warning of the advancing train and attempted to cross the tracks, officials said. The minibus — carrying 19 passengers returning from a wedding

party — was rushing to cross the track before the barriers came down, a railroad official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The minibus was dragged about 875 metres along the tracks.

BALATON, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: An overnight train derailment in Balaton, Minnesota, left the small town cleaning up a 50,000 gallon ethanol and soy oil spill. The train started in Huron, headed east toward Tracy, Minnesota, but it made an unexpected stop in Balaton. The lead locomotive first veered off the tracks as it pulled into Balaton, Minnesota just after 2300 last night. From there, thirteen cars followed it into the grass and several started leaking soybean oil and ethanol. Crews stopped the leak just before the fuel would have flowed into nearby Lake Yankton. But even with that problem contained, there's still plenty to clean up.

BLANICE, CZECH REPUBLIC

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two passenger trains have collided in the Czech Republic, leaving one person dead and around 30 injured. The accident occurred in Blanice near the town of Strakonice, about 90km south-west of Prague today, said a Czech Railways spokesman. The cause of the collision at around 1300, GMT was not yet clear, he said, but it was not a technical failure. Five of the injured being taken for treatment at various hospitals nearby are reported to have serious injuries.

FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: A train carrying rocks derailed on its way to New Smyrna Beach, closing a route between Jacksonville and Miami. No one was injured when 31 cars of the 180-car train derailed just after 2300, yesterday. The train had left Hialeah and was en route north to New Smyrna Beach and Jacksonville. The cars that derailed each contained 100 tons of rock used in everything from concrete to road construction, and were in the middle of the train, said Husein Cumber, spokesman for Florida East Coast Railway. The FEC rail line from Jacksonville to Miami was closed beginning late yesterday and was expected to open by tomorrow, Cumber said. The accident is under investigation.

GOLDEN AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, July 28 — A press report, dated July 27, states: The main rail line has been reopened but cleanup crews are still at the scene of a derailment south of Golden, BC, that occurred Sunday (July 25) morning. CPR spokesman Ed Greenburg says the tracks were closed for nearly 48 hours. The line was reopened this morning but it will take awhile to complete the cleanup. The train was carrying coal, and Greenburg says a portion of the

load fell into a water channel that connects with the Columbia River. "We're monitoring the water upstream and downstream in addition to having special filter-fences in the water," he says. "It's going to be a few days at least before the cleanup portion is over." Greenburg stresses that coal is not toxic, but he says they want to ensure that sediment doesn't drift into the Columbia River. He says an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the derailment. There were no injuries.

PAMUKOVA AREA, TURKEY

Pamukova, Jul 22 — A packed express train travelling from Istanbul to Ankara derailed today, killing 36 people in one of Turkey's worst ever rail disasters. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan revised an earlier death toll of 139 given by a crisis centre and the Health Ministry. "The information we have received from hospitals is that around 36 people were killed," Erdogan told reporters at the scene of the disaster. He said 79 people were injured. Officials suspect the accident was caused by a mechanical fault, and some observers blamed Turkey's underfunded, decrepit rail system. Transport officials said one of the rear wagons may have derailed first, pulling others off the line. "Four wagons were derailed and fell on their sides," Mehmet Ayci of the state railways agency told Reuters. "We don't believe speed was the cause, because the train was travelling slower, between 75-80 km per hour, in this area." The head of the crisis centre, Muammer Turker, told reporters the train was carrying 234 passengers and nine crew. The train derailed near the town of Pamukova in northwestern Turkey at around 1945 hrs, almost two hours after leaving Istanbul, Turkey's commercial hub and biggest city. Officials have not ruled out human error, but dismissed foul play. Parliamentary speaker Bulent Arinc said speculation about sabotage was "a fantasy."

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Search and rescue efforts, launched after a high-speed train derailed in Pamukova town of north-western Sakarya province, en route from Istanbul to Ankara overnight, ended today. Rescue workers cleared away debris and did not find any other person left under the debris. Around 300 railway workers repaired the rail lines in six hours. Turkish Prime Ministry Crisis Management Bureau said earlier today that 36 people died and 81 others were injured in the crash.



MYDOOM

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Net giant Google has recovered after a virus severely

affected its search engine. Net security firms reported that the havoc had been caused by a new variant of the MyDoom virus. Google confirmed it had been hit by fallout from the virus, slowing down searches, but said its search engine was not "significantly impaired". The search engine is one of the most popular on the net, dealing with 200 million global queries a day. First reports of the problems with the UK service started emerging at around 1530, UTC, yesterday. Instead of getting a page of results, some users in the UK, US and France were confronted with a server error instead. Other net users reported no problems. In a statement Google said yesterday night: "The Google search engine experienced slowness for a short period of time earlier today because of the MyDoom virus, which flooded major search engines with automated searches. "It does not appear to launch a traditional DDoS attack," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for anti-virus firm Sophos, "and it is not just Google, but AltaVista, Yahoo and Lycos. MyDoom uses a revolutionary new technique - I don't think we have seen this before," he added. The new MyDoom variant searches infected machines for e-mail addresses, like other viruses before it, but it also uses search engines to look for even more addresses in online forums and webpages.



CAP ANAMUR (Germany)

Malta, Jul 26 — A local press report, dated Jul 24, states: An aircraft took off for Ghana on Thursday (Jul 22) carrying most of the group of Africans who arrived in Italy last week on German aid vessel, general cargo *Cap Anamur*, delayed for two hours by airport protests against the deportations. Police detained four would-be asylum-seekers who refused to leave the departure lounge, but the remaining 27 were flown back to Africa. The German aid organisation Cap Anamur delivered 37 Africans to Sicily last week after a three-week stand-off at sea as Italy refused their vessel, *Cap Anamur*, permission to dock. Italy's Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu reiterated Wednesday that the asylum-seekers were from Ghana and Nigeria, not crisis-hit Sudan as was initially suggested, and that they were illegal immigrants. "Not one of them had refugee status," he told parliament during question and answer time. After disembarking from the aid ship, the Africans were transferred to an immigrant holding centre while asylum requests were considered and eventually denied. In a move that threatened to spark a diplomatic spat, police arrested the vessel's captain, a crew member and the head of the aid group on suspicion of aiding illegal immigration. They were later released

but the investigation is continuing. On Thursday, opposition lawmakers and anti-globalisation activists tried to block the flight, with protesters surrounding the check-in desk at Rome's international airport. "The expulsion of the *Cap Anamur* refugees is the tragic final act of a xenophobic government that has closed the doors on those who try to escape war, misery and inhuman conditions," opposition Senator Nuccio Iovene told AGI news agency. The immigrants had been described by Cap Anamur as shipwreck survivors, possibly from crisis-hit Sudan, who were rescued from a rubber dinghy drifting in the Mediterranean. Italy initially refused to let the vessel dock, saying the Africans had been closer to Malta than Italy when they were picked up and should have applied for asylum there. Italian investigators have since said they suspect the Africans may not be shipwreck survivors and that the aid group was staging a publicity stunt. Five of the immigrants have already been flown to Nigeria while the four men detained Thursday were likely to be put on a later flight. One of the 37 men has not yet been ordered deported. — Lloyd's Agents.

Palermo, Jul 29 — Lloyd's Sub-agent in Porto Empedocle advises: General cargo *Cap Anamur* is still under arrest in Porto Empedocle with no prospects for its release. — Lloyds Agents.

COLLAPSE OF HOSPITAL BUILDING, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated Jul 26, states: A wing of a four-story hospital under construction in Kabul collapsed today, injuring several people and prompting a frantic rescue operation for others trapped in the rubble. Witnesses and police said a 40-yard section of the concrete structure, which had been stripped bare and enclosed with scaffolding crumpled without warning. There was no sign of any explosion. Police said it was unclear if anyone had died or how many were injured, but workers said several people were hurt. Khoda Bakhsh, a worker who escaped with cuts on his face, said he was in a yard behind the hospital when it collapsed. He said he had seen six injured people taken away. "There must be dead bodies too because 20 people were working in each floor," he said. Earth-movers and cranes went to the scene to try to free survivors. The Jamhuriat Hospital, located in the centre of Kabul close to the Interior Ministry, was being refurbished by a Chinese-Afghan construction consortium.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, NORTH-EAST AFRICA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Ministers from nine African countries are meeting to decide a plan of action as millions of locusts loom over the region, poised to annihilate its crops. The ministers will review national strategies at a conference in Algeria, before drawing up a region-wide plan. The worst locust plague in 15 years has spread from

Morocco to Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, the UN says. The meeting in Algiers brings together agriculture ministers from countries already battling the locust plague and from states where the threat is drawing closer - Chad, Libya, and Tunisia. Officials from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) are also present and have appealed for more international aid. An estimated \$83m is needed to curb the plague, Mahmoud Solh, the head of FAO's vegetable production agency, told AFP news agency. The FAO's Director-General, Joseph Tchikaya, said aid contributions offered so far "remain below our hopes and cannot at present cover needs". The insect swarms have already affected over 6.5m hectares of farmland in north-western Africa and the Sahel region. However the UN said measures to control the spread of locusts appear to have had some success in the area. Swarms had yet to be reported in Chad or Sudan's Darfur region, though the risk of them arriving remained high. But, the UN says, heavy seasonal rains in the Sahel region have increased the danger that locust numbers will continue to rise in west Africa. The FAO issued its first warning of a coming locust plague in February, when unusually high rates of breeding were detected south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ISPS CODE

