

Strike hits Vancouver hard

Port's reputation for reliability has been badly damaged, writes Leo Ryan — Tuesday July 19 2005

AS A Vancouver truckers' strike entered its fourth week with no resolution in sight, Captain Gordon Houston, president and chief executive of Canada's largest port, said the impact of the dispute was now nationwide and was "damaging the reputation of the Port of Vancouver as a reliable gateway".

His warning came on the heels of a failed second attempt at mediated talks between some 1,000 truckers, mainly owner-operators, and 46 trucking firms since a strike began on June 27. Major shippers are also showing increasing concern.

The truckers are seeking markedly higher revenues to offset soaring fuel costs.

Refusing

Railways in other parts of Canada are refusing to load marine containers that are destined for the Vancouver market. Shipping lines are also holding back goods destined for Vancouver from as far away as Europe, Capt Houston said.

Last weekend, one container terminal, Centerm, operated by P&O Ports, stopped accepting local truck-bound cargo to leave enough space to handle still-flowing long-haul rail shipments. Later this week, TSI Terminals, which operates the Vanterm and Deltaport facilities, is expected to follow suit.

Even rail traffic, which accounts for 60% of movements in and out of Vancouver and nearby Fraser River Port,

could become congested within a few days, observers consider.

Whereas there have been no ship diversions thus far, Canadian cargo diversions to such US Pacific Northwest ports as Tacoma and Seattle are increasing.

Capt Houston expressed regret that some shippers "are looking at diverting cargo on a permanent basis".

Alternatives

Confirming this eventuality Brian Gerrior, a national manager with Sears Canada, said the big retailer was looking at other alternatives, including East Coast ports, despite the longer sea voyage for goods from Asia.

"The word on the street is that Vancouver is unstable in regard to its overall labour force," Mr Gerrior remarked.

Last year, Vancouver port activity was hit by two labour disruptions, one through a one-month strike across Canada by CN railway workers and the other through a one-week strike by west coast tug and barge operators.

Sears has started to ship its inbound cargo by rail to Calgary and Toronto, rather than by truck to its distribution centre in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. Goods bound for Vancouver are trucked back from Calgary.

Other large retailers are adopting or exploring a similar logistics approach.

"The negative impact will get much worse as we head into the high season," Chris Badger, vice president, operations,

for the Vancouver Port Authority, told Lloyd's List. "When the strike action was launched, it was during a traditional slow season."

The Port of Vancouver, which handled a record 1.66m teu last year, estimates that C\$30m (US\$24m) worth of goods are normally transported to and from the port each day.

Meanwhile, five trucking companies and three major customers, including Hudson's Bay Company and Westfair Foods, have filed court actions, but no court dates have yet been set.

The lawsuits claim that the Vancouver Container Truck Association has interfered with contractual relations and is engaged in intimidation. It is also alleged that the Association is conspiring to breach price fixing rules under federal competition laws.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AKBAR	passenger	IND	IR	8,279	8,820	1971	Reported Jul 7 grounded at Chennai for the past three days due to engine trouble. Understand vessel has engine breakdown and not aground. Repairs are being carried out at Port Blair.
ASTRA SEA	general	CYP	LR	9,475	11,587	1980	Vessel ran aground just outside Lisbon Jul 11. LOF signed with Wijsmuller Salvage. Refloated Jul 12 with assistance of tugs. Vessel being stabilised and inspection will be performed by salvage team. Redelivered to owners.
AUTOFREIGHTER	vehicle carrier	PMD	LR	5,927	1,313	1977	Anchored in lat 51 06.36N, long 01 40.31E, Jul 8 with main engine defect. Towed to a position off Dover by <i>Anglian Monarch</i> and anchored. Vessel's crew carried out repairs and sailed Jul 9.
DILAY	general	VCT		6,030	8,750	1980	Reported not under command following mechanical failure Jul 12. Vessel anchored at Karistos Bay Jul 14.
MR-I	wine tanker	IDN	—	3,570	5,030	1970	In collision with <i>NCC Madinah</i> at Tanjung Perak Jul 6. Vessel sustained hull and cabin damages. One person was killed, three injured and one missing. Still at Tanjung Perak Jul 14. Vessel will effect repairs at Semarang.
NABAH	asphalt tanker	GEO	BV	692	1,329	1981	Vessel in distress due list, starboard side under water in lat 26 48.3N, long 52 51.7E, Jul 8. Crew rescued. Vessel still afloat and salvage vessel proceeding to casualty.
NCC MADINAH	chem tanker	NIS	NV	17,561	28,060	1976	Vessel was in collision with wine tank <i>Mr-I</i> at Tanjung Perak Jul 6. Vessel is being held by local authorities there and will require drydocking for repairs to its bow on its release. Still at Tanjung Perak Jul 14.
ORIENT PROSPERITY	container	IND	IR	5,209	7,120	1979	Taken to Karachi Jul 7 after encountering rough seas. Experienced water ingress and developed 13-deg list to port. Lost 10 containers overboard. Secured alongside East Wharf Berth No 3. Vessel righted Jul 11, ETD Jul 14.
ORLA	bulker	MLT	PR	11,848	17,064	1999	Grounded north of Stag Island, St. Clair River, MI, Jul 8 due to steering problems. Refloated and alongside at Davidson, Michigan. No damage.
SIBEL	general	TUR	—	237	—	—	Vessel grounded near Canakkale while transiting Dardanelles at Jul 13. Vessel refloated by its own means and upon inspection anchored at Karanlik Liman same day.
SPP-13	pontoon	RUS	RS	183	125	1984	Vessel reported missing in a storm in the Sea of Okhotsk previous Jul 11. Search is under way for vessel and 10 crew members. Six crew members found.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGANDA 7 (Indonesia)

See "Malaysia" under "Piracy."

AIS NIKOLAS (Greece)

Port Said, Jul 10 -- Bulk Ais Nikolas entered the Suez Canal Floating Dock on Jul 5 in order to carry out repairs. The vessel left the dock on Jul 9 and is currently anchored near the dock. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AKBAR (India)

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of passengers bound for the Andamans have been stranded in Chennai for the last three days after passenger ro/ro Akbar (8279 gt, built 1971), bound for Andamans, was grounded due to engine trouble. The cancellation of the vessel's services put its passengers, who had come from various parts of Tamil Nadu and other States to severe hardship. One of them, Selvam, who had booked a ticket for the Jul 4 trip, described the three-day wait as an ordeal and lambasted officials concerned for not providing food and water or making arrangements for their accommodation. "We've been sleeping on the premises of the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). Some passengers have even taken over the pavements," he lamented. There were few chances of the passengers being accommodated in the next ship scheduled to set sail on Jul 7. "The authorities are saying that the tickets for the next ship have almost been sold out and we don't know what to do next," said Aslam Khan, who was stranded there with his wife and two children. Meanwhile, officials of the Shipping Corporation of India expressed their inability to help these passengers. One of them even said it was not their responsibility to make any alternative arrangements. An official of the Andaman administration in Chennai said "we are trying to ensure that most of these passengers get a berth in the next trip." He, however, hastened to add that the vessel can carry only 1,200 passengers.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A section of the people who were left stranded for about three days in Chennai after passenger ro/ro Akbar, bound to Andaman, was cancelled due to an engine snag, left for Andaman today. The authorities managed to send some of them in passenger ro/ro Swaraj Dweep, which left for Andaman today. They also said requests were being made for another vessel, passenger Harsha Vardhana, to send the remaining people. According to officials of the Andaman Administration, they had managed to accommodate the maximum capacity of passengers Swaraj Dweep could

hold. "Others have been issued tokens to book tickets in the forthcoming departures," one of the officials said. He also said he they had requested with the higher authorities concerned for Harsha Vardhana to despatch the other people "who have been requested to go back to their native places". "For, most of them are transit passengers who have come to board the ship from Chennai", officials said. Swaraj Dweep left for Andaman from Chennai. But still, about 2000 of them are yet to be transported, an officer said and added they will be sent in batches.

Chennai, Jul 13 -- Passenger ro/ro Akbar, plying between Chennai and Port Blair: Owners are the state owned M/s. Shipping Corporation of India. Our enquiries revealed that the vessel is not grounded but has main engine breakdown. The vessel is presently "laid off" and repairs are being carried out to the main engines. Before sailing to Chennai the engine trouble arose at Port Blair. The vessel has not returned to Chennai and is still at Port Blair. Tickets that were issued for return passengers from Chennai to Port Blair were refunded suggesting the process of repairs would take some time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALANDSFARJAN (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Jul 7 -- Passenger ro/ro Alandsfarjan (6172 gt, built 1972), which struck the pier upon arrival at Mariehamn terminal on Tuesday evening (Jul 5), has been taken out of service for repairs. The vessel contacted the berth on arriving at the Viking Line pier, Mariehamn, sustaining damage. One person was injured and taken to hospital. A number of cars on board sustained dents and scratches. Later the same evening the vessel returned to Kapellskar, outside Turku, with no passengers on board in order to effect repairs. The technical manager did not know the cause of the incident. Viking Line re-booked other passengers to maintain the service. The vessel will reportedly return service as from tonight, sailing from Kapellskar at 2030 hrs for Mariehamn. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

ARCTIC (Bahamas)

Vigo, Jul 13 -- Ref Arctic (3526 gt, built 1983), while undergoing docking operations at Vigo today, collided with a mussel raft causing damages to the raft and vessel's propeller blade. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARROYOFRIO UNO (Madeira)

See Maineborg.

ASTRA SEA (Cyprus)

Ymuiden, Jul 12 -- Svitzer Wijismuller Salvage B.V. refloated the grounded and partly loaded general cargo Astra Sea (9475 gt, built 1980) this morning, after it had run aground just in front of the city of Lisbon, Portugal. The vessel grounded yesterday evening (Jul 11) just south of Lisbon and ended up considerably 'out of draft' at the

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port entrance of Lisbon. In total four SvitzerWijsmuller tugs from Lisbon, the Groningen, Brabant, Montada and Montevil, immediately came to the assistance and an LOF-SCOPIC contract was agreed master-to-master in order to provide the necessary assistance. A salvage team from The Netherlands further was sent in immediately to assist, while on-site co-ordination initially was in hands of one of SvitzerWijsmuller's senior towmasters. This morning at a favourable tide the vessel was subsequently refloated at 0535, local time, using the SvitzerWijsmuller tugs Groningen, Brabant and Montada with the Montevil remaining on standby. The vessel is now being stabilised and a diving inspection will be performed by the salvage team prior to further movements with the vessel. -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

Ymuiden, Jul 12 -- SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV has at 1700, local time, today redelivered general cargo Astra Sea back to its owners after it berthed at the port of Lisbon for cargo discharge. -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

AUDACE A. (Italy)

Naples, Jul 12 -- Fishing Pedre Pio is still lying sunk, and is not expected to be salvaged. Only two of the vessel's three crew members have been recovered. Chemical/oil carrier Audace A. is still under arrest at Naples, as inquiries are continuing. The vessel reportedly sustained no damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AURA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maasluis, Jul 11 -- Bulk Sea Bailo (17172 gt, built 1998), departing, and general cargo Aura (2416 gt, built 1992), shifting, were in collision in the River Schelde near Boudewijnsluis, at 1545, local time, today. Sea Bailo, which sustained damage with starboard forward cracked, returned to quay 407 for investigation etc. Aura, which sustained damage port side near bridge, returned to quay 405 for investigation etc. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Sea Bailo had arrived Antwerp 0227, Jul 5, and Aura had arrived Antwerp 1540, Jul 10.)

AUTOFREIGHTER (Madeira)

London, Jul 8 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 1914, UTC: Vehicle Autofreighter (5927 gt, built 1977), Le Havre for Tees, in ballast, 15 persons on board, is anchored in lat 51 06.36N, long 01 40.31E with a main engine defect. Tug Anglian Monarch tasked to standby. (Note -- Autofreighter arrived Le Havre Jul 7, ETA at Tees was 1700, Jul 9.)

London, Jul 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 0738, UTC: Vehicle Autofreighter was towed to a position off Dover by tug Anglian Monarch, and anchored at 0200, UTC. The vessel's crew are currently carrying out repairs, ETC unknown.

London, Jul 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 1515, UTC: Vehicle Autofreighter

effected repairs and sailed from anchored position at about 1000, bound for Tees.

BETATANK II (Liberia)

Gothenburg, Jul 7 -- Product tanker Betatank II, with around 47,000 tons of diesel oil on board as cargo, which had a fire in the engine-room approximately three nautical miles east of Hirsholmerne outside Fredrikshavn early Jul 6, has been forbidden to leave by the Danish Shipping authorities. The fire occurred during "a STS-operation", where vessel discharged oil to a barge/tanker. The Rescue centre at Fredrikshavn Fire Department gave notice to SOK Aarhus that the fire was out shortly before 0315. The cause of fire was "an overheated generator" where wires inside the box melted down. Support Mette Miljo departed and heading for the position in order to assist if any leakage and oil spillage at the place of incident. The Betatank II will only get permission to depart after the Inspectorate from Shipping Board have checked and confirmed that the vessel is safe and in operational standard. The vessel will remain in position, at anchor, until further notice. The Mette Miljo is still around for safety. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jul 11 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1045, UTC: Product tanker Betatank II is still at anchor at Frederikshavn Roads awaiting release. Some repairs to the wiring have been carried out.

Aalborg, Jul 11 -- Product tanker Betatank II is still anchored outside Frederikshavn, and is unable to sail under its own power. The vessel has also been prohibited from sailing by its Classification Society until repairs are completed to their satisfaction. The repairs are in progress. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 13 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: Product tanker Betatank II has been released. Vessel will probably remain at anchor for another two days.

BUCCANEER (U.S.A.)

Anchorage, Jul 12 -- Anchorage Marine Safety Office report: At 1845, Jun 4, fishing Buccaneer was safely moored at the Western Alaska Fisheries dock, Kodiak, Alaska. The damage to the vessel was minor, consisting of minor scrapes and scratches. No major repairs are planned for the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BUNGA MAS TUJUH (Malaysia)

Dalian, Jul 14 -- Tanker Qian Dao You No.1 is currently berthed at Xingang, Dalian, and c.c. Bunga Mas Tujuh is at Dalian anchorage. Damage to the vessels is not reported to be serious. Bunga Mas Tujuh has completed repairs, while repairs to Qian Dao You No.1 have not commenced. Port authorities are carrying out clean-up operations on the spilled oil, and no oil is currently visible on the surface. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CASITAS (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 8 -- A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Jul 7, states: The Unified Command continues to monitor pollution control vessel Casitas. A Coast Guard Air Station Barber's Point C-130 Hercules aircraft transported thr Casitas crew and scientific personnel to Oahu yeasterday morning. The Coast Guard National Strike Force Team Pacific, a team that specializes in marine environmental response, has been conducting assessments on board Casitas since yesterday. Coast Guard cutter Walnut is expected to depart Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge today and arrive at Casitas tomorrow morning. Walnut will conduct assessments and, if possible, prepare to remove the fuel onboard Casitas. The owners of Casitas have hired a dive company to conduct hull assessments tomorrow. Coast Guard C-130 aircrafts have continued their daily over flights to monitor the scene for any new developments. There was no discernable sheen on the water today.

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pollution control vessel Casitas, that has leaked fuel in the north-western Hawaiian Islands, is in prime Hawaiian monk seal habitat, but scientists have not seen any endangered animals with oil on them. Within three miles of where the vessel was grounded early last Saturday (Jul 2), there are an estimated 200 adult monk seals and 30 to 40 young pups, said John Naughton, a spokesman for the National Marine Fisheries Service, which has jurisdiction to protect monk seals in the ocean. Scientists studying the seals at summer camps on the remote islands have not reported any sign of pollution from the 145-foot vessel reaching the animals, Naughton said yesterday at a multiagency news conference about rescue efforts. In daily flights over Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Coast Guard staff have not reported any sheen on the water to indicate possible petroleum leakage since Sunday (Jul 3), when a 500-yard sheen was reported. Now that the 23 people who were aboard the Casitas have been rescued, the top priority is to try to keep the 32,000 gallons of fuel and oil aboard from leaking further, representatives of the Coast Guard and other federal agencies said yesterday. "So far, so good," said Coast Guard Capt. Manson Brown, on-scene coordinator of the rescue effort. Attempts to remove the fuel from the Casitas to the Coast Guard Cutter Walnut, which arrived at the scene early yesterday, could begin as soon as today, Brown said. But how long it takes depends on several factors, including the weather, he said. If all goes well, the fuel and oil could be removed in several days, Brown said. But getting the vessel off the reef could take a month to 45 days. The Casitas is stuck in four to 11 feet of water and listing to its port side, said Gary "Skip" Naftel, agent for Casitas owner Fishing Vessel Northwind Inc.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard has begun removing fuel and oil from pollution control vessel Casitas that ran aground in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands a week ago. The Coast Guard cutter Walnut started removing the fuel yesterday morning and by early afternoon had unloaded more than 10 percent of the diesel fuel from the vessel. The tug American Quest was to be on scene today to assist the crew of the Walnut with the fuel unloading. The Coast Guard is removing the fuel to lighten the Casitas so it can be removed from the reef. Coast Guard C-130 aircraft are continuing daily flights to monitor the scene for any new developments. There has been no discernible sheen on the water since Monday (Jul 4). US Fish and Wildlife Service observers aboard the Walnut have reported no oiled wildlife within the immediate area of the Casitas. A dive company is conducting a hull assessment on the grounded vessel.

Honolulu, Jul 12 -- A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Jul 11, states: The Unified Command continues to monitor pollution control vessel Casitas. The Unified Command is still in phase one of its operation plan to lighten (remove fuel and oil) Casitas. The Coast Guard cutter Walnut's crew completed the lightening of the diesel fuel on board Casitas today. Vessel American Quest is on scene and is assessing a plan for the removal of the rest of the miscellaneous oils from Casitas. Due to the complexity of the spaces, this evolution will take considerably longer than the removal of the diesel fuel. Phase two will be to remove Casitas from the reef. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service observers on board Walnut have reported no oiled wildlife within the immediate area of Casitas.

Honolulu, Jul 13 -- Pollution control vessel Casitas is still hard aground on Pearl & Hermes Reef. The Coast Guard buoy tender Walnut pumped most of the diesel off the vessel during the past two days. Walnut is returning to Honolulu at this time. Tug American Quest is on the scene and the local environmental clean up company, PENCO is removing the remainder of the diesel, along with lube and hydraulic oils, etc. The American Marine Barge 240 with winches is currently under way to Midway Atoll, where she will be rigged for extraction, once Casitas is considered clean. The barge is due arrive in Midway Jul 15. All crew members, including NOAA and University of Hawaii personnel were pick up and transported to Midway by the NOAA ship Oscar Elton Sette, where a C-130 transported them to Honolulu. There are no reported injuries. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CEC COPENHAGEN (Bahamas)

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Bangladesh Navy has asked the owner of general cargo CEC Copenhagen to pay Tk 3.40 crore as compensation for the damage

caused by the accident on Jun 27. Sources said the naval authorities estimated the loss after conducting a survey, led by Captain Altafur Rahman, and formally informed the local agent of the ship to pay the amount on Sunday (Jul 10). The officials of the Peninsular Shipping Lines, local agent of the ship, said the loss, estimated by the naval authorities, was much higher compared to the real damage. They also refused to pay the compensation initially. "We have already conducted a survey to assess the extent of damage by an independent surveyor, Captain Zillur Rahman, and as per the survey, the loss was not more than Tk 90 lakh," one of the officials of the agent, Captain Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, said yesterday afternoon. He said they requested the naval authorities to reconsider the compensation so that they could make the ship free. "Even we are ready to pay Tk 1 crore, but it will be tough for us to release the ship, if the decision of the authorities remains unchanged." Sources said the naval authorities sat with the local agent at the office of the regional commander on Sunday and claimed \$5.5 lakh equivalent to about Tk 3.40 crore as compensation for the losses for convenience, repairing, training, and operational costs. The Chittagong Port Authority member (operation), Captain Kamrul Hasan, and the Mercantile Marine Department principal officer, Captain Habibur Rahman, were also present. The naval authorities also informed the member that there would be no objection, if the ship left the port after paying the total amount of the compensation, meeting sources said. The shipping agent officials also informed that they had already sent a letter to the owner of the ship about the compensation, and final decision in this regard would be taken after getting the reply. "By this time, we'll try to negotiate with the naval authorities to reduce the compensation to a reasonable amount," Captain Mohiuddin said. Three warships of BNS Isha Khan, anchored at the jetty with sensor, rudder, and some valuable machines, were damaged slightly, but the pontoon of the flotilla jetty was damaged seriously in the accident, naval sources said. But the officials of the shipping agent claimed that the extent to the damage was not serious.

CHIN SHWE HAW (Myanmar)

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: General cargo Chin Shwe Haw (3388 gt, built 1996) was damaged when it was struck by bulk Uttarkashi (28739 gt, built 1986), which lost control while entering Visakhapatnam Port this morning. Port tugs and anchors had to be deployed to control the momentum of Uttarkashi in order to minimise damage after it struck Chin Shwe Haw, which was berthed at West Quay-1 with a cargo of 2,178 tonnes of timber. Mr A. Sanyasi Raju, the public relations officer for Visakhapatnam Port Trust, said that port activity

continued as usual and Uttarkashi started discharging soon after the collision. "There were about 20-25 crew members on board each vessel at the time of collision but no one was hurt," Mr Raju said. The collision occurred when Uttarkashi's engine failed to respond to stern movement. The vessel, carrying 46,224 tonnes of coal, could not be stopped in the inner turning bay. Uttarkashi was slightly damaged, with cracks in a couple of places on the bow, above the waterline. Chin Shwe Haw was ruptured in the port midship area, and seawater entered the No 2 hold. According to VPT sources, the vessel had already discharged 1,467 tonnes of timber when the collision occurred. Most of the water had been pumped out and welding work, which had been taken on by a private agency, was in hand. "Naval officers and a diving team were on scene within half-an-hour and started de-watering the vessels to prevent flooding," Captain Prasad, the Naval PRO, said. (Note -- Chin Shwe Haw arrived Visakhapatnam Jul 5, and Uttarkashi arrived Jul 6.)

