

Jul 21 2006

## Clemenceau back home after seven-month towage saga

Decommissioned aircraft carrier is handed back to French navy in Brest after 16,000-mile towage operation, writes Jack Gaston- Friday July 21 2006

**A**FTER a towage operation of 16,000 nautical miles the tug Sable Cape, operated by International Tugage Contractors of the Netherlands, has handed over the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to French navy tugs at the port of Brest.

The arrival marked the end of a 135-day ocean tow that started on December 31 in Toulon behind the French tug Carengue.

Two days later, off Corsica, the Clemenceau was taken over by the ITC tug Sumatras for the voyage to shipbreakers in India via the Suez Canal. The convoy was escorted by French navy frigate Aconit.

During the tow through the Mediterranean, Clemenceau was boarded by activists from Greenpeace protesting that asbestos, PCBs and other toxic chemicals remained on board the carrier.

The vessel was disarmed and decommissioned in 1997, the French government stating that the majority of the toxic materials had been removed prior to sailing from France and only a small quantity of 45 tonnes remained.

The 26,000 tonne warship was purchased from the French government by the Ship Decommissioning Industry Corporation but it

was agreed that transfer of ownership would not become effective until shortly before arrival in India.

After a delay in obtaining permission for the convoy to transit the Suez Canal, the Egyptian government finally accepted that the vessel was still French government property and consequently did not fall under the terms of the Basel Convention prohibiting the export of hazardous and toxic materials.

Activists had submitted that the passage of Clemenceau through the canal should be prohibited under the convention, but on January 24 the convoy left Suez with the tug fully bunkered and Captain Leen van Dijke in command.

Further discussions took place at the highest political level between France and India to try to reach an agreement on delivery of the Clemenceau to the shipbreakers.

Although the Indian Supreme Court had ruled last year that the vessel could be taken to India after 98% of the asbestos on board had been removed, the correct amount of hazardous waste still on board Clemenceau was disputed. During those talks, the tug kept the carrier under way at sea in a safe location well outside any territorial waters.

Without waiting for a further ruling from India's Supreme Court, President Chirac ordered the Clemenceau to return to France. A contract for the return towage was agreed with the Ministère de Defence and Sumatras was instructed to proceed towards Mombasa to rendezvous with the ITC tug Sable Cape.

The latter vessel, under the command of Captain Savinov, rendezvoused with the Clemenceau in mid-March. Thanks to the tug's large fuel capacity of more than 1,500 tonnes, Sable Cape completed the entire tow with Clemenceau from off Mombasa to Brest via the Cape of Good Hope non-stop.

The French navy boarded the carrier off Dakar for inspection and arrival preparations and for the final leg of the voyage the tug and tow was escorted by the frigate Germinale.

Ironically, the long round trip confirmed that Clemenceau is still a very sound vessel with excellent sea keeping qualities and in the eyes of ITC was an easy ship to tow.

ITC thanked French naval staff for their "valuable and professional assistance" saying that the long haul went smoothly on the high seas with storms restricted to the court and conference rooms.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ALCANTARA</i>	ro-ro	CNI	BV	3,265	198	1995	Grounded by stern on the Androna rock while attempting to dock in Denia harbour Jul 4. Entered port and 2 metres of water pumped out of engine-room. To be taken to Cartagena for repairs.
<i>ANA B.</i>	chem/oil tanker	PAN	BV	3,545	6,103	1981	Reported Jul 10 aground downriver of Manaus, River Amazon. Salvage contract signed and situation being assessed.
<i>ANNA</i>	chemical tanker	GEO	BV	4,312	7,264	1985	Struck the Kalpaka Bridge in the Karaosta channel, Liepaja, while leaving the port on Jul 12. Sustained minor bow damage and will be towed to Tosmare Shipyard, Liepaja.
<i>ARABIAN SUN</i>	product tanker	LBR	BV	2,467	5,474	1990	Towed into Fujairah Jul 9 after sustaining engine failure and drifting on Jun 25 off Mumbai High oilfield.
<i>BENEGAS</i>	lpg	PAN	NK	6,222	6,110	1981	Had fire while docking at the temper platform in Aqaba Jul 13. Towed to open sea, where fire extinguished and crew removed.
<i>DOLLART GAS</i>	lpg	CYP	GL	4,200	5,688	1990	Reported in lat 25 05N, long 120 21E, Jul 13, with engine problems and loss of power. Crew attempting to repair.
<i>EL MORRO</i>	tug	USA		191	—	1966	Had fire in engine-room after leaving Barahona Jul 8. Controlled after an hour. Returned to Barahona on one engine and safely moored. Sailed Jul 12 to Las Calderas for repairs.
<i>ENTERPRISE</i>	bulker	ATG	NV	6,389	8,709	1985	Reported Jul 11 drifting in the Bass Strait due to engine trouble. Anchored 140 miles off Melbourne awaiting tug. Under tow for Melbourne Jul 13, where ETA Jul 15.
<i>FIDELITY</i>	product tanker	PAN	—	26,959	44,951	1984	Grounded near Rosario, River Parana, Jul 5. LOF signed with Tsavlis. Refloated by two tugs Jul 10 and awaiting underwater inspection. No damage found. Resumed voyage.
<i>KAPITAN DUDIN 1</i>	refrig	RUS	GL	6,369	7,020	1980	In collision with product tanker <i>San Carlo</i> at Chittagong outer anchorage Jul 8. Vessel awaiting beaching for scrap.
<i>LASS URANUS</i>	general	DEU	GL	1,512	2,386	1992	In collision with container carrier <i>Xin Fu Zhou</i> on the River Elbe, Jul 12. Severely damaged at the bow. Returned to Hamburg for investigation.
<i>MARIS</i>	bulker	HND	IR	20,854	35,224	1975	"Fallen onto" by product tanker <i>Atlantica I</i> while anchored at Chittagong outer roads Jul 12. Water ingress through hatch No.1. Investigation under way.
<i>POLARIS S.</i>	bulker	PAN	LR	14,951	25,025	1981	Grounded in the Preveza channel, about 2 miles from Preveza, Jul 7. Still aground Jul 13. Two tugs on scene.
<i>SAN CARLO</i>	product tanker	MLT	—	17,672	31,500	1977	In collision with <i>Kapitan Dudin 1</i> at Chittagong outer anchorage Jul 8. To be scrapped.
<i>XIN FU ZHOU</i>	container	CHN	CS	66,452	69,303	2004	In collision with general cargo <i>Lass Uranus</i> in the River Elbe Jul 12. Proceeded to Brunsbuttel. ETA Hamburg Jul 13 for repairs.

# CONTENTS

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

<b>Marine, including Overdue &amp; Missing Vessels</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Port State Control</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Seizures &amp; Arrests</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pipeline Accidents</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Weather &amp; Navigation</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Volcanic Activity</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Political &amp; Civil Unrest</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Labour Disputes</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Awards &amp; Settlements</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Railway Accidents</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Fires &amp; Explosions</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Product Recalls</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Port Conditions</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Port Conditions charts</b>	<b>37</b>

© Lloyd's MIU 2006 These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## A.TURTLE

See PXXI.

## ALCANTARA (Canary Islands)

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Alcantara*, 3265 gt, built 1995) ran aground on its stern on the Androna rock as it was attempting to dock in the harbour at Denia on Jul 4. The ferry managed to come into port and dock without any of the 17 passengers noticing what had happened, but firemen soon started pumping out the seawater that was starting to flow into the ferry as it lay at the quayside, with as much as two metres of water lying in the engine-room. Underwater soldering equipment was called in and the stricken ferry will now be taken to a shipyard in Cartagena to complete the repairs.

London, July 7 — A press report, dated July 6, states: Passenger ro/ro *Alcantara* that covers the Eivissa-Denia route grazed submerged rocks Tuesday night. The vessel, with 17 passengers on board, had sailed Eivissa port 2015 hrs and was due to arrive at Denia around 2200 hrs. The passengers were not injured, although the ferry had water ingress in two places. The vessel berthed at 2400 hrs and firemen had to drain water from the vessel. The ship will be repaired in the next days in Navantia shipyard, Cartagena. Sources of the company indicated that it hopes that, at the most, the ship can be operative in the middle of July, when the number of reservations are increased. At the moment, Trasmediterranea is in contact with its clients to notify the failure to them and to offer the possibility of relocating them to other company vessels which operate between Eivissa and Valencia or Alicante, informed a spokeswoman from the company.

## ALEX MAC (U.S.A.)

Boston, MA, Jul 7 — There are no plans to raise fishing (general) *Alex Mac*. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ALEXANDRIA (Cyprus)

Limassol, Jul 7 — Fishing (general) *Alexandria* will not be refloated. — Lloyd's Agents.

## AMBAR (Honduras)

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

## ANA B. (Panama)

London, Jul 10 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Ana B.* (3545 gt, built 1981), with 3,600 tonnes of gasoil, is currently aground some distance downriver of Manaus, on the River Amazon. Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract has been signed with

Wijsmuller Salvage BV. Salvors are assessing the situation prior to commencement of refloating efforts.

London, Jul 12 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage report, dated Jul 8, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage was contracted on Jul 8 to salve a 109-metre gasoil tanker (Combined chemical and oil tank *Ana B.*) loaded with some 3,600 tons gasoil, aground on the Amazon River. The tanker is aground relatively close to Manaus. Salvage team members from the SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage office and warehouses in Rio and Macae are being mobilised to the site with further back-up from The Netherlands and Argentina being moved in. Oil pollution abatement staff and equipment is also mobilised in as a contingency. The currents in the river will make the operation more complicated.

## ANDRE (Hong Kong)

Vancouver, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three heavily oiled cormorants have died and reports of injured wildlife are growing as a result of last Tuesday's (Jul 4) toxic fuel spill in Burrard Inlet. The heavy slick, which had settled about half a metre below the surface, put fish-diving birds such as cormorants at risk, said Devin Manky, a wildlife rehabilitator with the Wildlife Rescue Association. Several hundred litres of bunker fuel that spilled into Burrard Inlet are still being cleaned up. The spill occurred when bulker *Andre* (17040 gt, built 1995) was being fuelled by a barge just off Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver. While it is no longer floating in water, the oil is now clinging to the coastline. The slick measures half a metre wide and extends 800 metres across both the north and south shore of Burrard Inlet, said Paul Ross, Environment Canada emergency response co-ordinator. The thick, tar-like fuel also spread to the Lynnwood Marina where some 200 boats were affected. ICS International Petroleum, which owns the barge, has contracted Burrard Clean to clean up the slick. Focus Wildlife, an oiled wildlife response company, is heading the rescue effort. Ross estimated the slick would be cleaned up by the end of today at the earliest. Transport Canada has detained *Andre* and is investigating. Environment Canada is assisting the investigation and conducting tests of the fuel at its Pacific Science Centre lab. The maximum fine under the Canada Shipping Act's oil pollution prevention regulations is \$250,000. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: It is not yet clear who will fund clean-up costs after 1,000 litres of oil spilled into Burrard Inlet last week. Transport Canada is conducting an investigation into the spill to determine whether bulker *Andre* or the barge that was refuelling it is responsible for the spill that occurred off of Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver on Jul 4. Both the vessel

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



and the barge have been examined by Transport Canada, and while *Andre* has since left Vancouver, wildlife rescue crews are still on scene this week treating oil-slicked seabirds. Burrard Clean Operations has been mopping up the spill zone that stretched about 800 metres on either side of the Second Narrows Bridge, which is also home to hundreds of nesting cormorants. So far, 42 birds have been affected and at least three have died, but the general rule is that "for every animal you're able to capture or spot, there's at least 10 more that pass away or you just don't notice," said Devin Manky, senior wildlife rehabilitator with the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC. Transport Canada's investigation is expected to wrap up next month.

#### **ANNA (Georgia)**

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Riga MRCC, dated today: Chemical tanker *Anna* (4312 gt, built 1985) struck the Kalpaka Bridge in the Karaosta channel, Liepaja, in lat 56 32.6N, long 21 00.2E, at 1205, UTC, Jul 12, while leaving port. The vessel sustained minor bow damage above the waterline and will be towed to Tosmare Shipyard, Liepaja.

#### **ARA ZEEBRUGGE (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 9 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0908, UTC: General cargo *Ara Zeebrugge* (3815 gt, built 1991) Antwerp for Zeebrugge, has anchored and is waiting for parts for a defected turbine in lat 50 32.5N, long 000 05.1W at about 0838, UTC. The parts are being delivered via courier to a private launch arranged by Newhaven port control.

London, Jul 10 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 2316, UTC, Jul 9: General cargo *Ara Zeebrugge* is now under way, bound for Waterford.

#### **ARABIAN SUN (Liberia)**

London, Jul 11 — Understand salvage services rendered to product tanker *Arabian Sun* (2467 gt, built 1990) Jun 25, under LOF 2000 by SvitzerWijismuller Salvage B.V after it sustained engine failure, subsequently towed to Fujairah. (Note — *Arabian Sun* arrived Fujairah at 0700, Jul 9.)

London, Jul 12 — A SvitzerWijismuller report, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage on Jul 8 safely re-delivered 86 metre long product tanker (product tanker *Arabian Sun*) at Fujairah anchorage after tug *Svitzer Muharraq* had taken the casualty in tow just off the Mumbai High oilfield. The vessel had drifted for some time when *Svitzer Muharraq* departed from its station position in the Gulf of Oman Jun 26 and was able to connect up to the casualty on Jun 30, some 14 miles off an oil platform. The convoy then headed towards the Gulf of Oman and despite heavy SW-monsoon conditions in the Indian Ocean, the largest section of the route, *Svitzer Muharraq* and its tow were able to make at least

three to four knots. In the more sheltered Gulf of Oman speeds of upto 7.5 knots were achieved. The close to 950 mile rescue-tow itself was completed in eight days.

#### **ASIAN GREEN (Panama)**

Yokohama, Jul 11 — General cargo *Asian Green*: Following the grounding at Akashi Strait, vessel arrived Kakogawa 0245, Jul 2, and sailed 0539, Jul 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ATLANTICA I (Panama)**

See *Maris*.

#### **BALTIC FJORD (Norway)**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: A fire broke out in the hold of general cargo *Baltic Fjord* on the afternoon of Jul 4 in the port of Paljasaare, Tallinn. After an explosion in a fuel tank in the evening, the vessel was on fire until the next morning. Six fire-engines were unable to extinguish the fire during the night, it was finally extinguished by research/Buoy ship *Eva- 316* with its fire pumps. In order to avoid an oil spill, oil booms were placed in the port entrance. There were no injuries.

Tallinn, Jul 12 — The fire on board general cargo *Baltic Fjord* was extinguished at 0850, Jul 5. Subsequent damage inspection revealed extensive damage having been sustained to the vessel aft of amidships, including outer hull, cargo area and engine-room, which are beyond economic repair. The vessel was undocked Jul 8, after closing openings in the hull, and is presently at Lennusadam, Tallinn, awaiting further instructions. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)**

Chittagong, Jul 11 — The situation of crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* remains unaltered. Mr. Shah Alam, General Manager, Claims Department, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, has advised that the vessel will be shifted from its present location/position to a safe area to avoid any possible siltations. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BEACON 3 (Belize)**

London, Jul 6 — Container carrier *Beacon 3* was reported arriving at Alang, India, on May 26, to be broken-up.

#### **BEAU RIVAGE (France)**

London, Jul 10 — A French court has issued a warrant for the arrest of the master of roll on roll off *Marmara Princess*, involved in a fatal accident with trawler *Beau Rivage* off the French coast five years ago after sentencing him to two years in prison. The appeal court in Rennes followed the plea of the public prosecutor in imposing the prison sentence and banning the master for life from ship command after he had appealed against an earlier suspended two-year prison sentence. Captain Aliman Babeyev, 51, was not in court to hear the judgment and also failed to appear

at the appeal hearing in late May. His lawyer said then that he had been detained at sea, although a lawyer representing victims' families claimed that he had known about the hearing for months, saying his failure to appear showed lack of respect for the court and had shocked the families. Captain Babeyev was accused of causing death accidentally and failure to assist persons in danger after an incident involving *Marmara Princess* and *Beau Rivage*, 25 km south-east of Belle Ile, off the southern coast of Brittany, on Feb 26, 2001. The court heard that the fishing vessel was overturned by the bow wave of *Marmara Princess*, which was on its way from Hamburg to Turkey with a cargo of used cars. *Marmara Princess* had come in close to shore to avoid expected bad weather and, according to the prosecutor, had come too close to *Beau Rivage*, which had priority over it. Captain Babeyev's defence team argued that the fishing vessel could have been overturned by a natural wave rather than the one cause by *Marmara Princess* and claimed that the fishing vessel was overloaded and that its drains were blocked. The master was also accused of having failed to assist one of the fishermen on board the *Beau Rivage* who had remained on the hull of the upturned vessel for up to half an hour after it had capsized. The defence argued that he had raised the alarm and thrown lifebelts to the fishermen but said *Marmara Princess'* liferaft could not have reached the fishing vessel against the wind and the current.

#### **BENEGAS (Panama)**

Amman, Jul 13 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Benegas* (6222 gt, built 1981) has severe damages after experiencing an explosion while at Aqaba port today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Benegas* loaded with 4,200 tonnes of liquid gas caught fire this morning while docking at the temper platform in Aqaba port, according to official sources. The sources added that the ship, operated by a Jordanian maritime company, had caught fire during unloading. The ship had already unloaded 2,144 tonnes of gas and was later towed to the open sea where the crew members were evacuated and those injured rushed to Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba, the sources noted.

London, Jul 13 — A fire, which broke out on Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Benegas* this morning has been extinguished after it was towed outside territorial waters near Aqaba. "It took a couple of hours and the fire was brought completely under control," Fawaz Kalaldehy, the general manager of Philadelphia Shipping Agency, the vessel's agent, said. The fire broke out in the tanker carrying 4,200 tonnes of cargo as it was unloading. The cargo, used for household consumption, had been brought from LPG storage tanks in

northern Suez. Authorities were still investigating the cause of the fire which caused "minor" damage to the vessel and its shipment, Kalaldehy said. At least four of the crew were taken to hospital for treatment but there were no reports of any deaths, hospital sources said.

#### **BETSIAMITES (Canada)**

London, Jul 7 — Barge *Betsiamites* (5279 gt, built 1968), towed by tug *Ocean Echo 2*, was reported taking on water in lat 48 45N, long 64 18W, at 1002, local time, Jul 6. Tug and barge en route Gaspe for inspection.

#### **BILLY STAR (Philippines)**

See "Typhoon "Chanhu" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **BINA (Indonesia)**

Chittagong, Jul 10 — Pacific Shipping Lines, Chittagong, local agent of product tanker *Bina* (998 gt, built 1969), advise vessel is presently lying in Myanmar Port and taking some repair works on its generator. An engineer team has come in Myanmar to board the vessel from Indonesia with a tug for repair works. All crew remain onboard the vessel. Vessel expected to arrive at Chittagong outer anchorage on Jul 13, as per today's berthing sheet issued by Chittagong Port authority. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Understand *Bina* is on break-up voyage from Indonesia to Bangladesh.)

#### **BLACK PRINCE (Bahamas)**

See "Outbreak of Virus on Bahamas Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **BRN-211 (Russia)**

Moscow, Jul 7 — A press report, dated Jun 30, states: Barge *BRN-211* grounded at the rapids in the Lower Tunguska River, the press service of the Siberian Regional Centre of the Ministry for Emergencies reported. According to the navigation company's traffic control service, the towline to the barge broke 81 miles from the estuary at 0130, Jun 29. As a result, the barge sustained a hull breach. It was towed to the bank and is lying half-sunk. A salvage team from the Ministry for Emergencies was sent by helicopter from the village of Tura to the accident site. It was established that there was no oil spillage from the breach, although small oil spots were detected on the surface of the river. A vessel was sent to the accident site from Tura to pump out some of the oil in and help to refloat the barge. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BSLE ENDURANCE (Cyprus)**

Balboa, Jul 7 — General cargo *BSLE Endurance* (18792 gt, built 1978), which recently sailed northbound through the Panama Canal, returned to Cristobal with rudder stock difficulties at 1532, Jul 6. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *BSLE Endurance* sailed Higashi-Harima Jun 7 for Baltimore.)

Balboa, Jul 11 — General cargo *BSLE Endurance* vessel returned to

Cristobal with the assistance of two tugs and subsequently berthed at Manzanillo International Terminal to discharge all remaining cargo, which had been destined to Savannah. The vessel was then returned to Cristobal anchorage for further examination. Owners will now decide their next course of action. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)**

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurers of the Kadavu Holdings island passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* returned last night from inspecting the ship aground off Rotuma. Kadavu company manager Ratu Sela Nanovo said representatives of Aon Risk, the insurance broker, and Dominion Insurance were expected to meet with Kadavu Holdings today to discuss options. The province needs to determine whether to salvage the vessel. Ratu Sela said he would tell the media of developments after the meeting.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* plan to siphon the fuel into empty drums to avoid an environmental disaster. Kadavu Holdings Company's manager Ratu Sela Nanovo said 36 drums of 30-litre capacity were being transferred to fill the 200-litres of fuel that is estimated to be in the vessel. Mr Nanovo said the company has taken the initiative to prevent an oil spill from happening if the ship sustained more damage. Department of Environment director Epeli Nasome said the safety of the transfer of fuel from the ship to drums rested solely on the system used. "It all depends on the fuel transfer system used because it should be checked for drips," said Mr Nasome. "The department should have been consulted on the spill but that hasn't happened and I hope the National Oil Spills Committee has been consulted," he said. "The committee is normally consulted at times like this when there is a fear of oil spill, on the best and safest way of transferring fuel from the ship." Mr Nasome said members of the committee included the Maritime Department, National Fire Authority, the oil companies and the Environment Department. However, he understood that two Marine Department staff had been to Lopta and may have advised the ship owners.

Suva, Jul 10 — Passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* is still aground and no salvage operations are in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CLAN INTREPID (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 10 — Following Argentinian Navigation Warning issued today: Seven containers from container carrier *Clan Intrepid* (25637 gt, built 1999) reported adrift at 2223, UTC, Jul 5, in the following positions: Three containers reported in lat 34 28S, long 52 43W, three containers reported in lat 34 28S, long 52 32W, and one container reported in lat 34 12S, long 52 39W. Any news or sight of

this, please contact the nearest maritime authority.

London, Jul 12 — Container Carrier *Clan Intrepid* arrived Rio Grande (Bra) Jul 8 and sailed Jul 9.

#### **COLUMBIA (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: A day after a damaged generator was removed, passenger ro/ro *Columbia* is expected to make its scheduled departure for Alaska today. Crews cut open decking in the vessel's engine-room yesterday to remove a damaged generator for repair. Despite the operation, the Alaska Marine Highway System expected the vessel to keep its scheduled departure time, using a back-up generator. The generator delayed *Columbia* a week ago off the coast of Vancouver Island. The vessel arrived at Ketchikan on Sunday (Jul 2) for minor repairs. It sailed back to Bellingham this week to allow workers to repair the damaged generator. The US Coast Guard and the American Bureau of Shipping approved the vessel's departure early this afternoon. The vessel will leave Bellingham while Industrial Electric in Seattle re-coils the damaged generator, Chambers said. Chambers did not have an estimate for how long the repairs would take.

London, Jul 12 — Passenger ro/ro *Columbia* reported a fire in the engine-room near Separation Head, Discovery Passage, BC, in lat 50 11.00N, long 125 21.36W, at 0444, Jul 1. Fire was extinguished and power was restored to both engines and the vessel proceeded to Duncan Bay, BC. No injuries reported.

London, Jul 12 — Passenger ro/ro *Columbia* arrived and sailed Juneau Jul 10.

#### **CONRAD OLDENDORFF (Malta)**

London, Jul 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Conrad Oldendorff* was salvaged by the tugs *Stevns Iceflower* and *Stevns Icecap* under contract of Tsavliris. It was then inspected by divers and reloaded. It had run aground on the way from Poland to Alexandria.

#### **CONSING (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 7 — The refloating of the sunken landing craft *Consing* continues to be beset by problems. Officials of Hanjin Heavy Industries, charterers of the *Consing*, said that the recovery of the vessel has been delayed by the untimely demise of one the senior salvors working on the vessel. The man fell sick and had to be rushed to a hospital where he later died. Salvage work had to be stopped until a replacement arrived, Hanjin officials said. Apart from the death of a key salvage technician, bad weather has also forced salvors to halt operations yesterday. Hanjin officials said that the engine-room remains flooded and they have received no word when salvors will resume pumping out seawater from the vessel. In the meantime, the Subic Bay



Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Ecology Department has given the owners of the *Consing* until Jul 11, to remove the vessel or face an additional fine of US\$5,000. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of Jun 28.)

Manila, Jul 11 — Landing craft *Consing* was raised today, South Korean shipbuilder Hanjin Heavy Industries reported. She is now being prepared for towing to undergo repairs in a shipyard in Navotas, Manila. Manila-based Asian Shipping Corp, owner and operator of the vessel, undertook the refloating of the vessel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**CORNUCOPIA PRINCESS (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 12 — A cluster of pylons that protect the Veterans Pier broke Friday (Jul 7) night, when a tow rope bringing the Cornucopia Cruise Line to safe harbor snapped, causing the passenger (cruise) *Cornucopia Princess* (99 gt, built 1978) to strike the pier. No one was injured, and structural engineers gave the pier a clean bill of health, according to Mayor Dan Reiman. Shortly after 2300, Friday, police learned the vessel, returning from a dinner cruise, had required a tow due to an engine malfunction. Tug *Megan McAllister* was bringing the cruise vessel to the pier when the tow rope snapped. The pylons are designed to protect the pier, and they did what they were designed for, according to the mayor. No one on the pier, or on the vessel, required medical attention. The New Jersey State Police and U.S. Coast Guard were called to the scene and participated in the investigation, said Reiman.

**COSA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Bremen, Jul 10 — General cargo *Cosa* (4255 gt, built 1972), leaving Bremen Industriehafen at 0655, Jul 9 struck an embankment. Bremen Water police did not allow the vessel to leave the port. The vessel had been transferred to Kap Horn / Weserkaje. In the meantime the vessel has left for Las Palmas. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Cosa* sailed Bremen at 0110, Jul 9.)

**CREACH (Cambodia)**

London, Jul 11 — General cargo *Creach* sailed Diliskelesi Jul 6.

**DELMAS FORBIN (French Southern Territories)**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of three African men were discovered onboard Container Carrier *Delmas Forbin* (18334 gt, built 2003) moored in Hong Kong waters, police said today. The vessels officials first found one of the bodies outside a container and contacted Hong Kong police, who discovered another two bodies inside one of the containers on the vessel yesterday, spokesman Edwin Hung said. A police spokesman said the trio were suspected of trying to smuggle themselves out of Africa, a regular port of call for the vessel. The vessel, which frequently carries cargo between West Africa and Southeast

Asia, originated in Congo. Hong Kong police, however, would only confirm that Congo was the point of embarkation. The three men, who have not been identified, had been dead for two to three weeks and that their bodies had decayed. The three men were not registered as vessels crew and police suspect they were illegal immigrants, Hung said. The exact cause of the deaths was not immediately known, the police spokesman said. The container in which the bodies were found had a hole in it that is believed to have been used by the smugglers for breathing. Police plan to inspect the other containers on the vessel today.

**DIAGORAS (Greece)**

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia" under "Seizures & Arrests."

**DOLLART GAS (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 0815, UTC: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Dollart Gas* (4200 gt, built 1990), loaded, was reported in lat 25 05N, long 120 21E, at 0300, UTC, today with engine problems and loss of power. Crew are trying to repair the vessel. No assistance has been requested. Vessel's local agent has been requested to advise Taipei RCC if assistance required.

**EASLINE TIANJIN (Singapore)**

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

**EL MORRO (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 10 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1320, UTC: Tug *El Morro* (191 gt, built 1966), which left Barahona, Dominican Republic, approximately 1525, local time, Jul 8, for Las Calderas dry dock to complete a load-line inspection, had fire in engine-room about 1625, local time, same day. The fire was contained approximately 1725 hrs and the vessel started one of its engines and was able to return to Barahona about 1940 hrs, where it is now safely moored.

Santo Domingo, Jul 12 — Tug *El Morro* sailed from Barahona today, bound to Las Calderas to undergo some repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ENTERPRISE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 12 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 2302, UTC, Jul 11: Bulker *Enterprise* (6389 gt, built 1985) was reported at 0900, UTC, Jul 10, to be drifting in the Bass Strait due to engine trouble.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from the managers of bulker *Enterprise*, dated today: *Enterprise* has cargo on board, including a quantity of soda ash. Vessel is currently anchored 140 miles off Melbourne, awaiting tug, which is due on scene in the very near future.

London, Jul 12 — Bulker *Enterprise* sailed from Adelaide on Jul 8. Vessel

has some canola seed on board as well as the soda ash and will be towed to Melbourne.

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1130, UTC: Bulker *Enterprise* is now under tow for Melbourne, where ETA am, local time, Jul 15.

**FASSA (Malta)**

Balboa, Jul 7 — During laden southbound transit of Panama Canal bulker *Fassa* (30936 gt, built 2006) reportedly made contact with the center wall of Pedro Miguel Locks at about 1800, Jul 5, sustaining some indentation to port side shell plating. Master requested official investigation into incident and which held late yesterday afternoon. Vessel sailed Balboa at 2120, Jul 6, bound South Korea. Understand temporary repairs were not required here and internals to be inspected upon completion of discharge. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FEDJEFJORD (Norway)**

London, Jul 11 — Information received from Sandnes, dated Jul 10, states: Roll on roll off *Fedjefjord* (2232 gt, built 2001) grounded near the quay at Fedje at 1700, local time, Jul 6. A diving inspection was carried out but no damage was found. Roll on roll off *Jondal* replaced the vessel, which is now at Saevroy awaiting some equipment.

**FIDELITY (Panama)**

Piraeus, Jul 6 — Product tanker *Fidelity* (26959 gt, built 1984), bound China with 33,000 tonnes soya bean oil, grounded near Rosario, River Parana, at about 2300, local time, Jul 5. Vessel is still aground. LOF will hopefully be signed later today. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Jul 7 — Product tanker *Fidelity*: Tugs *Ona Temple* and *Don Vicente* arrived on scene this morning and are preparing to commence refloating efforts. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Jul 7 — Product tanker *Fidelity*: Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with Tsavlis Salvage.

Buenos Aires, Jul 7 — Product tanker *Fidelity* grounded at km 315 on left margin on its way from San Lorenzo to Bahia Blanca at 2250, local time, Jul 5. Vessel had a draught of 10.04 metres, and was loaded with 22.176 tonnes of soya oil. Main channel in-outbound traffic not interrupted. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Jul 10 — Product tanker *Fidelity* was refloated with the aid of the two tugs this morning and an underwater inspection is scheduled in the next few hours. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Jul 13 — Product tanker *Fidelity*: Underwater inspection revealed no damage and vessel resumed voyage Jul 11. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

**FOLEGANDROS (Greece)**

London, Jul 7 — Owners and Managers of product tanker

*Folegandros* report that they have concluded a salvage contract with Smit International in respect of the lightering and refloating of the double-hull tanker, which remains aground in the Maracaibo Channel, Venezuela. It is hoped that the situation will be resolved by Jul 9/10.

