

CasualtyWeek

July 29 2005

Paris MoU considers extending powers of inspection

Number of substandard vessels falls but all ships may face checks, writes David Osler
— Tuesday July 26 2005

SAFETY standards on vessels calling in Europe continue to improve, according to figures just released in the 2004 annual report from the Paris Memorandum of Understanding.

But despite this trend for the better, the powerful port state control grouping says it is considering a move towards inspecting all ships entering Paris MoU ports, in place of the current commitment of each member to inspect one in four arrivals.

Operators of higher quality tonnage could benefit as a result, as the frequency of inspection would then be determined by the risk profile of each ship.

Comprehensive

A full-scale policy review — billed as the most comprehensive in the organisation's 23-year history — will also look at the idea of extending current powers to ban tankers, bulkers and passenger ships to all vessel types.

Additionally, it will seek to take account of the EC's third maritime safety package in developing the new regime.

Paris MoU member states carried out 20,316 port state control inspections last year on 12,358 foreign ships, registered in 108 different flag states. That represents 156 inspections more than the total for 2003.

The percentage inspection rate was 31.49%, compared with 30.07% for the previous year.

In total, some 1,187 vessels were detained in the region in 2004, compared with 1,431 in 2003, 1,577 in 2002 and 1,699 in 2003.

Last year's 17% decline in detentions is hailed as "a significant decrease", reducing the average detention rate from 7.05% to 5.84%.

Encouraging

"This positive development over a four-year period is an encouraging sign that more substandard ships are avoiding the region," the Paris MoU argued.

Overall, the number of deficiencies recorded was also down sharply, dropping over 10% from 71,928 to 64,113.

Some 21 flag states — five fewer than in 2003 — were named on the Paris MoU blacklist, while the whitelist grew by two to reach 31.

The poorest performing flags were Albania, North Korea, Tonga and Bolivia.

Germanischer Lloyd, Det Norske Veritas and Registro Italiano Navale were among the best-performing classification societies.

But Albania-based Register of Shipping, the International Naval Surveys

Bureau and the International Register of Shipping were named as the lowest performing.

A total of 35 ships were banned from the Paris MoU region, although 19 of them had had the ban lifted by the end of the year after verification that all deficiencies had been rectified.

Among the developments flagged up, there will be a concentrated inspection campaign in 2006 addressing Marpol compliance, an issue said to be causing concern.

Concentrated

Similarly, in 2007 there will be a concentrated inspection campaign geared towards compliance with the International Safety Management code.

Paris MoU chairman Alan Cubbin, of Britain's Maritime and Coastguard Agency, has stood down after two terms in the job, the report details. His replacement is Brian Hogan of the Irish Maritime Safety Directorate, who will hold the office at least until 2008.

— Changing Course: the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control Annual Report 2004 can be downloaded from <http://www.parismou.org>

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

| Vessel | Type | Flag | Class | GT | DWT | Bit | Casualty |
|-------------------------|------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|---|
| <i>BANGA BONIK</i> | container | BGD | LR | 5,883 | 7,536 | 1983 | Contacted by general cargo <i>Marissa Green</i> while anchored at Jetty No.11, Chittagong. Sustained damage. Salvaged by tug <i>Kandari</i> . |
| <i>CORONA Z.</i> | general | PAN | — | 2,406 | 2,946 | 1974 | Vessel sank in lat 41 16.3N, long 29 04.4E, Jul 15. Nine of the 10 crew rescued. |
| <i>HORAI MARU</i> | dredger | JPN | — | 359 | 920 | 1987 | Reported as a sunken wreck in lat 34 33N, long 138 18.7E, off Shizuoka Prefecture, Jul 15 after collision with chem tank <i>Ryoka Maru</i> in fog Jul 14. Oil adrift. All 5 crew rescued. |
| <i>JO SPIRIT</i> | chem/oil carrier | NIS | NV | 4,425 | 6,248 | 1998 | In collision with bulk <i>Orla</i> after reported grounding in the St. Lawrence Seaway Jul 19. Diverted to Valleyfield for inspection to damaged port bow/bulwarks. |
| <i>KYOKUYO MARU</i> | chem/oil carrier | JPN | NK | 697 | 1,957 | 1987 | In collision, in thick fog, with <i>Nikko Maru</i> in lat 33 36N, long 136 9.5E, Jul 15. Sustained a dent and major fire on board. Seven deceased crew members. |
| <i>MOLODYOZHNYI</i> | reefer | RUS | RS | 3,218 | 2,538 | 1967 | Had fire in inner quarters, while in the Bering Sea Jul 13. Crew evacuated to trawler <i>Sukhinichi</i> . Fire extinguished early Jul 14 |
| <i>NIKKO MARU</i> | tanker | JPN | NK | 499 | 1,285 | 1992 | In collision with <i>Kyokuyo Maru</i> in lat 33 36N, long 136 9.5E, 15 Jul 2005. Vessel hull was cracked and ingress of water reported. Five crew safely rescued, minor injuries. Towed to Owase for investigation. |
| <i>NORASIA TAURUS</i> | container | ATG | GL | 35,824 | 42,089 | 2001 | Had fire in containers on board while off Damietta Jul 16. Salvors in attendance. To proceed to Damietta for damage inspection. |
| <i>ORLA</i> | bulker | MLT | PR | 11,848 | 17,064 | 1999 | In collision with chemical/oil carrier in the St. Lawrence Seaway Jul 19. Diverted to Montreal for inspection to damaged port bow/bulwarks. |
| <i>ORUBA</i> | chem tanker | PAN | — | 2,123 | 3,130 | 1975 | Towed into Corunna Jun 7 by tug <i>Ibaizabal</i> with main engine trouble. To transfer cargo and proceed to Mediterranean port for repairs. |
| <i>RESERVE</i> | bulker | USA | AB ABS | 13,752 | 25,455 | 1953 | Had a boiler fire in lat 45 28.02N, long 85 34.2W, Lake Michigan, Jul 18. After inspection proceeded to Sturgeon Bay for repairs. |
| <i>SAVANNAH EXPRESS</i> | container | DEU | — | 94,483 | 89,500 | 2005 | Lost power and struck a ferry and a links span while entering Southampton Jul 19. Superficial damage to both vessels. Links span extensively damaged. Repairs under way. |
| <i>URSULA C.</i> | general | CYP | — | 2,818 | 4,216 | 1996 | Capsized in lat 36 30N, long 09 33.8W, Jul 19. All nine crew rescued and taken to Portimao. 10 metres of forepart above water. 2 navy vessels on scene. |
| <i>USHUAIA</i> | research | PAN | — | 2,802 | 1,907 | 1968 | Grounded near Kuujuaq, Koksoak River, in lat 58 9.6N, long 68 19.6W, Jul 17. Refloating attempts so far unsuccessful. Reported Jul 19 refloated and awaiting inspection. |
| <i>YUNG CHANG</i> | general | CHN | RM | 6,036 | 8,720 | 1989 | Grounded in rough seas during typhoon "Haitang" off Kaohsiung Jul 19. All 21 crew taken off. |

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ADLER IV (Germany)

London, Jul 21 -- Information received from Germany, dated today, states: On Jul 19, ferry Adler IV (186 gt, built 1977) ran aground off the isle of Sylt when heading from its home port of Hoernum to seal sands off the Isle with 200 passengers. Ninety of them were evacuated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Rettung Schiffbruechiger (DGzRS) rescue vessel Hertha Jeep. The remainder were taken off during the evening by the Dutch fishing vessel Zeemermin and taken back to Hoernum. It is assumed that the ship was refloated on the next tide.

AGHIOS CHARALAMBOS (Panama)

Rio de Janeiro, Jul 14 -- Bulk/oil Aghios Charalambos sailed from Rio de Janeiro on Jul 13. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AGIOS EFSTATHIOS (Greece)

London, Jul 19 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Greece report: Ro/ro Agios Efstathios (6753 gt, built 1975) during mooring manoeuvres at the port of Chios contacted jetty with its stern on Jul 18. The vessel then moored safely in the port. The contact resulted in damages to the stern, however there was no pollution. Sailing was prohibited until a Certificate of Seaworthiness is issued by the vessel's Class Society. The vessel was carrying out the scheduled route of Mytilene, Chios, Piraeus and loaded with nine trucks at the time.

ALGOSCOTIA (Canada)

London, Jul 18 -- Chem.tank Algoscotia (13352 gt, built 2004), loaded with oil products, reported a blackout in lat 44 34N, long 63 32W, at 0745, UTC, Jul 18, while entering Halifax harbour. The vessel subsequently restored power and proceeded to the refinery dock, escorted by two harbour tugs.

ALMA (Russia)

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Alma (172 gt, built 1975), registered at Nevelsk, sank near the shores of Russia's Maritime Territory early today. Thirteen crew members of the seiner have been rescued by a border patrol ship and are being brought to Nakhodka, the Sakhalin-based fishing fleet monitoring service has announced.

AMSTELDIJK (Cyprus)

London, Jul 19 -- Information received from Germany, dated today, states: General cargo Amsteldijk (3900 gt, built 2005) (bound Klaipeda) struck Holtenu Locks, Kiel Canal, on Jul 18.

The vessel sustained a gash in its bow but was able to continue its voyage. The lock was not made out of order.

AQUA PIONEER (Panama)

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control".

ARCTIC (Bahamas)

London, Jul 20 -- Ref Arctic passed Cape Finisterre north Jul 18, Vigo for Corunna.

AURA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 17 -- General cargo Aura sailed Antwerp Jul 15 for Flushing.

BANGA BONIK (Bangladesh)

See Marissa Green.

BBC TEXAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Beirut, Jul 15 -- General cargo BBC Texas (5782 gt, built 1992) arrived Tripoli, Lebanon, for discharging general cargo, including a heavy weight power generator declared to weigh 196 tonnes, on Jul 12. During lifting by the vessel crane on the same day the wires broke and the generator fell into the vessel hold causing damages to the vessel and the generator. A member of the crew was seriously injured and was taken to hospital. Cargo owner has now obtained a court order for seizure of the vessel. Vessel left the quay on Jul 14 and is now lying at anchorage outside Tripoli. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- BBC Texas arrived Tripoli, Lebanon, Jul 12 from Trieste.)

CASITAS (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states Most of the fuel has been removed from pollution control vessel Casitas and two tugs and a ship are heading for the island to prepare to pull it off the wildlife refuge reef. Workboat American Quest has skimmers operating in the ship's flooded holds, sucking petroleum products from the surface of the water. The crew of American Quest is also removing gasoline, lubricating oil and other contaminants from the ship. By Monday, Coast Guard cutter Walnut had removed most of the Casitas 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel and was returning to Honolulu, according to Coast Guard Petty Officer Jennifer Johnson. American Quest pumped out the last 2,800 gallons. American Quest reported that no oil appeared to be leaking from the ship, and no wildlife covered with oil had been seen. Johnson said that an underwater photographic survey of the ship's hull was performed on Friday, but that the results of the survey are considered part of the wreck investigation and will not be released. Three vessels are en route for Pearl and Hermes to try to get Casitas off the reef. They are tug American Emerald from Honolulu, the ship Condor from Honolulu and tug American Contender from Alaska. They are to reach Pearl and Hermes on Jul 21. The two tugs are towing barges to be used in the effort.

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

London, Jul 17 -- A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated Jul 15, states: The Unified Command continues to monitor the pollution control vessel Casitas that ran aground at Pearl Hermes Atoll, 86 miles east south-east of Midway Island on Jul 2. The fuel and oil aboard the Casitas has been safely removed, completing phase two of the Unified Command's operation plan. The motor vessel Quest has lightered 13,900 gallons of diesel fuel, black oil and oily water from the vessel. The Coast Guard Cutter Walnut removed approximately 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel earlier this week. Approximately 1,850 gallons of gasoline remain contained aboard the vessel in sealed 55-gallon drums. These clean and secure drums await the on scene arrival of a crane so that they may be safely removed. Phase three, the mobilization to extract the vessel from the reef, is expected to start in approximately one week upon the arrival of additional support. Enroute are the tug Contender with a 240-foot barge, the tug American Emerald with a 140-foot barge, and the motor vessel Condor.

Honolulu, Jul 19 -- Pollution control vessel Casitas: All diesel, lubricating and hydraulic oils have been removed from the vessel, and PENCO have cleaned all tanks of residue. The salvage crew are currently staging at Midway. Barge Barge 240, with winches, arrived Jul 15, and barge Barge 140 is scheduled to arrive Midway tomorrow morning with a 150-ton crane. The crane will be used to reconfigure the barge arrangement, as it was stowed for transit. It is anticipated preparations will be completed and Barge 240 will be on site Jul 26-27. Workboat American Quest is presently standing by Casitas, which has been ballasted down hard to prevent any movement or pounding on the reef. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CEC COPENHAGEN (Bahamas)

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The owners of general cargo CEC Copenhagen that hit a naval ship on Karnaphuli channel on Jun 27 have agreed to pay \$2.70 lakh (equivalent to around Tk 1.50 crore) as compensation to the Bangladesh Navy. A meeting at Chittagong naval base attended by the representatives of the ship owners, Bangladesh Navy and Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday settled the case with agreement of paying the amount by the foreign ship owners, sources said. The Bangladesh Navy had estimated over Tk 3.50 crore loss by the accident but finally agreed to receive Tk 1.50 crore as compensation from the ship owners, sources said. Meanwhile, it is alleged that two investigation committees headed by Nazmul Alam, CPA harbour-master captain and Sirajul Islam, mercantile marine department engineer and surveyor, intentionally ignored the fault of CPA pilots. As the CPA pilot concerned did not board the foreign

ship at the anchorage, it entered about five kilometres inside the hazardous channel without him, sources said, adding that the pilot had no knowledge about the sophisticated foreign ship's equipment and did not inform its master about the danger of tidal movements in and around the naval jetty.

London, Jul 18 -- General cargo CEC Copenhagen sailed Chittagong Jul 17 for Tanjung Pelepas.

CHIN SCHWE HAW (Myanmar)

See Uttarkashi.

CMA CGM ST.MARTIN (Marshall Islands)

Las Palmas, Jul 14 -- C.c. CMA CGM St.Martin arrived Las Palmas Jun 27 from Ponta Delgada. -- Lloyd's Agents.

COLLARROY (Australia)

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: There has been an emergency on ferry Collaroy (1184 gt, built 1988) that was making its way from Circular Quay to Manly. The fire brigade's Inspector Ian Krimmer says oil in an engine-room overheated. "Some crank case oil we believe has overheated and caused an amount of smoke," Mr Krimmer said. "Now the crew have activated the emergency procedures immediately and the ferry was brought into Manly ferry where it was met by fire, police and ambulance crews." Sydney Ferries says about 200 passengers were vessel at the time. No one was hurt. A spokesman says a jet cat will service the route while the ferry is inspected and fixed.

CORONA Z. (Panama)

Istanbul, Jul 15 -- General cargo Corona Z. (2406 gt, built 1974) sank in the Black Sea, north of Istanbul today and the vessel's master was missing while the other nine crew members were rescued, maritime officials said. The 83-metre vessel sank off the coast of the town of Kilyos after issuing an appeal for help at 0455, GMT, a coastguard official said. The vessel, which was carrying 2,737 tonnes of scrap metal, was travelling between Constantza in Romania and the Turkish port of Ambarli, to the south of the Bosphorus strait. It was not clear why it had sunk. The incident did not cause any delay in traffic through the strait. Search operations for the captain were continuing, the officials said. -- Reuters.

Istanbul, Jul 15 -- General cargo Corona Z., Constantza for Ambarli, cargo of scrap, 10 crew members, sank in lat 41 16.30N, long 29 04.4E at 0755, local time, today. Nine crew rescued, captain is missing. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRYSTAL IRIS (Malta)

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0930, UTC: A report was received at 0300, UTC, today, that ref Crystal Iris, 9HSV7, (ex Silver Night 9175 gt, built 1981) crossed the toelines between drilling platform Noble Al White and tug RT Magic and tug/supply Granit

in lat 52 10N, long 03 55E, at and as a result one of the toelines broke. Crystal Iris continued on voyage. (Note -- Crystal Iris was in lat 51 15 25.54N, long 01 46 35.17E, at 0956 today.)

CSL NIAGARA (Canada)

London, Jul 18 -- Bulk CSL Niagara arrived Thunder Bay Jul 4.

EILTANK 17 (Germany)

London, Jul 21 -- According to the managing director of Rederei Jaegers, the company that manages non specific tanker Eiltank 17, the total amount of the damage caused by the accident is estimated at about one million Euros. It might be a bit more, as the companies other non specific tanker Eiltank 15, in which the cargo of the damaged vessel had been pumped and transported to Antwerp, still has to be cleaned. Also the cleaning of the pollution to the river banks has to be paid. But he says that the insurance sum will cover all the damage. After discharging Eiltank 17 which was also partly broken in the middle, this vessel was towed to a shipyard in Duisburg, Germany, where awaiting a decision by the company and the insurance if the vessel will be repaired. Rijkswaterstaat, who have control over the river, say that they still need some time to clean the river banks and dig out the polluted sand of the banks.

EXPRESS (Bahamas)

London, Jul 21 -- Ferry passengers have been left stranded in Scotland after the ferry Express (5902 gt, built 1998) from Larne to Troon was delayed due to "technical problems". Some of the passengers got home in the early hours of yesterday after being transferred to a conventional ferry from Cairnryan. P&O, which operates the services, said those who did not get on are due to return yesterday morning. In a statement, P&O said two sailings on the Troon service and one on the Cairnryan route had to be cancelled after the breakdown. "Passengers affected by these cancellations were transferred onto other sailings and P&O apologise for any inconvenience caused. The company will be communicating with those passengers affected in the next couple of days." P&O report the vessel has subsequently sailed Troon for Larne.

FREY (Malta)

Tallinn, Jul 20 -- General cargo Frey arrived Tallinn Jul 12 from Brest. -- Lloyd's Agents.

G.T.IRONMASTER (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Barge G.T.Ironmaster, which capsized May 27 near Boston, has been refloated by a salvage team from Donjon Marine Co Inc. Upon award of a competitively-bid salvage contract, a 15-man team used Donjon's 1,000-ton capacity derrick barge Chesapeake 1000 as the primary means of lifting and righting G.T.Ironmaster.

GIBB GILCHRIST (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passengers aboard passenger ro/ro Gibb Gilchrist (1145 gt, built 1977) which shuttles travellers between Galveston and Port Bolivar, were forced to leave the vessel yesterday afternoon after a mechanical failure. The boat was leaving Galveston at about 1630 hrs when the failure occurred, ferry officials said. As of yesterday afternoon, officials from the Galveston Ferry Operation could not be reached for further comment.

GOLDEN AROWANA 3

See Sulpicio Express Dos.

GOLDEN DRAGON (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 21 -- A Coast Guard Corpus Christi, press release, dated Jul 20, states: At 1310 today a Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued four fishermen from the shrimp boat Golden Dragon (171 gt, built 2001), as it was being battered by heavy surf just off Mustang Island, Texas, five miles east of Corpus Christi. Heavy seas, strong winds and the shrimpers rigging made hoisting the fishermen extremely difficult. All four fishermen were safely rescued and were taken to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi. All are in good condition. Golden Dragon, was making its way to the the Port Aransas Jetties yesterday when it had engine trouble and called the Coast Guard for assistance. The Coast Guard patrol boat Amberjack responded and took Golden Dragon in tow. The weather worsened, making it impossible for Amberjack to continue with the tow. Amberjack sent their rescue boat over to evacuate Golden Dragon's crew, but the shrimpers decided to anchor and try to ride out the storm. At sunset on yesterday evening they were approximately 15 miles south of the Port Aransas Jetties. Amberjack moored at the Corpus Christi harbour facility while Coast Guard Sector Command Corpus Christi maintained radio communications with Golden Dragon throughout the night. During the night and into this morning Golden Dragon reported that they were dragging anchor. This shrimper is now approximately 25 miles south of the jetties and is being pushed by the heavy seas towards Mustang Island shore. An HH-65B Dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi attempted to evacuate the shrimper's crew this morning, but the fishermen again refused to leave Golden Dragon. At approximately 1250 today, the Golden Dragon reported that their anchor chain had broken and they were being swept into the heavy surf on Mustang Island. A second helicopter crew from Air Station Corpus Christi was sent to Golden Dragon and effected a rescue at about 1300 today. Golden Dragon is homeported in Mobile, Ala., and is owned by SON VO. It had been shrimping in the area, but did not heed Coast Guard warnings to make its way to a safe port before hurricane "Emily" arrived.

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 0815, UTC: Fishing Golden Dragon, with 20,000 gallons of fuel on board, grounded north of Padra Island, in lat 27 32.1N, long 97 16.2W, at approximately 1945, local time, Jul 20. The vessel is still aground.

HAVSTRAUM (NIS)

London, Jul 16 -- Chemical/oil carrier Havstraum arrived Gdynia Jul 14. (See issue of Jul 7.)

HILL (Liberia)

Taipei, Jul 19 --General cargo Hill is mooring at B05 buoy in Keelung, for waiting the spare part of the main engine and repairing. The sailing time is still unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HORAI MARU NO.18 (Japan)

London, Jul 15 -- Following navigation warning issued at 0930, JST, today: Bearing 123 degrees five miles from Omaesaki lighthouse sunken wreck, stranded grab dredger Horai Maru No.18, 359 gt, (built 1987), exists in lat 34 33N, long 138 18.7E. Oil adrift, bearing 200 degrees, about 300 metre long, 20 metre in width from lat 34 33N, long 138 18.23E.

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 15, states: Chem.tank Ryoka Maru, 698 gt (built 1992), cargo cooking oil, was in collision with grab dredger Horai Maru No.18, transporting gravel, off Shizuoka Prefecture, at 1400 UTC, Thursday (Jul 14). Horai Maru No.18 sank but the five crew members were rescued by Ryoka Maru. A fog warning was issued for the area when the accident took place, the Coast Guard said. The cause of the collision is yet to be investigated.

London, July 20 -- Following navigation warning issued July 19: Sunken wreck 359 tons (grab dredger Horai Maru No.18) exists in lat 34 32.7N, long 138 18.2E.

HYDRA CAT (Greece)

London, Jul 19 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Greece report: Ferry Hydra Cat (319 gt, built 1987) sustained a mechanical failure to its starboard main engine during its voyage from Piraeus to Aegina Island on Jul 18. The vessel arrived safely with one engine at the port of Agia Marina, where sailing was prohibited. The passengers were forwarded to their destinations with other vessels.

IRINE M. (Panama)

Piraeus, Jul 19 -- Bulk Irine M. sailed Piraeus Jul 16 for Ukraine. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ISARGAS (Liberia)

London, Jul 20 -- Following received from the Republic of Liberia Bureau of Maritime Affairs, dated Jun 16: Lpg Isargas was today renamed Gaschem Isar, still under Liberia flag.

JANE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 19, states: A barge being

towed by tug Jane (62 gt, built 1939) overturned near Nantucket on Sunday (Jul 17) evening, sending its entire cargo of sand and gravel into the ocean. The barge, owned by Island Barge Inc, of New Bedford, was headed toward Nantucket with its cargo. No injuries were reported. The Coast Guard received a call from the tug's two-man crew around 2225 hrs saying the barge was taking on water and listing 15 to 20 degrees, about 1.5 miles from the channel entrance to Nantucket. The barge capsized around 2315 hrs, the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard Station Brant Point on Nantucket launched a rescue boat. When it arrived on the scene, the 130-foot barge had capsized spilling its cargo into the sea. The Coast Guard could not say last night how big the load was. The Coast Guard yesterday slowly towed the overturned barge back to its homeport of New Bedford. The barge arrived outside the hurricane barrier yesterday afternoon and was visible from East Rodney French Boulevard. However, captain of the port Coast Guard Capt. Mary E. Landry issued a port order preventing the barge from entering port due to concerns regarding the vessel's condition, Coast Guard officials said. Before the tug is allowed into the city port, Island Barge must submit a survey of damage to the hull, a plan for righting the barge and a repair proposal, officials said.

London, July 20 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0825, UTC: The barge, name not known, that was being towed by tug Jane, official No.239150, has been allowed to enter New Bedford.

JIMILTA II (Malta)

London, Jul 19 -- Bulk Jimilta II arrived Gdynia Jul 15 from San Lorenzo.

JIN AN (Hong Kong)

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: The fate of the bulk Jin An which ran aground on Jun 30, will be known this afternoon when a high-power tug requisitioned from Singapore makes an attempt at pulling the it out of the shallow waters. The high-power tug reached Visakhaptnam at 0725, yesterday and moved to the side of the vessel at noon. "All arrangements are being made to pull the ship using the tug. The actual pulling is likely to begin at noon on Saturday," a port spokesman said. As part of the preparations, 5,300 tonnes of cargo was offloaded onto a barge on Jul 12. Water ballast, which was added to keep the vessel stable would be discharged at the time of pulling the vessel.

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Jin An, which ran aground near the fishing harbour last month, was pulled to safety early today. Two high-power tug vessels, hauled the coal-laden vessel, bringing an end to its three-week long stay in the shallow waters. One of the tugs came from Singapore and the other one belonged to the Great

Eastern Shipping Company Limited. The vessel is now on the roads (deep sea) waiting for fitness certification. According to Vizag port officials, the vessel is kept under observation and an underwater survey is being conducted to evaluate damages before using it again. Surveyors started assessing the vessel condition shortly after it was pulled out around 0300 hrs.

Mumbai, Jul 19 -- After the discharge of 5,300 tonnes of steam coal into barge Sparkle-1, bulk Jin An was refloated at 0400 hrs, Jul 17 and shifted to Anchorage. The Port Authorities are planning to berth the vessel today, in order to discharge the balance of the steam coal cargo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Jul 21 -- Bulk Jin An berthed at 1756, Jul 19, at general cargo berth to discharge steam coal. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JO SPIRIT (NIS)

Montreal, Jul 19 -- Chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit (4425 gt, built 1998) came into contact with a pier at Montreal at 2330, local time, Jul 18, while proceeding to berth at Montreal. The vessel sustained damage to the starboard forecastle bulwarks and shell plating. The vessel is currently discharging part cargo at Montreal prior to proceeding to Hamilton for further discharge, and then returning to Montreal. The vessel will require either temporary or permanent repairs before being permitted to sail on its next voyage for Hamburg. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, Jul 20 -- While chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit (4425 gt, built 1998) was proceeding into the Great Lakes in the St. Lawrence Seaway it contacted bulk Orla (11848 gt, built 1999) which was outbound, at approximately 2300, Jul 19. Orla has been diverted to Montreal for inspection and possible repair. It is understood that the vessel was bound for Europe. Jo Spirit was diverted to Valleyfield for inspection and possible repair. It is destined for Hamilton, Ontario. The damage to both ships is on the port bow/bulwarks of each. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Troy, Mich, July 20 -- The downbound bulk Orla ran aground in the Seaway channel at Kahnawake, Quebec at approximately 2230 yesterday. It freed itself and continued its journey. It was reported to have made contact with the upbound chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit. Orla was underway within an hour but proceed to Cote Ste Catherine Warf for immediate inspection. Jo Spirit went above Lock 4 for same purpose. Orla sustained damage on its port side above waterline and was proceeding to Montreal harbour, section 44, for repairs. -- Great Lakes and Seaways Shipping News.

JULIANA (Panama)

Istanbul, Jul 19 -- General cargo Juliana (1900 gt, built 1976), Nemrut Bay for Constantza, sustained engine breakdown while transiting

Dardanelles at 0240, local time, Jul 19, and anchored at Karanlik Liman. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, July 21 -- General cargo Juliana completed necessary repairs by own means and upon inspection/formalities sailed Canakkale 1644, local time, July 20. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The planned attempt to refloat bulk Kiperousa yesterday afternoon was at the last minute switched to coincide with this morning's high tide shortly after 0200 hrs. Tsavlis salvage master Godfrey Needham said earlier that problems with the Russian Mi26salvage helicopter, necessitating the importing of spare parts, were at the heart of the delay. "The parts have arrived and engineers and mechanics put in a valiant effort to get the helicopter back into the air again in time for the 1700 hrs (yesterday) attempt, but we are not taking any chances." The weather was being carefully monitored. By nightfall everyone onboard Kiperousa had been taken off. The divers were flown ashore while the Russian salvage crew and salvage management transferred to salvage tug Nikolay Chiker, which has Kiperousa ready for towing. The operation was then placed in a holding position, with the tug, "head into the weather" and holding Kiperousa steady. Needham said: "Specialists on the tug will be on watch monitoring the situation. If the Kiperousa shows signs of movement with the high-tide we'll start the tow at around 0220 hrs." He said if the stricken vessel was pulled free, "we will tow it away from the reef into deeper water and then Nikolay Chiker will again take up a holding position with its bow into the weather and Kiperousa in tow astern". "By first light, if all goes well, an 18-man salvage crew will be airlifted on to Kiperousa. Then we'll head for East London at about three knots," he said.

London, Jul 20 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1435, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa is still aground.

KOBEE V (Panama)

Busan, Jul 20 -- Permanent repairs to hydrofoil Kobee V were completed on Jul 11 and the vessel sailed from Busan bound for Fukuoka, Japan, on Jul 14, where it returned to normal service. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KYOKUYO MARU (Japan)

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two tankers collided off Mie Prefecture early this morning, leaving one person dead, another severely injured and five others missing, local coast guard officers said. The 4th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters has dispatched 11 patrol boats and four helicopters to the scene to search for the five missing crew members. At around 0410, local time, chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru (697 gt, built 1987) collided with non specific tanker Nikko Maru (499

gt, built 1992), in the Kumano Sea about 30 kilometres south-east of a lighthouse in Owase, (in lat 33 36N, long 136 9.5E) Coast Guard officers said. Kyokuyo Maru burst into flames while Nikko Maru's body was cracked and seawater leaked into it. Hidetoshi Nakano, 39, the 2nd class engineer on the Kyokuyo Maru, died in the accident while Yoshimasa Nagai, 59, a deckhand, suffered serious wounds. The five missing crew members of the Kyokuyo Maru are the master, Genichi Sato, 55; Kiyoshige Matsushita, 44, 1st class navigator; Sadao Ueda, 55, 2nd class navigator; Kinjiro Furukawa, 53, chief engineer; and Yoshikatsu Yanai, 55, 1st class engineer. All five Nikko Maru crew members were rescued shortly after the accident. They suffered slight wounds, according to the hospital where they received treatment. Coast guard officers suspect the Nikko Maru rammed into the Kyokuyo Maru, noting that the Nikko Maru's bow has been badly damaged and that there is a dent on the right side of the Kyokuyo Maru. The area is prone to accidents as a massive number of vessels, mainly small boats, pass the area. At the time of the latest accident, fog and lightning warnings were out in the area, and visibility was poor. Kyokuyo Maru was travelling south in the Kashima Sea on its way to Matsuyama after it was loaded with 2,000 kilolitres of benzene at the port of Yokkaichi. The Nikko Maru was carrying 1,000 tons of creosote. The Tokyo-based Nanyo Kaiun, owner of the Kyokuyo Maru, dispatched its president, Satoshi Sakama, 42, to the scene to deal with the accident, while notifying the families of the crew members of the collision. Osaka-based Koyo Kisen, which owns Nikko Maru, set up an accident task force at its Tokyo headquarters.