Mumbai, Jul 11 -- Bulk Uttarkashi, carrying 46,224 tonnes of coking coal, came into contact with general cargo Chin Shwe Haw at Visakhapatnam on Jul 8. As a result of the collision, Chin Shwe Haw, which was anchored to unload 2,178 tonnes of logs at West Quay No 1 of the inner harbour, sustained a major crack below the waterline, Visakhapatnam Port Trust officials said. Tugs were deployed to plug the leak and water was pumped out of the vessel to prevent it from sinking. Uttarkashi sustained cracks above the waterline. According to VPT Officials, Uttarkashi drifted towards Chin Shwe Haw when its engines failed. However, Uttarkashi's anchors, along with port tugs, preventing the vessel from moving further, thus averting a major mishap. An inquiry has been ordered into the accident, officials said. The agents of Chin Shwe Haw said the repair work would be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Jul 14 -- General cargo Chin Shwe Haw sustained damage below the waterline. Repairs are in hand and are likely to be completed in the next five days. Discharge from the vessel has stopped. Bulk Uttarkashi sustained some damages to its hull above the waterline. Repairs are in hand and are likely to be completed in about three days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHINESE EAGLE (Hong Kong)

Durban, Jul 13 -- Bulk Chinese Eagle sailed Durban Jul 12. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHRISOPIGI LADY (Liberia)

Singapore, Jul 7 -- Temporary repairs to the damaged fore end section of bulk Yue Shan, in particular the damaged bulbous bow and forepeak tank, were carried out while the vessel was anchored at Raffles Special Anchorage, Singapore. In view of the conditions/requirements imposed by the vessel's Classification Society,

Bureau Veritas, once the temporary repairs were completed, the vessel was not allowed to continue its voyage to its final destination in China under its own propulsion. BV recommended that the vessel would only be able to continue its voyage under tow. The vessel departed Singapore, in tow of two tugs, on Jun 20 with its cargo of iron ore on board, bound for Majishan, ETA Jul 15. Product tanker Chrisopigi Lady is still lying at one of the shipyards in Singapore undergoing extensive repairs to its damaged starboard hull. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DIGUL (Indonesia)

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dozens are missing and feared dead after ferry Digul (224 gt, built 1995) sank in rough seas off Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua. Rescue officers in Merauke district in Papua said that fishermen had rescued 16 survivors until today, but dozens of others were believed to be missing. The accident occurred at 1600, local time, Friday (Jul 8) when the Digul, owned by the state-owned transport company PT ASDP, reportedly sank off Tanah Merah district in Papua. Local rescue workers said that the vessel, plying the Merauke-Tanah Merah route, went down due to very bad weather. The exact number of passengers on board the vessel remained unclear, but according to the passenger list, the it was carrying 46 people, including 12 crew members, when it left Merauke harbour in southern Papua. In addition to heavy equipment including bulldozers, cement and other construction materials, the vessel was also carrying 40 tons of diesel oil.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: As many as 200 people were feared dead days after ferry Digul capsized in rough seas off eastern Indonesia, a rescue official said today. The vessel sank on Thursday night (Jul 7) off the coast of Papua province while heading from the port town of Merauke to Tanah Merah, about 124 miles to the north, said Sumpeno Juono of the local Search and Rescue agency. The ferry was officially reported to be carrying 50 crew and passengers, but survivors said about 200 people were on board, Sumpeno said. So far, only 15, two crewmen and 13 passengers, have been found. Sumpeno said the overloaded vessel, which was also carrying vehicles, heavy equipment and 40 tons of diesel oil, did not have any safety equipment and sank quickly in rough waters. "We believe the number of missing passengers could reach almost 200," said Sumpeno, who had little hope of finding any more survivors. Rescue operations were hampered today by heavy rains and 13-foot-high waves, he said. Merauke is about 2,360 miles east of the capital, Jakarta.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ferry Digul: Merauke Rescue Agency deployed five boats yesterday with attention focusing on righting the vessel.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Search teams today braved choppy waters to search for survivors from ferry Digul, which sank in eastern Indonesia killing up to 200 people, while rescue vessels prepared to turn the stricken vessel to see if bodies remained trapped inside. Tallying a final death toll in Thursday's (Jul 7) disaster off the southern coast of remote Papua province will be difficult because the vessel was carrying far more passengers than reflected in its manifest. The vessel was officially reported to be carrying 50 crew and passengers, but survivors have told authorities the number of people on board was five times that. So far, only 15 -- two crewmen and 13 passengers -- have been found alive. Five vessels combed the area yesterday, but found no bodies. Rescue teams now feared no other people would be found alive, but that the search would go until Thursday, said Sumpeno Juono, from the local Search and Rescue agency. "It is going to be difficult to find the bodies because many were taken away by high waves and will be washed into thick mangrove forests," he said. The vessel is currently floating on its side in deep water. Rescue vessels equipped with ropes and primitive winches were today trying to flip it over to gain access to its hold, where it is feared bodies remain.

DILAY (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 14 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0900, UTC: General cargo Dilay (6030 gt, built 1980), Turkey for Setubal, was reported not under command following mechanical failure at 1123, UTC, Jul 12. Vessel is currently anchored at Karistos Bay.

EILTANK 17 (Germany)

London, Jul 9 -- According to Rijkswaterstaat, who are in charge of the clean-up of the pollution from non specific tanker Eiltank 17, the leak from the vessel's damaged tank was stopped at 1400, Jul 6. The company are now cleaning up the spilled oil, most of which has been removed in the past few days, and the clean-up of the harbour at Haaften will be completed early next week. A helicopter that flew over the site stated that it was very difficult to map all the polluted areas. Cleaning the oil out of the River Waal will take about two weeks. The oil has spread over an area of 11 km. An investigation will be launched into the cause of the incident. The vessel's master stated that he had to alter course for a vessel coming from the opposite direction, which came too close to the left side of the River Waal. The police said that the total quantity of oil that had been leaked was between 30 and 35 tons, which was easily removed as it was thick. Another tanker arrived from Rotterdam to take on the rest of the cargo from non specific tanker Eiltank 17, after which the damaged vessel sailed with a police escort to an unknown shipyard for repairs.

EURO STAR (Antigua & Barbuda)

Yokohama, Jul 8 -- C.c. Euro Star set sail (from Sasebo) for Shanghai on July 4, after completion of repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FLEET TRADER 1

London, Jul 14 -- Bulk Fleet Trader 1 passed Gibraltar Jul 12, bound Malaga.

FLORENCE FILBERN (U.S.A.)

New Orleans, Jul 11 -- Tug Florence Filbern was righted and is moored at the Ballard Bridge, Seattle. The effort to salve and refloat was done expressly to remove all pollutants on board. Minor damage was incurred during righting. Vessel is a wooden tug and has no value. Florence Filbern has been tied up at current location for some time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GEORGE ALLEN (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Jul 13 -- At 0910, UTC, Jun 29 the Coast Guard was notified of a fire on board fishing George Allen, at 1053, UTC, the fire was reported extinguished. Vessel was then towed to Warrington, Oregon, with a Coast Guard escort over the bar. The case was transferred to the Portland office of the USCG. According to the owner repairs have been completed and the vessel has returned to service. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GRANVIN (Norway)

London, Jul 11 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger Granvin has completed repairs and is now back in normal service.

HANSA

See Maineborg.

HILL (Liberia)

Taipei, Jul 8 -- The local agents of general cargo Hill have advised that the vessel is moored at B05 buoy in Keelung waiting for the spare part for the main engine. The vessel's sailing date is still unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Taipei, Jul 11 -- Understand from the agents of general cargo Hill that the vessel sailed fully laden from Onsan on Jun 25, bound for Singapore. The vessel's main engine camshaft failed at 2333, local time, Jun 26. The vessel lost propulsion and requested salvage assistance. The vessel was taken in tow in lat 29 14.6N, long 124 33.5E, at 1830, Jun 28, by tug Hua Xiang and towed to Keelung for repairs. The tow arrived Keelung Jul 1. The vessel is currently lying at Buoy No 5, Keelung, awaiting spare parts. -- Lloyd's Agents.

IRAN AZADI (Iran)

London, Jul 7 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1410, UTC: Bulk Iran Azadi is anchored in the same position with cylinder head problems. Coastguard vessel alongside. Vessel anticipates effecting repairs itself.

IRINE M. (Panama)

Piraeus, Jul 8 -- Bulk Irine M. (10704 gt, built 1978) had fire break out at Perama shipyards Jul 4. At the time the vessel was drydocked at the shipyard undergoing repairs. According to first evidence the fire started from pots of paint which were stored in a hold. No injuries or oil pollution have been reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ISOLA DI VULCANO (Italy)

See Razzoli.

JIN AN (Hong Kong)

Mumbai, Jul 7 -- The authorities at Visakhapatnam Port Trust, VPT, are making all efforts to refloat bulk Jin An, with 49,537 tonnes of steam coal on board. Following a distress call, the pilot and harbour master rushed to the accident site with four tugs belonging to the port and a private tug. As a precaution against spillage of oil from the ship, the port advised the master and agent to discharge the oil from the vessel's tanks into barges. The Port authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation and have informed all concerned, a press release issued by VPT states: "The owners of the stricken vessel have also arranged for inspection by P&I surveyor. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Jul 11 -- Bulk Jin An is still aground, and refloating efforts are in progress. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Jul 14 -- Following the unsuccessful attempts by Visakhapatnam Port Trust authorities to refloat bulk Jin An using four of its tugs and private tug, along with the vessel's own engine power, the vessel's owners approached a team of experts from Wijsmuller Salvage BV to lighten the vessel. Around 5,000 tonnes of the vessel's cargo of steam coal has been discharged onto barge Everson Sparkle-1, which was brought in by Visakhapatnam Sea Ports Ltd. Salvage experts from Wijsmuller arrived and, with the help of VSPL, began the salvage operation on Jul 12. According to VSPL sources, the discharge of 5,000 tonnes of cargo onto the barge was expected to take at least 24 hours, providing there are no hindrances like bad weather. The vessel may be effectively lightened in three to four days. A high-powered tug, which is expected to reach the scene this weekend (Jul 16-17), will be used to try and tow the vessel free. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KARIN LEHMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Berlin, Jul 8 -- General cargo Karin Lehmann class has been reconfirmed after the collision and the vessel is continuing to trade in the usual way. Final repairs will take place this month during regular dry-docking. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KASTELORIZO (Greece)

Valparaiso, Jul 11 -- Following received from Sub-agents, Punta Arenas: Product tanker KastelORIZO (29506 gt, built 1991), Valparaiso to

Caleta Cordoba, Argentina, had mechanical problems near Ano Nuevo Channel, at 0100, local time, Jul 1. Problems were solved by the ship's crew who, after testing the engine, confirmed that it was in order to continue the transit to Argentina. There are no records of this engine failure at Punta Arenas Maritime Authority. The ship continued transit on Jul 2 with no cargo on board. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Understood product tanker KastelORIZO had salvage services rendered to it by salvors Ultragas off Chile, due alleged engine problems.)

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The next attempt to refloat bulk Kiperousa, stranded on the coast off East London, will take place on Jul 20, the South African Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) said today. Peter Kroon said about 8,000 logs, each weighing between three and five tons, would have to be air-lifted off the vessel before the attempt could commence. He said the first batch of "massive trees from Equatorial Guinea" had already been lifted off the vessel. "The giant helicopter has started lifting the logs, taking three at a time," he said. "If the weather is good we will try and pull her off before Jul 20." Kroon said the logs would be taken to the harbour and continue their journey to China. "The logs are being removed to lighten the ship," he said. (See issue of Jul 4.)

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Efforts to refloat bulk Kiperousa were renewed at the weekend with the arrival from Uganda of a giant Russian Mi26 Halo helicopter. Salvors Tsavlis charted the heavy-lift helicopter from its base in Uganda where it is employed in the logging business. This followed the failure of previous attempts to lighten the ship from the sea because of heavy swells. The Mi26 helicopter, which can lift loads up to 20 tons is one of two based in Africa with the capability of lifting the cargo of heavy West African logs from the ship in the allotted time -- each of the 8,000 logs weigh an estimated three to five tons. About 300 logs have already been removed from the decks of the ship and placed ashore from where they will be transported by road to East London. Salvage tug Nikolay Chiker is remaining on station but the supply tug Toto, which assisted with the removal of about 30 tonnes of fuel oil has returned to Durban. The coast watch oil dispersant vessel Kuswag I is on standby in East London harbour. Salvors hope to take advantage of next week's spring high tides by which time the ship should be considerably lighter and better able to lift off the reef or sand on which it is embedded.

Piraeus, Jul 13 -- The latest incident involving the Tsavlis Group concerns bulk Kiperousa, which grounded near East London after flooding of its engine-room. The vessel was on a voyage from Gabon and Cameroon to

China, fully loaded with 4,671 logs (approximately 23,000 tons). Tsavlis was engaged under Lloyd's Standard Form/SCOPIC to assist the casualty on Jun 7. Tsavlis tug Nikolay Chiker was mobilised from Cape Town together with a 40-man salvage team, including salvage masters, naval architects, divers, engineers, electricians, anti-pollution experts, etc. During the following weeks the salvors managed to remove all bunkers and pollutants from the casualty, control the flooded compartments, engine-room and double bottoms, by means of patching/pumping/pressurising, restored power and cargo gear operation and prepared the vessel for a refloating attempt by dewatering and pulling on the Jun 24-25 spring tide. A very large spread of salvage gear was involved and the operation was also supported by supply Toto (for the reception of bunkers) and tugs Smit Amandla and Pentow Service for general and pulling assistance. Due to the exposed location of the casualty, salvors relied solely on the use of helicopters for the transportation of personnel and equipment, as well as establishing the towing connections, etc. An Alouette-III helicopter was used on a daily basis for personnel and light gear together with a heavy lifting Kamov-32 (4.5 tons lifting capacity) for the equipment transportation. Due to the vessel being heavily aground and severely damaged, salvors expected "a little extra kick" from the swell to refloat the vessel. However, "unusually good for the season" prevailing weather conditions and flat seas on the refloating day did not assist in pulling the vessel off the rocks. All pollutants having been removed and without prospects of refloating by pulling, the LOF/SCOPIC was terminated and Tsavlis was awarded the continuation of the services under a wreck removal contract. The continuation of the operation involves the use of a Russian Mi-26 helicopter, the heaviest and most powerful helicopter in the world initially designed for carrying armed vehicles and large-size cargoes weighing up to 20 tons. The helicopter was mobilised from Uganda and on Jul 9 reached the casualty to lift the first load of cargo. In an unprecedented operation expected to last two weeks, the helicopter will remove all deck cargo of 6,000 tons from the casualty and land it ashore. This lightening has been calculated to give more than sufficient buoyancy to the casualty to be pulled afloat; the target date for pulling is Jul 20. Once afloat the vessel will be taken to shelter for further works. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

LEEUEW (Netherlands)

London, Jul 8 -- Tug Leeuw apparently sustained very minor damage, such as bottom scratches and hull dents, and was able to proceed under its own power.

LEMARNA (Netherlands)

See Thuringen.

LEONE B. (Barbados)

Istanbul, Jul 14 -- Product tanker Leone B. (4597 gt, built 1975), Kavkaz to Mersin, 7,100 tonnes gas oil, sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles, at 0145, local time, today. Vessel anchored at Burhanli. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LICA MAERSK (DIS)

Maassluis, Jul 8 -- C.c. Lica Maersk arrived Antwerp Jul 8 and sailed the same day. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

LOLA 1**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Aalesund, Jul 12 -- General cargo Lola 1 (624 gt, built 1967) arrived Aalesund Jun 24 with a problem with its main engine. The main engine is being changed and it is expected to be completed by week 30-31. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAINEBORG (Netherlands)

Bremen, Jul 11 -- General cargo Maineborg (6585 gt, built 2001) came into contact with a bucket dredger at the Kaiserhafen, Bremerhaven, Jul 10 while mooring. A number of the dredger's mooring ropes were torn. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Maineborg struck dredger Hansa, which had been berthed for sometime, at Bremerhaven Jul 10. The dredger was torn loose and contacted ro/ro Arroyofrio Uno (8126 gt, built 1984). Hansa sustained substantial damage due to the double contacts.

London, Jul 14 -- Ro/ro Arroyofrio Uno passed Brunsbuttel Jul 12.

MARITIME ANTALYA (Panama)

Vancouver, Jul 6 -- Bulk Maritime Antalya arrived Vancouver anchorage Jul 5. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MONI (India)

Kolkata, Jul 11 -- Barge Moni has been released from police custody and is now under repair. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MR-I (Indonesia)

See NCC Madinah.

NABAH (Georgia)

London, Jul 8 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2315, BST: Following received from crude oil tanker Asian Jewel, S6AR3, at 1730, UTC: Asphalt tanker Nabah (692 gt, built 1981) in distress in lat 26 48.3N, long 52 51.7E, due list; starboard side under water. All 11 crew taken to two lifeboats. Message relayed to Iranian MRSCs. General cargo Bravo Supporter has rescued all crew and transferred them to maintenance vessel Mousa. Asian Jewel reports Nabah is still afloat. Understood salvage vessel proceeding to distress position.

NAGATA MARU (Japan)

See Shokaku Maru No.2.

NARRABEEN (Australia)

Sydney, Jul 14 -- Ferry Narrabeen is back in service as from last week. The pier was repaired not long after the incident. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NCC MADINAH (NIS)

London, Jul 11 -- Chem.tank NCC Madinah (17561 gt, built 1976) was in collision with a small Indonesian tanker at Gresik on Jul 6. The vessel is being held by local authorities there and will require drydocking for repairs once it is released.

London, Jul 11 -- An Odfjell press release, dated Jul 7, states: After having completed discharge in Gresik, and outbound to anchorage, chem.tank NCC Madinah was involved in a collision with a smaller inbound Indonesian tanker at 2311, local time, Jul 6. Both ships had pilots on board. NCC Madinah sustained moderate structural damage in its bow area, but no personnel injuries or pollution. We do not know the extent of damage to the Indonesian tanker but according to local sources, one person is missing and one is injured. Both ships are in stable condition. NCC Madinah has a crew of 32 persons. Three of which are Norwegian, 28 Philippine and one from Latvia.

Jakarta, Jul 14 -- Chem.tank NCC Madinah and wine tank Mr-I (3570 gt, built 1970) were in collision near Buoy No 4, Tanjung Perak, at 2311, local time, Jul 6. Mr-I sustained damage to the starboard side hull below the forecandle deck, severe damage to the accommodation area, including the chief engineer's cabin, the first engineer's cabin, the electrician's cabin, the common office, the officers' mess room and the pantry, and heavy damage to the starboard lifeboat and davit. One person on board Mr-I was killed, three were injured and one is missing. NCC Madinah sustained heavy damage and holing to the starboard side hull below the forecandle deck, the chain stopper and clutch were deformed and the starboard hull near the No. 10 wing cargo tank was pushed in and scratched. Both vessels are still at Tanjung Perak anchorage, and the police and harbour-master are carrying out an inquiry. Understand Mr-I will effect repairs at Semarang, and NCC Madinah will be repaired at Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NEW GLORY (Dominica)

Singapore, Jul 10 -- General cargo New Glory is still at Raffles Anchorage, Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NICHOLAS M**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Istanbul, Jul 8 -- Bulk Nicholas M completed repairs by its own means and sailed Canakkale at 1632, local time, Jul 8, following inspection/formalities. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORDIC AMANDA (Netherlands)

Gothenburg, Jul 8 -- General cargo Nordic Amanda is currently at

Otterbacken, Lake Vanern. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jul 8 -- With a pilot on board and with a full load of sawn timber, bound for Boston, UK, general cargo Nordic Amanda experienced a total breakdown in the engine on Jun 21. Vessel has been tied up at the pier at the port of Otterbaecken, Lake Vanern, since then. This week most of the damaged engine has been dismantled and brought ashore and a complete new Caterpillar engine is to arrive next week. The fitting of the new engine is hoped to be finished by next weekend (Jul 16/17). -- Westax Marine Services AB.

OCEAN OREGON (Canada)

London, Jul 11 -- On Jul 8 near Fraser-Surrey docks, Fraser River, B.C., lat 49 11N, long 122 55W, log barge Ocean Oregon (5539 gt, built 1975), in the process of loading, listed and lost its deck load into the river. The crane fell over and remained on deck. Its operator was slightly injured.

ORIENT PROSPERITY (India)

Karachi, Jul 7 -- Karachi Port Trust said this afternoon that c.c. Orient Prosperity (5209 gt, built 1979), coming from Jawaharlal Nehru, was successfully brought into Karachi at 1500 today. The vessel was damaged by rough seas and swell, and 10 containers fell overboard. The vessel also experienced heavy flooding of water from the port side and developed a 13-deg list to port. At 1100 today, the vessel's master reported that the vessel was running out of fuel and water, and would lose power completely in a few hours. The KPT Chairman immediately called a meeting and decided that the vessel should be assisted. The Deputy Conservator (was sent to the vessel to assess the possibility of bringing it into the harbour. After evaluating all the possible risks, the vessel was brought into Karachi Port and secured alongside East Wharf Berth No 3. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jul 8 -- Karachi Port Trust (KPT) said efforts are being made to stabilize c.c. Orient Prosperity at port before it moves back to India. An official of port authority said KPT has provided four pumps to drain out seawater from the bottom of vessel. A local firm Indus Divers has also been engaged to provide submersible pumps for speedy draining of water. IPakistani port authorities yesterday rescued it when rough weather conditions inflicted structural damage on her making it tilt to 40 degree in the Arabian Sea. The Captain of Orient Prosperity, Rajneesh Kumar told local media that the vessel left the Jawahar Lal Nehru Port of Mumbai on Jul 2 and was heading towards Karachi where it encountered unusual weather off during which 10 containers slipped into rough seas. The crew managed to stabilise the vessel but during the process the vessel developed structural damage and lost pumps of balance-tank and seawater poured into the vessel, he

added. Kumar said that owing to seawater coming into the vessel we reported our position to the Karachi port to which the officials there immediately extended special permission to us to come in. The vessel was carrying over 200 containers and of these 170 TEUs was for Karachi. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jul 8 -- Pakistani Port Authority said this afternoon that c.c. Orient Prosperity was brought in with a list of 13 degrees to port. On arrival, Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Fire Brigade staff commenced the de-flooding operation by utilizing its portable pump and fire-fighting vessel Sabil. The list started reducing and when it reached around 11 degrees, the vessel's crew while at sea had attempted to correct the list by filling tank on the starboard side, during de-flooding the partition bulkhead seem to have failed. According to a press release of KPT, this aggravated the situation and ship listed further to above 14 degrees port. At present de-flooding of ship's holds and tanks is in progress utilizing portable equipment and those of Sabil. The list now has reduced to about 12 degree. It is estimated that another 300 tons of water is required to be pumped out. In addition divers are carrying out inspection of the under water hull to identify/locate any possible leakage etc. Moreover, if de-flooding arrangements continue at present rate it should take another four to five hours to bring the ship to up right position subject to the condition that the water is not leaking from the hull. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

Karachi, Jul 9 -- Karachi Port Trust said this afternoon that c.c. Orient Prosperity was brought to an upright position at 0200 today by the Karachi Port Trust team. According to a KPT press release, cargo unloading has commenced and 50 containers have so far been unloaded. Representatives of the vessel's P&I Club have arrived and are inspecting the vessel to determine the cause of flooding. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jul 11 -- Eastern Sea Transport (Pvt.) Ltd., shipping agent of c.c. Orient Prosperity said this afternoon that the vessel has achieved an upright stable position at the berth of Karachi. However, the small repair work/final inspection is still ongoing and hopefully the vessel will sail within two or three days, without loading cargo for India. An official of Eastern Sea said that the containers lost in the sea contained general Indian cargo. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Pakistan shipping authorities have detained c.c. Orient Prosperity for failing to comply with international safety standards. The owners of vessel have been ordered to carry out necessary repairs and corrective measures for safeguarding life and property before sailing out of Karachi Port. Director General, Ports and Shipping, Captain Anwar Shah had ordered the

Mercantile Marine Department to depute a surveyor to carry out 'port state inspection' of the vessel in accordance with the provisions under international convention. During the course of inspection, 33 shortcomings were unearthed, which if not attended could seriously jeopardize the safety of the vessel and life of people on board.

Karachi, Jul 14 -- Understood from Eastern Sea Transport (Pvt.) Ltd., shipping agent of c.c. Orient Prosperity, that vessel would be thoroughly inspected/repared at Goa dry dock facility in India as soon as it sails from Karachi. The vessel is being inspected and repaired under the directive of Pakistan's Mercantile Marine Department, Ministry of Ports and Shipping. The department has reportedly asked to fix numbers of deficiencies in order to meet the safety of vessel and life of people on board. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ORLA (Malta)

London, Jul 8 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1319, UTC: Bulk Orla (11848 gt, built 1999) grounded north of Stag Island, in the St. Clair River, Michigan, at approximately 1300, UTC, today.

London, Jul 9 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1341, UTC: Bulk Orla has been refloated and is currently alongside at Davidson, Michigan. No damage reported.