London, Jul 27 — Ref *Gouta* arrived Hong Kong Jul 23 from Qingdao, and sailed the same day for Kaohsiung.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Bangkok, Jul 28 — Southeast Asian bird flu experts met in Thailand today to work out how to prevent a second wave of the virus, which has already killed millions of chickens and 24 people, from continuing its march across the region. In the absence of any major breakthroughs over the last six months, such as easy-to-use animal vaccines, experts say better surveillance and faster detection of outbreaks of the virulent H5N1 strain remains the main containment strategy. Underlining the severity of the problem, Vietnamese state media said today bird flu had spread to the north despite earlier assurances outbreaks in the south had been contained. Bird flu's re-emergence has also rekindled fears the H5N1 virus could lie dormant in domestic or wild birds for months before mutating and transferring to humans. The World Health Organization and its counterparts, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the OIE animal health body, have been working to develop effective H5N1 treatments and vaccinations. However, none is yet commercially available, and in their absence, old-fashioned techniques such as identifying sick animals and then culling them are the only defences, meeting organisers said. At the three-day meeting, Thailand — a major poultry exporter and one of more advanced countries in the region — offered to act as a regional centre for

bird flu detection and diagnosis to ensure standardised reporting of outbreaks. Previously, impoverished countries such as Cambodia were sending tissue samples to Paris or London for H5N1 analysis, delaying culling or other containment measures.— Reuters.

POWER FAILURE IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: FirstEnergy Corp has agreed to pay \$89.9 million to settle shareholder lawsuits stemming from last summer's black-out, an extended outage at its Davis-Besse nuclear power plant and its earnings restatement. FirstEnergy said today that its insurers would cover \$71.9 million of the settlement. "With this behind us, we can continue focusing our efforts on providing our customers with reliable and affordable electric service, and building value for our shareholders," said Anthony Alexander, president and CEO. The utility said the agreement did not amount to an admission of wrongdoing. Various securities lawsuits had been consolidated, according to FirstEnergy. The settlement is subject to court approval. In April, a US-Canadian task force report on the Aug 14, 2003, black-out levelled much of the blame on FirstEnergy lines and procedures. The power failure affected 50 million customers across the upper Midwest, New England, New York and Ontario. Last August, Philadelphia law firm Berger & Montague sued FirstEnergy on behalf of anyone who purchased stock in the company between Apr 24, 2002, and last Aug 5, when it announced plans to restate its earnings. The restatement reduced FirstEnergy's income by \$99 million. The lawsuit claimed the company had misrepresented its profits and accounting issues. At the time, FirstEnergy attributed the restatement to an accounting adjustment and called it "a matter of changing the way certain items were accounted for." The Davis-Besse plant, along Lake Erie 50 km east of Toledo, started producing electricity again in March after being shut down for more than two years. A month after it was closed for routine maintenance in February, 2002, inspectors found corrosion on the reactor vessel, where leaking boric acid had eaten almost through a steel cap. Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy, America's fourth-largest investor-owned utility, has 16 power plants and annual revenue of more than \$12 billion. It provides service in an area from Ohio to New Jersey.



COAL MINE, DONETSK REGION, UKRAINE

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Reconnaissance in

the Krasnolimanskaya coalmine burning after an explosion may begin this morning. It will be possible only if the ventilation section is cooled, sources in the rescue headquarters of the Ukrainian Energy Ministry said. The temperature in the section remained 60 degrees Centigrade last night. The mine was filled with smoke, and the level of methane concentration was high as of 0001, Moscow time. The work to cool the section has been continuing there, and rescuers will try to get into the part of the mine that is still inaccessible so far because of the high temperature and gas concentration that may cause an explosion. Supposedly, five miners may be in the section. Their fate has been unknown for two days after the methane explosion. The search for the five missing miners is continuing.

COAL MINE, TEHSIL BALAKOT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 25 — One person was killed and seven others sustained injuries in a gas explosion in a privately owned coal mine in Tehsil Balakot, district Mansehra at Jabbar Klash in North West Frontier Province of Pakistan yesterday. According to details the explosion, which was caused by accumulation of gas, occurred at 1030 hrs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FACTORY, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 80 firefighters have been tackling a fire at a factory in Nottinghamshire. Divisional Officer Steve Jenkins said: "From what we can see of the building, and from the discussions we've had with structural engineers, is that the building is still structurally sound. We've managed to save at least 60% of the building - the ground floor, first and part of the second floor. It's only the top floor and the roof that's been significantly damaged."

FACTORY, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 80 firefighters have been tackling a fire at a factory in Nottinghamshire. The alarm was raised at Ariel Pressings on Wollaton Road in Beeston at about 0030, BST, today. Seventeen fire engines were drafted in from across the county and parts of Derbyshire to tackle the flames at the old mill building. Wollaton Road is likely to remain closed for traffic until lunchtime while firefighters damp down. At one point there were fears the building which is four storeys high and covers hundreds of yards of land could collapse.

FACTORY, BREMEN, GERMANY

Bremen, Jul 27 — A fire occurred yesterday morning in a chemical factory located in the north of Bremen at Ritterhude. The fire broke out in "hall no.4" at the premises of Lubrizol, at about 0630 hrs. A "deflagration is said to have caused the fire in a jar mill".

The fire spread immediately and was extinguished by 0900 hrs. The fire brigade spoke of a "total loss of hall no.4" and a claim in excess of a million Euros. — Lloyd's Agents.

FACTORY, FOSTORIA, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: The Seneca Wire and Manufacturing Co. was engulfed in flames last night, and the Fostoria Fire Department called in all off-duty firefighters and asked other area departments for assistance in battling the blaze. The fire was reported about 2100 hrs. Firefighters thought that oil spreading inside was fueling the flames, and worried that the heat would cause propane tanks to explode. About 2115 hrs, the Fostoria Fire Department asked for mutual aid from departments in Tiffin, which sent two pieces of equipment and some manpower; Bettsville, which sent an aerial unit and some manpower, and Bascom, which sent a truck and eight firefighters. Those firefighters arrived to find the building engulfed in flames, Bascom authorities said. The roof collapsed into the 340,000-square-foot building about 2140 hrs. The plant was not operating when the fire was reported.

FOREST, RUSSIA

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: As compared to last week, the area engulfed by the fires has increased by 14,000 hectares, the ministry source said. Dry weather and high winds facilitate the spread of fires in most regions. The strongest fires are reported from the Chita, Sverdlovsk and Tyumen regions and from the republics of Komi and Yakutia. Forest fires are raging in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous region. Nearly 3,000 foresters are fighting the fires and local inhabitants are helping them. Twenty-six helicopters and aircraft are engaged in fire fighting from the air. Along with that, the source in the Ministry for Emergency Situations said: "The fires pose no threat to residential areas, sanctuaries and potential dangerous facilities."

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Almost 43,000 hectares of forests are ablaze in Russia, the Emergencies Ministry said. It said today that 347 forest fires had been reported so far, including 36 big ones. The largest fires are raging in the Chita region and cover an area of more than 17,000 hectares. Forests are also burning in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area, the Sverdlovsk and Tyumen regions, the Republic of Komi, and Yakutia. The Emergencies Ministry says that the situation is unlikely to improve in these regions. At the same time, it said the fires posed no threat to settlements, wildlife sanctuaries and potentially dangerous facilities. More than 3,000 forest rangers, the local population, 28 helicopters and aircraft are fighting fires.

MILL, CANTERBURY, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 100

firefighters have been tackling a huge fire which wrecked part of a disused mill in Canterbury. They were called to the Barton Mill, in Sturry Road, just before midnight, yesterday. At its height flames could be seen from over six miles away. Crews managed to save most of the building but a wooden part straddling the River Stour was destroyed. Divisional officer John Wildish said crews had to fight the fire from both sides of the river. He said: "There was a severe fire in one part of the building which was in effect lost, so they protected the main mill building with covering jets. Additional crews then attacked the fire on the other side of the river and they stopped it from spreading into adjoining buildings." He praised his crews for saving around 80% of the brick-built mill complex. It is believed the fire started in the old wooden part of the mill, which was well alight when crews arrived. Three fire engines were initially sent from Canterbury, but when it was realised the fire was more serious, further assistance was summoned. At its height, more than 20 fire engines were tackling the flames. Relief crews were still at the scene damping down this morning. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire which wrecked part of a disused mill in Canterbury is believed to have been started deliberately. It is believed the fire started in the old wooden part of the mill, which was well alight when crews arrived.