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: One crew member died and five are missing after chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru burst into flames early yesterday, when it was hit by non specific tanker Nikko Maru, off Owase, Mie Prefecture, in thick fog. Another crew member was seriously injured and the five missing sailors are believed trapped in Kyokuyo Maru, the Japan Coast Guard said. Five crew members on board Nikko Maru were rescued unharmed by a nearby vessel. Kyokuyo Maru, carrying 2,000 kiloliters of benzene, sustained a big hole amidships on the starboard side in the collision, which took place around 0405, Jul 15, about 28 km off Cape Mikizaki. Flames burst from Kyokuyo Maru after benzene started leaking from the vessel. The fire was still burning Friday evening, and the discovery of a substantial oil leak was reported from the vessel's fuel tanks. Second engineer Hidetoshi Nakano, 39, died after being thrown into the sea, while deckhand Yoshimasa Nagai, 58, suffered serious burns to his face and other parts of his body. The five missing five crew members, probably trapped inside Kyokuyo Maru,

included the master, the coast guard said. Nikko Maru was starting to sink at the bow, after also catching fire. A dense fog warning was in effect at the time of the collision. Visibility was about 30 metres at the time, according to the local meteorological observatory. According to Nikko Maru master, Mitoshi Yoshimoto, two crew members were on the bridge at the time of the collision. They tried to change course after they noticed the vessel's radar showed Kyokuyo Maru was about 7.4 km away. Though they turned to port, it was too late and the vessels collided, Yoshimoto told authorities. "The Kyokuyo Maru was engulfed in flames. I could not believe what was happening," Yoshimoto said after he was taken to a hospital in Owase, Mie Prefecture. He said he was asleep at the time of the collision and was woken by the huge sound and impact. When he went outside, he saw a 20-metre column of fire shooting up from Kyokuyo Maru, with black smoke billowing into the sky. The location in question, where vessels change course, has been the site of many collisions in the past. Kyokuyo Maru had departed Yokkaichi in Mie Prefecture and was bound for Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture. Nikko Maru was heading from the port of Mizushima, Okayama Prefecture, to a port in Chiba Prefecture.

London, Jul 16 -- A press report dated today, states: The Japan Coast Guard today inspected non specific tanker Nikko Maru that was in collision with chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru off Mie Prefecture, in thick fog early yesterday. The Nikko Maru was towed into Owase port after the collision. Coast Guard personnel checked the Nikko Maru's logbook and the magnitude of its damage, while trying to find the cause of the collision.

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Japan Coast Guard, yesterday, inspected non specific tanker Nikko Maru, a day after it collided in thick fog off Mie Prefecture with chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru that burst into flames. Nikko Maru was towed into Owase port. Coast guard personnel checked the logbook of Nikko Maru and the extent of its damage, while trying to find the cause of the collision. Kyokuyo Maru was ablaze after benzene leaked from the vessel. The Coast Guard was still trying to put the fire out on Saturday afternoon, although the fire was weakening, coast guard officials said. The coast guard arrested Hisao Ueno, the chief mate of Nikko Maru, Friday evening on suspicion of professional negligence, resulting in death and bodily injury and endangering traffic. The coast guard suspects that although the radar of Nikko Maru had spotted Kyokuyo Maru when they were seven kilometres from each other, Ueno, who was in charge of the radar, failed to take necessary steps to avoid a collision. A maritime security law stipulates that when two vessels are on a collision course, each vessel must

steer to starboard. Mitoshi Yoshimoto, captain of Nikko Maru, was quoted as telling the coast guard: "When we steered to starboard, Kyokuyo Maru steered to port. So we quickly steered to port." The collision, which took place about 28 km off Cape Mikizaki in Mie Prefecture, killed two crew members of Kyokuyo Maru, seriously injured another and left four missing. Second engineer Hidetoshi Nakano died after being thrown into the sea. On Saturday afternoon, the body of another crewman was found on a beach 25 km west of the collision site, the coast guard said. They did not release the man's name because final confirmation was yet to be made by his family. Deckhand Yoshimasa Nagai suffered serious burns to his face and other parts of his body. The Coast Guard plans to interview Nagai after he recovers. The four missing crew members are believed to have been trapped inside Kyokuyo Maru, the Coast Guard said.

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Japan Coast Guard found five people dead, yesterday, inside chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru, Coast Guard officials said.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: The bodies found inside the burned hulk of chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru were confirmed to be those of the five missing crew members, Japan Coast Guard officials said yesterday. The bodies were found Sunday (Jul 17), after the Coast Guard's special rescue personnel combed through the vessel, after the blaze had been extinguished. Coast Guard officials said yesterday that of the 10 tanks of benzene on board Kyokuyo Maru at the time of the accident, two had broken and their contents had spilled.

LEONE B. (Barbados)

Istanbul, Jul 14 -- Product tanker Leone B. completed necessary repairs by its own means and upon inspection/formalities, sailed Canakkale at 1631, local time, today. - Lloyd's Agents.

LOYALTY (Panama)

London, July 18 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1335, UTC: Product tanker Loyalty (43363 gt, built 1985), inbound, cargo 500,000 barrels of gasoline, lost propulsion and drifted aground in the Ambrose Channel, New York, at 1015, UTC, today. Vessel is still aground on a sand/shell bottom. The tide is now going out and next high tide is awaited before refloating efforts are made. (Note -- Loyalty sailed Ventpils July 3 for New York.)

London, Jul 18 -- A press release, dated today, states: Double hulled product tanker Loyalty, with a pilot on board, grounded softly this morning between Ambrose and Stapleton, outside New York Harbour. There are no injuries and no pollution. The operators have notified the US Coast Guard and O'Briens, its incident response contractor. The US Coast

Guard and O'Briens are responding along with the vessel's managers. The vessel is resting stable. Tugs are being mobilised to assist in refloating the vessel. Refloating will be undertaken on the next high tide this afternoon.

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from the operators of product tanker Loyalty, dated today: Loyalty was refloated at 1530 today. No injuries or pollution reported.

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 2044, UTC: Product tanker Loyalty refloated by its own means and is currently proceeding to Ambrose Tower for a diver's inspection.

MAASDAM (Netherlands)

Halifax, Jul 14 -- Passenger Maasdam is currently operating normally. It called at Saint John, NB, and at New Brunswick yesterday. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARISSA GREEN (Netherlands)

Karachi, Jul 20 -- Understand from Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), that general cargo Marissa Green (11894 gt, built 2000) rammed into c.c. Banga Bonik (5883 gt, built 1983) of HRC Shipping of Bangladesh, anchored at jetty number 11 at about 1430, yesterday, as the engine of Marissa GreenP reportedly went out of order. As a result Banga Bonik was damaged. Later on tug Kandari I of CPA salvaged Banga Bonik. Marissa Green arrived at the Chittagong port on Jul 16, laden with 684 TEUs of containers and anchored at jetty number 10. Vessel is scheduled to sail today at 2230. Banga Bonik arrived at the port yesterday morning with 431 TEUs of containers. The CPA has constituted a one-member inquiry committee to probe the incident. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jul 21 -- Understand from Bangladesh Shipping Industry and port sources that general cargo Marissa Green has been detained at Chittagong Port for damaging c.c. Banga Bonik. The local surveyor is assessing damages at the backside of Banga Bonik before company file formal claims from the owner of Marissa Green. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MOBILE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 20 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1400, UTC: Catamaran tug/barge Mobile (1515 gt, built 1984/22808 gt, built 1984), outbound Port Arthur, grounded in lat 29 37N, long 93 49.3W, at 0315, local time, today. Refloating efforts are currently in hand. (Note -- Integrated tug/barge Mobile operates between Port Arthur and Port Everglades.)

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Investigators from Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Port Arthur are monitoring the grounding of the integrated tug and barge Mobile. The barge grounded approximately 1.5 miles south of the Sabine Jetties around 0300 this morning. No injuries have been

reported, and initial inspections of the ITB have found no flooding, loss of cargo or fuel. Mobile's owner, ITB Mobile LLC, has made an attempt to remove the ship from its hard-aground position without success. Additional tugs are being called to the scene to assist with the removal operation and are expected to be on scene today. The vessel is not obstructing navigation, and the port remains open to traffic. Mobile was en route to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., with approximately 330,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel fuel at the time of the grounding. The cause of this accident is under investigation by MSO Port Arthur.

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 0815, UTC: Integrated tug/barge Mobile is still aground. A salvage plan is awaiting approval. Lightering of cargo, gasoline and diesel, will not start until after midday today.

MOLODYOZHNYI (Russia)

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire that had raged in the inner quarters of the Vladivostok-registered ref Molodyozhnyy (3218 gt, built 1967) in the Bering Sea throughout the night from Wednesday (Jul 13) to Thursday was put out by Thursday morning. The crew were evacuated to the trawler Sukhinichi that had come to the aid of the vessel. The Vladivostok-based service for the monitoring of the fishing fleet has announced that the blaze on board the vessel broke out on Wednesday night in the vicinity of Ust-Kamchatsk township.

NATASJA THERESA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1050, UTC: Product tanker Natasja Theresa, V2RD, (2929 gt, built 2005), Corunna for Rotterdam, is in lat 48 54N, long 04 28.7W, with engine problems.

NICHOLAS M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 16 -- Bulk Nicholas M passed Gibraltar Jul 14, Bourgas for Santos.

NIKKO MARU (Japan)

See Kyokuyo Maru.

NONA MARY (Greece)

London, Jul 18 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Greece report: The Port Authority of Lavrion prohibited the sailing of passenger ro/ro Nona Mary (2206 gt, built 1972), carrying 272 passengers, due to a mechanical failure during manoeuvres for departure at 1700, local time, Jul 15. The defect was rectified and the inspected by the Lavrion Inspectorate and the vessel was permitted to sail at 1845, local time, for Aghios Efstratios, Limnos Island. Shortly before arriving at the Port of Kimi on Jul 16, the master informed the Port Authority of Kimi that the vessel had sustained a problem to its starboard main engine. The vessel had departed from Aghios Efstratios, Limnos Island, with 81

passengers for Kimi. The vessel moored safely at the Port of Kimi, and the Port Authority prohibited the vessel to sail until repairs were carried out and inspected. The Port Authority of Kimi permitted Nona Mary to sail after repairs had been carried out and inspected by the Port Inspectorate on Jul 17.

NORASIA TAURUS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 18 -- Understand salvage services are being rendered to c.c. Norasia Taurus (35824 gt, built 2001) by tug/supply Boa King following fire on board off Damietta on Saturday (Jul 16). Services are being rendered to the vessel under Lloyd's Open Form by SMIT Salvage BV. It is believed the vessel is still on fire. (Note -- Norasia Taurus sailed Port Kelang Jul 3.)

London, Jul 18 -- C.c. Norasia Taurus sailed Shanghai Jun 26, arrived Ningbo same day, sailed Jun 27, arrived Keelung same day, sailed Jun 28, arrived Chiwan Jun 29, sailed Jun 30, arrived Port Kelang Jul 3, sailed same day, arrived Jeddah Jul 13, and sailed same day with ETA Damietta Jul 16 and Constantza Jul 21.

London, Jul 18 -- Salvors are in attendance after a number of containers caught fire on board c.c. Norasia Taurus off Egypt on Saturday. Hamburg ship management company and KG owner Peter Dohle, which chartered out the ship to Norasia, said that the fire did not affect the vessel itself, but containers on the fore deck. The vessel is now heading for the port of Damietta to have the damage inspected, a spokesman said.

Alexandria, Jul 19 -- Fire broke out on c.c. Norasia Taurus at 1600, Jul 16 while the vessel was lying at the anchorage waiting area to Damietta port. The master did not seek any assistance and the vessel shifted about six kms from the entrance to the port. At 1730 hrs the master requested assistance from Damietta Port Authorities and two tugs were sent. At 2030 hrs the master requested the assistance of SUMED. At 2300 hrs two tugs from SUMED were sent and worked until 0930 "this morning" when the fire was extinguished. However, smoke was noted coming from approximately four containers. Two boats from the Navy were sent but did not interfere. The vessel is still at the place where it shifted. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 20 -- Several containers went up in flames on board c.c. Norasia Taurus, for unknown reasons, when the vessel was off Egypt. Hamburg ship management company and KG owner Peter Dohle, which chartered out the vessel to Norasia, said the fire did not affect the vessel itself, but some containers in the foreship. The blaze could be brought under control. According to P&I insurer, there are still pockets of fire on the vessel, so it is anchored about five miles outside the port of Damietta. Salvage operations are continuing. As soon as the fire is completely extinguished, the vessel will call at Damietta for further

inspection. A spokesman for her P&I club said that the reason for the fire had not yet been established and was still subject to investigation.

Alexandria, Jul 20 -- C.c. Norasia Taurus is still in the same position about 6 km outside Damietta port with some containers smoldering and continuing to emit smoke/fumes. Tugs are in attendance and are trying to put out these fumes. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORMANDY (Bahamas)

See "Ireland-France Ferry Dispute" under "Miscellaneous."

NORSEMAN

Tunis, Jul 19 -- Owners of tug Norseman decided that the vessel will be taken to Malta to have repairs there. Tug will be expected to return back in September. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN VENTURE I (Panama)

London, Jul 15 -- General cargo Ocean Venture I (now renamed Kuraka), Nova Scotia for Sri Lanka, passed Tarifa on Jun 25.

OLYMPIC MERIT (Greece)

London, Jul 14 -- Bulk Olympic Merit (17879 gt, built 1985) struck the approach wall below Beauharnois lock, in lat 45 19 09N, long 73 55 03W, at 0520, EDST, today. (Note -- Olympic Merit sailed Montreal around Jul 12.)

ORIENT PROSPERITY (India)

Karachi, Jul 19 -- Understood from Eastern Sea Transport (Pvt.) Ltd., shipping agent of c.c. Orient Prosperity, that the vessel sailed at 0630 hrs, on Sunday (Jul 17) to Goa, via Kandla, for further/thorough inspection/repair at the Goa dry dock facility. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Kandla, Jul 21 -- Reported that c.c. Orient Prosperity, encountered rough weather (on or about Jun 14/15) during its voyage from Mumbai to Karachi, and about 10 containers fell overboard and were lost. The vessel subsequently arrived at Kandla on Jul 18, and upon completion of discharge of containers, on Jul 19 the vessel sailed from Kandla port to the outer roads Kandla and is undergoing repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ORLA (Malta)

See Jo Spirit.

ORUBA (Panama)

Corunna, Jul 21 -- Chem.tank Oruba (2123 gt, built 1975) was towed into Corruna at 1330, Jun 7 by local tug Ibaizabal I. Vessel was full loaded with a cargo of oil and had problems with main engine which has not been repaired yet. Vessel still berthed alongside commercial pier, we have learnt that the intention is to transfer cargo into another vessel and vessel to a Mediterranean port to go ahead with repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Oruba sailed Brest Jun 2.)

PARKER DRILLING 57-B (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from Marine Safety Office, New Orleans, dated today: Drilling barge

Parker Drilling 57-B is still lying in the same position, awaiting US Coast Guard approval of a salvage plan.

PRINCESS OF THE WORLD (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 15 -- The head of the investigating team looking into the cause of the fire which destroyed passenger ro/ro Princess of the World has recommended the convening of an adjudication board to determine if the mishap was a result of negligence by the vessel's shipowner. Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Enforcement Division chief Arnie Santiago, head of the investigating team, said that he was moving to have the agency convene its Adjudication Board to decide if Sulpicio Lines, the owner of Princess of the World, had been negligent in maintaining and cleaning the ship's engine. Mr. Santiago said that the fire was a result of an explosion in the ship engine's intake manifold due to blow-by. Initial investigations revealed that accumulated carbon residue and sludge oil had ignited causing the fire. MARINA is the state regulatory and administrative agency for the Philippine maritime industry. If found negligent by MARINA's adjudication board, Sulpicio Lines could be fined or have its license revoked. Mr. Santiago also said that to prevent similar accidents, he would also ask MARINA to immediately carry out a marine flag state inspection. This means that all locally-flagged vessels will be subjected to safety inspection. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 21 -- The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), the regulatory agency for the Philippine's maritime industry, said that it had requested the Philippine Coast Guard to convene a Board of Marine Inquiry to investigate and determine if negligence by the owner of passenger ro/ro Princess of the World was the cause of a fire which destroyed the vessel. Based on the findings of the Board, the MARINA would determine what administrative penalties would be imposed. This could range from fines, to suspension of officer and crews licenses and the cancellation of the ship's authority to operate. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

RESERVE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1355, UTC: Bulk Reserve (13752 gt, built 1953) had a boiler fire in Lake Michigan, in lat 45 28.02N, long 85 34.2W, at 0425, UTC, today. After inspection vessel is now proceeding to Sturgeon Bay where it will arrive around 1200, local time, today, believed for repairs.

RITA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger Rita has finally anchored off Alang. The vessel will be beached for demolition some time today at full speed, which, in its condition, means about two knots, maximum.

ROYAL IRIS (Panama)

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1035, UTC: A report was received at 1000, UTC, that passenger Royal Iris (9159 gt, built 1971) grounded while manoeuvring at Argostoli this morning and subsequently refloated by own means. Vessel is currently berthed at Argostilo and port authority inspection report is awaited.

RYOKA MARU (Japan)

See Horai Maru No.18.

SAETTA (Malta)

London, Jul 16 -- Crude oil tanker Saetta passed Panama Canal west Jun 16 for Shanghai.

SARA EXPRESS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated Jul 15, states: The Northwest Fifth Street draw bridge will be closed indefinitely after general cargo Sara Express (2252 gt, built 1991) struck the 150-foot span early this morning while it was being towed up the Miami River. Traffic will be detoured to other area river crossings for the immediate future, said Brian Rick of the Florida Department of Transportation. The freighter under the control of P&L Towing when it struck the eastern span shortly after 0300 hrs, said Barry Dragon, a civilian Coast Guard employee. Due to the accident, the spans do not cleanly meet and interlock when the bridge is in the "down" position, making the roadway unsafe for vehicular traffic. The Florida Department of Transportation, which was already preparing to replace the entire bridge, will determine whether to proceed with short-term repairs or a longer-term complete reconstruction project. A Coast Guard investigation is underway.

SAVANNAH EXPRESS (Germany)

London, July 20 -- A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, dated today, states: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are liaising with the crew and agents of c.c. Savannah Express (94483 gt, built 2005) regarding repairs to its engine after it struck a ferry and a links span yesterday afternoon. The vessel was entering the port of Southampton, escorted by two tugs, when it lost its main engine power and was unable to go astern. It struck a ferry and a links span (the ramp which vehicles drive over to board the ferry). The links span was extensively damaged and there was some superficial damage to both vessels, but no pollution resulted. An MCA surveyor has inspected the vessel under Port State Control and has ordered it to investigate the problem and make repairs ready to set sail tomorrow. A service engineer has now been called to the vessel and has started work. All repairs will be overseen by the Class Society, Germanisher Lloyd, and the MCA will have to be satisfied that the problem has been rectified before the vessel is allowed to leave Southampton.

SHOKAKU MARU NO.2 (Japan)

Moji, Jul 15 -- Under confirmation for completion of temporary repairs by Japanese Coast Guard, lpg Shokaku Maru No.2 shifted/berthed at Ube Nishi Okinoyama wharf between 0840 and 0945 yesterday for discharge of remaining cargo on board. After completion of discharging operation, vessel unberthed/shifted for Ube anchorage between 1820 and 1855 hrs. Vessel is now lying at Ube anchorage to carrying out further temporary repairs to her damaged starboard side hull due hole of about 300 by 70 cm, almost underneath of bridge. Three days will be required for temporary repairs from today. Understand that upon completion of said temporary repairs to her hull, vessel will sail for Oita to completely discharge/empty all cargo tanks. Aso cargo line at Showa Denko, thereafter will sail for shipyard to carry out permanent repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SHOSHIN MARU (Japan)

See Toho Maru.

SIBEL (Turkey)

Istanbul, July 21 -- General cargo Sibel completed necessary repairs by own means and upon inspection/formalities sailed Canakkale 1807, local time, July 19. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SMIT-LLOYD 27 (Bahamas)

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A clean-up operation was launched today after anchor handling firefighting tug/supply Smit-Lloyd 27 (1089 gt, built 1982) taking part in oil and gas drilling at the Sakhalin fields off Russia's Pacific coast struck an underwater object in stormy weather and began to leak diesel. The vessel sprang a leak, losing 5.5 cubic metres of diesel fuel, some of which had already been washed ashore by large waves in the Sea of Japan, polluting a 500-metre stretch of beach. The vessel was towed to shelter and a floating boom was deployed to limit the extent of the spill, while the Sakhalin emergencies centre dispatched another vessel to collect diesel from the sea, the report said. Exxon Neftegas Ltd, the US company operating the Sakhalin-1 project, sent teams to clean up the seashore, promising that the operation would be completed in a day. Experts believe the vessel may have struck the wreck of a vessel unmarked on navigation charts.

London, July 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The fuel spill in the Sea of Okhotsk involving anchor handling firefighting tug Smit-Lloyd 27 had been cleaned up, an official from the Emergency Situations Ministry said today. Yesterday, the vessel struck an unidentified object. The official said that the accident, which resulted in the spillage of 4.4 tons of diesel and the pollution of 500 metres of shoreline, "occurred near the island of Sakhalin in the vicinity of the Chaivo off-shore drilling platform." The official said that emergency crews had managed to

contain the fuel spill and had installed slick bars in a 400-metre radius around the ship. The clean-up operation had been successfully completed. The emergency operation involved 118 people and 28 vehicles.

SPP-13 (Russia)

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: An investigation has revealed strange details in the case of sunken pontoon SPP-13 that was carrying 70 tons of explosives in the Sea of Okhotsk, Itar Tass reported today. The master, however, claims all 26 containers have sunk and pose no threat. On Jul 7 the barge left the port of Magadan for the port of Okhotsk carrying 26 containers with up to 2.7 tons of explosives each. On Jul 8 the barge issued an SOS signal, but the rescue ships could not locate the vessel. The overturned barge was found yesterday, just 300 metres from the shore and not far from the port where it had embarked from. Five of the crew and the master were rescued from a life raft on Tuesday, and by today the four other crew members were discovered on a second raft, one of them already dead. The investigation has also found that after being loaded, SPP-13 left the port in a hurry without reporting to the port's administration, and the barge also failed to report that there were three extra people on board, 10 instead of the seven estimated crew, according to Itar Tass.

STRILEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, July 20 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1330, UTC: Cement Strilen (1133 gt, built 1966), Kolding for Gothenburg, in ballast, was reported aground at 0715, UTC, today in lat 55 30N, long 09 45E. Vessel is still aground. A naval vessel is on scene and no leakage reported. An environmental vessel is proceeding and expected on scene at 1600, UTC. The crew are still on the vessel, however, the master has been airlifted off by helicopter with a suspected heart attack.

London, Jul 20 -- Information received from Copenhagen, dated today, states: Cement Strilen grounded in the Little Belt at 0915, local time, today. The vessel is sitting on the sandy bottom in 1.5 metres of water, and there is no risk of pollution.

SULPICIO EXPRESS DOS (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 21 -- The Philippine Coast Guard reported that ro/ro Sulpicio Express Dos (4433 gt, built 1988), Cebu for Manila, cargo tropical fruits, and tank barge Golden Arowana 3, 485 gt, owned by Arowana Maritime Enterprises, Subic Bay for Manila, cargo 850,000 litres of diesel oil, were in collision off Corregidor Island, Manila Bay, at around 0730 today. There were no immediate reports of death or injuries to the 30 man crew of Sulpicio Express Dos. Neither was there an indication of the

extent of damage to Sulpicio Express Dos which managed to reach the port of Manila under its own power. The vessel is currently docked at Pier 12, North Harbour Terminal, Manila. The Coast Guard said Golden Arowana 3 is now anchored two nautical miles of Naic Jetty, Cavite Province. It was listing about 10 degrees to starboard but was in a stable condition. An oil spill boom had been laid around the vessel to prevent the occurrence of an oil spill in the area. A sister ship is reported to be enroute to Golden Arowana 3's position to transfer its load of diesel. The oil barge is expected to proceed to the Port of Manila's South Harbour terminal upon completion of the cargo transfer. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TEAM LEOPARD (Marshall Islands)

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control".

THASSOS IV (Greece)

London, Jul 18 - Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Greece report: Passenger ro/ro Thassos IV (724 gt, built 1980) which had departed at 0915, yesterday, to carry out the ferry route Kavalas - Prinou, returned a short while after departure to Kavalas due to a problem with its ramp. The route was not carried out and the passengers were forwarded to their destination at 1245 hrs by another vessel of the company. The Port Authority of Kavalas has prohibited the vessel from sailing until the problem is rectified and inspected.

THIA CHRYSOULA (Cyprus)

London, Jul 19 -- Following received from the managers of bulk Thia Chryssoula, dated today: Thia Chryssoula arrived Shanghai in mid-Jun and is still effecting repairs there at present, with ETC next month.

THUNDER HORSE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 14 -- A BP press release, dated Jul 13, states: In a joint-agency response, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Coast Guard and Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service are coordinating with BP and other agencies on the ongoing operations to right the listing floating production Thunder Horse. Response and recovery efforts for the platform will continue as contract crews and BP employees work to remove water from the platform. The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port for the Morgan City, Louisiana zone is the Federal On-Scene Co-ordinator for this operation. "The Coast Guard is working closely with BP and its partners in maintaining the platform's stability and its recovery," said Capt. Terry Gilbreath, the Coast Guard's Federal On-Scene Co-ordinator for this operation. "We have representatives from MSO Morgan City monitoring the operation." BP has re-boarded the platform and established power on the facility.

Crews are now focusing their efforts on pumping operations in order to right the vessel. The platform continues to list at approximately 20 degrees. MSRC oil-spill response vessel Gulf Coast Responder, is on location to deal with any potential environmental issues. MMS Director Johnnie Burton noted that MMS inspectors have been on the scene of the incident everyday. We are co-ordinating with both the Coast Guard Federal On Scene Co-ordinator and the BP command centre in Houston. MMS structural engineers have been involved as well. MMS has formed an internal multi-person team to coordinate all aspects of the incident that are of concern to MMS. The multi-person team will deal with operational matters, structural engineering and stability, and oil-spill response planning. These co-ordination steps have been taken under the 2004 Memorandum of Agreement between MMS and the Coast Guard. Personnel from U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Morgan City, remain on scene today overseeing the safety of all personnel involved in the operation. Additional personnel in Morgan City and Houston are working to review and approve recovery and safety plans for the effort. Coast Guard cutter Pelican, is on scene enforcing a safety zone and will provide search and rescue response capabilities in the event of an emergency. The cause of the incident remains under investigation.

London, Jul 14 -- A BP press release, dated today, states: The joint effort by BP, the US Coast Guard and US Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service continues today to respond to looting production Thunder Horse incident. Pumping operations continue. Pumping began at approximately 1600, CST, "Tuesday, Jul 13" and continued overnight. The platform remains stable. The response team is preparing to cover ballast inlets and instrumentation ports on the hull. Around-the-clock operations continue. The weather at the recovery site continues to cooperate. There have been no reports of injuries to response personnel. US Coast Guard personnel from Marine Safety Office, Morgan City, Louisiana, remain on scene and continue to monitor operations and provide emergency spill response, if needed. To date, there have been no reports of environmental impacts in the area. MSO Morgan City representatives are also working in the Unified Command Centre that has been established at the BP Crisis Centre in Houston. US Coast Guard personnel continue to monitor and assist in all operations with BP, MMS and independent contractors. Coast Guard cutter Pelican remains on scene to provide any needed search and rescue support and to enforce a one-mile safety zone around the recovery operations. Personnel are working to understand the cause of the incident.

London, Jul 15 -- A BP press release, dated today, states: The joint effort by BP, the US Coast Guard and US

Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service continues today to respond to the floating production Thunder Horse incident. Pumping operations continue and have been underway since 1600, Jul 13. Efforts to seal ballast water inlets and plug instrumentation ports continue. Platform has risen, and is stable; it was not due to start production until the end of 2005, and is not yet connected to the subsea oil wells. The weather is still calm. As a precaution, and with the expectation that weather will deteriorate throughout the region as Tropical Storm "Emily" crosses the Gulf, BP has contracted Smit to take the lead in this stage of the recovery. Their role in the integrated BP/Smit team is to make the platform seaworthy and storm-safe on location. Smit has been part of the recovery effort from the start, providing equipment and conducting some operations. By expanding the role of Smit in the recovery effort, and taking advantage of their recovery management skills, BP is seeking to speed the process of righting and securing the platform. BP will continue to control the onshore technical response and logistical support. Coast Guard personnel remain on scene with resources monitor operations and provide emergency spill response, if needed. MMS personnel are also on scene to assist. To date, there have been no reports of environmental impacts in the area. Efforts remain underway to understand the cause of the incident.

London, Jul 18 -- BP's massive floating production Thunder Horse appeared close to its normal upright position yesterday as recovery crews continued pumping out flooded support pylons. The 59,500-ton vessel, located in the Gulf of Mexico 150 miles south-east of New Orleans, had been leaning as much as 20 degrees since Jul 11. Yesterday, the company said it was listing just 5 degrees and that the deck had risen 46 feet above sea level. BP reported one minor injury - a worker falling down stairs during the recovery. The company said it has not discovered what caused the pylon flooding. No visible hull damage has been found.

London, Jul 18 -- A BP press release, dated Jul 17, states: The joint effort by BP, SMIT, the US Coast Guard and US Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service continues today to respond to the floating production Thunder Horse incident. The recovery team made significant progress in the last 24-hours in righting the platform. The platform is now near completely trim, with all water except for some residual evacuated off the platform. The platform continues to rise and is stable. The platform's decking is now 46 feet out of the water and the hull has reached normal displacement. The recovery team has reduced the platform's angle of list to 5 degrees and continues to make final adjustments to achieve normal trim. Operations to-date resulted in one minor injury. The weather at the scene

of the recovery effort remains calm. BP and its lead contractor SMIT continue activities to make the platform sea-worthy and storm-safe as a precaution against changes in weather conditions resulting from the progress of Hurricane "Emily" into the western Gulf of Mexico. Actions to seal ballast water inlets and plug instrumentation ports are complete, and other sealing and weather-proofing activities continue.

London, Jul 19 -- A BP press release, dated Jul 18, states: The joint effort by BP, SMIT, the US Coast Guard and US Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service continues today to respond to the floating production Thunder Horse incident. The recovery team made significant progress in the last 24-hours. The platform is stable, the trim is normal, freeboard is normal and displacement is normal. The weather at the scene of the recovery effort remains calm. The Coast Guard and BP are working to determine the cause.