Troy, Michigan, Jul 9 -- Bulk Orla ran aground in the St. Clair River Friday morning (Jul 8) about 100 feet from the shore in Marysville, just south of the Marysville City Park. It was stuck almost directly sideways in the river. No injuries were reported from the accident, which happened at about 0815. There was no report of pollution from the vessel. "It appeared to be a steering gear or engine failure," said Theresa Nichols, spokeswoman for the Canadian Coast Guard. The Canadian Coast Guard will conduct any further investigations, she said. The vessel ploughed up the river's bottom, leaving a pile of mud, seaweed and silt stacked around its bow. After about 40 minutes, the vessel dumped ballast water from its bow and slowly backed out under its own power. After sounding its horn several times, it headed back up the St. Clair River toward Lake Huron, trailed by the Coast Guard. -- Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

PADRE PIO

See Audace A..

PALM CHEM (Malaysia)

See "Malaysia" under "Piracy."

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

London, Jul 13 -- A Parker Drilling press release, dated Houston Jul 12, states: Parker Drilling Company today reported that deep drilling barge rig 57 (? Parker Drilling 57-B, 1715 gt, built 1979) was being towed in a field east of New Orleans on Jul 8 when the barge rig ran aground and overturned.

All personnel on board the barge rig were safely evacuated and no injuries have been reported. The personnel on the barge rig included Parker Drilling employees and contract workers. "We are thankful we were able to safely evacuate all personnel from the rig without injury," said Bobby Parker, Parker Drilling's president and chief executive officer. The United States Coast Guard and other federal, state, and local agencies have been notified and have inspected the rig. The rig can be recovered and returned to service; however, due to the location of the barge in the channel, the means of recovery are limited, which could result in a 30 to 45 day window to complete the process. Once recovery has occurred, the rig will be taken to the shipyard for repairs. The rig is expected to return to service toward the end of the fourth quarter. Based on information currently available, the Company does not anticipate a material financial impact from the incident.

PERAST (North Korea)

Rijeka, Jul 1 -- General cargo Perast arrived Tivat Jun 30. -- Lloyd's Agents.

POLARIS (Togo)

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Government has issued a white paper accepting the findings of the Committee of Enquiry that was set up to investigate the circumstances that led to the fire outbreak at the Tema port a couple of months ago. Accordingly, government has accepted the finding of the committee that there were no facts or evidence found to establish any acts of sabotage. Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), PSC Tema Shipyard and Golden Europe Key (GEK) Company Limited, owners and agents of fishing Polaris, the vessel that was involved in the outbreak, have been held responsible for the fire outbreak and are therefore liable to pay appropriate compensation to the various third parties affected by the fire. Establishments that were affected by the disaster, such as TOR, Volta Aluminium Company Ltd (VALCO), the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) and PSC Tema Shipyard, and Tema Lube Oil, have also been advised to take up the issues of liability and compensation with their respective insurance brokers and insurers. The payment of appropriate compensation to victims of the disaster by Polaris, the owners and agents of the vessel and GEK Ltd should be without prejudice to other claims on the vessel owners and agents arising out of their culpability. Government has further accepted the recommendations of the committee on some key responsibility of TOR to ensure the safety of its pipelines and seawater pump house. TOR has also been advised to consider reviewing the use of private security personnel for security and monitoring of its pipelines, particularly those from the refinery to the oil jetty at the harbour, which needs constant patrol. The

government's white paper also makes specific mention of Manna House and Kiku Building, owners of which have been asked to specifically claim compensation from the companies that were found liable for the fire outbreak in this case, TOR, PSC Tema Shipyard and Drydock and GEK Ltd. The seven member committee under the chairmanship of Nana Owusu-Nsiah, immediate past Inspector - General of Police, submitted in their recommendations to the government that the GPHA should exert their influence to ensure that all workers and agents in the harbour comply with safety and security measures. They recommended that GPHA should establish a port safety and environment network to facilitate the implementation and co-ordination of safety and environmental policies of all stakeholders and also liaise with PSC Tema Shipyard to manage the pollution of the slipway area.

PRINCESS OF THE WORLD (Philippines)

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: A fire erupted on board a Philippine ferry today, but all 249 passengers and crew were safely evacuated, the coast guard and the ship's owner say. The fire broke out while the passenger ro/ro Princess of the World was about eight kilometres off Dulunguan Point near Siocon town, 770 kilometres south-east of Manila, said Ulysses Antonio Yap, spokesman for the ferry owner, Sulpicio Lines. No injuries were immediately reported, Yap said, but it was possible some people may have been hurt in the rush to board life rafts. The company received a distress call from the ferry before noon today saying a fire was emanating from the engine room, Yap said. About an hour later, the crew radioed they could no longer control the blaze and the skipper ordered the ship abandoned. By late afternoon, the fire had consumed 40 per cent of the vessel, he said. "All passengers and crew members have been accounted for," he said, adding that they had been taken by lifeboats to Siocon. He said another Sulpicio ferry was diverted to bring them to southern Zamboanga city, the ferry's destination. The Philippine navy said about 100 survivors were housed temporarily at a gymnasium and some were taken to a hospital for treatment of minor injuries. It wasn't immediately clear what started the fire on the 10,709-ton ship, which left Manila on Tuesday (Jul 5). U.S. service members, stationed in the southern Philippines as part of counterterrorism cooperation, were helping in the evacuations, said Philippine navy Commodore Rufino Lopez.

London, Jul 8 -- Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 0313, UTC: Although the fire on passenger ro/ro Princess of the World has not been extinguished, it is now under control. Several vessels are still in attendance. All passengers were safely rescued and there have been no reported casualties.

Manila, Jul 8 -- Philippine authorities are still in the dark as to the cause of a fire which gutted passenger ro/ro Princess of the World yesterday. They have not ruled out, however, the possibility that the ferry had been subjected to a terrorist attack. "We are still trying to determine the cause of the fire, but we are not ruling out any causes, including terrorism," Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Armand Balilo said. Last year more than 100 people died when a passenger ferry was blown up in Manila Bay in an attack claimed by Al-Qaeda linked Abu Sayyaf terrorists. A spokesperson for Sulpicio Lines, owner of the vessel, said that the blaze was finally put out Friday morning. He said that the vessel may be towed to Zamboanga port. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Penetrating the smoldering passenger ro/ro Princess of the World, the Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue teams boarded scorching cabins of the burnt Sulpicio vessel yesterday. No clue or angle has yet been eyed on the cause of fire. Commodore Alejandro Flora, Coast Guard's Zamboanga district commander said that pending the filing of a marine protest, the Coast Guard has co-ordinated with local police and the bureau of fire department to make a probe. Sulpicio Lines Incorporated is one of the country's leading shipping companies with headquarters in Cebu. Its fleet is classed with international classification societies while the shipping company is one of the few that took the initiative to have its vessel placed under ISPS-based security assessments despite the absence of domestic maritime security applications. That a fire exploded at mid-sea baffles security consultants Sulpicio Lines commissioned to conduct ship security assessments and plans. Sulpicio management and the Coast Guard have dismissed insinuations that the fire was terrorism-motivated.

Manila, Jul 12 -- The Philippine Coast Guard reported that passenger ro/ro Princess of the World was now docked at the Timex Wharf, Ricudo town, in Zamboanga City. The ferry was completely burned, Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Armand Balilo said. Princess of the World arrived at the wharf at 0300, local time, today, after being towed from an area five miles from the coast of Dulugin, Siocon Town, Zamboanga del Norte where it had drifted after catching fire on Jul 7. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 14 -- The Philippine Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has determined that the fire which engulfed passenger ro/ro Princess of the World was not caused by a terrorist attack but by an explosion in the engine's intake manifold. The explosion in turn was a result of an accumulation of carbon residue and sludge oil which ignited. In his report, Arnie Santiago, the head of MARINA's enforcement division,

said that "improper engine maintenance, improper management support and improper cleaning and equipment maintenance scheduling" could have caused the fire. The vessel, which is a total wreck, is now docked at the Timex Wharf in Ricudo town, Zamboanga City. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PROVIDENCE II (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

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

QIAN DAO YOU NO.1 (China)

See Bunga Mas Tujuh.

QUEEN OF CUMBERLAND (Canada)

London, Jul 11 -- Ro/ro Queen of Cumberland (2884 gt, built 1992) lost power last night while approaching a berth in the southern Gulf Islands. The vessel lost three of four engines minutes before it was to dock at Sturdees Bay on Galliano. The vessel dropped anchor until engineers managed to get the engines running again and conduct some tests. Passengers were about an hour late arriving at Pender Island. No injuries have been reported. (See also Queen of Saanich.)

QUEEN OF OAK BAY (Canada)

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A missing cotter pin worth pennies is being blamed for the grounding of ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay at Horseshoe Bay. B.C. ferries official Mark Collins said a pin connecting a vital link to one of the vessel's two engines failed, setting off a string of events that left the ferry with no propulsion. He called it an anomaly, not a failure of the basic design. The mechanism had been serviced by a private company during the vessel's recent refit, but B.C. Ferries is not naming the contractor. Meanwhile, the Queen of Oak Bay has been certified to resume service on the Nanaimo to Horseshoe Bay route.

London, Jul 8 -- A BC Ferries press release, dated Jul 7, states: The results of the preliminary investigation into the Jun 30 incident involving ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay were released today. Representatives from Transport Canada, the Transportation Safety Board, Lloyd's Register of Shipping and BC Ferries' engineers undertook a comprehensive investigation to determine the factors that contributed to the incident. The investigation concluded that a mechanical failure of an engine speed control device, governor, on one engine led to a loss of power. A control arm connecting the engine speed control device to the engine fuel rack disconnected when a nut came off the attachment bolt. A cotter pin that is normally in place to prevent the nut from coming off the bolt was missing. The disconnection of the bolt allowed the propulsion system to over speed. Protective devices known as "over-speed trips" subsequently engaged and led to the shut down of the propulsion

system. The disconnection of the bolt is now under review. "Every vessel in our fleet has been checked and cleared in response to this incident," said BC Ferries' President & CEO, David L. Hahn. Damage to Queen of Oak Bay was minimal. Repairs consisted of reinstalling, securing and testing the bolt, minor steel work to one fender, paint repair and replacing one propeller blade. The propulsion and control systems of the vessel were undamaged and have been tested. No defects were found in the engine, gearbox, clutch or propeller systems. Sea trials commenced early in yesterday morning. All control, propulsion and manoeuvring systems were tested and checked by BC Ferries' engineers and witnessed by Transport Canada, the Transportation Safety Board and Lloyd's Register of Shipping. The trials confirmed the integrity of the speed control device and that the entire propulsion system is sound. Transport Canada has reissued an operating certificate and Queen of Oak Bay will resume regularly scheduled service tomorrow morning.

QUEEN OF SAANICH (Canada)

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Queen of Saanich (9302 gt, built 1963) has been taken off the Vancouver to Victoria route this morning because of an engine problem. The route normally has four ships in operation, but will be forced to run through the rest of the day with just three. That has forced the cancellation of eight scheduled sailings.

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Two crippled British Columbia Ferry Corp vessels will be back in service today after experiencing mechanical failure while ferrying hundreds of passengers late Sunday (Jul 10). A ferry corporation official said yesterday that ro/ro Queen of Cumberland and ro/ro Queen of Saanich were to receive replacement parts and were expected to resume sailing. Queen of Saanich was carrying 1,120 passengers on the 1600 hrs sailing from Swartz Bay on Sunday when an exhaust valve failed midway between Swartz Bay and Tsawassen ferry terminals, BC Ferries spokeswoman Deborah Marshall said. The master was forced to sail the vessel on one engine to Tsawassen before returning to Swartz Bay for repairs, she said. Passengers on the 2100 hrs ferry sailing were delayed for 45 minutes, before they were able to dock and unload at the Sturdies Bay terminal on Galiano Island. Queen of Cumberland was carrying 122 passengers when it lost power to three of its four right-angle drives that provide propulsion to the propellers, Ms Marshall said.

RAZZOLI (Italy)

Messina, Jul 12 -- Passenger ro/ro Razzoli (4101 gt, built 1988), on a regular ferry service between Sicily and the Aeolian isles carrying passengers and vehicles, struck the

quay at Vulcano at 1540, Jul 11. The vessel sustained damage to the hull and the ramp door. Maritime Authorities have started an inquiry, and the vessel was allowed to sail for its intended destination of Lipari with the ramp door left open because of the damage. Also understand that the vessel was involved in a collision with ferry Isola di Vulcano (1925 gt, built 1999) while manoeuvring outside the port of Lipari. Understand that minor damage to hull and side ramp door was sustained. -- Lloyd's Agents.

REINE (Panama)

Santo Domingo, Jul 7 -- Ro/ro Reine is still undergoing repairs at Las Calderas. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RESPLENDENT (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jul 13 -- Following received from Coastguard Dublin MRCC, timed 1355, UTC: Fishing Resplendent (161 gt, built 1982), five crew members, encountered problems off the coast of Cork, this morning. Nets and other gear aboard the vessel are believed to have become entangled in the engines around 60 miles from Ballycotton. Vessel towed to Ballycotton, arriving at 1245, local time, today.

RICKMERS SHANGHAI (Marshall Islands)

Maassluis, Jul 9 -- General cargo Rickmers Shanghai sailed Antwerp Jul 8. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ROSALIA D'AMATO (Italy)

Corunna, Jul 8 -- Bulk Rosalia D'Amato completed discharge of cargo and proceeded to Ferrol to drydock at Navantia Fene Shipyard on Jun 28. It is still in dry dock carrying out permanent repairs to outer hull. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSA TAIGN (U.K.)

London, Jul 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1041, UTC: Fishing Russa Taign (528 gt, built 1998) disabled with engine failure in lat 57 53.2N, long 11 31W. Modersate sea. FPV Norna is proceeding to take vessel in tow, ETA 1700, UTC, today. Intention is to take casualty towards Isle of Lewis where tow will be handed to another suitable vessel.

London, Jul 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1644, UTC: Fishing Russa Taign is now under tow by FPV Norna towards Butt of Lewis. Tow to be taken over by fishing Keila once it arrives on scene, ETA unknown at this time.

London, Jul 13 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1050, UTC: Fishing Russa Taign, in tow of tug Norna, was in lat 58 15.9N, long 08 53.5W, at 0825, UTC, today, course 078 deg, speed five knots. Fishing Keila is expected on scene about 2000, UTC, today and will take over the tow.

London, Jul 14 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway, timed

1114, UTC: Fishing Russa Taign, now under tow of fishing Keila, bound for Scrabster. Vessels presently east of Cape Wrath, in lat 58 40.52N, long 04 37.89W. Co-ordination now handed over to Aberdeen MRCC.

SAMUDRA SINDO VIII (Indonesia)

See "Malaysia" under "Piracy."

SARONIKOS (Greece)

London, Jul 14 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Greece report: At 1825, local time, Jul 13, during mooring operations at the port of Souvalas, Aegina, ro/ro Saronikos (1126 gt, built 1974) contacted the quay and sustained damage to its fore part. The vessel moored safely and all 80 passengers disembarked in good health and proceeded to their destinations on other vessels. The Port Authority of Aegina permitted Saronikos to sail without passengers or vehicles to the Perama repair zone for repairs.

SEA BAILO (Panama)

See Aura.

SEEBRISE (Belize)

Dublin, Jul 12 -- The local agents of general cargo Lady Hassan (ex Seebriase) advise that the vessel is still in dry dock and repairs etc are likely to take another two/three weeks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEMLOW

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

SHOKAKU MARU NO.2 (Japan)

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Lpg Shokaku Maru No.2 (1557 gt, built 1981), anchored awaiting berth at Ube, and general cargo Nagata Maru (497 gt, built 1993), Tobata for Hitachi, were in collision about 4 km from Motoyami-Misaki peninsula, Yamaguchi Prefecture, late Saturday (Jul 9), causing stern damage to the Shokaku Maru No.2 and resulting in a spillage of bunker oil from the vessel. In addition, there was a release of ethylene from the vessel after its cargo liquefaction plant developed a fault.

Moji, Jul 13 -- Lpg Shokaku Maru No.2 sailed from Oita with about 800 tonnes of ethylene for discharging at Ube and was anchored/awaiting berth at Ube anchorage. General cargo Nagata Maru was underway en route from Hitachi for Tobata. The collision happened at 2330, local time, Jul 9, in lat 33 53.9N, long 131 10.7E. No injuries were reported. Shokaku Maru No.2 sustained damage to its stern section, engine and pipe line of cargo cooling system. Owners arranged temporary repairs and same were completed/confirmed at 1730, local time, Jul 11, when JCG released prohibition of anchoring and related measures and returned all in normal. Unconfirmed reports state that Shokaku Maru No.2 might sail for Shin Kasado Dock for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SIBEL (Turkey)

Istanbul, Jul 14 -- Unknown Sibel (237 gt), Mersin to Tuzla, grounded near Canakkale while transiting Dardanelles at 1130, local time, Jul 13. Vessel refloated by own means and upon inspection/formalities anchored at Karanlik Liman at 1850, local time, same day. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SIMEIZ (Ukraine)

Montevideo, Jul 12 -- Fishing Simeiz is berthed and cleaning operations have been taking place in order to facilitate the survey to ascertain the extent of damage and estimate of repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SPP-13 (Russia)

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The search operation for the lost pontoon SPP-13 (183 gt, built 1984) with the crew of seven people was suspended in the Okhotsk Sea after a storm today. The Vladivostok rescue ship Suvorovets, tug MB-379 from Magadan and a coast guard vessel who were involved in the search operation escaped to the closed bays. In the storm area where the barge got lost the wind velocity reached 18 metres per second, the height of waves is up to four metres and the visibility is not more than 150 metres, the naval rescue co-ordination centre Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk said. The self-propelled barge SPP-13 with the displacement of 100 tonnes set out from Magadan on Jul 7 and headed for the port Okhotsk in the Khabarovsk territory, the vessel was to reach the destination site in 48 hours. However, the communication with the barge has interrupted on the next day. The active search operation for the barge that lasted three days yielded no results. The barge's master did not register the sail-off and did not report the exact number of crew members. The search for the barge will be continued when the storm in the Okhotsk Sea subsides.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers today found six of 10 crew members of a barge (pontoon SPP-13) that sank in a storm in the northern Sea of Okhotsk, an official said. The sailors were found floating in a lifeboat, about 60 miles east of Magadan, some three days after their barge was scheduled to arrive in the port of Okhotsk, said Anatoly Zarubin of the Vladivostok rescue coordination service. The master of the barge reported that some of its 20 cargo containers shifted in high seas, causing it to sink, the rescue service said. The four missing crewmembers made it onto the lifeboat but subsequently disappeared, it said. The barge left Magadan on Thursday (Jul 7) for a two-day journey to Okhotsk but sent out a distress signal on Friday during severe weather, then lost communication. Rescuers suspended a search yesterday due to poor visibility and winds that pushed up 13-foot waves.

THUNDER HORSE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: BP today

confirmed that floating production Thunder Horse (190000 gt, built 2004), located in Mississippi Canyon Block 778 in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, 150 miles south-east of New Orleans, is listing following the passing of Hurricane "Dennis". Early reports confirmed that the platform is listing an estimated 20 to 30 degrees. The Thunder Horse field is in development and has not yet begun production of hydrocarbons. The situation was discovered at approximately 0830 yesterday by a vessel in the area. The cause is unknown. The platform had been evacuated of all personnel on Friday in anticipation of the hurricane's approach. At this time there has been no known release of any fuel or hazardous substances. BP immediately activated its Incident Command structure, notified the appropriate regulatory agencies including the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the U.S. Coast Guard, and conducted over flights to further assess the extent of the damage. At this time BP is mobilizing a number of response vessels to Thunder Horse location and working with the Coast Guard to create a response plan. The first priority will be to safely board the vessel for a further assessment of its stability and to begin investigating potential causes of the issue. BP and the Coast Guard are collaborating to establish a Unified Command in Morgan City, Louisiana.

London, Jul 12 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1700, UTC: After floating production Thunder Horse was evacuated due hurricane "Dennis" (which see) the port pontoon of the structure took on water believed due to a malfunction of the automatic ballasting system and not due hurricane "Dennis." The structure is still listing in lat 28 12.4N, long 88 28.8W. A salvage plan is being prepared and an attempt will be made today to board the structure to assess the situation.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: BP Plc said the \$1 billion floating production Thunder Horse in the Gulf of Mexico has stabilized. "The platform has settled more in the water," Ronnie Chappell, a spokesman for BP in Houston, said in an interview today. "We're still working to get a team on board the vessel and complete an inspection of the submerged areas using remotely operated vehicles. The situation is broadly stable." BP personnel were preparing to board the platform later today from a Coast Guard vessel that arrived at the site earlier in the day, said Petty Officer Andrew Kendrick, a Coast Guard spokesman in New Orleans. The Coast Guard is "out there with BP trying to get people onto that facility to see if it's a problem that can be fixed," said Lt. Rob Wyman, another Coast Guard spokesman. BP owns 75% of the Thunder Horse project and is the operator. The rest is held by Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil. The project is self insured, BP spokesman Toby Odone in London said.

London, Jul 13 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1355, UTC: Floating production Thunder Horse is still taking water and awaiting the delivery of external pumps.

London, Jul 13 -- A BP press release states: Floating production Thunder Horse, status report early Jul 13: Situation at platform has been stable for two days. No change in status overnight. Platform continues to list at approximately 20 degrees. Boarding teams established reliable power source on the platform, confirmed that some pumps installed on the platform are operational before teams were removed from platform last night for safety reasons and in order to rest. Boarding teams returned to the platform early this morning and are working to establish pumping operations in order to right the vessel. Teams on shore are now analyzing information from data recorders recovered yesterday in an effort to determine the cause of the listing. The cause is still unknown. Weather at location is good.

THURINGEN (Germany)

London, Jul 11 -- The investigation of the collision involving non specific tanker Thuringen revealed that the master had broken his neck and most probably died instantly after the blow. The bridge which it had passed before was the Koopmannbrücke and this one was a metre higher than the next one which was hit. It was probably a misjudgment by the master on the level of the bridge because at the technical investigation on board afterwards it was found that everything on board was in good order and working well. After striking the bridge the Thuringen sailed along for a while and came into collision with Dutch inland tanker Lemarna from Raamsdonkveer. Both vessels sustained slight damage. There was only minor damage to the railway bridge. About 34 vessels were delayed by the accident.

TORREMAR (Spain)

London, Jul 14 -- Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: Dredger Torremar, EA3775, capsized and sank at San Vicente de la Barquera, near Santander, yesterday afternoon. The two persons on board were rescued by lifeboat.

TRADEWIND SUNRISE (Panama)

Trinidad, Jul 11 -- Local shipping agents have advised that investigations into the explosion on board chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise are still in progress and no decisions have as yet been made with regards repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRANSMODAL (Argentina)

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion on ro/ro Transmodal (3491 gt, built 1991) off the coast of Brazil injured 10 Argentine crew members, authorities said yesterday. Transmodal was near Rio Grande port when the blast

occurred Saturday (Jul 9) afternoon, the Brazilian navy said in a statement. One critically injured crew member was airlifted from the ship by a navy helicopter. The others were rescued by nearby vessels. The cause of the explosion was still under investigation, but authorities said it happened in one of the ship's engine-rooms.

Rio Grande, Jul 12 -- Ro/ro Transmodal sailed Rio Grande Jul 9 for Montevideo. A fire broke out in the vessel's engine-room at 1430, local time, same day, about 23 miles from Rio Grande. The fire was brought under control the same day. Surveys were carried out Jul 10-11 in order to assess the damage and release the vessel for towage. The vessel will be taken in tow today by tug Atlas for Montevideo in order to discharge its cargo, after which it will be towed to Buenos Aires for repairs. -- Correspondent.