London, Jul 11 — Crude Oil Tanker *Folegandros* is still aground. Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed on Jul 7 with SMIT Salvage BV. SMIT are working with tugs and barges from Terminales Maracaibo; barges will be utilised to lighter approximately 5,000 tonnes of crude oil in order to facilitate refloating. Lightering operations are being prepared at present.

**GALAXY-1 (Mongolia)**

Karachi, Jul 7 — Karachi Port Trust and Operating Agent of vessel *Galaxy-1* have advised that the vessel was towed by KPT tugs and was moored in the inner harbour (Baba Pull Mooring) at 1500 hrs, Jul 3. The vessel's previous port of call was Cebu, Philippines. It was in ballast and had eight Iranian crew on board. The vessel had no fuel on board. Therefore the main engine had stopped and the vessel was drifting towards Karachi. The vessel had also lost its anchors during its passage and therefore arrived at Karachi with no anchor. Fuel oil was supplied at Karachi and *Galaxy-1* sailed Karachi at 1300 hrs, Jul 5, bound for Bandar Abbas. The vessel is a barge type with a ramp opening forward, has a LOA of 68 metres, is 388 gt and 355 nt. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GENOA (Bahamas)**

Ponta Delgada, Jul 7 — Refrigerated general cargo *Genoa* completed turbo-charger repairs and is now proceeding on her voyage to Gibraltar. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GEORGE COBB (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 12 — A sewage byproduct leaked from a pipe aboard tender *George Cobb* (903 gt, built 2000) docked at Terminal Island yesterday and left people with minor injuries, authorities said. The problem aboard the 175-foot cutter docked at Berth 240 at 1001 S. Seaside Ave., was reported about 0735 hrs, Brian Ballton of the Los Angeles Fire Department said. A hazardous materials team was sent to the scene, Ballton said. The three men who came in contact with hydrogen sulfide that leaked from a connector pipe were treated at a hospital and listed in good condition. The leak was under investigation.

**GORKY (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 13 — According to Cartagena Port Authority general cargo *Gorky* (2914 gt, built 1997), in tow of tug *Vitus* from Algeria, is due at Escombreras at 1000 today for repairs following main engine problems.

**GRAND ISLE 9A (production platform)**

London, Jul 10 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed

1355, UTC: Production platform *Grand Isle 9A* had explosions and fire on board after an electrical spark ignited hydrogen sulphide nine miles offshore Grand Isle Block 9, in lat 29 10.7N, long 89 53.7W, at 0941, UTC, Jul 8. Damage was sustained to control-room, accommodation and some external structures but there was no pollution. One man was killed and another injured, while the rest of the personnel were safely evacuated. Fire was extinguished by two offshore supply vessels.

**HEALTHY FALCON (Vietnam)**

London, Jul 13 — Product tanker *Healthy Falcon* sailed Zhangjiagang Jul 13 for Vietnam.

**IBERIA (Georgia)**

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

**IRAN SHARIAT (Iran)**

London, Jul 6 — Bulker *Iran Shariat* (25168 gt, built 1983), cargo metal, struck the jetty in the port of Becancour, Quebec, St. Lawrence river, Jun 10. Minor damage sustained. (Note — *Iran Shariat* sailed Singapore May 3, passed Gibraltar May 29, and was reported still in port at Becancour on Jun 16.)

**IRON PRINCE (Isle of Man)**

London, Jul 10 — Dardanelles vessel traffic is suspended for northbound and southbound passages on at 0700, local time, Jul 1, because of bulker *Iron Prince* (82830 gt, built 1995) not under command at Nara Corner. (Note — *Iron Prince* arrived and sailed Istanbul Jul 3, subsequently arrived Constantza Jul 4.)

**IZVORUL MARE 1**

Bucharest, Jul 12 — Pusher tug *Izvorul Mare 1*: Salvors are still working on cutting of portal crane, about 60% of its structure being reportedly removed to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

**KAPITAN DUDIN 1 (Russia)**

Chittagong, Jul 11 — Product tanker *San Carlo* (17672 gt, built 1977) while manoeuvring at "B" anchorage, Chittagong outer anchorage at about 0945, Jul 8, in an attempt to anchor it to a suitable anchor position, starboard accommodation area of own vessel came in contact with *Kapitan Dudin 1* (6369 gt, built 1980). Reportedly, *San Carlo* has also been sold as scrap and currently awaiting completion of formalities before it can be beached. Owners do not intend to effect any repairs. *Kapitan Dudin 1* has already been declared as a vessel for scrap and was awaiting beaching. — Lloyd's Agents.

**KARIM I (Cambodia)**

Bucharest, Jul 12 — General cargo *Karim I* sunk at Constantza May 29: Salvors have succeeded in lifting the vessel so that the fore-castle deck was visible above water but the buoyancy could not be maintained and the salvors should resume dewatering of fore compartments. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LASS URANUS (Germany)**

London, Jul 13 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Xin Fu Zhou* (66452 gt, built 2004) collided with general cargo *Lass Uranus* (1512 gt, built 1992), homeport Rostock, length 70 m, when trying to outrun it leaving Hamburg towards the North Sea on the Elbe at Finkenwerder/Airbus Yard, at 1415, Jul 12. The hull of *Xin Fu Zhou* was torn up over a length of eight metres. *Lass Uranus* was severely damaged at the bow. *Lass Uranus*, carrying fertiliser, suddenly turned when the other vessel was outrunning it. It returned to Hamburg and berthed at Holthusenkai. Here it was investigated in regard of technical faults. *Xin Fu Zhou* was not able to turn around on the Elbe and proceeded to Brunsbittel. It is expected back in Hamburg Jul 13, and will berth at the Predohlkai for repairs. The police started investigations in Brunsbittel and Hamburg using radar records and radio traffic. (Note — *Lass Uranus* sailed Hamburg 1405, Jul 12, for Thamesport, and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 53 50.23N, long 09 24.7E, at 0631, Jul 13. *Xin Fu Zhou* sailed Hamburg 1410, Jul 12, for Antwerp, and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 53 31.31N, long 09 55.30E at 0716, Jul 13.)

**MARIAM IV (Panama)**

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Six seamen perished and 13 were rescued when their Panama-flagged vessel (general cargo *Mariam IV*) sank in bad weather in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Yemen, the official Yemeni news agency Saba reported today. The vessel, owned by a company in the United Arab Emirates, was carrying 5,000 tonnes of cement from Oman to Tanzania when it went down Wednesday near Yemen's Socotra island, the agency said. The Yemeni coast guard and vessels from "friendly" countries operating in the area managed to rescue 13 seamen and to retrieve the bodies of six others. Saba said the crew was of different nationalities but did not give a breakdown. Maritime traffic at this time of year is frequently disturbed by waves four to nine metres high off Socotra.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: One more Indian crewman of general cargo *Mariam IV*, which sank off the Yemeni island of Socotra due to bad weather two days back, has died, bringing the toll in the accident to seven. The death toll in the incident, as of now, stands at seven.

**MARIE CLAIRE (U.K.)**

London, Jul 9 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0923 today: Fishing (general) *Marie Claire* (157 gt, built ) in lat 49 07.7N, long 06 17.0W, taking water in engine-room. Coastguard pump lowered from rescue 193 and escorted into Newlyn Harbour by St. Marys and Penlee lifeboat. Operations terminated 0911, UTC.

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



Falmouth, Jul 12 — Fishing *Marie Claire* arrived Newlyn at 1015 hrs, Jul 9. It's problem was quickly resolved and the trawler returned to sea later that day. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARINA STAR (Bahamas)**

Genoa, Jul 10 — General cargo *Marina Star* arrived Genoa 1700, Jul 7, in tow, and repairs in drydock to screw and rudder damage are expected to last five days: The vessel will then recover its route for Algeria. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARIS (Honduras)**

Chittagong, Jul 13 — A local newspaper reports: A massive accident took place at Chittagong port outer anchorage when one ship fell on to another. A cement clinker carrying foreign vessel sustained leakage in the bottom due to the accident. The Chittagong Port Authority and Mercantile Marine Department formed two separate committees to investigate the accident. According to sources, bulker *Maris* (20854 gt, built 1975) arrived at Chittagong port on Jul 6 carrying 35,000 tonnes of cement clinker for Shan Cement. The vessel was discharging cargo onto a lighter vessel at the outer anchorage. Product tanker *Atlantica I* (18092 gt, built 1978) arrived at Chittagong port outer anchorage yesterday, to await break-up and when it was preparing to anchor at about 1200 hrs, in very rough seas, it fell onto the anchored *Maris*. Panic spread over the whole of the outer anchorage. The bottom of hatch No 1 of *Maris* sustained leakage. There are 3,000 tonnes of clinker in this hatch. Following the accident the Indian master, Ibrahim Pria, of *Atlantica I* suffered a heart attack, was rescued, in a senseless condition by the Coast Guard and brought ashore. At present Capt. Ibrahim is under treatment at the naval hospital. A committee consisting of two members, Engineer surveyor Mr. Serajul Islam of Mercantile Marine Department and Dock master Capt. Faridul Alam of Chittagong Port Authority has been formed. The committee is directed to report within one week. A separate committee has been formed by the Chittagong Port Authority. It is learned that these two committee will start working from today. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARMARA PRINCESS (Turkey)**

See *Beau Rivage*.

**MIDNIGHT RIDER (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Contract negotiations are in the works between the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and a Massachusetts towing and salvage company to remove fishing (general) *Midnight Rider* that washed up on Norton Point Beach nearly two weeks ago. Last week, Coast Guard officials estimated that the boat would be removed from its spot on the barrier beach that connects Chappaquiddick Island with Katama within a few days

of its arrival, but *Midnight Rider* has not moved. The state jumped in to find a way to remove the vessel from the beach after Coast Guard officials basically washed their hands of responsibility, said Edgartown harbour-master Charlie Blair. Mr. Blair said members of the state's Congressional delegation were asked to help last week after it appeared the boat might remain where it sat while various parties tried to decide who would remove it. Yesterday, Capt. Charles Mitchell of Mitchell Towing and Salvage Company, based in Fairhaven, said that his company is evaluating a contract offered by the state for what he described as "wreck removal." Mitchell Towing was the low bidder in the state search. Captain Mitchell said he was not satisfied with the contract that the state presented him, because it would have made him and his company liable for damages of any sort that might occur in the removal process, for instance an oil spill. Mr. Mitchell drafted a contract that would suit him and sent it off to state officials, but no agreement has been reached. Mr. Mitchell said that if a contract can be agreed to, he is prepared to begin work as early as tomorrow, weather permitting. Mr. Mitchell said that his tug *Jaguar*, is unable to get closer than half a mile away from *Midnight Rider* because of the shallow water, so Tuesday he and his crew loaded more than half a mile of towing hawser onboard *Jaguar*, along with other necessary equipment, in preparation for the work. Shortly after the scalloper first went aground during the early hours of Jul 1, Kevin Arrula, the owner and master of *Midnight Rider*, hired Tucker-Roy Marine Towing and Salvage Company to remove her. But removal of the uninsured vessel has now become the headache of the EOEA. According to Lieutenant James Weaver of Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England, the switch of responsibility occurred because the owner was judged to be financially unable to remove the boat. "The Coast Guard federalized the project," Lieutenant Weaver explained, "which means that they accessed the oil spill liability trust fund. We were allowed to hire a contractor to go on board to remove fuel and oil from the boat. That's pretty much the extent of our involvement in the vessel. We don't use that trust fund for salvage." While Lieutenant Weaver said that the Coast Guard will not be leading the effort to remove the vessel from the beach, they will be on site to assist and oversee.

**MOANA C. (Panama)**

London, Jul 10 — Product tanker *Moana C.* sailed Brisbane Jul 8 for New Caledonia.

**MOM & DAD (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 12 — A Coast Guard Corpus Christi press release, dated Jul 11, states: Coast Guard units in South Padre Island and Corpus Christi responded early this morning to assist fishing (general) *Mom & Dad*

(118 gt, built 1987) that was taking on water approximately 14 miles north-east of South Padre Island. The five person crew of the vessel called for help at about 0100 hrs stating that they had four feet of water in the engine-room and needed immediate assistance. A motor life boat crew was dispatched from Coast Guard Station South Padre Island and were able to control the flooding with portable dewatering pumps. A helicopter was also sent from Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. The helicopter crew lowered an additional dewatering pump allowing the rescue crews to finish pumping water out of the distressed vessel. The rescue boat crew made repairs to a broken pipe that was causing the flooding. The Coast Guard remained on scene throughout the day while *Mom & Dad's* sister ship, fishing *Letisha Trinnea* was enroute to assist. *Letisha Trinnea* arrived on scene and is currently towing *Mom & Dad* to Brownsville, TX. The Coast Guard will continue to monitor the situation until the vessels are safely in harbour.

**NAPOCOR POWER BARGE 105 (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 11 — Initial findings by Cunningham Toplis Phils. Inc., insurance adjusters representing the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), point to a fuel hose which burst due to excessive pressure as the cause of the fire which engulfed barge *Napocor Power Barge 105*, sources at the National Power Corporation (Napocor) said. No decision has yet been made as to whether the power barge will be repaired or declared a total loss as the adjusters are continuing their investigation, Napocor officials added. In the meantime, the state-owned power generation company announced that it was deploying a 10-megawatt generating set to Masbate island in the next two weeks to normalise the power situation in the area. Napocor said this was a stop-gap measure until the *Napocor Power Barge 105* could either be repaired or replaced with another power barge. *Napocor Power Barge 105* supplies about 80 percent of Masbate island's power needs. Since it caught fire on Jun 23, the island has been suffering from frequent and widespread power outages. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 12 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge 105* is now undergoing tank cleaning off Keppel Batangas Shipyard, the National Power Corporation reported today. On completion, the power barge will enter Keppel Batangas Shipyard for drydocking. Drydocking is scheduled for Jul 17. Repairs will be undertaken on the vessel's hull, steering mechanisms, propellers and engines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**NORQUEEN (Canada)**

London, Jul 13 — A Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Jul 12, states: Fishing (general) *Norqueen* (141 gt, built 1942), based out of



Vancouver, BC, is taking on water near the south-west side of Baranof Island in south-east Alaska. The Coast Guard received notification of the situation around 0719 hrs. A Coast Guard helicopter and crew was dispatched from Air Station Sitka to drop two dewatering pumps to the vessel. Using the pumps the vessel's three man crew is keeping up with the flow of water. The crew of *Norqueen* believes the water is coming in through a split plank in the vessel's wooden hull. Fishing *Northern Cloud*, also from Vancouver, is standing by in the area. Commercial assistance from Sitka is en route to the scene to assist.

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0740, UTC: Fishing (general) *Norqueen*: Pumps are keeping up with water ingress. Commercial assistance is nearby and vessel will be towed to Sitka where expected to arrive sometime this morning Alaska time.

#### **PACIFIC FANTASY (Bahamas)**

Portland, Oregon, Jul 12 — General cargo *Pacific Fantasy* (19354 gt, built 1996) has been delayed in port due to a break down in machinery. There is an allegation of off-spec bunkers stemmed at Long Beach. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Pacific Fantasy* arrived Portland, Oregon, Jul 1.)

#### **PATMOS (Greece)**

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia" under "Seizures & Arrests."

#### **PETER II (Germany)**

London, Jul 8 — Passenger (cruise) *Peter II* (77 gt, built 1951) contacted the wall and the gate of the Ellerholz-lock, Hamburg, on Jul 7. She was making a round-trip through the harbour with 58 passengers, among them 54 pupils. Twenty-two people were hurt, two of them, among them the captain, seriously. In a first investigation he said the power lever blocked so that the ship could not be stopped. After the collision he radioed for help and proceeded under own power to the Norderelbe. From here the damaged ship was towed to the berth Amerikahoft by another launch. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Peter II* was in lat 54 04 51.12N, long 10 58 41.94E, speed 10.1 knots at 1043 hrs.

London, Jul 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: A broken screw caused the collision of passenger (cruise) *Peter II* with the Ellerholz-lock on the Elbe at 1430, Jul 7. It prevented the vessel going astern but instead it pushed several times against the lock until it opened and the vessel drifted out of control onto the Elbe. The captain himself was hurt so badly that he could not push the emergency-stop-handle. Launch *Peter* of the same owner rushed towards *Peter II* and was able to stop it. One female was still in hospital the day after. On the whole, 21 people were hurt. *Peter II* was confiscated for investigations.

#### **POLARIS S. (Panama)**

London, Jul 10 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Bulker with container capacity *Polaris S.* (14951 gt, built 1981) grounded in shallow waters while entering the Preveza channel, Jul 7. There was no pollution caused and no injuries to the 23 crew members. Previously the vessel had departed from Paranagua bound for Preveza loaded with 7,600 tons of Soya Meal. To the area proceeded a patrol vessel of the Coast Guard and a tug was expected to arrive to provide assistance if required.

London, Jul 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1000, UTC: Bulker with container capacity *Polaris S.* remains aground, with salvors on scene working on refloating efforts.

London, Jul 11 — Bulker with container capacity *Polaris S.* is still aground near Preveza. Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with SMIT Salvage BV on Jul 7. Tugs *Megalochari VII* and *Agios Dimitios* are attending. A lightering barge is proceeding and operations to carry out lightering are expected to commence this evening or tomorrow morning.

Piraeus, Jul 12 — Bulker with container capacity *Polaris S.* became stranded in the Preveza channel, 1.5 to two nautical miles from Preveza port on Jul 7. The vessel was loaded with a consignment of 7,600 tons of soya flour from Paranagua, Brazil. The port of destination is Preveza. All crew members are reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution was reported. The vessel remains stranded and its cargo is being transhipped to general cargo *Ermina*. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0925, UTC: Bulker with container capacity *Polaris S.* is still aground, with salvage operations still under way.

#### **PRIDE OF THE TYNE (U.K.)**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Ferry *Pride of the Tyne* (222 gt, built 1993) is having to undergo emergency repairs just days before one of its busiest weekend's of the year. Engineers are facing a race against time to get the Shields Ferry, *Pride of the Tyne*, repaired in time for this weekend's Mouth of the Tyne Festival. Thousands of people are expected at the festival in North and South Shields and the ferry connects the two venues. If it cannot be fixed in time then the operator Nexus, will have to use the 30-year-old ferry *Shieldsman*. *Pride of the Tyne* was damaged when it struck a piece of driftwood on Monday (Jul 10). A spokesman for Nexus said: "While the *Shieldsman* should provide adequate cover while *Pride of the Tyne* is in dry dock, Nexus would prefer to have the newer and much larger of the two ferries in operation."

#### **PRINCE MOUDI (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Jul 12 — General cargo *Prince Moudi* is laid up at Tripoli. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PROBO ELK (Marshall Islands)**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A potentially dangerous "condition" developed on board combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Elk* (31255 gt, built 1986) in port early yesterday, the Coast Guard said, and evacuations were temporarily recommended within 600 yards of the vessel. The problem involved high levels of oxygen in some of its cargo tanks, and the situation was improving late yesterday afternoon, officials said. The Coast Guard said it later directed the ship to move to an anchorage outside the Port of Los Angeles to conduct repairs to "an important safety system," and a safe zone was established in the water off Pier 118. The Coast Guard said in a statement that "a report of a potentially dangerous condition on board" the tanker was received at 0330 hrs. Four of the seven cargo tanks had oxygen content above the maximum allowed, eight percent, creating a potential hazard, the statement said. The situation occurred because an "inert gas system" was inoperable, it said.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Port of Los Angeles called for a partial evacuation yesterday after a gasoline leak on a combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Elk*, docked, caused oxygen in several cargo holds to reach potentially explosive levels, officials said. U.S. Coast Guard officials discovered the dangerous oxygen levels after responding to a 0330 hrs call from the ship's crew about an 80-gallon gasoline leak. The Coast Guard set up a voluntary evacuation area 600 yards from the ship. The gasoline was contained on board the *Probo Elk* that had docked Thursday (Jul 6) at the port after travelling from South Korea. An investigation later determined that oxygen levels in four of the ship's seven holding tanks were higher than allowed by federal regulations, because the system that controls those levels was not functioning. It was unclear whether the system was broken or had not been turned on, said Lt. P.J. Jacquelin, spokesman for the Coast Guard in Los Angeles and Long Beach. Jacquelin said yesterday afternoon that the oxygen levels had returned to acceptable levels and that the ship was safe. He said it was unclear how long the "safety zone" would be maintained and whether she would be delayed at the port. Manny Aschemeyer, director of the Marine Exchange of Southern California, said the ship would be towed about three miles offshore as a precaution.

#### **PXXI**

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A second tug, *Fairmount Sherpa* has been summoned from Cape Town to assist tug *Zouros Hellas* with the salvage operation on the island of Tristan da Cunha, where the oil platform PXXI (since renamed *A Turtle*) is aground. *Fairmount Sherpa* sailed from Table

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

Bay earlier this week and is expected at Tristan da Cunha on Monday or Tuesday next week. Meanwhile the salvage team which arrived with *Zouros Hellas* have had mixed fortunes with regards the weather and sea conditions. On some days diving and other salvage activities have been hampered by weather and sea conditions but on others the team has been able to undertake repairs to damaged ballast tanks and to pump water from one of the platform's columns.

London, Jul 11 — Oil rig PXXI, now renamed *A Turtle*, is still aground at Tristan da Cunha. Preparations for dewatering some of the compartments have been carried out. A second tug is required for refloating and owners, underwriters and salvors SMIT Salvage BV are currently looking to arrange same. After refloating, the platform will be towed to Cape Town.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Smit Salvage advises that the tug contracted to assist in the salvage of the grounded oil platform PXXI (now renamed *A Turtle*) off Tristan da Cunha, has been forced to remain in Cape Town due to technical problems. Supply *Sea Tiger* (2568 gt, built 1998), not tug *Fairmount Sherpa* as before reported (in issue of Jul 10), was due to sail from Cape Town at the weekend to join the Smit Salvage team onboard tug *Zouros Hellas*, which is already on station at Tristan da Cunha. *Sea Tiger* will only be available to leave for the island once repairs have been carried out.

#### **PYTHEAS (Greece)**

London, Jul 11 — At 1125 hrs Jul 10, while at the port of Quebec, a ship's crane crashed to the deck during cargo operations, on the bulker *Pytheas* (16876 gt, built 1981). No injuries were reported.

#### **QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Transportation Safety Board Investigators trying to piece together what happened on board passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* in the moments leading up to the ferry ploughing full speed into Gil Island have found that, despite being immersed in the cold salt water of Wright Sound, the hard drive from the vessel's navigational computer has yielded some information about the vessel's course before it sank. TSB Lead Investigator, Captain Raymond Matthew said they were now working to see exactly how much information they can get from the computer. "But it's a slow process and we're just waiting for further information," he said. The hard drive was recovered from the bridge of the sunken vessel during a submersible dive operation last month.

#### **REDHEAD (Hong Kong)**

Montreal, Jul 11 — Bulker *Redhead* (22792 gt, built 2004), in ballast, bound Thunder Bay to load grain for Mexico, surged aft in lock No 7,

Welland Canal, in the vicinity of Hamilton, at 1258, Jul 11, and damaged the ship arrestor. The vessel sustained minor damage, and was allowed to continue on its scheduled voyage to Thunder Bay. The damage to the Seaway will be inspected Jul 12 and repairs will be put in hand. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RICHARD A. BAKER (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 11 — Tug *Richard A. Baker* (483 gt, built 1977), bringing 12 barges of soybeans downriver, ran aground just after 0730, Jul 8, and ended up shutting down the Mississippi River shipping channel until midday yesterday. The river's current pushed the lengthy tow crosswise in the channel and several double-hulled barges sustained damage to their outer hulls but no water reached the soybeans, said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Channel Manager Paul Machajewski. "She ran into a shallow spot where there was some shoaling and went sideways," Machajewski said. Several of the barges broke loose. The crew of *Richard A. Baker* immediately began moving barges up-river where another south-bound tow, the O.H. Ingram, held them for the *Richard A. Baker*. Tug *White Angel* proceeded upriver to assist in the clearing of the channel. Soybeans were offloaded from some barges to try to free them. By the time the channel was opened for barges, 10 tows were stacked up waiting to pass up or downstream. The channel was opened at about 1400 yesterday, said David Tropple, Lock and Dam 5 lockmaster. He estimated the backlog of river traffic would be eliminated by the end of today.

#### **RODOS (Greece)**

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia" under "Seizures & Arrests."

#### **ROERBORG (Netherlands)**

Valetta, Jul 7 — Tug *Waterman* and tow, container carrier *Roerborg* (8777 gt, built 1990), arrived Marsaxlokk Jul 6 from Mersin. — Lloyd's Agents.

Valetta, Jul 12 — Container Carrier *Roerborg* sailed Valetta Jul 10 for Gioia Tauro. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ROSARIO (Canada)**

London, Jul 10 — On Jul 4, tug *Rosario* (72 gt, built 1962) reported a fire in the engine room, while en route in the Fraser River, near Surrey, B.C., in lat 49 09.40N, long 123 00.20W.

#### **SAFMARINE AGULHAS (Liberia)**

London, Jul 6 — A SMIT Salvage report, timed Cape Town 1400 today, states: It has been nine days since Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* ran aground shortly after exiting the port of East London en route to Durban following engine failure. During this time, personnel, specialist equipment and other resources have been mobilised and utilised in an effort to ensure that the vessel and its cargo are saved, the environment is protected and that safety of life

remains a top priority. A *Safmarine Agulhas* Joint Operations Committee met for the first time 14 hours after the vessel ran aground and have continued to meet daily in an effort to ensure consistent communications and a well managed response. Following a number of refloating attempts last week, authorities including the South African Maritime Safety Authority, National Ports Authority and Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism and salvage company SMIT Salvage have focussed their efforts on protecting the marine environment from pollution by removing the fuel oil from the vessel, an operation that continues. This remains a top operational priority in addition to the removal of cargo from the deck of *Safmarine Agulhas*, where a total of 277 containers were located. More than half of the containers on deck have been discharged from the casualty thus far. The grounding forces acting on the vessel combined with the effect of the continuous action of the sea on the casualty in this exposed location is beginning to have a detrimental effect on the vessel's structural integrity. There is water ingress in two of the cargo holds and the engine-room. The structural integrity of the vessel continues to be monitored and should it deteriorate any further, future refloating attempts may be delayed in order to ensure that the fuel and cargo removal operations are completed. The impact of water ingress on cargo will be determined by surveyors and salvors continue to monitor the situation in the cargo holds and engine-room, utilising submersible pumps as and when necessary. Both the fuel removal operation and the cargo removal operation continue on a 24 hour basis, as and when operational conditions allow.

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvors are "racing against time" to save the grounded container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* from "a watery grave". A predicted cold front approaching from the south, accompanied by gale-force winds and swells of over five metres over the next few days could seriously hamper round the clock salvage operations off the East London harbour wall. Yesterday, for the first time, the salvage team voiced concern about the vessel's structural integrity, 11 days after she ran aground on the breakwater. "The grounding forces acting on the vessel, combined with the effect of the continuous action of the sea on the *Agulhas* in its exposed location, is beginning to have a detrimental effect on the vessel's structural integrity," said a spokesperson for the Joint Operations Committee. "There is water ingress in two cargo holds and the engine room. The structural integrity of the vessel is under constant observation and, should it deteriorate any further, future refloating attempts may have to be delayed in order to ensure that the fuel and cargo removal operations are completed." Last night, bilge



pumps were coping with the flooding but National Ports Authority spokesperson Terry Taylor admitted that the approaching bad weather was a concern for the salvage team. Taylor added that, while weather permitted, discharging of container cargo and heavy fuel oil was given priority. But "safety of personnel is paramount. Operations will stop immediately it becomes too dangerous to continue". South African Maritime Safety Association principle officer Captain Peter Kroon said contingency plans were in place to handle any potential oil spill. These preparations included stationing specialist oil abatement vessels, the *Kuswag IV* and the *Victoria Mxenge*, close to the *Safmarine Agulhas*. Both vessels are carrying dispersing chemicals. An aircraft was also on hand to monitor the situation from the air. Up to last night no signs of a spill had been spotted, but ashore the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism also had a specialist team on standby. By last night 175 of the 277 containers had been brought ashore. The ship was carrying a total of 469 loaded and 112 empty containers. Discharging the vessel's 660 tons of heavy oil fuel was progressing slowly with about 230 tons removed by late yesterday.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: An assessment on the state of Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* will be held today while salvage operations continue, the National Ports Authority said. Terry Taylor, a spokesperson, said the strong winds and large swells overnight had hampered operations but some progress was made. There are concerns about the state of the ship and the potential threat to the environment but, said Taylor, there appeared to be no further deterioration overnight. Water was entering two of the ship's cargo holds and the engine-room, so an assessment would be conducted today, he said. Salvors have been trying to protect the marine environment from pollution by removing the fuel oil from the vessel. This operation and the removal of cargo from the deck of the ship continue.

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: Salvors are taking advantage of calmer weather to carry on offloading fuel and cargo from Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*, said the National Port Authority today. Work was interrupted yesterday by strong winds and heavy swells. "The weather has changed. Yesterday we really had some howling winds which really played havoc with the discharge of the containers and the bunker fuel," said NPA East London spokesperson Terry Taylor. "They started early this morning. The weather has abated quite nicely, the wind has dropped and the swell is not too bad." Salvors have removed about half of the heavy fuel and a third of the containers. "By yesterday afternoon they had discharged over 300 tons of bunker fuel, that's the heavy fuel oil which would cause most

damage should the ship break up and the fuel disperse into the sea." "Up to last night they had discharged 205 containers off the deck." There are 581 containers on board, 277 of them above deck. Taylor said the ship had been taking strain over the last few days and was taking water into the hold and engine-room. "They're using her own pumps to control the water level in engine-room." The bulb on ship's bow broke off the same evening she ran aground off the East London harbour following engine failure, but Taylor said this was not a problem as there was plating which stopped leaks. Taylor said they were still hopeful of salvaging the vessel and "all effort" was going into discharging the bunker fuel and containers. "The aim is still to move the oil, the cargo." He said they expected to clear the containers off the deck by the end of the weekend and those in the holds in another week. Offloading the fuel was "making some good progress, let's hope that within the next few days that fuel is offloaded."

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Salvors are making "steady progress" in the removal of fuel and cargo from container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*, aground off the coast of East London, the National Ports Authority said today. Spokesperson Terry Taylor said almost 500 tons of bunker fuel had been discharged and about five containers of cargo remained above deck. There are about 300 containers below deck. Salvors will now remove the hatch covers to establish conditions below deck and set about discharging cargo from the holds below. "It could take a couple of days, there are several factors such as weather that the salvors are relying on. Holds two and three are flooded, which could be a challenge," said Taylor. He said once all the cargo was off, and any pollution threat had been eliminated the situation would be reassessed and a decision would be taken on what to do with the vessel.