London, Jul 20 -- A BP press release, dated Jul 19, states: The joint effort by BP, SMIT, the US Coast Guard and US Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service continues today to respond to the floating production Thunder Horse incident. The situation remains relatively unchanged since yesterday. The platform is trim. Displacement and freeboard are normal. BP and its lead contractor SMIT were successful in making the vessel seaworthy and storm-safe as a precaution against changes in weather conditions resulting from the progress of Hurricane "Emily" into the western Gulf of Mexico. The Coast Guard, Minerals Management Service and BP's partner, ExxonMobil, continue to participate in the response. The Coast Guard and BP continue work to determine cause. There have been no spills.

TOHO MARU (Japan)

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Chem.tank Toho Maru (199 gt, built 1990) and chem.tank Shoshin Maru (198 gt, built 1996) were in collision about 2.5 km east of Kushimoto, Wakayama in thick fog late Thursday (Jul 14). The master of Shoshin Maru, Yukihiko Aoki, 52, sustained minor injuries. No oil leaks were reported.

URSULA C. (Cyprus)

London, Jul 19 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1231, UTC, today: General cargo Ursula C. (2818 gt, built 1996), Kemi for Corinth, cargo wood and paper, sank in lat 36 30N, long 09 33.8W at about 0310, UTC, today. All nine crew members safely rescued and taken to Portimao. (Note -- Ursula C. sailed Kemi Jul 8 for Corinth.)

London, Jul 20 -- Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 1005, UTC: At 0900, UTC, today, general cargo Ursula C. was still afloat but with just 10 metres of the forward part of the vessel above the waterline in lat 36 31N, long 09 36W. There are two

Portugese Navy vessels, a frigate and a corvette, along with a tug on scene.

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 0730, UTC: General cargo Ursula C. is still afloat with a naval vessel and two tugs in attendance. At the moment a decision is awaited from the vessel's owners as to whether to assist the vessel to sink or not.

USHUAIA (Panama)

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1639, UTC: Research Ushuaia (2802 gt, built 1968) grounded near Kuujuaq, Koksoak River, in lat 58 09.6N, long 68 19.6W, at 1328, UTC, Jul 17. The vessel is still aground. Refloating attempts using two local tugs have been unsuccessful.

London, Jul 19 -- Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1345, UTC: Research Ushuaia was able to free itself and is now at anchor for diver and Safety Board inspection. It is believed there is no hull damage.

UTTARKASHI (India)

Mumbai, Jul 21 -- Welding works on general cargo Chin Shwe Haw are going on at W.Q.1 Berth of Visakhapatnam Port Trust. Repair works on bulk Uttarkashi are going on at Mooring-1 of Visakhapatnam Port Trust. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VIKING SUN

London, Jul 17 -- Passenger Viking Sun (built 2004), length 120 metres, ran into a groyne in the River Rhine near Bonn-Oberkassel on Friday morning, Jul 15. The vessel was on a 13-day trip from Antwerp to Basle with 177 passengers on board. None of the passengers or crew was hurt. According to the Wasserschutzpolizei Bonn (River Police) there had been a breakdown in the steering equipment and the vessel ran off course and stranded out of the fairway, causing no delay to the other shipping on the River Rhine. Passenger Wappen von Bonn came alongside the stranded vessel, took off all the passengers and took them to their next destination. Then with the help of a tug the Viking Sun was refloated again. After all the steering gear had been thoroughly tested, the vessel continued its trip nearly undamaged to pick up its passengers again.

VOC GALLANT (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 14 -- Bulk VOC Gallant sailed from Suez roads today, in tow of tug Zouros Hellas, bound for the United Arab Emirates.

X-PRESS KAVERI (Singapore)

London, Jul 19 -- C.c. X-Press Kaveri sailed Singapore Jul 13 for Colombo.

YUNG CHANG (Taiwan)

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

ZIAD STAR (Cambodia)

Istanbul, Jul 19 -- General cargo Ziad Star (4727 gt, built 1971), El Arish for Tekirdag, sustained radar

breakdown while transiting Dardanelles at 0105, local time, Jul 19, and anchored at Karanlik Liman. - Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Ziad Star sailed Damietta Jul 6 for Ukraine.)

Istanbul, Jul 20 -- General cargo Ziad Star completed necessary repairs by its own means and upon inspection/formalities it sailed from Canakkale at 1850, local time, Jul 19. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port State Control



NETHERLANDS

Maassluis, Jul 9 -- General cargo Aqua Pioneer (1499 gt, built 1981), which arrived at Rotterdam on Apr 27, is currently in port, under detention. Chemical/oil carrier Team Leopard (26113 gt, built 1985) was detained after its arrival at Rotterdam on Jul 1. The vessel was however, subsequently released and it sailed from Rotterdam on Jul 9, bound for Antwerp. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Seizures & Arrests



ADRIACARGO (Panama)

Naples, Jul 19 -- General cargo Adriacargo, ex Current, reported under arrest at Naples on May 20, 2003, remains under arrest here. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Current arrived Naples Feb 24, 1999.)

AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Jul 20 -- A report from LaSalle, PQ, states: A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Product tanker African Pride, whose disappearance in the custody of the Nigerian Navy led to the court martial of some top Naval officers, has been found in the United Arab Emirates in the custody of its Greek owners. A top official of the House of Representatives which investigated the disappearance of the ship said yesterday that the location of the vessel was disclosed to the leadership of the House by officials of the Russian Embassy, whose nationals were found in the ship and are being tried for illegal oil bunkering, as well as international security sources. This came on the heels of the latest attempt by the Russian Parliament to secure the release of some 13 Russian crew members standing trial for their involvement in illegal bunkering in Nigeria as a member of the Russian Parliament visited the Speaker of the House of Representatives to secure the release of the Russian nationals. According to a top official of the House, the vessel has been positively identified to be in the Gulf state by

the Russian government and the original owners of the vessel. "We have positively identified that the ship is in the United Arab Emirates in the custody of its original owners," the official said

AGIOS ARSENIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria."

AGIOS DIONYSSIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria."

BBC TEXAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

See under "Marine."

DIAGORAS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jul 18 -- Passenger ro/ro Diagoras was not sold at auction and remains under detention. The date of the new auction has not been announced. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HERKULES II (Poland)

Maassluis, Jun 19 -- Tug Herkules II is currently under arrest at the Wilhelminahaven in Dordrecht. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MARISSA GREEN (Netherlands)

See under "Marine."

PAVEL LEONOV (Russia)

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three sailors from the trawler Pavel Leonov under arrest in Dalian, China, have been released. All the three released are sick, and their health arouses concern. Twenty-five sailors from the vessel, which has a homeport in Sakhalin, still remain on board the vessel under arrest in China. Another sailor from the vessel who is suffering from stomach problems is in hospital in Dalian. Chairman of the Far Eastern regional Department of Trade Unions Nikolai Sukhanov said fifty tons of fuel and sufficient fresh water had been brought on board the Russian vessel. The Russian authorities are making efforts to ensure the vessel's return to its home seaport of Kholmsk. The vessel was arrested in China on a warrant following a lawsuit filed by the Russian company East-West based on the Maritime territory. Earlier, a local court made a decision to sell the Russian refrigerator vessel arrested in Dalian for debts, at an auction. The initial bid asked was one million dollars, although the vessel's actual cost is no less than fifteen million dollars, experts said. Efforts for the repatriation of the 29-strong Russian continue. Russian insurance companies will finance the expenditures on the return of the Russian crew to Sakhalin.

SANDILE

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 19, states: The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) today seized deep-sea trawler Sandile, its gear, equipment, stores and cargo including the fish on board. The seizure was undertaken by Fisheries Compliance Officers of DEAT. Sandile, a 64.5 m deep-sea trawler is owned by Ntlanzi Fishing

Enterprises and is licensed to catch hake and horse mackerel on behalf of Bato Star Fishing Pty Ltd, Algoa Bay Sea Products and Fernpar Fishing Company. The vessel will not be allowed to leave the harbour and will remain under arrest until proceedings against the owners of Sandile and quota holders in whose name the quota is being fished, have been completed, or until payment of security for the release of the vessel has been secured. The Department's investigation concerns the targeting of snoek as a by-catch when the vessel is licensed to catch hake and horse mackerel allocation for its rights holders. The department is concerned that steps have not been taken to prevent the harvesting of fish caught as a bycatch. The investigation is centred around allegations that Sandile caught over 300 tons of snoek and only some 39 tons of hake during its last voyage.

SEA SHUTTLE (Malta)

Naples, Jul 19 -- General cargo Sea Shuttle is still under arrest in Naples. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ST.TROPEZ (Bahamas)

London, Jul 18 -- Passenger St.Tropez sailed Port Everglades Jun 30 for Fort Lauderdale.

TSOUKALAS NAFTIKI ETERIA

Piraeus, Jul 18 -- General cargo Agios Dionyssios and general cargo Agios Arsenios were released and remain at Larymna port awaiting orders. -- Lloyd's Agents.

WIN EAGLE (Malta)

London, Jul 15 -- Understand that bulk Win Eagle (10964 gt, built 1982), which arrived at Bristol on Jul 3 from the far east, is currently under detention at Avonmouth.

Pollution



SAKHALIN AREA, RUSSIA

See "Smit-Lloyd 27" under "Marine".

Weather & Navigation



AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Due to strong winds and adverse weather conditions, operations at all berths at Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay are now closed and unoccupied. According to the current weather forecast, south-east winds of 25/33 knots are expected to gradually increase to 34/40 knots over open waters during the next 12 to 24 hours,

with seas rising three to four metres in open waters. A gale wind warning is in effect.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A gale warning is still in effect in the Hay Point area. According to the current weather forecast, south-east winds of 30/40 knots are expected offshore at times today, with seas of three to four metres in open waters. Hay Point Services have advised their first attempted berthing will be at Berth Two this afternoon. At this stage, there are no vessels scheduled for Berth One. The situation will be reviewed tomorrow morning. At Dalrymple Bay, a vessel is alongside Berth Three following berthing this morning and another is being berthed at Berth One. A third vessel is scheduled at Berth Two early tomorrow morning.

BANGLADESH

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 19, states: More than half-a-million people are marooned in Bangladesh in a new wave of floods caused by monsoon rains over the past week. The rivers Teesta, Jamuna and the Brahmaputra, which flows from India, are disrupting train and road links in the north and north-western parts of the country. The floods have left tens of thousands of people stranded. A disaster management official says that many are living on river islands and have been cut off for nearly a week. At least 10 people have died either by drowning or snake bites, mostly in Rangpur, Nilphamari and Sherpur districts. Several towns including Kurigram district headquarters, 400 kilometres north-west of Dhaka, are under knee-deep water. Schools and government offices have been shut down. The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre says the rivers in north-western Bangladesh would rise further if heavy rains continue in the area and neighbouring north-east Indian states. At least 10 people died in May in floods in Bangladesh ahead of the main monsoon rains.

BULGARIA

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Recent floods and heavy rains caused severe damage to Bulgarian agriculture, with some 28,000 hectares of wheat, sunflower, maize and barley destroyed, the Ministry of Agriculture said today. Bulgarian authorities estimated that the overall damage from floods already reached some \$93 million. Sofia said earlier that more than 50,000 buildings were flooded, 83 bridges destroyed, and more than 116 landslides were activated.

HURRICANE "DENNIS"

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hurricane "Dennis", which pummeled the Caribbean and southeastern United States, has left a damage bill for insurers estimated between three and four billion dollars (2.5-3.3 billion

euros), Swiss reinsurer Converium said today. Converium, the former Zurich Re, said it expected its own bill for damage caused by Hurricane "Dennis" to reach between one and 10 million dollars. The storm, the first hurricane of the Atlantic season, lashed Haiti last Thursday then moved on through Cuba and the US southeast, leaving 62 people dead and major destruction in its wake. According to Risk Management Solutions, Dennis is estimated to have caused one billion to five billion dollars in insured losses in the United States. Cuban President Fidel Castro has said the storm left more than 1.4 billion dollars in damage.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has estimated the damage caused by Hurricane "Dennis" at just under Jam\$2 billion, Minister of Information Senator Burchell Whiteman told yesterday's post-cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House. Whiteman said that the figure was contained in a statement of assessment on Hurricane "Dennis" sent by the PIOJ to Prime Minister P J Patterson. He said that the report puts the estimated damage at \$1.98 billion, including \$1.1 billion for infrastructure. However, he pointed out that this was a preliminary figure and a further assessment has to be made. Whiteman told reporters that a decision was still to be made on the areas that would need immediate assistance, but said more information would be made available this week.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Hurricane "Dennis" caused at least \$51.5 million in estimated damage and other expenses at the Florida Panhandle Elgin Air Force base and adjacent Hurlburt Field. The Air Force, however, has yet to calculate damage to roads, communications and tracking equipment on Santa Rosa Island, where "Dennis" came ashore on Jul 10, officials said yesterday. Eglin uses the barrier island facilities to monitor weapons tests over the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane "Dennis" caused property damage throughout Florida's Panhandle. Eglin itself had about \$19.5 million in damage to office buildings, housing and Camp James E. Rudder, an Army Ranger training site. The base incurred about \$5.8 million in travel and related costs to evacuate personnel and aircraft. At Hurlburt Field, headquarters for the Air Force Special Operations Command, building damage is estimated at just under \$10 million. "We had hangars that lost some roofing and some insulation," said Capt. Olivia Nelson, spokeswoman for the 16th Special Operations Wing. The base fire department also had roof damage. Hurlburt's evacuation cost is expected to run around \$5.5 million. Nelson said 300 tons of tree branches, wind-damaged building siding and roofs and other debris have been removed from Hurlburt. "Dennis" also damaged buildings at the Navy's Whiting Field,

a pilot training base near Milton, but no dollar estimate had been made as of today, said base spokesman Patrick Nichols. He said the damage to was most serious in its housing area where trees fell on several homes.

HURRICANE "EMILY"

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Emily" grew even more powerful yesterday after slamming into Grenada, tearing up crops, flooding streets and striking at homes still under repair from last year's storms. At least one man was killed. The storm strengthened to a dangerous Category 3 as it cleared the Windward Islands, unleashing heavy surf, gusty winds and torrential rains on islands hundreds of miles away: Trinidad in the south, nearby Venezuela, to the west and Dominican Republic in the middle of the Caribbean Sea. Venezuelan authorities temporarily ordered some oil tankers to stay in port in the key oil refining zone of Puerto la Cruz, port captain Jose Jimenez Quintero said. The storm was packing sustained winds near 125 mph and moving west-north-west at around 20 mph. The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami predicted the second major hurricane of the Atlantic season would get even stronger. "Emily" struck hard in Grenada, especially in the northern parishes of St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's and the outlying islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique, authorities said. A man in his 40s was killed when a landslide crushed his home in St. Andrew's, said Allen McGuire, Grenada's consul general in New York City. In the capital, St. George's, winds blew out windows and caused flooding, Colleymore said. On Carriacou, the storm damaged the roof of the only hospital, forcing the evacuation of patients, officials said. Sixteen houses were destroyed and more than 200 were damaged, McGuire said. Elsewhere in the country, two police stations and two homes for the elderly also lost their roofs, landslides and fallen trees blocked roads, streets were flooded and crops were destroyed. Prime Minister Keith Mitchell flew over the country to survey the destruction, Colleymore said. In Trinidad, widespread flooding triggered landslides that cut off the only access road to two east coast communities, marooning hundreds of residents, Mayor Eustace Nancis said. At least one house was washed away, and hundreds of people were without water or electricity. Prime Minister Patrick Manning toured Trinidad and the smaller island of Tobago by helicopter yesterday to assess damage. Jamaica and the Cayman Islands were under a hurricane watches, while the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Venezuela posted tropical storm warnings as did the Dutch islands of Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba. Late yesterday, "Emily" was centred about 375 miles south-east of the Dominican Republic capital, Santo Domingo, moving west-north-west near 25 mph.

Hurricane-force winds extended up to 25 miles and tropical storm-force winds another 125 miles.

London, Jul 15 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Emily": At 0900, UTC, the government of Jamaica has replaced the hurricane watch with a hurricane warning for all of Jamaica. A hurricane warning means that hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area within the next 24 hours. Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion. A hurricane watch remains in effect for all of the Cayman Islands. A tropical storm warning is in effect for the northern coast of Venezuela from Caracas westward to Punto Fijo, including the offshore islands north of the coast and west of Caracas. Portions of this warning area will likely be discontinued later today. A tropical storm warning is also in effect for portions of the southern coast of the Dominican Republic from Punta Salinas westward to the Dominican Republic/Haiti border and for the entire southwestern peninsula of Haiti from the Dominican Republic/Haiti border to Port-au-Prince. A tropical storm warning is also in effect for Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba. Portions of this warning area will likely be discontinued later today. Hurricane centre located near lat 13.9N, long 69.2W at 0900, UTC, position accurate within 15 nautical miles, present movement toward the west-north-west or 285 degrees at 17 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 952 mb eye diameter 10 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 35 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 15 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 20 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds: 70 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 30 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 50 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 120 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 12-foot seas: 200 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 150 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 16: Position near lat 15.8N, long 75.3W with maximum winds of 115 knots and gusts to 140 knots.

London, Jul 16 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Emily" centre located near lat 15.6N, long 75.8W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 285 degrees at 16 knots. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. Forecast position lat 16.3N, long 78.3W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 125 knots,

gusts 155 knots. Forecast position lat 17.5N, long 81.5W at 0600, UTC, Jul 17. Maximum winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots.

London, Jul 17 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Emily" centre located near lat 18.0N, long 82.0W at 0900, UTC, today. "Emily" is moving toward the west-northwest near 20 mph. Hurricane warnings remain in effect for the Cayman Islands and the eastern coast of the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico from Chetumal northward to Cabo Catoche. A tropical storm warning is in effect for the coast of Belize from Belize City northward to the Belize-Mexico border.

Cancun, Mexico, Jul 17 -- Hurricane "Emily" moved towards Mexico's Caribbean coast today bearing 150 mph winds, pounding waves and torrential rain and causing chaos in Cancun as tourists fled resorts in its path. As an ominous stiff breeze signalled the storm's approach, thousands of tourists crushed into Cancun airport before being told most flights were full, while most hotels were already closed. "Emily" was set to smash into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula late in the evening after killing four people in Jamaica. It was already a Category 4 storm on the five-step scale of hurricane intensity and forecasters feared it could blow into a rare and potentially catastrophic Category 5, capable of levelling buildings. With authorities on stand-by to evacuate the entire Yucatan coast if necessary, some 40,000 tourists were pouring out of the area. Some 30,000 left yesterday, out of 130,000 holidaymakers in the state of Quintana Roo. Some tourists were already joining locals in line at storm shelters. Thousands had been evacuated from the islands of Isla Mujeres and Cozumel, or flimsy cabana resorts along the coast. Emily passed 100 miles to the south of Jamaica but still triggered flooding and mudslides there. Four people died when their car was swept away. As Mexican radio repeated hurricane warnings, shops and bars were boarded up, thousands of troops were on stand-by and schools, churches and sports centres prepared to offer shelter to tens of thousands of people. Residents stocked up on canned food and bottled water. Health authorities stockpiled medicine to treat possible infections caused by flooding. Motorists lined up for fuel. State oil monopoly Pemex, a major supplier to the United States, shut 63 oil wells in the southern Gulf of Mexico and evacuated some 15,000 nonessential workers from offshore rigs. The closures will hold back a quarter of daily output. Tiny Belize, which borders the Yucatan to the south, issued a tropical storm warning. Western Cuba was also facing storms. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Emily" roared over the island of Cozumel early today and lashed Cancun's famous white-sand beaches with rain

and punishing waves, ripping down billboards and forcing thousands of tourists to evacuate to higher ground. The Category 4 storm caused heavy flooding that swept four people to their deaths in Jamaica on Saturday (Jul 16). In Mexico, it downed signs, toppled trees and whipped white sands from the beaches in Cancun. Power outages were reported in Cancun and in Playa del Carmen, a resort town south of Cancun, as well as on the islands of Cozumel and las Mujeres. "Emily's" winds decreased from 145 mph to 135 mph as it bore down on the Mexican coastline yesterday evening. Forecasters say it will likely weaken further as it heads across the peninsula and enters the Gulf of Mexico. Two people also were killed in a helicopter crash in the Gulf of Mexico as more than 15,500 workers were evacuated from offshore oil platforms, raising to seven the number of people killed in the second major hurricane of the Atlantic season. "Emily" was likely to make landfall again on Wednesday (Jul 20) anywhere from north-eastern Mexico to southern Texas, said Jack Beven, a hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. He cautioned it was too early to make a precise prediction. In Cancun, hundreds of buses moved more than 25,000 tourists to temporary shelters, part of the nearly 60,000 people being evacuated from resort towns like Tulum and Playa de Carmen. Cancun's airport closed yesterday afternoon after thousands lined up at ticket counters, trying to get flights out before the storm hit. By late afternoon, heavy winds tugged at palm trees and sent the last people at the beach running for their cars. In Jamaica, torrential rains drenched the south coast and washed away at least three houses, while a man, a woman, an infant boy and his 5-year-old sister were swept away in a car Saturday night. Searchers yesterday found the four bodies trapped inside the car, which was filled with mud and other debris, police said. The Cayman Islands escaped major damage Saturday. Late yesterday, the centre of the storm was 50 miles south-east of Cozumel, an island just south of Cancun, and was approaching the peninsula at about 20 mph. Tourists in Cozumel also were moved to more central accommodations and local residents prepared to flee their homes for shelters in schools and communities on the island. State oil company Pemex removed the last few hundred workers from oil platforms on the Gulf of Mexico. Strong winds downed a helicopter participating in the evacuation on Saturday night, killing a pilot and co-pilot, the company said. The platform evacuations closed 63 wells and halting the production of 480,000 barrels of oil per day.

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: The eyewall of hurricane "Emily" passed over Cozumel a few hours ago. The air force reserve hurricane hunter aircraft

overflowed the island during the eyewall passage at 0500, UTC, and reported peak flight level winds of 124 knots. At 0322, UTC, they reported 141 knots. Landfall occurred near 0630, UTC, just north of Tulum. The reconnaissance data suggest that "Emily" likely made landfall as a category four hurricane with maximum winds near 115 knots. No observations have yet been received from the landfall area. "Emily" will be spending roughly nine hours over the Yucatan, but is likely to maintain hurricane strength during this passage. A weak upper-level low over the Bay of Campeche may be contributing some south-westerly shear over "Emily" but global models suggest that this upper low will move west-southwestward and weaken within 12-24 hours. This would result in an upper-tropospheric environment conducive to strengthening, therefore re-intensification is likely once the centre moves back over the waters of the southern Gulf of Mexico. Just how much "Emily" restrengthens is partly dependent on the extent that the inner core is disrupted after passing over northern Yucatan. Global models indicate that this ridge could weaken a little over the next 12-18 hours with the passage of a mid-latitude short wave to the north. The upper low in the Bay of Campeche could also result in a slight rightward deflection of the track. However, both of these influences should diminish in another 24 hours or so and the track should then bend back toward the left. None of the standard guidance shows a landfall in south Texas at this time. Given that the average 48 hour track error is about 140 nautical miles such a landfall is entirely possible.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Emily" has slammed into the Yucatan Peninsula, smashing hotels and homes in the main resort areas and halting all of Mexico's oil exports before heading back to sea for a new strike toward the US border. Tens of thousands of locals and tourists along the popular "Maya Riviera" coastline of white beaches and blue-green seas rode out winds of 215km/h and torrential rain in makeshift shelters. Several people died in Mexico in incidents indirectly caused by the powerful storm, which killed at least four in Jamaica. Emergency workers in Tamaulipas state near the Texas border were evacuating some people last night (local time) ahead of the hurricane's expected arrival there. Mexico's main Caribbean resorts escaped largely unscathed but the small seaside town of Puerto Aventuras was roughed up. Howling winds battered hotels and luxury condominiums in the town, knocking out windows and uprooting thatched huts on idyllic beaches, now littered with debris. At the local airstrip, a small parked aircraft was tossed into the air and jammed between a tree and a rickety hut. Mexico closed down most offshore oil production and ports in the Gulf of Mexico, knocking out

2.95 million barrels of crude a day in output until midweek and freezing all exports. Mexico is one of the main suppliers of crude to the United States and news of a production cut briefly forced a spike in world oil prices. Cars picked their way through streets strewn with branches in Cancun, the main earner in Mexico's key tourism industry. At one point a Category 4 hurricane, the second highest level on forecasters' scale of storm intensity, Emily weakened to Category 1 yesterday afternoon before it headed out into the Gulf of Mexico, where it was expected to gather power again. "Restrengthening is expected and "Emily" could regain major hurricane status before landfall," the U.S. National Hurricane Centre in Miami said. The storm, traveling at 26km/h was due to hit the northeastern Mexican state of Tamaulipas near the US border overnight and a hurricane warning was in place for the coast of southern Texas. Officials in Tamaulipas said they had begun to evacuate residents from areas close to beaches and rivers. "Emily" has killed five people in Jamaica, including a mother and her two young children whose car was swept away by flood waters on Sunday (Jul 17). One of the dead was a man who tried to rescue them, police said. In Mexico, two pilots were killed on Saturday when their helicopter was blown into the Gulf of Mexico during oil rig evacuations. And a German died when he touched a high tension wire while pruning a tree at his home in Playa del Carmen as Emily approached.

London, Jul 19 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Emily" centre located near lat 23.5N, long 93.5W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 300 degrees at 13 knots. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Forecast position lat 24.1N, long 95.2W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum wind 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position lat 24.5N, long 97.3W at 0600, UTC, Jul 20. Maximum winds 100 knots, gusts 120 knots.

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Emily" slowed down late yesterday night but was still on course to slam into Mexico for a second time as its outer rings began thrashing the country's northeastern coast and triggered evacuations as far away as southern Texas. Packing sustained winds of 125 mph, the hurricane's approach fell by about half to 7 mph, allowing it to strengthen even further over Gulf waters. "Emily's" eye was likely to come ashore early this morning, near this small fishing village popular with Mexican and US tourists. The storm has already struck Mexico once, ripping roofs off resort hotels and stranding thousands of tourists along the Mayan Riviera, which includes the resort of Cancun.

London, Jul 20 -- Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Emily" located near

lat 24.7N, long 97.2W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 10 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 285 degrees at seven knots. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots with gusts to 135 knots. Forecast position lat 24.8N, long 98.6W at 1800, UTC, today. Forecast position lat 24.8N, long 100.7W at 0600, UTC, Jul 21. Maximum winds 25 knots, gusts 35 knots.

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical depression "Emily" centre located near lat 25.0N, long 101.1W at 0900, UTC. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 270 degrees at nine knots. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Forecast position lat 25.0N, long 102.8W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 20 knots, gusts 25 knots.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Emily" has been downgraded to a tropical storm as it moves inland in north-eastern Mexico, but forecasters warn heavy rains remain a threat. The storm's arrival forced thousands to flee their homes in Mexico and parts of the US state of Texas, officials said. "Emily" has pounded the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, felling trees and power lines with winds of 200km/h. The US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said rain in Mexico's mountains could cause deadly mudslides and floods. Southern Texas remains at risk of tornadoes, as tropical storm force winds gust up to 105 miles from "Emily"'s centre near Monterrey, Mexico. Forecasters warned up to 38cm of rain could fall in north-eastern Mexico as the storm travelled west at 11mph today. "Emily" ran ashore at 0800 hrs (1300, UTC) yesterday, about 50km south of San Fernando in the state of Tamaulipas and 120km south of the town of Brownsville in Texas. Thousands of people on both sides of the border lost electricity as the storm brought down power lines, peeled off roofs and left a trail of debris and flooded fields. In Monterrey, Mexico's third largest city, residents fled to emergency shelters as torrential rains washed out roads and caused flash floods. Flights to Monterrey's international airport were cancelled. A US coast guard helicopter was sent to rescue four fishermen stranded in heavy seas off the Texas coast, the AFP news agency reports. The storm is expected to lose force as it sweeps west and is likely to be downgraded to a tropical depression later today, the NHC said. It had moved through the Gulf of Mexico after hitting the Yucatan peninsula to the south. Work is resuming on some oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which had been evacuated.

INDIA

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy monsoon rains in India's northeast Assam state

have left at least 12 people dead and displaced more than 121,000 others, officials today said. Low-lying villages along the main Brahmaputra River in Assam were swept away in the rising waters and landslides, the state government said in a statement. "At least 12 people were drowned and more than 121,000 villagers were displaced during the floods so far," it said. The Brahmaputra is now flowing above the danger level in Assam, snapping communication and road links to remote areas, according to officials.

MALAYSIA

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A man and a 13-year-old girl were killed during floods that damaged schools, houses, bridges and roads after an eight-hour downpour at Kota Kinabalu today. A clinic and four schools in the worst hit areas of Telipok and Menggatal could not be opened this morning. The water, which rose to 2m at its height in some of the affected areas, has been reported to be receding. According to officials, the damage to buildings, houses, roads and structures could run into the millions. Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman started visiting and assessing the situation at the flood hit areas soon after the rain stopped at 1000 hrs. The downpour that started at 0200 hrs also caused landslides and in some areas hanging bridges were washed away.

ROMANIA

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Seventeen people are known to have died and one is missing as Romania suffers its worst flooding in three decades, the interior ministry said today. Over 12,000 people were evacuated from their homes around the country, and Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said he feared the death toll would rise as many elderly people were refusing to leave their flooded homes. The interior ministry said large areas of the country were under water or threatened by flooding, with the worst affected areas in the eastern region of Vrancea, where 11 of the deaths occurred. Officials said 581 towns or villages were under water, and 229 of them were without electricity. Press reports said the floods, which have damaged thousands of homes and dozens of bridges, roads and railway lines, were the worst in the country for 30 years. (See issue of Jul 18.)

Bucharest, Jul 17 -- Floods in Romania killed 20 people in the past week, with thousands left homeless and dependent on army airlifts for food and drinking water, authorities said today. The deaths took the toll in the Balkan state's worst floods in half a century to 26 this month. Torrential rains have swollen rivers, flooded homes and churned up roads, hitting the eastern part of the country particularly hard. Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said emergency aid had been airlifted by the army to stranded villagers and floodwater had

started to be pumped away. "The army will help the population with manpower and equipment," said Tariceanu, announcing the latest death toll after a government crisis meeting this morning. "Beds and tents have started to be distributed." Authorities said more than 11,000 people had to be evacuated in four central and eastern counties and 640 homes were completely destroyed by water that also swamped nearly 88,000 hectares of farmland. The government has earmarked around one billion lei (US\$344 million) to rebuild infrastructure and said Romania would also ask for international help to clean up the damage. -- Reuters.