Santos, Jul 12 -- Ro/ro Transmodal had an explosion on board off Rio Grande, Brazil, while en route to Montevideo, Jul 9, probably due to an explosion of the boiler. Only the engine-room was reached. No cargo damage. Argentinean crew of which three, out of 22, suffered serious burning and were taken to the hospital in Rio Grande. The other 19 persons suffered light burning. All of them remain at the hospital; The crew was rescued part by a helicopter of the Brazilian Navy and part by c.c. Mol Strength. Transmodal was inspected by Brazilian Navy and a naval engineer and it was considered fit to be towed to Montevideo for discharging of 207 containers and later to Buenos Aires, where it will be repaired. Transmodal left Rio Grande at daybreak today for Montevideo where ETA Jul 14. -- Lloyd's Agents.

UTTARKASHI (India)

See Chin Shwe Haw.

WASEBERG (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 11 -- Following received from Gibraltar Port Authority, dated Jul 10: General cargo Waseberg (1957 gt, built 1985), Setubal for Salerno, arrived Gibraltar 0720, Jul 9, in tow of tug Rhea, for repairs. Vessel sailed 1859, same day. (Note -- Waseber sailed Setubal Jul 5 for Salerno.)

WELFARE DIANA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 12 -- General cargo Welfare Diana arrived Suez Jul 5 and sailed Jul 8. (See issue of Feb 2.)

YUE SHAN (Panama)

See Chrisopigi Lady.



MALAYSIA

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: A group of pirates

armed with guns and parang held up the crew of tug Samudra Sindo VIII and tank barge Aganda 7 in the high seas shortly after midnight. They then towed the barge to waiting chemical/oil carrier Palm Chem (2366 gt, built 1973) and off-loaded its cargo of crude palm oil before disappearing into the darkness. This incident happened on Sunday (Jul 3). Yesterday, the Johor marine police intercepted the tanker at Pengerang waters in Kota Tinggi and arrested 21 people, including its captain, and found 3,000 metric tonnes of crude palm oil (CPO) on board. The CPO, valued at RM10 million, was believed to be the consignment from the barge hijacked by the armed pirates off the Pengerang coast. Marine police chief (southern region) Assistant Commissioner Abdul Aziz Yusof said police detained the Palm Chem following a report on the missing tug and barge. Palm Chem is an Indonesian-registered tanker chartered by a Singapore-based company, JBS Resources Pte Ltd. Abdul Aziz said the tug and the barge were heading towards Pasir Gudang, Johor, from Kalimantan in Indonesia when its 19 crew members were held up by the pirates. "Reports from the Indonesian navy revealed that the consignment from the barge, which is CPO, had been transferred into the tanker in Malaysian waters. "After receiving the report, we set up a task force to trace the whereabouts of the tanker. "We managed to find Palm Chem, which was anchored 2.3 nautical miles off Tanjung Setapa in Pengerang about 2345, yesterday, and arrested the 21 Indonesian crew members aged from 21 to 48, including the captain. "Further checks showed that the Palm Chem was laden with 3,000 metric tonnes of CPO which we believe were siphoned from the barge," he said. Abdul Aziz said the 21 crew members were detained at the Pengerang police station to assist investigation for allegedly stealing 3,000 metric tonnes of CPO. He said the Palm Chem had been towed to the Johor Port in Pasir Gudang. Meanwhile, it is learnt that the tug and barge had been detained by the Indonesian navy which found only 2,000 metric tonnes of CPO on board. The 19 crew members of the tugboat claimed that eight pirates, armed with pistols and parang, boarded the vessel and held them captive about 0005 on Sunday. The tug and the barge were towed to the South China Sea and the CPO transferred to the Palm Chem.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, Jul 7 -- Somali gunmen who hijacked a vessel chartered by the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) denied today they were demanding a ransom but said they had yet to decide what to do with the ship and hostages. "We are not pirates and we are not after any financial gain as people are claiming," Mohamed Abdi Hassan, the leader of the group, told Reuters by telephone from Harardheere, 70 miles from where his men were holding the

ship at anchor. The ship was captured a week ago en route to the northern port of Bossaso. Its owner said the gunmen were demanding \$500,000 to free the 10-man crew -- a Sri Lankan captain, a Tanzanian engineer and eight Kenyans. WFP on Monday (Jul 4) suspended aid shipments to Somalia until the general cargo Semlow vessel was released. Hassan, whose identity was confirmed by a minister in Somalia's new government, said his militia was simply guarding the seas against illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste. "We normally request all ships that pass in our waters to identify themselves. The ship in question had no name or anything and when we asked them to substantiate their claim of carrying relief food they had no papers or any proof whatsoever. That's when we became suspicious and impounded the ship." WFP, however, immediately denied that. "The food was clearly marked 'WFP' and stamped with our logo," spokeswoman Rene McGuffin said. WFP also showed Reuters documents it said were photocopies of papers on board proving the ship was carrying relief food. The relief agency said it was engaged in dialogue with local clan elders, but had no direct contact with the hijackers and would not negotiate with them, McGuffin said. Hassan said the hostages were in good condition. "They are alive and well and we will soon reach a decision," he said. "Most of the hostages are from our neighbour Kenya. We will not and have not harmed them, we have treated them with dignity and would continue to do so." The militia leader accused WFP and other humanitarian organisations of ignoring their remote northeastern region. The WFP, however, said it delivered 5,000 50-kg bags of cereal foods there in April and May. On average, WFP provides 3,000 tonnes of aid a month to 275,000 people in the Horn of Africa country, and now has only two weeks' worth of food inside Somalia. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: World Food Programme shipments to central Somalia will stop for 10 years if pirates do not immediately return general cargo Semlow on charter to the UN agency. WFP director Robert Hauser set the 48-hour deadline on Tuesday (Jul 12), in an interview with the BBC. There are reports of talks between the weak Somali government, whose writ simply does not run in much of the country, and the pirates. Meanwhile, Mr Hauser rejected claims by the Kenyan government that the WFP is delaying the release of the ship and its crew by refusing to talk to the hijackers. A spokesman for piracy watchdog the International Maritime Bureau said that it had offered its services, but the parties involved felt that the matter was best resolved locally. He reiterated the IMB's existing advice that vessels should not come close than 50 miles to the Somali coast unless calling at a Somali port.

Port State Control



PAKISTAN

See Orient Prosperity under "Marine."

Seizures & Arrests



AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)

Piraeus, Jul 14 -- Ro/ro Agios Spyridon K. still remains under arrest at Salamina and is scheduled to be auctioned on Sep 14. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BOURBON ALADIN (France)

London, Jul 11 -- Anchor handling tug/supply Bourbon Aladin, which was apprehended by the Indonesian Navy Jun 15 due allegedly entering the country's waters illegally, subsequently arrived Singapore Jun 22 and sailed Jun 24.

CONDOR (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 14 -- Unknown Condor is now docked at Pier 7, FF Cruz Wharf, Mandaue City, in the central Philippines. The vessel was transferred there from the Naval Forces Central Visayas Headquarters at Lapu-Lapu City, where it was previously held. The vessel, which is being guarded by Philippine Navy personnel, is being held as evidence in a case involving the transport of illegally cut lumber filed by the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against the ship owner and crew, as well as the owner of the lumber. Officials said that they were studying a petition by the owner to have the vessel released temporarily. The owners have volunteered to post a bond to guarantee the return of the vessel. This is the second time that the shipowner has petitioned the courts to have the vessel released. Earlier, a Lapu-Lapu city court had rejected their appeals to have the vessel returned. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EGEON P. (Greece)

Piraeus, Jul 14 -- Cement Egeon P. still remains under arrest at Perama and is scheduled to be auctioned on Sep 14. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANDAKAN (Belize)

Miami, Jul 7 -- International Ship Repairs in Tampa yesterday advised that general cargo Sandakan was in their yard for a while, paid their bill and left. No further information was available except that it might have

returned to trading in Haiti and San Andres. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Sandakan arrived Tampa on Nov 29, 2001 and in March 2003 was reported to have been seized by the United States Government as a result of material found on board during a Coast Guard inspection.)

TVILLINGER

Izmir, Jul 14 -- General cargo Tvillinger, now renamed Villinger, arrived Aliaga, in tow, on Apr 12. The vessel was bought by shipbreakers Mariner Makina Sanayi and sold to Asli Deniz Tasimaciligi Ve Nakliyat Tic. Ltd. The vessel has not been demolished and was towed to the Tuzla Shipyard, Istanbul. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents



CUNDUACAN AREA, MEXICO

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated Jul 9, states: A series of explosions at a natural gas pipeline killed two people and set fire to houses, cars and cattle in rural south-eastern Mexico. The explosions near Cunduacan, 385 miles south-east of Mexico City, crippled a major natural gas pipeline that supplies the Gulf coast shipping station at Dos Bocas, said Carlos Morales, director of exploration and production for Mexican state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos. Hundreds of residents from four villages fled last night or were evacuated at the sound of a gas leak before a series of explosions in the area. Flames and leaks were brought under control this morning. The blasts killed a 64-year-old woman, and a 24-year-old man died from his injuries today. Dozens of people were transported to hospitals in Comalcalco and Villahermosa, where 13 people were being treated for severe injuries, according to Pemex. Pemex has suffered a series of spills, leaks and explosions in recent months, exposing the company's neglected, aging infrastructure.

ULYANOVSK REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The damage caused by an oil leak from the Druzhba pipeline in the Ulyanovsk region of Russia is estimated at 5 million rubles. The leak resulted from unauthorized taking of oil from the high-pressure pipeline. Up to 1.5 hectares of forest were polluted in the Jun 28 spill. Criminal proceedings were instituted, and the cleanup began. The local administration wants the Klin Group, which has the Kholmogory-Klin pipeline on its balance, to partially compensate the damage.

Pollution



KAMA RIVER, RUSSIA

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 10 tonnes of oil spilt into the river Kama in the Perm region during vessel loading on Tuesday (Jul 5) evening. An oil slick of about 30,000 square metres formed on the surface of the river. The clean-up operation is still continuing. The duty officer of the Emergencies Ministry said that nine pieces of machinery and 47 people were involved in the operation. They set up slick bars to prevent the oil from spreading down the river. Now the oil spill has been localised, and almost 90 percent of oil has been collected from the surface of the river. According to the Emergencies Ministry, the spill was caused by the negligence of the vessel's captain.

SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Jul 10 -- A long but narrow oil belt was observed this morning by the Coast Guard aircraft surveillance. Position approximately 10 kilometres outside coastline from Ystad on south coast and westward, 50 kilometres long but only 25 metres wide, typical for outlet from a vessel passing by. Coast Guard vessel attended for sampling but only a thin film and not able to fight. Will presumably be dissolved during days to come with warm weather. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Weather & Navigation



AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Power lines are down and phone lines have been cut in the New South Wales Snowy Mountains after heavy snowfall. The State Emergency Service is also bracing for severe weather expected for the New South Wales south coast later this afternoon. SES spokesman Steve Delaney said 35 cm of snow had been dumped on Jindabyne last night leaving the town "relatively isolated. Power and phones have been cut and will probably be out for about 24 hours," he said. Six SES volunteers had been called into the area to help residents, Mr Delaney said.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The State Emergency Service (SES) is working through the last 100 calls for help, after storms ripped through the south and central coast area of New South Wales, as well as Illawarra and Sydney. The gale force winds have

claimed one life. A man in his 60s died after the car he was driving was struck by a falling tree in Sydney's north. Inspector Bob McGee says the victim's wife was seriously injured. Energy Australia has responded to thousands of power failures since yesterday night. High seas have forced the Manly ferry to stand still until tomorrow morning, while several boats have been ripped from their moorings. On the roads, trees and flying debris have caused traffic congestion in parts of the metropolitan area. The SES expects the clean-up will continue throughout tonight and tomorrow.

BULGARIA & ROMANIA

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulgaria has temporarily closed a key railway line as torrential rains damaged the tracks and derailed three freight trains causing no injuries, a report said today. In the worst accident, the two engines and six cars of a copper ore-laden train were derailed and overturned near the station at Tvardista, some 250 km east of Sofia, the daily Trud reported. The other two trains went off the tracks near Sopot and Klisura, 160 km and 100 km east of Sofia respectively. The line links Sofia with the Black Sea port of Bourgas. Bulgaria says rains and ensuing floods in the past two weeks have caused losses worth more than Euros 75 million (US\$90 million). This amount does not include the farming losses, which are still to be established.

CHINA

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Torrential rains in China's south-west have killed 65 people over the past two weeks and forced more than 428,000 to flee their homes in flood-prone areas, the government said today. Another 30 people were missing after densely populated Sichuan province experienced storms that in some places were the heaviest in a century, collapsing 30,000 or so houses and damaging another 106,000, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Xinhua did not provide details of where the latest deaths occurred. However, most deaths reported earlier were in the city of Dazhou, where floodwaters in spots reached as high as the third story. Most roads to Dazhou were cut. Water, phone lines and power supplies were knocked out, news reports said. More than 600 deaths have been reported in flooding and landslides since China's rainy season began on Jun 1. China suffers hundreds of deaths every year in floods set off by summer rains. Rivers overflow and water rushes down mountains denuded of trees by decades of farming and logging. The government said this summer's death toll was among the highest in the past decade but had not reached the level of 1998, when 4,150 people were killed.

HURRICANE "DENNIS"

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Florida Keys ordered an evacuation of tourists and other nonresidents today as Hurricane "Dennis" stormed through the Caribbean on a course that forecasters said might bring it to the state by the weekend. Monroe County officials ordered that visitors begin leaving the low-lying Keys at noon and ordered the evacuation of mobile home resident beginning at 1800. The Keys were under a hurricane watch, which means winds of at least 74 mph and storm surges are possible by late tomorrow, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. A tropical storm watch was in effect for the southern tip of the Florida peninsula, including Miami. Forecasters said that although they still couldn't tell where Dennis would hit the US, residents on the Gulf of Mexico from Louisiana to Florida should be watching the storm.

Kingston, Jamaica, Jul 7 -- Hurricane "Dennis" lashed Haiti and Jamaica with flooding rain and strengthened into a major storm with 115-mph winds as it approached Cuba today. Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said "Dennis" would hit Cuba tomorrow and head into the Gulf of Mexico, where U.S. oil companies prepared for another possible strike on oil and gas rigs. It was expected to brush past the Florida Keys on Saturday (Jul 9) and slam ashore on Sunday (Jul 10) on the U.S. coast along the Florida Panhandle. Residents were ordered to evacuate Key West and the lower Florida Keys, an island chain connected to the southern tip of Florida by a single highway. Cuba evacuated thousands of people from central and southeastern parts of the island where heavy rainfall was expected, particularly in the Sierra Maestra mountains. Authorities warned of life-threatening flash floods and mudslides. Strong gusts of wind before the hurricane knocked down trees in Santiago, Cuba's second-largest city, residents said. Hurricane warnings were in effect for southwestern Haiti, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, most of Cuba and parts of the Florida Keys. At 1700 hrs, EDT (2100, UTC), the centre of "Dennis" was about 90 miles south-east of Cabo Cruz in southeastern Cuba, the hurricane centre said. Its winds strengthened to 115 mph, making it a "major" hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, one capable of destroying mobile homes and doing structural damage to small buildings. Forecasters expected it to strengthen further before moving over Cuba. "Dennis" drenched Jamaica with heavy rains, triggering mudslides that blocked roads as the core of the storm moved north of the mountainous Caribbean island of 2.6 million today. About 3,000 Jamaicans moved to storm shelters in south-central Jamaica. Jamaica's airports shut down, supermarkets ran low on supplies as people stocked up on non-perishable goods, and schools were

closed. Soldiers and police were put on alert to prevent looting. Tourists in the coastal resort cities of Negril, Ocho Rios and Montego Bay snuggled into their hotels but were not asked to move to shelters. "Not one tourist is panicking. Their only big concern is that those who have flights to board to the United States, Britain and other parts of Europe in particular, have not been able to leave because of the closure of the two international airports," said Patrick McGann, owner and manager of the Beachcomber Hotel in Negril. Heavy rain flooded parts of southern Haiti, where wind gusts of 100 mph were recorded and civil defense officials advised residents in low-lying areas to take shelter in churches and schools. Three people were injured when a tree fell on a house in the town of Coteaux, but no deaths were reported, the officials said. The storm also doused the Cayman Islands. -- Reuters.

London, July 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Dennis" strengthened overnight into the strongest storm ever this early in the Atlantic hurricane season, forcing mandatory evacuations in parts of the Florida Keys. The hurricane was upgraded to a Category 4 storm on the Saffir-Simpson scale, with maximum sustained winds reaching 135 miles an hour as of 2300, Florida time, the National Hurricane Center said on its Web site. "This is the first Category 4 we've ever had in July," said Navy meteorologist Lieutenant Dave Roberts at the Miami-based hurricane centre. "It's going to bring storm surges and heavy rain, almost like a curtain-wall effect. That's where most of your damage is going to come from." Florida, which is still recovering and rebuilding after a devastating storm season last year, ordered residents evacuated from the southern Keys, said Kristy Campbell, spokeswoman for the state's emergency operation centre. The area is part of Monroe County, which has 84,000 residents, she said. "Dennis"'s centre was over Cabo Cruz in southeastern Cuba as of 2300 hrs, heading northwest at about 15 mph, the National Hurricane Center said. Hurricane force winds extended 50 miles from the centre and tropical-storm force winds reached as far as 140 miles out. The centre's three-day forecast shows "Dennis"'s centre moving over Cuba tomorrow and into the Gulf toward Alabama and Florida. The storm may make landfall in the Florida panhandle by July 10. "Dennis" will likely weaken as it crosses over Cuba, Roberts said. The hurricane may bring as much as 15 inches of rain in the mountains of southeastern Cuba and cause storm surge flooding as far as 20 feet inland along the country's southern coast. A hurricane warning is in effect for most of Cuba and the lower Florida Keys from the Seven Mile Bridge westward to the Dry Tortugas. Oil companies have evacuated rigs and production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico east of a line from Cameron, Louisiana, located 80 miles east of the Texas

border. Transocean Inc, Royal Dutch/Shell Group and Apache Corp. announced evacuations.

London, Jul 8 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Dennis" located near lat 20.7N, long 79.1W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 305 degrees at 14 knots. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots with gusts to 140 knots. Forecast position lat 22.0N, long 80.7W at 1800, UTC, Jul 8. Maximum winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots. Forecast position lat 23.8N, long 82.8W at 0600, UTC, Jul 9. Maximum winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots.

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Packing devastating 145 mph winds, Hurricane "Dennis" tore down a guard tower at the US detention camp for terror suspects as it stalked Cuba's south coast and moved today toward the heart of the largest Caribbean island. Thousands of residents and tourists fled the Florida Keys, fearing "Dennis" would skirt the island chain or hit it on its way to the Gulf of Mexico, on a path that raised fears of further disruption to US oil operations. A Category 4 storm, "Dennis" killed five people, collapsed a bridge and blocked roads with downed power lines and trees in Haiti and Jamaica yesterday. It strengthened today to 150 mph winds before weakening slightly to 145 mph. Its eye made landfall on central Cuba's southern coast a second time shortly before 1400, local time, today near Cienfuegos, Cuba, the Hurricane Centre in Miami said.

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Dennis" has pummelled Cuba, killing 10 people and displacing 1.5 million. President Fidel Castro announced the toll today, after the storm's fierce winds and heavy rains left another 22 dead in Haiti. Cuban Meteorological Institute chief Jose Rubiera said: "It is a very strong Category Four, almost a Category Five." "Dennis" made landfall in Cuba near the central province of Cienfuegos. Winds of up to 240 km/h were measured. Cuban authorities had earlier rushed more than 700,000 people into shelters. At least three provinces sustained serious damage, a government source said. Homes were destroyed and power was knocked out in Santiago de Cuba, the country's second city on its east end. Communications towers were toppled and tourist facilities in Santiago province sustained serious damage, the source added. This morning, "Dennis" was located about 150 km east-south-east of Havana and 235 km south-south-east of Key West, Florida, the Miami-based National Hurricane Centre said. Forecasters warned "Dennis" could pass dangerously close to Key West on its way to the Gulf of Mexico, where 116 oil platforms and rigs have been evacuated. The storm crossed Cuba over central provinces including La Habana, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Villa

Clara and Sancti Spiritus. Some 2.2 million people live in the crowded capital, and 669 shelters were opened in Havana province. The centre of the powerful hurricane earlier skirted past the eastern tip of Jamaica, but dumped rain and flooded roads on the island and on parts of southern Haiti. In southern Haiti, many people fled their flooded homes, and the mayor of Grand-Goave, Marie Hingreed Nelchoix, said 17 people had died in and around her city, including 15 thrown into a swollen river when a bridge collapsed. Four people died around the south-eastern city of Jacmel, said a civil protection official. In eastern Jamaica, scores of residents were left stranded by floods, and several bridges were severely damaged, though no deaths were reported. In the US, thousands of residents have already evacuated Key West, Florida's southernmost city, as well as areas along the US Gulf coast. Authorities told residents to leave Key West and neighbouring areas, and ordered the evacuation of visitors throughout the Florida Keys, a vulnerable chain of islands linked to the mainland by a series of bridges and a single road. Most hotels, gas stations and stores in Key West shut down and numerous homes and businesses were boarded up today.

Havana, Jul 9 -- Hurricane "Dennis" pummeled Havana into the early morning hours today, uprooting trees and leaving the city's 2.2 million people in darkness after earlier killing 32 people in south-eastern Cuba and Haiti. The storm weakened as it crossed Cuba from a Category 4 hurricane on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale to a less severe Category 2, but its 110-mph winds still tore through the deserted streets of the Cuban capital, where many live in decrepit colonial buildings. Residents said trees were plucked from the ground. The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said "Dennis" -- the strongest hurricane recorded so early in an Atlantic storm season -- would strengthen again today as it re-emerged over warm open water and skipped south of the Florida Keys. Thousands of tourists and residents were evacuated from the vulnerable and low-lying island chain at the southern tip of the Florida peninsula, and many more prepared to leave coastal homes along the US Gulf Coast, where the hurricane was expected to land tomorrow evening. Natural gas and oil production was also curtailed as oil platforms in the US Gulf, where a quarter of US crude and natural gas comes from, were evacuated. Cuban authorities had evacuated more than 600,000 people in different parts of the country as "Dennis" approached the southern city of Cienfuegos, but the measures, which usually allow the island to escape hurricane strikes with minimal casualties, failed to prevent 10 deaths on Thursday night (Jul 7). Cuban President Fidel Castro said most of the victims died in collapsed houses in two coastal towns in Granma province.

Officials said 15,400 of the adjacent towns' 20,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. Television images showed rows of clapboard houses flattened by the storm. Gusts of up to 149 mph also caused extensive damage in Cienfuegos yesterday, where the storm made landfall. It ripped up trees and downed electricity lines, but no casualties were reported there. In southern Haiti, 15 people died when a swollen river tore away a bridge. The total number of deaths in Haiti reached 22, according to various officials. At 0001 (0400, UTC) today, "Dennis" was located 15 miles east-north-east of Havana and about 105 miles south-south-west of Key West, where gale-force winds could be felt. However, the Florida Keys appeared likely to escape the full brunt of the storm as it moved north-westward at 14 mph. In the US Gulf, energy companies said they were pulling workers off oil rigs and shutting down some crude and natural gas production. "Dennis" was on a similar trajectory as last September's hurricane "Ivan", which caused extensive damage to pipelines and rigs, and the approach of "Dennis" has helped keep US crude futures prices high. Alabama Governor Bob Riley yesterday ordered the mandatory evacuation of nearly half a million coastal residents in the projected path of "Dennis", which the National Weather Service said was likely to hit near the Florida-Alabama border. -- Reuters.