East London, Jul 10 — Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* still aground off East London Western Breakwater, 90% of deck cargo removed, 80% of fuels removed. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jul 12 — A SMIT Salvage report timed Cape Town 1700, Jul 11, states: Good progress continues to be made with respect to the removal of cargo from the grounded Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*. The salvage team has removed all deck cargo as well as containers stacked below deck in two of the four holds. The vessel was carrying 469 loaded containers containing varied cargo and 112 empty containers when it ran aground. The removal of the remaining containers onboard, located in the two holds affected by water ingress, also began today. The fuel removal operation continues and thus far approximately 580 tonnes has been removed. The vessel had approximately 662 tonnes of heavy fuel oil on board prior to the fuel

removal operation commencing. The structural integrity of the vessel continues to be monitored and internal assessments are continuously being undertaken. Future refloating attempts have been delayed in order to ensure that the fuel and cargo removal operations are completed. A number of proactive environmental protection measures remain in place.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The discharging of containers from Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* is continuing with more than half of the original boxes now cleared and ashore. These include all those loaded above the deck and those in holds 1 and 4. Holds Nos 2 and 3 have however become contaminated by both seawater and oil which may have seeped into the containers. The extent of the damage to these boxes and their contents will not be known until they have been discharged but the slippery nature of the containers affected by the oil contamination will make their handling more difficult. Once cleared of the ship's holds each box will have to be drained and steam-cleaned before being taken away from stacking and eventual examination. Meanwhile the Joint Operations Committee overseeing the salvage has confirmed that there will be no further attempts at pulling the ship clear until all the cargo and the fuel oil has been discharged ashore.

#### **SALONA (Honduras)**

Gothenburg, Jul 6 — General cargo *Salona* arrived Kollandsøe Yard Jul 3 and docked on Jul 4. Repairs are expected to take a month. Understand the vessel experienced problems discharging its cargo of wooden pallets, as some had sustained water damage. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **SAN CARLO (Malta)**

See *Kapitan Dudin 1*.

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

London, Jul 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Supply *Sandy Cape* (1819 gt, built 1977) left drydock of the SW Reimerswaal on the Scheldt on Jul 7. It had entered it due to technical problems and had a list to port. (Note — *Sandy Cape* arrived Hansweert Jun 15.)

#### **SCAN BOTHIA (Isle of Man)**

See "Military Equipment Seized From Isle of Man-Flagged Vessel At Derince, Turkey" under "Miscellaneous".

#### **SEA JAGUAR (Marshall Islands)**

Port Said, Jul 9 — Crude oil tanker *Sea Jaguar* completed her temporary repairs to the bulb and cracks and sailed 0550, Jul 8, for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA TIGER (Norway)**

See *PXXI*.

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



**SEAGREETING (Liberia)**

London, Jul 6 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Seagreeting* was reported sailing from Aden on Jun 22.

London, Jul 12 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Seagreeting* arrived Port Elizabeth Jul 10.

**SHARK (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Jul 12 — General cargo *Shark* is still lying sunk at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY (Panama)**

London, Jul 6 — Vehicle carrier *Shenandoah Highway* was reported arriving at Altamira, Mexico, at 1245 hrs, Jun 29. It departed later the same day at 1910 hrs, bound for Veracruz, arriving there at 1445 hrs, Jun 30. It sailed at 0759 hrs, Jul 2, and arrived at Galveston at 1955 hrs, Jul 4. It left Galveston at 1300 hrs, Jul 5.

**STELLA**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: At 0400 today, a crew member from fishing *Stella* (116 gt, built 1998, official number 1070580) radioed the North Pacific Search and Rescue Co-ordination Center, Juneau, notifying them the vessel was taking on water in the vicinity of Gull Island, and the three crew members were donning survival suits. The command center immediately issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast, and launched a rescue boat and crew from Station Juneau. Meanwhile, the crew of the *Stella* entered their lifeboat after the water filled the engine-room, causing the vessel to list to port. The Alaska Marine Highway ferry *Taku* arrived on scene soon after. Launching their own lifeboat, they towed a lifeboat from the *Stella* away from the rocks and brought them safely aboard the *Taku*. The Coast Guard rescue boat and crew arrived five minutes later, assessed the situation of the *Stella* and escorted the *Taku* to the Auke Bay Ferry Terminal. Afterwards, they interviewed the *Stella* crew and determined the operator fell asleep at the wheel, causing the vessel to hit the rocks at Gull Island, ripping a hole in the vessel.

**STOLT AUSTRALIA (Australia)**

See "Crew Of Australian-Flagged Vessel At Hobart, Australia" under "Labour Disputes".

**SUMIWAKA MARU NO.57 (Japan)**

Yokohama, Jul 7 — Pusher tug *Sumiwaka Maru No.57* arrived Yokohama Jul 6 from Tsukumi and sailed same day for Negishi. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SURYA MAKMUR INDAH**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: The body of another victim of the sinking of ferry *Surya Makmur Indah* was found in Ilik Islet waters, North Sumatra, over the weekend (Jul 8-9). A local fisherman found the body, Lt Col Djaka Santoso, Sibolga Naval Base

Commander, said today. Rescuers have so far found a total of 17 bodies from the vessel, which sank in Pulau Mursala and Bintana waters, Central Tapanuli district, North Sumatra, on Jun 23. A total of 95 survivors were rescued and about 33 others are still missing. "Up to the 17th day after the vessel sank, based on reports from victims' relatives to the Sibolga naval base, there are still 33 victims who have not been found," Santoso said. The Sibolga Navy's search and rescue teams have called off their search for the victims. However, the Sibolga naval base commander called on fishermen or local islanders who find bodies from the sunken vessel to report to his office. Earlier, some of the victims' families had asked the local administration to salve the wreck. They also asked the SAR team to continue their search for the missing passengers as many of them had not been found.

**TAI HUA HAI (China)**

Antwerp, Jul 13 — Bulker *Tai Hua Hai* is still undergoing repairs in the shipyard. ETC Jul 20. — DPS-Teamhead surveyors.

**TIRTA NIAGA I (Indonesia)**

Kolkata, Jul 7 — Product tanker *Tirta Niaga I* is now under arrest as per order issued by High Court of Kolkata. — Lloyd's Agents.

**UNION BEAVER (Belgium)**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters were today called to a large fire on a vessel (salvage *Union Beaver*, 856 gt, built 1991) moored in a quay at Gorleston. Six crews went to Gas House Quay at 0840 hrs where there was a fire in the vessel's hold. Crews were called in from Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Acle and Windham.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0845, UTC: Salvage *Union Beaver* has a fire on board at Gorleston. The fire services have 10 units in attendance.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: The fire on salvage *Union Beaver* started when a spark from welding work, which was being carried out on deck, ignited a fire in a rope store in a hold. The fire has now been extinguished. An external fuel tank has been lifted off the vessel. The vessel had four inches of water in hold due to fire-fighting operations which caused the vessel to list 10 degrees to port which has now been corrected. No pollution reported. A MSA surveyor is now on scene.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Sixty firefighters were called to put out a fierce blaze in cramped conditions on board a ship moored in Yarmouth yesterday. The town was brought to a standstill as a separate crash on the nearby Gaptown Hall roundabout at the same time closed down access from Gorleston and Lowestoft in the morning rush hour. The Southtown area of Yarmouth was

gridlocked from 0820 to 1000 as firecrews from Yarmouth, Gorleston, Lowestoft, Acle, Loddon, Stalham and Wymondham weaved their way through the traffic to get to the ship. Crew on board salvage *Union Beaver* reported a fire in a freezer in the main hold at 0838 while it was moored at Gas House Quay on Southtown Road. The firefighters worked in teams of eight on 10-minute shifts to tackle the blaze in fiercely hot conditions. Area manager Terry Larkowsky said: "The first crews got to the ship soon after receiving the call and requested additional appliances because the fire, while it was contained, was so severe. "Access was extremely difficult and fire crews had to contend with really hot and smoky conditions. "A fire like that would be bad enough if it was out in the open, but in the bowels of a steel vessel the heat builds up quickly and stays there. "It's a very, very physical environment so we changed the crews around quickly, making sure there were teams lined up to take over." Despite the ship being moored close to large gas containers, there was no chance of the fire spreading to other parts of the ship or the shore, said Mr Larkowsky. He added that firefighters believed the blaze had broken out because of faulty electronics in the freezer, though could not say for certain at this stage.

**WAN HAI 213 (Singapore)**

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

**WEI HANG 9 (Malta)**

London, Jul 13 — Following navigation warning issued Jul 12: Sunken wreck, cargo vessel 3947 tons (general cargo *Wei Hang 9*) exists in lat 35 32 31N, long 140 49 27E. (Note — *Wei Hang 9* sank Jul 22, 2005, following a collision.)

**XIN FU ZHOU (China)**

See *Lass Uranus*.

**YOUNG LADY (Isle of Man)**

London, Jul 10 — Crude oil tanker *Young Lady* sailed Houston 0700, Jul 4.

**ZEINA (Georgia)**

London, Jul 10 — General cargo *Zeina*, Piraeus for Nikolayev, passed Dardanelles Jul 8.

Piraeus, Jul 11 — General cargo *Zeina* sailed from Piraeus on Jul 7, bound for Russia. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ZHI QIANG (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A second tug has joined efforts to salvage bulker *Zhi Qiang*, which ran aground on a reef off Papua New Guinea. The bulk carrier got stuck on a reef about 525 kilometres east of Port Moresby on Saturday (Jul 1). There are 24 crew members on board the vessel, which left Townsville last week loaded with 40,000 tonnes of north Queensland sugar. The salvage company Pacific Towing says it may be necessary to remove the cargo and repair the vessel

before any efforts are made to refloat it. The first tug, from Port Moresby, reached *Zhi Qiang* on Tuesday.

London, Jul 10 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 2314, UTC, Jul 9: Understand bulker *Zhi Qiang* is still aground.

Port Moresby, Jul 10 — Bulker *Zhi Qiang* is still aground. Understand the salvage team are now on board, assessing a salvage plan. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 1135, UTC: Bulker *Zhi Qiang* has been refloated and is now under tow to Port Moresby, where ETA Jul 16.

**ZIM JAPAN (Malta)**

See "Typhoon "Ewiniar" under "Weather & Navigation".

**ZOPPUN (Turkey)**

London, Jul 12 — Understand that on May 9 chemical tanker *Zoppun* had a flooded engine-room in the port of Constantza while loading 4,900 tonnes of liquid caustic soda. As a consequence of the casualty, the shipowners declared general average and tugs operated by the port authorities at Constantza rendered services in the nature of salvage to the vessel. The engine-room was pumped dry and sealed. However, upon departing Constantza on its voyage, *Zoppun* lost main engine power and collided with general cargo *Karim 1* which was moored in the port area. (See later report in issue of May 31. Also see *Karim 1*.)



**BELGIUM**

Zeebrugge, Jul 11 — At 1444, Jul 7, the departure of general cargo *Iberia* (1992 gt, built 1990) from Antwerp was suspended due to the vessel being detained. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Iberia* arrived at Antwerp at 1330 hrs, Jul 6 and sailed at 0120 hrs, Jul 10.)



**AROSA QUINCE (Spain)**

London, Jul 7 — A report, dated Jul 6, states: Norwegian Coast Guard has arrested fishing (general) *Arosa Quince* (960 gt, built 1987) for suspected for illegal fishing near Svalbard. According to the Norwegian Coast Guard the inspectors detected defective catch diary. They also detected dumping of small fish and other violations of fishery regulations. The trawler was fishing in an area Norwegian authorities claims are under Norwegian jurisdiction. *Arosa*

*Quince* is now heading for Tromso, where it is expected to arrive tomorrow. The police will then handle further investigation.

**DODEKANISIAKI ANONYMOS NAFTILIAKI ETAIRIA**

Piraeus, Jul 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Diagoras*, Roll On Roll Off *Rodos* and passenger ro/ro *Patmos* were purchased by local company Blue Star Ferries at yesterday's auction for the total sum of EUR 19.9 million. *Diagoras* will reportedly resume service between Piraeus and the Dodecanese islands. *Rodos* and *Patmos* will reportedly be demolished. — Lloyd's Agents.

**EDCO (Egypt)**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A legal fight has stranded an Egyptian cargo vessel and its crew of 29 in the Charleston harbour. None of the Egyptian sailors on bulker *Edco* (22530 gt, built 1980) has a visa and a private security company is making sure the crew stays aboard, said Mike Balero, spokesman for the US Customs and Border Protection office in Atlanta. The company handling the *Edco's* cargo, Kinder Morgan, said the vessel was carrying a cargo of bulk salt. The vessel, which arrived Jun 25, was detained as part of a lawsuit filed by Hong Kong-based Grand Max Marine Ltd., said attorney David B. Marvel, who represents the company. The lawsuit was filed after the *Edco's* sister ship, the *Edco Star*, was ruled unseaworthy. That vessel was seized in the Suez Canal near Egypt by government officials, Marvel said. Grand Max is seeking \$4 million, claiming the seizure has hurt business, Marvel said. For now, the lawsuit means the *Edco's* crew is stranded in Charleston. Marvel said a custodian has been appointed to oversee the vessel's welfare while the suit plays out. He says the vessel was resupplied in Charleston for a scheduled trip to South America when it was seized. "As far as I know, those guys are fine," Marvel said. The vessel and crew could be stranded indefinitely, but Marvel says he hopes the case will be settled soon. Mark Cooke of the Charleston Port & Seafarers' Society, a local waterfront humanitarian group, said ship asset seizures happen regularly in ports as maritime companies seek to protect their financial interests. "When it does, the crew is stuck in the middle," he said. Cooke said he hopes to visit the crew this week to deliver fresh drinking water and check out the sailors' needs.

**EDCO STAR (Egypt)**

See *Edco*.

**FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: After a voyage of 25 days following a daring escape from South Africa, the Sea Shepherd research *Farley Mowat* reached Fremantle, Western Australia, on

Monday (Jul 10). It was a tempestuous crossing with extremely rough seas and bad weather. The ship had one lifeboat torn away and lost overboard. After clearing customs and immigration the ship docked at Berth C in Fremantle Port.

**J.KING (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 12 — General cargo *J.King* (5582 gt, built 1994), which arrived at Hong Kong at 1020 hrs, today, is currently reported at South West Lama Anchorage, Hong Kong, under Admiralty & High Court arrest.

**L'ARC EN CIEL 1 (France)**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today states: The master of Fishing *L'Arc en Ciel 1* (173 gt, built 2001), has been ordered to pay a total of £14,750 for illegally fishing in UK waters. The defendant pleaded guilty at Grimsby Magistrates Court to the offence of fishing within the 12 mile limit off Flamborough Head. The vessel was caught on Jul 5 by the Royal Navy's Fisheries Protection Vessel *HMS Cattistock*. During the case, brought by the Marine Fisheries Agency on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, the master was fined £12,500 and ordered to pay costs of £2,250. Mike Parker, MFA District Fisheries Inspector, said: "Any fishermen, regardless of their nationality, must comply with the regulations while working in UK waters. "Masters have a responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the rules that apply in the areas they intend to fish. They must check to see where and when they can fish, and for what species. Ignorance of the law is not a defence. "These rules are in place to benefit conservation by restricting effort in the most sensitive parts of community waters and preserving traditional fishing activities on which the social and economic development of the coastal communities depends.

**LAMA (Belize)**

Beirut, Jul 12 — General cargo *Lama* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MALASPINA CASTLE (Cayman Islands)**

Zeebrugge, Jul 11 — The embargo/arrest of bulker *Malaspina Castle* at Antwerp, was lifted at 1408 hrs, Jul 10. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Malaspina Castle* arrived at Antwerp at 0626 hrs, Jun 22 and sailed at 2038 hrs, Jul 10.)

**NISSOS CHIOS (Greece)**

London, Jul 7 — Ro-ro m ferry *Nissos Chios*, which was seized at Piraeus in 1994, sailed from Piraeus, in tow, on May 31, and arrived at Aliaga on Jun 6 for break-up.

**ORESTES (Panama)**

Bari, Jul 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Orestes* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

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



**ORIENT ALLIANCE (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 7 — Three weeks after bulker *Orient Alliance* was released from arrest in South Africa, Orient Steamship is negotiating to sell the vessel to Greek owner Goldenport for \$27.3 million. Brokers said the ship had already been sold to Goldenport, but this was denied by sources in Greece who said talks were still under way although they could be concluded next week. The sale is expected to include the balance of the existing time charter on the vessel, which continues to next March-April at \$16,000 a day. *Orient Alliance* was released by the Sheriff of Cape Town on Jun 15 after French finance bank Calyon stepped in to guarantee payment of most claims for alleged non-payment of bills against *Orient Alliance* and *Orient Brilliance*. The *Orient Alliance* was arrested on May 12 by lawyers acting on behalf of 35 claimants. Two further claims were lodged when news of the arrest circulated.

**PLAVA (Albania)**

Bari, Jul 6 — General cargo *Plava* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SKY 75 (South Korea)**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Korean crew members on board trawler *Sky 75*, in Bluff for repairs, claimed yesterday they were effectively stranded without food or money. The vessel's third engineer, Cho Young Oh, said that he and five other crew members were stuck in limbo at Bluff after falling out with the vessel's president, Kim Dal Gon, on Sunday (Jul 9). "He left for Christchurch and now we can't contact him," Mr Young Oh said. "We need to be paid but he don't pay anything — we don't have enough food. We need really good help." The six of them had been told to return to Korea and they would be paid later. Mr Young Oh said they feared that if they were to do so the company would pay them nothing. *Sky 75* is operated by New Zealand company Poseidon Pacific, based in Hamilton, and it is not the first time it has come under scrutiny. Owners' representative Balgon Kim said yesterday that any claims of mistreatment were exaggerated. "They are after compensation," he said. The six crew on board the vessel were all who were left after it was embroiled in controversy while moored at Timaru last month. Twenty-two Burmese crew members approached unions with a plea for help, claiming the Korean officers had threatened them with abuse and ordered them to work by kicking them and hitting them with sticks. After Department of Labour intervention the 22 crew members were sent home, leaving only the six Korean officers on board, Mr Kim said. They also had had the option to return home but had refused and the vessel had been sent to Bluff until a full replacement crew could be mustered, he said.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Six South Korean officers on board trawler *Sky 75*, caught in a wage stand-off at Bluff, were standing their ground yesterday as more details emerged of problems on board the vessel. The trawler's chief engineer, Kim Hyo Nam, said issues on the vessel were because of cultural differences between the South Korean officers and crew members hired from Myanmar. "We weren't working together well — there was a lot of fighting." The 22 Myanmar crew members approached unions at the Port of Timaru last month claiming the officers ordered them to work by kicking them and hitting them with sticks. A Labour Department spokeswoman said an investigation found the crew had been paid minimum wage with no deductions, as required by the permits enabling them to work in New Zealand waters. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the crew were repatriated to Myanmar at their request, with their travel costs being paid by the company, she said. While the department was looking into the allegations made by the Korean officers, it had received no formal complaint, she said. Mr Hyo Nam said the abuse claims were exaggerated but because of the scrutiny the vessel was under, the owners, Hamilton-based company Poseidon Pacific, decided to move it to Bluff. The owners were unable to muster a full crew to continue the hoki season and the officers were fired on Friday (Jul 7), he said. The six officers had since fallen out with the vessel's owners over three months' pay they claimed they were entitled to under Korean law in the event of losing their jobs, retirement pay, a percentage of the value of the catch and late wages from the past two months, he said. The vessel's owners had promised the officers they would be paid on their return home. However they feared to do so would see the company renege, Mr Hyo Nam said. The vessel's owners had done everything in their power to force the officers return to South Korea including altering the crew register to state the men were no longer officially on board the vessel, Mr Hyo Nam said. The officers had signed a two-year employment contract to work on *Sky 75* on Jul 28 last year, which had left them questioning the timing of their sacking. The vessel's owners had failed to enter into negotiations, he said. Owner's representative Balgon Kim claimed Mr Hyo Nam was behind all the problems. The vessel's skipper had been in talks with the officers but he had yet to report back on how they had gone. He maintained the men would be paid all they were owed on their return to South Korea and it was impossible to pay them while they remained in New Zealand. This was because of Korean law and tax regulations and the fact the men were employed by a Korean company. The owners were committed to obtaining a new crew in time for the next season,

which began in September, and replacing the Korean officers was crucial to ensuring harmony on board, he said. International Transport Workers Federation spokeswoman Kathy Whelan said the Koreans were expected to present a claim to the ITF and the Maritime Union last night, setting out the money they believed they were owed. Korean Embassy consul Jaesoon Hahn said she was aware of the situation and had urged both parties to settle the dispute amicably. The situation was "complicated" and she hoped it could be resolved before it became a legal matter because the vessel could potentially fall under both the South Korean and New Zealand legal systems.

**THANKS TWENTY (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 7 — General cargo *Thanks Twenty* sailed from Hong Kong at 0657 hrs, today.

**TIOMAN (Honduras)**

Jakarta, Jul 13 — Product tanker *Tioman* is still lying afloat at Tanjung Uban anchorage area, under arrest. There have been further developments, as informed by Pertamina agent at Tanjung Uban, but the cargo has been discharged to barge. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TRAWLER ARRESTED BY NORWAY**

London, Jul 7 — A report, dated Jul 2, states: Yesterday the Norwegian Coast Guard brought the stateless trawler *Joanna* under tow to Vadsoe harbour. The trawler which is flying no flag, and no registration number, has for some time been suspected of illegal fishing in the Barents Sea. The trawler was boarded on Thursday (Jun 29) morning, after its captain had refused to follow the coast guard vessel to Norwegian harbour. According to the Norwegian Coast Guard, inspectors have found 220 tons of illegal catch on board the trawler, and the records of catch is missing. The trawl was cut during boarding, but has been recovered, and according to the Coast Guard it turns out that the size of the mesh was too small. The evidence has been turned over to the Vadsoe police, and captain is now being questioned, NRK reports.

London, Jul 7 — A report, dated today, states: Fish factory *Joanna*, ex *Kabou* (1379 gt, built 1966): The owner of the trawler now named *Joana* was fined NOK 300,000 and the captain NOK 50,000. Police also have filed a claim of NOK 4.7 million on behalf of the state, to cover the value of the fish found on board the trawler and the profit that its owners stood to make from selling it. Magne Nyborg of the Ostfinnmark Police District said Norwegian authorities found 183 tons of cod and 40 tons of halibut on the trawler, most of it already filleted and frozen. Market value of the catch alone was set at NOK 3.1 million as of Tuesday. The fines and compensation claim were made for the vessel's



failure to maintain a log of its fishing activities, its alleged use of illegal nets, the captain's presentation of incorrect or false vessel documentation and for his failure to follow orders issued by the Norwegian Coast Guard to stop and pull in the vessel's nets. The Coast Guard finally boarded the trawler late last week after suspecting it of illegal fishing and for being stateless. The trawler, which has changed names and flag states several times, was towed in to Vadso over the weekend, where it remains under arrest. The captain initially said the vessel was named *Joana* and sailed under the Sao Tome flag. He later claimed the trawler was named *Kabou* and sailed under the flag of Guinea. Norwegian officials have traced several claims to various flag states. After sailing from Aveiro, Portugal in January, the vessel, named *Kabou*, reflagged from Togo to Guinea. The vessel then apparently reverted to Togo, only to claim Sao Tome in May and take on the name *Joana*. Police in the northern district of Eastern Finnmark have seized the vessel's documents and forwarded them to the national crime agency Kripos for examination. Police also claim the trawler's captain entered Norway's economic zone on Jun 12, and, therefore, was fishing illegally in Norwegian waters. Defense lawyer Halfdan Mellbye told news bureau NTB that neither the captain nor the vessel's owner has accepted the fines. That indicates the conflict will go to court this autumn. If no bank guarantee for the fines and compensation claim is put up, and no approved documents for the vessel presented, the vessel will remain under arrest in Vadso with its Spanish captain, 29 Portuguese and three Eastern European crew members on board, pending the result of the court case. The owner of the suspect trawler was initially believed to be a Portuguese firm. Its documents claim it is an African firm called "Africa Pesques."

**Pipeline Accidents**



**BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA**

See "Nigeria" under "Political and Civil Unrest".

**Pollution**



**BURRARD INLET, CANADA**

See *Andre* under "Marine."

**CALCASIEU RIVER, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The entire Calcasieu Ship Channel is open to recreational boat traffic, albeit with restrictions. The US Coast Guard announced yesterday it was opening the "safety zone" from the intersection of the ship channel and the Intracoastal Waterway north to Bayou d'Inde and the Cypress Point development. It's the first time the entire ship channel has been opened since 17,000 barrels of a 71,000-barrel oil spill at the Citgo Refinery leaked into it on Jun 20. "We understand that a lot of people were caught with boats on both sides of the safety zone when the (cleanup) operations began," Coast Guard spokesman Adam Eggers said of the decision to open the channel to traffic. The safety zone will be monitored with security boats and a surveillance company, he added. "The restrictions will be enforced," Eggers said. Meanwhile, Moss Lake remains closed to boat traffic. Cleanup operations there are focusing on "more shoreline activities," he said. "Some of that area is marsh, and the worse thing you can do when you have oil in a marsh is to have someone walk through it," he said. "We're having to use a technique called flushing to get the oil out of the marshland." As of yesterday afternoon, 18,221 barrels of oil and water had been removed from the Calcasieu River and 18,344 barrels of the same mixture had been removed from the Indian Marais, a drainage lagoon on Citgo's property, Eggers said. Thirty-thousand barrels of oil were spilled into the Indian Marais in the Jun 20 incident and 24,000 barrels were contained within Citgo berms.

London, Jul 7 — The Safety Zone on the Calcasieu River from Light 115 to the Intracoastal Waterway intersection is still in effect; however, it has been modified to allow recreational boaters to transit the Safety Zone area at no wake speed, but not to stop, fish, or swim in the affected area. Boaters should steer clear of cleanup operations, response boats, skimmers, and booms. Security boats and video surveillance are employed in the Safety Zone area. Both deep draft and commercial inland tow traffic is moving on the Safety Zone portion of the waterway at no wake speed at the direction of the local joint US Coast Guard and Industry established Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). All commercial vessel movements on the affected portion of the waterway must be approved by VTIS. Traffic on the lower portion of the Calcasieu river from the Intersection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to Cameron, and traffic on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway east and west, is now unrestricted for both commercial and recreational traffic. All docks in the Lake Charles area have been approved to accept cargo vessels. Cleanup operations and traffic control measures on the upper portion of Calcasieu Waterway are expected to continue for the next several days.

**Weather & Navigation**



**CHILE**

London, July 13 — A press report, dated July 12, states: Ten people dead, nine disappeared and over 28,000 displaced is the primary this morning balance of the torrential rains which have been punishing central and south Chile since late yesterday and are forecasted to continue. Chilean authorities have declared the VIII Region, "catastrophe zone" with over 400 people reported homeless with total loss of property given the intensity of the rain and subsequent mudslides, reported the Chilean Emergency Office. In metropolitan Santiago over 700 people had to be rescued and or protected from the pouring rain and strong winds which fell hundreds of trees and electricity lines. Over 10,000 houses were left without electricity and several areas of the city are flooded with vehicles and public transport clogged in the muddy waters. Another 60 millimetres of rainfall are forecasted in the coming 24 hours. The Chilean Emergency office has kept Yellow Alert in Regions IV, V, Metropolitan, VI, IX and X, with Red Alert in regions VII and VIII. All ports in regions IV to X have been closed for small vessels and the same applies to all vessels in Valparaiso and San Antonio. The main Andes tunnel leading to Argentina has also been temporarily shut down because of snow and wind. In other mountain crossings traffic is restricted and all vehicles must transit with chains in wheels.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rain in central Chile left at least 11 people dead and forced 30,000 to flee their inundated homes yesterday, the government said. President Michelle Bachelet declared a state of emergency in the area, about 300 miles south of Santiago, because of massive flooding triggered by rain-swollen rivers, the Interior Ministry's National Emergency Office said. Seven of the deaths occurred in a landslide in Chiguayante, where a family of four was buried along with three firefighters, the emergency office said. Chilean power generators opened floodgates at major reservoirs because of the heavy rain that also washed out roads and cut electricity in isolated rural areas.

**CHINA**

London, Jul 8 — A press report dated today states: Storms and torrential rain have battered eastern China, leaving 13 million people affected by flooding and storm damage. At least 30 people have died as a result of the severe weather in the two provinces of Jiangsu and Anhui, and some 40,000

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

people have been evacuated. Residents have been using rafts to move through flooded streets, reports said. The government said at least 349 people died in disasters caused by the weather in June. Another 99 people were missing and the cost of the flooding was estimated at £1.36bn. The most recent stormy weather has hit Jiangsu province hardest. So far 27 people are reported dead and more than 8,400 houses have collapsed, Zhao Jie of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, said. Three more people have been killed in neighbouring Anhui province. Seasonal heavy rains and typhoons causes hundreds of deaths in China each year. But meteorologists expect this summer to be particularly bad, with warm Pacific currents causing more typhoons than usual.

#### **HURRICANE "BUD"**

London, Jul 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Bud" was located near lat 13.7N, long 111.3W and has tracked west-northwest, or 295 degs, at seven knots over the past six hours. The estimated minimum central pressure 1005 Mb. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots, with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and south-west quadrants and zero nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Jul 12, the centre is predicted to be near lat 14.81N, long 113.7W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Bud" was located near lat 14.8N, long 114.7W. Movement over the past six hours: 290 degs at 11 knots. The position is accurate to 20 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 85 knots, with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum wave height is 24 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 13, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.6N, long 119.4W, with maximum sustained winds of 90 knots and gusts to 110 knots.

#### **INDIA**

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains kept schools and colleges shut for a third day yesterday, and meteorologists forecast more for Bombay as the nationwide death toll rose to more than 250 since the monsoon began in June. The warnings came as officials in the eastern state of Orissa said torrential rains killed at least 20 people, and nine people reportedly died elsewhere in the country. The Mumbai city airport today resumed air traffic operations after five days of heavy downpour, that had resulted in the

flooding of the runway, leading to diversion and delay of flights, airport sources said. All flights operated today but 15-20 minutes behind schedule due to operational reasons, airport sources said. Meanwhile, Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAL), a body set up for the maintenance of the airport, said work was done on a warfooting to drain out water from a flooded runway at Chhatrapati Shivaji terminal yesterday. However, flights were operated from another runway, MIAL officials said. "The runway has been restored for normal aircraft operations today," it said.