Lonedon, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Floods in mid July have caused damage worth about 43.5m euros, according to preliminary estimates by Romania's Transportation, Building and Tourism Ministry. "Damage reports are not completed yet, but we hope to get them ready as soon as possible. We cannot finish the reports yet, because some railway segments are still under water," director Vasile Olievschi with the Transportation Ministry's Railway Directorate told Rompres. At present, the most serious situation is that of the railway bridge of Putna Seaca, which brought about the traffic closure of the Line 500, running between Ploiesti and Vicsani. Traffic is also closed on 13 railway segments and restricted along 20 more. Traffic resumed yesterday on railway 602, linking Marasti to Tecuci as well as on Line 504, from Adjud to Ciceu. Most of the closed or damaged railway segments are in the eastern counties of Bacau, Braila, Galati and Vrancea, the counties most seriously stricken by floods.

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated Jul 14, states: At least seven people have died in floods following days of torrential rain in Romania. Thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes, as flood water rose to 3m in places. Dozens of roads have been closed and many areas have been left without electricity or gas. Romanian Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu said the damage was so bad he was considering appealing for international help. In the eastern village of Ivesti, residents were stranded on rooftops, while the nearby city of Galati was put on alert as the River Siret reached record levels. Television pictures showed rescue services using boats and helicopters to ferry stricken villagers to safety. Thousands of homes and acres of farmland and other cultivated areas have been left submerged. Mr Tariceanu, who toured affected areas by helicopter on Thursday, said extra food supplies would be sent to flooded counties and the cabinet would approve financial aid.

TROPICAL STORM "EUGENE"

London, Jul 19 -- Following received from the Meteorological office, dated today: Tropical storm "Eugene" located

near lat 17.9N, long 107.2W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 310 degrees at 11 knots. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Forecast position lat 18.9N, long 108.3W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 50 knots, gusts 60 knots. Forecast position lat 20.2N, long 110.0W at 0600, UTC, Jul 20. Maximum winds 55 knots, gusts 65 knots.

London, Jul 20 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Eugene" centre located near lat 21.1N, long 111.0W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 305 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Forecast position lat 21.8N, long 112.3W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots. Forecast position lat 22.5N, long 114.4W at 0600, UTC, Jul 21. Maximum winds 25 knots, gusts 35 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "NALGAE"

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from the Meteorological office, dated today: Tropical storm "Nalgae" near lat 27.6N, long 160.4E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 320 degrees at nine knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. Forecast position lat 29.2N, long 159.0E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 30.8N, long 157.5E at 0600, UTC, Jul 21. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

London, Jul 15 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Haitang" near lat 19.1N, long 134.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 260 deg at 19 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots with gusts to 125 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 100 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 16: Position near lat 19.9N, long 128.6E with maximum sustained winds of 120 knots and gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 68 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 118 nautical miles.

London, Jul 16 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Haitang" near lat 20.4N, long 129.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 295 degrees at 14 knots. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 135 knots, gusts 165 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 60 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 21.6N, long

126.6E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 140 knots, gusts 170 knots. Forecast position lat 22.6N, long 124.6E at 0600, UTC, Jul 17. Maximum sustained winds 135 knots, gusts 165 knots. (See issue of Jul 18.)

London, Jul 17 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Haitang" near lat 22.3N, long 125.0E at 0900, UTC, today. South-east of Ishigakijima moving north-west 10 knots. Maximum winds 100 knots near centre. Radius of over 50 knot winds 130 miles. Radius of over 30 knot winds 350 miles north-east semicircle and 300 miles elsewhere. Forecast position for lat 23.6N, long 123.0E at 1800, UTC, today with 60 mile radius. Forecast position lat 24.4N, long 121.8E at 0600, UTC, Jul 18.

London, Jul 18 -- Typhoon "Haitang" pounded Taiwan with heavy winds and rain today, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of people and the closure of airports, schools, government offices and financial markets. With winds gusting up to 227km/h, Haitang uprooted trees as the Government warned of possible landslides and flash floods around the island. Anxious residents in Taipei piled sandbags around their houses as they prepared for one of the most powerful storms to hit Taiwan in five years, while thousands of fishing vessels sought shelter in harbours. The Central Weather Bureau said the storm had swerved south before regaining power and heading west toward the island. It said Haitang's centre was 70km south of the eastern coast city of Hualien at 1000 hrs. Hundreds of people were evacuated from several remote villages where people have been buried alive by landslides in the past, the National Fire Agency said. The weather bureau raised its rainfall forecast from 900mm to 1300mm for some areas.

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Haitang" near lat 23.7N, long 121.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 270 degrees at three knots. Maximum winds 95 knots, gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 65 nautical miles east semicircle, 25 miles west semicircle. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles east semicircle, 45 nautical miles west semicircle. Radius of 34-knot winds: 135 nautical miles east semicircle, 125 nautical miles west semicircle. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 19: Position near lat 24.9N, long 118.9E with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 15 nautical miles north west quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds: 80 nautical miles east semicircle, 70 nautical miles west semicircle.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Haitang" swirled towards China's south-east coast today after killing up to four people in Taiwan, injuring 29 others and wreaking damage estimated at \$US14 million. The once super-strong storm had lost some of its power while

churning over the island and is now packing maximum windspeeds of 126km/h and gusts of up to 260km/h, making it a moderate typhoon, Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said. The eye of "Haitang" was roughly halfway across the 100km wide Taiwan Strait and expected to hit China's Fujian province within hours. China evacuated more than 600,000 people from the typhoon's path yesterday after "Haitang" slammed into Taiwan and forced offices, schools and financial markets to shut across the island. Business resumed today, with city workers clearing away uprooted trees, street signs and billboards toppled by "Haitang's" lashing winds and heavy rains. Authorities in China's coastal rice-growing provinces of Zhejiang and Fujian ordered back to port about 17,000 fishing and merchant vessels with a total of more than 300,000 aboard, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Travel services were suspended and seaside hotels in Fujian closed to guests, Xinhua said. The official death toll from the typhoon stood at two in Taiwan, though the National Fire Agency said it was investigating the cause of death of another two bodies found floating in water. Two more people were listed as missing. Weather forecasters said torrential rain would continue to pummel Taiwan through to tomorrow, and warned residents to watch out for flash floods and landslides. The Council of Agriculture estimated damage from the storm at least \$T454.6 million.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least two people were killed after Typhoon "Haitang" pounded Taiwan with powerful winds and rains, causing an estimated \$T454 worth of damage to rice paddies, fruit and vegetable farms, fish ponds and crops, officials said. Helicopters are meanwhile battling strong winds to rescue 21 crew members from a ship off Kaohsiung port after losing power during the storm, television news footage showed. By early today, as "Haitang" headed to southern China, air and railway traffic had partially resumed, after being forced to shut yesterday, and the financial market had reopened. Some highways were still blocked by landslides and several bridges in southern Taiwan had collapsed. The storm left more than 1.36 mln households without power yesterday; by today some 110,183 households still had no electricity.

London, Jul 19 -- Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 0755, UTC: Taiwan sand carrier Yung Chang, (6038 gt, built 1989) is in no immediate danger. Eleven persons have been taken off the vessel and 10 persons remain on board. There are no other merchant vessels with problems.

London, Jul 19 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Severe tropical storm "Haitang" at lat 25.9N, long 120.1E, moving north-northwest eight knots. Maximum winds 55 knots near centre.

Radius of over 50 knot winds 70 miles east semicircle and 60 miles elsewhere. Forecast position lat 27.1N, long 119.0E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 50 knots near centre. Forecast position lat 28.7N, long 117.4E at 0600, UTC, Jul 20.

Taipei, Jul 19 -- There were 21 persons on board sand carrier Yung Chang, IMO No.9000651, (ex Touareg), owners Yung Chang Navigation, at the time of the vessel run aground on Jul 18. "Ten" crew had been rescued by helicopter today while the remaining "11" crew expected to be rescued tomorrow. No immediate danger of the vessel sinking up to now as the weather is getting better/improving. The vessel is a sand carrier and usually trading between Hualien and Taipei at about four days for a round trip. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Haitang" ploughed into the Chinese mainland yesterday, causing landslides and cutting off power in the provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang. Forecasters said that though the typhoon had weakened as it passed over Taiwan, it was still likely to be the worst to hit Fujian in four years. "Haitang" made landfall in Lianjiang county on the Huangqi peninsula, north-east of Fujian's provincial capital of Fuzhou, shortly after 1700 hrs. By 2000 hrs, no deaths or injuries had been reported. The storm was then forecast to begin moving north-west. It forced the evacuation of at least 865,000 people. Roads in the town of Huangqi were inundated and waves more than 10 metres high were reported. Fujian hoisted its most severe typhoon warning at midday as winds of more than 120km/h blew down trees, signs and power lines. In Zhejiang, heavy rain drenched most of the province. A 100-metre-long landslide cut off the highway between the cities of Taizhou and Wenzhou, but there were no casualties because the road had already been closed as a precaution. Another landslide in Taishun county, near Wenzhou, blocked a main road. In Cangnan county in southern Zhejiang, low-lying areas flooded and houses collapsed. Both provinces reported blackouts after strong winds blew down power lines. Water supplies were also cut in some areas. Airports in Fuzhou, Quanzhou and Wenzhou halted all flights, and ferry services between Xiamen and Taiwan's Quemoy island were also cancelled. Shanghai, which borders Zhejiang to the north, was braced for heavy rain last night but was not expecting any other impact from "Haitang".

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Taiwan, yesterday, wrestled with the lingering impact of Typhoon "Haitang", which killed at least four people on the island, injured 30 and caused damage to farmland estimated at more than NT\$1.3 billion (\$317 million). Flash floods caused by typhoon-triggered torrential rains continued to wreak havoc on central and southern Taiwan, with a number

of mountain villages being cut off by rising floods and mudslides. Rescuers used helicopters to save 21 crew from freighter YunG Chang, carrying sandstone, that began to sink in rough seas off the southern port of Kaohsiung. According to the National Disaster Prevention and Protection Centre, four people died in the typhoon. It was still investigating the deaths of two women who drowned in rivers. Agricultural authorities reported an estimated NT\$1.3 billion in agricultural losses, which resulted in skyrocketing vegetable prices with 1kg of usually cheap and plentiful spring onions costing more than NT\$350.

Beijing, Jul 20 -- Heavy rain and winds forced more than one million people from their homes in south-east China today and killed at least one, state media said, but the mainland was spared the battering that hit Taiwan. In the worst-hit area, Zhejiang's coastal Cangnan county, power supply was sporadic, water cut off and floodwaters reached shoulder height after torrential rains. At least 300 people in Cangnan's Guangmei area holed up in a primary school on high ground only to be surrounded by floodwaters, residents said. A landslide of mud and rock caused by the torrential rain blocked roads in the area. The death toll from Typhoon "Haitang" in Taiwan meanwhile rose to 10, with another three missing after the storm shut schools, offices and financial markets on Monday (Jul 18). In the far south of the island, 3,000 tourists were stranded as heavy rain and floodwaters damaged a bridge and cut off road links, local media said. The government planned to send chartered jets to bring the tourists out, reports said. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed and 8.2 million affected in Fujian and Zhejiang as typhoon "Haitang", later downgraded to a tropical storm, swept the provinces before moving inland yesterday. Taiwan revised its death toll from the typhoon to seven, with one person still missing. Rescuers found the bodies of three more people who drowned after "Haitang" pounded the island on Monday (Jul 18). Jiangxi and Hunan provinces were bracing for heavy rain and flooding, although the storm had weakened since making landfall in Fujian late on Tuesday afternoon (Jul 19). Zhejiang and Fujian, where some areas experienced the worst flooding in 50 years, evacuated more than 1.4 million of the 8.2 million people affected. Three were killed in Zhejiang, which suffered economic losses of 5.46 billion yuan, and 21 were hurt in Fujian. One of the worst-hit areas was the Zhejiang city of Wenzhou, the cradle of private enterprise on the mainland. Authorities put the city's direct economic losses at about 2.2 billion yuan.

Earthquakes



INDONESIA

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale rocked West Timor province today but there were no reports of damage or casualties, meteorologists said. The under-sea quake occurred at 0905 hrs with the epicentre 104 kilometres east of Kupang, the capital of West Timor, said Wijayanto of the National Meteorology and Geophysics Agency. "So far there have no reports of damage or injuries," the official said.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale has rocked the northern tip of Indonesia's Sulawesi island but there were no reports of damage or casualties, meteorologists said. The under-sea quake occurred at 0337 hrs and its epicentre was 33 kilometres under the floor of the Maluku sea, some 160 kilometres south of Manado, capital of North Sulawesi province, they said. 'It was moderately felt in Tondano and Bitung and weakly felt in Manado. There are as yet no reports of damage or injuries,' said a meteorologist from the National Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

London, Jul 21 -- An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale rocked the western coast of Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh province today but there were no reports of damage or casualties, meteorologists said. The under-sea quake occurred at 0842 hrs and its epicentre was 33 kilometres under the floor of the sea, some 17 kilometres south-east of Meulaboh, the main town in the West Aceh district, they said.

MYANMAR

London, Jul 17 -- A moderate earthquake rattled Myanmar early today, near the ancient temples of Bagan, the Seismological Observatory Department said. The quake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale and struck at 0735 hrs, with its epicentre near the town of Nyaung-U, about 430 kilometres north of the capital Yangon, department officials said. Officials said they had not yet received reports of injuries or damage.

PAKISTAN

London, Jul 16 -- A moderate earthquake shook south-western Pakistan today but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, officials said. The quake, which measured 5.5 on the Richter scale, was felt at 0717 hrs in the Barkhan district of Baluchistan province, a seismological department official told AFP. Its epicentre was located some 600 kilometres south-west of the capital Islamabad, he said.

Volcanic Activity



SHIVELUCH, RUSSIA

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ash discharged by the erupting Shiveluch volcano on Kamchatka and mudflows from its slopes may create danger for nearby residential areas, and volcano ash particles may be dangerous also for aircraft flights. The Kamchatka regional department of the federal earthquake-forecasting centre issued the information today. Specialists monitor the activity of the volcano that discharges clouds of steam and ash. There are no reports about seismic activity in the area. Mudflows and falling volcano rock parts destroyed the seismological station Baidarnaya, which was eight kilometres from the volcano top. It occurred on February 27-28 during an activity outburst.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 17 -- A press report dated today, states: Twenty rebels including five foreigners have been killed in a joint operation by Afghan and US-led forces in south-eastern Afghanistan, officials said amid rising militant activity. The rebels including three Chechens and two Uzbeks were killed after firing rockets at Afghan National Army bases in the Spera and Lewara districts of Khost province, defence ministry spokesman General Mohammed Zahir Azimi told reporters. "The enemies launched rocket attacks on ANA bases in Spera and Lewara districts of Khost province on Thursday and Friday in which one ANA soldier was killed," defence ministry spokesman General Mohammed Zahir Azimi told reporters. "In response, Afghan and coalition forces launched an operation with coalition air support in which 20 enemy elements were killed, their bodies were left on the spot," he said. Gen Azimi added: "Based on the documents obtained from the bodies, three of them are citizens of Chechnya and another two of them are from Uzbekistan. There may be more foreigners but the documents indicate five."

ALGERIA

Algiers, Jul 18 -- Algerian Islamic militants set fire to forests west of the capital Algiers and then killed two municipal officials and three police guards they lured into an ambush,

local newspapers reported today. The militants attacked their convoy, killing five and wounding eight others in a skirmish near Ain Defla, 150 km west of Algiers that lasted 20 minutes, the papers reported, citing security sources. Algerian authorities were not available for comment. El Khabar newspaper said members of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) set forests near Ain Defla ablaze to draw officials to the area. Fifteen rebels hiding on both sides of a road then fired with assault rifles on the passing cars. Among the dead was the deputy mayor of Tachta, a town near Ain Defla. -- Reuters.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jul 20 -- A French government emissary has met Colombian rebels to explore a possible exchange of hostages including a former presidential candidate and three Americans for guerrillas held in government jails, an official said today. Interior Minister Sabas Pretelt confirmed a report in newspaper El Tiempo that the French emissary had travelled to a secret location to meet Raul Reyes, one of the top commanders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. "The (Colombian) government authorized the French government to intercede on behalf of the people who have been kidnapped," Pretelt told reporters. The 13,000-strong rebel army known by the Spanish initials FARC wants to swap a group of about 70 hostages for hundreds of rebels held in government jails. The French government is particularly interested to secure the release of Ingrid Betancourt, a dual French-Colombian national captured by rebels while campaigning for Colombia's presidency for a small left-wing party in early 2002. The hostages also include politicians, soldiers, police officers and three Americans -- U.S. Defense Department contractors seized in 2002 when their light aircraft crashed on a narcotics surveillance mission in southern Colombia. -- Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Nyakakoma, Jul 16 -- Forty-one gunmen and two government soldiers were killed in eastern Congo during clashes this week between the army, local militiamen and Rwandan Hutu rebels, a military commander said. Thousands fled into the forests but by yesterday the Congolese army had retaken the last of the three villages seized by the attackers near the border with Uganda, prompting civilians to start returning to their shelled and looted houses in search of food and any remaining possessions. Army officials in Nyakakoma said the village had been attacked by Congolese militiamen known as Mai Mai and Rwandan Hutu rebels who fled to Congo after Rwanda's 1994 genocide. "I started the battle at 0530 hrs and we freed this village in the morning. Our enemy fled," Major Willy Nyangezi, the commander of the

government forces, said in Nyakakoma. "On the enemy's side, there were 12 dead in Nyamilima, 18 dead in Ishasha and we found 11 bodies in Nyakakoma," he said. Two government soldiers were also killed and five others wounded in the fighting. Congolese Red Cross workers in the nearly deserted fishing village on the edge of Lake Edward also estimated about 40 people had been killed in nearly a week of clashes over the three villages. -- Reuters.

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa, Jul 20 -- A separatist rebel group has asked for talks with the Ethiopian government to end a low-level conflict in the lawless east. The Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), a group of ethnic Somalis fighting for independence from Ethiopia, called for international mediation in a neutral foreign country. "ONLF is ready to engage in negotiations with the Ethiopian government in order to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict between the people of Ogaden and Ethiopian regime," the group said in a statement released this week. The government said Prime Minister Meles Zenawi welcomed the move in a written response to the rebel group that roams the vast, dry region. "The government responded positively to the call of the ONLF provided that the party would be true to its expressed readiness to further its objectives only through peaceful means," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Ethiopia has long blamed the ONLF for attacking government troops in the area and human rights groups say the army has retaliated by intimidating the local population. "The consensus view seems to be that militarily the ONLF are more or less irrelevant, but have enough of a presence to prevent the government from eliminating them," Human Rights Watch researcher Chris Albin-Lackey told Reuters. "Any deal may be significant in that it may take away the reason or pretext of the military to target civilians." -- Reuters.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Bissau, Jul 16 -- Unidentified gunmen attacked Guinea-Bissau's interior ministry today, killing two policemen and wounding 10 others, the interior minister said. Security forces repelled the attack, which took place shortly before 0600, UTC. Interior Minister Al Adji Mumini Embalo said that 10 attackers and 10 other suspects were arrested. "We don't know the motive of the attack and who is behind it," he said. "But the situation is already under control." In a statement, the army said the dawn raid was an isolated incident with no link to members of the military or paramilitary forces. It appealed for calm and said the army had been put on maximum alert. The former Portuguese colony is on edge ahead of a Jul 24 presidential run-off between Malam Bacai Sanha of the main PAIGC party and former

military ruler Joao Bernardo Vieira. Clashes between security forces and supporters of another former army ruler, Kumba Yala, erupted in the capital Bissau after results from the first round of polls held on June 19 showed he had come third. Four people were killed. Yala, who declared himself president in May and was accused of attempting a coup shortly afterwards, eventually accepted the election's results. He denies any involvement in the coup attempt. The fighting at the interior ministry today lasted almost an hour before security forces pushed the attackers back, said the deputy director of state security, Abdu Camara. "There was an exchange of fire with loyalist forces who were inside the ministry," Camara said, adding that some of the gunmen had managed to escape. The interior ministry building is near the presidential compound in central Bissau. Taxi driver Souleymane Sow said near the scene that gunmen armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and grenades had forced him to hand over his Mercedes. He said a second taxi had also been stopped and taken by fleeing attackers. -- Reuters.

INDIA

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded in the Indian Kashmir summer capital Srinagar today, killing at least six people and injuring 16 other people, a security official said. The explosion was caused by a car bomb that targeted two passing security force vehicles, an officer from a paramilitary security force said. An AFP correspondent at the scene said he could see at least four seriously injured troopers lying in the street. The car bomb exploded near a Christian missionary school.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Three Pakistani infiltrators were among nine people killed as militants blasted a power transmission tower in Jammu and Kashmir overnight, an official spokesman said today. Meanwhile, the Army has rushed reinforcements to the Gurez sector where several Pakistani infiltrators were spotted by the troops manning the Line of Control (LoC) yesterday. The operation is still on and so far no report has been received about the casualties on the militants' side, a defence ministry spokesman said. He said in another infiltration bid, troops manning the LoC noticed a group of heavily armed militants sneaking into this side from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the Tangdhar sector early this morning. When challenged near a particular area on this side, the militants opened fired with automatic weapons and also hurled hand grenades. Troops immediately returned the fire and in the fierce clash, three infiltrators were killed. Three AK rifles and other arms and ammunition were seized from the

slain militants. Security forces also gunned down a militant during a search operation at Kupwara last night. One AK rifle and other arms and ammunition were seized from him, the official spokesman added. He said security forces gunned down a Lashkar-e-Toiba militant, Abu Tamia, a resident of Pakistan, in an encounter at Achabal in south Kashmir. One AK rifle and two magazines were seized from him. A militant of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad was killed by security forces at village Kanthpora in the frontier district of Kupwara. One AK rifle, two magazines and 50 rounds were seized from the slain militant. The spokesman said militants blasted an electric transmission tower at Larmoo hill in the Pulwama district of south Kashmir last night. Two pillars of the tower were damaged in the blast. One Showkat Hussain was killed in an explosion at Sathu Mohalla, Nadayali under the Surankote police station in the Poonch district last evening. He said in another explosion, a man was wounded at Danna Maraha under the Surankote police station in the same district yesterday. The spokesman said another was killed by militants at Bigambri Dharma under the Gool police station in the Udhampur district of Jammu region. His body was recovered from a nearby nallah today. A militant was killed in an encounter with the security forces at Pad Dakli Alni, Gandoh in the Doda district today. One .303 rifle, a magazine and a telescope were seized from the encounter site. Security forces recovered one AK rifle, two magazines, 27 rounds, one pistol, 20 rounds, two fake pistols and 15 leaves of Hizbul Mujahideen letter pad from a field at Badipora, Chadoora in the central Kashmir district of Badgam yesterday evening, he added.

Srinagar, Jul 16 -- Indian forces said they killed 15 Muslim militants who were trying to cross into its part of Kashmir from Pakistan today, the latest of a series of clashes on the disputed frontier in less than a week. India says growing incursions by militants from across the border to join the revolt against its rule in Kashmir could undermine a 20-month-old peace process with Pakistan. Islamabad denies any involvement in the armed rebellion. Soldiers shot dead nine militants who were trying to breach the military control line dividing Kashmir in the Sumawal area, near the popular Kashmir ski resort of Gulmarg, an army spokesman said. In another clash, two infiltrators were killed in the Sunderbani area of Rajouri south of summer capital Srinagar, while another four were killed in the Kern sector, northwest of Srinagar, the spokesman said. Indian soldiers were also combing snow-covered mountains and forests in the Gurez area of Kashmir today where a clash with guerrillas earlier in the week left at least 11 rebels dead. -- Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian government and rebels in Aceh have concluded their final round of talks and reached an agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding to end a 30-year-old conflict which has killed about 15,000 people, former Finnish president and mediator of the peace talks Martti Ahtisaari said yesterday. Ahtisaari said representatives of the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement, or the GAM by its Indonesian initials, will come to Helsinki on Aug 13 and sign the MOU on Aug 15.

Jakarta, Jul 20 -- At least 10 people have died in fighting between the government and Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels in Aceh province since negotiators in Helsinki announced a draft peace deal between the two sides, according to GAM. A statement from GAM military wing spokesman Sofyan Dawood late yesterday said there were three exchanges of fire in Aceh on Monday (Jul 18), resulting in the deaths of five GAM fighters, three government soldiers and two civilians. Dawood placed the blame for the fighting on the Indonesian military (TNI). "GAM urges the TNI chief to control his military personnel in Aceh so that they do not take violent actions," the GAM statement said. The peace agreement announced on Sunday (Jul 17) in Helsinki is due to be signed on Aug 15. On Monday, Indonesian military chief General Endriartono Sutarto told reporters that until then troops would "try to show GAM our goodwill (and) no longer do any offensive activities". The GAM statement said it did not see any changes in the field since Sutarto's comment, adding "TNI troops are more and more escalating their military operations in Aceh." -- Reuters.

Jakarta, Jul 20 -- Indonesia announced today a September start for the withdrawal of some of its troops from Aceh province, following the unveiling of a draft peace deal to end three decades of conflict with rebels. The government would scale down its troops in Aceh between mid-September and Dec 31, Justice Minister Hamid Awaluddin said. He said the non-local units will be withdrawn in conjunction with the collection and destruction of Free Aceh Movement (GAM) weapons. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced the plan to scale down forces on Sunday (Jul 17). The peace agreement announced on Sunday in Helsinki is due to be signed on Aug 15. On Monday, Indonesian military chief General Endriartono Sutarto told reporters that until the signing troops would "try to show GAM our goodwill (and) no longer do any offensive activities". In the provincial capital of Banda Aceh, 1,700 km north-east of Jakarta, a TNI officer who declined to be named told Reuters the peace deal had not mentioned that military offensives should be stopped at once. Peace deals have been reached before,

however, and ultimately foundered with each side blaming the other for lack of follow-through on promises. -- Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Jul 13 -- A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle in a crowd of mostly children near US troops in Baghdad today, killing 27 people and wounding at least 67, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. A duty policeman at Kindi Hospital said 25 bodies and 25 wounded had arrived there: "Most of them are children." One US soldier was among those killed, and three were among the injured, US forces said. Battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Farrell said his men had cordoned off an area of houses near a highway for security sweeps when the bomber drove up a side alley. The bomber failed to pierce the military cordon and detonated his vehicle in a crowd of children and adults nearby. A witness at Kindi hospital saw at least a dozen coffins loaded into cars at the morgue. US forces say most suicide bombings are carried out by foreign Sunni Arab Islamists loyal to groups like al Qaeda's Iraq wing, led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Washington said overnight that its forces had captured a senior Zarqawi lieutenant for the city of Baghdad. General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told PBS television Monday's (Jul 11) capture of Abu Abd Al-Aziz, whom he called Zarqawi's "main leader in Baghdad", was "going to hurt that operation of Zarqawi's pretty significantly". Zarqawi's group confirmed Abu Abd al-Aziz was caught, but said in a Web statement that he was not a senior operative. Police in Jalowla near the Iranian border said a blast that killed two people in a Sunni mosque there overnight may have been the result of a suicide bomber preparing an attack when his bomb blew up early. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 16 -- Guerrillas killed at least 15 people in Iraq today, including three British soldiers, a day after spectacular suicide bombings struck across Baghdad. In the latest attack, gunmen killed two policemen and wounded three on the highway between Hilla and Mahaweel, south of Baghdad, a police source said. A suicide bomber in a car hit the Doura district in south Baghdad, killing three civilians and two policemen, a police source said. Violence also erupted near the northern city of Mosul. A suicide bomber strapped with explosives attacked a police station, killing four policemen, police said. Ten militants blew themselves up across Baghdad yesterday and another attacked Iskindiriya, south of the capital, killing at least 32 people, police said. The death tolls over the last two days have not been heavy by Baghdad standards but the large number of suicide bombings suggests Iraqi forces have a long way to go before stamping out its biggest security nightmare. The violence

prompted Iraqi police to tighten their grip on Baghdad but insurgents struck again in south-east Iraq, killing three British soldiers with a roadside bomb. Tense officers manned extra police checkpoints throughout the capital, journalists and drivers reported, after a series of blasts Al-Qaeda described as an offensive to seize control of the city. In Amara, in south-east Iraq, three British soldiers died in what the Ministry of Defence in London said was a suspected roadside bomb. It said the deaths brought to 92 the number of British soldiers who have died in Iraq, including 53 killed in action. Yesterday's suicide car bombs followed a thwarted triple suicide attack at a gate to Baghdad's fortified Green Zone government compound on Thursday (Jul 14). A suicide car bomb on Wednesday near a US patrol killed 27 people. -- Reuters.

Musayyib, Iraq, Jul 17 -- Stricken townspeople swept away the wreckage of a fuel truck bomb that killed 98 people south of Baghdad and three more suicide car bombers hit the Iraqi capital today in a devastating new campaign. The tribunal empowered to try war crimes issued its first charges against Saddam Hussein and said it would announce within days when the ousted dictator will stand trial for his life. The overnight attack in the highway town of Musayyib was the most lethal since the Iraqi government took power in April and the second deadliest single bombing since the war began in 2003. It prompted denunciations of the authorities in parliament and calls for local militia to take up arms. Some 15 suicide bombers have struck within just over 48 hours in the capital and along the main road south in what al-Qaeda's Iraq wing has declared is a campaign to seize Baghdad. In yesterday's attack a suicide bomber blew up a fuel truck near a crowded vegetable market outside a Shi'ite mosque in Musayyib, in a lawless area US troops call "the triangle of death." In addition to the 98 killed, hospital sources said 75 people had been wounded, 19 of whom were in serious condition. Angry crowds today railed at the authorities outside gutted buildings, while bulldozers swept aside burnt-out cars. Al-Qaeda in Iraq, which has urged militants from the Arab world to join its holy war, has said the bombings are part of a new offensive but did not explicitly claim the Musayyib attack. Three suicide car bombs, all claimed by al-Qaeda in Iraq, rocked Baghdad today, police sources said. One attack, at a police checkpoint in the east of the city, killed three people and wounded 14. The second, at a checkpoint in the south, killed one and wounded three. A third, near an election commission headquarters, killed five and wounded seven, the commission said. Yesterday, apart from the Musayyib blast, bombs killed at least 16 people across Iraq, including three British soldiers in Amara in the south and a US soldier near Kirkuk in the north. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen killed three policemen and a government employee walking to work in Baghdad, officials said today. Insurgents in a car opened fire today on a police patrol in the eastern New Baghdad neighbourhood of the capital, killing two policemen, police 1st Lt. Ali Abaas said. In a separate attack in the same neighbourhood, police Col. Alaa Hussein was killed near his home late yesterday, Abbas said. Elsewhere, insurgents today gunned down Maissa Jassim, a worker for the Iraqi Trade Minister, in the southern neighbourhood of Dora, Dr. Muhanad Jawad of the Yarmouk hospital said. Al-Qaida in Iraq reported that one of its "field commanders" had been killed by coalition forces in western Iraq, the terror group purportedly said in a statement posted on a Web site used by militants. The statement did not say when the man, Abi Salih al-Ansar, was killed. Yesterday, four suicide car bombs killed 22 people, including an attack at the offices of Iraq's electoral commission that killed five election employees and one policeman. The commission said in a statement that it "affirms its determination to continue the electoral process," including plans for a national referendum on a new constitution and balloting for a new government later this year. In a television interview scheduled for broadcast today, radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the continuing violence in Iraq was based in part on the presence of U.S. and other foreign forces. "The occupation in itself is a problem," said al-Sadr, who led an uprising against U.S. forces last year. "Iraq not being independent is the problem. And the other problems stem from that - from sectarianism to civil war, the entire American presence causes this." The Iraqi Special Tribunal yesterday filed its first criminal case against Saddam Hussein for a 1982 massacre of Shiites and said a trial date would be set within days, despite U.S. fears a trial would inflame tensions at a time the Shiite-led government is trying to lure Sunnis away from the insurgency. The tribunal said the investigation into the July 8, 1982, massacre of an estimated 150 Shiites in Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad, has been completed, and the case was referred to the courts for trial. Saddam is accused of involvement in the massacre as retaliation for a failed assassination attempt as he drove through the city. The date for the trial of Saddam and three others was expected to be determined in "the coming days," said Raid Juhi, chief judge of the tribunal.