Freeport, Bahamas, Jul 9 -- General cargo Providence II (1747 gt, built 1976) has been driven ashore about 4.5 miles west of Freeport Harbour entrance. Incident occurred last night probably under the influence of strong southerly winds related to Hurricane "Dennis". Local salvage company Ocean Rescue and Recovery working in conjunction with local tug company Freeport are on scene and attempting to undertake salvage. It is also understood that the vessel is routinely engaged in trade between Miami and Haiti and that it may have been anchored temporarily off Freeport prior to the incident. Winds are still strong from the south but should abate as Hurricane "Dennis" moves northward during the day. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Freeport, Bahamas, Jul 9 -- Salvors managed to swim a line out to general cargo Providence II and secure same at 1100, however, on the first pull the vessel's bitts gave way. Salvors are reportedly regrouping and will try again at next high tide, tonight. Correction to the original reported position of 4.5 miles west of Freeport Harbour entrance, the distance is in fact closer to 2.5 miles. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Miami, Jul 10 -- Authorities urged more than a million people to evacuate as hurricane "Dennis" closed in on low-lying coastal areas of north-western Florida, Alabama and Mississippi yesterday after killing at least 32 people in Cuba and Haiti. The storm was on a northwest track that could take it to landfall today between

Florida's north-western panhandle and Mississippi -- an area still recovering from a battering by hurricane "Ivan" in September. Early yesterday, "Dennis" had pounded Cuba, shattering houses, downing power lines and littering streets with debris before brushing past the southern tip of Florida. Even though southern Florida did not get the storm's full force, some 140,000 homes and businesses were without power in the state at about noon, state officials said. Most outages were in the Florida Keys and other parts of southern Florida, including the Miami area, hit by stormy weather from the hurricane's outer bands. "Dennis" weakened as it crossed Cuba on Friday (Jul 8) from a ferocious 150 mph hurricane to a 90-mph storm but immediately regained some of its lost strength when it hit open water and skirted Key West. The hurricane was pushing top sustained winds of about 100 mph and forecasters said it could strengthen in the coming hours as it passed over the warm waters of the Gulf. At 1500 (1900, UTC) yesterday, the hurricane's centre was located about 295 miles south of Apalachicola, FL, and was moving north-westward at 14 mph. "This is a very dangerous storm," Florida Governor Jeb Bush said, urging people to heed evacuation orders or advice out to some 700,000 people in the state. Authorities in Alabama and Mississippi called for more than 500,000 people to leave their homes in vulnerable areas. In Cuba, workers cleared debris, fallen trees, lampposts and electrical lines from streets in urban areas pounded by the storm. Much of the country of 11 million people was still without power, including Havana, the capital, and Cienfuegos, the city on the south-central coast hardest hit by the storm. Winds with gusts of up to 100 mph and driving rain pounded blacked-out Havana all night. Authorities cut off power to avoid accidents from fallen cables. Ten people were killed in Cuba on Thursday night when the storm hit the south-eastern corner of the island, most of them in collapsed houses in two coastal towns in Granma province. Officials said 15,400 of the adjacent towns' 20,000 houses were destroyed or damaged. Television images showed rows of clapboard houses flattened by the storm. In southern Haiti, 15 people died when a swollen river tore away a bridge. The overall death toll in Haiti reached 22, officials said. Authorities had ordered people out of the lower half of the 100-mile Florida Keys but the island chain appeared to escape the full brunt of the storm. "We're very fortunate that we didn't get the bulk of the storm," Key West Mayor Jimmy Weekley told Miami's WFOR television. "We haven't had a lot of damage." "Dennis" is a threat to key oil and natural gas fields in the Gulf of Mexico, where a quarter of US production comes from. Energy companies have pulled hundreds of workers off oil rigs and shut down some crude and natural gas production. -- Reuters.

Freeport, Bahamas, Jul 11 -- General cargo Providence II: Original LOF salvors, ORR, seem to have stepped down opening the field to others. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: US President George W. Bush has declared "a major disaster" in three southern US states hit by Hurricane "Dennis." Hurricane "Dennis" crossed the American Gulf Coast with winds of up to 200 kilometres an hour. The declaration that covers Florida, Alabama and Mississippi makes the states immediately eligible for federal assistance, in addition to state and local funds made available for recovery efforts. The White House has not yet announced a specific amount of federal aid to the ravaged region. Hurricane "Dennis" slammed ashore on the US Gulf coast yesterday, uprooting trees and downing power lines. "Dennis" has killed at least 16 people in the Caribbean and one person in southern Florida. "Dennis" lost a little steam in the Gulf of Mexico just before crashing ashore but remained a powerful category three hurricane on a scale that goes up to five. Authorities warned that "Dennis" would also impact on areas far inland. "Hurricane-force winds associated with "Dennis" may occur as far as 240 to 280 km inland along the track of the hurricane," the Miami-based National Hurricane Centre said. In Cuba, President Fidel Castro said the hurricane had killed 10 people and temporarily displaced another 1.5 million as it crossed the island. In Haiti, "Dennis" left at least five people dead, 20 injured and 30 listed as missing, and caused 8,000 people to flee their homes. In Jamaica, a man reportedly died when he was washed away in flood waters.

Pensacola, Florida, Jul 11 - Hurricane "Dennis" swamped homes, ripped off roofs and felled power lines and trees when it hurtled into north-west Florida yesterday with 120-mph winds, strewn debris over an area recovering from a devastating storm last year. However, despite fears among coastal residents of a repeat of the widespread damage from September's hurricane "Ivan", the hurricane delivered a less punishing blow. "We dodged the bullet on the most part although our beach has suffered badly again," said Sara Comander, a spokeswoman for Walton County east of Pensacola, adding most damage would be erosion to the beach. "Dennis" weakened rapidly as it moved north-north-west through Alabama. By 2300 yesterday (0300, UTC, Jul 11), it was a tropical storm with its top winds down to 50 mph, the US National Hurricane Centre said. The storm could still cause heavy rain and possible tornadoes over central and northern Alabama, parts of Mississippi and the western Tennessee Valley, the centre warned. The hurricane cut power to almost half a million customers along the coast, peeled off aluminum roofs, pushed at least one home into the ocean and

turned some streets into rivers. There were no reports of people killed directly by the storm although officials in Walton County, Florida, said a young boy was killed on Friday (Jul 8) when his parents drove into him while evacuating their home ahead of the storm. Several houses and condominiums were badly damaged on Holiday Isle, offshore from Destin, said Kathleen Mitnacca, an emergency management spokeswoman in Okaloosa County. Some of the worst flooding was far to the east in the tiny fishing town of St. Marks, near Tallahassee, where chest-deep water flowed through the streets. Boaters rescued people stranded in their homes by the rapidly rising water. Authorities had urged residents in vulnerable coastal areas of the Florida panhandle, Alabama and Mississippi to evacuate ahead of "Dennis", and many had heeded the warnings. "Dennis" killed 32 people as it passed through the Caribbean last week -- 10 in Cuba and 22 in Haiti -- and intensified into a very dangerous storm as it charged north up the Gulf of Mexico toward the coast yesterday. However, before it hit land on Santa Rosa Island just east of Pensacola yesterday afternoon, the storm weakened from a powerful category 4 hurricane to a category 3 on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale. The storm moved rapidly over land, limiting the damage it could inflict, and its strongest side hit well east of the largest city in the area, Pensacola. President George W. Bush declared Florida, Mississippi and Alabama disaster areas, making them eligible for federal recovery aid. Energy companies pulled 2,100 workers off oil rigs and shut down 42% of daily crude output and 27% of daily natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, where the United States gets a quarter of its oil and gas. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane Dennis roared quickly through the Florida Panhandle and Alabama coast yesterday with 120-mph squalls, but shellshocked residents emerged to find far less damage than when "Ivan" took nearly the same path 10 months ago. The tightly wound "Dennis", which had been a Category 4, 145-mph monster as it marched up the Gulf of Mexico, weakened just before it struck less than 50 miles east of where "Ivan" came ashore. And despite downed power lines and outages affecting more than half a million people, early reports indicated relatively modest structural damage. "Dennis" caused an estimated \$1 billion to \$2.5 billion in insured damage in the United States, according to AIR Worldwide Corp. of Boston, an insurance risk modeling company. By 2300, "Dennis" had weakened to a tropical storm over south-west Alabama with 65 mph winds. As it moved northward, the hurricane's next-biggest threat, tornadoes, took over. Tornado watches and warnings were posted as far north as Atlanta. Forecasters also warned that "Dennis" could dump up to 8

inches of rain as it travels over the next few days through Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee into the Ohio Valley.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Dennis" killed 32 people in Cuba and Haiti last week before ripping through Florida yesterday. But its course missed rigs and refineries in the Gulf of Mexico and it has now lost most of its force. US light, sweet crude was \$58.55 a barrel, down \$1.08, with London Brent crude at \$57.04, down \$1.16. The shutdown forced US crude prices as high as \$60.70 briefly on Thursday (Jul 7) before news of the London bombs spread through the markets. They rose above \$60 once more on Friday, before it became clear that "Dennis" was going to spare key oil and gas installations after it was downgraded from hurricane to tropical storm. Checking facilities for damage, returning staff to their posts and restarting production is likely to take until the middle of the week. The Gulf of Mexico provides 30% of US oil output, and damage at a time when supplies are tight and energy firms are stocking up ahead of the autumn demand for heating oil might have pushed prices even higher. Even so, the cost of crude oil is almost 50% higher than it was a year ago, on soaring demand from India and China along with continued supply bottlenecks.

Mobile, Jul 11 -- On Jul 8, in anticipation of hurricane "Dennis", the Coast Guard put into effect condition Yankee, restricting in-bound traffic. They followed on Jul 9 putting into effect condition Zulu, and all operational vessel left the Port of Mobile. "Dennis" turned toward the east, and had minimal effect on the port. At this time, there are no casualties to report. Local authorities are surveying the harbour, and expect it to re-open tomorrow morning. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Freeport, Bahamas, Jul 11 -- Understand general cargo Providence II still remains largely as per originally stranding with no further progress to date. It is understood from the agent and all potential salvors it appears that no contractual commitments have been made regarding salvage of the vessel. Winds have died down significantly and the seas have abated to "workable" conditions. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: US Gulf coast residents started mopping up in the wake of Hurricane "Dennis," which left five dead in two US southern states. "Dennis" slammed ashore on Sunday (Jul 10) near Pensacola, where it fizzled out into a tropical depression. The heavy rains and high winds flooded roads and neighbourhoods, downed trees and power lines, and left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity. It left five dead in Florida and Georgia. Emergency teams and several thousand national guard troops were deployed across the affected area, mostly in north-western

Florida, to remove trees and debris, restore power and hand out emergency supplies. Repair crews started assessing the damage caused by the storm. Hurricane "Dennis" is estimated to have caused \$US1 billion to \$US5 billion in insured losses, according to Risk Management Solutions. US President George W Bush declared Florida, Alabama and Mississippi disaster areas on Sunday, which makes them immediately eligible for federal emergency aid.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Dennis" killed at least 16 people in Cuba, damaged or destroyed 15,000 homes and caused an estimated \$1.4 billion in property damage when it pummelled the island last week, Fidel Castro said in a speech that continued into the early hours of today. Before yesterday, the government death toll had stood at 10. Castro said 120,000 homes were affected -- 15,000 of them destroyed -- when "Dennis" struck with winds of 150 mph on the south-eastern coast of Cuba on Friday (Jul 8) and sliced north-west across the island on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. Thousands of metric tons of vegetables were lost, he said, and the citrus industry in central Cuba was devastated. Earlier in the program, Castro mentioned his country's rejection of the US government's offer of \$50,000 in immediate disaster aid. Castro said Cuba would accept no American assistance while the US trade embargo of more than 40 years remains in place. "We would never accept," said Castro. "If they offered \$1 billion we would say no." Nevertheless, the Cuban leader said, "we are grateful" for the offer. U.S. State Department officials in Havana and Washington said the financial offer was made on Sunday for emergency supplies such as blankets. The American government also offered to deploy an assessment team to independently determine what relief supplies were needed. "Unfortunately, the Castro government declined these offers," State Department spokesman Tom Casey said in Washington. Castro said the European Union could save its money as well because Cuba was only accepting humanitarian aid from "friendly" nations such as Venezuela. The South American nation sent two cargo aircraft loaded with food, medicine and other emergency aid to Cuba and Jamaica over the weekend. Casey said the US government would assist American non-governmental groups and individuals wanting to donate humanitarian aid to the island.

HURRICANE "EMILY"

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A tropical depression developed into tropical storm "Emily" late today in the Atlantic Ocean, a record fifth named storm for this point in the still-young hurricane season. Emily was 1,000 miles east-south-east of the Lesser Antilles, the chain of small islands between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic. "It's the record for the first

five named storms so early in the season," said Stacy Stewart, hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. The storm, with winds of about 45 mph, was moving west at 13 mph. It was expected to strengthen and speed up tomorrow while gradually turning towards the west-north-west.

London, Jul 12 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Emily": Interests in the Lesser Antilles should monitor the progress of the storm. Storm centre located near lat 11.4N, long 48.6W, at 0900, UTC, Jul 12. Position accurate to within 50 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west, or 280 deg, at 13 knots. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 30 nautical miles north semicircle, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 40 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 13: Position lat 12.9N, long 53.5W. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles north semicircle, 15 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles north semicircle, 35 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jul 13 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Emily": A tropical storm warning is in effect for Barbados. The government of Venezuela has issued a tropical storm warning for a portion of the northern coast of Venezuela from Pedernales westwards to Cumana, including Isla Margarita. A hurricane warning is in effect for Tobago, Grenada, The Grenadines, St. Vincent and St. Lucia. A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch are in effect for Trinidad. A tropical storm watch is in effect for Martinique. Storm centre located near lat 11.1N, long 56.3W, at 0900, UTC, Jul 13. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west, or 270 deg, at 17 knots. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles north semicircle, nil elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles north semicircle, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 125 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 14: Position lat 12.4N, long 61.7W. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles north semicircle, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. (See issue of Jul 13.) London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Caribbean governments issued safety alerts as tropical storm "Emily" hurtled toward their islands. The US National Hurricane Centre

said tropical storm warnings had been issued in Barbados, Tobago, Grenada, the Grenadines, St Vincent, St Lucia and much of the northern coast of Venezuela. But the centre said "Emily" was not strengthening and it ended hurricane alerts. In Tobago, Crown Point International Airport was closed and all international flights to the island have been rerouted, the government said. Authorities halted sea transport between Trinidad and Tobago. At 1800, GMT, "Emily" was about 210 km south-east of Barbados and 240 km north-east of Trinidad, heading west toward the Windward islands. With maximum sustained winds of nearly 95 km per hour.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Grenadian police ordered people off the streets and businesses closed today as hurricane "Emily" threatened an island still recovering from the devastation of hurricane "Ivan" last year. Prime Minister Keith Mitchell sought to reassure citizens the government would not be caught off-guard. Grenadians rushed home under heavy rain, forming traffic jams in the capital of St. George's. Islanders had flocked to the stores yesterday, snapping up canned food, water and batteries. At least 100 people evacuated to a shelter at a high school in the south-eastern part of Grenada, said Angela Pierre, the shelter's manager. Thirty-five other shelters across the country also reported taking people in. The government declared a state of emergency as a precaution. At 2300 today, the centre of hurricane "Emily" was about 45 miles south-east of Grenada, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. It had sustained winds of about 92 mph and was heading west at about 18 mph. A hurricane warning was in effect for Grenada, St. Vincent, the Grenadines and St. Lucia. Tropical storm warnings were in effect for Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and the north coast of Venezuela. Commerce halted across the eastern Caribbean as "Emily" bore down. Oil company BP evacuated nonessential staff from its 14 offshore oil platforms in Trinidad, leaving 11 employees to operate two platforms to fulfill its contractual obligations to provide gas for the country, the company said. In Grenada, the government ordered people off the streets and opened shelters across the island. In St. Vincent, people placed boards over windows, and businesses were supposed to close at noon, though some remained open amid a light drizzle and increasingly dark skies. St. Lucians also lined up at stores and the government ordered businesses to close in the afternoon. The island's two main airports remained open, though British Airways cancelled its flights from Hewanorra International Airport in the south.

London, Jul 14 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Emily": A hurricane warning is in effect for Grenada. The

hurricane warning for St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been downgraded to a tropical storm warning. The tropical storm warnings for Trinidad and Tobago have been discontinued. A tropical storm warning is in effect for the northern coast of Venezuela from Pedernales westwards to Punto Fijo, including Isla Margarita and the offshore islands north of the coast and west of Cumana. A tropical storm watch is in effect for Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba. A tropical storm watch may be required for a portion of the south coast of Hispaniola later today. Interests elsewhere in the central Caribbean should monitor the progress of "Emily." Hurricane centre located near lat 12.3N, long 62.3W, at 0900, UTC, Jul 14. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 285 deg, at 16 knots. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles north semicircle, nil elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles north-east quadrant, nil south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 175 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 125 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 90 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 15: Position lat 14.0N, long 68.0W. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 75 nautical miles north semicircle, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles north semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere.

INDIA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Conditions are rapidly improving in seven of Madhya Pradesh's nine flood-affected districts while floodwater is yet to recede in some places within Panna and Damoh where IAF helicopters are conducting rescue and relief operations in several villages. The overall death toll due to flooding and rain-related incidents rose to 49 with three fatalities being reported from Panna. About 10,000 animals perished and 10 lakh were affected, sources said.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Life in Telangana and coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh is slowly returning to normal as people today got some respite after three days of incessant rains, which claimed 12 lives. People in the state capital and at least six other districts of the two regions heaved a sigh of relief with a lull in heavy rains as the low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is weakening. Water levels in rivulets, tanks and other water bodies began receding even as authorities continued their efforts to pump out floodwater from low-lying areas in

Hyderabad, Warangal and Khammam districts and restoring rail traffic. According to officials, heavy rains in the state claimed 12 deaths. Five people each were killed in Khammam and Ranga Reddy districts, while two deaths were reported from Warangal district. They said 85 houses were damaged in Ranga Reddy district bordering Hyderabad. Residents around Hussain Sagar Lake in the heart of the state capital also heaved a sigh of relief with the respite in rains. The heavy rainfall of 14 cm until yesterday night had almost filled up the tank, threatening the residential areas around. More than 10,000 people were affected as nine colonies in and around Hyderabad were inundated due to heavy downpour. Several trains were either cancelled or diverted as the track between Hyderabad and Warangal was damaged due to rains. D.N. Mathur, general manager of South Central Railways, inspected the damaged track at Nashkal in Warangal district. He said efforts were on to restore traffic as early as possible. It was yesterday night that a major mishap was averted when the Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam Godavari Express was stopped just before the damaged track. Railway employee Chandraiah was washed away while checking the track before the train's arrival. Another employee Bookya alerted the train with safety detonators and thus averted a mishap. The heavy rains, the first of this season, improved drinking water supply in Hyderabad and other major towns and brought cheer to distressed farmers.

JAPAN

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain pounded south-western Japan overnight, with floods and mudslides killing three people and leaving two others missing in Oita and Nagasaki prefectures, police said. In the town of Kokonoe, Oita Prefecture, an 81-year-old man was swept away early today by a landslide that ripped through the lodging facility he operated, the police said. The man was later found dead nearby.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 400 Tauranga residents remain in temporary accommodation as a result of floods which hit parts of the Bay of Plenty on May 18. Tauranga City Council spokeswoman Elizabeth Hughes today said 17 people were in motels and 16 families were being billeted with other family members and receiving a Work and Income subsidy. The rest of the 398 people affected were in private rental accommodation. Evacuees were still frustrated over delays by the Earthquake Commission (EQC) in completing final assessments, Ms Hughes said. EQC had confirmed 31 dwellings were deemed a total loss and that number could increase as further geotechnical assessments were completed. EQC was continuing

discussions with property owners and insurance underwriters to determine the fate of worst affected properties, Ms Hughes said. The council was negotiating with several property owners to buy properties deemed a total loss by EQC. It was envisaged the council would clear those sites to make them safe, allowing current owners to move on unencumbered without the burden of having to spend money on sites no longer suitable for residential use. One hundred and fourteen homes remained uninhabitable from flood damage, while 52 were uninhabitable as a result of slip damage. So far the council had spent \$2,234,760 recovering from the flooding. Some walking tracks on Mount Maunganui had re-opened. Work continued on other tracks which were scheduled to re-open towards the end of August.

PAKISTAN

Islamabad, Jul 8 -- About 3,000 Pakistani villagers were forced to evacuate their homes after a large volume of water flowed down a river from the Indian Himalayas into Pakistan, a relief official said today. Pakistani officials said yesterday India had released the water into the Chenab river without warning but a Pakistani flood expert said today the flow was because of heavy rain in the mountains, and it had not been stored and released by India. A relief official in Pakistan's Punjab province, where the Chenab River enters from Indian-controlled Kashmir, said the flow was not as heavy as earlier feared. "We've had to evacuate only about 25 villages. I would say approximately 3,000 people have been affected, but there has been no loss of life," said provincial relief commissioner, Syed Safdar Javed. "Obviously, crops would be damaged but we don't know the extent as yet," he said. The chief of the meteorological department's flood forecasting division said the heavy flow was because of rain across the Himalayas and not, as a top weather official said earlier, because India had unexpectedly released stored water. Elsewhere in Pakistan, snow melting in the Hindu Kush mountains of Afghanistan and northern Pakistan has led to floods downstream over the past week and about 12,000 people have had to move out of about 100 villages in north-west and central Pakistan. -- Reuters.

PORTUGAL-SPAIN

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of farm animals and tonnes of fish in reservoirs are dying each day in southern Portugal as the country's worst drought in more than 60 years escalates. Farmers have been using heavy lifting equipment to remove carcasses from fields that once provided grazing for thousands of cattle but are now brown and bare, singed by the extreme heat of the summer. "Things have never been as bad," Francisco Palma, the president of the farmers' association of the

southern province of the Alentejo, said. The province is known as the breadbasket of Portugal for its high wheat production. These were "very, very difficult times," Senhor Palma added. INE, the country's national statistics institute, estimated that cereal production would fall by up to 70 per cent this year, making it the worst grain harvest in two decades. The drought has already cost farmers in Portugal at least E1 billion (£0.69 billion) in lost income and extra costs, with livestock farmers especially hard hit, according to estimates by CAP, Portugal's main farmers' association. About 97 per cent of Portugal is officially afflicted by severe drought, forcing the Government to take action to ensure supplies. The European Union has agreed to an unprecedented transfer of surplus grain from Central Europe to Portugal and Spain. The outlook is little better in Spain, where the country's driest winter and spring since the 1940s have left reservoirs in some regions only 20 per cent full and rivers down to a third of their normal volume. Government estimates put losses attributable to the drought in Spain at E1.7 billion. With water at a premium, last month Portugal accused Spain of stealing its water, demanding E6 million in compensation after water levels in the River Douro fell below limits established in a bilateral agreement. Portugal is also on maximum alert against the danger of forest fires. In southern Portugal more than 22,000 people living in 39 rural villages are dependent on deliveries of water by lorries after nine months of below-average rainfall. Tourist complexes on the southern Algarve's Atlantic coast have resorted to drilling to find unexploited water reserves. Environmental groups gave warning that this will do irreparable long-term damage. Water consumption multiplies by up to five times during July and August in coastal regions.

PROVIDENCE II (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

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

ROMANIA

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people were killed and seven are missing after severe flooding in Romania, local authorities said today. An estimated 210,000 hectares of crops have also been damaged at a cost of 500 million euros, according to government estimates. In the central region of Alba, a 65-year-old woman drowned after being swept away by flood waters while a 19-year-old was killed by a lighting strike, in the southeastern Tulcea region. Seven people were reported missing in the eastern regions of Vrancea and Bacau, among the regions the worst affected by the flooding. Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu described the flooding today as "extremely serious" and held a video conference with regional leaders in which he called for local authorities

to ensure any people in danger could be quickly evacuated. The flooding began yesterday after two weeks of heavy rains and has inundated thousands of homes and cut highways and railway lines, blocking traffic in a number of regions.