OIL PROCESSING PLANT, MUMBAI, INDIA

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Three persons sustained burns when a fire erupted in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) oil processing plant in Uran, Navi Mumbai, yesterday morning. A top police source told TOI that the fire took place because of a gasoline leak in the plant's storage tank. According to him, the gasoline slid out into the stormwater drain outside the plant, which is where the fire started. Sources said someone may have thrown a cigarette into the drain, triggering the fire. An ONGC spokesperson, however, denied the gasoline leak. He said a departmental inquiry had been ordered and added that the fire was "a rare case". The fire broke out at 0735 hrs and was doused within ten minutes by the corporation's fire-fighting personnel. Had the fire reached the storage tank, it would have been a major disaster, the police source said. While there was no damage to the ONGC plant, a police source said electric and telephone cables had been damaged. The plant was shut down after the fire but reactivated within a couple of hours.

PREMISES, JAKARTA, INDONESIA

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 2,500 people have lost their homes when fire razed a densely populated central area of the Indonesian capital Jakarta. The fire in

the Karanganyar urban ward started from a food stall inside a market and spread quickly. Firefighters efforts to douse the flame were hampered by poor access and the maze of small alleys in the neighbourhood. No one was killed and those who lost their homes were sheltered at a local mosque, the local ward administrative office and in some private homes.

PREMISES, LANSING, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators are at the scene of a four-story apartment building destroyed by fire in Lansing overnight. The building at 3622 E. 174th Court had 48 apartment units, and all the residents reportedly escaped unharmed before the first crews arrived on the scene. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries. The fire alarm was originally called in shortly after 2300 hrs, yesterday, and the fire was still burning more than three hours later. At the height of the blaze, firefighters from as many as 22 different towns responded. Residents said they did not hear smoke detectors.

PREMISES, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A downtown woodworking company in Salt Lake City that makes furniture for Mormon Temples across the world was completely destroyed by fire yesterday, the metropolitan area's third multi-million dollar blaze in the last 40 days. The cause of yesterday's fast-spreading fire was under investigation. John Jordan, a vice president at Jeffrey Cobabe and Associates, estimated the loss in millions. Jordan said his company had not received any warnings, and he didn't believe the fire was suspicious. There were about a dozen employees in the building, and all got out safely. Fire began about 1300. and was contained in about two hours.

RECYCLING CENTRE, HOWELL, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: The owner of a Michigan plastic recycling operation that burned down Jul 9 plans to rebuild the business. Pat Cavanaugh, president of Industrial Resin Recycling Inc. in Howell, says he wants the company up and running within 30 days. He estimated the losses at about \$3 million.

REFINERY, KARLSRUHE, GERMANY

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated Jul 23, states: Firefighters in Germany today battled to control a fire at the country's largest refinery in the Karlsruhe Rhine Port facility. An explosion at the MiRO refinery spawned a fireball that sent a column of acrid smoke over the Rhineland city. No injuries were reported, but local residents were advised to close windows and remain indoors. The MiRO refinery in Karlsruhe is a joint venture refinery operated by ExxonMobil, Ruhr Oel and

ConocoPhillips with a crude distillation capacity of 283,000 barrels per day. The refinery produces petrol, middle distillates and specialty products.

REFINERY, MERSIN, TURKEY

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: Dozens of fire fighters today managed to bring under control a fire at an oil refinery in southern Turkey after hours of battling the flames, the refinery said in a statement. Nobody was injured in the blaze which began in a storage tank containing 9,000 tons of naphtha at the ATAS refinery in the province of Mersin, said the statement which was carried by the Anatolia news agency. "The naphtha left inside the tank will be allowed to burn out in a controlled manner while cooling-off work continues," the statement said. It said the cause of the fire remained unclear and would be determined after a detailed investigation. Local officials were earlier forced to call in fire fighters from nearby provinces, evacuate the lodgings inside the refinery complex and move tankers to a safe distance, Anatolia said.

SCHOOL, TOORMINA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: A suspicious fire gutted a number of classrooms and caused Aus\$2 million (\$1.42m) damage at a high school on the New South Wales north coast overnight. A split-level maths and science block at Toormina High School was destroyed in the blaze, which was spotted by a group of young people about 2353, AEST, yesterday. Firefighters battled the blaze for an hour and remained at the school throughout the night to extinguish hotspots. The fire's intense heat caused structural damage to the building, police said. Officers said they were treating the blaze as suspicious and forensic experts were examining the area today.

STORAGE DEPOT, MORECAMBE, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: A major fire at a chemical storage depot forced residents to stay indoors and keep windows shut. At its height more than 50 firefighters were tackling the blaze, on the White Lund industrial estate in Morecambe, Lancashire, this morning. By 1300 BST, the fire at the single storey building at Lancaster Synthesis was under control, police said. The fire broke out at about 0630 BST, and black smoke spread across several miles of the city. Eleven fire appliances were called to the scene, along with nine support vehicles. A number of nearby businesses were evacuated, and others were told not to open. Lancashire Police later said the fire was being dealt with using a multi-agency operation, codenamed Merlin. A special command unit was also set up close to the scene to deal with the incident. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service said the building contained a "cocktail of chemicals". Despite the fact the fire was largely under control by

this afternoon, residents were being warned to continue keeping their windows closed and air conditioning units switched off.

WILDFIRES, CANADA

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Forest fires, in British Columbia this summer, have consumed more than 10 times as much land as at this time during last year's devastating fire season. Yesterday afternoon, provincial fire officials were tracking 373 fires that had burned 149,080 hectares of the province, more than half the total number of hectares burned in all of last year. With forecasts of hot, dry weather, the situation could get dramatically worse. The Ralph Edwards homestead at Lonesome Lake, in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park was totally destroyed over the weekend. The fire had raged unchecked since it was started by lightning Jun 21. The fire, which blossomed from 600 hectares Friday (Jul 23) to more than 3,700 on Monday (Jul 26), has left the forest service scrambling for help. It was originally left unchecked because of its remote location, but now the fire threatens the vacation community of Charlotte Lake, which was placed under an evacuation order late yesterday. The fire is so massive that a plume of ash and smoke towers more than 4,000 metres in the air and smoke drifts hundreds of kilometres to the south. At this time no densely populated areas of the province are affected.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: British Columbia's forest minister and fire fighting officials are defending the strategy used of leaving a forest fire to smoulder for a month before it exploded into an inferno, forcing about 60 people from their homes and putting 2,000 others on alert. Some of the residents evacuated from the Charlotte Lake area in the Chilcotin, about 350 kilometres northwest of Vancouver, claim fire officials waited too long before tackling the blaze. Forest Minister Mike de Jong said today he understands the residents' concerns and frustrations. But he denied any suggestion the fire was left to burn because of a cutback in forestry resources. "Last year we spent close to Can\$500 million, a record breaker by any measure. This year . . . we increased spending, we got more aircraft, more people, more equipment." The fire started a month ago by a lightning strike and it remained mostly dormant until winds fanned the fire to its current size of about 110 square kilometres. Fire information officer Nancy Argyle said the fire has now become the worst of it's kind, at times qualifying as a Rank 6, the highest classification for a forest fire. "It's moving very quickly. Many people describe it as a wall of flames 70 feet high. I think one of the residents mentioned that. It's definitely a very serious fire and it's not something that any person or any agency is able to combat." Argyle said firefighters couldn't fight the fire at first because the terrain was too steep and water

bombers were ineffective. About 25 kilometres from the fire, about 2,000 residents of the two communities of Nimpo Lake and Anahim Lake were been put on evacuation alert late yesterday. The Coastal Fire Centre has issued a warning that smoke from the Lonesome Lake fire and other Cariboo forest fires is expected to drift over much of B.C.'s south coast through the long weekend. There are currently 377 fires burning in B.C., and so far this year more than 1,500 square kilometres of forest has been burned by fires. Weather conditions in the southern half of the province are expected to remain hot and dry for another week, although the northern half is expected to get some showers and cooler temperatures.