Baquba, Jul 19 -- Gunmen in two cars attacked a minibus bringing workers to a U.S. base in Iraq today, killing 13 people, a police source said. The minibus driver and nine workers from the base were killed in the attack in Baquba, just north of the capital, after the gunmen blocked the bus and opened fire. Three other civilians died when the bus careered into their car, the Baquba police source said. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 20 -- A man strapped with explosives blew himself up among a group of Iraqi army recruits in Baghdad today, killing six people and wounding 25, police and hospital officials said. Police sources said the bomber mingled with a crowd outside the recruiting centre at an abandoned airfield in the Muthana district of central Baghdad before detonating an explosive belt. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 20 -- Gunmen shot dead two Sunni Arab members of a committee drafting Iraq's new constitution and an aide yesterday, striking a blow against the body seen as the best hope for providing a political end to an insurgency. Drawing Sunni Arabs onto the committee, due to deliver a new constitution by Aug. 15, was the cornerstone of a U.S.-backed strategy of persuading members of the restive minority to resolve problems through peaceful politics. The United States condemned the killings and said it hoped they would not derail Iraq's political process. Sheikh Mujbil al-Sheikh Isa, Dhamin Hussein Ileywi and Aziz Ibrahim were gunned down as they left a restaurant in Baghdad's central Karrada district. Isa and Ileywi were full-fledged members of the 71-strong constitutional committee and Ibrahim was described by political allies as a member of an advisory body helping them. In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the killings as a criminal act and hoped they would not deter the constitutional committee from completing its important task on time, said U.N. spokeswoman Marie Okabe. Salih al-Mutlaq, spokesman for the Iraqi National Dialogue, a Sunni umbrella group representing the three men, said the government was to blame for failing to keep them safe. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Nearly 25,000 civilians have died violently in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, a report says. The dossier, based on media reports, says US-led forces were responsible for more than a third of the deaths. The survey was carried out by the UK-based Iraq Body Count and Oxford Research Group - which includes academics and peace activists. The Iraqi government criticised their conclusions, saying Iraqis were most at risk from terrorists who target them. The Dossier on Civilian Casualties in Iraq 2003-2005 says 37% of all non-combatant deaths were caused by the US-led coalition. Most of these occurred during the invasion phase, which it counts as ending on May 1, 2003. But killings by anti-occupation and criminal elements also increased steadily over the entire two-year period. Insurgents are said to have caused 9% of the deaths, while post-invasion criminal violence was responsible for another 36%. The number of civilians who have died has almost doubled in the second year from the first, according to the report. Almost a fifth of the 24,865 deaths

were women or children and nearly half of all the civilian deaths were reported in the capital Baghdad. "On average, 34 ordinary Iraqis have met violent deaths every day since the invasion of March 2003," said John Sloboda, one of the authors of the report. "The root cause of Iraq's suffering is terrorism, inherited from Saddam's fascist regime and from mistaken fundamentalist ideology. Everybody knows that international forces are necessary in Iraq, on a temporary basis and they will leave Iraq at a time chosen by Iraqis, not in response to terrorist pressure," Mr Sloboda said. The IBC wants to see an independent commission set up in Iraq to give the best estimate of civilian deaths and full details of how each person died. Human rights groups say the occupying powers in Iraq have failed in their duty to catalogue the deaths of civilians. But the US and Britain say the chaos of war-torn Iraq has made it impossible to get accurate information. More than 1,700 US soldiers and dozens of other coalition troops are known to have died. The Iraqi government says 1,300 Iraqi police and military have been killed since security forces were set up in late 2003. But US think-tank the Brookings Institute puts the figure at almost twice this number. More than half of all civilian deaths were said to have been caused by explosive devices, which disproportionately affected children. At least 42,500 civilians were reported to have been injured.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least eight Iraqis have died in a series of attacks by Iraqi insurgents in and around Baghdad. A suicide car bomber attacked an army patrol in Mahmoudiya, 30km south of Baghdad, killing five soldiers and wounding nine. A policeman was killed and eight others wounded by a car bomb in the capital, and two civilians died in a separate attack, also in the capital. Reports speak of a series of attacks across Iraq killing six others. As the wave of attacks continues, a newly-declassified assessment by the US Defense Department says about half of Iraq's new police battalions are still being established and cannot conduct operations against insurgents, the News York Times has reported. The report goes on to say that the other half of the police force and about two-thirds of the army are only "partially capable" of carrying out operations against insurgents with the help of US forces. The newspaper comments that this is the most detailed assessment of the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces by the Pentagon. The current policy if the US administration is that the 150,000 US servicemen in Iraq will remain there until the Iraqi security forces are ready to provide security in Iraq. (See issue of Jul 21.)

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two Algerian diplomats in Iraq have been kidnapped in Baghdad, police say. An Algerian embassy employee confirmed that mission chief Balarousi Ali had

been abducted. Police say the top envoy and a diplomatic aide were seized outside a restaurant in the western Mansour district by attackers in two cars. The capture follows the abduction and killing earlier this month of Egypt's ambassador-designate in Iraq, which has been claimed by insurgents. Days after Ihab al-Sherif's kidnapping, gunmen attacked vehicles carrying Pakistani and Bahraini diplomats in Iraq. Officials say insurgents have launched attacks on diplomats to try to dissuade Arab countries from raising the level of their diplomatic representation. The Algerian embassy employee told the Associated Press that staff had no further information on today's incident. A third Algerian diplomat who witnessed the capture told AFP news agency that he had seen the attackers pull the men out of their car, without firing shots.

ISRAEL

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops yesterday sealed off a cluster of Gaza Strip settlements marked for evacuation to stop the influx of hard-line opponents, the government's most sweeping measure yet to prepare for next month's pullout. Settlers responded defiantly, threatening to block roads throughout Israel and to step up other protests. After nightfall, Gaza settlers and protesters blocked the Kissufim crossing point into Gush Katif, the main settlement bloc, from both sides and scuffled with police, witnesses said. No one was hurt. Also yesterday, Israeli troops reoccupied the northern West Bank town of Tulkarem in response to a suicide bombing that killed four Israeli women in the resort town of Netanya a day earlier. A firefight between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police in Tulkarem left one police officer dead and a second critically wounded. Soldiers arrested six people, including the father of the bomber. Palestinian officials strongly condemned the bombing. Palestinian officials, as well as most militant groups, want to maintain calm ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements next month. Early today, Palestinian witnesses said that Israeli soldiers shot a local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade. They said the troops entered a house in the West Bank cith of Nablus where Mohammed Alasi was meeting with someone and opened fire as he tried to flee. The witnesses and Israeli military officials said Alasi was killed. In preparation for the pullout, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the settlements closed to all nonresidents. Residents would still be able to move in and out of the settlements freely, the army said. Soldiers set up roadblocks at the Kissufim crossing into the Gush Katif cluster of settlements in Gaza to enforce the order, causing a traffic jam of settler cars, army trucks and police vehicles. The soldiers turned away anyone without a residence permit.

Some drivers argued, screaming at police that they had driven great distances to be there, but most left quietly. In recent months, scores of pullout opponents moved into empty houses and tents in the settlements, and others were planning to march en masse into Gush Katif on Monday (Jul 18) and remain there to resist the pullout. "The closure decision was made because of the constant flow of extremists into Gaza in order to be there on D-Day and to try to sabotage the pullout," said Maj Gen Dan Harel, the regional Israeli army commander. Later yesterday, police raided the offices of the National Home, an anti-pullout group, arresting an 18-year-old woman suspected of co-ordinating the settlers' road-blocking campaign, said police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby. Some settlers also criticised the government for ordering the closure a day after the deadly suicide bombing in Netanya shook a five-month-old truce between Israel and the Palestinians. In response to the bombing, Sharon ordered security forces to "hit the leadership of Islamic Jihad. We will not stop until they stop the terrorist murders," he said. Early yesterday, Israeli troops took control of the West Bank town of Tulkarem, declaring a curfew and conducting house-to-house searches in pursuit of the bombing's masterminds. Israel handed Tulkarem to Palestinian control four months ago as part of a gradual Israeli withdrawal from West Bank cities. Israeli Cabinet ministers said yesterday the process had been frozen. The army's operation began early yesterday when undercover troops stormed a Palestinian checkpoint, Palestinian security officials said. The police opened fire when they did not recognise the armed men dressed in civilian clothes as Israeli soldiers. The soldiers returned fire, killing one police officers and critically wounding a second. Minutes later, a large Israeli force flooded Tulkarem and an adjacent refugee camp. "The specific goal of this operation is to destroy the Palestinian Islamic Jihad infrastructure in Tulkarem and its surroundings," Brig Gen Yair Golan, a West Bank military commander, told Israel's Army Radio. International pressure also grew on Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to take action against Islamic Jihad. Abbas, who harshly condemned the bombing, has preferred to try to co-opt the militant groups, fearing a crackdown would spark a civil war.

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Israeli helicopters carried out air raids against four targets in Gaza early today, retaliating for a Palestinian rocket attack that killed a young Israeli woman. The surge in violence shook a five-month truce already threatened this week by a suicide bombing. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas declared a state of emergency in Gaza in light of the deteriorating situation there, Israeli media reported today. Two rockets exploded yesterday afternoon in the village of Nativ

Haasara, one of them hitting a house and killing a woman in her 20s, the military said. The second destroyed a parked car. Rockets also hit an army base and a Gaza settlement, slightly wounding several Israelis, according to the military and media reports. A Palestinian militant group, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, said the attacks were its response to the Israeli killing of a militant earlier in the day. The Islamic Hamas also claimed responsibility, according to media reports. The army said the man killed in Nablus was a local militant leader and was planning attacks against Israel. Israel responded to the woman's death with helicopter attacks against the four sites in Gaza, witnesses said. Three missiles struck a building used by Hamas as a cultural centre in northern Gaza, residents said. In the south, witnesses said the choppers fired on two sites used by Palestinians to launch rockets against settlements. Then helicopters fired missiles at a metal workshop in central Gaza. The Israeli military said the targets in the two southern Gaza raids were also used by militants to store weapons, and the metal workshop was used for making weapons. The military had no comment about the northern Gaza raid. Earlier, the Israeli military posted roadblocks on main Gaza roads, cutting the narrow seaside strip into three parts. David Baker, an official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office, charged that the Palestinian Authority was responsible because of its "refusal to fight terror." He added, "We will not allow our citizens to be murdered, and if the Palestinian Authority doesn't take necessary steps to prevent terror, we will." Palestinian Interior Minister Nasser Yousef ordered his police to stop the rocket fire. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians have an interest in maintaining the calm at least until Israel completes its pullout from Gaza and part of the West Bank in the summer. In a confrontation at nightfall, Palestinian police shot and wounded five Hamas gunmen who refused to stop at a northern Gaza roadblock, security officials said. Gunmen then attacked police stations with gunfire and grenades. No injuries were reported. Abbas, who harshly condemned the suicide bombing on Tuesday (Jul 12) that killed five people, also criticized the Israeli raid into Nablus and called on all sides to show restraint. Islamic Jihad has attacked several Israeli targets in recent months, including the suicide bombing outside a shopping mall in the Israeli seaside city of Netanya on Tuesday evening. The fifth victim, a soldier, died yesterday. After the bombing, Sharon ordered his security forces to target Islamic Jihad leaders. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has told Abbas he must take immediate action to find and prosecute those responsible for the suicide bombing. Soldiers surrounded the Nablus house where Alassi was staying yesterday and demanded he

surrender, said Maj. Sharon Asman. Alassi and another militant fled, and the soldiers ordered them to stop. One man returned to the house and was arrested, but Alassi continued running and was shot and killed, he said. The raid took place at the home of Hannah Alassi, 67, a British citizen who moved to Nablus in 2002 and was not related to the fugitive. The army said Hannah Alassi was an activist who gave refuge to militants. Hannah Alassi said she was a journalist who made television documentaries and filed stories to radio stations and magazines on the Middle East conflict. The upsurge in violence comes a month before Israel's pullout from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank.

Gaza, Jul 16 -- Hamas vowed revenge against Israel today after seven of its gunmen were killed in an upsurge of violence that has brought a truce close to collapse a month before Israel's planned pullout from the Gaza Strip. "Revenge, revenge," shouted thousands of mourners in Gaza at the funerals of four of the gunmen killed yesterday in missile strikes launched after a barrage of Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel which killed one woman. The flare-up of violence, which began on Tuesday (Jul 12) when a Palestinian suicide bomber killed five Israelis in the town of Netanya, has undermined a truce declared by Israel and the Palestinian Authority in February. It has also raised the prospect of a disruption to Israel's planned evacuation of 9,000 settlers from all 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank next month which had stirred new hopes of reviving Middle East peace. Israel stepped up its air strikes last night, pounding three workshops the army said were used by Hamas to produce weapons and officials vowed to keep targeting gunmen to prevent rocket attacks ahead of next month's pullout from occupied Gaza. Militants hit back hours later, firing two rockets at the Israeli town of Sderot near Gaza today. One rocket slammed into the courtyard of a house but no one was hurt. Palestinian officials said the Israeli missile strikes were unjustified and would upset a calm declared by militant groups in February. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the army would put a stop to rocket barrages by Gaza militants ahead of the pullout. "The pullout can not commence under fire," Sharon told Channel 2 television in an interview last night. Israeli military officials have said in the past they would carry out wide-scale raids and possibly reoccupy Palestinian areas near the settlements due to be evacuated to prevent the withdrawal from taking place under fire. Palestinian residents said dozens of Israeli tanks poured into Gaza yesterday as news reports quoted Israeli security sources as saying the Jewish state might raid militant strongholds in the coming days to stop the rocket launches. The Israeli army also arrested 26 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants across the West Bank in one of the largest arrest operations

since the ceasefire was declared. Of the seven dead Hamas militants, one was killed by an Israeli missile in the West Bank yesterday. Troops shot his comrade dead after he escaped and fired at them. A third gunman later died of wounds in an Israeli hospital, the army said. A second raid killed four gunmen in a car in Gaza, which Hamas officials said carried makeshift rockets. A Palestinian youth also died from his wounds sustained during stone-throwing clashes that erupted near the site of the West Bank missile attack, Palestinian sources said. It has carried out a majority of the recent rocket and mortar attacks on Israeli towns and villages near Gaza and Jewish settlements over the past two days. The army said 30 rockets and 61 mortars have been fired in the past 48 hours.-- Reuters.

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Palestinian militant group Hamas says it will uphold an unofficial truce that is on the verge of collapse amid an upsurge of violence in Gaza. Hamas said it was committed to a conditional calm but retained a right to "resistance and self-defence". Israel has massed thousands of troops on Gaza's border and threatens to move in if Hamas launches any more attacks. Meanwhile 20,000 police will be used to stop a march by groups opposed to Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza. Thousands of Israelis are expected to try to start a three-day protest march from the town of Netivot in the western Negev region to a Gaza border crossing, despite a police ban. The Israeli army has banned all non-residents from accessing the 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza that are slated for evacuation in mid-August. The march was due to start this evening, but there are already reports of security forces clashing with settlers trying to break through a blockade. Palestinian militants continued rocket and mortar fire on Israeli targets overnight, but the salvos appeared to have diminished in intensity, correspondents say. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has said his Palestinian Authority will do all it can to prevent rocket attacks being fired at Israeli targets by Hamas. After meeting with Egyptian mediators, Hamas official Saeed Seyam said the group was committed to the truce, but had the right to retaliate for Israeli violations. "If the enemy halts its attacks, we won't have to retaliate any more, even though we are continuing to resist," Mr Seyam said. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has promised a "strong and harsh" response to the attacks if they do not stop, said he had told military officials "that there are to be no restraints on our operations". Israel and Palestinian militants have blamed each other for the breakdown of a months-long truce last week. Yesterday, several Israelis were injured by Palestinian fire on two Jewish settlements, Neve Dekalim and Gush Katif. There have also been well over 100 Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli targets in and around Gaza in

recent days. The Israeli army said it shot dead a Palestinian man as he approached the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, just south of Gaza City. Earlier, Israeli forces killed a local commander of the Palestinian militant group, Hamas in the town of Khan Younis. Palestinian security forces say he was targeted by an Israeli sniper operating from a settlement. An Israeli aircraft also fired a missile at a car in the northern Gaza Strip. Witnesses said the occupants escaped, but a bystander was wounded.

Jerusalem, Jul 19 -- Israeli troops killed two Palestinian militants in a raid today near the West Bank town of Jenin, Israel Radio reported. The radio said the men were senior members of Islamic Jihad wanted by Israel and two other militants were arrested in the operation in the village of Yamoun. The army had no immediate comment. Israeli military sources said only that there had been "military action" near Jenin. -- Reuters.

Gaza, Jul 20 -- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction and Hamas militants agreed today to stop fighting each other after clashes that marked the worst domestic violence in years. Internal confrontation also touched Israel, where thousands of rightists and police scuffled after security forces blocked a planned march by protesters trying to disrupt Israel's pullout from the occupied Gaza Strip in mid-August. In Gaza, Fatah and Hamas leaders agreed to end internal street fighting that erupted last week when Abbas ordered his forces to stop rocket attacks by militants who killed a woman inside Israel. "The movements have agreed to stop all clashes and violence and end all armed presence and all issues that may lead to tension between the two sides," senior Fatah leader and Palestinian cabinet minister Sufian Abu Zaida said. Two teenagers were killed in clashes last week. About 13 were wounded in gunbattles yesterday. Gunmen said the rocket fire was in response to Israeli killings of militants. Israel stepped up attacks against militant groups after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed five Israelis in an attack on the coastal town of Netanya last week. Any surge of violence could complicate Israel's plan to give up Gaza, removing settlers for the first time from land where Palestinians want a state, but Sharon has pledged to push ahead even if there are attacks. At the same time, he faces a tough internal challenge from ultranationalists opposed to giving up any of the territory Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The plan faces a new political test today when Israel's parliament votes on a bill to postpone the withdrawal. Sharon is expected to win the vote, but political analysts say it could fuel acrimony in his fractured Likud party. A standoff also continued outside the Gaza Strip between police and protesters who have camped out there, vowing to defy a ban and march on the main settlement bloc in order to hamper the withdrawal. The village of

Kfar Maimon was the scene of scuffles yesterday when police told demonstrators to leave. The settlements were closed to non-residents last week to prevent an influx of pullout opponents. To try to ensure that all goes smoothly during and after the withdrawal, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is due in the region tomorrow on a visit that was arranged hastily last week when a five-month old truce looked in danger of collapse. -- Reuters.

IVORY COAST

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Ivory Coast's leader Laurent Gbagbo has used a presidential decree to introduce legal reforms which northern rebels were demanding as part of a peace deal. Mr Gbagbo said the changes, including new nationality laws and the setting up of an independent electoral commission, would take immediate effect. The New Forces rebels had refused to disarm until the reforms were made. Mr Gbagbo's ruling FPI party is hostile to the reforms agreed to in the South Africa brokered peace deal and had been blocking the law reforms in the country's National Assembly. However, Mr Gbagbo's use of exceptional constitutional powers to push them through could now lead to disarmament and pave the way for presidential elections in October. Mr Gbagbo has used such a decree before to settle other rebel demands. In April, he allowed opposition leader Alassane Ouattara to bid for election, which he had been prevented from doing in 2000 because his parents were not both Ivorian. However, nationality is a touchy subject in a country where 26% of the residents are considered foreign. The rebels say the constitution discriminates against people from the mainly Muslim north, making it hard for people of foreign descent to get Ivorian citizenship. Disarmament is due to start at the end of this month.

KENYA

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A raid by hundreds of Ethiopian bandits on a remote village in northern Kenya, and reprisals by tribesmen and Kenyan security forces, left at least 71 people dead, including more than two dozen children, police said yesterday. Armed with guns and spears, the bandits attacked villagers in Turbi, a remote area of Kenya about 350 miles north-east of the capital, Nairobi, on Tuesday (Jul 12) killing 45 civilians and stealing thousands of farm animals, police spokesman Jasper Ombati said yesterday. The Roman Catholic Information Service said at least 52 villagers were killed. The assailants hacked to death and slashed the throats of at least two dozen children at a boarding school in the village, while most of the adults were shot, said medical workers at Wilson Airport, where 10 critically injured victims were being flown to Nairobi for treatment. The attackers

lingered the entire day in the village, shooting and hacking anyone on sight because security forces were slow to respond, according to the Catholic Information Service. Kenyan security forces pursued the bandits, who numbered between 300 and 500, and killed 16 of them, the deputy Eastern Province police chief, Gerald Oluoch, said in a police report. The security forces also recovered 5,000 sheep and 200 cattle. In an apparent reprisal, men believed to be from the Gabra tribe killed 10 members of the rival Borana tribe yesterday as they were being driven to a seminar in Marsabit, 250 miles north-east of Nairobi, Ombati said. Rev. Aldrin J. Anito, an Italian priest, was driving them when he found the road blocked by stones, Ombati said. The men at the roadblock asked Anito what tribe the passengers belonged to. On hearing they were Boranas, the attackers killed the 10 passengers, two men, four women and four children, with crude weapons, Ombati said in a statement. The priest was unhurt. Ombati said security forces interpreted the killings as a revenge attack but he did not explain the link to the raid by Ethiopian bandits. Said Wabera, a Gabra from the northern Marsabit district where the attacks occurred, said the Ethiopian bandits were Boranas as well, which could have the reason for the attacks. Boranas and Gabras live both in Ethiopia and Kenya. "Small raids occur between us, but the killings yesterday were the biggest," Aden Mohamed, 55, said at Wilson airport while waiting to see relatives who were among the critically injured. President Mwai Kibaki condemned the attacks and appealed for calm in brief remarks sent by the Presidential Press Service. Ombati said no arrests have been made and the attackers were believed to have crossed over to Ethiopia.

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of villagers in northern Kenya have fled their homes in fear as new inter-clan violence wracks parts of the region after a massacre and reprisal attack killed at least 76 people this week. Some 2,000 people from isolated communities have sought shelter from potential revenge violence in Marsabit, the regional hub about 150 kilometres south of the village of Turbi where Tuesday's (Jul 12) raid took place. "About 2,000 people have moved into Majengo area here," Roba Elema, a police reservist, said. "There is real fear here, but there are very few GSU (General Service Unit) officers." The GSU is Kenya's highly-trained paramilitary police force that has been deployed in the semi-arid region near the Ethiopian border to catch the perpetrators of Tuesday's massacre and ensure security in the wake of the violence.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jul 21 -- Philippine communist rebels have dropped any plans to resume peace talks with the administration of President Gloria

Macapagal Arroyo, preferring to wait for a new government, a newspaper quoted a rebel leader as saying. Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator for the Netherlands-based National Democratic Front (NDF), told the Philippine Daily Inquirer there was no point in resuming the stalled talks because the Arroyo administration was not going to last much longer. "There can be no meaningful peace talks with this administration," today's Inquirer quoted Jalandoni, a former Catholic priest, as saying by telephone from the Dutch city of Utrecht where he lives in exile. "After this administration is replaced, then we can iron out kinks in the peace talks." Arroyo is facing the worst crisis of her four-year presidency as the opposition prepares to file an impeachment complaint against her following allegations of electoral fraud and graft within her family. Talks to end the conflict, one of the most resilient and longest rebellions in Asia that has killed more than 40,000 people and deterred investment, have been stalled since mid-2004. The rebels said they wanted the removal of the terrorist label placed on them by Washington before resuming formal talks brokered by Norway. -- Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 420 metre-long section of gas pipeline has been cut off and stolen in Grozny, capital of the rebel Caucasian republic of Chechnya, Ria-Novosti news agency cited an official from the Chechen interior ministry as saying on condition of anonymity. The people responsible for the theft have not been found.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ten people have been killed when a police jeep was blown up by rebels in Russia's Chechnya. A spokesman for the regional government says the explosion took place in the Znamenskoye settlement, about 60 kilometres north-west of the regional capital, Grozny. There are reports that at least five other people have been wounded. The administration spokesman says the police jeep first of all came under fire, then was blown up near a school. "According to preliminary information, two of the dead are policemen and the rest could be local people," the spokesman said.

SRI LANKA

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels carried out another bomb attack today in Sri Lanka's restive north-eastern district of Trincomalee, wounding nine civilians and a soldier, military officials said. The pre-dawn attack in the town of Muttur came hot on the heels of two other attacks in the same district yesterday wounding 13 policemen and a soldier. Police and security forces have rushed reinforcements to Trincomalee since yesterday's attack on a Tamil Tiger office where four people, including two senior cadres, were killed. The Tigers

warned after that attack that they were being provoked to break a Norwegian-brokered truce.

THAILAND

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Islamic separatists set off five bombs and exchanged gunfire with security personnel in an attack yesterday in Muslim-dominated southern Thailand, killing a police officer and wounding 19 other people. Regional army commander Lt. Gen. Kwanchart Krahnarn said the attacks in the provincial capital, Yala, were well-coordinated and appeared to target civilians. At the start of the attacks yesterday evening, the militants knocked out a power station with a bomb, causing a blackout, said Col. Kittit Intason, a senior officer in a special task force for dealing with violence in the south. Electricity was restored to some areas about two hours after the attacks.

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Thailand's Cabinet today imposed emergency rule in three provinces in the Muslim-dominated south, letting authorities detain suspects without charge and censor the media as the military battles an 18-month insurgency. The declaration, which took immediate effect, came under a new decree that grants Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra sweeping authority to combat the insurgency, which has left 900 people dead since it began. Critics say the decree was enacted too hastily and gives Thaksin too much power at the expense of human and civil rights. The declaration covers Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani, the only Muslim-dominated provinces in mostly Buddhist Thailand. The decree, which lets Thaksin unilaterally declare emergency rule, was signed into law by the country's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej. "We will use the least power provided by this decree in order to least affect civil liberties, but we aim to use this law to create peace in the southern provinces," said Interior Minister Chitchai Wannasathit. The decree follows Islamic insurgents' raid Thursday (Jul 13) on Yala's capital, where they destroyed electrical transformers to plunge the city into blackness, then set off firebombs and other explosives around town and fired automatic weapons at security forces before escaping.

TOGO

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Togo security forces and allied militia fighters have killed at least 150 people since April elections, Amnesty International said in a report released yesterday. The London-based rights group said witnesses told investigators of bodies being buried or dumped in morgues anonymously and that the number of people killed is likely to be "much, much higher." At least 22 people were earlier confirmed killed in violence since Apr 24 elections won by Faure

Gnassingbe, son of the late 38-year dictator Gnassingbe Eyadema.

TURKEY

London, Jul 16 -- Five British nationals were seriously injured in a minibus blast in the western Turkish resort of Kusadasi today which killed an Irish woman and three other people, the Foreign Office said. A sixth British national suffered minor injuries but there were not believed to be any British fatalities, a Foreign Office spokeswoman said. British Foreign Minister Jack Straw said Britain's ambassador to Turkey, Peter Westmacott, was on his way to Kusadasi, some 70 km from Izmir. -- Reuters.

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Jul 17 -- Turkish soldiers have killed 10 Kurdish guerrillas in a clash in a remote area of southeast Turkey, local officials said today. The troops pursued militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in a rural area of Sirkat Province neighbouring Iraq and were involved in a firefight after they failed to surrender. The soldiers seized a rocket launcher, rifles, hand grenades and 25 kg of plastic explosives during the four-day operation, the Sirkat governor's office said in a statement. The clash coincided with a bomb attack in western Turkey which killed five people and which officials have reportedly blamed on the PKK. British Ambassador Peter Westmacott, visiting casualties from the bombing, told the BBC authorities believed the PKK had planted the bomb. A top PKK official has condemned the attack. -- Reuters.

UGANDA

Kampala, Jul 16 -- Tribal warriors firing automatic rifles killed seven Ugandan soldiers in a raid on a barracks in the impoverished north-western Karamoja region, the army said today. A spokesman denied local reports the death toll was higher and that civilians, including children and a teacher, had been killed in the fighting. "There was no crossfire. It was one fire against the other, so there could not have been civilian casualties," said Lieutenant-Colonel Shaban Bantariza. He said four troops died at the scene of the attack Wednesday (Jul 13) in Nabilatuk, Nakapiritpirit district, and three others later died from their wounds. Ten soldiers were injured. Karamoja is the poorest part of Uganda, with much worse malnutrition and literacy rates than elsewhere in the country. It is also plagued by cattle rustlers who have taken up firearms in recent years. Local officials said fighters from the Pian ethnic group accused Uganda's military of siding with the neighbouring Bokora following cattle raids this month by both Karamojong clans that involved several hundred livestock. The army denied it. Uganda's military launched a new disarmament exercise last year aimed at seizing more than 40,000 illegal firearms thought to be in the hands of Karamojong warriors. However, many

of the fighters have vowed to keep their guns, saying that without them they will be attacked by other clans, and by rival pastoralists from neighbouring Kenya and Sudan. -- Reuters.

YEMEN

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 13 people were killed in clashes with police in Yemen today after rioters smashed government offices and set fires in response to a sharp rise in fuel prices. The clashes were the heaviest death toll in Yemen protests since 1998 when 34 people died in two weeks of demonstrations and violent clashes over price hikes. Thousands of protesters in the capital, Sanaa, smashed furniture in government offices, blocked roads with flaming tyres, and knocked out electricity transformers in some areas. Rioters also wrecked stores, cars and restaurants before anti-riot police, backed by security forces, deployed in large numbers to stop the violence. Police fired shots in the air and used tear gas to disperse protesters hurling stones at the offices of Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Bagammal and ambulances rushed injured to hospital. But it was not clear if the casualties were caused by police who opened fire at the protesters or by armed demonstrators in a country where civilians often carry arms. Witnesses and medics reported similar protests in three other towns, including the town of Dhala in south Yemen where seven of the 13 dead were killed, including one policeman. Yemenis were protesting against a government announcement yesterday to cut fuel subsidies as part of a 1995 reform program backed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

ZIMBABWE

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A shortage of fuel has forced Zimbabwe's national airline to cancel some of its domestic and international flights, state media reports. Two weeks ago, two Air Zimbabwe planes were grounded because of a shortage of spare parts, the official Herald newspaper reports. There have been extreme fuel shortages in Zimbabwe for months, with petrol stations remaining dry for weeks. Last week, Zimbabwe requested emergency economic help from South Africa. Zimbabwe has had a shortfall of foreign currency for several years and has been struggling to pay for imports, such as fuel. Yesterday, Air Zimbabwe confirmed it was forced to suspend some of its flights because of the fuel shortages. "We did not have our full operation because we didn't have sufficient fuel," spokesman David Mwenga told the Herald. "Some flights were suspended while some are operational as usual," he added without giving further details. The Herald quoted an official at the national carrier as saying the cancelled flights included those to the

resort town of Victoria Falls, South Africa and London. A London-bound flight was delayed yesterday for nearly seven hours as "officials ran around to find the scarce commodity", the paper said.