TROPICAL STORM "CINDY"

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: The Atlanta Motor Speedway, in hampton, georgia, resembled a high-speed crash scene after a tornado caused as much as \$40 million in damage. "Everything but the track surface has suffered some kind of damage, said speedway president Ed Clark, who estimated damage of \$25 million to \$40 million from the storm yesterday night. "There are some buildings that will have to be torn down." Entire sections of the grandstand and luxury boxes are shredded. Oak trees, flagpoles and light towers are snapped. On some of the speedway's condominiums, the roof is caved in and windows are shattered. Every structure at the facility, which hosts NASCAR races and smaller events, was roughed up by a half-mile-wide tornado spawned night by the remnants of Tropical Storm Cindy. While the speedway's races for the next week have been cancelled, NASCAR's Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500 -- set for Oct. 30 -- will go on, Clark said. The bowl shape of the speedway helped the tornado form and it eventually remained on the ground for about four miles, also hitting the Tara Field airport in Hampton, the National Weather Service said. Four planes were overturned and two hangars were damaged at the airport. Lans Rothfus, the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service's Peachtree City office, said a preliminary investigation indicated the tornado was a category F-2 with winds up to 157 mph.

London, July 8 -- A press report, dated July 7, states: Tropical storm "Cindy" cut more than 12% of the Gulf of Mexico's oil production, disrupted refinery operations and sent oil prices to a new record yesterday, while a second storm system approaching the area has the energy industry watching with anticipation. More than 95 oil and gas platforms and rigs were evacuated this week because of "Cindy", a storm system that left more than 250,000 people without electricity and produced 70-mph winds when it came ashore near Grand Isle, La., on Tuesday. The evacuations took more than 12% of the Gulf's daily oil production offline and 7.5% of the daily natural gas production, according to the Mineral Management Service. "Cindy" also affected operations for at least five oil refineries in Louisiana. Motiva Enterprises said units at its 227,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Norco, La., were shut after a power outage that occurred early yesterday as "Cindy" passed through the area at near-hurricane strength, according to

Reuters. And independent refiner Valero Energy said its two Louisiana refineries were running at reduced production levels because of lower pipeline shipments, storm-related ship delays and power outages. Chalmette Refining's 190,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Chalmette, La., lost power. Murphy Oil's 120,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Meraux, La., was also down temporarily. Oil and gas companies said many crews were returning to work offshore yesterday or today but it was not known when production would be restored. Tropical storm "Dennis", a system expected to become a hurricane by early tomorrow, could delay those plans, however. Most drilling and production companies said yesterday it was too early to know whether they would evacuate more crews from their Gulf operations. Companies that fly crews on and off Gulf rigs said they were watching and waiting to see what happens. A few drilling and production companies are already taking action, however. Transocean said it will be evacuating about 250 workers from three deep-water rigs. BP said nonessential workers were evacuated from deep-water facilities in the eastern Gulf.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

London, Jul 12 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Haitang" near lat 23.5N, long 151.0E, at 0600, UTC, Jul 12. Movement past six hours 290 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 13: Position lat 23.0N, long 147.7E. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 25 nautical miles.

London, Jul 13 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Haitang" near lat 22.4N, long 148.3E, at 0600, UTC, Jul 13. Movement past six hours 240 deg at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles south semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 14: Position lat 20.7N, long 143.3E. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 35 nautical miles south semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 70 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 65 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jul 14 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Haitang" near lat 20.2N, long 142.4E, at 0600, UTC, Jul 14. Movement past six hours 260 deg at 19 knots. Position accurate to within 40

nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 35 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 110 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant and 80 nautical miles north-east quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 15: Position lat 19.9N, long 135.8E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 32 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 31 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 65 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 62 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 54 nautical miles north-east quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 127 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 111 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 121 nautical miles elsewhere.

Earthquakes



ALBANIA

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake measuring five to six degrees on the Richter scale rattled northern Albania today but caused no injuries, the Albanian Seismological Institute said in a statement. The quake struck at 1310, GMT, near the town of Tropoja, some 300 kilometres north of the capital Tirana. It was felt in several towns in the northern part of the country and damaged several old houses. It was also felt in Podgorica, the capital of neighbouring Montenegro, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage.

FIJI ISLANDS

London, Jul 12 -- A report, dated Jul 11, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2306, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located south of the Fiji Islands in lat 26.96S, long 176.49W, depth 10 km.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale today rocked an area in the Indonesian province of Central Sulawesi, prompting widespread panic but no casualties or significant damage, officials said. The quake was centred about 33 kilometres underground, some 30 kilometres south-west of the provincial capital of Palu at 0759, local

time, said Hardianto of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency. "So far, there are no reports of victims or damage but the earthquake did spark panic among the population, with many rushing out of their homes," Hardianto said. Second Lt. Abidin of the Central Sulawesi Police headquarters in Palu, said the quake was estimated have been centred under the villages of Bora and Bungga. "But there have not been any reports of damage or victims," Abidin said. Antara reported from Palu that the quake had triggered an electricity blackout.

JAN MAYEN ISLAND REGION

London, Jul 7 -- A report, dated Jul 6, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0824, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Jan Meyen Island region in lat 69.03N, long 16.65W.

JAPAN

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale rocked sea waters near Japan's Izu Islands this morning. The Hong Kong Observatory reports that the epicentre was initially determined to be about 270 kilometres south-east of Tokyo. An earlier quake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale shook northern Japan yesterday, but there was no risk of a tsunami. The quake occurred about 250 kilometres north of Tokyo, with its focus located 10 kilometres underground. There were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 7 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0217, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Komandorskiye Ostrova, Russia region, in lat 56.114N, long 164.528E, depth 32 km.

Volcanic Activity



SHIVELUCH, RUSSIA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A sharp increase in the activity of Mount Shiveluch, the northernmost volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula, has been registered. After a three-month-long eruption that produced gas and ash plumes and debris avalanches, Shiveluch has started erupting two-five kilometre ash columns, said Alexei Ozerov, a senior researcher at the Far-Eastern Volcanology and Seismology Institute. Shiveluch is producing pyroclastic flows with temperatures reaching about 800 degrees Celsius, and 100km ash plumes, the researcher said.

Political & Civil Unrest

**AFGHANISTAN**

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Taleban has reiterated its claim that it has been holding the fourth, unaccounted-for US Navy Seal for more than a week, and vowed to kill him. The US military, however, said it had no information to support the claim and that a big search operation for the missing man was continuing. "We are aggressively searching for him ... We don't have anything to support that," a spokeswoman said of the Taleban claim. Taleban spokesman Mullah Latif Hakimi first said last week that video of a captured US soldier would be provided to news organisations and photographs posted on a Taleban website - www.alemarah.com - but neither appears to have happened. "There is no way the soldier is going to be released. He will be executed," Mr Hakimi said. (See issue of Jul 6.)

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Officials in Afghanistan say six missing Afghan policemen, who were seized in a Taliban attack on their convoy, have been killed. They say the beheaded bodies were found dumped in Helmand Province, near the border with Pakistan. Earlier, Taliban insurgents claimed to have beheaded a missing American commando. But this claim has not been verified. The US military says it has no information to support the claim. A search for the man is continuing. The dead Afghan policemen were in a convoy of about 30. They were on a routine patrol when they came under attack. Another four policemen were killed in an exchange of fire before their colleagues were abducted.

CHINA

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A bomb exploded in a shopping mall yesterday in north-eastern China, injuring 47 people but causing no deaths, a news report said. The explosion shattered all the glass in the two-storey Zhengde Shopping Centre in Liaoyang County in Liaoning Province, Xinhua said. A man accused of setting off the bomb in a revenge attack was arrested there, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: An armed gang herded dozens of civilians into their huts in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), lit the homes on fire and burned more than 30 of them alive, the UN mission in the DRC said. "More than 30 civilians, mostly women, were killed and about 50 wounded" in the attack on Saturday

night (Jul 9) on Ntulumamba village, about 70 kilometres to the north-east of the border town of Bukavu in Sud-Kivu province, the spokesman for the UN mission MONUC Kemal Saiki said. The victims were forced into their huts and their homes were then set ablaze, Mr Saiki said. Sud Kivu Province Governor Didace Kamingimi said there were "39 burned huts and 26 bodies found" when DRC troops went to the scene on Sunday. Witnesses who fled blamed local militias and a Hutu rebel force from neighbouring Rwanda long holed up in the area, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). Early yesterday the Congolese army said it came under attack by the FDLR and local militias in three villages in the region of Rutshuru in Nord-Kivu province. The villages were located about 150 kilometres north of Goma, the main city of Nord-Kivu. "It was a strong force that attacked our positions. We retreated to a few kilometres south of the villages. But our troops are already in action to take back control of the villages," Colonel Janvier Mayanga, commander of the 12th brigade of the Congolese army, said.

INDIA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected militants clashed with soldiers in an overnight gunbattle after they allegedly entered Indian-controlled Kashmir from the Pakistani side of a ceasefire line, leaving four guerillas and four soldiers dead, an army spokesman said today. Another two Indian soldiers were wounded in the fighting in Punch district, 220 kilometers north-east of Jammu, the winter capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, said Lt. Col. D. K. Badola, the army spokesman. The fighting began last night and continued until early today.

IRAQ

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Al-Qaida's wing in Iraq claimed today it had killed Egypt's top envoy who was abducted by gunmen last weekend and warned it would go after "as many ambassadors as we can" to punish countries that support Iraq's U.S.-backed leadership. An Egyptian official in Cairo said Egypt would temporarily close its mission here and has recalled its staff. The country's president, meanwhile, called for a "war of annihilation" against foreign Islamic extremists as at least eight people were killed in violence today. The announcement from Iraq's most feared terror group appeared on an al-Qaida-linked Web site and featured a brief video showing the blindfolded diplomat, Ihab al-Sherif, wearing a polo shirt. The video did not show his death, but the statement promised more details later. "We announce in the name of al-Qaida in Iraq that the verdict of God against the ambassador of the infidels, the ambassador of Egypt, has been carried out. Thank God," a written statement in posting said, adding "Iraq is no

longer safe for the infidels." News of the killing marked a dramatic escalation in a campaign to discourage Arab and Muslim governments from sending ambassadors and strengthening ties with Iraq, as Washington wants. In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak insisted his country will continue to support Iraq. Seeking to bolster public confidence, Interior Minister Bayan Jabr said today that nearly 1,700 suspected insurgents have been detained and 41 killed in skirmishes during the six-week long Operation Lightning in Baghdad. About 1,000 terror suspects remain in custody, including four Sudanese, three Palestinians, two Egyptians, two Jordanians and one Syrian, he said. Separately, the U.S. military defended its decision to continue holding five U.S. citizens in Iraq on suspicion of links to the insurgency. Three of the five are Iraqi-American citizens, one is an Iranian-American and a fifth is a Jordanian-American. "We have sufficient facts and evidence that they're being detained appropriately," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Donald Alston, spokesman for the Multinational Force in Iraq. In violence today: Six civilians were killed and 24 wounded in mortar attacks against police stations in Mosul, the U.S. military said. Police in Tikrit opened fire on 1,000 demonstrators as they protested the killing of the local council's head official. At least four people were injured, officials said. Gunmen killed two Shiite Muslim clerics in Baghdad, police said. Five decapitated bodies were found on the road between Rawah and Ramadi in northwestern Iraq, police reported.

Baghdad, Jul 10 -- A suicide bomber with explosives strapped to his body attacked an Iraqi army recruitment centre in western Baghdad today, killing 21 people and wounding more than 30, police sources said. Sources at the nearby Yarmuk hospital said staff were treating 39 people for wounds from the blast and had received 16 bodies. Emergency vehicles went to the scene, which was cordoned off by troops. The suicide bomber struck as people were starting their working day in the capital. The recruitment office at the Muthanna airfield, near the city centre, has been targeted before by insurgents fighting Iraq's new Shi'ite-led government and its US backers. The core of the insurgency comes from Iraq's Sunni Arab minority. -- Reuters.

Baquba, Jul 11 -- Insurgents stormed an Iraqi army checkpoint north of Baghdad as dawn broke today, killing seven soldiers, police sources said. Two soldiers and three civilians were wounded in the half-hour gun battle at Khalis, near Baquba, 65 km north-east of Baghdad. Another soldier was wounded when a parked pickup truck carrying watermelons exploded as reinforcements arrived to drive off the guerrillas. Police had no indication of casualties among the attackers. The Iraqi government's new security forces

have become prime targets for insurgents drawn mainly from the once-dominant Sunni Arab minority. About 20 army volunteers were killed by another suicide bomber at a recruiting centre in Baghdad yesterday. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: US soldiers killed 14 insurgents in two days of fighting in a strategic northern city, the American military said today, and gunmen killed 10 Iraqi soldiers in the central Sunni heartland. A hard-line Sunni clerical group accused Iraqi government commandos of torturing and killing 10 Sunni Arab civilians in Baghdad, fueling sectarian tensions between the country's two major religious groups. Soldiers of the US 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment killed four insurgents in a gunbattle yesterday, and 10 more were killed today as fighting raged in Tal Afar, 260 miles north of Baghdad, the US command reported. American troops suffered no casualties, the statement said. However, insurgents bloodied an Iraqi force in Khalis, 45 miles north of Baghdad. Guerrillas firing mortars, machine guns and semi-automatic weapons stormed an Iraqi checkpoint at about 0500 hrs, killing eight Iraqi soldiers, Khalis police chief Col Mahdi Saleh said. About 90 minutes later, a car bomb exploded a few miles away as an Iraqi army patrol passed, killing two soldiers, Saleh said. Two soldiers and three civilians were wounded in the attacks. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attacks in a Web statement, but the authenticity of the posting could not be confirmed. Six civilians were also killed in the Tal Afar fighting and 22 were wounded, according to the city police chief, Brig Gen Najim Abdullah al-Jubouri. Some of the wounded were hospital workers, officials said. Two US Marines were killed Sunday by "indirect fire" -- presumably mortar shells -- in the insurgent stronghold of Hit, the US command said. Hit is on the Euphrates River in western Iraq, along another major route from Syria. Suicide attacks, car bombings and ambushes killed about 60 people in Baghdad and elsewhere yesterday. The spike in violence occurred despite an ongoing military operation in the capital, codenamed Lightning, that has sharply reduced suicide attacks in the capital. Nevertheless, Defence Minister Saadoun al-Duleimi insisted Operation Lightning had been successful and would be followed by other offensives until "we break the back of the terrorists, one after another."

ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Jul 13 -- Israeli soldiers arrested five suspected members of the Islamic Jihad militant group during a raid today in the West Bank town of Tulkarm a day after a suicide bombing in Israel, the army said. The soldiers killed a Palestinian policeman and two Israeli troops were wounded earlier in the raid launched after Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility

for the bombing that killed three women in the city of Netanya yesterday. -- Reuters.

IVORY COAST

Yamoussoukro, Jul 7 -- Government and rebels in divided Ivory Coast failed today to thrash out a disarmament timetable but President Laurent Gbagbo pledged ensure the rapid passage of laws seen as key to peace. The world's top cocoa producer has been split in two since a failed coup in 2002 triggered civil war. Previous disarmament dates, the latest on June 27, have fallen through over political squabbling, sporadic violence and delays passing legal reforms. Peace talks in South Africa last week revived a flagging peace process and the United Nations -- which has more than 6,000 troops in the West African state -- demanded full implementation of the latest Pretoria deal on Wednesday and threatened sanctions against those who failed to comply. Government and rebel military chiefs, officials from the United Nations and South African mediators gathered at a conference centre in the capital Yamoussoukro today but left with little but an agreement to come back tomorrow. Officials said the two sides had created two joint commissions, one on disarmament and the other on security for rebel ministers in the government-controlled main city, Abidjan. One rebel source said the talks had broken down over the army's wish to send its own forces to secure the rebel-held north during disarmament -- a proposal rebel delegates rejected. "The debate is closed. We will talk again tomorrow," said the source. "The session ended with a dispute and a lack of understanding." However, in the main city Abidjan Gbagbo promised his cabinet to see through the passage of new laws agreed under a 2003 French-sponsored peace deal. Repeated delays passing the laws -- including less stringent nationality criteria and provision for a reformed independent electoral commission -- have been a major obstacle in previous disarmament talks with rebels refusing to disarm until the laws are passed and pro-government militia hand in their guns. "The president of the republic referred back to the Pretoria accord to inform the cabinet that he will take measures by July 15 regarding the adoption of remaining legislative texts," a cabinet statement said. New laws voted in by parliament several months ago were found not to conform to the original French-brokered peace deal and all sides agreed at talks in Pretoria in April to revise them, but this has not yet been done. Periodic violence has also undermined peace efforts, the latest bout of bloodletting claiming more than 100 lives near the western town of Duekoue five weeks ago. -- Reuters.

KENYA

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Kenyan police

have confirmed that at least 19 people have been killed in a brutal attack by armed raiders in a remote village in eastern Kenya. National police spokesman Jaspher Ombati says at least 15 villagers and four attackers have died in a raid on one compound in the village of Turbi in what residents describe as an inter-clan feud over water and pasture. However, he stresses that police have not yet visited a second manyatta, or residential compound of huts, in Turbi that residents say has also been attacked. He says more bodies could be found there. "We have confirmed that 15 victims and four attackers died from the attack in the manyatta," Mr Ombati said. "Police officers are proceeding to another manyatta that possibly came under attack." Residents of the area have said that at least 21 people and as many as 23, many of them children, have been killed. They say armed members of the Borana clan burst into the village, which is populated mainly by the rival Gabra clan, and opened fire. A Gabra elder says the attack is part of a plan by the Borana to take control of Turbi, an oasis in the parched region.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Russia's gas supplies to Azerbaijan's northern regions was suspended at 0130, yesterday. The move came after an explosion on the Mozdok-Gazimammad main pipeline close to the Makhachkala airport in Daghestan, Russia. The state-owned Azerigas joint-stock company quoted the Emergencies Ministry of Dagestan as saying that the country's northern regions are still supplied with gas left in the pipeline. According to eyewitness accounts, Russia's major Kaspigazprom Company halted gas supplies following the blast. Although the law-enforcement bodies have not provided their final assessment to the accident, Dagestan's emergencies and fire safety service has said that the explosion was caused by "outside interference". Repair operations have started on the pipeline to last two days.

SRI LANKA

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least four Tamil Tiger rebels have been killed and two others wounded by unknown gunmen, suspected to be members loyal to the renegade rebel commander, V. Muralitharan, in Sri Lanka's restive Eastern province this morning. Military spokesman, Brig. Daya Ratnayake, said gunmen came in a van and lobbed grenades at an LTTE gathering at Uppuveli farm in Trincomalee district, killing four of them on the spot. The injured have been admitted to a hospital, he added. There are unconfirmed reports of firing after the grenade explosion, brig Ratnayake said. The attack in Trincomalee has taken place amidst LTTE's ultimatum to the government to respond clearly whether or not it could provide adequate security to

transport its commanders and cadres to the restive Eastern province. The LTTE has been accusing the government of Sri Lanka of conducting a 'shadow war' in the Eastern Batticaloa and Amparai districts against the LTTE cadres.

TURKEY

Istanbul, Jul 7 -- A Turkish freight train derailed in eastern Turkey today after a mine was detonated on the tracks, but no one was hurt or killed in the incident, the state-run Anatolian news agency said. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attack, which occurred as the train was traveling between the eastern cities of Erzurum and Erzincan. It was the second time a train has been targeted in the region within a week. Erzurum's provincial governor Celalettin Guvenc was quoted as saying the mine was detonated by remote control but that no one was killed or wounded in the incident. "One carriage was overturned. Six carriages are lying on their side," Guvenc said. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An apparent bomb explosion has injured at least 20 people in the Turkish town of Cesme, according to reports today. The explosion occurred in a rubbish bin, where Kurdish rebels, Islamic and leftist militants are known to plant bombs, NTV television said. There were no claims of responsibility for the attack. The explosion took place near a bank in downtown Cesme, a popular tourist destination, some 70km away from the Aegean port city of Izmir. Bomb squads cordoned off the area.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A massive intelligence investigation is under way to find those responsible for the bomb attacks in London which killed at least 37 and left 700 injured. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said yesterday's attacks bore all the hallmarks of the al-Qaeda network. Home Secretary Charles Clarke is urging people to go about their business as normally as possible today. Transport operators hope to run a near normal service on the Tube on most lines today, but the Circle and Hammersmith and City lines will remain closed. King's Cross station was due to re-open for suburban rail services only. Buses are expected operate normally, except around the immediate areas where the explosions took place. Transport officials have urged passengers to remain vigilant and keep hold of their baggage at all times. Scotland Yard have confirmed seven people died in the Liverpool Street explosion, while 21 lost their lives at the King's Cross blast and another seven were killed at Edgware Road. Two people died in the explosion on a double decker bus at Upper Woburn Place. It is thought the death toll could rise today. Whitehall sources say every resource is being used, but it may take some days before a picture emerges of who was to blame. Police

said they were examining a claim on the website of a previously unknown group, the Secret Organisation Group of al-Qaeda of Jihad Organisation in Europe, saying it was behind the blast. The statement said the attacks were revenge for the "massacres" Britain was committing in Iraq and Afghanistan and that the country was now "burning with fear and panic". It warned Denmark and Italy they faced similar attacks if they did not withdraw their troops from the Middle East. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Brian Paddick said officers were looking into this claim, but that they were keeping an open mind. He also stressed officials had not received any warning of the blasts. Anti-terrorism officers are also examining whether or not the attacks were the work of suicide bombers. Mr Paddick said it was too soon to say definitively either way.

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: More than 50 people were killed in yesterday's terror attacks in London, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair said. Sir Ian said there was "great difficulty in determining how many fatalities" because of the damage at scenes of the bombs blasts on the rush hour tube and a bus. He said 13 people had been killed in the Tavistock Place bomb blast. He revealed that there were 700 casualties, 350 people were taken to hospital, 22 were still in a critical condition and one person died in hospital. He said the injured included people from Australia, China, Poland, Portugal and Sierra Leone. Anti-terrorist branch head Andy Hayman said each of the bombs contained less than 10 lbs of high explosives and they were probably placed on the floor of the three tube trains or, in the case of the bus, on the floor or a seat.