WILDFIRES, FRANCE

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 2,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in the south of France as firefighters battled to control widespread wildfires, officials said today. Fire-fighting aircrafts and water-dropping helicopters were called in to contain the first serious wildfires of the season, but strong winds continued to fan the flames which have devastated 1,200 hectares of land north of Marseilles. The southern town of Vitrolles, near Marseilles, has been caught in the fast moving fires. Evacuations of three neighbourhoods began about 2300, yesterday and continued through the night. One firefighter received serious third-degree burns fighting the flames at Rove, some 20km northwest of Marseilles, and another was also hurt. The fires engulfed a fire engine in the village of Galline, which had been evacuated as a precaution, without causing injury. "The fire hasn't been brought under control yet, and we've noticed it starting up again in several places," said a police officer. Another serious fire broke out at Velaux, also north of Marseilles, threatening Vitrolles where the evacuations took place forcing the closure of a portion of the A7 motorway. About 1,500 firefighters were battling in the area and reinforcements of another 1,500 were sent in from other French regions. The fire swept 10km over four hours, said firefighters, and an estimated 1,000 hectares had been burnt. Despite the firefighters' efforts, the flames had claimed three houses and several vacation cottages. Earlier yesterday 160 firefighters backed up by more than 40 vehicles managed to bring under control a fire in Carry-le Rouet, a beach resort just northwest of this southern French port city.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

Lisbon, Jul 26 — Hundreds of firefighters battled forest fires across Portugal today in a heatwave which has brought temperatures of up to 45 degrees Celsius. The tourist region of Faro on Portugal's southern coast was hardest hit, with more than 150 firefighters working in mountains near the spa town of Monchique, a spokesman for the national emergency service said. Across Portugal, hundreds

of firefighters backed by water trucks, helicopters and a plane were battling to contain blazes, with the districts of Porto and Vila Real also hit. Greece is sending two planes to Portugal to fight the fires while Italy has put an aircraft on standby following the country's plea for help, the EU executive Commission said in a statement. Smoke from a fire in Mafra, about 30 kms north of Lisbon, could be smelt in the streets of the capital. Portugal has been hit by nearly 10,000 individual fires which have burned more than 26,800 hectares (66,200 acres), according to forest service figures from Jul 18. — Reuters.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Portugal says it is dispatching more military personnel to help fight wildfires that have burned for four days. There are already 250 soldiers aiding firefighters on the ground, and several European countries are sending helicopters and water-dropping planes. The fires have destroyed thousands of hectares of forest and wildlife areas. Seventeen blazes have been burning in districts across the Iberian nation, where temperatures of over 40 degs Celsius and strong dry winds have fuelled flames, the Associated Press reported.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Canyon winds that spread wildfires across northern Los Angeles County aided firefighters by blowing the latest blaze back on itself, easing the threat to hundreds of homes today. An 11,405-acre wildfire that burned two homes and a bridge turned overnight into the Mojave Desert, where it was less of a threat to residential areas and more easily containable, officials said. Fire department spokesman Anthony Polanco said the blaze was 50% contained, and residents were allowed to return to homes south of Highway 14 that were evacuated when the fire started Tuesday. "All evacuation orders have been lifted," he said. About 2,580 firefighters battled the blaze in dry brush about 50 miles north of Los Angeles. Seven suffered minor injuries. Firefighters were released from the lines overnight, officials said. Angeles National Forest spokesman Stanton Florea said investigators determined the blaze was human-caused. The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced it had approved the use of federal funds to help pay the costs of fighting the third fire in northern Los Angeles County - the fifth approval granted to California by FEMA this week. The county's two other major blazes were fully surrounded. A fire near Santa Clarita had burned across 6,060 acres since Saturday. Another fire had charred 17,418 acres and destroyed three homes near Lake Hughes since July 12. Elsewhere in California, the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge fire was expected to be fully contained at 1,500 acres. In Yosemite National Park, a 4,250-acre lightning-sparked wildfire was being allowed to grow on one front but otherwise was mostly

contained, park officials said. In Alaska, 117 wildfires were burning, and lightning ignited eight of the fires since Monday.

London, Jul 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Facing another potentially disastrous fire season, authorities in Southern California are contemplating drastic steps to keep flames at bay, including closing popular national forests to visitors. In the past week, fires have destroyed more than 48,000 acres of dry brush and trees. Thousands of residents were evacuated, but only a handful of homes and other structures were lost. All the fires were contained by yesterday.

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated Jul 25, states: Wildfires in Alaska's Interior continued to lay low today, but fire managers said expected winds and warmer temperatures could fan blazes back to life tomorrow. Firefighters reinforced fire lines and did mop up work, officials said. North of Fairbanks, helicopter crews made water drops over the 499,000-acre Boundary fire. To the south-east, firefighters welcomed rain that fell steadily this morning over parts of the 470,000-acre Taylor Complex fires.

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Girl Scout camp and a youth correctional facility were evacuated and residents ordered out of about 15 homes as firefighters battled a fast-moving blaze that started in the rugged hills of a national forest. Firefighters were planning a new assault on the fire today. "Until the sun comes up and gets some heat on it, it's not going to do anything," Larry Benham, incident commander, said yesterday as night fell on the 1,500-acre blaze. Officials said the fire started on a nearby highway when a flatbed truck coming down the mountain overheated its brakes and lost control, rolling into brush and igniting the blaze, Las Vegas police said. The 37-year-old woman driving the truck was hospitalised, but her condition was not given. About 100 firefighters, aided by a water-dropping helicopter and firefighting air tankers, spent yesterday afternoon trying to prevent the fire from cresting an 11,000-foot ridge and spreading south-west through tinder-dry brush towards 350 expensive mountain homes in Kyle Canyon. Mark Blankensop, an assistant fire chief for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, said that as a precaution authorities ordered the evacuation of people living in the 15 homes in the Deer Creek subdivision. No wide-scale evacuation was ordered, but authorities asked the 2,500 people who live in the Mount Charleston area not to stay. William Kourim, a Clark County fire chief, said officials feared residents would be trapped if the fire reached the Kyle Canyon communities of Rainbow, Old Town, Echo and Cathedral Rock. "It's a narrow, box canyon, one way in and one way out," he said.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Firefighters, bolstered by fresh crews from around the West and favourable winds today, steered a wildfire away from a wooded

canyon community 35 miles from Las Vegas. Fire officials reported the 1,500-acre blaze was 20% contained, and no new evacuations were ordered and no structures threatened. A convoy of firefighters from California arrived today to join about 120 federal, state and local firefighters who worked to stop the wildfire from cresting a ridge and burning toward about 350 homes. Conne Kaczmarek, a clerk at the Mount Charleston Hotel, said that after some harrowing hours yesterday, the firefighting effort appeared to be going well.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Warnings of increased fire activity in Alaska's Interior were lifted today and wet weather was expected to slow the wildfires' spread for the rest of the week. Firefighters made progress today, as winds, the crews feared would feed the blazes, subsided, temperatures cooled and rain doused hot spots. Red flag warnings, issued yesterday, were lifted everywhere in the Interior this afternoon, except for Tanana Flats and Deltana. Firefighters even began rehabilitating the wettest spots near the Boundary and Wolf Creek fires. The rehabilitation includes channeling water to prevent erosion, reseeding bald spots with native grasses and returning brush and trees to areas cleared for fire breaks. At other fires, crews were "mopping up," combing through a perimeter up to 500 feet and snuffing anything hot. Lightning strikes started six new fires yesterday. Smokejumpers were sent to protect structures in the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, as a 45,000-acre fire burned nearby. The south-west corner of the Evansville fire flared up, causing smokejumpers to be sent last night and this morning. The weather quieted fires in the rest of the state, and should help fire crews over the next several days. Two low-pressure systems moving in from the Bering Sea were expected to bring rain and cooler temperatures to the Interior, according to the National Weather Service. The Boundary fire should get the most rainfall. The Taylor, Eagle and Chicken fires should also be affected, the Weather Bureau said. There were 120 active fires on today and 35 structures, mostly cabins and secondary homes, had been destroyed. There are 2,042 people working on Alaska fires, according to the Interagency Coordination Centre.



AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines cargo plane, which left Kansai International Airport near Osaka, reported engine trouble this morning and returned to the airport, the

transport ministry said. The plane, bound for Incheon International Airport, reported the problem at around 1130 hrs and made an emergency landing at 1144 hrs, according to the airport office of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Jul 27 — A United Airlines flight landed safely at Sydney airport today after an alarm indicating a possible breach of cockpit security forced the pilot to turn back shortly after take-off, local television said. Flight UA840 carrying 246 people was bound for Los Angeles but turned back to Sydney as a precautionary measure about 90 minutes after take-off, a United Airlines spokesman said. Local television showed several emergency vehicles lined up along one of the airport's runways while rush-hour traffic around the airport was at a standstill. The plane was soon surrounded by emergency vehicles. About 90 minutes after take-off a silent alarm had gone off, indicating a possible security breach in the cockpit, Channel 10 television said. Other television reports said there had been a bomb scare on board. — Reuters.

C-FDYO

London, Jul 29 — At 1000, Jul 25, Delta Helicopters Bell 206B, C-FDYO, was engaged in forest fire infra-red scanning, at Zama Lake, Ontario. While manoeuvring at low level to return to a hot spot, the helicopter yawed uncontrollably to the right, completing a number of rotations before settling into small trees. The aircraft was substantially damaged. The pilot sustained serious soft tissue injuries to his back and the passenger received minor injuries. An ELT signal was received by RCC, and Alberta Forest Protection Service flight following reported the overdue helicopter. The occupants were unable to contact anyone on three different radios, however they were located approximately one hour later by another helicopter working on the same fire.

C-FIMY

London, Jul 27 — At 0620, Jul 26, Forestry Protection Ltd Cessna 188 Agwagon, C-FIMY, was returning at 2,000 feet to Deer Lake after a spraying operation when the engine (Continental) failed. A Mayday was declared by a second aircraft from the company, returning from the same operation. The pilot force-landed the aircraft on a gravel road three nautical miles from Deer Lake. The aircraft was substantially damaged but the pilot only received minor injuries.