Kidnappings



MEXICO

Mexico City, Jul 19 -- The coach of one of Mexico's most popular soccer teams was feared kidnapped today after he was whisked away following a training session, a club director said. Cruz Azul coach Ruben Omar Romano was dragged from a van in the suburbs of Mexico City shortly after team practice, bundled into another vehicle and had not been seen since, club vice president Alfredo Alvarez told local radio. The capital city's media reported several bullet holes in Romano's abandoned vehicle, but it was not known whether the man who joined the club last December had been injured. "They tell us there was a problem -- five people arrived, they forced him from the van and took him away in another vehicle," Alvarez said. As police, who maintain permanent surveillance at the first division side's training ground, began investigations, Romano's father made a plea for the abductors not to harm his 47-year-old son, who has lived in Mexico for several years. Mexico is second in the world for kidnappings after Colombia and abductions are common in the capital, where criminal gangs abduct anyone from executives to housewives, sometimes killing their victims even after a ransom is paid. As coach of one of Mexico's top clubs, Romano could earn a monthly salary of up to \$100,000, a small fortune in a country where many live in poverty. -- Reuters.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Starting this weekend (Jul 16-17), the Port of Vancouver will refuse to handle incoming ship cargo packed in containers meant to be transported by truck. Shipping lines that use the port have been told Centerm Terminals can't handle the backlog. Vanterm and Deltaport terminals are expected to follow suit next week. The move comes as the three-week-old strike by local truckers continues, with no end in sight. At the Vancouver Port Authority, spokesman Duncan Wilson says dealing with the pile of containers that is building up at

Centerm is going to be a challenge. The strike by truckers who haul containers around the Lower Mainland is now causing backups in the system. The ships will still come and off load their rail-bound containers. That accounts for 67% of the port's daily container movement. But the other containers which normally go out on 27 trucks every day will have to arrive somewhere else. Meanwhile, talks between the truckers and shipping companies over rising fuel rates continue with a mediator. Wilson says the Truckers should return to work immediately because their issues are big picture items that need to be worked out over time.

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Canada-bound vessels from Asia may be diverted to Seattle and Tacoma because of a strike by truckers that haul cargo containers at the port of Vancouver, officials say. Terminal Systems Inc., Vancouver's largest container operator, will run out of room for containers that have been piling up since the strike began Jun 25, said Morley Strachan, vice president of business development. The strike has halted the shipment of about \$30 million (US\$25 million) worth of goods a day, so far affecting mainly store owners and consumers in British Columbia but raising the possibility that shipping business from Asia might go through US ports, Wilson said.

London, Jul 18 -- Following received from the U.S. Customs & Border Protection dated Jul 15: On Jun 27, the Vancouver Container Truck Association (VCTA) established informational pickets at access points to container terminals in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. The VCTA consists of approximately 1,200 independent truck drivers who stopped hauling goods on Jun 24, 2005 (after months of failed negotiations) in support of calls for higher transportation rates and a 15% surcharge to cover rising fuel costs. Starting this weekend (Jul 16-17), the Port of Vancouver may start refusing truck-bound cargo arriving on container ships. Terminals are doing this in order to ensure that there is sufficient room on the dock to process cargo destined for rail, which represents 67% of import containers. In anticipation that vessels will be diverting to other U.S. ports, the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Manifest and Conveyance Branch (Headquarters), has posted a message to TECS Daily News to provide guidance for any diversions that occur this weekend. It should be noted that all diverted cargo is subject to normal CBP processes, including targeting and enforcement exams (VACIS), at the actual port of discharge. For vessels that meet all of the following conditions, the carriers will be allowed to discharge containers where the port of unloading is Vancouver, B.C. on the bill of lading, and CBP Port Directors will not issue penalties for Trade Act timeliness violations: The carrier has transmitted cargo information to CBP

via Sea AMS reflecting the U.S. port of unloading (diversion port) where the shipments will be discharged. CBP Officers have the opportunity to screen the cargo and none of the shipments are determined to be of such high risk that discharge would not be authorized. For cargo that would have been subject to a "DO NOT LOAD" order had the information been transmitted 24 hours prior to lading in the foreign port, CBP may deny permission for the carrier to unlade the cargo. Under no circumstances will unscreened cargo be discharged in the U.S. The estimated date of arrival in Vancouver, B.C. is Jul 18, 2005, or later. The vessel has departed from the last foreign port of the voyage prior to Canada and is en route to Vancouver, B.C. The Port Director has approved the carrier's request for the diversion. Requests for diversion within the Area Port of Seattle should be submitted via an updated CF 3171 to the Vessel Entrance and Clearance Officer (VECS).

Vancouver, Jul 19 -- Workers at Teck Cominco's big lead and zinc smelting complex in Trail, British Columbia, went on strike today over stalled wage talks, leading the company to idle the plant and declare force majeure. The United Steelworkers union said that, as planned, 1,140 production and maintenance workers and 170 office and technical employees had walked off the job in the first strike at the site in 15 years. The large Trail operation produces about three percent of the world's refined zinc. Talks on a new labour contract broke down last week despite the efforts of a mediator. Teck Cominco spokesman Mark Edwards said the temporary shutdown of the processing plant, which takes a few days to complete, started on Friday (Jul 15) when the union served the world's biggest zinc producer with 72 hours' strike notice. The company late today said it had declared a force majeure on all metal and chemical sales, meaning it would be unable to fulfill contracts due to forces beyond its control. It said deliveries would continue until inventories were depleted and that concentrates would continue to be received and stored. Edwards said no formal talks were scheduled between the union and company but that there had been some "discussion informally." The mediator was still available for talks. He said several hundred workers had formed orderly picket lines at key places at the plant. Teck Cominco, which is the world's biggest zinc miner, has downplayed the financial impact of the shutdown. It said it will earn money by selling electricity from the plant's hydro-electric facility, power that would normally have been used to run the smelter and refinery. Canaccord Capital analyst Greg Barnes estimated that a one-month smelter closure would cut Teck Cominco's third quarter earnings by between three and five Canadian cents a share. His third-quarter earnings forecast is C\$1.53 per share. Barnes said the company had told him that, depending on the

duration of the strike, it would stockpile its mined concentrate and would not try to sell it to another smelter. The Steelworkers said today the company had demanded its workforce take concessions, but the workers want a share of the profits the firm has raked in after record-high production and strong metals prices. The company said it has offered wage increases of eight percent over three years and a six percent increase in pensions.

CYPRUS

Limassol, Jul 15 -- Five thousand truck drivers are on strike for an indefinite period of time as declared until their demands, are met. The strike which is on its third day today affects the movement of cargoes out of the two ports in Cyprus. Also the supply of materials to the building industry and raw materials to the industry. If the strike continues it will seriously affect the economy of the country. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Jul 21 -- Truck drivers returned to work today after eight days of strike following late night agreement with the Government for further negotiations on the license and regulation issues. Both sides agreed on a time frame ending Jul 28 when truck drivers will decide for further action. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated Jul 15, states: The government today claimed that the tea impasse was nearing an end and both garden employers and Writers' Buildings expressed hope of a breakthrough tomorrow. "Today's discussions were fruitful and positive. A solution is in sight and is likely to emerge tomorrow," commerce and industries secretary Sabyasachi Sen said after a tripartite meeting this evening. The five-day-old strike by 3.5 lakh labourers has crippled work in the 350-odd tea gardens in the state.

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A near week-long strike which has paralysed over 300 tea plantations in the Indian state of West Bengal was set to continue as employers rejected a demand for higher wages, officials said. State Labour Minister Mohammed Amin said the talks the government had brokered late Saturday (Jul 16) between the tea plantation employers and the workers union had collapsed. "The talks broke down as the tea garden owners were simply not willing to hike wages given the tough operating environment and the losses the industry has been suffering in over the last five years," Amin said yesterday. Workers are demanding higher wages but the industry, hit by falling international demand, lower auction prices and rising production costs wants wages linked to productivity -- a stance rejected by the unions. The strike comes amid reports of increasing problems on Indian tea plantations in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in West Bengal and

northeastern state of Assam. Attacks against plantation owners and managers by workers are on the rise as falling tea prices have led to hundreds of workers being laid off with wages unpaid. According to Alope Chakraborty, the the assistant secretary of the National Union of Plantation Workers, nearly half a million tea pickers had "no alternative" but go on the strike. The Indian Tea Association has estimated losses at around 200 million rupees (4.6 million dollars) a day due to the strike.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Some 3,500 workers at the Gurgaon plant of Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) near New Delhi have been on strike for a month demanding the reinstatement of 24 suspended workers, including four union leaders. The company suspended the workers on various grounds after they demanded higher wages. The Honda plant, was set up four years ago and has a production capacity of 2,000 units per day. The company has lost around \$US200 million due to the strike. Management is trying to break the workers' action by using intimidation and threatening to sack the strikers. Police have been heavily deployed in the plant. According to the AITUC, Honda management "has resorted to large scale victimisation".

IRAQ

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's oil exports were suspended for 24 hours because of a strike by 15,000 employees of the South Oil Company, a company official said. "The export of oil was stopped this morning at 0800 hrs by 15,000 employees who are demanding higher wages," said the company official, requesting anonymity. Employees were also demanding a better share-out of oil export revenues by the government, he added. Nearly all of Iraq's daily output of 2.1 million barrels in June came from southern oilfields, while all of the 1.43 million barrels a day of exports flowed through southern terminals, according to Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Ulum. Northern oil export routes remain paralysed due to the security situation.

ITALY

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Italian state carrier Alitalia cancelled 59 flights today due to a daylong strike by flight attendants. The airline said 33 of the cancelled flights were international and 26 domestic. It is the latest of a string of similar strikes called by labour union Sult, which is negotiating the details of contracts signed several months ago.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 17 -- A strike by cabin crew will affect Air New Zealand flights to Australia next week. From tomorrow, staff will stage three 48-hour strikes after failing to reach an

agreement with the airline over pay and conditions. Air New Zealand has cancelled around 30 trans-Tasman flights. Flights to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth will be affected by the industrial action.

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: About 1000 Air New Zealand flight attendants are today launching the first of a wave of 48-hour strikes, forcing the airline to cancel about 30% of long-haul flights. The airline said about 15,000 passengers will be disrupted by three strikes between now and midnight next Monday (Jul 25), during which it is cancelling 85 flights, 45 outward and 40 to New Zealand. It also warns that some surviving flights normally leaving Auckland for overseas may face delays by being re-routed through Christchurch, to enable more staff to be rostered within constraints of what it calls an unusually "aggressive" union strike notice. International division general manager Ed Sims said yesterday that these staff would include some Christchurch members of the Flight Attendants and Related Service Association, which issued the notice, as well as about 150 non-union staff and 100 represented by another union. Mr Sims said the airline had made a "very fair" pay offer, including a wage rise of 3.3% to be followed by 3.4% next year and 3.3% in 2007, and was prepared to keep discussing union claims for more leave and meal allowances. The union is seeking a 3.8% increase for each of the three years and is also battling for more crewing jobs, particular on new Boeing 777 aircraft, which Air New Zealand is due to start flying in September. Mr Sims said the union's pay claim would add \$14.2 million to the company's payroll bill over three years, compared with about \$7.5 million on offer to the flight attendants. He acknowledged that the six days of strikes would cost the airline up to \$2 million, even after operating savings, but said this was a one-off loss, whereas the pay claim would compound over the years. Union industrial officer Heather Stanley said the amount in dispute was "small change" in terms of the airline's overall budget, and issues such as aircraft crewing levels were probably more important to her members. Although the airline insists its crewing levels are above minimum standards of the International Air Transport Association, Ms Stanley said other carriers operated Boeing 777s with "significantly more" staff than proposed by Air NZ.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Union officials hope the Air New Zealand flight attendants strike could be settled this afternoon. Four flights across the Tasman and four Asian services have been cancelled due to the stoppage. Flight Attendants and Related Services Association Industrial Officer Heather Stanley says the union and airline management are continuing talks this afternoon. She says Air New Zealand is keen to talk and they may be able to resolve the strike issues today.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today states: Air New Zealand is braced for another clutch of 11 cancelled international flights today, as about 1000 long-haul cabin attendants launch their second 48-hour strike. Although renewed pay talks with the Flight Attendants and Related Services Association continued for a second day yesterday, the airline will again reduce international services by about 30%. Six to and from Asia, two across the Tasman and three on Pacific Island sectors have been cancelled.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Air New Zealand says it has rebooked most of the passengers affected by a second 48-hour strike by its long-haul flight attendants over pay and conditions. About 1,000 international cabin crew members went on strike this morning, following a similar strike earlier in the week, and a third two-day strike is planned for Sunday (Jul 24).

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 19 -- Petroleum products supply to Afghanistan from Pakistan remained suspended for the last one week as oil tankers' strike entered eighth day after their representatives and officials of the Afghan government failed to reach an agreement on release of more than 100 oil tankers stranded in Afghanistan. Afghan authorities in Latha Bund area had stopped more than one hundred oil tankers due to bad conditions of un-metalled road. The Afghan authorities had diverted traffic from the main Kabul-Jalalabad road to Latha Bund road due to construction of the main road. Amin Shah, a representative of the drivers, told local media that the 12-member delegation, including a representative of Khyber Agency political administration, had held talks with the governor of Nangrahar in Jalalabad and the minister for transport in Kabul but their talks remained inconclusive as the Afghan government officials insisted that only mechanically fit vehicles would be allowed into Kabul. Meanwhile, the oil tankers association held a meeting in Landi Kotal and warned to stop all sorts of traffic to Afghanistan if their demands were not accepted. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PORTUGAL

London, Jul 15 -- Public workers in Portugal have launched a national strike against the new government's cost-cutting plans. Strong support came from rubbish collectors, with more than 70% backing the action, the Local Administration Workers Union (STAL) said. Hospitals, health centres, ports, public transport and other state bodies are likely to be hit by the one-day action by about 500,000 workers. The Socialist government, elected in February, plans to cut public spending. Prime Minister Jose Socrates wants to shrink Portugal's budget deficit back in line with European Union rules by 2008. He plans to raise value-added tax to 21% from 19% and cut public

spending. The strike has been called by the "Common Front" of public worker unions.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Unionised pilots at Asiana Airlines, South Korea's second-largest carrier, began a full-scale strike after negotiations with management failed. The airline said it expects no flight disruptions in the first few days. The walkout by the airline's pilots' union began at noon, today, a union official said. Asiana's unionised pilots have presented a wide range of demands to the management, including more rest days, increased union say in management decisions and raising the retirement age.

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's air services were disrupted today when unionised pilots of Asiana Airlines staged a strike for a second day. Asiana said 81 of its 168 domestic passenger flights, and four of seven cargo flights, were cancelled today. It also suspended its international routes from Seoul to Sydney. More disruptions are likely as there are no signs of a major breakthrough in the labour dispute. Some 300 striking pilots from South Korea's second-largest carrier gathered to call for the company to accept their demands. The indefinite strike began at noon yesterday after last-minute negotiations with airline management fell through. The pilots' union is demanding that hours of movement between flights be counted into flight rosters. Other key demands include raising the mandatory retirement age to 58 and union members' participation in decisions concerning company promotions and disciplinary actions. Twenty-six pilots from the country's largest airline, Korean Air, launched a walkout to support striking Asiana pilots.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Asiana Airlines Inc., South Korea's second-largest carrier, said there were no plans today to hold negotiations with the pilots' union as a strike entered the third day. Asiana cancelled more than half of its domestic flights and one international flight to Sydney. The carrier estimates it had an operating loss of about 3 billion won (\$3 million) yesterday. "There is no change in our opinion," said Kim Gun, a company official who attended earlier talks between the management and the union. Asiana said it will cancel domestic routes, which have been losing money for the carrier, before cutting international flights. The airline said it will continue to fly to the tourist island of Jeju, its most profitable domestic route. Asiana said the unionised pilots are asking for flying hours to be reduced to 1,000 hours annually from the current 1,200 hours. Asian's unionised pilots have said they will continue the strike until management accepts their demands.

London, Jul 20 -- Unionised pilots of Asiana Airlines went on strike for the fourth-straight day today, crippling air flight services of Korea's second-

largest carrier. The union and the management resumed their negotiations for working conditions and job security at Kimpo Airport at 1430 hrs, but failed to narrow their differences. Asiana cancelled a Sydney-bound flight scheduled to depart Incheon International Airport at 2000 hrs, for the second consecutive day. All four international cargo flights were also cancelled. The company said 80 out of its 169 domestic passenger flights were also cancelled, due to the walkout. Asiana grounded most of the inland domestic flights except a Seoul-Pusan flight and two Incheon-Pusan routes, stranding domestic tourists at airports across the country. Flights from or to Cheju Island were still in operation as planned. The company said it is suffering a huge financial loss due to the action. "We incur an estimated 3 billion won (£1.65 million) in losses per day, but the sum could rise sharply to 8.2 billion won if the strike continues for more than two weeks," said Jason Kim, an assistant manager of Asiana, told The Korea Times. According to Kim, the company lost 2.7 billion won on Monday (Jul 18) and 3.3 billion won yesterday and today. "We have also had our credibility shattered," he said. Prepared for a protracted strike, the government decided to launch the task force to facilitate the air carriage of export goods. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy said today it will implement the inter-ministerial task force and check the air shipping situation everyday. The task force will also help companies to transport their export products, by mediating them to Korean Air or foreign airliners. If the strike is prolonged, the government is considering taking on the job itself with chartered planes. "As Asiana airlines had dealt with only around 20 percent of export cargo, it is unlikely the nation will have a situation where it cannot handle the cargo backlog," said an official of the ministry. The airliner carries a daily average of 1,500 tons of cargo along with 33,000 passengers, including 15,000 on domestic flights. Since they went into the strike on 1200 hrs, on Sunday (Jul 17), the pilots have been demanding a total of 78 measures including a cut in flight hours from 1,200 hours per year to 1,000 hours, the extension of the retirement age to 58 from the current 55 and guarantee of 120 holidays in a year. However, as the public outcry against some of their claims like scrapping of alcohol and drug tests for pilots is growing, the union said it would come to the negotiation table in more flexible stance on 58 issues. Meanwhile, a carrier of the nation's largest airliner Korean Air was also delayed yesterday as a unionised pilot of the company refused to take the helm. The company said a London-bound flight scheduled to leave Incheon at 1335 hrs, today was delayed for half an hour. The Korean air pilots have been staging a "work-to-rule" protest for more than two-weeks, mostly by slowing down the taxiing speed of

their planes on runways. Korean Air pilots are calling for more rest time between flights and also demanding their retirement age be extended to 59 from the current 55. Since Sunday, representatives of the union have been walking out, urging the management to hurry and come to a sincere solution. They threatened to go on an indefinite general strike, raising the likelihood of a complete halt to flight services in the nation. According to the company, the union plans to go into partial strike from Friday (Jul 22).

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Striking truckers blockaded ports in Puerto Rico today, disrupting cargo movement at major terminals. The action was expected to continue tomorrow, as there had been no breakthrough in talks between truckers and the government to resolve the situation.

ZAMBIA

Mulungushi Rock, Zambia, Jul 17 -- Zambia's Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) has struck a deal with unions to end a strike which paralysed copper production at the country's biggest mine, the company said today. KCM Vice President for Corporate Relations, Augustine Seyuba, told Reuters that workers had started to return to work today after an agreement was reached to improve workers' salaries and conditions of service. "We as KCM management are relieved by the large numbers of workers that are returning to work. We (the unions and management) are all resolved to end the strike and workers are returning to work," Seyuba told Reuters. Striking copper miners rioted, looted company property and stoned a top executive yesterday after failing to win management pledges for better pay, police said. But the miners reached a deal after Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa publicly chided workers and management for failing to resolve the impasse and said strikes and rioting could scare foreign investors in the impoverished southern African country. Strikes over pay at three mines -- two of which are owned by KCM -- and KCM's Nkana smelter have crippled copper production in Zambia this week. Nkana is Zambia's biggest copper smelter and the two Konkola mines account for most of the country's total finished copper output, which last year stood at 397,000 tonnes. KCM is 79 percent owned by UK-listed Vedanta Resources Ltd. Seyuba said KCM had been losing \$2 million in copper exports revenue every day since Tuesday (Jul 12) when workers went on strike, but could not exactly state how much copper output had been lost. Zambia's Minister of Mines Kaunda Lembalemba met management officials and union representatives late yesterday before they agreed to end the strike. Details of the final agreement were not immediately available. Workers at majority Chinese-owned Chambishi

mine also went on strike on Thursday (Jul 14) but there was no word on whether that strike had ended. -- Reuters.

Lusaka, Jul 21 -- Workers at Zambia's Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) ended a strike today and copper output has resumed, the head of the trade union said. "The strike has ended and everything has now come back to normal. The workers have gone back and normal copper production has resumed at all the mines," Andrew Mwanza, president of the Mineworkers Union of Zambia, told Reuters. -- Reuters.



AGE DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 19, states: An 85-year-old man who sued the state Department of Corrections alleging age discrimination was awarded \$20 million by a jury for emotional distress and past and future lost earnings. Dr. Robert Johnson claimed in the lawsuit that he was forced to retire as chief physician and surgeon at Lancaster State Prison because of his age. The jury found yesterday that Johnson's supervisors had subjected him to age discrimination, retaliation and harassment. Superior Court Judge Aurelio Munoz presided over the monthlong trial. When Johnson refused to voluntarily retire in August 2001, his supervisors complained to the state Medical Board that the physician suffered from memory loss that impaired his work, said Johnson's lawyer, Ralph B. Wegis. Johnson was investigated and cleared of that allegation. Wegis also said his client was called into a meeting in August 2001 that opened with a colleague asking: "Dr. Johnson, you're over 80 years old, why are you still working?" During the monthlong trial, an expert testified for the plaintiff that Johnson could have worked until age 96. Lawyers for the state denied that Johnson was treated differently because of his age. They said he was offered other jobs but declined to take them. The state Department of Corrections plans to appeal the case "based on the excessive nature of the dollar amount," said department spokesman Todd Slosek.

DEFECTIVE BULLETPROOF VESTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Toyobo Co is paying \$29 million to settle a class-action lawsuit in the United States that had demanded damages from the Japanese textile manufacturer for bulletproof vests suspected of defects, the company said today. Toyobo received a preliminary approval for the settlement from the Oklahoma

District Court, although a final approval has not yet been granted in the case involving some 150,000 bullet-resistant vests, said a company official. Other lawsuits are still pending against Toyobo, which supplied the fibre called Zylon for the vests, and Second Chance Body Armor Inc, based in Central Lake, Michigan, which supplied the vests, including one filed by the family of a California police officer killed while wearing the vest. Today's settlement covers class-action in West Virginia, Missouri, Louisiana, New Jersey, California and Michigan, in addition to Oklahoma, according to Toyobo. Earlier this month, the US government sued Second Chance and Osaka-based Toyobo, contending they conspired to hide evidence the vests could be defective. Only after the officer was killed and a Pennsylvania officer seriously wounded while wearing Second Chance vests in June, 2003, did the company stop selling certain models and disclose safety problems, the federal lawsuit said. Toyobo and Second Chance have blamed each other. Toyobo says the problem was caused by the design and production of the vests, not the Zylon material. Toyobo supplies eight other companies with Zylon for bulletproof vests, and there has not been a single accident in the other vests, the official said. Toyobo offered the settlement because it wanted to avoid a long legal fight and to deal responsibly with the possibly defective vests, he said. Under the settlement, the plaintiffs can buy bulletproof vests from Armor Holdings Inc at a discount. Second Chance, which has since declared bankruptcy, is facing lawsuits by states, police agencies and individuals. Second Chance is also suing Toyobo, alleging that the material is behind the problem vests.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A former nurse who suffered a post-surgery brain injury that left him in a vegetative state was awarded a \$6 million settlement during mediation, an attorney said today. Spencer Sullivan, who worked at Fountain Valley Regional Medical Centre, underwent elective surgery in December 2001 at the University of California, San Francisco, Medical Centre to fix a disc protrusion in his neck, said Leslie Licano, whose firm represents Sullivan's attorney, Daniel Hodes. Sullivan, 41, of Laguna Niguel, received conflicting medication orders, and lack of monitoring by his primary nurse contributed to a narcotic overdose that led to respiratory failure and hypoxic brain injury, Hodes said. When nurses were unable to wake Sullivan the next day following surgery, they waited 15 minutes before applying a ventilator, Hodes said. There was also a 15-minute delay in giving the appropriate narcotic reversal medications, he said. Sullivan left the hospital three months later in

a chronic vegetative state and now requires 24-hour care, Licano said. He is not expected to recover from his injuries.

PERSONAL INJURY, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: An Adair County jury has awarded more than \$6 million to a Kentucky man whose left leg was nearly cut off in a riding lawn mower accident. The jury awarded Christopher Cowan, of Columbia, Ky., approximately \$2.2 million in compensatory damages, and \$4 million in punitive damages. The jury made the decision shortly after 1300 hrs, Saturday (Jul 16). Cowan, 30, was injured in July 2002, after the blade of a rotary mower he was riding snapped and struck below his left knee cap, nearly severing the leg. Cowan was stepping off of the mower when the incident occurred. The mower was manufactured by the Alamo Group, and its subsidiary M&W Gear Company. Haven Steel Products was also named as a defendant in the case. Alamo and M&W designed the unit, and Haven performed the actual manufacturing, Son said. Doctors were able to reattach Cowan's leg, but he suffers from chronic pain and has a limited range of motion which prevents him from running or kneeling, Cowan's attorney David Son, said.

UNLAWFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Maricopa County Superior Court jury yesterday awarded \$28 million to the family of a man who killed his mother and his niece two hours after being released from a former Maricopa County mental health facility. Rodney Aviles' family filed a court petition to have him committed to a hospital for evaluation in June 1999 because he was threatening violence and acting in a peculiar manner. But a psychiatrist at Maricopa Medical Centre discharged Aviles after five days, even though he was delusional, paranoid and obsessed about his family, according to court testimony and hospital records. Four of Aviles' siblings sued the county and the psychiatrist, who settled her suit under undisclosed terms. advertisement Maricopa County was held liable for 75 percent of the damages, or \$21 million.

WORK RELATED INJURY, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A former popcorn plant worker who claimed his respiratory illness came from a harmful chemical used to make butter flavouring has been awarded about \$2.7 million in damages. Kenneth Moenning, 36, of Lockwood, Mo., is among 30 current and former workers at Jasper Popcorn Co. who have sued International Flavours and Fragrances Inc. and subsidiary Bush

Boake Allen Inc. The plaintiffs say the manufacturers should have known the chemical diacetyl, used to make the popcorn's butter flavouring, causes lung damage. A 12-member jury deliberated for seven hours yesterday before returning its decision in Jasper County Circuit Court. Moenning worked in the flavouring room at the Jasper plant from 1993 through 1995. Doctors testified he has bronchiolitis obliterans, a rare, progressive lung disease that eventually could require that he receive a lung transplant. Experts testified that the disease was a result of Moenning's exposure to diacetyl and other chemicals in butter flavourings used at the plant, and that manufacturers knew of such hazards but didn't warn workers. Defence attorneys said management didn't know the flavouring's potential harmful effects on workers. Nine jurors, the minimum required to reach a verdict, approved a verdict awarding \$2.69 million to Moenning and \$50,000 for his wife. Moenning had sought \$20 million, plus \$5 million for his wife, who says she suffered emotional damage from her husband's health problems.



CALGARY AREA, CANADA

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A CN tanker carrying 82,000 kilograms of jet fuel went off the tracks in south-east Calgary this morning and is leaking. Emergency crews have evacuated five businesses in the area as a precaution, as well as the Esso truck stop. They have also closed down 50th Avenue between 36th Street and Barlow Trail, while they attempt to clean up the spill. The fire department says the jet fuel, which mixed with the engine's diesel fuel during the derailment, is being allowed to drain into the ground. The contaminated soil will then be removed. The derailment happened about 1136 hrs, in the railyard near 25th Street.

ISABELLA, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated Jul 17, states: An iron ore train derailed in this community in the central Upper Peninsula, cutting off some 911 and long distance service but causing no injuries, authorities said today. SBC Michigan crews completed repairs to a fiber optic telephone line that was damaged in yesterday's derailment, said dispatcher Jenny Peterson of Delta County Central Dispatch. The loss of service was limited to the exchange serving the Garden area along the Lake Michigan shoreline, she said. The CN train was headed from Gladstone to Sault Ste. Marie with 106 carloads of iron ore pellets when 14 of the cars derailed

about 1400, EDT, in Isabella, an unincorporated town 25 miles east of Escanaba, said Jim Kvedaras, a spokesman for Montreal-based CN's US operations. No hazardous materials spilled, he said. The derailed cars were being removed today, and repairs to the track were expected to be completed tomorrow, Kvedaras said. The cause of the derailment was under investigation, he said.

MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated Jul 15, states: A 46-year-old woman died and a 59-year-old man was injured following a crash involving a train and an 18-wheeler in Medina County today. The two victims injured in the crash were airlifted to University Hospital in San Antonio, where the woman, Marta Garcia, later died. Injured in the crash was Manuel Garcia. His condition was not available. The pair were in a big rig that was hit by a Union Pacific train along some railroad tracks at 0800 hrs about three miles north of Natalia off Texas Road 132, authorities said. It's not clear how the crash occurred. The crash caused 25 cars to derail and ignited a small fire in the front of the train, authorities said. The cars were transporting auto parts to Mexico from Chicago, Medina County Sheriff Gilbert Rodriguez said.

SAN BERNADINO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: Nine Union Pacific rail cars carrying new vehicles derailed about 1220 hrs, today in a field near Cajon Boulevard and Palm Avenue in San Bernardino. The train had departed from Kansas and was en route to Mira Loma. The derailment occurred on tracks belonging to Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. Investigators from both railroads will investigate. No one was injured.



BREAKDOWN OF SHIP LOADER, SALDANHA BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mining group Kumba Resources today announced that iron ore exports at Saldanha Bay had been halted following a breakdown of a ship loader operated by the South African Port Operations (Sapo). Investigations and repairs by Sapo and the contractor are under way and indications are that the ship loader, which was commissioned in July 2004, will resume operations by the weekend, Kumba said in a statement. "The breakdown will delay Kumba's iron ore export programme

but trains from our Sishen mine remain fully operational and will continue to feed the Saldanha Bay stockpiles until the ship loader is back in operation. We will endeavour to fulfill our overseas contractual commitments for the 2005/06 iron ore year," general manager of Kumba's iron ore division Matie von Wielligh said.