#### **ITALY**

Savona, Jul 7 — At about 1800, local time, yesterday, due to storm weather, at quay 27 "Nuova Calata Boselli" in Savona port, managed by terminal Messrs Monfer for grain cargoes in bulk, the hopper of plant fell down caused by strong wind as registered by Savona port weather station with gusts up to 35 knots. Fortunately no people injured and no vessels alongside under discharging or loading. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **PAKISTAN**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Torrential rains triggered flooding that washed away homes in a village in north-western Pakistan, killing 13 people and injuring about 300, the military said Tuesday. Heavy rains lashed the village of Gorvek in the mountainous tribal region of North Waziristan, bordering Afghanistan, yesterday and today, the military's Inter-Services Public Relations department reported. Dozens of mud and stone homes were either washed away or severely damaged, the department said, killing 13 people, including women and children. Soldiers recovered the bodies and helped to treat the injured.

#### **ROMANIA**

Bucharest, Jul 13 — Sulina channel was closed at 0630, Jul 13 due to bad weather, wind north north-east, beaufort 5-6 (fresh to strong breeze), sea 4-5. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TROPICAL STORM "BILIS"**

London, Jul 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Bilis" was located near lat 18.8N, long 128.8E, approximately 435 nautical miles south of Naha, Okinawa and has tracked northwestward, or 315 degs, at ten knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 45 knots, with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 125 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants, 140 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 18 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 12, the centre is

predicted to be near lat 21.1N, long 126.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots.

London, Jul 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Bilis" was located near lat 21.5N, long 125.5W, approximately 300 nautical miles south-southwest of Naha, Okinawa and has tracked west-northwest, or 300 degs, at eight knots, over the past six hours. The position is accurate to 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 40 knots, with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 125 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 135 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum wave height is 18 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 13, the centre is predicted to be near lat 23.4N, long 122.2W, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Bilis" is expected to hit Fujian Province late tomorrow or early on Saturday (Jul 15). According to the Fujian provincial observatory, the storm is south-east of Taiwan, and the maximum wind speed near its centre was 90 kph. The storm is forecast to dump heavy rain in the Taiwan Strait area in the next three days. The government urged all departments to prepare to deal with possible emergencies.

Lodon, July 13 —The ports of Keelung and Kaohsiung halted operations today as heavy rains hit the country. The rain and strong winds were battering the eastern parts of the Taiwan ahead of the arrival of the tropical storm "Bilis". By 0300, UTC, the eye of the storm was about 190 km east of Taiwan and travelling northwest at 17 kph with sustained winds of up to 90 kph and maximum gusts of 119 kph, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau.

#### **TROPICAL STORM "CARLOTTA"**

London, Jul 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Carlotta" was located near lat 13.9N, long 103.3W. Movement over the past six hours: 280 degs, at 11 knots. The position is accurate to 30 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots, with gusts to 45 knots. The maximum wave height is 13 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 13, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.5N, long 112.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots.

#### **TROPICAL STORM "EWINIAR"**

London, Jul 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Ewiniar" near lat 35.8N, long 126.5E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six



hours 15 degrees at 22 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 39.5N, long 128.8E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots. Forecast position lat 42.3N, long 132.1E at 0600, UTC, Jul 11. Maximum sustained winds 20 knots, gusts 30 knots.

#### TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources orders owners to salvage tank barge *Billy Star* and sop up the sulfuric acid that escaped from its tank off the coast of Bauan, Batangas. Owned by Grand Asian Shipping, the 150-ton vessel was having repairs at the Keppel Shipyard in Barangay San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas, when it sank on Saturday (Jul 1). The hull bottom was believed to be badly corroded. At a news conference yesterday, Antonio Principe, department executive director in Region IV-A, predicted salvage work would be completed 48 hours after the commencement of the operation. Hideya Waste Management Corp., under contract with Grand Asian Shipping, will do salvage work. It will extract the bullet tank and neutralize the acid it contains. Principe said the tank would be towed 25 nautical miles southeast of Lubang Island and its content dumped. He assured the public that the chemical was not toxic and does not pose harm to marine life. "The temperature would go up in the immediate vicinity," he said. "It may reach 35 degrees Celsius, but that would not cause harm to the marine life there," he said. For the moment, however, the salvaging operation is put on hold pending the arrival of the needed equipment from Singapore. Another hindrance, according to Principe, is the presence of another vessel in the Keppel dry dock, which also contains chemicals. "We need to take out the ship first before we start salvaging the sunken one," he said. After the disaster, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered the owners of Grand Asian Shipping to stop their operation. He said the Environment Management Bureau and the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau will determine first the extent of environmental damage caused by the accident. "I am revoking the license of *Billy Star* and compelling the owners to clean up the mess," the secretary said. He noted that the spillage occurred in an area of rich biodiversity. He directed bureau to consult other government experts and local executives in the damage assessment and to consider the need for insurance coverage to ensure there are sufficient funds to address environmental disasters. "The EMB must study the amount of coverage based on potential damage, capitalization, and the fund companies and businesses should allot," he said. He said that insurance firms must be accredited by DENR to prevent fly-by-night firms.

Manila, Jul 7 — Manila-based hazardous materials specialist, Hideya Waste Management, has been contracted to treat the sulphuric acid cargo of tank barge *Billy Star* so that it could be safely transported to a disposal site. Hideya has been contracted by Florida-based salvor Titan which is working together with local salvor Harbor Star Shipping Services to refloat the barge and its cargo of 1,270 tons of sulphuric acid. The salvage operation plan calls for the removal of the sulphuric acid carried in four bullet storage tanks bolted to the deck of the barge prior to the refloating of the vessel. Hideya vice president Danny David explained that the plan will require two barges. One barge will serve as a work platform for a sulphuric acid treatment facility to be installed by Hideya while the other barge will transport the treated chemical to a disposal site. Divers will first repair and seal any holes in the submerged storage tanks after which a blowdown hose connected to the treatment facility in the work barge will be attached to the storage tanks. A stainless steel pneumatic pump will then pump out the sulphuric acid from the barge's storage tanks directly to the sulphuric acid treatment facility on the work barge. The sulphuric acid will then be treated with caustic soda to reduce its acidity. The neutralized acid will then be offloaded to another barge which will dump it in a designated disposal area 25 nautical miles south-east of Lubang Island. Offloading and treating the sulphuric acid is expected to take at least 10 days. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 13 — Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc., owner and operator of product tanker *Malitam*, are reconsidering plans of repairing the vessel and may opt to claim the vessel a "constructive total loss". Sources in the company said that they are still tallying the total costs to be incurred in repairing the vessel. If the costs reach 80 percent of the value of the vessel it may make more sense to declare the vessel a total loss and use the insurance proceeds to purchase a replacement. *Malitam* needs to undergo a full engine rehab, replacement of its rudder and propeller and hull repair. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### TYPHOON "EWINIAR"

Tokyo, Jul 7 — A powerful typhoon which was nearing Japan's southern island chain of Okinawa today is expected to bring strong winds and torrential rain to the area later in the day, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. Typhoon "Ewinia" was south of Okinawa and moving slowly north-northwest early today, bringing with it winds of up to 160 km per hour, the agency said. The agency warned of heavy rain and flooding in parts of Okinawa. The storm was forecast to weaken slightly and move across the southern part of South Korea over the weekend, the agency said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 7 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Ewinia" was located near lat 21.3N, long 127.4E, approximately 290 nautical miles south of Naha, Okinawa and has tracked north-northwestward, or 345 degs, at six knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 100 knots, with gusts to 125 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 145 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 140 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 135 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. Radius of 64 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jul 8, the centre is predicted to be near lat 24.2N, long 126.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 105 knots and gusts to 130 knots.

London, Jul 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Ewinia" was located near lat 24.2N, long 126.3E. Movement past six hours 350 deg at 10 knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 170 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east, 135 nautical miles in the south-west and 125 nautical miles north-west.

London, Jul 9 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Ewinia" was located near lat 29.2N, long 125.8E. Movement past six hours 005 deg at 16 knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 180 nautical miles in the north-east, 160 nautical miles south-east, 140 nautical miles in the south-west and 120 nautical miles north-west.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A Typhoon left the Korean Peninsula struggling with death and damage as it hit the west coast of the country today. More than 30 people in China were killed as the typhoon ushered in heavy rains and strong winds. According to weather officials, Typhoon "Ewinia" which slammed South Korea today cut a northeast path across the country, dumping as much as 7.9 inches of rain in South Kyongsang province. "Moving along South Korea's western coast, the typhoon affected most of South Korea and the eastern parts of North Korea," a spokesman of the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) said today. Five people were killed and another two went missing today as the typhoon approached southern part of the peninsula. The victims were swept



away by flooded streams and rivers while mountain hiking. One woman died today after being swept away in a swollen river, the National Emergency Management Agency said. Bringing heavy rains and strong winds, the typhoon forced air and ferry traffic to shut down and submerged houses and farmlands. According to the aviation agency, nearly 190 domestic flights were cancelled and the National Maritime Police Agency banned 161 passenger ships from leaving the ports. However, officials revealed that the storm was losing strength as it headed toward southern parts of North Korea and then to waters east of the peninsula. "The typhoon is expected to move into the East Sea around 0300 hrs, tomorrow and the Korean peninsula is likely to be completely rid of its influence by afternoon," a KMA spokesman said. Though the Typhoon completely missed China, it caused flooding in several parts of that country due to heavy rains, resulting in several cities along China's eastern seaboard being evacuated on Saturday (Jul 8).

Busan, Jul 12 — Container Carrier *Zim Japan* (37209 gt, built 1991), Container Carrier *Easline Tianjin* (10649 gt, built 1985) and Container Carrier *Wan Hai 213* (17138 gt, built 1993) each lost containers overboard off South Korea, during typhoon "Ewiniar". *Zim Japan* lost 24 containers at approximately 0700 hrs, Jul 10, south of Seogui-po, Jeju Island, Korea. At about 1040 hrs, the same day, *Easline Tianjin*, on a loaded passage from China to Busan, lost 171 containers overboard, approximately 12 miles south-west of Sori-do (island) off Yosu, Korea. At about 1040 hrs, also on Jul 10, *Wan Hai 213*, on a loaded passage to Kwangyang, Korea, lost 11 containers overboard, approximately five miles south of Sori-do (island) off Yosu, Korea. Salvage of the lost containers is being carried out by local salvors. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Emergency Management Agency has sent a team to Alamogordo, New Mexico, to assess damages from flooding in the south-central community last month. Federal, state and city officials were to meet this morning to discuss the damage and to visit areas of Alamogordo that were hardest hit. FEMA officials made a preliminary visit last week to survey roads, parks and other public infrastructure damaged by the flood. The officials will decide if there's enough damage to qualify as a federal disaster. That would make the city eligible for reimbursement from the federal government. It has been estimated that the cost of cleanup will be more than \$5 million.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated Jul 9, states: Flash flooding blocked roads, inundated homes and forced evacuations in parts of the Southwest. More thunderstorms and heavy rain were likely today in New

Mexico, the National Weather Service said. More rain was also possible to the north in Colorado, where storms had already flooded homes and washed out roads. Thunderstorms dropped an estimated three inches of rain in an hour yesterday over Truth or Consequences and the surrounding area, south of Albuquerque, the weather service said. Flooding washed out roads in Rio Rancho, just north of Albuquerque, and four feet of water covered an Interstate 25 exit in Socorro. Colorado Governor Bill Owens issued a disaster emergency order yesterday for Douglas County, southwest of Denver, where rain had washed out roads and flooded homes in areas stripped of vegetation by a 138,000-acre wildfire in 2002. Residents of about a dozen Douglas County homes between Deckers and Westcreek were isolated by flooding yesterday. Several campgrounds were evacuated on Friday (Jul 7), and occupants of 86 homes in the Westcreek area were urged to evacuate, local officials said.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated Jul 9, states: A powerful storm tore through Milwaukee and Waukesha counties today. When it was over, trees were down, drivers were stranded in floodwaters and thousands were left without power. The storm packed winds as high as 60 miles an hour. Heavy downpours triggered flash-flooding that closed many streets and highways. We Energies reports power was knocked out to 40,000 customers. Crews will be working through the night to get power restored.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The cost estimate for damages at a Binghamton hospital as a result of last week's flooding has doubled. The president of Lourdes Hospital says the price tag now is expected to approach 20 million dollars. And John O-Neil told Binghamton radio station W-N-B-F that the ultimate cost may top that figure. O-Neil says about half of the damage should be covered by flood insurance. He says the hospital may receive some federal and state assistance to cover some of the costs.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Montgomery County, New York, businesses have sustained at least \$100 million in economic damage from the flooding which hit the Mohawk Valley the last week in June, county economic developer Kenneth Rose said today. Between the large and small businesses in the rural county, Rose estimated that between 500 to 600 people were put out of work, or are still out of work because of flooding. The damage is "pretty substantial in the small villages that are our economy," Rose said. County officials are certain that state and federal money will be available to help these businesses get running again, Rose said, but that takes time. In the interim, the county Board of Supervisors is expected to vote Wednesday (Jul 12) night to make \$6

million that the county has in the bank available in the form of emergency loans to local businesses, Rose said. The "bridge loans" will provide immediate operating capital while the businesses wait for federal aid and loan dollars. The key is to get money out there quickly, Rose said. Montgomery County is one of New York counties in which businesses are eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, Business Physical Disaster Loans, and Mitigation Loans. Collect LLC, a St. Johnsville company that makes polyolefin bun foams, sustained at least \$10 million in damage, according to CEO Scott Smith. Canajo Manufacturing, an employee-owned candy and gum maker in Canajoharie that employs 120 people, has suffered about \$4 million in damage, while Beechnut Nutrition, the baby food maker located in the same village, is estimating damages of \$25 million, Rose said.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: The muddy river and creek water that spilled over its banks in the last week of June caused estimated property damage in excess of \$20 million in Montgomery County, according to county public safety Deputy Director Michelle R. Jackson. The county was "extremely fortunate" that no one was killed or seriously injured in the flooding brought on by torrential rains, added commissioners' Chairman Thomas J. Ellis. Their comments came as Jackson delivered a flood impact status report to the commissioners on Jul 6. A total of 484 buildings sustained some damage from the floodwaters including 267 single-family residences, 51 multi-family buildings such as apartments or townhouses buildings and 166 businesses. However, according to the department's initial report, no building was totally destroyed. Montgomery County was given a federal disaster designation last Thursday (Jul 6), raising to 15 the total number of counties receiving federal aid. This designation enables homeowners, renters and businesses to get financial assistance, whether from grants or low-interest loans, to aid them in recovering from the disaster.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 9 inches of rain brought flooding to Indiana and Ohio yesterday, killing a woman, while a tornado in a county north of New York City partly collapsed a commercial building and ripped the roof off a hotel. The National Weather Service issued a flood warning yesterday for several counties in Indiana. Pam Soule, emergency management director for LaGrange County in Indiana, said a weather observer in Olive Lake reported 9 inches of rain. Floodwaters damaged at least seven homes in Topeka and two homes in Clearspring Township. Topeka firefighters were filling sandbags to protect other homes, but she said conditions were improving. Meanwhile, a tornado in Mount Pleasant, N.Y., threw a truck onto

gasoline pumps, partly collapsed a commercial building and ripped off a hotel's roof. There were no reported injuries, officials said, but power was knocked out to more than 4,000 residents. In North Dakota, parts of the 100s yesterday, a storm damaged more than two dozen buildings in the McLean County town of Coleharbor, blew grain bins through town and destroyed an old brick schoolhouse, authorities said. Two minor injuries were reported.

## Earthquakes



### TONGA

London, Jul 7 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.1 earthquake occurred in lat 15.26S, long 173.61W, in Tonga at 0726, UTC, today. Depth 35 km.

## Volcanic Activity



### MOUNT GALERAS, COLOMBIA

London, Jul 13 — The Galeras volcano in south-west Colombia shot rocks, gas and ash in an eruption today that prompted the government to evacuate about 10,000 nearby residents. Television images showed thick clouds of ash hanging over the town of Pasto in Narino province. No injuries were immediately reported. "The negative health effects could be serious and this could be only the beginning of a series of eruptions," government disaster response coordinator Eduardo Gonzalez told reporters.

### MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian authorities have downgraded the alert status for Mount Merapi after a recent decrease in volcanic activity. The central Java volcano began emitting gas clouds, ash and streams of lava in May, prompting scientists to declare the highest alert level. The latest decision means residents who were taken away from Merapi's slopes can return to their homes, but officials warned people not to get too close to the restive mountain. Government volcanologist Subandrio confirmed the decision to lower the alert. "There have been no more hot clouds in the past two days, while avalanches of hot lava also have decreased in both frequency and reach," the Associated Press news agency quoted him as saying. But officials said this did not mean the danger was over. "People are advised not to get nearer than eight

kilometres from Merapi's peak," an expert from the Yogyakarta volcanology office told AFP.

### SOUFRIERE HILLS, MONTSERRAT

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: The Montserrat Volcano Observatory said today there had been "long-period earthquakes and rock falls" at the Soufriere Hills volcano since Jun 27. In a statement issued today, the MVO said photographs showed that the dome volume was approximately 27 million cubic metres, giving an average growth rate of about eight cubic metres per second over the past month. The seismic network has so far recorded 17 hybrid earthquakes, six volcano-tectonic earthquakes, 194 rock fall signals, and 448 long period earthquakes. The MVO said access to all areas south of Richmond Hill, and south of Jack Boy Hill to Bramble Airport and beyond were prohibited at all times. Last month the dome of the Soufriere Hills Volcano collapsed, sending pyroclastic flows down the eastern side of the island and ash clouds just over 12,000 feet into the air.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: One US-led coalition soldier has been killed and another wounded in fighting in southern Afghanistan, a coalition spokesman says. Coalition forces returned fire after militants killed the soldier travelling in an army convoy in Helmand province. Five militants died in the clash. The nationality of the coalition soldiers has not been confirmed. The news comes as the British government considers a request for more troops to be sent to Afghanistan. In a separate incident, three other suspected Taliban militants were killed while planting a bomb on a road in Helmand province, the provincial police chief said today. Ghulam Nabi Malakhail said that the three men were killed and two others wounded when the bomb they were planting in Grishk district exploded.

Kabul, Jul 10 — U.S. and Afghan government forces killed more than 40 suspected Taliban in a ground and air assault on a militant stronghold in the south of the country today, the U.S. military said. U.S.-led coalition and Afghan forces attacked the insurgent compound in Uruzgan province after coming under small-arms fire, the U.S. military said. "Afghan national security forces and coalition troops conducted a raid on a known extremist compound July 10, killing more than 40 extremists," it said in a statement. One member of the Afghan force was killed and three U.S.-led coalition

soldiers wounded in the attack, 10 km north of the provincial capital, Tirin Kot. "The enemy frequently used the compound as a sanctuary to conduct operations against local Afghans, government officials and coalition forces," the U.S. military said, adding there were no reports of civilian casualties. In separate incidents, gunmen attacked a police post about 30 km southwest of Kabul yesterday night. Nine attackers were wounded and captured, the Interior Ministry said. Two rocket-propelled grenades were fired at a NATO base in Kabul yesterday evening. No one was hurt, the force said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 10 — Britain announced today it will send 900 more troops and additional helicopters to southern Afghanistan, where a force meant as the spearhead of a NATO peace mission has faced fierce Taliban resistance. The first reinforcements, a company of about 150 infantry, will be urgently dispatched within days from a base in Cyprus. Others will arrive over three months, bringing the total to 4,500 in the south of Afghanistan, Defence Secretary Des Browne said. A thousand more are based at NATO headquarters in Kabul. Commanders had asked for the additional manpower after moving against guerrillas into remote mountain regions of northern Helmand province, Browne said. British troops are spearheading a major expansion of NATO peacekeepers into volatile areas in the south of the country. The new troops will be a mix of engineers, Royal Marines, infantry battalions and headquarters staff backing up a battalion of elite paratroopers already on the ground. Browne also said more helicopters would be sent, but he gave no further details. For now, helicopters already in the field will be flown for longer hours. Military sources say aircraft will have to be diverted from deployments around the globe. A shortage of transport helicopters is just one example of how the deepening Afghan commitment has stretched a British military already working flat out for three years in Iraq. Commanders say reinforcements are needed in response to a surge in guerrilla attacks that greeted the British troops on their arrival in Afghanistan over the last months. But they also hope those attacks will wane after the Taliban weigh the heavy losses they have sustained in challenging the British head on. "The Taliban have seized some local initiative," another senior commander said. He said they were attacking in fairly large forces in relatively exposed positions, taking heavy casualties. "One wonders how long the Taliban can in good conscience continue to take such casualties," he added. But he said it was too early to predict whether attacks will soon subside. — Reuters.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Coalition and Afghan forces hunting a Taliban commander killed an estimated 30



extremists today in a raid on a hide-out in southern Afghanistan, the military said. The firefight came a day after a US warplane bombed another militant hide-out in southern Afghanistan, killing more than 40 Taliban fighters, the military said. Wounded Afghans from the raid said today that children and women were killed. Today's raid took place in Sangin village in the volatile Helmand province, where more than 3,000 NATO-led British troops have been deploying to take over security control from US forces. "The purpose of this operation was to capture or kill a Taliban commander and his close associates, who have actively planned and carried out attacks on Afghan and Coalition Forces in the Helmand and Kandahar provinces," the military said in a statement. It didn't identify the Taliban commander and it was unclear if he was among the 30 militants the military estimated were killed. The military did not explain how it came to that figure. Yesterday, a US war plane dropped four 500-pound bombs on what the military said was a militant hide-out in southern Uruzgan province's capital of Tirin Kot. More than 40 extremists were killed, the military said. But witnesses, including an Afghan woman with face and leg injuries, said at least four civilians were killed and wounded and homes destroyed by at least two helicopter gunships that fired on the town. (See issue of Jul 12.)

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Coalition and Afghan forces killed at least 19 Taliban militants during an insurgent attack on a police headquarters in southern Afghanistan, the governor's spokesman said today. Taliban militants poured into the Helmand provincial town of Nawzad around midday yesterday and set up positions around a police compound where Afghan soldiers and police, along with coalition forces, were based, spokesman Ghulam Muhiddin said. "The Taliban surrounded this area, including a nearby bazaar, and told all their shopkeepers to leave before attacking the compound with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades," Muhiddin told The Associated Press. Coalition warplanes launched several airstrikes, killing 12 militants after hitting a Taliban vehicle and another seven when they struck an insurgent position near the compound, Muhiddin said. Separately, a bomb rigged to a hand-powered tricycle for the disabled exploded and wounded four people in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif early today, local police official Nasseruddin Hamdad said.

#### ALBANIA

Bari, Jul 6 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ALGERIA

Algiers, Jul 12 — Islamist militants shot dead five municipal guards at a campsite in an Algerian coastal town,

weeks before the expiry of an amnesty aimed at ending years of strife, newspapers reported today. Two campers were also wounded when the rebels attacked the site in Larhat, near Tipasa, some 130 km west of the capital Algiers on Monday (Jul 10) night, daily newspapers El Watan and El Khabar said, citing witnesses. The five victims were ensuring security for around 50 families at the campsite when the assailants surprised them shortly before midnight, the papers said. The rebels set fire to three vehicles and grabbed campers' mobile phones and other personal belongings before fleeing into a forest nearby. The newspapers did not identify the attackers but security experts usually blame such killings on the al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), which opposes the amnesty offered by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The government says around 2,200 jailed rebels have been freed under the amnesty. Those still at large have been offered a pardon provided they were not involved in massacres, rapes and bombings of public places. The peace offer came into force in February and will expire at the end of August. — Reuters.

#### COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jul 11 — Colombian soldiers killed at least 15 Marxist rebels in four separate clashes across the country today, the army said. The fighting came as President Alvaro Uribe prepares to start his second term next month. The army said the dead rebels were from the 17,000-strong Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. No soldiers died in the battles, which took place in four provinces from the southern jungles of Caqueta to the central mountains of Cundinamarca. — Reuters.

#### EAST TIMOR

Liquica, East Timor, Jul 11 — A rebel leader at the centre of allegations against East Timor's former prime minister laid down his arms today, a symbolic move aimed at building peace in Asia's newest nation. Jose Ramos-Horta, who took over as prime minister yesterday, has pledged to restore security in the tiny, impoverished country after weeks of political crisis and violence. Ramos-Horta, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was appointed after the June 26 resignation of Mari Alkatiri, who faces questioning over allegations of illegally arming of civilians. — Reuters.

#### INDIA

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Indian police fired tear gas to quell protests in the economic capital Mumbai after Hindu nationalist party activists torched a bus in a row over a vandalised monument. Police reported sporadic cases of stone-throwing after mud was smeared on a monument of the late wife of Bal Thackeray. He is founder of Shiv Sena, or Shiva's Army, a right-

wing party whose stronghold is in Mumbai. The party has little political impact outside the western state of Maharashtra which includes Mumbai. It has been accused of stoking simmering communal tensions in the city during a confrontational four-decade history. Its followers, Shiv Sainiks, have been accused of violent campaigning against "outsiders" including Mumbai's minority Muslim population. "If derogatory cartoons appearing in a far off Denmark newspaper can have repercussions in India, this incident is bound to have reactions from Shiv Sainiks," party head Uddhav Thackeray said. Police promised a firm response admits reports of minor disturbances elsewhere in the state. There were no serious injuries reported.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Four near simultaneous blasts in Indian-administered Kashmir have left at least seven people dead and more than 20 people injured, police say. Six tourists died after suspected militants threw a grenade at their vehicle in the city of Srinagar. It is not yet clear who carried out the attacks in the summer capital. This is the fourth time tourists have been targeted this year in Srinagar, which is experiencing a revival in tourist numbers after years of violence. Security has been tightened across Indian-administered Kashmir and police are searching vehicles. The biggest attack took place in Dal Lake in the heart of Srinagar when a vehicle carrying tourists from the Indian state of West Bengal was attacked. Three of those killed were women. Twelve people were injured. The second attack took place in the city's Regal Square - a busy market area in the heart of Srinagar - which left four people injured. One person was killed and 11 people, including two children, were wounded in two other attacks which followed soon after in the busy Lal Chowk area.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven bombs hit Bombay's commuter rail network during rush hour this evening, killing at least 135 people and wounding more than 300 in what authorities called a well-coordinated terrorist attack. There was no immediate claim of responsibility in the bombings, which came in quick succession, a common tactic employed by Kashmiri militants. India's major cities were put on high alert after the blasts. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called an emergency Cabinet meeting and said that "terrorists" were behind the attacks. The Bombay bombings came hours after a series of grenade attacks by Islamic extremists killed eight people in the main city of India's part of Kashmir. Police also reportedly carried out raids across the country following the Bombay blasts. Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil told reporters that authorities had had some information that an attack was coming, "but place and time was not known." The first explosion hit the train at a railway station in the



northwestern suburb of Khar, said a police officer. India's CNN-IBN television news, which had a reporter aboard one train, said a blast struck a first-class compartment as the train was moving, ripping through the compartment and killing more than a dozen people. The Press Trust of India, citing railway officials, said all the blasts had hit first-class cars. Pranay Prabhakar, the spokesman for the Western Railway, said all train service had been suspended and appealed to the public to stay away from stations in the city.

Mumbai, Jul 12 — Police stepped up security across India today after bombs killed more than 160 people and wounded hundreds in packed commuter trains and stations in the financial hub, Mumbai. "I urge people to remain calm, not to believe rumours and carry on their activity normally," Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said, calling the seven explosions that took place during the evening rush hour yesterday a "shameful act". There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks but suspicion was likely to centre on Muslim militants fighting New Delhi's rule in disputed Kashmir, who have been blamed for several bomb attacks in India in the past. Extra security was brought in country-wide both to prevent any further attacks and to guard against any possible backlash against the minority Muslim community. The blasts brought worldwide expressions of outrage. Police inspector Ashok Jadhav said the bomb blasts had killed 163 people and wounded around 460. Commuters fled suburban rail stations in panic after the explosions and mobile phone lines were jammed. TV stations said an eighth bomb was defused in a Mumbai suburban station. D.K Shankaran, chief secretary of the state of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, said the city would bounce back. "Mumbai will be up tomorrow. Every single school, college and office will remain open," he said. However, India's financial markets were expected to suffer on Wednesday, with analysts saying the attacks were likely knock foreign investor confidence. The blasts occurred on five trains and at two stations in Mumbai's western suburbs, which are linked to the downtown office and business areas mainly by an overground rail network used by some 6.5 million people each day. All suburban train services in the city were suspended after the blasts but by late yesterday a limited service was running on the western line, along which the attacks took place. The first attack took place at 1824 hrs (1154, UTC), with the others following in quick succession. The Mumbai blasts came hours after suspected Islamist militants killed seven people, six of them tourists, in grenade attacks in Indian Kashmir's main city, Srinagar, police said, the most concerted targeting of civilians in months. Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since shortly after the

two countries gained independence from Britain in 1947, but both claim it in full. — Reuters.

Mumbai, Jul 12 — Millions of people in India's financial capital returned to work today a day after a wave of bombings, as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the country would not kneel to terrorism. Investigators said they had prepared sketches of three suspects seen at some of the sites of the seven co-ordinated bomb blasts that killed at least 186 people. Suspicion fell on Pakistan-based militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir. Yesterday's attacks, on crowded rush-hour railway carriages and stations, seemed to have been aimed at the heart of India's economic success story, but just hours later the city's residents were back at work and the stock market was steady. Around 700 people were wounded when the bombs blew apart railway carriages and stations packed with rush-hour commuters in the space of just 11 minutes. "It's a little scary, but we have no option to go back to work," said Amita Rane, a 24-year-old chartered accountant. Relatives and friends of victims were today still poring over survivors' lists at city hospitals or trying to identify charred and mutilated corpses. Police said they had conducted several raids in and around Mumbai in the search for the perpetrators. "We have leads on three people who were lurking around, and on the basis of that we have prepared sketches," Sanjeev Dayal, a senior state police officer, said. Security was stepped up at railway stations, parks, markets and religious institutions across the country to prevent further attacks and possible violence between Hindus and Muslims. The explosions happened hours after a series of grenade attacks on tourists in Srinagar, capital of Indian Kashmir, which killed eight people. Another grenade explosion at a mountain resort in Kashmir today wounded five more tourists. Police in Kashmir blamed the attacks there on the Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, which authorities say is backed by Pakistan and was also behind bomb blasts in crowded markets in New Delhi last October that killed more than 60. Newspapers quoted unnamed security sources as naming Lashkar as the prime suspect for the Mumbai blasts, but the group denied any role in the "inhuman and barbaric acts". Pakistan, which denies supporting the militants, condemned what it called the "terrorist attack" in Mumbai. — Reuters.