C-GBCL

London, Jul 28 — At 0727, Jul 27, Bell 206B, C-GBCL, was conducting aerial application training, near Fort Frances, Ontario. While in manoeuvres at tree top level, the helicopter lost all engine (Allison 250) power and was force-landed on a nearby clearing in the bush. The pilot and passenger received

minor injuries and the helicopter was substantially damaged.

C-GDSP

London, Jul 29 — On Jul 26, Air Canada Boeing 767-200, C-GDSP, operating as Flight 894 bound Toronto, was approximately 30 minutes from destination when the number one engine (Pratt & Whitney JT9D-7R4) began to surge. Power was reduced but the surging continued. The flight crew requested ARFF to be standing by for the landing. The aircraft landed without further incident. Maintenance determined that the 3.0 bleed system on the number one engine was not responding to vane actuator command inputs, thus affecting engine operation. The engine was replaced and the aircraft returned to service.

C-GNPP

London, Jul 27 — At 0650, Jul 24, Wag-Aero CUBY DH-102, C-GNPP was on approach into Malachi Lake, Ontario. During the landing at approximately four-six feet off the surface of the water, the aircraft stalled, struck the water with the right float and capsized. The pilot and student escaped without injury, but the aircraft was substantially damaged. It was reported that during the level off, the nose was pulled back, resulting in a drop in airspeed.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rescuers pulled six people from the sea and were looking for five others after the Sikorsky S76 helicopter they were flying in crashed today. The helicopter carrying nine oil workers and two crew members was traveling between a drilling vessel and fixed rig when it crashed off the coast of Rio de Janeiro state, the government-run oil company Petrobras said. The company could not say if any of the victims were injured. Local media reported that one of those rescued had died, but Petrobras could not immediately confirm the reports. The helicopter was operated by Petrobras subcontractor BHS. Rescuers in boats were searching for the five missing people. A company spokesman said it was not immediately clear how or why the helicopter crashed.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 26, states: The bodies of five helicopter crash victims in Brazil were retrieved Saturday (Jul 24) in approximately 1,100 feet of water by ROVs of the state oil company Petrobras, official sources said. Locating the five crew members declared missing since the Thursday crash brings to six the total number of victims that had been on board the helicopter that was taking 11 employees of private firms contracted by Petrobras to an offshore platform. One of the bodies was found at the bottom of the sea next to fragments of the crashed helicopter while the other four were trapped inside the cabin, from which they were extracted by ROVs controlled from a ship anchored nearby.

CRASH, CAMERON PARK, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated Jul 21, states: A helicopter crashed into a house located alongside an airstrip and golf course in Cameron Park, California, this afternoon, killing at least one person, authorities said. 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. Firefighters from the department found the house fully engulfed in flames when they arrived after the crash was reported about 1545 hrs. Debris from the helicopter also struck another nearby home, according to television station KXTV in Sacramento, about 30 miles west of Cameron Park.

CRASH, FOX LAKE, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: A small aircraft went down near Rollins Road and Route 59, in Fox Lake, at about 1400, yesterday, killing two people on board. Lake County police say the aircraft, a Mooney M20J four-seat, single-engine aircraft, went down near Rollins Road overpass, NBC5's Anita Padilla reported. An eyewitness said it crashed on an adjacent bike path. Last night, NBC5 reported that the aircraft had flown out of Pawaukee Airport 25 miles away. The owner, an Evanston man, reportedly was flying with a flight instructor, though he had flown the aircraft before. A Lake County sheriff's deputy reportedly rushed to the scene of the crash and was severely burned when the engine exploded as he tried to rescue the passengers. He was transported by helicopter to St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee, where he is being treated for second-degree burns to 20 percent of his body. He is listed in stable condition. The Lake County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed that two white males, the pilot and his passenger, died in the crash. Authorities are trying to identify the victims and determine if they died upon impact or from the explosion. The coroner believes both men were killed on impact. According to the fire department, the tail number was completely burned off the aircraft, making it difficult to determine the origin and destination. Witnesses who saw the aircraft before it crashed said it turned almost completely upside down, then righted itself before taking a nosedive. One witness said the pilot was circling in the area and appeared to have engine trouble. The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration will take several weeks to determine what caused the crash.

CRASH, FRINSTED, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft carrying two people has crash landed in a field in Kent. The twin engine piper aircraft came down in the field at Frinsted near Sittingbourne at 1730, BST, yesterday after taking off from

Biggin Hill. The pilot suffered cuts to his face as well as rib injuries and the passenger had neck and face injuries. Both were able to walk free from the aircraft but were taken to the Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham. Police and fire crews attended the scene.

CRASH, KARRATHA AREA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A 50-year-old West Australian man had walked away from a helicopter crash with minor cuts and bruises, police said today. The Geraldton man, a qualified pilot and businessman, owns his own helicopter and had intended to fly to Port Hedland when he took off from a light industrial estate five km outside Karratha about 0630, hrs, today. However, moments after take-off, the helicopter crashed into a nearby property in the same estate, Sergeant Ivan Davies of Karratha police said today. "On arrival, the police located a helicopter on its side," Sgt Davies said. "The pilot had extricated himself from it, he was in a semi-dazed condition and had sustained cuts and bruising but other than that he was ok." The man, who was the only person on board the helicopter at the time of the crash, was taken to hospital for observation. The Karratha Fire and Rescue Service had to cover the crash site in foam to contain leaking fuel, and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau has been informed. Sgt Davies said there was heavy fog in the region this morning but whether that was a contributing factor was yet to be determined.

CRASH, ORENSE REGION, SPAIN

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The pilot of an aircraft fighting forest fires in north-western Spain was killed when his aircraft crashed today in the Orense region of northwestern Spain, regional environmental authorities said. The authorities, who sent a helicopter to the scene, said the aircraft went down in the early evening as the crew tried to bring a nearby forest fire under control. A spokesman for the regional Galician government said an investigation had been opened into the crash.

CRASH, RIVER NIGER, NIGERIA

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Pan African helicopter on the fleet of Chevron Texaco Nigeria Limited, crashed into the creeks of Niger Delta, in the early hours of yesterday, killing four persons, including two crew members. Those on board the ill-fated aircraft were three Nigerians and an American, identified as the pilot. Sources at Chevron Texaco said last night that the helicopter was mobilised at about 12 midnight to evacuate an injured rig worker of Star Ultra Deep, a Chevron Texaco affiliate, to Port Harcourt for medical attention. It was learnt that further contact could not be established with the helicopter as from 0230, yesterday, five minutes after it took off from a drilling rig at Nsiko Field located in OPL 249, raising fears that it had crashed. The co-pilot

was identified as a Nigerian. Others on board were the injured oil worker and medical personnel, said to be a staff of Transocean, operator of the Sedco Energy rig, a contracting firm to CNL.

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: An oil industry helicopter with an American and three Nigerians onboard was confirmed lost off West Africa's Gulf of Guinea, ChevronTexaco's Nigerian affiliate said today. The helicopter was declared missing after it disappeared five minutes after take-off yesterday from the Sedco Energy offshore rig owned by Houston-based Transocean and drilling on behalf of ChevronTexaco subsidiary Star Ultra Deep, ChevronTexaco said in a statement. One body has been recovered and the search was continuing for the others, the statement added.

CRASH, SELFRIDGE AIR BASE, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: A civilian helicopter crashed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base today, killing the pilot, officials say. Michael Morton was owner of Morton Helicopter, based at Oakland International Airport. He was believed to be in his late 50s. "He called in a Mayday, that he was having a malfunction," said Josh Alger, spokesman for Medstar Ambulance in nearby Mount Clemens. Morton radioed the Selfridge air tower and received clearance to enter the base's air space, Selfridge spokeswoman Nancy Guy said. He crashed in a grassy area near a runway about 1330. Morton was dead at the scene. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating. The base is located in Macomb County's Harrison Township.

CRASH, SWAINBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: A pilot and his father had a miraculous escape after their light aircraft crashed in fields in North Yorkshire. Airport officials alerted emergency crews at around 1700 BST, today, after receiving Mayday calls from the Cessna 152. The pair had been flying to Teesside from Bournemouth when they developed engine trouble close to Hutton Rudby. The pilot crashed through a fence and a hedge before bringing the plane to safety in farm fields at Swainby. Police found their badly damaged aircraft east of the A19 but both men had managed to scramble from the wreckage unaided and unscathed.