IRELAND-FRANCE FERRY DISPUTE

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Union activists have prevented an Irish Ferries vessel from docking in the French port of Cherbourg today as part of a protest over low pay. The blockade of passenger ro/ro Normandy (25745 gt, built 1982) was mounted by unions affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation to highlight the recruitment of foreign workers on low pay rates on board the vessel. Last month, the ferry was also prevented from entering Cherbourg for several hours due to union protests. Norrie McVicar, a spokesman for the protestors, said: "Irish Ferries are using cheap labour from former eastern bloc countries who are now European citizens and paying them somewhere in the region of €1-an-hour. "This goes against the principles of the Treaty of Rome in terms of equality and the free movement of labour."

NORMANDY (Bahamas)

See "Ireland-France Ferry Dispute / Normandy (Bahamas)" under "Miscellaneous".

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Manila, Jul 18 -- The Philippines confirmed today that an outbreak of bird flu on a farm in the north did not involve the deadly H5N1 strain that has killed scores of people elsewhere in Asia and wrecked poultry industries. Tests conducted by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory on samples taken from a small, isolated farm in the northern Philippines found no active infection but involved another, much weaker strain, the government said. "The ducks had been exposed to a low pathogenic avian influenza virus but their natural systems apparently eliminated the low-risk flu strain," a joint statement from the departments of agriculture and health said. The announcement could pave the way for possible resumption of poultry exports to Japan. The government said last week that initial findings showed ducks found to have bird flu in the northern town of Calumpit, Bulacan province, might not be carrying the H5N1 strain. Health authorities culled 230 ducks in the affected farm, and set up a quarantine zone in Calumpit. The government said today it would lift the quarantine restrictions. -- Reuters.

Jakarta, Jul 20 -- Tests on a father and his two young daughters who died in Indonesia showed they had the bird flu virus, a minister said today. "Test results from a Hong Kong laboratory which I received this morning

confirmed they were positive for the H5N1 virus," Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari told reporters. -- Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, WORLDWIDE

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated Jul 14, states: U.S. Agriculture Secretary Michael Johanns opened the border to Canadian cattle today hours after a federal appeals court dismissed arguments that imports could spread mad cow disease. American officials have already been in contact with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to prepare to certify cattle for shipment, said Johanns. "Because the (court) ruling is effective immediately, we are immediately taking steps to resume the importation of cattle under 30 months of age from Canada." Manitoba Agriculture Minister Rosann Wowchuk said there are still likely a few details to work out. Devastated by the ban on cattle that began after Canada's first mad cow case in May 2003, Canadians were jubilant. But they tempered their reaction by warning that there's another legal hurdle to cross on the long-term fate of the border later this month. The unanimous decision by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was released today after a one-day hearing in Seattle. The court overturned a March ruling by Montana judge Richard Cebull, who sided with the protectionist ranchers' group R-CALF and temporarily blocked the border from reopening as expected. Cebull is holding his own hearing on the issue Jul 27 in the Billings district court, where R-CALF will argue vigorously for a permanent ban on Canadian cattle and beef products. The ruling applies to younger cattle thought to be at lowest risk for contracting mad cow. At yesterday's appeal hearing, R-CALF argued that dropping a ban on cattle "would subject the entire U.S. beef industry to potentially catastrophic damages." The group also argued that Canadian imports present a "genuine risk of death for U.S. consumers" and the U.S. Agriculture Department erred in trying to reopen the border. But U.S. government lawyer Mark Stern slammed R-CALF for using questionable scientific reasoning to justify a continued ban. Like Canada, the U.S. restricts animal tissues from cattle feed, thought to be the primary way that mad cow, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is spread. The judges, in siding with U.S. officials, said they would issue another ruling soon explaining their rationale. Canadian ranchers estimate they've lost \$7 billion Cdn in the trade tangle, while U.S. meatpackers are going out of business and have lost some 8,000 jobs without a steady supply of cows. Canada has had three cases of mad cow disease, while the U.S. has had two, one in a Washington-state cow that was born in Alberta and another in a Texas-born cow.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: The first shipment of Canadian cattle crossed into the United States, four days after a federal appeals court ended a two-year-old ban originally instituted because of mad cow disease. Thirty-five black Angus cattle crossed the border around noon today at Lewiston, New York, near Niagara Falls, according to the shipper, Schaus Land and Cattle Co. of Elmwood, Ontario. The animals were destined for a Pennsylvania slaughterhouse.

POWER OUTAGE TO REFINERY, KURNELL, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated Jul 17, states: Energy Australia says full power supply has been reconnected at the Caltex oil refinery at Kurnell in Sydney's south. The plant has been shut down since an electricity tower collapsed onto high voltage wires on Tuesday (Jul 12). The problems at the plant have been blamed for a slight increase in petrol prices in the last week. Energy Australia's Peter Leate says crews have been working all week to fix the supply. "We've had to erect a series of new poles alongside the damaged tower and then the power lines have been carefully released from the tower and lifted with a crane to the new poles," Mr Leate said. "The process has also included stabilising the high-tension wires - they are high tension and they each weigh in excess of six tonnes - to be safely released from their mounting and safely shifted across to the new poles."

Fires & Explosions



COAL MINE, TONGCHUAN, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A coal mine explosion trapped 19 miners in Tongchuan City in China's northwestern Shaanxi Province this afternoon, the provincial watchdog on coal mine production safety released. The explosion happened at the Jinsuo No. 5 Coal Mine at 1430 hrs, today, when 22 miners were working underground. Only Three escaped, according to the provincial administration of coal mine safety supervision. The three miners have been hospitalised and rescue work is underway.

FACTORY, LOANHEAD, MIDLOTHIAN, SCOTLAND

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: An egg packing factory has been destroyed by a massive blaze on a Midlothian industrial estate. Firefighters were today still monitoring the remains of Deans Foods in Loanhead more than 24 hours after being called there. More

than 70 firefighters fought to bring the fire under control yesterday. The situation was made more difficult by the fact the roof contained asbestos and there were gas cylinders in the factory that could have exploded. A senior firefighter described the factory as "a tangled wreck", but said it was now under control. Part of the factory collapsed and seven members of staff had to be evacuated from the building after the fire broke out at about 0630 hrs, yesterday. Twenty crews battled the fire at the Edgefield Industrial Estate all day yesterday using ten pumping appliances and three hydraulic platforms. Maurice Gibb, assistant divisional officer at Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, said: "It was a difficult fire to fight because of its sheer size. "The building was composed of two main sections adjoined by doors. One main section was totally destroyed and a refrigeration room and another room suffered smoke and heat damage." Mr Gibb said that the fire in the refrigeration building had been particularly difficult to fight because of the materials used in its composition. The walls of the building had four inches of polystyrene foam in between two aluminium sheets. Mr Gibb said that once the fire penetrated the foam of the sandwich panels it spread quickly throughout the building. Firefighters also had to undergo a decontamination process after putting out the fire in the roof, which contained asbestos in corrugated sheets. Police said there were no injuries reported apart from one firefighter who sustained minor injuries after being hit on the head by falling debris. A police spokesman said the fire was not being treated as suspicious and the value of the damage to the property was not yet known. Deans Foods is involved in egg marketing, egg production, feed milling, egg products and hen processing.

FACTORY, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated Jul 14, states: People living close to a huge blaze at a factory near Wembley Stadium in north London are being told to stay indoors still because of fumes from smoke. Earlier clouds of the thick smoke billowed out from VDC House, a CD and DVD manufacturer, in South Way, which contains several gas cylinders. A London Fire Brigade spokesperson said half of the ground floor and first floor of the factory were alight. The fire is still ongoing but has dampened down. Thirty fire engines and 150 firefighters were at the scene earlier. The fire is near a rail line so nearby Tube and rail stations have been shut. The Jubilee Line and Metropolitan Line on the London Underground have also been affected.

FACTORY, PLYMPTON, DEVON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Nearly 400

employees are facing an uncertain future after a large fire destroyed their workplace. An investigation into the cause of the blaze at Hilliers food manufacturers in Plympton is continuing. The fire on Friday (Jul 15) night destroyed baking ovens and machinery inside the building. Local residents were told to remain indoors and thick black smoke could be seen for several miles across the city. Investigators are working to establish the cause of the fire.

FOREST, SPAIN

Madrid, Jul 17 -- Emergency services battled to control forest fires in central Spain today and police arrested a man believed to have started one of the blazes in the parched interior of the country, local officials said. Police detained the man thought to be responsible for one of three fires consuming thousands of hectares of land in the central regions of Castille-La Mancha and Castille-Leon. That blaze was close to a Repsol oil refinery in the town of Puertollano which was under control, a government official said, adding that the refinery had at no point been in danger. In the province of Guadalajara, hundreds of people were evacuated from towns in and around a natural park where a fire raged despite the efforts of firefighters, officials said. The cause of the blaze was a barbecue which had not been fully extinguished. In Zamora province, also in central Spain, a fire which had consumed about 1,200 hectares was now manageable, a government spokesman said. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 18 - A press report, dated today, states: At least 14 volunteer firefighters died as they fought a forest fire in Spain's central province of Guadalajara. None of the victims, whom officials say were part of two groups which had gone out to try to bring the blaze under control, have so far been identified. The fire, which began in pine woodland at Cueva de los Casares, on Saturday, has burned an estimated 5,000 hectares. Spanish police said the forest fire was started by a barbecue and fanned by blustery winds in very dry conditions. Two vehicles used by the firefighters were burned by the flames, which leapt up to 40 metres high. Hundreds of people in the area of the fire have had to be evacuated from their homes, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said. "A crisis unit has been set up with civilian authorities and the military and police" to combat the fire, which has still not been brought under control. Water airplanes and helicopters have been drafted in to help the 150 firefighters on the ground. Several other forest fires have been burning in other parts of Spain which is suffering from one of its worst droughts in decades, leaving the countryside like a tinderbox.

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: The regional premier of Castilla La Mancha said a

group of day-trippers had confessed to starting the forest fire in Spain's Guadalajara province, which killed 11 volunteer firefighters. The fire, which began in pine woodland at Cueva de los Casares on Saturday (Jul 16), has destroyed up to 12,000 hectares. Police said the fire was started by a barbecue and fanned by blustery winds in very dry conditions. Eleven people died after becoming encircled following a sudden change in wind direction, officials said. Forensic experts are trying to identify the bodies of the volunteers, said to be aged between 24 and 52. Officials had suggested earlier that 14 had died in the blaze, but the figures were revised down after a visit to the scene by Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega. France, which is also suffering a serious drought, has sent two firefighting aircraft to assist with the Spanish efforts. The fires in Spain have forced hundreds of homes to be evacuated. A crisis unit has been set up with civilian authorities and the military and police to combat the fire. Water airplanes and helicopters have been drafted in to help firefighters on the ground. Several other forest fires have been burning in other parts of Spain.

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The identification process of the 11 firefighters killed in the forest fire that took place last weekend (Jul 16/17) in Guadalajara, central Spain, finished early this morning. Their relatives have learnt about it at 0120. The identification has lasted longer than it was expected to, since the DNA of one of the firefighters Julio Ramos Ballano did not match at first. The funerals are expected to be held between today and tomorrow. The fire has burnt 13,000 hectares of pine forest, and it is "almost under control".

HOSPITAL, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

London, Jul 18 -- A fire broke out on fourth floor of "Hospital R.A. Calderon Guardia" at 0220, Tuesday (Jul 12). The cause was due to a lighting fault. Fire spread quickly to fifth floor and neurosurgery ward. Sixteen patients and three nurses died. Hospital obsolete in around 63% of structures, no fire escapes, etc. Insurance covers only building. There was no third party nor equipment insurance. Preliminary calculations estimate losses of US\$20m of which US\$8m is believed to be lost in structures.

POWER STATION, HAMILTON, BERMUDA

London, Jul 20 -- At 0300, Jul 14, Bermuda suffered massive disruption after a fire tore through the Belco Power Station, causing millions of dollars worth of damage. The source of the fire is believed to have been a transformer in one of the main switch rooms at Belco's central power plant. The fire raged for more than six hours and giant plumes of black smoke were still visible as commuters arrived in the city at 0900 hrs. Dozens of

firefighters were dispatched to tackle the flames. The area around the power station was closed off and oil and sludge spilled into the road. The fire was mostly contained inside the building. The electricity company said that a fault was discovered in a transmission system at 0235 hrs. At 0304 hrs it created an island-wide blackout. The fault was pin-pointed to a switch system and it was the kind of problem which normally corrects itself. On this occasion, Belco said, the fault did not correct itself; all the energy moved towards the fault, the energy needed a release and that release was the fire. The company's CEO, Gary Madeiros, said the damage would cost millions to repair. Bermuda is counting the cost of the fire at the Belco power station in Hamilton, which shut down all government computers and left parts of the island without power for almost four days. Hamilton businessman Stephen Thomson has claimed that \$40m-\$50m of income was lost by all businesses in Hamilton during the blackout. Mr Thomson calculated that businesses on Par-La-Ville Road lost \$1m in revenue and he multiplied that amount throughout Hamilton. Belco, the Bermuda Light Electric Co, has commissioned an independent review into the cause of the fire and minister of telecommunications and e-commerce Michael Scott said the government needed to review its public sector disaster recovery and business continuity plans.

PREMISES, JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A huge blaze broke out in the Rotana building located near the busy Palestine Street in Jeddah yesterday afternoon; losses are estimated to be in millions. According to Fire Department officials and Rotana employees, the fire started at 1430 hrs and continued into the night. The first reports said that the fire was due to an electrical shortage. We were told to evacuate the building immediately, said an employee outside the burning building. We saw dense black smoke shot through with flames pouring out of the warehouse. The blaze was particularly intense and the smoke thick as the fire fed on plastic and paper; the warehouse contained cassettes, CDs and posters. A Fire Department official said that the warehouse collapsed trapping the fire inside; this had the effect of keeping the fire burning till the late evening hours. Three firefighters suffered severe burns. No other casualties were reported.

PREMISES, OREGON CITY AREA, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Firefighters battled a three-alarm fire yesterday, which broke out about 1300 hrs, at Pellet Stove and Spa World, on Highway 213 near Green Tree Road, just outside Oregon City. Heavy smoke

was pouring from the two-story building, which was full of supplies for woodstoves and spas. Nearly 60 firefighters responded from five agencies, battling high temperatures and winds that fanned the flames. "The smoke was so thick that you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. And the heat was extremely, extremely hot," Capt. Jamie Karn of Clackamas County Fire District No.1 said. The store was closed at the time of the fire. Damage is estimated around \$1 million.

PREMISES, READING, BERKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire has torn through a block of flats still under construction in a town centre. Flames of more than 25m broke out on the second floor of the empty three-storey building in Amersham Road, Reading, early this morning. About 25 firefighters with five engines were tackling the blaze at its height. The structure, which contained more than a dozen flats, some with views of the River Thames, is unsafe and may have to be pulled down.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Three of the lawsuits stemming from a deadly blast at an oil refinery in Texas have been settled. Two of those suits were filed in June by the families of Larry Thomas and Susan Taylor, who were killed in the Mar 23 explosion at BP's Texas City plant. In all, 15 people were killed in the blast and more than 170 were injured. All the settlements were sealed. A filing made earlier this year by BP with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission said the company expected settlements to be costly. Lawsuits over deaths and injuries from the blasts involve about 300 individual plaintiffs, according to court records. Additional lawsuits have been filed by fired employees who claim BP wrongly blamed them for the deadly explosion. BP has issued statements saying human error led to the blast. Investigators with the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board blame alarm systems and level indicators, saying both failed to warn BP refinery workers.

RENOVATION CENTRE, ST-BASILE-LE-GRAND, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major fire has destroyed the Matco Ravary Renovation Centre on highway 116 in South Shore St-Basile-le-Grand. Firefighters worked hard to control the damage, but there were too many explosive construction materials in the store. A power outage was the cause of the fire, yesterday. When the electricity came back on, an explosion occurred in the store's electrical room. Customers were quickly evacuated and no one was injured. Damages are estimated at several billion dollars.

SCHOOLS, CRADLEY HEATH, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Arsonists have caused over £1 million damage to two schools in the Black Country. Two schools in the same street in Cradley Heath were targeted. The biggest blaze was at Temple Meadow primary school in Wright's Lane, Old Hill, where a classroom, computer suite, staff room and roof were destroyed in a fire in the early hours of Saturday (Jul 16). Sixty firefighters from across the Black Country tackled the blaze. West Midlands Fire Service Divisional Officer Bob Deeks put the cost of the damage at £1 million. "We believe the fire was started in an outbuilding at the rear and spread to the main Victorian building. Ironically, the children had been working on a project about sprinkler systems in schools which they were presenting to Sandwell Council. There was no sprinkler system at the school, but the prompt action of firefighters prevented even worse damage. The new part of the school was unaffected," he said. While fire crews were still dealing with the Temple Meadow blaze, another school fire was discovered at Heathfield Foundation Technology College at 0730 hrs. Crews prevented any serious damage, but fire chiefs said the fire had been smouldering for some time and was probably started at around the same time as the Temple Meadow blaze.

STEEL WORKS, PORT TALBOT, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Hydrogen levels had been excessively high before a furnace blast which killed three men, an inquest has heard. But managers who could have stopped people from working in the danger area at Port Talbot's Corus plant were not aware of the dangerous circumstances. David Humphrey, area technician, told the Swansea inquest how gas levels then appeared to drop, masking the problem. The jury heard that hydrogen levels in the blast furnace had been excessively high for a prolonged period, three hours, on the afternoon of the explosion in November 2001. But the problem, a sign that water was leaking into the furnace, was not fully known to managers who had held an urgent meeting an hour before the blast, Mr Humphrey told the inquest. Earlier this week, the jury heard that a decision had been made at that meeting to forge ahead with efforts to repair the blast furnace.

THEATRE, BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An accidental fire that broke out after a show at North Shore Music Theater destroyed the building's stage and 1,800 seats, causing an estimated \$3 million in damages and postponing

performances, fire officials said. No one was believed to have been inside the 50-year-old theatre when the three-alarm fire broke out around 2230, Thursday (Jul 14) in a storeroom under a stage. No injuries were reported. Investigators believe the fire was caused by malfunctioning electrical equipment in the storeroom, said Beverly firefighter Paul B. Rideout. The fire left the building structurally intact, but destroyed the stage, which features a sophisticated hydraulic lift system and extensive lighting. Carpeting and fabric on the theater's seats were coated in soot and will have to be replaced, Rideout said. Fire departments from 10 surrounding communities helped fight the blaze, which was under control by 0100 hrs.

TYRE PLANT, WATERTOW, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A massive fire erupted in a huge pile of tyres at a recycling plant yesterday, sending black smoke billowing for miles and forcing roads to be closed while firefighters tried to contain the blaze. The fire ignited in about 1 million tires at the Watertown Tyre Recycling Co., said Lt. Doug Ninmann of the Dodge County Sheriff's Department. No one was injured and the cause wasn't determined, but people within a mile's radius were warned to take shelter if the smoke becomes too intense, he said. Firefighters had been at the scene since 1000, he said. WTMJ-TV of Milwaukee reported that inspectors from the state Department of Natural Resources were at the plant when the fire started. Jennifer Warmke, emergency management deputy director for Dodge County, said 14 to 16 area fire departments were helping to battle the blaze. Officials planned to reassess the situation around midnight. Warmke said it likely will take many days to put the fire out. "Several days is being optimistic," she said. Rob Thiboldeaux, a toxicologist with the state Division of Health, said he had checked air conditions at Watertown's hospital and air quality was not a concern so far. State officials offered to relocate about 20 to 50 people living within a half-mile of the fire but no one had taken them up on the offer as of yesterday night, he said. Light winds yesterday allowed the black smoke to billow upward and then spread off to the east at a high elevation.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Hundreds of firefighters today battled 15 separate wildfires which raged out of control across drought-hit Portugal amid soaring temperatures, emergency services said. More than 150 firefighters tackled the largest blaze near the central town of Alcanena, which forced the closure for several hours of the nation's busiest highway linking Lisbon to the country's second city Oporto in the north. Firefighting teams were backed by four water-

dropping aircraft and over 40 vehicles in their battle against the blaze, which has two fronts and threatens several homes, a spokeswoman for Portugal's civil protection unit (SNBPC) said. Emergency workers were ordering residents from several other homes in the area to evacuate because of the threat posed by the wind-fueled fire, it added. Further south in the province of Algarve, one of Europe's top tourist destinations, nearly 100 firefighters backed by three aircraft struggled to put out the flames near Loule, some 20 kilometres from the resorts which dot the coast. Portugal is facing its worst dry spell since the 1940s, with the entire country classified as either suffering from a severe or extreme drought, according to agriculture ministry figures. Wildfires have destroyed nearly 30,000 hectares of brush and forest so far this year.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 3000 firefighters were battling bushfires across drought-hit Portugal that claimed the life of an elderly man and forced the evacuation of six villages, officials said. The charred body of the man in his 60s was found on a road leading to his home near the village of Alvaizere, about 160km north-east of Lisbon, a village councilman said. Firefighters were backed by 30 water-dropping aircraft and dozens of vehicles as they battled more than 20 bushfires, which came in tinderbox conditions as Portugal is facing its worst drought in more than six decades. More than 300 firefighters were at the scene of the largest fire near the central mountain town of Seia which has raged for two days amid scorching temperatures. Firefighters and police evacuated residents of four area villages yesterday because of the threat posed by the advance of the flames. Two more villages, including granite-walled Piodao, a popular tourist destination, were evacuated late today after they became surrounded by flames.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A total of 6,300 hectares of woodland have been destroyed by fire in Russia's far east over the past 24 hours, the regional forestry service reported today. An abnormal heat wave in the far east with temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius has sharply aggravated the situation in the region. Fires are raging in nine of 10 regions in the east of the country, the service reported. A total of 83 fire centres are fixed in the region. Twenty-one of them appeared yesterday. Over 1,100 specialists, 30 aircraft and 130 ground vehicles are fighting the blaze in the region. However, up to 10 new fires begin daily in remote taiga areas. Over 5,175 hectares of woodland have been destroyed by blaze in Yakutia over the past 24 hours. A total of 738 fires have been registered in the region this year. They have destroyed 86,506 hectares of woodland and 37,100 hectares of non-forested area.

London, Jul 20 -- Frontal rains helped reverse the fire situation in Russia's far east. The largest blaze engulfing 10,000 hectares in Sovetskaya Gavan area, has been contained and now does not exceed 138 hectares, according to satellite photography. Ten fires still rage in the Khabarovsk territory, but five or six of them may be put out within a day. The air control service of the far eastern airborne forest protection base said today.

WILDFIRES, SPAIN

Madrid, Jul 17 -- Emergency services battled to control forest fires in central Spain today and police arrested a man believed to have started one of the blazes in the parched interior of the country, local officials said. Police detained the man thought to be responsible for one of three fires consuming thousands of hectares of land in the central regions of Castille-La Mancha and Castille-Leon. That blaze was close to a Repsol oil refinery in the town of Puertollano which was under control, a government official said, adding that the refinery had at no point been in danger. In the province of Guadalajara, hundreds of people were evacuated from towns in and around a natural park where a fire raged despite the efforts of firefighters, officials said. The cause of the blaze was a barbecue which had not been fully extinguished. In Zamora province, also in central Spain, a fire which had consumed about 1,200 hectares was now manageable, a government spokesman said. -- Reuters.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two fast-spreading wildfires threatened ancient cliff dwellings in south-western Colorado and forced the shutdown of some guided tours on tribal land. One fire on the Ute Mountain Ute Indian reservation doubled in size yesterday to 120 hectares, authorities said. The other, a 920-hectare blaze, burned about eight kilometres away near Mesa Verde National Park, also on Ute Mountain Ute land. "World-class archaeological resources are threatened," said Tom Rice, the tribe's resource adviser. The smaller fire was 40 percent contained by yesterday night; the larger blaze, sparked by lightning last week, was 75 percent contained. The threatened cliff dwellings date from the Puebloan period, from 600 AD to 1300 AD, and the area holds petroglyphs, stone tools, pottery and other artifacts, makes fighting the blazes more difficult. Fire crews attacked from the air to avoid damaging fragile artifacts with bulldozers, and archaeologists were brought in to help preserve artifacts. The tribe's business also could be affected because tours are one of its main sources of income. June and July are the busiest months for tourism, said Veronica Cuthair,

director of the Ute Mountain Ute visitors' centre. The National Interagency Fire Centre yesterday was tracking 29 large wildfires burning in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The largest was a 73 200-hectare range fire burning in the sparsely populated desert region of south-west Idaho. In Arizona, fire officials reported progress fighting a 9 000-hectare blaze east of Tucson. The fire had burned to within a half-mile of about 30 homes and cabins in Madera Canyon and a mile from an observatory on nearby Mount Hopkins.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: A 108-acre fire sparked by a train rolling through dry lands north of Bonners Ferry forced four families to evacuate from their home this afternoon. Witnesses told authorities around 1400 hrs they saw sparks from the train cause the fire. With dry conditions and wind, the sparks spread into three fires and eventually burned over a hundred acres of the Department of Lands property on the east side of highway 95 north of Bonners Ferry. By about 2100 hrs, all four families were back in their homes with no reported damage. Nor have any injuries been reported. Crews from the Department of Lands, Forest Service, Priest Lake, Coeur d'Alene, St. Joe, and Sandpoint fire departments, along with volunteers had the blaze 50% contained by this evening. They had fire lines on the north, south and west side of the fire and were working on the east side with the expectation of having the fire contained before tomorrow morning and before temperatures again begin to climb again.



ACCIDENT, INTERNATIONAL RAJASANSI AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 250 passengers, on board an Air India flight to Canada from new Delhi via Amritsar, had a narrow escape today when one of its wheels caught fire immediately after the aircraft landed at International Rajasansi Airport. Airport Director V S Mulekar confirmed the incident but refused to give details saying that all passengers were safe. Giving details of the incident, airport sources said as soon as the Air India Delhi-Amritsar-Canada flight 187 landed at Rajasansi International Airport here, one of its wheels caught fire. Fire tenders were pressed into service and the blaze was controlled within no time. No passengers were hurt in the incident, they said.

ACCIDENT, OLD BRIDGE AIRPORT, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A corporate jet trying to land at Old Bridge Airport overshot a runway this afternoon and eventually came to rest in a nearby grassy area, but no one aboard the aircraft was injured. The twin-engine aircraft, a Cessna Citation 525 owned by Hertrich Aviation Inc. of Seaford, Del., sustained substantial damage when it went down around 1615 hrs, said Jim Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. A pilot and two passengers were aboard the aircraft, but their names were not immediately available. Peters said the jet had departed earlier in the day from Sussex County Airport in Georgetown, Del. As the pilot attempted to land at the airport in Middlesex County, he overshot a runway by about 300 to 400 feet, Peters said. It was not immediately clear why that occurred, and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash as an accident.

C-FHDU

London, Jul 14 -- Stinson 108, C-FHDU, departed Laurenson Lake for the an outpost cabin on Botanist Lake. After take-off, the pilot encountered gusty downdraft conditions produced by airflow over a high ridge in the direction of take-off. The pilot attempted a sharp left turn in an effort to get back over water, and the engine lost power at 0815, Jul 10. The aircraft stalled, descended and struck the surface of Laurenson Lake. The pilot sustained serious injuries and the aircraft was substantially damaged. A TSB investigator attended the wreckage recovery.

C-FHOP

London, Jul 20 -- Cessna A185F (Skywagon) C-FHOP overturned on landing on Constance Lake, Ontario, at 1052, EDT, Jul 18. The one person on board was killed.

C-FSIZ

London, Jul 14 -- The Cessna C337, C-FSIZ, owned by Hicks & Lawrence Limited, was landing on Runway 27 in Pickle Lake, Ontario, after a fire patrol flight at 1515, Jul 9. The landing gear was not selected down before landing and the aircraft landed with its wheels retracted. The aircraft sustained substantial damage to its lower fuselage and both propellers, the pilot and passenger were not injured. Runway 27 in Pickle lake was closed for approximately 3 hours while the aircraft was removed. The aircraft has been removed from service and is awaiting repair in Pickle Lake.

C-GAQW

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than four months after a float aircraft carrying five people disappeared after taking off from a Vancouver Island community, and long after official

rescue efforts ceased, volunteers have found the wreckage. The aluminum frame of the de Havilland Beaver was discovered Thursday (Jul 14) off the coast of Quadra Island under more than 240 metres of water, a short flight away from the takeoff point in Campbell River. Searchers found the aircraft using commercial sonar and conclusively identified it with a picture of hull markings taken by a remote-controlled undersea vehicle, RCMP Constable Dave Hay said. On the morning of Feb 28, the float aircraft lifted off from Campbell River and disappeared into the fog. A trail of debris floating east of Quadra Island indicated a crash, and the body of one passenger, David Stevens, washed ashore. But even after a concerted rescue effort that included the Canadian navy, no trace could be found of the aircraft, its pilot, Arnold Feast, or the three remaining passengers. The wreckage is too deep for RCMP divers to recover, but the force will look at other ways to accomplish the delicate operation of lifting the aircraft's aluminum frame without destroying evidence.

CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS DUE TO CRACKS IN WING COMPONENTS, JAPAN

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Small cracks have been found in main-wing components of two small jets of Japan Airlines subsidiary J-Air Corp and a total of 10 domestic flights were cancelled for repair and inspection between Jul 12 and 19, company officials said today. The two jets are among J-Air's fleet of six 50-seat Bombardier CRJ200 aircraft, which serve regional routes. The cancelled flights were all on the route between Niigata and Nagoya, near where J-Air is based.

CRASH, EQUATORIAL GUINEA

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated Jul 16, states: An aircraft, carrying at least 45 people, is believed to have crashed shortly after taking off in Equatorial Guinea. The Russian-built Antonov aircraft was flying from the island capital, Malabo, to the mainland city of Bata. Military aircraft were searching for the aircraft. The country's information minister said there were "rumours" it had crashed into the sea. The aircraft was known to be carrying about 35 passengers and some 10 crew, although exact numbers were not known. Equatorial Guinea's capital, Malabo, is situated on an island and much travel to the mainland is by regular air service. The missing aircraft, a 42-seater operated by Equatair, may have been carrying up to 80 people, reports said. As well as passengers, crew members often accept bribes to allow extra people on board. It took off at about 1000, local time (0900 GMT), and disappeared shortly after it became airborne. There was little official news on the aircraft, with worried locals gathering at the airport as the military began a search. A witness, working on an offshore oil

platform, saw flames coming from the side of the aircraft shortly after take-off. The aircraft then tilted and fell into the jungle, he said.