#### IRAQ

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people have been killed in Baghdad in clashes between a Shia militia group and US and Iraqi troops, police and witnesses say. Mehdi Army fighters, loyal to radical Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr, battled troops for four hours in Baghdad's eastern Sadr City district. Iraqi officials said about 30 people were injured. The US said troops were

carrying out a raid aimed at arresting an "insurgent leader" blamed for a series of attacks. A senior official in Moqtada Sadr's office said the intended target of the operation was Abu Dera, a senior figure in the Mehdi Army. Reports suggest the raid may have been linked to the abduction of a Sunni woman MP seized in Baghdad on Sunday (Jul 2). Gunfire erupted quickly as troops attempted to reach their target in the narrow lanes of Sadr City, which is "a huge slum" in the east of the capital dominated by Shia Iraqis and home to the militants, in particular those who support Moqtada Sadr. The densely-populated district is home to some two million people. The US military said no US or Iraqi forces were injured during the fighting. The operation began at 0200 hrs (2200, UTC, Jul 6). An official in Moqtada Sadr's office said that US and Iraqi troops were supported by tanks, armoured vehicles and aircraft.

Baghdad, Jul 9 — Shi'ite militiamen stormed through a Sunni Arab district of Baghdad today, shooting dozens in the city's bloodiest street killings yet and raising new fears that Iraq is on the brink of sectarian civil war. As evening fell, two car bombs exploded near a Shi'ite mosque in north-eastern Baghdad, killing 19 people and wounding 59, police said. Gunfire rattled across two Sunni neighbourhoods. Gunmen killed at least 42 people in the western Jihad district, Interior Ministry sources said, in a rampage likely to fuel calls for Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to tackle powerful militias, blamed for much of the sectarian violence. Many of the victims were killed after being pulled from their cars at fake police checkpoints, close to a Shi'ite mosque where a car bomb killed three people yesterday. The violence was a blow to Maliki's national reconciliation plan, which aims to end the bloodletting between his fellow Shi'ites and the once-dominant Sunnis that has pitched Iraq towards all-out urban warfare in recent months. Police and Sunni politicians blamed rogue police commandos and the Mehdi Army militia of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr for today's killings, but officials from Sadr's movement, part of Maliki's Shi'ite Islamist bloc, denied any involvement. Police and Interior Ministry sources said Shi'ite gunmen moved through Jihad district, checking people's identity papers for typically Sunni names. One said Sunni men had been herded into side streets and gunned down. "Gunmen are killing Sunni civilians according to their identity cards," an Interior Ministry official said. A senior Shi'ite politician said Mehdi Army fighters from eastern Baghdad had moved into Jihad today but insisted they were only taking on Sunni militants responsible for killing Shi'ites. "There are many terrorist groups in Jihad who are killing Shi'ite families so they went to fight them," he said. Iraqi forces imposed a curfew in Jihad after the shootings and President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, appealed for unity.

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

Medical staff at west Baghdad's main hospital said they had received 29 bodies from Jihad, overwhelming their morgue. There were reports of more bodies lying in the streets, they said. The Interior Ministry's press office and the US military said only 12 bodies had been found. Iraqi troops launched a pre-dawn raid on Kadhimiya in west Baghdad, killing nine militants and capturing seven, the US military said. The bloodshed followed days of apparently tit-for-tat attacks on Sunni and Shi'ite mosques and operations by US-backed Iraqi troops to capture Shi'ite militia warlords, seen as a threat to Maliki's fledgling national unity coalition. Maliki has vowed to disband militias — some tied to parties in his government — that are carving Baghdad into sectarian no-go areas and are accused by Sunnis of running death squads. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 10 — Militia gunmen clashed with police and local residents outside a Sunni mosque in a violent area of southern Baghdad today, police and Sunni politicians said. Details of the shooting around the Hatem al-Saadoun mosque in Dora around midday were sketchy. One Sunni politician said Shi'ite militiamen had attacked the area. It came a day after Shi'ite gunmen stormed a Sunni district, killing over 40 people. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 10 — Iraq's prime minister pleaded for Iraqis to "unite as brothers" today as a fresh spasm of violence gripped Baghdad, where 60 people were killed at the weekend in a dramatic escalation of sectarian bloodletting. Two bomb blasts in a Shi'ite neighborhood killed 12 and wounded dozens, while gunmen ambushed a commuter bus in a Sunni district and shot dead seven people. Militiamen, believed to be Shi'ite, fought gunbattles in a southern Sunni district. Fearing Iraq is moving ever closer to all-out civil war, President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, had appealed for calm, warning that the country was on "the edge of a slippery slope". Two bombs blasted a Baghdad area that is a stronghold of Shi'ite militia fighters early today, a day after suspected Shi'ite gunmen stormed through a Sunni area and killed over 40. Twelve people were killed and 62 wounded, police said, in the car bomb blasts near a telephone exchange in the eastern Talbiya district. It is a bastion of the Mehdi Army militia of radical, young cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. Police in the notoriously violent Sunni district of Amriya found four bodies on a commuter bus. Three others, including a woman, lay in the street nearby, apparently dragged from the bus and shot. Their religious affiliation was not immediately clear. In the mostly Shi'ite western district of Ammil, unknown gunmen opened fire on an unmarked car carrying four policemen, killing three, police said. There were conflicting reports about clashes involving suspected Shi'ite militia fighters in the Sunni Dora district in southern Baghdad, where

the Interior Ministry imposed a curfew until 0800 hrs (0400, UTC) today. One police source said six militiamen lay dead on Dora bridge after a shootout with residents. Another said the gunbattles involved militias on one side and the Iraqi police and army on the other and that five soldiers were wounded. Sadr's group rejected accusations by Sunni leaders and police that it was behind killings in the mainly Sunni Jihad district of west Baghdad yesterday, when bands of gunmen set up roadblocks and hauled people with Sunni-sounding names from cars to shoot them. They also killed others in streets and homes. Those killings, the worst of their kind yet seen in the city, came after a car bomb attack on a Shi'ite mosque in Jihad on Saturday (Jul 8) evening and were followed by a double car bombing at another Shi'ite mosque late yesterday that killed 19. Maliki has vowed to disband militias, some tied to parties in his government, that are carving Baghdad into sectarian no-go areas. But he faces an uphill struggle as most, including the Mehdi Army, have powerful allies inside the ruling coalition. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 11 — A suicide bomber blew himself up outside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone government compound today, killing five people and wounding 10, police said. The blast struck near one of the restaurants outside the main public entrance. The Green Zone houses the U.S. and British embassies as well as Iraqi government buildings. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 11 — Suicide bombers struck outside Baghdad's fortified Green Zone today, killing 16 people, close to where parliament met in heated session to hear at least one lawmaker warn that civil war was close at hand. Since parliament last met last week, dozens have been killed in the capital in bombings and some of the worst attacks yet seen by sectarian gunmen; militants in a Sunni area ambushed a minibus full of Shi'ite mourners, killing 10 of them. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, a Shi'ite leading a US-backed national unity coalition, condemned an "awful crime" by terrorists "trying to incite sectarian strife." An al Qaeda-led group posted video on the Internet of two mutilated corpses. It said they were American soldiers kidnapped and killed last month and claimed they died to avenge the alleged rape and murder of a local teenager by US troops. On a positive note, the main political bloc of the once dominant Sunni minority ended a week-old boycott of parliament, saying it had encouraging news about the fate of a woman member kidnapped in a Shi'ite neighbourhood 10 days ago. As night fell on Baghdad, however, in a pattern seen for the last few days, there was more violence. A car bomb in the western Alam district killed five and wounded 17, police said, while clashes erupted between militia fighters and residents in the violent Sunni area of

Amriya. Addressing a heated parliamentary session on a day in which at least 30 other people were killed around Baghdad and an Iraqi diplomat was kidnapped, Ali al-Adib, from the prime minister's Dawa party said: "The country is sliding fast towards civil war." US ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad acknowledged that a security crackdown in Baghdad had not yet curbed violence. "It has not produced the results they expected so far. The plan is being reviewed and adjustments will be made. No, it has not performed to the level that was expected," Khalilzad said in Washington in an appearance at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. "I believe that securing Baghdad is critical," he said. "Violent sectarianism is now the main challenge. It's imperative for the new Iraqi government to make major progress in dealing with this challenge in the next six months." In Baquba, north of Baghdad, police said a Shi'ite mosque in the town's Tahrir district had been completely destroyed in an explosion. Heavy fighting was going on in the streets nearby. Earlier in the day, two suicide bombers wearing explosives-laden vests and a roadside bomb killed 15 civilians and an Iraqi policeman in co-ordinated blasts outside the main public entrance to Baghdad's fortified Green Zone government and diplomatic compound, the US military said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of 23 people have been found following the kidnapping of bus drivers north-east of Baghdad, police say. Earlier, a suicide bomber killed seven and wounded 20 people after walking into a restaurant in eastern Baghdad. The latest violence comes as US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made a surprise visit to Baghdad for meetings with US commanders and Iraq officials. Mr Rumsfeld said talks with PM Nouri Maliki would focus on security and a reconciliation process for Iraqis. They would also discuss training for Iraqi security forces but not the question of US troop withdrawals, he said. Also today, Prime Minister Maliki told the Iraqi parliament that a plan by militants to occupy parts of western Baghdad had been thwarted. "There was a plan to occupy Baghdad's districts west of the Tigris but Iraqi forces were able to thwart this occupation," he told parliament. Gunmen seized about two dozen people from the bus station in the town of Muqdadiya, in Diyala province, some 90km north-east of Baghdad, earlier on Wednesday. Reports say some if not all who were taken were bus drivers. Police in the town said that 23 bodies were later found.

#### ISRAEL

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli forces today took over the remains of three abandoned Jewish settlements in the northern Gaza Strip and entered a nearby Palestinian town, creating a

temporary buffer zone to prevent Palestinian militants from firing rockets at Israel. The army last week launched its largest operation in the coastal area since it withdrew from the territory a year ago. The operation, which followed the capture of an Israeli soldier, was expanded overnight after militants from the ruling Hamas group fired two home-made rockets at the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon, which used to be out of their range. No one was hurt in the attack on Ashkelon but it infuriated Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who pledged the rocket strikes would have "far-reaching consequences." Cabinet minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the Israeli tanks and troops would avoid entering the densely populated towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, which are often used as rocket launching grounds by militants. Gunfire and tank fire were heard on the outskirts of Beit Lahiya, and Palestinian medics said one Palestinian was killed in a shootout. Israeli leaders said their aim is to stop the rocket fire and bring back the captured soldier, and there are no plans to reoccupy Gaza. Israeli artillery and aircraft assisted the ground troops, striking bases and groups of militants. Hamas officials said one militant was killed early today and another wounded in an air strike on a Gaza beach. The army said the air force had targeted an armed militant. In another incident, a Hamas militant and a Palestinian policeman were killed and 11 others wounded in an explosion along the northern part of the beach. Palestinians said Israeli tanks or gunboats shelled the area. An Israeli airstrike in the southern Gaza Strip today hit a group of people, killing two people and wounding several others, Palestinian officials said. The army confirmed it had carried out an airstrike in Khan Younis after Israeli forces were attacked with anti-tank missiles and a rocket. Militants gathered around the area after the strike, taking up positions with weapons. The destroyed Jewish settlements — Nissanit, Dugit and Elei Sinai — are in a strategic location just along the border with Israel. Before Israel dismantled its Gaza communities, critics of the withdrawal warned that the pullout would put more Israeli cities within rocket range. Forces also remain in southern Gaza, an area invaded after Cpl Gilad Shalit was captured in a Jun 25 attack on an Israeli outpost. Their main goal is to find Shalit.

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Israel has renewed its assault on the Gaza Strip with early morning air strikes, killing one Palestinian militant and wounding three others. This followed the worst day of violence since Israeli forces entered Gaza over a soldier's capture. Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya has called for international intervention to stop the offensive. He said the Israeli push was "a desperate effort to undermine the Palestinian government under the pretext of a

search for the missing soldier". Meanwhile the interior minister in the Hamas-led Palestinian government, Said Siyam, urged all the administration's security forces to fight Israeli troops. In a statement read out by his spokesman, Khalid Abu Hilal, he called on them to do their duty by "resisting this treacherous invasion and aggression of the cowardly Zionists". This morning's air strikes targeted armed Palestinians, the Israeli military said. One Hamas militant was killed and three others were wounded after Israeli forces opened fire on them from an aircraft, Hamas and hospital officials said. The UN Security Council in New York debated a draft resolution demanding an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the release of detained Palestinian officials. The draft was presented by Qatar on behalf of the UN's Arab Group, but appears doomed in view of opposition from the US, a veto-wielding permanent members. The draft does not mention the Palestinian rocket attacks or Cpl Shalit's capture, and the US ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, said the document was "not balanced". Little is known about the fate of Cpl Shalit, captured in a cross-border raid by a joint militant force including fighters from Hamas, but Israeli officials believe he is still alive.

Gaza, Jul 10 — An Israeli air strike killed one Hamas militant and wounded two others in the Gaza Strip today, medical officials said. The Israeli army said it had fired at a group that was firing rockets into Israel. Israel has vowed to pursue air and ground assaults in the Gaza Strip indefinitely to bring about the release of an abducted soldier and halt cross-border rocket attacks. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jul 11 — Israeli air strikes killed a militant and wounded several gunmen and civilians in Gaza today as part of an offensive that Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said would only ensure Israelis have no peace. "We present this clear message: If Israel will not allow Palestinians to live in peace, dignity and national integrity, Israelis themselves will not be able to enjoy those same rights," Haniyeh, a leader of the militant Islamist group Hamas, wrote in an article for the Washington Post. In the latest action in the Gaza Strip, Israeli aircraft fired missiles at militants transporting and setting up rockets near the northern town of Beit Hanoun, the Israeli army said. Local residents said one militant was killed and two other gunmen critically wounded. Several civilians were also hurt in the attacks. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert pledged yesterday to pursue the campaign indefinitely to secure the release of Corporal Gilad Shalit and halt daily rocket attacks against southern Israel. Haniyeh, whose governing Hamas group advocates Israel's destruction, said in the Washington Post "the Gaza invasion is only the latest effort to destroy the results of fair and free elections held early this year" in the Palestinian territories. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jul 12 — Israeli tanks and troops pushed into the central Gaza Strip today, expanding a two-week-old offensive aimed at recovering a captured soldier and stopping rocket attacks by Palestinian militants. Israel has rejected international criticism of its biggest operation in the Gaza Strip since abandoning the territory last year after 38 years of occupation, vowing to continue the offensive indefinitely. A Palestinian policeman was killed after clashes erupted between gunmen and Israeli forces near the town of Deir el Balah, residents said. Militants tried to fire makeshift rockets towards the Kissufim border crossing as a column of dozens of armoured vehicles and hundreds of soldiers pushed into central Gaza, but the rockets appeared to fall short of the troops. "Our main target is the terrorist infrastructure — the rocket crews, the gunmen, the arms caches," said Israeli commander Colonel Yoel. "But of course we are here to show that if, God forbid, any of us is captured by the enemy, the army will do everything to secure his return." Israel sent a force into southern Gaza on Jun 28, three days after Corporal Gilad Shalit was abducted by militants who tunnelled their way under the border fence. Later, Israeli tanks entered northern Gaza after rockets fired from the area fell on a major city. Israel has repeatedly rejected demands from militants of the ruling Hamas Islamist group to free Palestinian prisoners from its jails in exchange for Shalit's release. Hamas fighters helped capture the 19-year-old tank gunner. About 60 Palestinians, at least 20 of them civilians, have been killed since the Israeli offensive began. — Reuters.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people, including two children, have been killed and 15 injured in Gaza City after a blast destroyed a house during the night. Minutes later, a car in the same neighbourhood was targeted in an air strike, wounding a Hamas leader - he is not thought to be seriously hurt. Just hours after the explosions Israeli tanks rolled into the central Gaza Strip in an expansion of the offensive aimed at freeing a captured soldier. Yesterday, Israeli troops moved deeper in southern Gaza and also crossed into the northern part of the region.

Marjayoun, Lebanon, Jul 12 — Hizbollah guerrillas abducted two Israeli soldiers in attacks from Lebanon on Israeli border posts today, Hizbollah television said. Israel's Channel 10 Television reported the army had said two soldiers were missing from the border area. An Israeli security source said at least two Israelis were killed in the cross-border attacks by Hizbollah guerrillas. The identities of the dead were not immediately clear and the Israeli army had no immediate comment on casualties. Lebanese security sources said Israeli aircraft had bombed a key bridge in southern Lebanon in



response. The Syrian-backed Hizbollah earlier fired dozens of Katyusha rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli border posts and a town, wounding four Israeli civilians, according to Israeli and Lebanese security sources. Israeli gunners retaliated, firing salvos of artillery shells into the outskirts of four Lebanese border villages while Israeli soldiers exchanged gunfire with guerrillas in the area. The fighting apparently began when at least two rockets fired from south Lebanon exploded near Shlomi, an Israeli frontier town about 15 km east of the Mediterranean coast. In Gaza, Israel targeted Hamas's top armed wing commanders in an air strike today that killed six Palestinians and destroyed a three-storey building where the militants were believed to be meeting. The Israeli military said the attack wounded Mohammad Deif, leader of the governing Hamas movement's armed wing. It coincided with an armoured sweep into the central Gaza Strip that broadened an offensive aimed at freeing the captured soldier in Gaza, Corporal Gilad Shalit, and halting cross-border rocket fire. A spokesman for Hamas's Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, one of three groups whose kidnapping of Shalit led Israel to launch its first ground operations in Gaza since quitting the territory last year, denied Deif was hurt. — Reuters.

#### ISRAEL-LEBANON

Qasmiyeh, Jul 12 — Israel's government today authorised what it called a severe response after the Lebanese guerrilla group Hizbollah captured two soldiers and killed eight others in cross-border attacks. A statement issued by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's cabinet said Israel held the Lebanese government responsible for the attacks and for the safe return of the seized soldiers, but it offered no details about what type of action would be taken. Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said his government had not known of the Hizbollah attack and did not endorse it or accept responsibility. Before the announcement in Jerusalem, waves of air strikes hit a dozen bridges and suspected Hizbollah posts, killing two Lebanese civilians and a Hizbollah fighter as well as disrupting fixed-line communications between Beirut and south Lebanon. Hizbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the soldiers had been seized to force Israel to release prisoners. "What we did today is the only feasible path to free detainees from Israeli jails," he told a news conference in Beirut, proposing indirect negotiations, not confrontation. He said the operation had been in the works for five months. Two Lebanese civilians were killed in an Israeli air raid on a coastal bridge at Qasmiyeh. Bombs hit 11 other bridges and at least 25 Lebanese were wounded, security sources said. One bridge, at Damour village some 16 km south of Beirut, was hit 12 hours after the first shots were fired. Several

suspected Hizbollah posts in south Lebanon also came under Israeli bombardment from land. Hizbollah's bold attack returned it to the frontline of the Middle East conflict. It inflicted the heaviest losses Israel has suffered on its northern border since it withdrew from south Lebanon in 2000, and drew Olmert into a second crisis over captured soldiers. Israel is engaged in a military offensive in the Gaza Strip after Palestinian militants captured a soldier on Jun 25. Israel killed at least 23 Palestinians, including nine members of one family today in an air strike that destroyed a house where the army said senior Hamas commanders were meeting. Sources said the Israeli soldiers had been seized at around 0900 hrs (0600, UTC) across the border from Aita al-Shaab, some 15 km from the Mediterranean coast. The Israeli army confirmed that two soldiers were captured and eight killed on the Lebanese frontier. Nasrallah said Hizbollah had repelled an Israeli force that tried to go into Lebanon to hunt for the missing soldiers, destroying a tank and killing four crew members. Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz asked his commanders to prepare civil defence plans because of fears Hizbollah would fire long-range rockets at Israeli cities and industrial installations in the heart of the country. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan led widespread international calls for Hizbollah to free the two Israelis. — Reuters.

London, Jul 13 — Israel is imposing an air and sea blockade on Lebanon as part of a major offensive after two soldiers were seized by the militant group Hezbollah. Israeli warships have entered Lebanese water to block ports, and its only international airport was closed after Israeli missiles blew up its runways. Raids on targets across south Lebanon have killed at least 35 civilians. The operation comes as Israel continues a separate offensive in the Gaza Strip where another soldier was captured. The offensive in Lebanon follows a day of heavy fighting in which the Israelis suffered their worst losses on the border for several years. Hezbollah guerrillas also fired volleys of rockets at the northern Israeli coastal town of Nahariya, killing one Israeli and injuring 14 others. Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said that Israeli was responding to "an unprovoked act of aggression" by Lebanon. The US urges restraint from all parties, while recognising Israel's right to defend itself, White House officials said. France and Russia condemned Israel's "disproportionate use of force". An Israeli military spokesman said Israeli naval ships had entered Lebanese waters to block the transfer of "terrorists and weapons to the terror organisations operating in Lebanon". Earlier, three missiles hit runways at Beirut airport, the country's only international airport, forcing its closure. Flights have been diverted to Cyprus. An Israeli army spokesman said the airport was used

to supply weapons to Hezbollah. Israeli leaders have also spoken of extending the blockade to include travel by land. The blockade follows wide-ranging Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon, which left 35 civilians dead, including at least 10 children. The Hezbollah television station al-Manar in southern Beirut was also hit. The station said three of its employees were hurt.

Beirut, Jul 13 — Israel struck Beirut airport and blockaded Lebanese ports today, expanding reprisals that have killed 52 civilians in Lebanon since Hizbollah captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight a day earlier. The Lebanese Shi'ite group retaliated by raining rockets onto northern Israel. A woman was killed and 29 people were wounded, including children, in Nahariya, Israeli medics said. Despite the flare-up in Lebanon, Israel signalled no let-up in its Gaza assault, mounting an air strike that destroyed the office of Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud al-Zahar. At least 24 Palestinians were killed in Gaza today. Israeli aircraft bombed runways at Beirut's international airport, forcing flights to divert to Cyprus. An Israeli military spokesman announced a naval blockade of Lebanese ports, saying they were used to transfer "terrorists and weapons to the terror organisations operating in Lebanon." Israeli naval vessels were visible from the shore. A Beirut port official said vessels had docked early in the day but that the Israelis had prevented some empty ones from leaving. Sustained air strikes in south Lebanon killed at least 50 civilians and wounded 100 people, security sources said. A Lebanese army soldier was also killed. Israeli air strikes yesterday killed two civilians and a Hizbollah fighter. Two dozen bridges have been hit, with most heavily damaged. — Reuters.

Beirut, Jul 13 — Israel hit South Lebanon yesterday evening, reaching Damour city and Beirut airport, hitting its south and eastern runways. More than nine bridges have collapsed connecting the south with Beirut. Telephone lines with Saida and all the south are cut. No vessels are allowed to leave or enter the ports. Two families of 12 persons killed and 23 individuals badly injured. The Israeli attack was in retaliation to the Lebanese Hizballah forces bombing the northern side of Israel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### NIGERIA

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigerian police said a Dutch oil worker was kidnapped by armed men this morning from a Royal Dutch Shell gas plant, the latest in a spate of hostage-taking in the country's oil-rich southern delta. Hafiz Ringim, police commissioner for Bayelsa state, said the kidnappers arrived at the Shell plant in speedboats and took hostage an expatriate working for Westminster Dredging, a contractor to Royal Dutch Shell PLC. The plant is located

outside of Yenagoa, the regional capital. Ringim said the worker, Michael Loss, was a Dutch national. A Shell spokesman in Nigeria, Bisi Ojediran, confirmed that “an expatriate was abducted in a community incident,” at Gbaran, outside of the regional capital of Yenagoa. Ojediran said a group of local people had mounted a protest march in Gbaran earlier today to demand jobs, roads and schools for their community. “While this was going on, some men in military uniform went to the project site and took the expatriate,” Ojediran said. The hostage-taking was the second in less than 24 hours in Nigeria’s chaotic, oil-rich southern delta. Late yesterday, a group of gunmen raided an offshore oil rig and seized a security guard as they retreated, according to the Nigerian navy. The attackers forced their way onto a rig drilling for Nigerian company Consolidated Oil and kidnapped a retired navy officer working as a security guard, navy spokesman Captain Obiora Medani said. Medani said the attackers told Consolidated Oil that they came from nearby Sangana community. The group is accusing the oil firm of not meeting the terms of an agreement to help provide them with jobs and local amenities, he said. (See issue of Jul 7.)

Amsterdam, Jul 10 — A Dutchman abducted last week while working on an unfinished Shell gas plant in Nigeria’s violent oil-producing Niger Delta has been freed, his employer Royal Boskalis Westminster said today. Gunmen seized Michael Los on July 6 from a houseboat after disarming police on guard. Boskalis said Los was in good health and would be repatriated to the Netherlands later this week. “Both the Dutch embassy and the government of Bayelsa state have contributed substantially to his release,” the firm said, but gave no details of the terms of the release. — Reuters.

Yenagoa, Jul 13 — Two suspected explosions at crude oil pipelines operated by Italian oil company Agip caused massive spills in Nigeria’s southern state of Bayelsa, state government officials said today. In a separate incident in neighbouring Delta state, heavily armed militants engaged troops protecting a convoy of Chevron supplies in a skirmish, but no-one was killed, a top military official said. The explosions on the Agip pipelines, which feed the 200,000 barrel-per-day Brass crude oil export terminal, occurred yesterday, said Bayelsa state’s Commissioner for Special Duties Dickson Bakebain. A spokesman for Agip, a unit of Eni, said he could not immediately comment. The same Tebidaba-Brass pipeline was hit by an attack in March and resulted in the loss of 75,000 barrels per day of crude output. — Reuters.

**PHILIPPINES**

Manila, Jul 13 — Philippine security forces killed eight communist guerrillas when soldiers and paramilitary forces surprised a group

of New People’s Army (NPA) rebels on the southern island of Mindanao, an army commander said today. Colonel Ruperto Pabustan, a brigade commander in the Cotabato area, said villagers tipped off soldiers about NPA rebels resting near a ricefield in Arakan town, allowing troops to attack. “We lost two of our boys,” Pabustan told reporters after the 15-minute gun battle. “The rebels suffered heavy casualties. We’re now searching for wounded rebels in hospitals and clinics in Cotabato province.” — Reuters.

**RUSSIA**

Moscow, Jul 10 — Russia’s Chechen separatists confirmed today that warlord Shamil Basayev was dead but said in an Internet statement he was killed in an accidental blast and not by Russian forces. “The Chechen commander died when a truck loaded with explosives accidentally blew up,” said the site. “The (rebel spokesman) denied all statements by the Russian side of a special operation against Basayev in which he is supposed to have died.” — Reuters.

**SOMALIA**

Mogadishu, Jul 9 — Islamist militia ambushed fighters loyal to defeated Somali warlords in Mogadishu early today in a heavy battle that killed at least 12 people and wounded scores more, witnesses and militia sources said. The death toll looked set to rise quickly in the most serious flare-up since the Islamists took over the Somali capital from US-backed warlords on Jun 5. Mogadishu’s residents ran for cover as rival militias engaged each other with machine-gun fire and missiles near the volatile Kilometre Four district of Mogadishu which had been a pocket of warlord resistance to the Islamists. Determined to take complete control of the coastal Somali capital, the Islamists were targeting fighters loyal to Hussein Aideed, an interior minister in the interim government, and another warlord Abdi Awale Qaybdiid. “They attacked us early this morning, and took over one of our bases in the Hosh area of western Mogadishu, which was in our hands for the last 15 years,” Aideed said from the provincial town of Baidoa, seat of the government. “Our forces are still fighting them and will continue defending themselves.” Staff at one of Mogadishu’s main hospitals said victims of the fighting were pouring in on the backs of pickup vehicles in scenes reminiscent of the battles earlier this year when the Islamists wrested control of the city from the warlords. “Every five minutes, vehicles carrying wounded are coming in. We have 39 injured people so far. Two of those have succumbed,” said hospital administration deputy head Ali Moallim. Militia sources confirmed another 10 deaths. “The death toll will definitely rise,” Moallim added. The Islamist movement, headed by hard-line cleric Sheikh Hassan Dahir

Aweys, went on from its June 5 capture of Mogadishu to take other towns across a large swathe of southern Somalia. That has challenged the aspirations of the Western-backed interim government, which was formed in Kenya in 2004 and is based in Baidoa because it is too weak to go to Mogadishu. Diplomats fear confrontation between the two sides and a military intervention by anti-Islamist Ethiopia. Talks between the government and Islamists to avert that are scheduled to take place in Sudan on Jul 15. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Jul 10 — Fighting surged in Mogadishu today between Islamist militias and fighters loyal to the city’s last warlords, pushing the death toll over two days to at least 60 and pounding a key hospital with artillery and gunfire. Residents feared the death toll would climb even further in the most ferocious fighting in the capital since the Islamists seized it a month ago from an alliance of U.S.-backed warlords. Witnesses said the renewed fighting, which erupted in the afternoon after a morning lull, intensified throughout the day as fighters exchanged rocket, artillery and machinegun fire. “The hospital is under very heavy mortar and artillery attack and stray bullets are hitting. Chaos is everywhere in the hospital and staff are running away,” Abdikadir Sheikh, a medical official at Mogadishu’s Madina Hospital, told Reuters by phone as artillery and gunfire crackled behind him. Sheikh and residents of Mogadishu’s Kilometre Five area said the death toll had risen by at least 40 and nearly 100 had been wounded since heavy street battles broke out at dawn yesterday in the neighbouring Kilometre Four area. Witnesses said artillery and mortar shells rained down on Kilometre Five as the battle shifted areas and cut many victims off from Madina. Residents said the streets were empty as militiamen traded automatic weapons fire, and “technicals” — pickup trucks mounted with heavy weapons that are Somalia’s version of tanks — rolled forward with their guns blazing. The battles broke out yesterday when the Islamists set a daybreak ambush in Kilometre Four for fighters loyal to Hussein Aideed, an interior minister in the interim government, and another warlord, Abdi Awale Qaybdiid. Qaybdiid’s side accused the Islamists of starting the fight. The Islamists have taken control of most of the coastal capital and a key swathe of Somalia, posing a serious threat to the interim government, which is too weak to enter Mogadishu and is now based in the south-central town of Baidoa. Both sides are due for a second round of talks in Khartoum on Saturday (Jul 14), but the fighting appeared to imperil that. Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi told the BBC on Monday that the government would not meet hardline Islamists — repeating comments made to Reuters two weeks ago — nor those who broke the ceasefire agreed on at talks in June. — Reuters.