CRASH, WANGARATTA AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people are dead after their light plane crashed and burned in rugged bushland in Victoria's northeast today. The wreckage of the Piper Cheyenne, containing the bodies of the pilot and five passengers, was found by a bus driver more than six hours after the aircraft was due to land at Benalla. Authorities believe pilot Kerry Endicott, flying from Sydney,

may have crashed after becoming confused in appalling weather. Conditions in the area were bad, with low cloud, rain and snow. "It's been a high-speed impact and the cabin has been consumed by fire," Australian Search and Rescue spokesman Ben Mitchell said.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Employees in a family-run company are struggling to come to terms with the loss of the company's director and founder, as well as five other employees, friends and relatives who were killed in a light aircraft crash. The Piper Cheyenne was making one of its weekly trips for the timber products firm D & R Henderson yesterday. It had left the company's headquarters in Sydney in the morning and was heading towards the company's workshop in Benalla in North East Victoria when it crashed. Emergency crews now fear poor conditions and harsh terrain could hamper their efforts to retrieve the bodies of the six victims. In the last radio call made by the pilot, he said he was experiencing poor visibility due to heavy cloud cover and rain, and that he would be using a global positioning system to guide his landing. Weather permitting, investigators from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau will begin a thorough examination of the crash scene this afternoon to see if they can uncover what went wrong. The ATSB's Alan Stray says he hopes electronic information stored on the aircraft will hold some vital clues.

D-EZET

London, Jul 28 — Piper PA-28-181, D-EZET, operated by Luftsportclub Hamm e.V., was destroyed following a crash, after a loss of engine power after take-off near Hamm-Lippewiesen, Germany, at 1607, UTC, Jul 22. The pilot was killed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FIUMICINO AIRPORT, ROME, ITALY

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Flight S9 1458 of the East African airline left the Rome Airport, headed to Zanzibar, but was forced back for an emergency landing. A little after departure, the port engine of the Boeing 767-300ER had a problem and burst in flames, doused by the pilot, who activated on-board mechanisms. The aircraft landed at 0212 without problems in Fiumicino, where in the meanwhile emergency procedures had started, with the presence of fire fighters ready to intervene. The emergency procedure was declared over at 0246. The 165 passengers, who are staying in a hotel, got off the aircraft using the normal steps. There were also ten crew members on board. The aircraft is now undergoing a check-up done in the presence of the police. Another aircraft should arrive today to take the tourists to their destination.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HUNGARY

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Technical trouble prompted the pilot of a British jetliner to make an emergency landing this

morning in Hungary. The Airbus A321 was on a flight from London to Tehran with 108 passengers and seven crew members on board. Nobody was hurt. Hungary's state-run news agency said the aircraft had problems with one of its engines. The flight was expected to continue on to Iran after spare parts were delivered from London. The aircraft belongs to British Mediterranean, a British Airways franchise partner.

G-BEVT

St. Peter Port, July 23 — Following issued by Guernsey Airport at 0834, UTC: BN-2A Mk III-2 (Trislander) G-BEVT, owner Aurigny Air Services Ltd, with 12 persons on board, had de-ice boot detach from propeller which broke perspex window injuring two passengers, approximately 500 ft after departure from runway 27, Guernsey Airport, while on a flight to Jersey, at 0638, UTC, today. The accident will be the subject of an AIB investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

HA-SLD

Rijeka, Jul 26 — Cessna 150 HA-SLD crashed in the Gospic area, Croatia, at around 1200, Jul 24, while on a flight from Lhud, Hungary, to Zadar, Croatia. The two persons on board were able to escape the aircraft and were rescued by local police shortly thereafter. Only minor injuries were reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

HELICOPTER MISSING ON FLIGHT FROM BARIO TO BA KELALAN, MALAYSIA

London, Jul 22 — A press report, dated today, states: After 11 days of searching in vain, the services of several bomoh were employed to locate the helicopter that went missing in the jungles of northern Sarawak with seven people on board. An official at the operations room here said today: "Each bomoh gave us a different description but all of them said the victims were in a valley." He said it did not help much as the area was made up of valleys and it was difficult to ascertain in which valley the helicopter landed. A statement from the operations room here said 78 military personnel for the 10th Royal Malay Regiment and 15 General Operations Forces personnel had been deployed to help in the ground search for the helicopter and its passengers. (See issue of Jul 21.)

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Hope gave way to despair, as commandos found the bodies of five of the seven men who were on board the six-seater Bell Long Ranger helicopter that went down deep in the jungles of Sarawak on Jul 12. Four of the bodies were in the wrecked aircraft, decomposed beyond recognition, while another body was on the ground. Two others remain missing, and their families are clinging on to hopes that their loved ones survived to tell an extraordinary tale of heroism and survival. The helicopter was spotted on Tuesday (Jul 27), but bad weather was a major impediment. Floods turned back teams that set out on foot in the

foothills of Gunung Murud, while two RMAF helicopters trying to make their way to Bario and Ba'Kelalan from Miri were also forced to abort their missions. After numerous attempts, one helicopter managed to reach Ba'Kelalan at 1105. It was ferrying Dr Judson Sakai Tagal's parents and other family members. All along, the families of the missing seven, villagers and rescue workers had refused to give up hope. By 1630, hope evaporated. Two commandos rappelled down from a helicopter and peeked inside the wreckage. Inside were four bodies. Another was found on the ground. Heavy rain and strong winds restricted communications but the two commandos were ordered to secure the area and remain there until reinforcements could be sent. The helicopter, found upside-down, is believed to have hit the hills and rolled down to lodge among the thick undergrowth. One of the doors was open, and it is believed that three of the passengers may have survived the crash. One may have succumbed later to injuries, while the fate of the other two is unknown. Except for the pilot, who was in uniform, the others could not be identified because their bodies were badly decomposed. Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu, said the bodies would be taken to Miri Hospital for a post-mortem and identification tomorrow. After that, the remains will be handed over to the families.

INCIDENT AT ATATURK AIRPORT, TURKEY

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger aircraft of private Inter Airlines, on a flight from Dusseldorf, Germany, to Istanbul, skidded off the runway early Wednesday (Jul 21) after landing at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, officials said. No one was injured in the accident. Sources said the aircraft, carrying 102 passengers and six crew members, landed at Istanbul's Ataturk airport at 0030 hrs. The aircraft's port side wheel system broke after touching down, causing it to turn to the port and skid off the runway, sources said. The aircraft was slightly damaged. While some passengers got off the aircraft on their own, the remaining was evacuated through emergency exits. Efforts are under way to pull the aircraft to apron.

INCIDENT AT BEIJING AIRPORT, CHINA

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A tyre burst on an aircraft landing yesterday at Beijing's main airport, forcing the temporary closure of one runway and delaying some flights, China Central Television reported. No one was injured in the 1000, local time, incident involving a Shandong Airlines aircraft on a flight from the eastern city of Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, the report on the national midday news said. The report didn't say how many people were aboard or what type of aircraft was involved. The airport's eastern runway was closed for nearly two hours before it re-opened at 1145, according to the report.

INCIDENT AT DARWIN AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers had to disembark from a Virgin Blue aircraft at Darwin Airport after its nose gear was damaged in a botched "push-back" from an aerobridge. The Virgin aircraft bound for Brisbane was preparing to leave its bay about 0200, AEST, yesterday when the 737's nose gear was damaged, according to the Australian Licensed Aircraft Engineers Association. The union said the incident occurred because of a communication breakdown between the person in charge of the push-back and the pilot. As a result, 113 passengers had to leave the aircraft and their travel was delayed for 24 hours, the airline has confirmed. The incident appeared to be the result of poorly-trained workers doing jobs that should have been carried out by licensed aircraft engineers, an ALAEA spokesman said. Both Virgin Blue and Jetstar were operating mainly without engineers in charge of aircraft push-backs, the union said. No one was injured in the incident and there appeared to be no serious damage to the aircraft. A Virgin Blue spokeswoman said the airline was investigating the incident and confirmed all passengers had been offloaded. "The aircraft was given a landing gear inspection and has since been cleared," the spokeswoman said.

INCIDENT AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT, MEXICO

See XA-BCS.

INCIDENT ON A FLIGHT FROM GUERNSEY TO JERSEY

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated Jul 23, states: Two people have been injured after part of a propeller smashed a window on an aircraft which had just taken off from Guernsey Airport. The Aurigny Trislander was 500ft in the air when flying glass from the shattered window sprayed passengers. The aircraft carrying 12 to Jersey returned to Guernsey Airport. Two people were taken to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital. One was treated for cuts and one may need surgery on an injured hand. The aircraft landed safely before checks revealed the damage was caused by a rubber anti-icing cover from the propeller. An incident has been described as one of the most serious in the airline's 36-year history. The Air Accident Investigation Branch and police were looking into the matter. Aurigny financial director Peter O'Donovan said: "We will also carry out our own investigation into this very, very rare occurrence."

N1912H

London, Jul 26 — Piper PA-28 (Cherokee), N1912H, crashed near Cle Elum, Washington, at 0200, Jul 25, while on a flight from Cle Elum. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the four persons on board were killed and the other two were seriously injured.

N38355

London, Jul 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed into an airport hangar and burst into flames yesterday, killing two men and two boys, authorities said. The single-engine propeller aircraft crashed about 1615 at New Garden Airport, about 20 miles south-west of Philadelphia in Chester County, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said. Peters said the Piper Arrow PA28 had been performing touch-and-go landings. "When he was departing, he struck the left side of the hangar on the last touch-and-go he attempted," Peters said. The fire destroyed the aircraft and several parked cars and charred the side of the hangar. The National Transportation Safety Board had been called to the scene to investigate. "Since it is a non-towered airport, we have no air traffic control tapes," Peters said. New Garden Township police Lt. Kevin McCarthy said the victims were two men, ages 38 and 45, and two boys, ages 8 and 12. Their names were not immediately released pending notification of their families. They were believed to be related.