Malabo, Jul 17 -- All 55 passengers and crew were killed when an Antonov aircraft crashed shortly after take off from Equatorial Guinea's capital Malabo, the government said today. Information Minister and government spokesman Alfonso Nsue Mokuy said he was in touch with a team at the site of yesterday's crash near Baney, a town some 19 km from Malabo. "No one survived -- the plane was destroyed," Nsue Mokuy said. Until teams reached the site today, the government had been unable to say whether anyone might have survived the crash. Nsue Mokuy dismissed local media reports that the Russian-made Antonov aircraft had been carrying up to 80 people when it crashed. The aircraft, owned by local company Equatair, was heading from Malabo, on the Atlantic island of Bioko, to Bata, on the mainland section of the central African country. The flight route to Bata is virtually all over the ocean, although the aircraft crashed on land. It disappeared off the radar screen shortly after taking off at 1000, UTC, yesterday, officials said. Six of the 55 people on board were crew, officials said yesterday. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Equatorial Guinean President Teodoro Obiang admitted yesterday that the air accident which occurred on Saturday (Jul 16) in the Baney district on the island of Bioko was due to the fact that the (Air Equateur) plane was overloaded, Equatorial Guinean state radio has reported. Obiang appealed to the government, the owners of planes and the population to avoid using means of transport with excessive loads and stressed the need to bear transport regulations in mind. The opposition Popular Union party (UP) blamed the disaster on the government, saying that "it is the administration that must oversee citizens's safety". It also urged the relatives of the deceased to "demand justice" and ask for compensation for the victims. It also complained that, a short time ago, the Transport Ministry banned flights by planes from the airline UTAGE that were in poor condition, while it did not withdraw those of Air Equateur, which also were, because "behind Equateur are the big fish, and it has become an untouchable company".

CRASH, GULF OF MEXICO

See "Hurricane "Emily"" under "Weather & Navigation."

CRASH, JACKSON AREA, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: The pilot of a single-engine Cessna en route from Milwaukee's Timmerman Airport to Green Bay died this afternoon when the plane crashed in the Jackson Marsh, authorities said. The marsh covers about 2,300 acres northeast of

Jackson. Searchers found what they believed was the pilot's body about 1540 hrs, slightly more than an hour after the Federal Aviation Administration reported the plane could be in the marsh. The Washington County Sheriff's Department said the male pilot, a 44-year-old man from Glendale, was the only person on the plane. He was flying on a student pilot certificate. The FAA in Green Bay had reported that a plane was missing and dispatched planes to search the marsh area, Washington County Sheriff Brian K. Rahn said. The crash site is about one mile south of Pleasant Valley Road. An emergency transponder from the plane helped lead searchers to wreckage in a wooded, marshy area. FAA spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory in Des Plaines, Ill., said preliminary information indicated that the pilot might have been on a "touch-and-go" practice flight, because the plane was scheduled to return to Timmerman. The National Transportation Safety Board has begun an investigation, she said. The single-engine Cessna 172P, manufactured in 1983, is owned by Gran-Aire, a charter service and flight school based at Timmerman, according to the FAA Web site.

CRASH, JAKKUR LAKE, INDIA

London, Jul 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Cessna-340 aircraft crash landed into the Jakkur lake moments before it was to land at the nearby Jakkur airstrip on Saturday (Jul 16). The pilots manoeuvred the aircraft away from the Jakkur village. The Indian-born US pilots have been hospitalised. Around 1400 hrs, the US-made Cessna-340 twin engine pressurised-six-seat aircraft, modified for cloud-seeding, took off from the Bangalore airport after obtaining customs clearance. The aircraft was leased by Agni Aviation from a Texas-based firm. Moments before it could land at the Jakkur airstrip, the aircraft veered off course and crashlanded into the lake nearby. Agni Aviation MD Arvind Sharma said the reason for the crash is not yet known, though it is most likely to have occurred due to a technical snag.

CRASH, SACRAMENTO AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

See N266SD.

CRASH, SAGINAW AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: A single-engine plane crashed and burst into flames this afternoon, killing all three people aboard, authorities said. The unidentified plane had taken off from Hicks Airfield, a small airport near Saginaw, north-west of Fort Worth, when it crashed in a residential area about 1225 hrs, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman John Clabes said. The pilot had not filed a flight plan, he said. Nobody on the ground was injured, Tarrant County

sheriff's spokesman Terry Grisham said. Witnesses said the plane was flying low as if it were trying to land, then crashed into a boat in a home's backyard and exploded. Investigators with the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating. The fiery wreckage was making it difficult to recover the tail number used to identify the aircraft's owner and the type of plane, Clabes said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A chartered turboprop aircraft with 19 passengers and two crew members landed safely at Duluth International Airport yesterday morning after apparently losing hydraulic pressure. The British Aerospace Jetstream 32 operated by Mid America Jet of Owensboro, Ky. -- landed around 1120 hrs with dozens of emergency vehicles standing by. The aircraft was en route from International Falls to Chicago's Midway Airport when, shortly into the flight, the pilot reported problems, airport officials said. The pilot passed over the Duluth airport once at low altitude so airport officials on the ground could confirm the landing gear was in place, then landed safely. Passengers and the crew, who declined to comment, were waiting in the offices of Cirrus Design Corp. along the airport's main runway for a crew to arrive to service the aircraft, said Shaun Germolus, operations director for the Duluth Airport Authority. Gregg Nunn, spokesman for Mid America, said the pilots took a precautionary measure by landing in Duluth and that there was never any danger to the aircraft or passengers. He said he was unsure when the aircraft would be repaired and able to fly again.

EMERGENCY LANDING, EL PASO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: A Delta aircraft departing El Paso en route to Atlanta made an emergency landing today after one of the plane's tyres failed on takeoff, officials said. Delta Flight 1041 took off as scheduled at 1203 hrs, today from El Paso International Airport, only to return about 45 minutes later and land without incident. El Paso fire and rescue crews and the aircraft rescue and firefighting team were called to the scene. No injuries were reported, and airport officials said the aircraft, an MD-88, landed safely. On board were five crew members and 114 passengers. Officials from Delta said today that they were accommodating passengers for their destinations.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KRASNOYARSK AREA, RUSSIA

London, Jul 15 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An An-32 aircraft had to make an emergency

landing near Krasnoyarsk in West Siberia this afternoon. No one was injured in the incident, the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said. "There were four crew members, two passengers and six tons of cargo onboard," a ministry spokesman said. He said the crew decided to make an emergency landing as the aircraft's left engine failed, 20 minutes after take-off. A commission is being set up to investigate the causes of the failure, he said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MEACHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: An American Airlines flight from Long Beach made an emergency landing in Fort Worth, Texas yesterday after the pilot declared a fuel problem. Officials say the flight to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was approaching its destination when the pilot declared the fuel emergency. Traffic controllers directed the aircraft to a naval air station but the pilot noted that Fort Worth's Meacham International Airport was closer and decided to land there. Passengers say the aircraft then sloped sharply and landed before the pilot informed them of the fuel problem. There were no injuries.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NANTES AIRPORT, FRANCE

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A German jet taking 174 holidaymakers to Tenerife in the Canary Islands was forced to land in western France after one of its engines had to be shut down, the Condor airline announced today. Condor said the pilot of the Airbus A320 decided to turn off one of the aircraft's two engines because it was malfunctioning shortly after taking off from Hanover yesterday, but the aircraft was able to fly with one engine and land safely at Nantes airport. The passengers spent the night in a hotel near the airport and were expected to fly to Tenerife on another Condor jet today.

GROUNDING OF BOMBARDIER AIRCRAFTS, JAPAN

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: The All Nippon Airways group and a Japan Airlines affiliate canceled 14 domestic flights today to check the engines of a twin-engine propeller aircraft of the same model as the one that made an emergency landing in June after smoke filled the cockpit and cabin, the airlines said. The flights were cancelled as five Canadian-made Bombardier DHC-8-400's owned by the ANA group and Japan Air Commuter were found to have similar defects to the aircraft in question after the airlines conducted checks at the instructions of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry.

INCIDENT AT CATICLAN AIRPORT, PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Inter-Island Airline aircraft carrying 20 tourists bound for Boracay got stuck at the Caticlan airport after its rear wheel collapsed as it was landing this morning. All the passengers and crew were safely evacuated, but all incoming and outgoing flights have been diverted to the Kalibo airport since 0958 hrs.

INCIDENT AT DON MUANG AIRPORT, THAILAND

London, Jul 16 -- A press report, dated Jul 16, states: A THAI aircraft air-conditioning truck rammed into a Bangkok Airways Boeing 717-200 jetliner at Don Muang airport at 0655, Jul 15, seriously damaging its right wing. No one was injured. THAI expressed regret and took full responsibility for the accident. Bangkok Airways chief executive Prasert Prasarttong-Osoth said the jet will be out of service for at least 20 days and result in 100 million baht in lost business for the privately owned carrier. Pethai Boonyaves, managing director of THAI's Ground Support Equipment Services, admitted the accident was human error on the part of the driver, only identified as Mr Wanchai. He said a special committee has been appointed to investigate the incident and work closely with the insurance firm, Diphya Insurance. The accident is the second such incident for the two airlines. About a year ago, the wing tip of a Bangkok Airways jet was hit by a THAI ground service truck at Don Muang. Operators at the airport say incidents of service vehicles damaging parked aircraft are not uncommon at Don Muang. "It happens at least once a month and many cases are not reported outside the airport." Dr Prasert said the incident should ring alarm bells for authorities and parties concerned to seriously look at airport safety issues to regain the trust and confidence of international carriers. He said Bangkok Airways has to figure out how to deal with the four to five flights a day which must be cancelled due to the grounding of the 125-seat, rear-engine B717-200. Yesterday four flights were cancelled, he said. So far, THAI has not told Bangkok Airways whether it can spare any of its aircraft or provide seats to make up for the temporary loss of the jetliner. Both airlines are gearing up to tap into a rebound in air travel to Thailand, especially in August, which is the start of European holidays. The loss of the B717 will have a big impact on Bangkok Airways, which is much smaller than THAI. The airline is now left with three B717s and two 162-seat Airbus 320s and nine 70-seat ATR72 propeller aircraft. In a statement issued yesterday, THAI said it has continued to place emphasis on maintaining the highest standard of safety for its ground crew at Don Muang.

MID-AIR COLLISION, MARTIN, SLOVAKIA

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two Hungarians were killed yesterday as two aircrafts collided in the air shortly after takeoff simultaneously from the Slovak city of Martin, the state-run Hungarian News Agency reported. The two victims were in one of the aircrafts, the other aircraft's crew survived without major injuries, the report said. One of the survivors, a pilot, recalled that he started the emergency rescue system after the wings of the two aircrafts collided with each other so his aircraft managed to land safely. Identities of the victims have not yet released. Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

N266SD

London, Jul 15 -- Eurocopter EC120B, N266SD, operated by the Sacramento County Sheriffs Department, crashed under unknown circumstances 12 miles north-east of Sacramento, California, at 0211, local time, Jul 14. Three persons were on board, two were fatally injured and one was seriously injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

N620JM

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four people walked away with only minor injuries Friday (Jul 15) morning after the small aircraft they were in ran off the runway of the Eagle County Airport near Gypsum as it was landing, officials said. The Lear 35 twin-engine aircraft was owned by Aspen Aviation and carried the pilot, copilot, a nurse and a medical patient bound for the Shaw Cancer Center in Edwards. The airport's rescue and fire unit and Gypsum Fire Protection District personnel quickly extinguished a small fire, said Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Kim Andree. The aircraft's occupants were taken to the Vail Valley Medical Center as a precaution, she said. An Aspen Aviation spokeswoman in Aspen said she had no further details on the incident. The plane was coming in for a landing around 0930 hrs when it ran off the north side of the runway and into the center of the airport, Andree said. The aircraft did not overturn. The incident closed the airport for about 30 minutes, Andree said.

London, Jul 19 -- Learjet 35A N620JM skidded into a field on landing at Eagle, Colorado, at 0845, Jul 15, following a flight from Aspen, CO, and caught fire. The four persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N7868Y

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating a plane crash that killed three men and seriously injured a fourth this morning. The fatalities were identified as the pilot, Kevin P. Saffold, 25, of Eagle Rock; John D. Shaffer, 52, of Shell Knob; and Roger O. Jones, 30, of Fayetteville, Ark.

Walter R. Blair, 43, of Allen, Texas, survived the crash and was taken to St. Johns Hospital in Springfield with serious injuries, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said. Authorities said the plane, a 1966 Piper PA-30 twin-engine Comanche, was travelling from Aurora to Kentucky when the crash occurred. The plane crashed in a wooded area about a mile south of the Aurora airport, which is 35 miles southwest of Springfield.

London, Jul 19 -- Piper PA-30 (Twin Comanche) N7868Y crashed near Aurora, Missouri, at 1407, Jul 18, following take-off from Aurora. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Three of the four persons on board were killed and the fourth was seriously injured.

N860RW

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated Jul 18, states: Two commercial planes clipped wings today on a taxiway at the Indianapolis International Airport, but officials said there were no injuries and only minor damage. "The way it was described to me, they quote, 'touched wings,' and that was it," airport spokesman Dennis Rosebrough said. Rosebrough said the incident shortly before 1500 hrs, did not cause significant delays in other flights. Frontier flight 619 was taxiing when its right wing struck Air Shuttle flight 7517, which was departing the gate area, said Tony Molinaro, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration's Great Lakes Region. "It appears to be very minor, but our flight standards folks are investigating to determine just what happened," Molinaro said. Both planes were carrying passengers, but Rosebrough said it was not necessary to evacuate passengers before the planes returned to the terminal.

London, Jul 19 -- Embraer ERJ-170-100SE N860RW, operated by Chautauqua Airlines, struck Airbus A319-111 N940FR, operated by Frontier Airlines, at 1940, Jul 18, while N860RW was on push-back from the gate at Indianapolis International Airport, Indiana. Both aircraft sustained minor damage, but no injuries were reported.

N908PL

London, Jul 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft piloted by the son of a former owner of the San Jose Sharks hockey team crashed off the Pacific Coast, killing six people, authorities said yesterday. No survivors were reported. The pilot was Greg Gund, 32, said Miguel Corrales, an official with the Costa Rica Coast Guard. U.S. Embassy officials in San Jose, the Costa Rican capital, refused to comment. Divers alerted authorities yesterday morning after discovering three bodies - a man, woman and a child - floating near Flamingo Beach. Three more bodies were spotted inside the twisted wreckage of a seaplane underwater near Plata Island, off Flamingo Beach, authorities said. The wreckage was

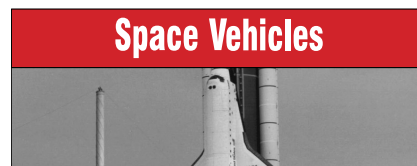
located about 130 feet below the surface. Divers suspended the effort to recover the bodies inside until today. The U.S.-registered aircraft left early yesterday from the Tobias Bolanos Airport in San Jose, bound for the Pacific coast.

London, Jul 18 -- Pilatus Porter PC-6, N908PL, crashed into sea near Flamingo Beach, off the Pacific Coast, at 0915, Saturday (Jul 16). All six occupants died, three adults and three children (two childrens bodies not yet recovered). Cause unknown, all occupants US citizens.

London, Jul 18 -- Pilatus PC-6/B2-H4 (Turbo-Porter) N908PL crashed near San Jose, Costa Rica, at 1150, Jul 16. The six persons on board were killed.

N940FR

See N860RW.

**DISCOVERY (Space Shuttle)**

London, Jul 19 -- NASA has still not found the cause of the sensor problem that forced last week's delay of the first space shuttle mission in two-and-a-half years and does not expect to attempt a launch before Jul 26. NASA managers today said they were still trying to send the shuttle Discovery into space on the first flight since the 2003 Columbia disaster within the launch window open until Jul 31. The first attempt was called off last week because of a glitch with a fuel sensor designed to shut off the shuttle's three main engines before fuel runs out to avoid damaging them. A premature shutdown could force a shuttle to make an emergency landing or prevent it from reaching orbit. Discovery is scheduled for a 12-day mission during which its crew would test the safety upgrades and deliver supplies and equipment to the International Space Station.

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: The US space agency has set Tuesday (Jul 26) at 1039, EDT (1539, BST) as its new launch opportunity for the shuttle Discovery. Nasa engineers have still not fixed the troublesome fuel sensor that stopped an earlier launch attempt but feel they are now getting on top of the issue. Agency officials said they would start the countdown clock on Saturday (Jul 23) for what will be the first shuttle mission since the loss of Columbia in 2003. Exhaustive work by hundreds of engineers suggests that an electrical grounding problem lurking somewhere inside the spacecraft is the most probable cause of the sensor's faulty behaviour. Shuttle officials said some further tests still needed to be done but that they felt confident now to proceed to a countdown. If the sensor worked properly during the final hours before launch, Discovery would fly, shuttle

programme manager Bill Parsons said. If the problem reoccurred but was well understood, then the go-ahead would likely be given to launch the orbiter anyway, he added. "We believe the best way to go through this is to do a countdown," he said "If the sensors work exactly like we think they will, then we'll launch on that day. If anything goes not per the plan that we've laid out in front of us, then we'll have a scrub and we'll have to talk about it." Including the first launch attempt on Tuesday, there are at least four opportunities for Discovery to launch during the current launch window, which extends until Jul 31; although Nasa managers are now also looking at the possibility of additional launch opportunities in the first week of August.

Product Recalls



NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

London, Jul 19 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Nissan North America Inc. said today it will recall more than 140,000 Murano sport utility vehicles amid concerns that a broken wire in the alternator could deplete power to the engine and lead to a crash. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said that a wire could break inside the alternator and prevent the battery

from charging. The charger warning and brake warning lamps would come on and the battery would start to discharge. After a short time, the engine would go into a condition that limits the vehicle's speed and stop running, creating the potential for a crash. The recall involves more than 125,000 vehicles from the 2003-2005 model years and more than 15,000 vehicles in Canada, Nissan spokesman Dean Case said. No injuries or crashes linked to the problem have been reported, he said.

SUBARU MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Jul 20 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd China is recalling 555 Subaru Legacy vehicles sold in China this year and last because of faulty doors, the company and a Chinese government agency said today. The China office of the Japanese auto manufacturer is asking buyers of three Legacy models - BL9, BLE and BPE - to bring the station wagons into a Subaru repair and inspection station any time after Aug 1 to get the doors checked.

TORCHES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 20 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Lamplight Farms Inc., a Division of W.C. Bradley Company, of Menomonee Falls, Wis., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 350,000 TikiÆ Cone Metal Torches. The head and cover of these torches can come loose or be dislodged during use, allowing torch

fuel to spill. This poses a risk of burn injuries and property damage. Lamplight Farms has received one report that a torch head fell off the torch pole when bumped and spilled torch fuel. The spilled fuel was ignited by the burning wick, resulting in second and third degree burns to a consumer. The torches were sold at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from December 2003 through to early June 2005 for about \$9 each.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Jul 12 -- Port situation Jul 12: Genoa: No vessels waiting for berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth. No vessels awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Jul 18 -- Port situation Jul 18: Genoa: No vessels waiting for berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth. No vessels awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Jul 2 -- Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Lattakia, Jul 9 -- Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

(Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and Indian Ports Association, New Delhi)

| Country/Port | Date of report | No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| Australia | | |
| Abbot Point | 18-Jul-2005 | Coal: One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 10 vessels due by 5/8; up to 6 days delay expected. |
| Dalrymple Bay | 18-Jul-2005 | Coal: Three vessels loading at berth, 12 at anchor; 40 vessels due by 23/8; 5-25 days delay expected. Vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability. Shippers have a certain entitlement of coal shipped through the terminal. If they exceed their entitlement, additional vessels are moved further down the list, with a resulting additional delay in berthing. |
| Dampier | 18-Jul-2005 | Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some grade/stockpile problems. Some vessels will berth out of turn and the berthing lineup may change at short notice. Shippers do not guarantee vessel will be able to load up to the maximum sailing draft available. Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 12 vessels due by 1/8; up to 8 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 10 vessels due by 1/8; up to 7 days delay expected; a shift to lay-by on completion of loading always possible. |
| Gladstone | 18-Jul-2005 | Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels loading at berth, 7 off port; 38 vessels due by 31/8; up to 7 days delay expected; Barney Point: 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels due by 30/7; no delays expected. |
| Hay Point | 18-Jul-2005 | Coal: Two vessels loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 8 vessels due by 29/7; up to 5 days delay expected. |
| Newcastle | 18-Jul-2005 | Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels loading at berth; 41 vessels due by 8/8; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 26 vessels due by 8/8; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 4-13 days delay expected. |
| Port Adelaide | 18-Jul-2005 | Grain: Six vessels due by 8/8 (3 wheat, 1 wheat/peas, 2 barley); up to 5 days (Jul 13) delay expected. |
| Port Giles | 18-Jul-2005 | Grain: Four vessels due by 30/7, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay (Jul 13) expected. |
| Port Hedland | 18-Jul-2005 | Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 26/7; up to 2 days delay expected; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 26/7; up to 4 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels due by 22/7; up to 1 day's delay expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 4 vessels due by 26/7; up to 3 days delay expected. . |
| Port Kembla | 18-Jul-2005 | Coal: Two vessels awaiting cargo; 13 vessels due by 23/8; CB1: 2 vessels due by 26/7; from 27/6-18/7 CB1 will be out of service due to power outage; no delays expected. |
| Port Walcott | 18-Jul-2005 | Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 19 vessels due by 6/8; up to 4 days delay expected; cargo shortages may result in vessels berthing out of turn; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (8 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively; shippers advise that stores, air freight and baggage can no longer be delivered to the vessel or taken off at berth, but must be delivered/removed by launch. |
| Brazil | | |
| Paranagua | 18-Jul-2005 | Sixteen vessels at berth of which 12 loading (2 sugar, 1 pellets, 3 reefers, 6 others), 4 discharging fertiliser; 14 vessels waiting in roads of which 6 to load (1 reefer, 1 pellets, 2 sugar, 2 others), 8 to discharge fertiliser; 54 vessels due over the next 7 days. |
| Rio Grande | 18-Jul-2005 | Four vessels at berth of which 1 loading soya oil, 3 discharging (1 phosphate, 1 salt, 1 potassium chloride); 1 vessel waiting in roads; 47 vessels due over the next 10 days. |
| Santos | 18-Jul-2005 | Twenty-two vessels at berth of which 9 loading sugar, 2 discharging wheat, 1 loading bulk juice, 1 discharging chemical products, 1 loading soya, 1 reefer loading, 1 other discharging, 3 loading/discharging full containers, 2 loading bulk diesel oil, 1 discharging bulk salt; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 vessel loading/discharging full containers; Tecondi: 2 vessels loading/discharging full containers; Termares: 1 Ro/Ro loading/discharging; Rodrimar: no vessels; Cosipa: 1 vessel discharging coal; Ultrafertil: no vessels; Cargill: 1 vessel loading bulk sugar, 1 loadng soya; Santos Brasil: 2 vessels loading/discharging full containers; Dow: no vessels; Cutrale: 1 vessel loading bulk juice; 16 vessels waiting in roads; 26 vessels due over the next 7 days. |
| Sao Sebastiao | 18-Jul-2005 | Two vessels berthed; 1 vessel waiting in roads; 10 vessels due over the next 10 days. |
| Vitoria | 18-Jul-2005 | Eighteen vessels berthed; 22 vessels waiting in roads: Vitoria: 5 vessels at berth of which 4 loading (1 granite, 1 steel products, 1 pig iron, 1 sugar), 1 discharging rails; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 vessels loading/discharging full containers; Praia Mole: 5 vessels at berth of which 4 loading (1 iron ore, 1 granite, 2 steel products), 1 discharging coal; Tubarao: 4 vessels at berth, all loading (1 soya, 3 iron ore); Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: 2 vessels at berth of which 1 loading iron ore, 1 discharging anthracite; 20 vessels due over the next 7 days. |

Port Conditions

Egypt

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--|
| Adabiya | 18-Jul-2005 | Fourteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 6 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 livestock, 2 tankers, 1 container vessel. |
| Alexandria | 18-Jul-2005 | Thirty-two vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 19 general cargo, 10 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel, 2 tankers; 22 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage; 15 vessels dry-docked.. |
| Damietta | 18-Jul-2005 | Twenty vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 10 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 Ro/Ro, 4 container vessels; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage. |
| Dekheila | 18-Jul-2005 | Eleven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 9 bulk carriers, 2 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage. |
| Port Said | 18-Jul-2005 | Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 1 car carrier, 3 container vessels. |
| Suez | 18-Jul-2005 | Three vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 passenger vessels; 3 tug boats. |
| Suez Canal | 18-Jul-2005 | Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound. |

India

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|---|
| Kolkata | 18-Jul-2005 | 5 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Containers, General Cargo-2), 2 vessels discharging (Edible Oil, Timber Logs); 1 vessel working at mid stream to discharge Timber Logs; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge pulses; 1 vessel under repair; 2 vessels due (Containers, Lubricant Oil). |
| Haldia | 18-Jul-2005 | 12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore-2, Thermal Coal, Steel), 5 vessels discharging (Crude, PRXL, Coking Coal-2, Sulphur), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load Iron ore; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge POL; 4 vessels due (Crude, Coke, Iron ore, POL). |
| Paradip | 18-Jul-2005 | 9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Thermal Coal-2, Chrome Concentrate), 6 vessels discharging (Coking.Coal-2, N.C.Coal-2, Rock Phosphate, Ammonia). |
| Visakhapatnam | 18-Jul-2005 | 15 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore, Steel Plates, Thermal Coal, POL), 11 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-3, Rock Phosphate-2, Steam Coal, Caustic Soda, Met Coke, Urea, General Cargo, POL); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessel under repair; 1 stream coal vessel has been pulled out and shifted to anchorage; 27 vessels due (Iron Ore-8, Alumna Powder, B.F.Slag-2, Thermal Coal, POL Products, Sulphur, Molten Sulphur, Rock Phosphate, Pet Coke, Timber Logs, POL, Acetone, Steam Coal-2, Containers-4, DBM Bags). |
| Chennai | 18-Jul-2005 | 11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Granite Block, IOL, Naphtha), 6 vessels discharging (Raw Sugar, Container, S.Coal, Met Coke, KPCL Coal, Crude Oil), 2 vessels loading and discharging (Granite Block/Steel, Containers); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 3 vessels due (LSHS/Furnace Oil, Granite Block/C.Stone, Containers). |
| Tuticorin | 18-Jul-2005 | 4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading General Cargo, 2 vessels discharging (Copper concentrate, Thermal Coal); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load. |
| Cochin | 18-Jul-2005 | 3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Benzene, Sulphur), 1 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels (*) awaiting berth to discharge. |
| New Mangalore | 18-Jul-2005 | 8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron ore (P), POL Product), 6 vessels discharging (Lime Stone, Phosphoric Acid, MOP, Timber Logs, LPG, POL Crude); 10 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 8 to load); 16 vessels due (LPG, Containers, Iron Ore Fines-4, POL Product, Timber, Granite Stone-4, Iron ore (P), Soya Bean Oil, Ammonia, Methanol). |
| Mormugao | 18-Jul-2005 | 3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessel discharging(Met Coke, Motor Spirit), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel working at midstream to load Iron Ore; 4 vessels under repairs/dry dock; 3 vessels due (Met Coke, Coking Coal, Iron ore). |
| Mumbai | 18-Jul-2005 | 16 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (General Cargo-2, POL-2), 11 vessels discharging (General Cargo-6, Fertilizer(RM)-2, Oil, Salt, POL), 1 vessel loading and discharging General Cargo; 3 vessels awaiting order to discharge; 16 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 11 vessels under arrest, 23 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 13 vessels due (Containers-3, General Cargo-10). |
| J.N.P.T. | 18-Jul-2005 | 8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (SKO/HSD, MEG), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 1 Naphtha vessel due. |
| Ennore | 18-Jul-2005 | 1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel working at inner anchorage at Port Basin to load Iron Ore; 4 Thermal Coal vessels due. |
| Kandla | 18-Jul-2005 | 14 vessels operating at berth of which 9 discharging (S.Cargo, Urea, Coal, Timber Logs-2, I.Scrap, Chemical, DSBO, CPO), 3 vessels loading (Mr. Blocks, Rice, Salt), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (5 to discharge, 1 to load); 2 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels due (Met Coke-2, Containers, Salt, CPO). |

Israel

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| Ashdod | 19-Jul-2005 | No labour problems; Three vessels loading general cargo at berth, 8 discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 3 loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo), 1 tanker waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 2 vessels awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected. |
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Port Conditions

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| Haifa | 19-Jul-2005 | No labour problems; Three vessels discharging general cargo at berth, 5 loading/discharging containers at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 1 vessel due, with 2-3 days delay expected. |
| Poland | | |
| Gdansk | 18-Jul-2005 | Eight vessels in port operating of which 5 loading at berth (1 coal, 2 general cargo, 1 tanker, 1 grain), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo, 1 wood); 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 21 vessels due. |
| Gdynia | 18-Jul-2005 | Eight vessels in port operating of which 4 loading at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 tanker, 1 coal), 4 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain, 2 bulkers); 11 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 26 vessels due. |
| Spain | | |
| Bilbao | 19-Jul-2005 | Thirty-seven vessels in port operating (6 tankers, 31 others), of which 7 loading, 16 discharging, 14 loading/discharging. |
| Cadiz | 19-Jul-2005 | Twenty vessels operating of which 3 Ro/Ros, 1 wheat, 1 soya flour, 1 cereals, 1 oil, 1 sand, 1 coal, 10 under repairs; no delays expected. |
| Sagunto | 19-Jul-2005 | Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 2 loading (1 cement, 1 bulk fertiliser), 15 discharging (13 steel products, 1 vehicles, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 2 discharging/loading steel products, 2 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected |
| Sri Lanka | | |
| Colombo | 18-Jul-2005 | Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). Four container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 2 steel, 1 general cargo, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bagged cement, 2 bulk LP gas); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge bagged soybean meal; 4 vessels dry-docked; 1 vessel at new tanker berth; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected. |
| Ukraine | | |
| Mariupol | 18-Jul-2005 | Nine vessels in port operating, all loading (5 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 wheat, 1 coal); 8 vessels in roads all to load (6 steel, 2 fire-clay); 45 vessels due of which 43 to load (19 steel, 10 coal, 12 fire-clay, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 fertiliser), 1 to discharge cars, 1 to discharge/load containers. |
| Odessa | 18-Jul-2005 | Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 9 loading (7 metal, 1 scrap, 1 ore), 5 discharging (1 baggage, 1 citrus, 1 general cargo, 1 sand, 1 passenger vessel), 3 loading/discharging containers; 8 vessels in roads of which 4 load (2 metal, 1 COR, 1 wheat), 4 to discharge (2 metal, 2 sugar); 56 vessels due of which 29 to load (26 metal, 1 oil, 1 equipment, 1 sunflower seeds), 6 to discharge (3 metal, 1 bananas, 1 oil, 1 sugar), 21 to discharge/load containers. |

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