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

Mogadishu, Jul 11 — Mogadishu's last secular warlord has surrendered to powerful Islamists after losing most of his territory following two days of heavy fighting in which at least 140 people were killed, a hospital official said today. "Approximately 140 people have died and 150 others were injured," Ali Moallim, a senior administrator at Mogadishu's Madina hospital, told Reuters. "It has become necessary to surrender and give peace a chance," said a militiaman loyal to warlord Abdi Awale Qaybdiid, the last from a U.S.-backed self-styled anti-terrorism alliance, who kept fighting despite his coalition losing the Somali capital to the Islamists militia early last month. Seeking to take complete control of Mogadishu on Sunday (Jul 9), the Islamists militia ambushed Qaybdiid's fighters and those loyal to Hussein Aideed, an interior minister in the interim government, guarding the area near the presidential palace. The fighting with heavy artillery and mortar shells had killed at least 60 people by yesterday and witnesses said another nine bodies were recovered overnight after calm returned in the Kilometer Five area where the fighting was heaviest. More than 100 people were wounded during the fighting and Mogadishu residents said there had been no winner. Militia sources said after intense negotiations between the Islamists and prominent elders from Qaybdiid's clan, the warlord had agreed to hand over his weapons. Qaybdiid's whereabouts were not known but his militia said they would hand over pickup trucks mounted with heavy weapons, at a ceremony to be attended by fellow clan member Osman Ali Atto, Somalia's road and public works minister. Witnesses said with the surrender of Qaybdiid, the Islamists had control of most of Mogadishu, except a small enclave near the presidential palace which is overseen by Aideed's fighters. "Mogadishu has fallen to the Islamists except the Villa Somalia," said Mohamed Abdilahi, an aide to Aideed, adding that the Islamists could next target the building. Aideed is based in Baidoa but his militia guard the Villa Somalia, which has served as the residence for past presidents. — Reuters.

**SRI LANKA**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Four Tamil Tiger rebels were killed today when Sri Lanka's navy retaliated against an attacking rebel boat in the sea off Northern Jaffna peninsula, the military said. The rebel boat fired at three navy boats in the northern Kilaly lagoon, prompting the navy to retaliate, destroying the rebel boat and killing four Tigers, the Media Centre for National Security said. The navy's report could not be independently confirmed.

**SUDAN**

London, Jul 7 — A press release, dated Jul 6, states: Fighting in Sudan's Darfur region has increased

since a peace deal was signed two months ago, the head of the United Nations mission in Sudan has said. Jan Pronk said people had been given distorted information about the deal, meaning it had not won popular support. Only one of the rebel groups signed it and all deadlines for implementing the agreement have so far been missed. The insecurity has meant the estimated two million people displaced in the three-year conflict are unwilling to go home. Two months ago, after tortuous negotiations, Western diplomats pushed through a deal between the Sudanese government and a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army rebels. But since then Darfur has seen more violence with militias loyal to the government carrying out numerous small-scale attacks and rebel movements fighting amongst themselves. Our correspondent says in Darfur's camps, public opinion has crystallised against the deal. Faced by this depressing reality Mr Pronk - one of the deal's key architects - says more is needed to make the agreement workable. This included international security guarantees and more money to give people confidence, he said. But Mr Pronk defended the deal despite warning over the weekend that it could collapse without further concessions. "The first priority is implementation, implementation, implementation... It's non-implementation of the text which is creating a problem, not the text," he said, Reuters news agency reports. The UN is conducting the world's largest humanitarian operation in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people are thought to have died, most killed by pro-government militias. Over the weekend, the African Union (AU) agreed to extend its stretched peace mission to Darfur until the end of 2006 at the request of the UN. About 7,000 AU troops are in the vast region attempting to contain the violence.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Sudan's Darfur region has seen its bloodiest few days since the signing of a peace agreement over two months ago. More than 80 people have been killed as rebels fight each other for territory, according to sources within the African Union peacekeeping mission. In early May, under pressure from the international community, the Sudanese government signed an agreement with one of the region's rebel movements, but the deal has not been implemented and security has worsened. Darfur's Sudan Liberation Army says it took up arms three years ago to fight for greater power and wealth for their people. Now the rebels have split and the SLA are fighting amongst themselves with a brutality that has driven thousands more people from their homes. The town of Korma in North Darfur has changed hands three times since March. In the latest clash, which began a week ago, forces from the SLA faction led by Minni Minnawi, conducted an offensive to empty

villages around the town. Those who escaped allege systematic rape and executions - violence which has until now been associated with pro-government forces. The African Union has been told that 32 people died in the initial operation and that over 50 were killed as Mr Minnawi's faction consolidated its hold on the town. The peacekeepers have so far been denied access to Korma to see for themselves. Two months ago, in their haste to get a deal, the international community pushed through a peace agreement involving just one of Darfur's rebel factions - that of Mr Minnawi. The size of that mistake is now becoming clear. The conflict's victims who still live in overcrowded camps have rejected the deal. Western donors now find themselves promoting the agreement alongside the Sudanese government and Mr Minnawi's SLA - a rebel force that seems more determined to settle scores than implement the deal.

**Labour Disputes**



**AUSTRALIA**

Sydney, Jul 10 — Port Phillip Sea Pilots says it has been forced to institute restrictions on the movement of ships in and out of the port of Melbourne after Marine Safety Victoria's decision to cancel the operating licence of a pilot and recommend that criminal proceedings be taken against him. Port Phillip Sea Pilots chairman Charles Griffiths expressed outrage at what he described as the "big stick approach" that he claimed the director of marine safety, Dr Brian Riches, had adopted concerning the pilot. The incident occurred eight months ago when the long-serving pilot found himself confronted with many fishing boats while trying to negotiate a vessel through the channel. One vessel came too close to the ship and two fishermen jumped into the water. Fishermen on another boat picked them up. Fishing boats have long presented problems for pilots in the bay, with many hundreds to be found near the shipping channel at night time, often without any lights. Captain Griffiths apologised to customers, saying the pilots regretted having to take action to limit vessel movements past the Hovel Pile and Fawkner Beacon to daylight hours, but nothing had been done to limit fishing in the area and they were not prepared to put up with this threat to their licences and livelihoods. He said vessels could proceed at night time provided they had an escort vessel for the busy sections. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

**CREW AUSTRALIAN-FLAGGED VESSEL AT HOBART, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Chemical tanker



*Stolt Australia's* crew at the centre of a row over plans to replace it with foreign workers has again stopped work. The vessel was due to sail out of Hobart this morning. The vessel's crew have been refusing to work since the it arrived on Saturday (Jul 8). The crew is angry at plans by the vessel's owner to re-flag it and replace the crew with Filipino workers. Yesterday they agreed to load a cargo of acid at Hobart's Zinifex zinc smelter to prevent the smelter from having to close down. Now the crew has again stopped work. The vessel's owner, Stolt NYK, has this morning applied to the Industrial Relations Commission to stop the action. The crew says it will decide whether to return to work once the commission makes a ruling. Stolt NYK's manager director, Pete Stigman, has refused to comment.

#### **CREW OF AUSTRALIAN-FLAGGED VESSEL AT HOBART, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated Jul 9, states: A group of seamen sacked by the owners of an Australian tanker docked in Hobart say they are prepared to risk big fines for taking industrial action over the issue. Eighteen crew from chemical tanker *Stolt Australia* (6895 gt, built 1986) were sacked last night, as part of a plan to reflag the vessel under a Cayman Islands flag, and hire cheaper, foreign labour. The group are still refusing to reload the vessel or leave it, vowing to stay on the vessel until they get their jobs back. The crew members have ignored union advice that their protest could incur big industrial relations fines. At a protest earlier today, spokesman Roy Muir said he and his colleagues hoped their actions would highlight the impact of Federal workplace changes on Australia's shipping industry: "1996 there was 104 Australian-manned ships, now we're down to less than half of that — if this one goes it's just another one," he said. Mr Muir says he and his colleagues feel they have to take a stand. "Stolts have been the recipient of shipping reforms, crew reductions via multiskilling and training, including government funding, and still they're not prepared to commit to the employment of skilled, experienced and safe Australian seafarers," he said. Meanwhile, the Australian Maritime Union says the practice of allowing more foreign shipping crews into Australia is a chink in the nation's armour. AMU spokesman Mike Wickham says the disappearance of Australian-crewed vessels from Australian waters is a worry. He says local crews have to go through rigorous security checks that many foreign crews do not, and that puts Australia at risk.

#### **CREW OF AUSTRALIAN-FLAGGED VESSEL AT HOBART, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul, 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of chemical tanker *Stolt Australia* at the centre of an industrial row at a Hobart

wharf has returned to work. *Stolt Australia* crew members starting loading sulfuric acid from Zinifex's zinc smelter on the River Derwent this afternoon. The vessel's 18 crew members found out three weeks ago its owners planned to re-flag the vessel to the Cayman Islands and replace them with about 30 Filipinos. The workers say they have not backed down but agreed to load the vessel after a plea from Zinifex. Zinifex had said the smelter would be forced to shut down after 48 hours if the acid was left to stockpile on the docks. Crew spokesman Roy Muir says it will take 18 hours to load the vessel. He says the ship will then sail for Port Hedland in Western Australia and finally Singapore, where the Australian crew will be replaced with the Filipino employees. The crew members say if their jobs go, more will follow in the Australian shipping industry. Maritime Union of Australia spokesman Warren Smith says more than half of Australia's domestic fleet has been re-flagged since 1996. But ship owners say moves to replace crew members with foreign workers are important for the competitiveness of Australian exports. Shipping Australia Limited spokesman Llew Russell says it is cheaper to use foreign workers and the trend is likely to continue.

London, Jul 12 — A press report dated today states: Chemical tanker *Stolt Australia* remains stranded in Hobart while crew members consider an order from the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) to return to work. The vessel's owner, Stolt NYK, took action in the IRC in Melbourne yesterday to force the 18 crew members to prepare the vessel to sail. They are protesting against plans by the company to re-flag the ship under the Cayman Islands and replace them with overseas workers. Stolt NYK wants the vessel sailed to Port Hedland and then Singapore, before it dismisses the Australian crew. The IRC ruled the industrial action illegal at a hearing yesterday afternoon. The Maritime Union of Australia says some crew members had not been briefed on the IRC's orders last night. The orders will be considered at a meeting this morning.

#### **MALTA**

Vallatta, Jul 7 — A local press report, dated today, states: During an early meeting between GRTU and cargo hauliers, it was decided that they end the stoppage and start processing containers for the local market or for export, the GRTU said in a statement. Later on today Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi will be meeting the cargo hauliers in a bid to find a solution for the problems they are currently facing. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NIGER**

London, Jul 11 — A general strike in Niger demanding lower prices for basic goods paralyzed the capital of one of the world's poorest nations Thursday (Jul 6), following a similar

attempt last month that was met with inaction from the government. Shopkeepers closed their doors, while buses and taxis stopped running in a movement organized by a coalition of local human rights organizations, despite a televised plea by the government of the west African nation. "If the protesters cause damages, it will be leaders of the organizations that will be prosecuted before justice," Interior Minister Mody Mounkaila warned on state television and radio Wednesday.

#### **SOUTH KOREA**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Unionised workers at Hyundai Motor Co. will intensify their ongoing strike in the coming weeks, as the management's response to their calls for pay raises and better working conditions fell short of expectations, the labour union said today. Hyundai Motor's 44,000 unionised workers have staged a partial strike since Jun 26 demanding a 9.1% rise in basic salary and other incentives.

#### **SPAIN**

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Travel plans of hundreds of passengers flying between the UK and Spain were thrown into disarray today through a strike called by a pilots' union. Spanish carrier Iberia had to cancel five flights between London and Spain - three to Madrid and two to Barcelona. And further Iberia flights between Heathrow and Madrid and Barcelona are set to be axed, with the strike due to carry on until Sunday. Iberia and British Airways jointly market some London-Spain flights under a code-sharing agreement. A BA spokesman said today: "We are working on contingency plans to ensure that as many British Airways customers who are booked on Iberia flights can get to their destinations. "We would urge any BA customer who has booked a flight between Heathrow and Madrid/Barcelona on Jul 10 - Jul 12 to contact BA if they booked their ticket direct from the airline or their travel agent to see if their flight is affected and how they can be re-accommodated." A Heathrow Airport spokeswoman said: "We are advising passengers to contact their airline before travelling." Birmingham Airport said that its flights to Barcelona and Madrid today were unaffected. The Iberia pilots are striking over fears of job losses. In all, around 240 Iberia flights are likely to be cancelled each day during the strike.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Iberia has been forced to cancel 251 flights after pilots at the Spanish airline began a seven-day strike. Union officials said the action had been taken in protest at Iberia's plans to launch a low-cost carrier. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute ended yesterday after Iberia failed to convince pilots that their jobs were not in danger, the pilots union

said. Iberia said flights hit by the strike were mainly those serving destinations within Spain. Flights to the Canary and Balearic islands, Africa, the Middle East and most long-haul flights were operating normally, the airline said. Five flights were cancelled between London and Spain - three to Madrid and two to Barcelona. The two airlines jointly market some London to Spain flights under a code-sharing agreement.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Pilots say the company offered them nothing new. The Spanish Industry Ministry mediated in unsuccessful talks over the weekend to head off the strike. Multimedia Iberia pilots' strike Pilots at Spanish airline Iberia said they will continue their strike for a second day today and that the company offered them nothing new at their latest meeting. In a release, the pilots union known as SEPLA said Spain's largest airline didn't send any top officials to a meeting late yesterday and "refused to budge in its positions." Earlier yesterday, Iberia had said it would deliver a document at the meeting that guaranteed in writing the jobs of all its pilots. Iberia was forced to cancel 220 flights yesterday and 239 flights were cancelled today. Spain's flagship carrier has calculated that the stoppage will cost Iberia 35 million Euro (US\$44.7 million) in lost revenue.

London, Jul 12 — Pilots at the Spanish airline Iberia have agreed to end a three-day-old strike that was forcing the carrier to cancel more than 200 flights a day, news reports said today. The pilots union SEPLA will give details of the decision later in the day, Spanish National Radio said.



**PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: The University of Alabama in Huntsville announced today a lawsuit settlement has been reached with a former professor that will yield \$25 million over the next decade. Milton Harris, a leader in the field of polyethylene glycol (PEG) chemistry, is the former chairman and CEO of Huntsville-based Shearwater Corp., later acquired by Inhale Therapeutic Systems Inc., which changed its name in 2003 to Nektar Therapeutics. Harris, who now serves as chief scientific officer for Nektar Alabama, has agreed in conjunction with the San Carlos, Calif.-based Nektar to pay UAH a lump sum of \$15 million, with the company paying the \$10 million balance at a rate of \$1 million per year. The settlement addresses patent issues surrounding Nektar's PEGylation technology. Nektar says in a news release on the

settlement that UAH plans to use the money for its endowment and to fund scholarships. Under the settlement, the university will drop all patent-related claims against the company, with Nektar agreeing to dismiss all counterclaims. UAH President Frank Franz called the resolution "amicable" in a written statement. "This settlement provides a substantial benefit to the university and will provide numerous opportunities for UAH in the years to come," Franz said. Robert Chess, Nektar's chairman and acting president and CEO, says the settlement keeps the company's best interests in the forefront by allowing Nektar to improve and expand on its PEGylation technology.

**WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Ohio State has approved its largest wrongful imprisonment settlement, awarding \$2.5 million to a man found innocent of a bank robbery and guard's murder after serving 26 years. The state Controlling Board made its unanimous decision today. Timothy Howard, 52, of Columbus, will receive about \$1.4 million to divide with his attorneys, who will get one-third, and nearly \$1.1 million to be paid in monthly installments over 30 years. The Ohio Court of Claims approved the settlement in June, but it required the approval of the Controlling Board, which is comprised mostly of state lawmakers. The settlement more than doubles the \$1.075 million the state agreed to pay earlier this year to another man wrongfully imprisoned in an unrelated case. Clarence Elkins served nearly seven years before being cleared by DNA evidence in the 1998 murder of his mother-in-law. Howard was exonerated in criminal court and released from prison in 2003 after new evidence was uncovered that had not been made available to defense attorneys during the 1977 trial. He was able to prove his innocence in a civil case in March, clearing the way for seeking a financial award.



**HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated Hershey, Pa, today, states: Nearly a dozen homes were evacuated after a Norfolk Southern freight train carrying chlorine gas derailed near a golf course. Officials reported no injuries and no hazardous leaks but said today that the homes would remain evacuated while the 13 derailed cars, one a tank car containing potentially toxic chlorine gas, were being removed. The cars derailed about 1730 yesterday behind the Hershey American Legion post,

Norfolk Southern spokesman Rudy Husband said. The post and part of the nearby Hershey Country Club golf course were also evacuated. The 76-car train was travelling from Allentown to Baltimore, Husband said.

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Clean-up of the train derailment in Derry Twp. could be complete by 1800 today, according to police. In the meantime, nearby businesses remained closed yesterday or ran amid uncertainty. Eight cars in a 76-car train derailed Wednesday (Jul 5) near East Derry Road, forcing an evacuation of some residents because of the toxic contents of one capsized tanker. No injuries were reported. No hazard has been detected by six air monitors, police said.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The worst of the problem from Wednesday's (Jul 5) train derailment in Hershey is fixed, but it could be weeks before the entire cleanup process is completed, a railroad spokesman said last night. Rudy Husband, a spokesman for Norfolk Southern, said the derailed tanker carrying liquid chorine was loaded onto another rail car yesterday afternoon and was scheduled to be moved out of the area last night. The tanker was one of eight cars of a 76-car Norfolk Southern freight train that jumped the tracks behind the Hershey American Legion post. Officials were most concerned about the liquid chlorine tanker because had it ruptured, the chlorine would have quickly evaporated into a toxic gas, forcing wide evacuations. Some of the other derailed cars were also carrying chemicals, including potassium hydroxide, phenol and carbon dioxide. Despite the potentially disastrous situation, Husband said the cleanup is going smoothly. Husband said three of the other derailed cars were tankers carrying potassium hydroxide. One of the tankers had its product transferred into another car yesterday morning, and workers will do the same thing to the other two tomorrow, Husband said. The 14 residents who were evacuated as a precaution were allowed to go back into their homes at 1400 yesterday, he said. Although the cleanup has gone smoothly thus far, Husband said it will be a while until the entire operation is completed. The cause of the accident is under investigation, Husband said.

**JAIPURHAT DISTRICT, BANGLADESH**

Dhaka, Jul 11 — At least 20 people were killed and 40 injured when a train rammed into a packed bus at an unmanned railway crossing in Bangladesh's western Jaipurhat district today, police said. They said the victims were all bus passengers. The accident occurred at Akkelpur, 220 km from the capital Dhaka, in the morning rush hour. — Reuters.

**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: The National



Transportation Safety Board is urging US railroads to limit workloads on their employees, as the board concluded that worker fatigue was the cause of a fatal accident in 2004 in Macdona, Texas. The board determined that fatigue caused the engineer and conductor on a Union Pacific Railroad train to fail to respond appropriately to wayside signals governing the movement of their train, leading to a fatal collision with another train. The Jun 28, 2004, collision derailed four locomotive units and the first 19 cars of the Union Pacific train as well as 17 cars of the BNSF train. As a result of the derailment, the 16th car in the Union Pacific train — a tank car loaded with liquefied chlorine — was punctured, causing the release of approximately 9,400 gallons of chlorine. The chlorine vapourised and engulfed the area surrounding the accident site. Three people — the Union Pacific conductor and two local residents — died from the effects of chlorine gas inhalation. The NTSB's investigation determined that sleep debt, disrupted circadian processes, limited sleep during the weekend preceding the accident and long duty tours reduced the capacity of Union Pacific's engineer and conductor to remain awake and alert the night of the accident. The board also noted that the conductor's consumption of alcohol on the evening before the accident likely added to his fatigue. An examination of the engineer and conductor's off-duty time revealed that neither had obtained adequate rest during their off-duty time. As a result, the board recommended that all railroads and railway organisations use the accident as a case study in fatigue awareness training to illustrate the importance for rail carriers to provide employees opportunities for adequate rest and to make employees understand how important it is to rest in order to perform efficiently on the job. Further, the board recommended that the Federal Railroad Administration require railroads base their crew scheduling on scientific measures designed to reduce fatigue and to limit the railroads' use of limbo time.

Miscellaneous



**MILITARY EQUIPMENT SEIZEN FROM ISLE OF MAN-FLAGGED VESSEL AT DERINCE, TURKEY**

London, Jul 6 — Roll On Roll Off *Scan Bothnia* was reported transiting the Dardanelles at 0520 hrs, Jun 18. Two days later the vessel passed through the Suez Canal and then proceeded to Aqaba, arriving on Jun 22. The vessel departed on Jun 24.

**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

Jakarta, Jul 7 — A three-year-old Indonesian girl who died this week

has tested positive for bird flu, a Health Ministry official said today, citing a local test. If confirmed by a World Health Organisation (WHO) laboratory, the girl from Jakarta's western suburbs will be the 41st bird flu death in Indonesia. "The child had had contact with sick fowl, the neighbour's chicken," Runizar Ruesin, head of the health ministry's Bird Flu Information Centre, told Reuters. "She died on Thursday, nine hours after being admitted in the hospital," he said. According to the WHO, the H5N1 avian flu has killed 131 people across the globe since 2003. In Indonesia, 40 people are confirmed by WHO tests to have died from the virus. Yesterday a senior Indonesian government official said the country's poultry death rate from bird flu was worsening, possibly due to poor vaccination coverage. Mathur Riyadi, director general of livestock production at the agriculture ministry, said one million fowl, half of them quail, died of bird flu in the first three months of 2006. In 2005, deaths for the year as a whole were 1.2 million. The government has so far shied away from mass culling, citing lack of funds and impracticality, with vaccination a preferred method to prevent the spread of bird flu among poultry. Animal health experts say a large numbers of backyard farms and a lack of resources are a major impediment for effective vaccination in Indonesia. It is common for Indonesian households to keep a handful of chicken for personal consumption or gaining extra revenue. The National Commission of Avian Flu Control and Preparedness estimates there are around 300 million such backyard chickens. — Reuters.

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Spain has recorded its first case of H5N1 bird flu, the Agriculture Ministry said today. The deadly strain was found in a water fowl in a marsh area outside the northern city of Vitoria. A protective area of 3.2 kilometres was declared outside the area where the bird, a great crested grebe, was found, the ministry statement said. Spanish officials said late last year, as bird flu spread to several European countries, that it was only a matter of time before the disease made it to this country, which is on the route of northern-bound migratory birds from Africa. Preventive measures taken so far had included banning outdoor poultry farming within a 10-km radius of marshlands where migratory birds tend to gather.

**OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS VESSEL**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Passenger (cruise) *Black prince* which was hit by a vomiting virus earlier this week is setting sail from Leith again this evening. About a quarter of the 400 passengers on board *Black Prince* were affected by the sickness bug. About 80 passengers due on the cruise have opted for a refund. The trip has been shortened by two days to allow the

vessel to be thoroughly cleaned. Chris Hutchings, Fred Olsen's passenger manager, said: "It is unfortunate so many decided to cancel, particularly since we just received a clean bill of health. But given the coverage the *Black Prince* has received in the Scottish media, it is perhaps not surprising." A total of 105 passengers were confined to their cabins after becoming ill with symptoms of the Norovirus, including vomiting and diarrhoea.

London, Jul 11 — Passenger (cruise) *Black Prince* passed Skaw 1634, Jul 8.

**OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS VESSEL**

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Black Prince*, which was hit by a vomiting virus earlier this week, is setting sail from Leith again this evening. About a quarter of the 400 passengers on board the *Black Prince* were affected by the sickness bug. It is the second time the vessel has been hit by the bug in the last few weeks. About 80 passengers due on the cruise have opted for a refund. The trip has been shortened by two days to allow the vessel to be thoroughly cleaned. Chris Hutchings, Fred Olsen's passenger manager, said: "It is unfortunate so many decided to cancel, particularly since we just received a clean bill of health. "But given the coverage the *Black Prince* has received in the Scottish media, it is perhaps not surprising." The 40-year-old vessel returned to Leith on Wednesday morning (Jul 5), following and excursion to Greenland. A total of 105 passengers were confined to their cabins after becoming ill with symptoms of the Norovirus, including vomiting and diarrhoea.

Fires & Explosions



**ABBAY, ABBEYTOWN, CUMBRIA, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Part of a 900-year-old abbey badly damaged by fire could cost up to £3m and take three years to repair. It took 30 firefighters to extinguish the blaze at St Mary's Church, in Abbeystown, Cumbria, on June 9. The roof of St Mary's, which was built in the 17th Century following a previous fire, was destroyed. The site contains the remains of a former Cistercian abbey, founded in 1150. A 17-year-old youth has been charged with arson.

**APARTMENT BUILDING, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

New York, Jul 10 — A four-story building collapsed in Manhattan today and injured 15 people after an apparent gas explosion that may have resulted from a failed suicide attempt.

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



Witnesses reported a deafening explosion before building came crashing down, shattering windows across the street. Smoke billowed from the debris throughout a frantic rescue operation and continued to emerge for hours after the morning blast. Ten firefighters and five civilians were injured. The gas leak may have been the result of a suicide attempt by the building's owner, New York Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta told reporters on the scene. The man was taken from the rubble on a stretcher and hospitalized with severe burns. Neighbours had reported a strong smell of gas before the explosion, the gas utility company said. Scoppetta referred to an e-mail sent by the man but provided no details. Local media said the e-mail indicated he was contemplating suicide. Police and fire officials said they were investigating. The apartment building on 62nd Street on the Upper East Side of Manhattan housed some doctors' offices, but police said the building collapsed before any patients were due for their morning appointments. The Upper East Side is one of New York's most upscale neighbourhoods with many luxury apartment buildings near Central Park. — Reuters.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A four-storey building on Manhattan's Upper East Side collapsed into a pile of rubble today after an explosion. Authorities said the blast was caused by gas, and they were investigating whether it was the result of a suicide attempt by the building's owner, a doctor who was going through a bitter divorce. The doctor, Nicholas Bartha, 66, and a passer-by were severely hurt; at least 13 other people had minor injuries. The building is an upscale neighbourhood where the 2000 Census put the median home price at \$1 million US. On one corner of the street is the high-end Luca Luca clothing store, and across the street is the French retailer Hermes.

New York, Jul 11 — A gas pipe in the basement of a Manhattan mansion that collapsed in a possible suicide attempt had been tampered with prior to the explosion, police said today. The owner of the house, Dr. Nicholas Bartha, who was critically injured in the explosion, may face criminal charges, and the Manhattan District Attorney has assigned a prosecutor to the case, authorities said. Officials suspect Bartha may have destroyed the multi-million-dollar building yesterday rather than lose it in a divorce battle with his wife. "The gas pipe in the basement had been tampered with," said Mike Collins, a spokesman for the New York Police Department. A Fire Department of New York spokesman said the tampering involved a connection near the gas meter. The explosion and collapse of the four-story building injured 15 people. Bartha remained in critical condition at a New York hospital with burns on more than 70% of his body. He was using a respirator to breathe but was improving, said a

police source. If he were charged with and convicted of arson, Bartha could face a sentence of life in prison. He also could face charges of reckless endangerment or reckless assault. — Reuters.

**FACTORY, NAIROBI, KENYA**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire ripped through a paint factory in Nairobi today, killing four people and leaving another seven missing feared dead, police said. After a machine apparently exploded, a huge fire sent smoke billowing into the sky over the factory next to a busy highway in north Nairobi, witnesses said. Workers said some victims were unable to escape because managers had locked the company's heavy metal doors but police disputed that. "We have retrieved four bodies. We are trying our best to search for the seven other bodies we believe are inside," area police boss Julius Muthuri said. "The machine that exploded was too close to the exit door, only four people managed to escape the inferno before the place was engulfed by smoke," Muthuri added. While fire fighters doused the flames, sporadic explosions could still be heard inside the brick building, as chemicals caught fire, witnesses said.

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: A fire ripped through a paint factory in Nairobi yesterday, killing four people and leaving another seven missing feared dead. Witnesses said the fire began when a machine apparently exploded. "We have retrieved four bodies. We are trying our best to search for the seven other bodies we believe are inside," said area police head Julius Muthuri. While fire fighters doused the flames, sporadic explosions could still be heard inside the brick building, as chemicals caught fire, said witnesses. The charred corpses were carried out in white plastic sheets and placed in a police truck for transport.

**FOREST, INDONESIA**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia has deployed around 1,500 firefighters to battle hundreds of forest fires raging on Sumatra island and Indonesia's Borneo, forestry officials said today. Satellite images revealed some 300 "hot spots" from forest fires and fires set to clear land in Riau province on Sumatra, which lies to Malaysia's west, Masyud, a spokesman from Indonesia's forestry ministry, said. More than 200 fires were also burning in Jambi province, to Riau's south, and in north and south Sumatra, along with 48 others in West Kalimantan, an Indonesian province on Borneo island, he said. Fires in Sumatra were blamed last week by Malaysian meteorological officials for blanketing the country's northern Penang state in a thick haze.

**FOREST, PORTUGAL**

Lisbon, Jul 9 — Six firemen died in a forest fire that burnt out of control in central Portugal today, local media

reported. The dead were five Chileans and one Portuguese. The flames were fanned by strong winds. "Only the investigation will verify if the team was in the correct position and if the work was organised in the proper manner," Lusa news agency quoted the head of the national protection service, Gil Martins, as saying. "Forest fires are unpredictable." Lusa reported that the Chileans were in Portugal to help the country fight forest fires during the summer. There were huge forest fires in Portugal last year but so far this summer they have been calm. Warmer weather during the last two days, however, has ignited them again. — Reuters.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Six firefighters died trying to put out the flames of a forest fire in Portugal yesterday as temperatures began to soar across the Iberian peninsula, authorities said today. The six firefighters, including five Chileans working for a private contractor, died as a blaze tore through countryside and woodland near the north-eastern town of Famalicao. A sudden change in the direction of the wind left the six men trapped by the flames, police said. The government immediately announced the opening of an investigation. Firefighters from Germany, France and Spain were called in to help the overworked Portuguese fire brigade. This summer had been calm so far, but hot weather over the last two days has set fires going again. At least three other fires were reported burning yesterday morning in both northern and southern Portugal.

**PIER, LAKE UNION, SEATTLE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators today will get their first waterside view of the damage caused by yesterday's four-alarm fire that gutted two piers on South Lake Union. Fire investigators from the Seattle Fire Department, Seattle police and the federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will take boats to examine the damage at the charred piers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Marine Operations Center at 1801 Fairview Ave. E. in hopes of determining a cause for the blaze, said fire spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick. Cpt. Mark Ablondi, NOAA's commanding officer for the Pacific Marine Operations Center, said it'll be a couple days before cleanup of the site can begin. Structural engineers will begin examining the NOAA buildings damaged in the blaze today but any inspection of the burned piers will "be a much longer process," he said. In addition to the two large NOAA piers and two smaller piers, the fire damaged two decommissioned vessels and burned two outbuildings. A damage estimate has not yet been calculated. Two of five buildings on the 15-acre NOAA Pacific Marine

Operations Center were destroyed and two large steel-hulled vessels, the 175-foot *McArthur I* and the 224-foot *Assertive*, sustained heat damage to their starboard sides, said Ablondi.