London, Jul 27 — Piper PA-28-161 (Warrior II), N38355, crashed into a hangar at New Garden Airport, Pennsylvania, at 2015, Jul 25, while on a flight to New Garden Airport. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N5010E

London, Jul 27 — Air Tractor AT-502B, N5010E, crashed near Mendota, California, at 1200, Jul 23. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was not injured.

N549W

London, Jul 27 — Bell 206B JetRanger, N549W, crashed near Biber, California, at 2153, Jul 26. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the three persons on board were seriously injured and the third suffered minor injuries.

N627AS

London, Jul 27 — Boeing 737-790, N627AS, (operated by Alaska Airlines Inc) clipped the terminal with a wing while taxiing at Gustavus, Alaska, at 0203, Jul 25. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The 83 persons on board were not injured.

N69CL

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A twin-engine Beechcraft 58 crashed onto a residential street in Fort Collins yesterday, killing all three men aboard, destroying a minivan and setting off several small explosions. Fort Collins police spokeswoman Rita Davis said the aircraft didn't hit any homes and no one on the ground was injured. Residents within a quarter of a mile were evacuated for about five hours as firefighters cleaned up about 100 gallons of fuel that had spilled from the wreckage. Residents reported the explosions after the fuel leaked into the storm drainage system and the aircraft

caught fire, Davis said in a statement. Aside from the minivan, no additional damage was immediately reported in the community 65 miles north of Denver. Witnesses said the aircraft seemed to be having engine trouble before it crashed about noon. FAA spokeswoman Nancy Corey said it had left the Fort Collins/Loveland Airport and was headed to Omaha, Neb. The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating.

London, Jul 27 — Beechcraft Baron 58P, N69CL, crashed near Fort Collins, Colorado, at 1800, Jul 24, while on a flight from Fort Collins to Omaha, Nebraska. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N91075

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: A pilot and passenger from Illinois were killed today when their small single-engine plane crashed into a house in Exton, Chester County, Pa. Nobody on the ground was hurt in the 0930 hrs crash of the Piper Arrow. Lt. Claude Frisbie of the West Whiteland Township Police Department named the two deceased as pilot Thomas McKinnis, 53, and passenger Cynthia Merrit, 48, who lived together in Broughton, Ill. The plane left Chester County Airport near Coatesville at 0925 hrs, bound for Portland, Maine, he added. According to the FAA plane registry, McKinnis and Merrit co-owned the 1985 two-seat plane. NTSB records show the plane had had no other accidents.

London, Jul 29 — Piper PA-28-181 (Cherokee Archer II), N91075, crashed near West Goshen, Pennsylvania, at 1328, Jul 27, while on a flight from Coatesville, PA, to Portland, Maine. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

SUSPENSION OF GHANAIAN AIRLINE FLIGHTS TO/FROM UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: The US Transportation Department has barred Ghana Airways from making flights to and from the US. The government says the state-run airline is being investigated for allegations it ignored orders to ground unsafe aircraft and flew on an expired license. A Transportation Department spokesman calls the decision to suspend the airline very rare, possibly unprecedented. In two instances, Ghana Airways allegedly used an aircraft that had been ordered grounded by the Federal Aviation Administration because of safety concerns. The FAA says Ghana Airways also allowed its operating licence to expire earlier this month but continued unauthorised direct flights since that time. A flight scheduled to leave Accra, Ghana, for New York's JFK International Airport around 1900 hrs was cancelled.

XA-BCS

London, Jul 23 — McDonnell Douglas DC-9-14 XA-BCS, operated by AeroCalifornia Airlines, was substantially damaged after a loss of

control following an encounter with severe weather during take-off from runway 05, Benito Juarez International Airport, Mexico City, at 1933, CDT, July 21. One passenger sustained a serious injury, while the captain, first officer, 2 flight attendants, and 52 other passengers were not injured.

Product Recalls**CORNFLOUR, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The country's largest grocery distributor said today it will seek to recoup the costs of recalling cornflour products containing high levels of lead. The Foodstuffs co-operative, which covers New World, Four Square, Pak'N Save, Write Price and On the Spot supermarkets and mini-marts, said its accountant was adding up the cost of pulling its house-brand maize cornflour off the shelves. A total of four products have been recalled in New Zealand since last week, when corn imported from China and milled in New Zealand was found to have been contaminated with lead. Foodstuffs consists of three separate, regionally based, retailer-owned co-operative companies, together with their federation body Foodstuffs (NZ) Ltd. Chief executive of Foodstuffs (South Island) Ltd, Steve Anderson, said today the company wanted to recoup the cost of the recall there. "Costs such as advertising, costs for logistics and costs of getting consultants and PR agents," he told National Radio. "We'll be talking to the suppliers as soon as we get a figure." On Monday, Foodstuffs (South Island) Ltd recalled several batches of Pam's maize cornflour and a product for the food service sector, 5kg bags of Gilmour's maize cornflour, made by a Dunedin company, Murdoch Manufacturing. The cornflour was found to contain about 100 times the maximum allowed level of lead. Foodstuffs (Wellington) Ltd yesterday also issued a voluntary recall of Pam's maize cornflour after concerns batches containing the lead may have been distributed there after Nov 27 last year. The packets would have a "best by" date of December 2005 on them. Edmonds Fielder's cornflour 300g was recalled yesterday. Only cornflour with best before dates 30.09.05 and 01.10.05 was affected, Edmonds said in a statement. Edmonds received 32 tonnes of the affected cornflour and also used it for its White Wings product (sold in Australia), which has also been recalled. A baby product, Robinson's Step Up Egg Custard, made by Nutricia New Zealand, was recalled last week. The lead was detected in a fourth-quarter analysis by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) of its 2003-2004 Total Diet Survey. The contaminated corn was processed last October into 105.78 tonnes of cornflour,

and mostly distributed as cornflour before Christmas, including 22.1 tonnes exported to Australia, and 25.1 tonnes exported to Fiji. The NZFSA said all the cornflour from the 6,000 tonne corn shipment from China, imported last September, had now been traced and every product with lead levels higher than the maximum permitted had been recalled. The question of how the contamination happened remains. An agent for the ship which brought the grain to New Zealand said he did not believe it was poisoned on the ship. But Mikaele Peti, of Barwil Agencies, said he did not know whether dirty equipment might have been used in China to load the grain. Green MP Sue Kedgley has criticised the NZFSA and said the lead contamination had shown it to be inadequate, poorly resourced, and ill-equipped to protect the safety of the food supply. Associate Health Minister Damien O'Connor said the authority was doing a good job formulating policies and systems to ensure food safety. "Indications at this point (are) that the contamination has occurred not from the corn itself but from some process of transportation, whether it be from the ship or a truck or whatever," he said.

London, July 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Food safety officials say bulk *Athena* (17429 gt, built 1995) that carried 6,000 tonnes of corn to New Zealand had previously carried lead in the same hold. "The most likely scenario is that the vessel was not properly cleaned after it unloaded the cargo of lead concentrate, or before it loaded the corn," said Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) director of imported and domestic foods, Tim Knox. *Athena* transported lead concentrate from Western Australia to Port Pirie in South Australia during June 2003, then in September was used to carry the corn from Dalian to Auckland. In between, it carried logs to Japan and Korea. Cornflour milled from the corn by Penford NZ Ltd was contaminated with lead, and some of it has been recalled this week, after products showed up in a five-yearly food residue survey earlier this month with high levels of lead. The contamination, on the outside of the grain, has been narrowed down to a small part of the shipment — the last few tonnes of grain which came out of the hold of *Athena*, which berthed at Auckland, on Sept 21 last year. The grain was the first milled about 10 days later. *Athena* is operated by the Island

View Shipping company, South Africa's largest bulk shipping operator. One of the pool of ships operated by Island View with Lauritzen Bulkers, the ship was represented in New Zealand by Mikaele Peti, of Barwil Agencies. But Mr Knox said the NZFSA was having difficulty in pinning down exactly who owned the ship on its voyage to New Zealand. At this stage it appeared the ship had been chartered by a New Zealand company, and sub-chartered to another company to carry the corn. The shipment was arranged by Penford through an Australian broker, Hunter Grain. "It is standard practice for the crew to clean down holds between shipments, and that the hold is usually inspected by an independent person before approval is given to load the next cargo," Mr Knox said. He had been told by Hunter Grain that the company had hired an independent surveyor to check the holds for cleanliness before the corn was loaded. But Mr Knox said he believed the companies involved had not deliberately contaminated the grain, and there was no provision in New Zealand law for anyone to be prosecuted for negligence.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jul 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Scandal-mired Mitsubishi Motors Corp said yesterday it will recall an additional 50,000 vehicles after being advised by the transport ministry to do so. The automaker said it will submit recall reports to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on July 29.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Toyota Motor Co. is recalling 128,316 Camry sedans because side air bags may not inflate properly, the automaker said yesterday. Involved in the recall are Camry sedans from model years 2002-04 that have optional side air bags. The defect hasn't been blamed for deaths or injuries, Toyota spokeswoman Julie Alfonso said. A supplier discovered the problem. Dealers will inspect the bags free and replace them if necessary.