Seattle, Jul 7 — Fire broke out on two piers at Seattle's Lake Union early Wednesday (Jul 5). Severe damage to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration piers on the lake, four boats and two small outbuildings also damaged. Two 224 foot vessels belonging to NOAA damaged. The *McArthur* a decommissioned research vessel and the *Assertive* a former Navy vessel being retrofitted for research. Also destroyed in fire were a small work vessel, an inflatable boat and three vehicles. Six firefighters were treated for injuries, dozens of houseboats were evacuated as a precaution but no dwellings were lost in the fire. The blaze broke out shortly after the 4th of July fireworks over the lake. The piers had been in use by NOAA employees and their families as a viewing platform for the pyrotechnic display. All visitors were gone by 2300 however and the fire was said to have started around 0130 according to the Seattle Fire Department spokesperson. An investigation is being conducted by the Seattle Fire Department, police and the Federal Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. No cause has been yet determined. A representative from NOAA said that it could be two years before the piers are again useable by the Agency. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: A fire that swept through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's facility on Lake Union this week was caused by a short in an electrical line. At a news conference this afternoon, Fire Chief Gregory Dean said the electrical line had provided power to a NOAA boat that was being refitted as a research vessel. Yesterday, members of the Seattle Fire Department, Seattle police and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives boarded boats to get their first waterside view of charred piers as they worked to figure out what had sparked the four-alarm blaze, said Fire Department spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick. In addition to the two large NOAA piers and two smaller piers, the fire damaged two decommissioned ships and burned two outbuildings. A damage estimate has not yet been calculated. "I'm pleased," Dean said yesterday, after the fire — which smoldered through Wednesday (Jul 5) night and yesterday morning — was officially out. Yesterday morning, Capt. Mark Ablondi, the commanding officer of NOAA's Pacific Marine Operations Center, said it would be a couple of days before cleanup of the site could begin.

**PREMISES, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of traders were today fearing for their

livelihoods, after fire ripped through a "rabbit warren" of industrial units. Anxious traders gathered at the roadside as about 100 firefighters from across Essex fought to contain the ferocious blaze at Colchester's Cowdray Centre. Fifteen fire engines were dispatched from stations across Essex when flames broke out in a roof cavity at 0200 today.

**RECYCLING PLANT, KINGSBURY, WARWICKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Warwickshire fire crews have been tackling more than 400 tonnes of blazing scrap metal at a yard near one of the UK's largest inland oil depots. At its height, nine fire crews were at the site of European Metal Recycling Ltd in Trinity Road, Kingsbury. The yard is close to the oil depot at Kingsbury where deliveries were suspended as a precaution. The fire was brought under control by 2300 BST on Monday but there has been no indication as to a possible cause. Columns of smoke from the fire which started on Monday afternoon, could be seen for miles. An hydraulic platform and environmental protection unit were dispatched to the scene. Four crews carried on dampening down the scene through the night and deliveries have resumed.

**VESSEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, HALSA, NORWAY**

Trondheim, Jul 6 — A fire broke out on board a vessel under construction at Vaagland Yard, Halså, at 0435, Jul 5. The vessel was scheduled to be delivered Aug 4 but a delay of three to four months is now expected, due to the fire. — Lloyd's Agents.

**WILDFIRES, CANADA**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Some residents of northern Saskatchewan will be able to start going home today, Saskatchewan Environment said late yesterday. Cooler, wet weather has helped firefighters make progress with the forest fires that forced the evacuation of about 2,200 residents to La Ronge and Saskatoon a week ago. About 2,000 of the residents will be home by tomorrow. Some will travel in escorted convoys of buses and vehicles because the main highway north from La Ronge is still closed because of the fires. But about 200 residents of English Bay and Nemeiben Lake have been ordered to stay away. All but two two evacuation orders were lifted yesterday, but there are still states of emergency, the government said. Residents from Grandmother's Bay, Stanley Mission, Sucker River, Missinipe and Wadin Bay left their homes last weekend as hot and windy weather frustrated firefighters. In a briefing yesterday, provincial officials said the 108 fires are a concern but the danger for the province has been reduced to moderate. Smoke lifted from the La Ronge area so aircraft could fly, and the rain may provide a three-day window to attack fires. As

recently as Friday (Jul 7), people were still being evacuated because of the smoke. Twelve people from La Ronge and another 71 from nearby Morin Lake were taken to Saskatoon, about 360 km to the south, because smoke could make existing health conditions worse. Early yesterday, the province said there were 1,260 people fighting or patrolling fires, backed by 46 helicopters, 18 tanker aircraft, 28 bulldozers and eight heavy all-terrain vehicles.

**WILDFIRES, COLOMBIA**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Colombian government has asked for international help to tackle a huge forest fire that has been burning since the weekend in a national park. Environmentalists say the destruction in the park, in Colombia's centre-west region, is disastrous. About 400 firefighters have brought parts of the fire under control but they have been hampered by winds. Los Nevados Park spans some 58,000 hectares, including some of Colombia's highest mountains. The authorities say they have managed to dampen some of the flames but are calling for international expertise to help limit the extent of the damage. It is thought the fire, which began on Saturday (Jul 8), has so far destroyed up to 5,000 hectares. There has been concern that the fire could reach some settlements in the park.

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated Montana, today, states: Firefighters are fighting a major wildfire near Park City. So far about 1,000 acres have burned and Stillwater County officials say the fire is about 50% contained. While the fire didn't damage any homes yesterday, at one point firefighters asked residents in about a dozen homes to be on standby for possible evacuation. Nearly 70 firefighters, 25 trucks and an air tanker are working on the fire. Crews from Park City, Molt, Reed Point and Columbus are all working to get control of the fire. Fire officials say the fire was apparently ignited by lightning from a storm Wednesday (Jul 5) night.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: The Pedro Fire was contained last night after a four-day, \$3 million effort by more than 1,000 firefighters. Crews will spend the next few days mopping up the burn, north of Don Pedro Reservoir. The acreage estimate for the remote wildland fire, originally 2,063 acres, was reduced to 1,998 due to more accurate mapping, said Craig Vanderzwaag, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman. The fire started early Monday (Jul 3) afternoon when a camper near the reservoir was clearing a place for his tent and hit a rock with a shovel. This caused a spark, which ignited nearby grass and quickly spread to brush and oak woodland in the dry heat. Dennis



Townsend, a battalion chief in charge of law enforcement and fire prevention for CDF's Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit, said a final report will be written after the fire is mopped up. Townsend said CDF then has 10 days to decide if it will pursue any cost recovery or criminal charges against the camper. The battalion chief said he does not believe there was any negligent or illegal action that caused the fire and he does not intend to pursue charges. The Pedro Fire had cost CDF slightly more than \$3 million as of this morning. That total includes everything from fuel for aircraft expenses to food for firefighters, said Tracy Gouette, with CDF's incident command team. There were nearly 1,200 firefighting personnel assigned to the fire as of yesterday. In the next couple of days, fire crews will do burn area rehabilitation, such as preventing erosion and repairing any damaged creekbeds, Gouette said.

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Wildfires bracketed the southern Nevada town of Beatty today, with about 400 firefighters digging in to keep flames at least three miles away, a fire incident commander said. The fires were 10 percent contained, said fire incident Cmdr. Merrill Saleen, who planed to meet with some of Beatty's 1,032 residents later today. Lightning started the blazes Saturday (Jul 8), and they burned through dry desert grasses and brush in rocky mountain terrain. Crews hoped to contain the fire before Wednesday (Jul 12), when forecasts called for hot, dry wind, Saleen said. No injuries were reported, Saleen said, and no structures were immediately threatened. Neither the 18,600-acre Beatty Fire, burning about five miles east of Beatty, nor the 3,500-acre Sawtooth Fire, about three miles west of town, threatened U.S. 95, the main road to Las Vegas and Reno. Meanwhile, in southern Montana, a 300-acre wildfire prompted evacuation orders for about 110 homes in two subdivisions near Columbus. Officials didn't know what caused the fire, which burned about 10 miles west of the city. Firefighters also made progress today against the largest of several wildfires burning in Southern California. A 2,200-acre blaze in a remote area of Joshua Tree National Park was 90 percent contained, park spokesman Joe Zarki said. The fire, sparked by lightning Friday (Jul 7), slowed substantially and was no longer moving toward a valley that is home to the endangered desert tortoise, Zarki said. In the Tehachapi Mountains north of Los Angeles, a 780-acre wildfire along the west side of Interstate 5 north of Fort Tejon was 50 percent contained, said Kern County fire Capt. Doug Johnson. There were no reports of injuries or damage to buildings. The blaze brought southbound traffic on I-5 to a halt for several hours yesterday. Voluntary evacuations for O'Neil Canyon and Lebec Oaks were lifted, but firefighters were still urging residents of Digier Canyon to stay

away. At one point, more than 100 homes were evacuated.

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters evacuated dozens more people from their homes early today as a wildfire raced across the desert and consumed several structures in a desert locale where dozens of Hollywood Westerns were filmed. Winds exceeding 40 mph fanned the flames, and officials said they didn't expect the strong wind and dry conditions to change anytime soon. The fire had burned more than 17,000 acres. Dozens were evacuated from communities in Little Morongo Canyon and Burns Canyon. Up to 1,000 fled the flames yesterday, authorities said. The blaze burned through historic Pioneertown, destroying at least 30 homes and buildings there and in surrounding towns. It was unclear whether any historic structures were destroyed, said California Department of Forestry Capt. Marc DeRosier. Fire investigators believe a lightning strike over the weekend sparked the fire, which slowly heated up before it "reared its ugly head" yesterday afternoon, Lannen said. Earlier, they thought the fire was part of several lightning-sparked blazes that began Sunday (Jul 9) that had been temporarily contained. CDF Capt. Debbie Chapman said about 200 homes were threatened. About 2,500 firefighters aided by 13 helicopters and eight air tankers were working the blaze. Seven firefighters and two civilians suffered minor injuries, including burns and smoke inhalation. Elsewhere in the West, Montana firefighters were trying to control a blaze about 40 miles west of Billings that had destroyed at least four structures, including two homes, officials said. Authorities urged residents in about 120 homes to leave because of the 3,000-acre fire. Five structures were destroyed, officials said. No injuries were reported. In Nevada, officials said they had gained the upper hand on two lightning-sparked wildfires burning toward the small town of Beatty, near Death Valley National Park. The blazes were fully contained by yesterday night. No injuries were reported and no structures had been threatened. In western Stanislaus County, Calif., a fire that burned about 5 square miles of rugged terrain was about 40 percent contained yesterday. No evacuations were ordered as about 1,000 firefighters fought the blaze, which started Sunday about 85 miles southeast of San Francisco. The fire destroyed three structures believed to be hunting cabins.

London, Jul 13 — Desert winds and blistering heat yesterday challenged firefighters battling a 37,000-acre wildfire that destroyed 42 homes, chased up to 1,000 people from small communities but spared historic buildings in a town developed decades ago as a movie set for Westerns. Temperatures hit 108 degrees as 2,500 firefighters attacked flames devouring greasewood, Joshua trees, pinon pines

and brush in hills and canyons of the high desert about 100 miles east of Los Angeles. Eight air tankers and 13 helicopters attacked from above. Containment was just 16 percent. The fire, ignited during the weekend by lightning, destroyed 42 houses, 55 other buildings and 91 vehicles, authorities told reporters last night. They had previously pegged the number of structures destroyed at about 30 but revised that after conducting a detailed count yesterday. The fire was moving south-west as winds gusted to 40 mph, DeRosier said, and 800 to 1,000 people remained evacuated from Pioneertown, Burns Canyon, Rimrock, Gamma Gulch, Flamingo Heights and Little Morongo Canyon. Officials worried that if the blaze continued to move toward the San Bernardino National Forest, it could grow rapidly, threatening the resort community of Big Bear Lake. There also was a 3,150-acre wildfire west of Columbus, and another burning north of Pompeys Pillar that was estimated at 10,000 acres, said Mary Apple, a spokeswoman with the Bureau of Land Management.



**AIRCRAFT HIT BY LIGHTNING ON FLIGHT FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO CANARY ISLANDS**

London, Jul 7 — A press report, dated Jul 6, states: A charter flight from Birmingham to Lanzarote had to be diverted to Manchester Airport after it was struck by lightning. The Boeing 757-200 was chartered by Thomas Cook and was carrying 229 passengers from the Midlands airport. It left Birmingham at 0740 BST and landed in Manchester at about 1000 BST after being hit by lightning. Engineers carried out a safety check and the plane was cleared to take off. It then set off for Arrecife Airport.

**AP-BAL**

London, Jul 10 — A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) passenger aircraft has crashed in central Pakistan, killing all 45 people on board, officials say. The Fokker aircraft crashed soon after taking off from the city of Multan and burst into flames. Rescue teams are still struggling to control the blaze. Eyewitnesses say that they have seen a number of bodies which have been badly burnt. Police have cordoned off the area and are keeping people away from the scene. The twin-engined aircraft was carrying 41 passengers and four crew members when it went down. "All passengers and crew are dead in the air crash," district co-ordination officer Iftikhar Babar told Pakistan's private Geo TV channel. "Fire erupted after the crash and all bodies were charred beyond recognition." Flight PK 688 was



heading for Lahore and then Islamabad, reports say. It appeared to hit an electric power line while crashing in a field. "The plane lost contact with the control tower about two minutes after take-off. We don't know what happened to it," PIA engineer Mansoor A Rahi said.

London, Jul 11 — Shortly after takeoff the Fokker F-27 Friendship 200, AP-BAL, operated by Pakistan International Airlines, reportedly sustained engine problems, at 1200, Jul 10. It struck an electric power line before crashing in a field. The F-27 broke up and caught fire. All 45 persons on board were killed.

Karachi, Jul 11 — Investigators have recovered the flight data and cockpit voice recorders of a Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) plane that crashed killing all 45 people on board, a senior official said today. Shahnawaz Dara, head of PIA's flight safety wing, said the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder with information about the aircraft's final moments were recovered in good condition. "Pilots did not contact the control tower before the crash ... the voice recorder will give a direction on what was happening at the time of the crash and why there was no contact from the cockpit crew," Dara told Reuters. "Both pieces of equipment are good enough to find out what happened to the aircraft before the crash." Pakistan's aviation regulator said help of foreign experts could be sought to examine the recorders if necessary. Witnesses said they saw flames coming from the aircraft after it took off, and it appeared to be tilting to the right. It was the third Fokker Friendship operated by PIA to have crashed since 1970. PIA officials said there were no plans to ground the remaining six Fokkers in the fleet and all of the planes, including the one that crashed, were airworthy. However, airlines' pilots demanded an immediate phasing-out of the Fokkers, which are due to be replaced in any case. PIA is replacing the Fokkers with ATR 42-500 aircraft from Avions de Transport Regional — a joint venture between France-based European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company and Italy's Alenia Aeronautica. One of the new planes has already been delivered and six more are due by mid-2007, PIA spokesman Hasan Jaffery said. — Reuters.

Karachi, Jul 12 — Pakistan government today decided to ground all Fokker aircraft for passenger service by state owned Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) with immediate effect. According to an official statement, the Federal Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, has directed the Ministry of Defence to propose immediately alternate measures to provide air service to remote areas through C-130 or other aircraft. Fokker F 27 flight PF-688 (AP-BAL) of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), crashed on Jul 10, while operating from Multan to Lahore in southern Punjab

Province of Pakistan. About 45 people were killed in the accident. PIA F-27 fleet, is now comprising six aircraft. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **C-FHFL**

London, Jul 11 — At 0900 hrs, Jul 1, the Beech 58P, (C-FHFL), was landing at the Telegraph Creek airstrip (British Columbia) when the nose wheel collapsed after it hit a shallow rut running perpendicular to the soft packed gravel runway. The aircraft skidded forward about 50 feet and remained upright. The pilot and the passenger were not injured, but the aircraft was substantially damaged when the propeller contacted the ground.

#### **C-GWWM**

London, Jul 12 — The Miccar Aerial Ltd. Cessna A188B aircraft, registration C-GWWM, departed Yorkton, Saskatchewan and was enroute to spray Tilt herbicide on a farm located approximately 20 miles northeast of Yorkton. The pilot was in the process of identifying the field to be sprayed. The pilot radioed the company trying to identify the field, then turned west to review additional paperwork to confirm the field location. The aircraft hit trees and crashed in a wooded area west of the farm at 2100, CST, Jul 1. The aircraft incurred substantial damage. The pilot suffered serious injuries but walked to a nearby roadway. When the aircraft failed to return to base, company personnel commenced an aerial and ground search, located the aircraft and transported the pilot to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

#### **COLLISION, LAKE COMO, ITALY**

London, July 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The salvage of the seaplane which sunk yesterday evening after crashing into another plane in the Como Gulf, near Villa Flori, concluded late last night. The accident, which happened at around 2030 hrs, involved a Cessna 172 from the Aeroclub Como as it was landing, and a vintage Caproni Ca 1000 seaplane, built in 1935 and owned by Caproncino. According to reports, the wooden vintage plane, when landing, struck into the wing of the Cassna flown by Fabio Corno, who has not been able to avoid the impact. Fortunately none of those on board, two pilots and two passengers, were injured. The Caproni immediately sunk. Rescue squads and firemen arrived on the scene immediately, in addition to the police.

#### **CRASH INTO NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN**

London, Jul 8 — A report, dated today, states: A S61 crashed near the Canary Islands at 0930 yesterday. It departed from Gran Canaria Airport for a fire fighting mission on La Palma. It crashed 2 1/2 miles out of the coast. According to a maritime officer the S61 did not hit anything before it went down. Four people died and two are missing. Rescue services

were combing the zone for the missing people, using helicopters and lifeboats, a spokeswoman for the emergency centre in Tenerife said.

Tenerife, Jul 10 — A Sikorsky S-61 helicopter fell into the sea close to Roque Bermejo, north eastern point of the island of Tenerife, all 6 people on board have died although the body of the co-pilot has still not appeared. The helicopter, belonging to Helicisa Helicopteros, had been rented by the Spanish Environment Ministry in order to become a back-up for controlling forest fires, left the airport of the island of La Palma at 0810, local time, on Saturday (Jul 8) with destination Gando airport, Gran Canaria, in order to undergo a technical check-up. The people on board were the pilot, co-pilot, maintenance technician, and three forestry engineers/technicians of the Environment Ministry. The helicopter was seen in the sea by a fisherman in the zone who advised of the accident that started the sea and air rescue operation in order to find victims, etc. The National Commission of Air Accidents Investigations has taken measures in order to clear-up the reasons for this accident. One of the two black boxes has been located in the rear part of the fuselage that has been towed to the port of Santa Cruz. Plans are being carried out to take out the rest of the helicopter that is located in the sea at an approximate depth of 700 metres. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CRASH, BLOCK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated Jul 6, states: The three people killed in an aircraft crash on Block Island yesterday have been identified. William P. Homan, his wife, Valerie, and mother, Betty, were killed in the crash of the four-seat private aircraft. A spokeswoman for the state Department of Health says the medical examiner's office found the cause of death was multiple traumatic injuries due to blunt force impact. Federal investigators still aren't sure what caused the aircraft crash. An investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board says Homan owned the aircraft for 15 years.

#### **CRASH, GEORGETOWN, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Texas Authorities say two men escaped serious injury after their small plane crashed into some trees in a Georgetown yard. The single-engine plane ended up — vertical — in the trees. Williamson County officials say the men were trying to land the Piper Warrior Two at Georgetown Municipal Airport when the accident happened yesterday. The plane came to rest in the yard of Gerald Fay, whose wife called 9-1-1 when the couple noticed the two people on board crawling out of the wreckage. The cause of the crash is still to be determined.

**CRASH, GEORGETOWN, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

See N81645.

**CRASH, KIGOMA AREA, TANZANIA**

Dar es Salaam, Jul 12 — A United Nations aircraft flying from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) crashed in Tanzania today, injuring one of five crew members, officials said. The aircraft, a Lockheed 382, was flying into the airport in Kigoma, 1080 kms north-west of the commercial capital Dar es Salaam, when it crashed off one of the airport's runways. "The plane operates between Kigoma, Kisangani (DRC) and other places," Kigoma regional police Commander Patrick Byatao said. "It had a captain and four crew members. One of the crew members was injured and he is receiving treatment." An official from the Tanzania Civil Aviation said the plane was reported to have descended and gone 100 metres off a runway at the airport. The crash took place at about 1515, local time. Byatao said the aircraft belonged to TransAfrica Limited and chartered by the United Nations for flights into DRC. — Reuters.

**CRASH, SAKE AREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated Jul 7, states: At least one person was killed today when a cargo aircraft belonging to private airline Mango Airlines crashed in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, UN-sponsored Okapi radio said. A charred body was pulled from the wreckage of the aircraft by residents of the region of Sake, a village situated around 20 km from Goma, the regional capital of North Kivu, the radio station reported. Officials at Goma airport confirmed the crash of the Antonov aircraft but did not say what caused the aircraft to crash or confirm the final death toll. Director of Goma airport Bikoro Nakaziba said: "The aircraft did not have passengers. We do not yet know how many crewmembers there were. There are apparently no survivors." The aircraft had left Goma shortly after 1400 hrs for Kisangani in the north-east of the country without experiencing problems, he said.

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Russian crew members and one Congolese were killed when a cargo plane crashed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the latest in a series of air crashes in the African nation. The Russian made Antonov-12 aircraft, which is widely used in the Congo, crashed yesterday at about 1600 during a flight from the eastern border town of Goma to Kisangani. Paluku Acille, a senior civil aviation official in Congo's North Kivu province said, We don't know exactly what happened but four crew members were killed when the plane hit a hill. Acille said, rescuers found the plane completely destroyed and the bodies of the three Russian and one Congolese crew members badly

burned. No other people were on board. Friday's accident was the latest in a spate of air crashes over the last year in the vast central African country.

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: Three Russians and two citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo died when Antonov 12 crashed in the east of the country, said an airport spokesperson today, giving an updated toll. "The three Russian crew members, a Congolese agent and a Congolese passenger died. They were the only people on board. There were no survivors," said Bikoro Nakaziba, director of Goma airport in the North Kivu region. Charred corpses were pulled from the aircraft, operated by the DRC private company Mango Airlines, after it had crashed near Sake, about 20 km from Goma. Nakaziba said the cause of the crash was not known but the black box flight recorder had been recovered and its data would be examined. The United Nations-backed Okapi radio station said the aircraft had had engine failure and struck a hill as it lost altitude. It said the aircraft's heavy cargo of vehicle parts and oil drums had caught fire on impact.

**CRASH, TEPIC AREA, MEXICO**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Four children were killed along with the pilot when a small aircraft crashed in western Mexico, emergency official Hugo Huerta said today. The aircraft crashed into a mango field near Tepic, 390 miles north-west of Mexico City, on Saturday (Jul 8). The children were between the ages of 10 and 14 years old. The aircraft crashed just a few minutes after take-off, appearing to drop out of the sky, Huerta said. There was no evidence of mechanical failure and officials were investigating whether something struck the aircraft while it was flying.

**CRASH, TIWI ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft has crashed on take off on the Tiwi Islands, about 80 kilometres north of Darwin. A female pilot was the only person on board the Piper Chieftan, which crashed at the Nguui airstrip on Bathurst Island at about 0900, ACST. The pilot was not hurt but the Australian Transport Safety Bureau says the aircraft, which is owned by Direct Air, is badly damaged. Direct Air's marketing manager Gray Smithe says the company is thankful no one was hurt. "Direct Air's main priority as a company is safety and we're keen to establish what happened and we'll be working with any authorities to try to find out the cause of the problem," he said. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) says there is no obvious cause of the crash. CASA's Michelle Harris says the plane is badly damaged. "At this stage it's not known whether the accident was a result of pilot or technical error," she said. "That's something that will be

determined on further investigation." Police say the runway on Nguui remains closed.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, CEDAR CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A SkyWest Airlines flight traveling from St. George to Salt Lake City had to make an emergency landing at about 1815, tonight when it encountered an oil pressure problem in one of its engines. Sabrena Suite, manager of corporate communications with SkyWest, said the pilots were forced to shut down the left engine and decided to divert the flight to Cedar City Regional Airport. While the aircraft did blow a tyre upon landing, all passengers appeared to be unhurt as they disembarked in Cedar City. The flight was in the air for about 27 minutes, Suite said. The airline is sending a maintenance crew to Cedar City to make repairs, and a different plane was being sent to Cedar City to pick up the passengers.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Jul 9 — A DC-10 aircraft of state owned airline-Biman Bangladesh Airlines made an emergency landing at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong on Jul 7. It was reported the aircraft suffered technical difficulties in one of its landing gears while landing at the airport. It took more than nine hours to rectify the fault which was fixed at about 2310. Later, the aircraft took off from Shah Amanat International Airport for Dubai. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, CRIMEAN PENINSULA, UKRAINE**

London, Jul 11 — An aircraft carrying the Russian Navy chief crash-landed in an airport in Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula after engine failure, Russian news agencies said yesterday. A Tu-134 aircraft carrying a General Naval Staff delegation headed by Chief Commander Admiral Vladimir Masorin who visited the Crimea to watch the exercise of rescue teams of Russia's Black Sea Fleet had an engine failure after takeoff. "The jet took off from Gvardeisky airdrome near Sevastopol. A few minutes after takeoff, one of the engines went faulty and the chief pilot decided to make an emergency landing," a defense source was quoted by the Itar-Tass news agency as saying. An engine caught fire but on one was killed in the incident, the source said. Admiral Masorin was unhurt, but several officers were injured by the fire.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, IRKUTSK, RUSSIA**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An A-350 airliner with 170 passengers on board made emergency landing in Irkutsk at about 0700, Moscow time, today, the regional anti-crisis centre of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said. According to the centre

spokesperson, the crew of the liner en route Moscow-Irkutsk reported to ground services that the plane was depressurised an hour before landing. After that the airliner flew in circles over two hours in order to run out fuel.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SIMFEROPOL, UKRAINE**

London, Jul 11 — A Sibir Airline A-310 airliner has made an emergency landing in the nearby city of Simferopol. The aircraft requested landing in Simferopol in the early morning hours of yesterday because of an engine malfunction, a source at the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry press center was quoted by Interfax. No one was injured, the source added.

#### **F-OGYP**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian Airbus A-310, (F-OGYP) carrying 200 people, many of them holidaymakers, crashed during a domestic flight to Siberia today, killing most of those on board, news agencies said. The Airbus A-310 crashed and exploded into flames after landing in the city of Irkutsk following a 5,000 km night flight from Moscow, emergency services said. A total of 192 passengers and eight crew were on board flight number 778 when it overshot the runway on landing in Irkutsk, and slammed into a concrete wall and buildings nearby at 0250, Moscow time. "Fifty-five of those on board have been taken to hospital. Up to now, 65 bodies have been recovered," a spokeswoman for Russia's emergencies ministry said. Earlier, Interfax news agency quoted a source at the prosecutor's office in Irkutsk as saying only 43 people had been taken to hospital and the rest had perished. The dead included the eight-member crew, Interfax said. Many of those on board were holidaymakers bound for a vacation on Lake Baikal, Itar-Tass news agency said. Only the aircraft's tail section was left intact. Around 600 rescue workers were at the scene. Rescue teams, working in rainy weather and poor visibility, used cutting equipment to recover bodies from the smouldering wreckage. "We can confirm that the aircraft crashed on landing and caught fire," a spokesman for Sibir, the company that operated the aircraft, said.

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian Airbus A-310 (F-OGYP) burst into flames after it crashed on landing in the Siberian city of Irkutsk early today, killing at least 118 people. Russian news agencies said the death toll could be close to 150. Transport Minister Igor Levitin said the crash happened on a wet runway after rain. He told Russian state television Rossiya that the aircraft appeared to have skidded off the runway because of the wet conditions. "The aircraft veered off the runway. There was rain, the landing strip was wet. So we'll have to check the clutch and the technical condition

of the aircraft," he said. The Prosecutor-General's Office said that investigators considered a technical fault or human error as the two most likely versions of the crash, news agencies reported. Rescue workers who were sifting through the wreckage of the aircraft so far had found 118 bodies, said a duty officer at the Ministry's regional branch. Interfax and ITAR-Tass reported that around 150 people had died, quoting a preliminary toll from the regional prosecutor's office and transport ministry. Russian television pictures showed the wreckage of the aircraft, which crashed into one-story garage facilities on the airport perimeter after ploughing through the two-meter high concrete barrier, with a plume of smoke pouring from it. The aircraft came to halt only a short distance away from a number of small residential houses. The Ministry's regional branch said that 54 people were injured in the crash, of whom 47 were hospitalized with burns. It took five emergency services more than two hours to extinguish the flames, Andrianova said. The Ekho Moskvy radio station, quoting local reports, said that about a ton of fuel had remained in the aircraft, causing two explosions. The Transport Minister said that the aircraft's two black boxes had been recovered and were being deciphered. Levitin added that the pilot had radioed ground control to say the aircraft had landed safely and then communication cut off.

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 124 passengers and crew died when a Russian Airbus A-310 (F-OGYP) raced out of control while landing and burst into flames today in the eastern Siberian city of Irkutsk. The Sibir (S7) airline jet arriving from Moscow with 200 people on board overshot the runway at 2244 yesterday, smashed through a concrete fence, struck garages and caught fire. Revising an earlier figure of 55 survivors, prosecutors said 71 people escaped from the wreckage through the rear of the jet, many of them seriously injured. The front of the fuselage was completely destroyed by the blaze, which took firefighters three hours to extinguish. Investigators were trying to establish how the plane went out of control after the pilot told ground controllers that it had landed, said Russian Transport Minister Igor Levitin. "What we do know is that the aircraft shot off the runway in rain," he said, adding that experts would examine the drive mechanism and other systems for faults. Pilot error was also not excluded as a possible cause. One passenger said, the jet set down smoothly after the 5,000-kilometre flight before it rapidly accelerated again and hurtled off the end of the runway. Rescuers searching the wreck for missing persons recovered the flight recorders and sent them to Moscow for examination. The Airbus was carrying an eight-member crew and 192 or 193 passengers, according to conflicting reports. A pilot

was among the survivors. A number of foreigners were among the passengers on flight 778 according to a list published. These included several with Chinese names. The German consulate in Novosibirsk confirmed that one German national survived. Three more unlisted people were also thought to have been on board. The 220-seater jet was built in 1987 and clocked up 52,000 flying hours on more than 10,000 flights, said Airbus, which announced it was sending a team of experts to Russia to assist the investigation.

London, Jul 10 — A press report, dated Jul 9, states: A failure of brakes on a wet runway was the possible cause of the crash of a Russian Airbus A310 (F-OGYP) in Siberia which killed at least 122 people, initial reports suggested. The S7 Airlines flight from Moscow ran out of control after landing at Irkutsk this morning and hit a building. Latest reports said 70 of the 204 on board survived; 12 were still missing. Russian President Vladimir Putin has expressed his condolences to the families of the dead and called for a national day of mourning tomorrow. Many of the passengers were travelling to the nearby popular holiday destination of Lake Baikal. Eight of those confirmed dead were children. The airline said one German, an Azeri and three Chinese were among the dead. The aircraft — operated by S7, known until recently as Sibir Airlines — overshot the runway, crashing through a concrete wall and hitting a building close to the airfield. It then broke up and burst into flames. Transport Minister Igor Levitin said the pilots had reported a successful landing to air traffic controllers but then contact was lost. An official told RIA-Novosti news agency that the aircraft's hydraulic braking system appeared to have failed. "The information we have shows that after landing, when the aircraft put on the thrust reverser, there was a failure in the braking system that led other mechanisms in the system to break down," he said. The deputy director of the Gromov Flight Research Institute, Anatoly Kochur, agreed that failure of the reverser was the most likely cause of the crash. Moisture on the runway may have compounded the problem rendering the aircraft in effect uncontrollable, he told Interfax news agency. The cause of the crash would be established for sure after examination of the two flight recorders, officials said. The cabin was wrecked and passengers had to be evacuated via the rear of the aircraft. Ten of them leapt from the aircraft after a stewardess opened an emergency exit. Others were brought out by rescuers. Most of those treated in hospital had suffered burns. The fire took three hours to put out, authorities said.

London, Jul 10 — Airbus A.310-324, F-OGYP, operated by Sibir Airlines, Sibir flight 778 departed Domodeovo (DME) at night for a flight to Irkutsk (IKT). On board were eight crew



members, 193 passengers and three persons that were not on the flight manifest. Weather at Irkutsk was poor. It was raining, overcast clouds at 600 feet and a thunderstorm in the area. The Airbus landed on runway 30 (concrete, 3165 m / 10343 feet long) but failed to stop on the runway at about 0750, Jul 9. Preliminary reports indicate that the aircraft overran the runway at high speed, collided with a concrete barrier and burst into flames. At 1600, Moscow time, Jul 9, it was reported that 122 bodies have been recovered. Seventy occupants have survived the accident. It is feared that the remaining twelve occupants died in the accident, bringing the presumed death toll to 134.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: One individual who was on board the Airbus A310 (F-OGYP) which crashed at Irkutsk Airport on Sunday (Jul 9) remains unaccounted for, Russian Deputy Transportation Minister Boris Korol, a deputy head of the government commission investigating the incident, said today. The bodies of 21 victims of the crash have been turned over to their relatives, Korol said. In addition, biological samples have been taken from 107 people to carry out a DNA analysis of the remains, he said. At present, 123 bodies and six body parts are at the morgue, he said.

#### **G-BNDO**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft flipped over in a crash-landing in a wheat field. The two-seat aircraft just missed a grain store and power lines last night near Wick Farm, Layer Marney, Essex. The pilot was uninjured and his passenger suffered bruising to his lower abdomen from a seatbelt. They were flying at 1,800 ft when smoke was seen coming from the engine. The men decided to make an emergency landing and managed to avoid buildings and power lines and came down into a crop field. The aircraft nose dug into the ground on landing and it flipped over onto its roof.

London, Jul 12 — Cessna 152, G-BNDO, operated by Simair Ltd., crashed in a field at Layer Marney, Essex, yesterday evening. The two men on board sustained minor injuries.

#### **INCIDENT AT SEATTLE-TACOMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: An Alaska Airlines flight to California was delayed more than three hours today at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport when a jetway used to board the aircraft rose 6 to 12 inches and scraped the body of the aircraft, an airline spokesman said. The device damaged the paint and left a shallow crease in the skin of the MD-80, and maintenance personnel decided to take the aircraft out of operation, said airline spokesman Paul McElroy. There were no injuries. The 60 passengers who

had boarded left the aircraft to wait for another aircraft, he said. The damaged aircraft was taken to an on-site maintenance hangar. Alaska did not have a spare aircraft at the airport at the time, but when a Boeing 737-400 became available a few hours later, the 120 passengers on Flight 464 proceeded to Ontario, Calif. They arrived at their destination about three hours and 20 minutes late, McElroy said. The airline and the Port of Seattle are working to determine what caused the jetway to rise, McElroy said, whether it was a mechanical failure or human error. No one was at the jetway controls when it began to rise, "but an alarm goes off when that happens," and the jetway was lowered by airline staff, he said.

#### **N1800Z**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Federal aviation investigators said they found nothing wrong with the surviving engine parts or propeller of a Beechcraft Bonanza A36TC (N1800Z) which crashed and burned on a residential street last week, killing both men on board. "We know it came down because of a loss of power; why it lost power, we don't know," National Transportation Safety Board investigator Arnold Scott said this week. Scott said the fuel pumps, fuel manifold, most of the aircraft's wiring and other components were destroyed by the fire.

#### **N201GZ**

London, Jul 11 — Mooney M20J, N201GZ, landed gear up at Shelton, Washington at 0321, Jul 9. Damage to the aircraft is substantial.

#### **N3380W**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: Three people were believed to have been killed and two were critically injured after a Piper PA-32 aircraft crashed into a house in north Georgia today, authorities said. The Piper 32 crashed around 1250 hrs, said Union County Sheriff's Lt. Matt Hromalik. The victims had all been on board the aircraft. The aircraft was coming from Hilton Head Island, S.C., and overshot the runway while trying to land at High Valley Airport in Suches, said Laura Brown, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Hromalik said he believed three were killed and two others are in critical condition. One passenger was airlifted to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga, Tenn., while the other was sent to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. The aircraft was registered to MASI, a technology company in Hilton Head, according to the FAA Web site.

London, Jul 11 — Piper PA-32-260 (Cherokee Six) N3380W crashed near Suches, Georgia, at 1650, Jul 8, while on a flight from Hilton Head, South Carolina, to Suches. The aircraft was destroyed. Three of the five persons on board were killed and the other two were seriously injured.

#### **N40ST**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: A small plane crashed and burned this afternoon near Easton, along Interstate 90, killing the pilot, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The male pilot, who was the only person on board, had radioed that he was having difficulty maintaining altitude and was diverting to the Easton airstrip, said Cynthia Emery, an FAA duty officer in Renton. The plane was a Piper PA-31-350 operated by Airpac, a freight line, Emery said. It was flying from Spokane to Boeing Field.

London, Jul 11 — Piper PA 31-350, N40ST, operated by Pioneer Leasing Inc., on a flight from Spokane, Washington, to Seattle, reported engine problems, diverted, and crashed while attempting a forced landing in a residential area at Easton, Washington, at 0045, local time, Jul 11. The one person on board was fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N4780D**

London, Jul 7 — Cessna 182A, N4780D, privately operated, with four persons on board, crashed under unknown circumstances short of the airport at Jackson, Missouri, at 1635, local time, Jul 6. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

#### **N5012S**

London, Jul 6 — Piper PA-28-200R N5012S crashed near Block Island, Rhode Island, at 1925, Jul 5. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

#### **N50CV**

London, Jul 12 — Cessna 560 Citation V, N50CV, operated by River City Flying Service, approached Ravalli County Airport following a 90-minute flight from Visalia (VIS). The pilot attempted to land on runway 34. The Citation could not be stopped on the runway and overran at 1045, Jul 10. The nose gear collapsed and the aircraft came to rest in a marsh, some 100 metres past the runway.

#### **N56824**

London, Jul 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A Piper Cherokee PA-32 that took off from Bend, Ore., with a family of five aboard made an emergency landing about 1425 yesterday on a salt flat near the Great Salt Lake. The aircraft went down in Tooele County, about 19 miles west of Salt Lake City International Airport, said Holly Baker, a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman. No one was injured. A medical helicopter flew a woman and three children from the site, about nine miles west of the Great Salt Lake Marina, to the Million Air terminal at the airport, then returned for the pilot, Tooele County Deputy Eric McCollum said. While the FAA had not determined the reason for the emergency landing, McCollum said the aircraft had a fuel problem. The aircraft's left main gear and left wing tip were slightly damaged, Baker

said. The FAA did not release the names of the pilot or the four passengers. According to FAA records, it is registered to Jeremy Roberts of Taylorsville.

London, Jul 11 — Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six) N56824 made an emergency landing on salt flats west of Salt Lake City, Utah, at 1803, Jul 7, while on a flight to Salt Lake City. The aircraft sustained minor damage. None of the five persons on board was injured.

#### **N78MB**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A small aircraft crashed behind a home in Virginia Beach today, killing both people on board, state police said. No one on the ground was hurt and there was no damage to homes or buildings in the area, not far from Norfolk International Airport, state police spokesman Sgt D.S. Carr said. Dan Foster said he heard the aircraft's engine sputtering before the crash. "It was in trouble. I knew it," Foster told WVEC-TV of Norfolk. "No sooner did I turn around than the aircraft came down through the trees."

London, Jul 12 — Beech 23 Musketeer, N78MB, shortly after take-off, crashed in a residential area at Virginia Beach, Virginia, at 1532, local time, Jul 11. The two persons on board were fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Virginia State Police today continued sifting through the wreckage of a Beechcraft Musketeer 23 (N78MB) that crashed into the backyard of a suburban home yesterday, killing the pilot and a passenger. Leah Yeager, an NTSB investigator based in Arlington, Texas, said she hoped to conclude a preliminary examination of the crash by tomorrow. She said her investigation would not result in any conclusion as to the cause of the crash, but would include factual data about such factors as the mechanical condition of the aircraft, the weather at the time of the crash and the pilot's record. "We do want to make sure we're very thorough in our investigation," Yeager said. "We want to make sure we're looking at all the pieces. We want to see that the entire aircraft is accounted for." A final crash report will be submitted to the governing board of the NTSB within the next six to nine months, Yeager said. A representative of the aircraft's manufacturer, Beechcraft of Wichita, Kansas, and the manufacturer of the aircraft's engine, Lycoming of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, were on the scene this morning to assist in the investigation. The aircraft was based at Landmark Aviation, which provides facilities and services for small private aircraft at Norfolk International Airport, said Wayne Shank, the airport's deputy executive director.

#### **N8025Q**

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated Jul 10, states: A plane crashed this afternoon in the Colorado River north of Lake Havasu. No fatalities are being reported after the single-engine airplane went down in Jopp's Harbor Cove. The crash happened just before 1730 hrs. Radio transmissions from emergency personnel report there was a fire in the cockpit and the pilot ditched the plane in the river. The pilot and a passenger then reportedly escaped just prior to the plane bursting into flame. The Lake Havasu City Fire Department responded to the fire with their fireboat.

London, Jul 11 — Seawind 3000, experimental, N8025Q, with two crew, shortly after departure, reported an in-flight fire and force landed in the Colorado River, three miles southwest of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, at 0020, local time, Jul 10. The aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N8163Q**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A prominent township businessman was seriously injured yesterday when his aircraft crashed in a soybean field in Edgewater, Maryland. The Anne Arundel County Fire Department identified the pilot as Ralph E. Dilks of Upper Township. Dilks flew his single-engine aircraft (N8163Q) out of a fog-shrouded Ocean City early yesterday morning about 107 miles to Lee Airport on the outskirts of Annapolis. But on approach to the runway, his aircraft crashed in a field 100 yards away. Dilks was flying solo. The Anne Arundel County Fire Department said the accident happened at 0943 yesterday. Witnesses told investigators the aircraft, a four-seat Cirrus SR22, was approaching the privately run Lee Airport when it crashed and broke apart 300 feet to the side of the runway. The aircraft was destroyed with debris coming to rest in two sections. Lee Airport was closed for about four hours yesterday. Van Lee, the airport manager, said Dilks filed an instrument flight plan from Ocean City in Cape May County to Edgewater, Md. Federal investigators were on the scene interviewing witnesses. A spokeswoman with the Federal Aviation Administration said the aircraft was registered to a company called Dilks Aircraft based in Marco Island, Fla. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident.

London, Jul 12 — Cirrus SR22, N8163Q, operated by Dilks Aircraft LLC, on flight from Ocean City, New Jersey, to Annapolis, on approach to land, struck a tree and crashed into a field at Annapolis, Maryland, at 1355, Jul 11.

#### **N81645**

London, Jul 11 — Piper PA-28RT-201T, N81645, privately operated, while performing pattern work, lost power and force landed in a

residential area at Georgetown, Texas, at 1926, local time, Jul 10. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

#### **N96758**

London, Jul 9 — A press report, dated Jul 8, states: At least one person was injured this afternoon when a Taylorcraft, BC-12 D Model, N96758, crashed between two homes near Gold Hill Airport. The pilot was taken to Winston-Salem for treatment. A witness on the scene said it appeared the pilot was practicing "touch-and-go" manoeuvres. He said it appeared the pilot had rudder problems and couldn't turn the aircraft.

#### **N9841Q**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A recent graduate of Bowling Green State University piloting an aerial-advertising aircraft (N9841Q) for a Lake Township company was killed this morning when the plane struck power lines, then crashed onto an entrance ramp for US 22 in Steubenville, Ohio. Scott M. Holland, 22, of North Ridgeville in Lorain County, Ohio, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash by Dr. John Metcalf, the Jefferson County, Ohio, coroner. Mr. Holland was flying to Allegheny County Airport near Pittsburgh, apparently with the intention of flying aerial ads over tonight's Major League All-Star Game at PNC Park, said Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla. The single-engine Piper aircraft owned by Drake Aerial Enterprises LLC, doing business as Air America Aerial Advertising, 25228 Bradner Rd., crashed onto the entrance ramp at the John Scott exit of US 22 just west of central Steubenville, Sheriff Abdalla said. No-one else was on the plane and no vehicles on the highway were struck when the aircraft hit the entrance ramp after striking struck power lines above the highway, he said. Sheriff Abdalla said the aircraft took off at 0930 hrs from Toledo Metcalf Field in Lake Township. Investigators found banners for the Hooters restaurant chain and other businesses in the aircraft, Sheriff Abdalla said, but were unable to immediately determine if the FAA had given required clearance for the plane to fly over PNC Park during the All-Star Game. Sheriff Abdalla said the cause of the crash has not yet been determined, but the aircraft had just passed Jefferson County's airport in Wintersville, Ohio, without any indication of problems. The sheriff's office, Ohio Highway Patrol, and FAA are investigating.

London, Jul 12 — Piper PA-18-135, N9841Q, operated by Drake Aerial Enterprises LLC DBA, struck powerlines and crashed at Steubenville, Ohio, at 1545, local time, Jul 11. The one person on board was fatally injured. The aircraft was substantially damaged.



## Product Recalls

### ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 7 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 3, states: Approximately 11,300 Bombardier Model Year 2006 Outlander 650 and 800 ATVs and Can-Am Model Year 2007 Outlander 650 ATVs have been voluntarily recalled by Bombardier Recreational Products, of Quebec, Canada in co-operation with the CPSC. The operator could ride with their foot engaging the rear brake without noticing. This can cause the rear brake to overheat and possibly ignite, posing a risk of serious injury or death. BRP has received eight reports of fire caused by the rear brake overheating and igniting. No injuries have been reported. Bombardier brand Model Year 2006 Outlander 650 and 800 ATVs and Some Can-Am brand Model Year 2007 Outlander 650 ATVs. Serial numbers are located on the front of the ATV on the identification decal. The ATVs were available in yellow, green, red, and camouflage. Manufactured in Canada, the ATVs were sold at Bombardier and Can-Am ATV dealers nationwide from August 2005 through to June 2006 for between \$7,900 and \$10,400.

### CANDLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 7 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 5, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Home Fragrance Holdings Inc., Houston, Texas, today announced a voluntary recall of the approximately 413,000 Cement Candles. The candles can unexpectedly flare, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Home Fragrance Holdings, Inc. has received nine reports from Pier 1 Imports of incidents involving flaring of the candles. No injuries reported. The recalled candles are cylindrical pillars, with a sand layered base. The recalled models are the Cement Aspen Flower (White), SKUs 2115564, 2115577,

2115592; Cement Downpour (Grey), SKUs 2118150, 2118176, 2118189; Cement Biscotti (Khaki), SKUs 2115523, 2115536, 2115549; and Cement Citrus Cilantro (Green), SKUs 2115499, 2115508, 2115510. Manufactured in Guatemala, the candles were sold by Pier 1 Imports through its retail stores nationwide, its web site ([www.pier1.com](http://www.pier1.com)) and its Summer 2006 catalogue from February 2006 through to May 2006 for between \$10 and \$20.

### COMPUTER STORAGE DEVICES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 7 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 6, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Lexar Media Inc., of Fremont, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of the approximately 66,000 Lexar JumpDriveÆ FireFly and 1GB Secure II. The recalled JumpDrivesÆ FireFly and Secure II products could overheat, posing a risk of burns to consumers and property damage. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The recalled drives are high speed flash drives used to store, transfer and carry data from one computer to another. This recall only includes Lexar JumpDriveÆ FireFly which is sold in various colours, and Lexar JumpDriveÆ Secure II 1GB which has a metallic silver housing. "Lexar" is embossed on the front of the plastic housing and the capacity is marked on the back. The part number is located on the FireFly's packaging, and on the back of the Secure II 1GB drive. Manufactured in China, the recalled JumpDriveÆ Firefly drives were sold at discount department, office supply, and electronics stores, and by Web retailers, including [www.lexar.com](http://www.lexar.com), between April and May 2006 for between \$30 and \$110. The recalled JumpDriveÆ Secure II 1GB drive was sold exclusively at Fry's Electronics in May 2006 for about \$80.

### GAS FIREPLACES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 7 — The following press release issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 5, states: Approximately 1,550 Heat & Glo Twilight II and IIB Gas Fireplaces have been voluntarily recalled by Heat & Glo, of Lakeville, Minn., in co-

operation with the CPSC. Temperatures in the framing header area above these fireplaces can get too high, posing a fire hazard. Heat & Glo has received a report of one incident resulting in property damage that may be related to this hazard. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves the Heat & Glo Twilight II and IIB indoor/outdoor see-through gas fireplaces. The model name, Twilight II or IIB, can be found by looking at the bottom right side of the inside of the control compartment of the inside portion of the fireplace. Manufactured in Canada, the recalled products were sold by fireplace stores and distributors nationwide from July 2005 through to April 2006 for about \$3,700.

### TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Toyota is recalling about 157,000 Indiana-built pickups because they lack a major safety feature. The recall applies to 2003-2005 model year Tundra pickups that allow drivers to shut off front passenger airbags. The airbag, which can harm a small child, is turned off when a child in a safety seat sits in the front. But the front seats of the Tundra Access Cab models lack anchors for attaching child safety seats. "They totally forgot to design that into the front seat for that particular cab design," said Toyota spokesman Bill Kwong. Under National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regulations, airbag deactivation switches are only allowed for vehicles with car-seat anchors in front seats. Kwong said Toyota will disable the deactivation switch in the vehicles. Installing anchors in all vehicles would require replacing the seats, he said.

## Port Conditions



### SYRIA

Aleppo, Jul 9 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and three 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
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	19-07-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 11 vessels due by 10/8; there will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 15/8 to 07.00 21/8; no vessels will be loaded during this period.
Brisbane	19-07-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 12/8. Grain: 1 vessel due 28/7 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	19-07-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 2 vessels waiting; 1 vessel due 13/8; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel waiting; 2 vessels due by 17/7; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 12 vessels waiting; 32 vessels due by 1/8.
Dampier	19-07-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 10 vessels due by 4/8; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 11 vessels due by 24/7; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel due 17/7; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 7 vessels due by 29/7.
Esperance	19-07-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel waiting; 1 vessel due 23/7.
Geraldton	19-07-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel anchored; 4 vessels due by 1/8.
Gladstone	19-07-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 17 waiting; 37 vessels due by 4/9; shiploader 2 will be shut down for repairs and maintenance from 00.01 on 17/7 to 23.59 on 20/7; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 9 vessels due by 15/10; shiploading operations will be shut down for maintenance from 10-15/7.
Hay Point	19-07-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 7 vessels due by 22/7; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 4 vessels due by 19/7; there will be a maintenance shutdown from 24/7 to 2/8: 1 vessel due 22/7, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	17-07-2006	Jul 17: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 12 waiting; 36 vessels due by 9/8; 6-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 12 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 17 vessels due by 8/8; 7-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 4 vessels off port awaiting coal. Jul 19: Five vessels due by 22/7, all to load wheat; 2-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	19-07-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels due by 26/7; a 40 hour shutdown for shiploader maintenance is underway; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels due by 23/7; 7 other vessels due by 12/8, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel waiting; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 5 vessels due by 25/7; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 20/7.
Port Kembla	17-07-2006	Jul 17: Coal: 13 vessels due by 15/8.
Port Walcott	19-07-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and completed loading, 1 loading; 6 vessels waiting; 13 vessels due by 6/8; shippers currently experiencing shortage of product, which will affect berthing schedules.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheron	17-07-2006	Oil products: Three vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 kerosene, 1 gasoil); 1 vessel due 17/7 to discharge crude oil.
Baku	17-07-2006	Oil products: Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; no vessels; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	17-07-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (2 coils, 1 copper anodes, 1 gasoil), 6 discharging (1 scrap, 1 billets, 1 salt, 2 coal, 1 copper concentrate); 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load coils, 1 to discharge coils; 7 vessels due, of which 2 to load (1 steel sheets, 1 rebars), 5 to discharge (1 steel sheets, 1 manganese ore, 1 iron ore, 2 copper concentrate).
Varna	17-07-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 10-16 July: Thirty-three vessels in port operating of which 18 loading (1 cigarettes in packing cases, 1 bulk barley, 2 bulk maize, 1 packed hardboard, 1 bulk wheat, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 2 soda, 1 bulk cement, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 scrap, 1 chamotte/silica sand, 1 chamotte/kaolin, 1 kaolin, 1 TSP), 7 discharging (4 bulk coal, 1 raw phosphate, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 containers/equipment in packing cases), 8 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Laranaca	18-07-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; no vessels due 19/7; no delays expected.
Limassol	18-07-2006	Seven container vessels discharging/loading at berth; 2 container vessels, 4 passenger vessels due 19/7; no delays expected.

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

## Port Conditions

### Estonia

Tallinn 17-07-2006 Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): Two vessels discharging at berth (1 malt, 1 other), no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 6 days berthing delay expected.

### Georgia

Batumi 17-07-2006 Oil products: Two vessels loading at berth (1 crude oil, 1 naphtha); 1 vessels in roads to load gasoil; 8 vessels due by 31/7, all to load (4 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 kerosene, 2 fuel oil).  
 Poti 17-07-2006 Oil products: Port open; 2 vessels due by 20/7, both to load (1 gasoil, 1 jet fuel/kerosene).  
 Supsa 17-07-2006 Oil products: Port open; 3 vessels due by 30/7, all to load crude oil.

### India

Kolkata 17-07-2006 7 vessels working at berth discharging (Containers-4, Logs, Passenger, General Cargo), 1 vessels waiting to discharge Edible Oil; 4 vessels under repair; 2 vessels under dry docked; 3 vessels due ( Logs, Lubricant Oil, General Cargo).  
 Haldia 17-07-2006 14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading ( Iron Ore-3, POL, Steel), 8 vessels discharging ( Coke-3, Net Coke, Met Coke-2, Soya, POL ), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 9 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 1 to discharge, 8 to load), 1 vessel waiting at anchorage( 1 to load, 1 to discharge); 6 vessels due ( Iron Ore, Containers, LPG, Crude, Thermal Coal, Rock Phosphate).  
 Paradip 17-07-2006 6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading ( Iron Ore, Thermal Coal), 4 vessels discharging ( Coking Coal, Lime Coke, Rock Phosphate, Phosphoric Acid); 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 1 to discharge, 3 to load), 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge ; 22 vessels due.  
 Vizag 17-07-2006 12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading ( Thermal Coal, POL Product, B.F. Slag), 8 vessels discharging ( Coking Coal-3, Iron Ore, Crude Oil, Steam Coal, Rock Phosphate, Sulphur), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage ( 2 to discharge, 3 to load ); 33 vessels due ( Iron Ore-5, Steel Cargo, Food Grains-2, Product Tankers, Urea, Coking Coal-9, Passengers, Containers-3, Timber, Anthracite Coal, Petroleum Coke, Methanol, Bauxite, Caustic Soda, Crude & Product Tankers-4).  
 Chennai 17-07-2006 13 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading ( Granite Block-2, Sugar, Molasses, IOL, Iron Ore, Furance Oil), 4 vessels discharging (Steam Coal-3, Met Coke), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load ; 7 vessels due (Naphtha, Research, IOL, Cars, Passenger, Palm Oil & Containers).  
 Tuticorin 17-07-2006 11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Sugar, General Cargo-3 ), 7 vessels discharging ( Logs, Thermal Coal-2, MOP, Rock Phosphate, DAP); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.  
 Cochin 17-07-2006 2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Furance Oil, 1 vessel discharging Crude.  
 New Mangalore 17-07-2006 8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Iron Ore Fines-3, POL Product), 4 vessels discharging ( Containers, Urea, LPG, POL Crude); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage ( 1 to discharge, 4 to load); 20 vessels due (POL Product-4, POL Iron Ore Fines-8, Crude S. B. Oil, LPG, POL Product, Coal, Ammonia, Crude Palm Oil, Granite Stone ).  
 Mormugao 17-07-2006 3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading ( Iron Ore-2, Steel Slabs), 2 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 4 vessels under dry docked; 4 vessels due (Alumina, Coking Coal, Met Coke, Soft Coking Coal ).  
 Mumbai 17-07-2006 21 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Bagged Sugar-2, Steel Cargo-3, POL), 10 vessels discharging (Steel Cargo-2, Peas in bulk, Plywood, Project Cargo, Palm Oil, Base Oil, MOP, POL-2), 5 vessels loading and discharging (Containers/ Steel, Project Cargo, Steel Cargo-2, Containers); 2 vessels discharging at midstream POL; 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load and discharge; 15 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 39 vessels under laid up ( Berths not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due ( Contaners-7, Oil, General Cargo-23).  
 J.N.P.T. 17-07-2006 9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging Phosphoric Acid, Lubricant Oil, 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers.  
 Kandla 17-07-2006 15 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Salt, Rice, Pipes, Sugar ), 10 vessels discharging ( POL, Chemical-2, DSBO, Phosphoric Acid, St. Oils-2, Iron Scrap, Timber Logs, Steel Pipes), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 2 vessels discharging at midstream ( Timber Logs, St. Cargo); 10 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 5 to load, 5 to discharge), 14 vessels not ready to work at anchorage ( 7 to discharge, 7 to load); 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel for towing.

### Kazakhstan

Aktau 17-07-2006 Oil products: Three vessels at berth, all loading crude oil; 3 vessel in roads, all to load; 2 vessels due by 17/7, both to load.

### Pakistan

Karachi 17-07-2006 Eleven vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 2 general cargo, 1 peas, 3 sugar, 2 urea, 1 DAP, 1 MAP), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 2 containers, 1 SBM, 1 palm oil); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked; 1 container vessel due, with no berthing delays expected.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.

## Port Conditions

Port Qasim	17-07-2006	One cement vessel loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 HSD, 1 palm oil, 1 iron ore), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 3 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 canola, 1 sugar, 1 palm oil, 1 HSD, 1 chemicals).
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	17-07-2006	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (1 cement, 1 WRIC, 1 DRI, 1 wheat, 3 steel billets, 1 steel sheets, 1 slabs, 1 barley, 1 aluminium), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads; 62 vessels due, of which 60 to load (5 slabs, 3 DRI, 11 steel billets, 4 wheat, 2 cellulose, 2 pig-iron, 2 scrap, 2 barley, 1 steel billets/WRIC, 1 HBI, 2 coils, 1 WRIC/steel sheets/pipes, 4 aluminium, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 4 copper, 1 pipes/wire rods, 1 slabs/wire rods/steel sheets, 2 diesel oil, 1 H-beams/steel billets, 1 bulk NPK, 1 zinc/copper, 1 H-beams/tin plate/steel sheets/pipes, 1 bulk NPK/bulk fertiliser, 1 WRIC, 1 vegetable oil, 1 bulk cement, 1 steel billets/lead, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk NPK, 1 UAN solution), 2 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 debars); Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed, loading crude oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 3 tankers due, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	18-07-2006	Port working normally; Seven vessels at berth of which 3 loading (1 general cargo, 2 grain/coal), 3 bulk carriers discharging cement/minerals, 1 vessel discharging/loading containers; 26 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 12 to load (6 steel products/sawn timber/paper products/general cargo, 4 coal,) 2 Ro/Ros to load trailers/general cargo), 5 bulk carriers to discharge coal/ore/grain, 2 tankers to discharge mineral oils, 7 to discharge/load
<b>Spain</b>		
Bilbao	18-07-2006	Twenty-four vessels operating (1 tanker, 24 other vessels), of which 5 loading, 14 discharging, 5 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	18-07-2006	Twenty-one vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 bulk fertiliser, 1 cement, 1 machinery), 16 discharging (11 steel products, 3 gas, 1 fruit, 1 machinery), 2 loading/discharging (1 steel products, 1 logs); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	17-07-2006	Cargo operations at Sri Lanka Ports Authority operated berths are at present experiencing a "work to rule" by port workers which started 13/7. Delays are affecting all port users. 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 at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Five container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 2 bulk cement); 11 container vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked; 6 container/feeder vessels due, with 1-2 days delay expected.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Turkmenbashi	17-07-2006	Oil products: Port open; Three vessels loading at berth (1 gasoline, 2 fuel oil); 4 oil vessels in roads of which 3 to load (1 fuel oil, 1 gasoline, 1 other), 1 fuel oil vessel suspended; 2 vessels due by 18/7 to load. .
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Illichevsk	17-07-2006	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (4 steel products, 2 iron ore concentrate, 1 sulphur), 1 discharging nickel ore, 1 loading/discharging containers; 5 vessel in roads, of which 4 to load (2 steel products, 1 pellets, 1 ferro nickel), 1 to load/discharge containers; 12 vessels due, of which 4 to load steel products, 1 to discharge tropical oil, 7 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	17-07-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 8 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 sunflower beans/husks; 17 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 14 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/kaolin; 59 vessels due, of which 55 to load (30 steel, 10 coal, 10 fire-clay, 1 pitch, 1 ammonium nitrate, 2 kaolin, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 3 to discharge (1 heavy lift cargo/containers, 2 equipment), 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay.
Odessa	17-07-2006	Nineteen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (2 scrap, 5 metal, 1 pig-iron), 6 discharging (3 luggage, 1 citrus, 1 wheat, 1 sand), 2 discharging/loading containers, 3 passenger vessels; 3 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 wheat, 1 metal), 1 to load/discharge containers; 79 vessels due, of which 43 to load (38 metal, 1 pig-iron, 2 scrap, 1 ferro alloy, 1 coal), 5 to discharge (1 metal, 2 bananas, 1 ore, 1 general cargo), 31 to discharge/load containers.

**Published by Lloyd's MIU, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.**

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

**Copyright © Lloyd's MIU, an Informa business This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.**

**ISSN 0047 4908**

**If subscribers wish to purchase records for networkable or shared use within their company they can contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.**

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

**A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.**