VOLVO MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Volvo will recall

more than 100,000 automobiles from the US market for controls and possible repairs after a number of car owners complained that their gas tanks were leaking, the company said today. The Swedish car-making unit of Ford Motor decided to recall the cars after receiving complaints from 45 Volvo 850 Sedan owners that they had smelled gas inside their vehicles and had discovered leaks in their gas tanks, Volvo spokesman Peter Ganjbar said. In conditions of great heat, the gas eroded a hole in the gas tank, leaving a spot on the outside of the car, he said, insisting that the leak had not led to any accidents. The leak, according to Ganjbar, had probably come about due to huge climate changes from cold to hot. The problem has only occurred in 850 Sedans made between 1994 and 1997 and registered in 17 of the hottest states in the US. "Even in hot countries, in Australia or in Thailand, we haven't received any reports of similar occurrences," Ganjbar said, pointing out that the defective cars in the United States could easily be fixed by placing a rubber coating over the leak.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Jul 26 — Genoa: Two vessels awaiting berth, average delay 12 to 24 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berth. Savona: One vessel awaiting berth, average delay 12 hours. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 29 — It is reported that heavy congestion is expected at Incheon from Aug 1 as one of the lock-gates for vessels under 10,000 DWT will close for repairs for a period of 100-105 days. During this period, all vessels will pass through the other 50,000 ton lock-gate only. Lock-gate passing time will be given according to vessel ETAs for all general cargo vessels - except for ferries, container carriers and car carriers, which have berthing priority.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Jul 17 — 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 | 26-Jul-2004 | Coal: 8 vessels due by 15/8; no vessels anchored or berthed, no delays expected. |
| Brisbane | 26-Jul-2004 | Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 20/8; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. |
| Dalrymple Bay | 26-Jul-2004 | Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 13 anchored; 53 vessels due by 28/8; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; depending on type of cargo required, delays of up to 5 days can be expected, although 1 vessel may have to wait 14 days. |
| Dampier | 26-Jul-2004 | Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 8 vessels due by 4/8; 1-14 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, long delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; there may be a maintenance shutdown starting ca. 9-14/8: East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 9 anchored; 7 vessels due by 5/8; 1-12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn. |
| Gladstone | 26-Jul-2004 | Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel berthed, 10 anchored; 23 vessels due by 25/8; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader No. 1 is shut down until approx. 2/8 for replacement of luffing winch. Barney Point: 6 vessels due by 20/8; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. |
| Hay Point | 26-Jul-2004 | Coal: 2 vessels loading, 6 anchored; 6 vessels due by 2/8; 1-5 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. |
| Newcastle | 26-Jul-2004 | Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels loading, 3 anchored; 28 vessels due by 9/8; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading; 16 vessels due by 13/8; 1-5 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule. |
| Port Hedland | 26-Jul-2004 | Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 3 vessels due by 3/8; 1-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loaded, 1 berthed; 4 vessels anchored; 4 vessels due by 4/8; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader No. 1 will be closed for 36 hours for maintenance ca. 27/7; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel anchored; 3 vessels due by 5/8; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 2 vessels due by 3/8; 1-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available. |
| Port Kembla | 26-Jul-2004 | Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 9 vessels due by 15/9; CB1: 2 vessels due by 23/8; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. |
| Port Walcott | 26-Jul-2004 | Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 16 vessels due by 15/8; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant available, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch. |
| Brazil | | |
| Paranagua | 27-Jul-2004 | Eleven vessels berthed of which 1 full container discharger, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 2 reefer loaders, 1 pellets loader, 5 other loaders; 39 vessels waiting in roads of which 22 to load (4 pellets, 2 sugar, 5 reefers, 3 soya, 8 others), 17 to discharge (15 fertiliser, 1 full containers, 1 other); 49 vessels due over the next 7 days. |
| Rio Grande | 27-Jul-2004 | Four vessels berthed of which 2 soya bean loaders, 1 sulphuric acid discharger, 1 phosphate discharger; 4 vessels waiting in roads; 34 vessels due over the next 10 days. |
| Santos | 27-Jul-2004 | Twenty-nine vessels berthed; 29 vessels waiting in roads; 107 vessels due over the next 7 days. |
| Sao Sebastiao | 27-Jul-2004 | Five vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 6 vessels due over the next 10 days. |
| Vitoria | 27-Jul-2004 | Ubu: no vessels; 26 vessels waiting in roads; 17 vessels due over the next 7 days. |
| Bulgaria | | |
| Bougas | 26-Jul-2004 | Three vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading coils, 2 discharging (1 steel billets, 1 iron ore); 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (1 wheat, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 coils, 1 empty), 1 to take on bunkers; 13 vessels due of which 9 to load (1 zinc, 2 coils, 1 paper, 1 equipment, 1 scrap, 1 containers, 1 steel sheet, 1 sulphur), 4 to discharge (1 coal, 1 salt, 1 iron ore, 1 containers). |
| Chile | | |
| Valparaiso | 26-Jul-2004 | Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week. |

Port Conditions

Colombia

Buenaventura 28-Jul-2004 Shore crane operational. Nine vessels berthed (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 1 tanker), 1 general cargo vessel anchored; 24 vessels due (17 containers, 1 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 tanker, 3 PCC), with 1 day's delay expected for bulkers.

Egypt

Alexandria 26-Jul-2004 Twenty-three vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 19 general cargo, 2 containers, 1 tanker, 1 reefer; 12 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
 Damietta 26-Jul-2004 Nineteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 12 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1
 Suez Canal 26-Jul-2004 Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 24 Southbound.

Israel

Ashdod 27-Jul-2004 No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 4 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 2 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 3 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
 Haifa 27-Jul-2004 No labour problems. Four general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 6 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 5 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (4 containers, 1 tanker); 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 8 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Mozambique

Maputo 23-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, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.015 to 1.018. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. 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. Eight vessels are currently operating, of which 4 loading (1 citrus, 1 ferro chrome, 1 coal, 1 aluminium), 3 discharging (1 frozen fish, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat), 1 loading/discharging containers; 2 vessels on stand-by; 17 vessels due by 2/8, of which 9 to load (3 sugar, 3 citrus, 1 oil, 1 ferro chrome, 1 coal), 5 to discharge (2 rice, 1 oil, 1 vehicles, 1 alumina), 3 to discharge/load containers.

Pakistan

Karachi 26-Jul-2004 1 vessel loading MOL at berth, 5 discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 1 general cargo, 1 DAP, 1 scrap), 1 loading/discharging containers; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 2 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 MEG, 1 container); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (3 containers, 1 coal, 1 naphtha, 1 ethanol), with no delays expected.

Poland

Gdansk 26-Jul-2004 Nine vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 5 general cargo, 1 bulker, 2 tankers), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 2 general cargo); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 17 vessels due.
 Gdynia 26-Jul-2004 One bulker loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 grain, 1 bulker); 15 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 47 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk 26-Jul-2004 Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 3 aluminium, 2 bulk NPK, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 UAN solution, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 UAN solution, 1 scrap, 1 slabs; 49 vessels due of which 46 to load (5 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 bulk urea, 3 pipes, 3 HBI, 2 aluminium, 3 coils, 7 copper, 3 DRI, 1 wheat, 1 coils/lumber, 1 UAN solution, 1 coils/copper, 1 slabs, 1 bulk NPK; 1 bulk peas, 1 scrap, 2 steel billets, 2 flowers, 1 pig-iron, 1 bulk fertiliser, 2 equipment, 1 cars), 1 to discharge bulk sugar, 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 13 tankers due, all to load, of which 12 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
 Tuapse 26-Jul-2004 Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, 3 loading gasoil, 1 naphtha; 1 gasoil (Jul 23) vessel in roads; 9 vessels due by 30/7, of which 4 gasoil, 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 2 naphtha.

Port Conditions

Ukraine

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| Ilichevsk | 26-Jul-2004 | Nine vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 oil, 1 containers, 7 steel products; 2 vessels in roads, 1 to load oil, 1 to load/discharge containers; 12 vessels due, of which 4 to load (3 steel products, 1 oil), 2 to discharge (1 nickel ore, 1 steel products), 6 to load/discharge containers. |
| Mariupol | 26-Jul-2004 | Twelve vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 3 steel, 3 coal, 1 equipment, 3 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 fertiliser; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 5 steel, 1 ferrous metal, 1 fire-clay; 45 vessels due, |
| Odessa | 26-Jul-2004 | Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (7 metal, 1 metal/wood, 1 barley), 4 discharging (2 sugar, 1 bananas, 1 luggage), 2 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load metal, 1 to discharge ferro alloy; 59 vessels due, |

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