London, Jul 8 -- Part of London's underground rail network will be disrupted for weeks after deadly blasts aboard three trains damaged tracks, operator Transport for London said today. The blasts yesterday, that also targeted a double-decker bus, killed more than 50 people and wounded hundreds. "We do not expect services on the central section of the Piccadilly line to be restored for several weeks," the underground operator said in a statement. It was referring to the line on which a blast killed at least 21 people. It was too early to assess potential structural damage to tunnels, Transport for London said. It expressed hope to resume service on the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines within days. Police said bodies remained on some carriages at the blast site on the Piccadilly line where a senior Metropolitan Police official said the threat of tunnel collapse was hampering emergency crews. "Extensive damage has been caused to the three trains in yesterday's terrorist attacks at Edgware Road, Aldgate and Russell Square," Transport for London said. "The track at these three locations has also been damaged. No sections of tunnel have collapsed. We will not be able to

identify the extent of damage until we can access the three sites and undertake structural surveys." -- Reuters.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Police raised the death toll in London's terrorist bombings to 52 today as forensics experts identified the first of the victims, a 53-year-old mother of two from outside London. Prime Minister Tony Blair promised a "vigorous and intense" manhunt for the attackers. As workers searched the twisted wreckage for more bodies, millions of Londoners rode subways and buses to and from work, tense but intent on resuming their routines four days after the strikes. "We won't let a small group of terrorists change the way we live," London's mayor, Ken Livingstone, said defiantly. In a somber address to the House of Commons, his first since Thursday's (Jul 7) attacks, Blair said it seemed probable that Islamic extremists were responsible for what he denounced as a "murderous carnage of the innocent." No specific intelligence could have prevented the strikes, he said. "Our country will not be defeated by such terror," he told lawmakers. "We will pursue those responsible wherever they are and will not rest until they are identified and brought to justice." President Bush expressed solidarity with Britain today, saying, "America will not retreat in the face of terrorists and murderers." Officials raised the confirmed death toll, which had stood at 49, to 52 as workers searched for corpses in mangled underground carriages, and warned that the body count would probably climb. "That will rise," Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir Ian Blair said outside the King's Cross station near the site of the worst of the four bombings, an explosion that killed at least 21 people on one of the Underground's deepest lines. "They still have to get underneath the carriages, and it is possible they will find more" bodies, he said. Two other subway trains and a double-decker bus were also destroyed in the attacks, which wounded 700 people. Fifty-six remained hospitalised today, many in critical condition, officials said. Police announced they had identified the first of the victims, Susan Levy, 53, of Hertfordshire. Forensics experts have warned it could take days or weeks to put names to the bodies, many of which were blown apart and would have to be identified through dental records or DNA analysis. Public transit officials said the number of passengers using London's bus and tube network, which handles three million people on a typical day, was back to normal today. British intelligence officials met over the weekend with their counterparts from the United States, Canada and about two dozen European countries to discuss possible leads, police said today. London newspapers identified a possible suspect as Mustafa Setmariam Nasar - a Syrian suspected of being al-Qaida's operations chief in Europe and

the alleged mastermind of last year's Madrid railway bombings. US officials said both the United States and Britain were seeking Nasar. Security officials in Poland, meanwhile, said today they searched the home of a British citizen of Pakistani origin in the eastern Polish city of Lublin in connection with the bombings. Poland's Internal Security Agency did not release the man's name and said he was not taken into custody. With last week's attackers still at large, authorities warned the public anew of the danger of more strikes. "We can't possibly assume that what happened on Thursday was the last of these events," said James Hart, the police official in charge of London's financial district. "There is absolutely no doubt that there are people out there who wish us harm, and we have to be vigilant." Underscoring how tense London remained, police briefly closed several streets where most government offices are located, including Parliament, the Foreign Office, and 10 Downing St., after a suspicious package was found, but it contained no explosives. Later, police evacuated the King's Cross tube station for a time and shut the Waterloo bridge over the River Thames; both were false alarms.

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The London bombings will cost the UK up to £3 billion and have an effect on the economy comparable to a natural disaster or deadly virus outbreak, an expert has said. The World Markets Research Centre said the attacks will cause similar economic damage to a hurricane or earthquake, or the Sars crisis of 2003. Jan Randolph, head of risk at the London-based business analysts, said: "You have the immediate cost in terms of physical damage to infrastructure. "But the real cost comes from the knock-on effect which is quite considerable in terms of use of public transport and retail sales, which were sliding anyway. "There's also tourism and entertainment to consider, there will be less visitors, less people going to theatres and restaurants. "It's the same as a natural disaster, there's the physical damage and then the knock-on effect to the economy. "We estimate £2 to £3 billion in terms of cost to the UK economy and a fall in growth of up to 0.2% over the quarter, although that should rebound next quarter, as it did after September 11 and the Madrid bombings." Mr Randolph predicted there would also be a surge in the internet retail sector and use of car parks as a result of the London bombings. He said: "What we saw amid the Sars virus in Asia was a rise in online shopping, the same is likely to happen here. "People will just think, 'Why risk going out the door when I can just order my hi-fi or groceries or whatever over the internet?' Commuters are also likely to take their cars into work more, rather than chance it on public transport."

Labour Disputes



CANADA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Talks aimed at ending a strike by truck drivers who handle container traffic at the Port of Vancouver have broken down, the truckers' association said on Tuesday (Jul 5), as the work stoppage at Canada's busiest port entered its eighth day. The Vancouver Container Truckers Association blamed their transport broker employers for the failure to reach a mediated settlement on wages after three days of discussions. For every week of a strike, it takes shippers three weeks to catch up.

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: The association representing container truck drivers have made a one-year proposal to help settle a strike at Vancouver's port that has seen container shipments pile up. The Vancouver Container Truck Association made the new proposal to veteran mediator Vince Ready and hoped he could get the employers to accept it as an interim agreement. Under the proposed deal, the owner operators would be paid a minimum of \$75 per hour with a minimum call-out time of four hours. It also calls for a fuel surcharge of at least 15 per cent. All the association's outstanding demands and issues which are not addressed would be referred to an industrial inquiry commission for a binding resolution. The association said the proposal came as its spokesman Paul Uppal received a death threat and several transport companies filed four separate lawsuits against the truckers for harassment. Association lawyer Craig Paterson called the lawsuits a bullying-tactic from brokers. "The impression that I've received is that just steals their resolve," Paterson said of the truckers. Mediated contract talks broke off between truckers and their employers on Tuesday (Jul 5) with the truckers blaming the brokers for the failure. Although the port remains open and containers continue to move by rail, the flow of container trucks moving roughly \$30-million worth of goods every day has been on hold for more than a week after an estimated 1,000 truckers parked their rigs. The truckers are holding out for higher wages and extra money to cover increased fuel costs. The drivers claim the rates paid by shipping companies leave them little to no take-home pay.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: The container crunch is getting critical at British Columbia ports as the pay dispute between truckers and shipping firms threatens to drag into a third week. Surrey Fraser Docks spokesman Mike Cornish predicted the terminal would

start turning away containers by the end of next week if a resolution is not reached. "We might not turn the whole vessel away but we might only discharge those containers scheduled to go onto rail," he said. We are now slowly starting to get very congested." More than 1,000 truckers have parked their rigs since Jun 24 and are demanding rate increases plus a fuel surcharge to offset high costs. Talks between the Vancouver Container Truck Association (VCTA) and a couple of dozen companies resumed yesterday with mediation by Vince Ready after a court injunction was granted, preventing any barricading of the gates to Fraser Surrey Docks. Containers are still moving in and out of port via rail, but all truck transport has almost entirely halted. BC labour minister Mike de Jong called the failure of talks, up to that point, "very disappointing." Federal labour minister Joe Montana said Ottawa would not launch a review of traffic problems at the ports until truckers go back to work. "The facilitator has proposed the parties reach an interim solution that would open up the port immediately and then we would work with the parties on the broader issues raised through the requested review process," he said. Meanwhile, Surrey Fraser Docks terminal has responded by stacking containers higher and more densely than normal. However, Cornish said there was a limit to what can be done. Another challenge is dealing with perishable imports like produce waiting in refrigerated containers to be offloaded. "That will become one of the most critical things by the end of this weekend (Jul 16-17)," Cornish said. He said the port would soon run out of electrical jacks to keep the containers refrigerated, and would then be forced to incur high costs to bring in mobile generators. "I must say the VCTA have in the last couple of days been very helpful in allowing some of the more critical perishable containers to be removed," Cornish added. "We very much appreciate it and I'm sure the importers do, too." He said 99.9% of the truck traffic remained at a standstill. Deltaport officials have also warned their terminal will probably stop offloading truck-bound containers on Jul 18. The dispute is costing BC's economy an estimated \$30 million a day and is starting to threaten business for some retailers and exporters, including Fraser Valley blueberry farmers.

CYPRUS

Limassol, Jul 14 -- Commercial truck drivers have gone on strike in a dispute with the government over licence and regulation issues. Container and cargo movement in/out of the ports has been affected. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nearly half a million tea labourers have started an indefinite strike in the Indian state of

West Bengal. The strike has crippled work in the state's three hundred and fifty tea gardens, including those in the famous hill district of Darjeeling. The labourers are demanding better wages and perks. But managers insist that wages should be linked to productivity - a demand labour unions in the tea estates have said is unacceptable. Tea companies say the strike will badly hit Bengal's tea industry. If it spreads to neighbouring Assam, they say the entire Indian tea industry will be crippled because the two states account for nearly 85% of the country's total tea output. P K Bhattacharya, a senior official with the Indian Tea Association (ITA), said that production losses could run into 100,000,000 rupees (\$2.3m) per day. He said there would be very little Bengal tea, particularly Darjeeling tea, on offer in the tea auction centres in eastern India. The bosses of tea companies will be hard pressed to meet existing orders - or book fresh ones - unless a settlement is reached and the strike is called off. Apart from closing down all work in the three hundred and fifty tea estates in northern Bengal, the labourers are planning road blockades on a highway that connects India's north eastern states with the rest of the country. The tea labourers' unions say they will not accept the productivity-linked wages that the Indian Tea Association has suggested. Union spokesman Samir Ray said they wanted the daily wage rate in Bengal to be doubled and other perks paid. The ITA says the tea industry in Bengal - and also in Assam - is in the crisis, with falling demand for Indian teas across the world, falling auction prices for teas and rising production costs. But the labour unions say management has played up the crisis because it does not want to pay higher wages to the industry's half a million labourers. Meanwhile, talks between trade unions representing tea labourers in Assam and the ITA have also fallen through.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jul 8 -- Operations at the domestic port of Culasi returned to normal yesterday after striking port workers lifted their strike. The 250 workers belonging to the Culasi Arrastre Workers Labour Union agreed to end their strike after the mayor of Roxas city promised to negotiate on their behalf with officials of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). The PPA manages and operates the state-run port. Port workers said that they had gone on strike because the PPA had reneged on its agreement to pay their salaries on time and release their salary differentials. The four-day strike had paralysed operations at facility which is the main port of the province of Capiz. Shipping lines have threatened to stop calling at the port unless the labour dispute is settled quickly. -- Correspondent.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 13 -- Johannesburg appears to have been hit hardest by yesterday's municipal strike, with some of the city's departments reporting less than half their normal staffing levels, as thousands of workers nationwide heeded trade union calls to stay away in protest against offered pay rises. Major centres in the rest of the country appear to have been less affected by the strike, which saw 22000 of the 200000 members of the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) and the Independent Municipal and Allied Workers Union (Imatu) joining the protests - to highlight their demand for a 9% pay increase and a minimum wage of R3000. Bus commuters in Johannesburg were left stranded when Metrobus decided not to send out any of its 480 buses after only 26% of its staff turned up for work. Students, meanwhile, were brought in to help out at call centres. Most Johannesburg departments reported about 50% attendance yesterday. In Pretoria, most disruptions were in the north of the city with services operating at 50% capacity, said city spokesman William Baloyi. Durban experienced a 20% stayaway, while Cape Town said 3000 employees out of 23000 were absent from work.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: Hundreds of bus services across Devon and Cornwall have been disrupted today because of a strike by drivers over pay. The dispute is over a discrepancy in pay between regular bus drivers and those who drive smaller vehicles. Negotiations between First and the RMT union broke down earlier this week. They will meet at ACAS next week. The next strike is scheduled to take place on Jul 21. Workers are already refusing to do voluntary overtime.

Awards & Settlements



LEASE TERMINATION DISPUTE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: A family who own a 48,000-square-foot commercial building in Milpitas, California, have been awarded more than \$40 million in compensatory and punitive damages from giant real estate lender GMAC Commercial Mortgage Corp in a dispute about a lease termination fee. If upheld on appeal, the rulings could benefit some California property owners struggling to keep their payments current amid cash flow shortages. They appear to limit a mortgage lender's ability to claim an up-to-date loan is in default based on a vaguely written clause pertaining to changes in the borrower's overall

financial condition, according to the lead plaintiff attorney and an expert witness. Siding with retired San Francisco firefighter Arthur Giovara and his wife Colleen, a San Francisco Superior Court jury in January awarded about \$7.24 million in compensation for the disputed "lease termination fee" the Giovaras' former tenant paid in vacating the Milpitas property. The jury also awarded \$33 million in punitive damages, having found GMAC Commercial Mortgage acted "in a malicious, oppressive and fraudulent manner" in its handling of the \$8.8 million mortgage secured by the Giovaras' property. In a related trial last month, Superior Court Judge David Ballati also ruled that GMAC, through its misrepresentations to the borrowers, committed unfair and fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200. Operating as 1601 McCarthy LLC in reference to the building address, the Giovaras had sued after GMAC, acting as the mortgage holders' loan-servicing agent, refused to relinquish the impounded termination fee former tenant Sage Inc paid to get out of its lease. Even though mortgage payments were current, GMAC claimed it could hold the termination fee in impound because the mortgage was technically in default due to a "material adverse change" in 1601 McCarthy's net worth. GMAC did not include the disputed funds in the calculation -- an accounting strategy that reduced the net worth figure by more than half. While GMAC representatives say the company will appeal the rulings, its effort to rely on the rarely invoked "material adverse change" clause appears to have backfired badly. The court essentially ruled that a mortgage holder cannot invoke that vaguely-worded clause in order to declare a mortgage in default. Judge Ballati enjoined GMAC from enforcing similar clauses for any California loans it administers as "special servicer" for the roughly \$1 billion pool of securitised commercial mortgages that includes the Giovaras' loan. Roughly one-quarter of the pool's loans are secured by Golden State real estate, most of it in Silicon Valley. The judge also ruled that GMAC damaged the Giovaras through breach of contract, conversion and breach of fiduciary duty. If the rulings are upheld on appeal, language now typically constituting "material adverse change" clauses probably would not hold up in any similar litigation, predicted Jon Streeter, the Kecker & Van Nest LLP partner acting as the Giovaras' lead attorney. That would essentially invalidate vague language lenders might use to "leverage" their positions against borrowers facing financial challenges.

RESERVES OVERBOOKING, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 12 -- Royal Dutch Shell said today it had agreed to pay more

than \$90 million to settle a class action lawsuit taken by employees in relation to a reserves overbooking scandal last year. The Anglo-Dutch oil giant said in a statement it would pay \$90 million to employees who participated in certain employee saving plans. This figure includes lawyers' fees, and Shell will pay up to another \$1 million to cover other expenses incurred by the plaintiffs' lawyers. Insurance will cover \$25 million out of the total settlement, which is subject to court approval. "We are hopeful that the court will approve the settlement, which represents an important step toward putting litigation relating to the reserves recategorisations behind us," said Beat Hess, Shell's legal director. Shell shocked investors in January, 2004, by slashing its proven reserves of oil and gas. The revelation that the firm had been exaggerating the size of its reserves for years sent its stock tumbling and led to the ousting of its top executives. Shell, the world's third largest oil group by market capitalisation, has already paid about \$150 million in fines to US and UK financial regulators over the scandal. - Reuters.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated Jul 9, states: The Archdiocese of San Francisco has agreed to pay more than \$16 million to settle a dozen lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by a once popular priest. Attorneys announced the agreements yesterday, days before the first of several planned trials was to begin with plaintiffs alleging they were abused by the late Rev Joseph Pritchard. The settlement works out to an average of \$1.3 million for each plaintiff, but attorneys said the individual amounts varied and would not be disclosed. The settlement is roughly comparable to a similar agreement reached last month with 10 other plaintiffs who said they were molested by Pritchard when he was pastor at St. Martin of Tours parish in San Jose. "Money can't make up for what this guy did to us," said one of the men, Dennis Kavanaugh, 47. In March, a jury awarded Kavanaugh \$437,000 after deciding the church should have been aware of the abuse. That amount was included in yesterday's announcement. San Francisco Archbishop William Levada again apologised to victims. "It is our hope that the settlement of these cases will facilitate the process of healing for these victims," he said. "I again express to these victims, and all other victims of the clergy child abuse scandals, my sincere apology for the pain they have endured." Last week a judge granted preliminary approval to a \$120 million agreement between the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington in Kentucky and hundreds of victims of child-molesting priests and other employees. The Covington fund is the largest agreement of its kind since the abuse scandal erupted in the Boston Archdiocese three years ago and spread nationwide. Last December, the

Diocese of Orange, Calif., agreed to pay \$100 million to 87 victims. In 2003, the Boston Archdiocese settled with 552 victims for \$85 million.



Railway Accidents

BENTONIA AREA, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two freight trains collided and partially derailed early today, killing at least one person, and residents of nearby homes were evacuated as a precaution, authorities said. Rescue teams searched the wreckage to account for all members of the two crews, officials said. One of the cars leaked vegetable oil and caught fire, but the flames were extinguished, said Amy Carruth, a spokeswoman with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The cause of the wreck was not immediately determined, Carruth said. The collision north-east of Bentonina involved two Canadian National Railroad freight trains, one with four locomotives and 137 cars and a second with three locomotives and 117 cars, Carruth said. About 45 to 50 people were evacuated from homes in the area near Little Yazoo, but they were to be allowed to return later today, said Nash Nunnery, a spokesman for the emergency agency. Nunnery said hazardous substance crews inspected the wreckage and had already left by late morning. The Canadian National Railroad sent investigators to the scene in west-central Mississippi.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 10, states: The bodies of four people believed to be crew members were pulled from the wreckage of a collision between two freight trains in Mississippi today. No other injuries have been reported in what police are calling a head-on collision. Residents of nearby homes in the area near Little Yazoo were evacuated for a time as a precaution after the accident early this morning but were allowed to return home later in the day. A spokeswoman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said the cause of the wreck has not been determined. The collision occurred north-east of Bentonina and involved two Canadian National Railroad freight trains, one with four locomotives and 137 cars, and a second with three locomotives and 117 cars.

BULGARIA

See "Bulgaria & Romania" under "Weather & Navigation."

CALGARY AREA, CANADA

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A spill of 110,000 litres of jet fuel caused by a train derailment in an industrial area of south-east Calgary led to road closures and the evacuation of several nearby

businesses today. There were no injuries, although one man was examined by emergency crews as a precaution, officials said. The puncture occurred when two trains were being moved around in the yard. The tanker was punctured at the bottom by its own wheels, allowing the entire contents of the car to spill out, said CN Rail spokesman Jim Feeny. "Both trains were in motion, but at very slow speeds," he said. "Typically a yard move is moving at just a few miles an hour." Fire officials said it was a dangerous situation. "It's an extreme safety hazard, any kind of spark could set it off," said fire department spokesman John Conley. The fire department estimated the spill created a pool about 90 metres long and 60 metres wide. Conley said emergency personnel had to wait for the fuel to drain into the ground before attempting to remove it, as it would be less likely to ignite once mixed with dirt and gravel. The cause of the derailment was under investigation. Feeny said the railway company resumed operations in its yard at about 1700 hrs on all but the two affected tracks. "We will remove the affected soil for treatment or disposal and then remediate the area so there's no contamination," said Feeny.

ERZURUM AREA, TURKEY

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

GHOKTI, PAKISTAN

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major train collision in southern Pakistan has left at least 120 dead, local police say. The dawn incident near the town of Ghotki in Sindh province involved three packed passenger express trains. At least 13 train carriages have been derailed. "It is a very gruesome situation," said local police official Aga Mohammed Tahir. An express slammed into the back of a stationary train, and a third train ploughed into derailed coaches. Abdul Aziz, a senior controller at Pakistan Railways, said that the incident happened at about 0400 today on the border between the provinces of Sindh and Punjab, when most of the passengers were sleeping. Officials said the Karachi Express ran into the rear of broken down Quetta Express at a station near Ghotki, about 600 km north-east of the city of Karachi. A third train travelling in the opposite direction - the Tezgam Express - then hit a number of derailed carriages, which were scattered over several tracks. Mr Tahir was quoted as saying that rescuers began pulling out the dead and injured out of the trains. "There were many people inside and there are lot of casualties," the police official said.

GHOTKI, PAKISTAN

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescue workers searched through the night for possible survivors as the death toll

from the Pakistan's worst train crash in over a decade rose to 132, a government official said today. The accident occurred early yesterday morning when the driver of a Karachi-bound express coming from Lahore misread a signal and hit the standing Quetta express at Sarhad station near Ghotki, some 1,300 km from the capital Islamabad. A third train coming from Karachi then hit three carriages of the Quetta Express which had tossed onto a nearby through track, leading to colossal loss of life. "I can confirm 132 deaths by midnight with about 130 wounded," provincial government spokesman Salauddin Haider said. As many as 130 passengers were being treated at the combined military hospital in Ghotki while four critically injured were flown to Karachi. Haider said the bodies of 37 victims had been identified and handed over to their relatives while hospital officials were still trying to locate relatives of other victims. "A number of the bodies are totally mutilated and are impossible to identify," he added. Stranded passengers have already been moved to their respective destinations and the track is being cleared. The down track service has already been restored. President General Pervez Musharraf visited the site of the accident late yesterday. He ruled out sabotage and blamed neglect as the possible cause of the disaster.

LAHORE, PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 11 -- Pakistan railway said its Faisalabad-bound train, Shorkot Passenger Express, derailed yesterday at the Lahore railway station in Punjab province of Pakistan. As a result, traffic was disturbed for quite some time. It said the last bogey of the train derailed and suddenly fell near the track, adding nobody received injuries. Pakistan Railways officials were describing the derailment an accident. A departmental inquiry has been initiated. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OREM, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: A train derailed in Orem near Geneva Steel this afternoon. Clean-up crews are on the scene trying to get things back to normal. They don't think anything dangerous spilled, and they're still trying to figure out how the accident happened. But it was a chain reaction. Two railcars buckled and broke apart, spilling a load of drywall. They also pushed off the three engines in front of those cars. That, in turn, affected the three cars in back, jack-knifing them. The derailment also caused a brief grass-fire that was put out fairly quickly. There were also some other safety concerns. Doug Edwards, Orem Police: "There was some concern, a couple of tanker cars further down the train held nitrous oxide. They've checked those over very carefully and don't feel like there's any leak. In fact, the only leak right now we know of is about 10 gallons worth of diesel that leaked out." The cars carrying the

chemicals were disconnected and moved. Union Pacific officials think the train either tried to break too fast, or a piece of equipment broke.

SOWETO AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Officials in South Africa said two commuter trains collided at a station in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, yesterday, injuring 162 people. Metrorail spokeswoman Thandi Mlangeni said the collision occurred yesterday evening at Soweto's Merafe station, where one train had apparently stalled at the platform amid a local power outage. "A second train collided with the stationary one. We had 162 people injured and we transferred them to hospital, four with serious injuries," Ms Mlangeni said. She said the cause of the accident was under investigation. "There was a power failure but we cannot say that was the cause at this point."



SASSER WORM

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 10, states: The teenager who created the "Sasser" computer worm that snarled tens of thousands of computers last year was today convicted on charges including computer sabotage and given a suspended sentence, a court official said. Sven Jaschan, 19, was found guilty of computer sabotage and illegally altering data, said Katharina Kruetzfeld, a spokeswoman for the court in the north-western town of Verden. He was given a suspended sentence of one year and nine months. Jaschan admitted to creating the worm at the beginning of his trial on Tuesday (Jul 5), reiterating a confession to authorities at the time of his arrest in May, 2004. The proceedings were held behind closed doors because he was a minor at the time. Jaschan was arrested at his family's home after Microsoft Corp received a tip from an informant seeking a reward. The worm had raced around the world, exploiting a flaw in the company's Windows 2000 and Windows XP operating systems. Sasser caused infected computers to crash and reboot, making it impossible to work on them. The worm snarled tens of thousands of computers and caused Internet traffic to slow. Authorities who questioned Jaschan said they got the impression his motive was to gain fame as a programmer. He was arrested sitting at his computer at the house of his mother, who runs a computer store in the small northern town of Waffensen. The teenager has told officials his original intention was to create a virus, "Netsky A," that would combat the "Mydoom" and "Bagle" viruses, removing them from

infected computers. That led him to develop the Netsky virus further, and to modify it to create Sasser. Prosecutors had sought a two-year suspended sentence, while the defence sought a one-year sentence.



OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Manila, Jul 8 -- The Philippines has suffered its first case of bird flu after ducks were found to be infected in a town north of Manila, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said today. He said samples had been sent to Australia to determine whether the strain of avian influenza was the same as the one that has killed dozens of people elsewhere in Asia. "There's no cause for alarm," Duque said in a television interview. "We're still investigating the case." A quarantine zone had been set up around the town of Calumpit in Bulacan province to halt the trading and sale of poultry for a week, he said. -- Reuters.

Bangkok, Jul 11 -- The deadly bird flu virus which has killed 55 Asians has erupted again in Thailand despite a major campaign to eradicate it, the government said today. Infected fowl were found this month in five places of three districts in Suphanburi province, 100 km north of Bangkok, during follow-up inspections of previously affected areas, a senior Agriculture Ministry official said. The discoveries reinforced warnings by international health bodies about how difficult it will be to eliminate the H5N1 virus now it has become endemic in parts of Asia. "Infected fowl are living longer due to increasing immunity," Yukol Limlaemthong, head of the ministry's livestock department said, meaning it was less likely that unusual deaths would alert farmers to the possibility of infection. "We have to make examinations all the time in a bid to stop fresh outbreaks," he added. Twelve Thais have died after being infected by the virus, but there have been no reports of human infections since October in the country, the world's fourth-biggest chicken exporter before H5N1 struck. However, 19 people have died in Vietnam since December, when the virus returned, taking the country's toll to 39. Four Cambodians have also died of the disease which first rolled across much of Asia in late 2003, probably brought by migrating wild fowl. At first the virus appeared to thrive best in the cooler months around the end of the year but the recent outbreaks in Vietnam and Thailand during the hot season back up expert fears of its adaptability. The World Health Organisation says that what it fears most is that the H5N1 virus, which does not move easily between people, could develop the ability through mutation to sweep through human populations. The world would

then face a pandemic without immunity to the strain and millions of people could die. -- Reuters.

Tokyo, Jul 11 -- A fresh case of bird flu has been confirmed on a chicken farm neighbouring earlier outbreaks discovered in eastern Japan late last month, a local government official said today. An official with Ibaraki prefecture said tests had confirmed an outbreak of bird flu, which was likely to be the same weak strain of the disease that was first found a few weeks earlier. "It's unlikely to be the more virulent strain," the official said. He said the latest case shares many similarities with the earlier outbreaks, which saw no drastic rise in fowl deaths that would have indicated the presence of a virulent disease. The local government has ordered all 8,500 chickens at the farm in the latest case culled. The less virulent "H5N2" strain of bird flu was first found at a chicken farm in Ibaraki prefecture, near Tokyo, on Jun 26. It was the first case of the H5N2 strain discovered in Japan. The government restricted the movement of chickens in a five-km radius around the farm to prevent the disease from spreading. The latest farm is located about 1.25 km from the first outbreak. The H5N2 strain is weaker than the "H5N1" strain found in previous avian flu outbreaks in Japan early last year. The H5N1 strain, which first surfaced in poultry in Hong Kong and China eight years ago, has been blamed for the deaths of more than 50 people in countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. - Reuters.

Hanoi, Jul 14 -- Bird flu has killed another Vietnamese and infected three more, taking the country's toll to 40, half of them killed since the H5N1 virus returned in December, state-run media said today. The victim had the H5 component of the virus and died in a Hanoi hospital last week, the Tien Phong (Vanguard) newspaper quoted a Health Ministry report as saying. It said the report, delivered to a government meeting yesterday, said three of 18 patients in the isolation ward of Hanoi's National Institute for Clinical Research of Tropical Medicine were confirmed bird flu cases. Thirteen others were suspected of being infected with the the virus, while two had the human influenza. Health Ministry officials said they could not immediately provide details of the latest victim nor the new infection cases. -- Reuters.

Fires & Explosions



APARTMENTS, MATANE, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire forced at least 150 people out of their homes, burning three apartment buildings and damaging a fourth one in the early

hours of this morning in Matane. Five people suffered from smoke inhalation, including one fireman from the six fire departments called to the scene. All five were brought to the hospital. All four buildings and others on a nearby street were evacuated. Dozens of people will be able to return to their homes in a couple days once the damage will be cleaned up. Others will have to find a new place to live. The fire was said to be under control around 0530 this morning but hasn't yet been extinguished. The cause of the fire is unknown. It started shortly after midnight in a Saint-Pierre St. apartment building with 20 residences and a flea market on the ground floor. The fire destroyed the building and two other ones on both sides of it. Some of the occupants of the two other buildings were a law practice, a gym and six residences. The authorities brought down what was left of the two buildings to prevent the fire from spreading. A fourth building had minor damages. The Red Cross took in people left homeless by the fire in an amphitheatre.

COAL MINE, SHENLONG, XINJIANG, CHINA

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 80 men are trapped after an explosion at a coal mine in western China, state media report. The blast happened at the Shenlong coal mine in the western region of Xinjiang, the official Xinhua news agency said.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 22 Chinese miners were killed and 60 more trapped underground today when a build up of gas exploded in a mine shaft. It was the latest disaster in the world's deadliest mining industry. The explosion rocked the Shenlong Coal Mine in the far-western region of Xinjiang, trapping 87 miners, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Five miners had been rescued, Xinhua said. An official with the Safety Production and Supervision Management Bureau in Xinjiang's Fukang county put the number rescued at six.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A gas explosion ripped through a mine in China's north-west Xinjiang region, killing at least 40 and leaving 43 unaccounted for. A total of 87 people were working in the Shenlong Coal Mine, in Xinjiang's Fukang city, when the blast hit the shaft at 0400 hrs. Only four miners have been found alive. "At 0800 hrs, rescuers entered the mine to find the missing miners," a man at the mine's office said. "There are 20 rescuers in the shaft right now, but the situation is unclear. We don't know what the situation is like down there. There are eight to nine ambulances above ground waiting."

Beijing, Jul 12 -- Chinese rescue workers have winched 66 bodies from a mine shaft in the remote north-west of the country after a gas explosion, and 17 miners were missing feared dead, Xinhua news agency said today.

The blast hit the Shenlong Coal Mine, 60 km rom Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, in the early hours of yesterday. "The remains of the 66 miners killed in the gas blast have been hoisted to the ground," Yu Zhengui, deputy secretary-general of the Xinjiang government, was quoted as saying, adding that the chance of finding the missing 17 alive was slim. -- Reuters.

FACTORY, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: People living near a huge blaze at a factory are being told to stay indoors because of fumes from thick smoke. Clouds of smoke are billowing out from the site in South Way, near the new Wembley stadium in north London. Ten fire engines and 50 firefighters are at the scene and London Fire Brigade said they were trying to determine if gas cylinders are inside. There are no reports of casualties but roads are closed. Some site workers have left the stadium as a precaution. Fire crews were called just before 1200, BST, today and three ambulances are also at the site. About a quarter of the building has been damaged. An LFB spokeswoman said: "We are advising people to stay indoors because there is a lot of smoke, but we wouldn't want to alarm anyone."

FACTORY, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sparks from a grinder caused a large fire today at a chemicals warehouse at Campbellfield in Melbourne's north. Nineteen fires crews fought for several hours to bring the fire under control in Jesica Street. Up to 60 employees were escaped from the factory and damage is estimated around Aus\$2 million (\$1.47 million). The fire brigade's Frank Besanco says sparks from the grinder ignited chemicals. "Our investigators have found that there was a worker at the back of the factory using a grinder and sparks from the grinder have come in contact with a flammable substance," Mr Besanco said. "There are chemicals at the back of this factory that were used for the manufacture of printing inks and that's the most likely cause."

FACTORY, MURRAY BRIDGE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire has ripped through a recycling factory at Murray Bridge, east of Adelaide, leaving a damage bill estimated at around A\$1 million. Country Fire Service (CFS) crews battled the blaze at Murray Bridge Recycling for more than 14 hours after the factory caught alight about 2325 last night. "The place went up like mad as the fire was fuelled by stacks of cardboard, paper and magazines," said CFS Regional officer Ray Jackson. "We needed more than 38 firefighters, seven appliances plus a bulk water carrier. Mr Jackson said fire crews were hampered because of

the extremely high temperatures caused by burning paper. "Our crews couldn't enter as it was too hot and too dangerous to go in," he said. "The roof also collapsed shortly after our fire crews arrived." Mr Jackson said fire crews managed to prevent the fire from spreading to large stacks of paper nearby. Late this afternoon fire crews used a bobcat to pull apart the remaining stacks of paper inside the factory to prevent any flare-ups. Mr Jackson said there was no apparent cause of the fire at this stage and it's undetermined if the fire was suspicious. "Fire investigators have been there all day and they will release their findings tomorrow," he said.

FACTORY, NEWCASTLE-WEST, CO LIMERICK, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Fire has destroyed a factory in Newcastle-West, Co Limerick, leaving around 100 jobs under threat. Nine units of the fire brigade were called out to the blaze at the Myson Scanglo Heating Controls at around 0530 today. The roof of the building has collapsed and there are concerns about the stability of the walls. It is believed the fire began on the factory floor but the cause is not yet known. A technical examination will take place later.

FACTORY, SUNSHINE COAST HINTERLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters were extinguishing the remnants of a fire that destroyed a butter factory on the Sunshine Coast hinterland today. A spokesman for Queensland Fire and Rescue Service said the blaze broke out in the Eumundi butter factory at 0315 hrs. About three quarters of the timber and brick factory was destroyed and the roof has caved in but no one was injured, the spokesman said. The factory was built in the early 1900s and was a local landmark. It had been used in recent years as a community centre and market.

FOREST, PORTUGAL

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Since Jun 15 some 21,500 hectares of forest have been destroyed by fire in Portugal, although no residential or commercial areas have been affected. Three major highways were closed, including part of the main road between Oporto and Lisbon.

HOSPITAL, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: A fire that raged for three hours at a major public hospital in Costa Rica's capital has killed at least 15 people. The blaze broke out early in the morning at the Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia Hospital, on San Jose's east end, triggering scenes of panic and desperation as some tried to flee by smashing windows and tying bedsheets together. Firefighters

battled the fire, which was on the upper floors, for about three hours before it was brought under control. Many patients have been evacuated to other areas of the facility and to other hospitals. Firefighters say the charred remains of 14 patients and a nurse who suffocated have been identified. Guillermo Arroyo of the Red Cross warns that "unfortunately, the number of dead will rise because there are areas we have not been able to get into."

PREMISES, HARTLAND, CANADA

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Craig Manufacturing, one of the main employers in Hartland, N.B., will rebuild after a devastating fire destroyed the operation earlier this year. Town council approved a building permit yesterday for a \$3 million building on a 15-acre lot in the local industrial park. The company makes a variety of attachments for heavy machinery like plows, loaders, excavators and bulldozers. Company officials said they hope to be up and running again by early December. About 90 employees were affected when flames destroyed the plant in May.

PREMISES, KANNAPOLIS, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A waste building at Kannapolis' Pillowtex mill caught fire early yesterday, destroying the structure, part of Plant 1. About 75 firefighters from 10 departments fought the blaze, which took about an hour and a half to control. The flames didn't spread to the rest of the gigantic textile plant that dominates downtown Kannapolis. The mill has been closed since 2003. Firefighters said no one was inside and no one was injured fighting the blaze. Firefighters from Cabarrus and Kannapolis answered the call. The building is in a complex now owned by California billionaire David Murdock, who plans to redevelop the site and adjacent land he owns in downtown Kannapolis. Although details have not been released yet, one city official this week estimated redevelopment cost at about \$500 million. An official with Murdock development company Castle & Cooke said the fire would not delay those redevelopment plans. Murdock intends to demolish much of the Plant 1 property, including its iconic smokestacks, which are part of the 264-acre site. The complex covers 5.8 million square feet. Kannapolis Fire Chief Larry Phillips said security guards at the plant called in the fire about 0515. Crews surrounded the building and doused it with water from a distance. The waste building is a three-storey structure that was used to store residue from the textile-making process, but like the rest of the mill, it's now empty.

PREMISES, UKHTA, RUSSIA

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A blaze raced

through a store selling gas fireplaces in a northern Russian city today, killing 19 people and injuring 17, emergency officials said. The cause of the fire in the city of Ukhta was not immediately clear, but the local prosecutor's office said it appeared to have broken out after a container with a flammable substance was thrown into the store, possibly as part of a business conflict, the Interfax news agency reported. The second floor of the building was still ablaze two hours after the blast and 70 firefighters were trying to extinguish it, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. State TV channel Rossiya said women and children were among the victims. The Emergency Situations Ministry put the toll at 19 dead and 17 injured. Thirty people were evacuated from the building, ministry spokeswoman Irina Andriyanova said. Vadim Zhuravlev, a duty officer at the Komi regional department of the Russian Interior Ministry, said eight people had died of smoke inhalation. Ukhta is located in the far northern region of Komi, about 800 miles north-east of Moscow.

RECYCLING FACTORY, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters from three states who battled a fire at a plastics recycling factory opted to let the fire in southeastern Indiana burn through the night. Dozens of firefighters from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana had battled the blaze from about noon yesterday before officials decided to pull them out of the six-story brick building that houses Alternative Plastic Services about 20 miles west of Cincinnati. At least four firefighters were taken to the Dearborn County Hospital, suffering from apparent heat exhaustion. Officials had not determined what caused the fire at the 200,000-square foot building, which was filling the air with plumes of black smoke.

RESTAURANT, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire has broken out at the Hard Rock Cafe in central London. Eight fire engines are attending to the fire at the seven-storey restaurant situated in Piccadilly's Park Lane, the London Fire Brigade said. Ducting at the building was alight from the ground all the way up to the roof, a spokeswoman said. There is no information on casualties.

TEXTILE MILL, HUNTINGDON, QUEBEC, CANADA

LaSalle, Quebec, Jul 7 -- A local press report, dated today, states: Damage from a fire at the former Huntingdon Mills textile plant yesterday could reach more than a \$1 million and cost 150 new jobs, said Stephane Gendron, mayor of the town, 60 kilometres south-west of Montreal. The fire broke out around 1730 as workers were dismantling dyeing machines with a torch and spread quickly to the roof. About 70

firefighters from Malone, N.Y., and several nearby municipalities were called in to back up Huntingdon's 30 firefighters. It was the second fire at the mill in two weeks. The mill shut down in December, the first of two closings that cost the town 850 jobs and shut down its century-old textile industry. Gendron had been negotiating to buy the building and was on his way to Quebec City last night to lobby for government funding when he got news of the fire and returned. Three businesses had agreed to set up operations there in the fall and create 150 jobs, he said. "Now it's dust in the wind." A similar fire broke out two weeks ago on the watch of the same private contractor Huntingdon Mills hired to dismantle equipment. That fire caused minimal damage, Gendron said.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 200 firefighters were today battling a large wind-fueled fire in central Portugal which threatened homes and forced the closure of a key highway, officials and emergency services said. The blaze near the central town of Albergaria-a-Velha, some 250 kilometres north of Lisbon, had five active fronts and was approaching three villages, a fire spokeswoman said. "The situation is complicated but under control. Our priority is to protect houses and factories nearby," the mayor of the town, Joao Agostino, told state radio RDP. Firefighters were being aided by 60 vehicles and three water-dropping aircraft. Two more aircraft were on their way to the scene of the fire, which erupted in the early hours of today, Agostinho said.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A camping ground was partially evacuated last night in the north of Portugal while more than 1,000 firefighters backed up by water-dropping aircraft fought 20 fires which were burning out of control across the country. One fire was threatening the Campidouro camping ground near Medas, 30 km south of Porto where 100 firefighters were fighting the blaze. Another major blaze forced the closure of the highway between Lisbon and Porto and consumed more than 1,000 hectares of forest, firefighters said. In the region of Albergaria-a-Velha, ravaged for two days by fires, fire fighters were battling to prevent a new outbreak with the aid of water-dropping helicopters. A total of 1,348 firefighters using 436 vehicles and 22 water-dropping aircraft were mobilised to fight the fires throughout the country. The national agency for the prevention of fires warned that the situation remained extremely dangerous in seven areas in the north and center because of the severe or extreme drought affecting virtually the entire country.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The damage from taiga wildfires in the Russian Far

East has almost five times exceeded the damage of the same period last year. According to the Far Eastern forest protection airbase, 68,100 hectares of forest and 31,400 hectares of non-forest lands have burnt in the territory from Yakutia to Chukotka since the beginning of the fire dangerous period. To compare: 14,600 hectares of forest and other lands burnt by July 11 last year. At present, 73 fire spots have been registered in the Far East. As many as 800 firefighters cannot cope with wildfires in Yakutia where 39 fires have engulfed almost 30 hectares of forestland. Over 8,000 hectares of taiga are on fire in the Khabarovsk territory. One fire localised in the Komsomolsky natural reserve yesterday has flared up anew due to strong winds and now is raging at an area of 800 hectares. Fourteen wildfires continue in the Primorsky (Maritime) territory and six in the Magadan region. Two fires in forests and two on reindeer pastures have been registered in Chukotka. Hot dry weather has set in many districts of the Far East.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: An erratic 250-acre wildfire burned to within 100 yards of a rural subdivision, sending residents to pile children and pets into their cars and flee before dawn today. About 45 homes were evacuated from the southern Colorado neighbourhood, about 100 miles south of Denver, fire information officer Steve Segin said. No injuries were reported. More than 80 firefighters, nine air tankers and two helicopters were at the scene, and fire trucks and crews were standing guard at the homes, Segin said. The lightning-caused blaze was first reported Wednesday (Jul 6) in dense stands of ponderosa and pinon pine and oak brush on rugged terrain in the San Isabel National Forest. It grew to 100 acres as temperatures neared 100 degrees yesterday and then more than doubled in size overnight when winds picked up. Firefighters earlier this year had identified the area as a potential trouble spot because of the dense vegetation and tried to thin the trees with logging and prescribed burns in the spring, but it was too wet for the burns, Segin said. (See issue of Jul 7.)

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: Residents piled children and pets into their cars and fled before dawn today after an erratic and fast-growing wildfire burned to within 100 yards of a rural southern Colorado subdivision. The fire blackened 600 acres of dense trees and brush, but a counterattack by air tankers and ground crews kept the flames away from the homes. One air tanker made an emergency landing in a field after the pilot reported engine sluggishness, fire information officer Steve Segin said. The pilot was not hurt. Segin said about 45 homes were evacuated at 0300 hrs from the Greenwood Village subdivision, 100 miles south of Denver and 25 miles west of Pueblo.

Neither Segin nor the Custer County Sheriff's Department could say how many residents left. No injuries were reported. The fire "got right down into the community, right at the edge, literally," Segin said. In addition to the homes, one commercial building and 50 outbuildings were threatened, said Larry Helmerick, a spokesman for the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center. More than 130 firefighters, three heavy air tankers, six single-engine tankers, including the one that had engine trouble and two helicopters were at the scene. Fire trucks and crews were standing guard at the homes in the subdivision, Segin said. The lightning-caused blaze was first reported on Wednesday (Jul 6) in dense stands of ponderosa and pinon pine and oak brush on rugged terrain in the San Isabel National Forest. It grew to 100 acres as temperatures neared 100 degrees Fahrenheit yesterday and more than doubled in size overnight when winds picked up. Two other wildfires totalling 1,500 acres in south-western Colorado were being allowed to burn to thin out dead brush and trees not native to the area.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated Jul 9, states: Searing heat and dry, gusting wind spread a wildfire across 2,400 acres of southern Colorado, forcing the evacuation of 150 homes as flames crawled along mountain ridges west of Pueblo. The flames had burned to within 100 yards of Greenwood, and fire crews stood guard over the small community today. More than 300 firefighters struggled against temperatures in the 90s and erratic winds. By evening, only about 5% of the lightning-sparked blaze had been contained, officials said. Rocky Mountain Area Co-ordination Centre spokeswoman Jen Chase said nearly \$765,000 had been spent fighting the blaze since it was discovered on Wednesday (Jul 6). In all, 14 large wildfires were burning across more than 700,000 acres in eight states today, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Authorities urged about 1,000 people to evacuate their homes today ahead of a fast-moving wildfire fueled by tinder-dry brush in southern Colorado. The 8,000-acre blaze which quadrupled in size in 24 hours was threatening 750 houses, outbuildings and other structures in the Beulah Valley, about 150 miles south of Denver. Cars and trucks packed with clothes, food and personal belongings were parked along a stretch of rural highway as evacuated residents watched black smoke rise from the hillside. The fire had already forced the evacuation of 150 homes in surrounding areas. It generated so much smoke at one point that aircraft weren't able to get close enough to drop retardant on its center.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Fire crews in South Dakota got help today from a tanker aircraft as they battled a 3,500-acre blaze that had destroyed two homes in the Piedmont area of the

Black Hills, north-west of Rapid City. Firefighters made some progress today after the winds shifted, allowing officials to lift evacuation orders for some areas in and around Piedmont. Residents of many other area subdivisions were warned to be ready to leave in a moment's notice. Firefighters had no estimate of how many people have been evacuated. Thirteen large wildfires were active Sunday in nine states and had burned more than 688,000 acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Authorities urged about 1,000 people to evacuate their homes today ahead of a fast-moving wildfire fuelled by tinder-dry brush in southern Colorado. The 8,000-acre blaze, which quadrupled in size in 24 hours, was threatening 750 houses, outbuildings and other structures in the Beulah Valley, about 150 miles south of Denver. Cars and trucks packed with clothes, food and personal belongings were parked along a stretch of rural highway as evacuated residents watched black smoke rise from the hillside. The fire had already forced the evacuation of 150 homes in surrounding areas. It generated so much smoke at one point that aircraft weren't able to get close enough to drop retardant on its centre. Governor Bill Owens declared a state of emergency for the fire area today and authorised the use of state emergency funds to help with firefighting expenses. Elsewhere, fire crews in South Dakota got help today from a tanker aircraft as they battled a 3,500-acre blaze that had destroyed two homes in the Piedmont area of the Black Hills, north-west of Rapid City. Firefighters made some progress today after the winds shifted, allowing officials to lift evacuation orders for some areas in and around Piedmont. Residents of many other area subdivisions were warned to be ready to leave in a moment's notice. Firefighters had no estimate of how many people had been evacuated. Lightning was suspected as the cause of both the Colorado and South Dakota blazes. Thirteen large wildfires were active today in nine states and had burned more than 688,000 acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire sparked by lightning has scorched more than 3,000 hectares of a national forest and forced the evacuation of 5,000 people in southern Colorado. More than 400 firefighters from federal, state and local agencies were today battling the Mason Gulch fire, which was burning through tinder-dry ponderosa pine trees and scrub oak about 160 km south of Denver. Smoke from the blaze could be seen from the southern edge of the Denver metropolitan area. Fanned by high winds, the blaze was threatening about 400 structures, including 300 homes, said Larry Helmerick, fire information officer for the US Forest Service. No injuries were reported. Lightning storms that

moved through the San Isabel National Forest late last week ignited the blaze. Five helicopters were making water drops and 10 fixed-wing aircraft loaded with fire-retardant slurry were making runs at the blaze. Colorado Governor Bill Owens declared a state of emergency in the area, making the affected communities eligible for emergency funds.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Firefighters hoped for a prolonged break in the weather today while anxious evacuees waited for news about an 11,700-acre wildfire that chased 5,000 people from their southern Colorado homes. "It's a nasty one. We hope the weather will cut us a break in the next couple of days," US Forest Service spokesman Dave Steinke said. Winds were already calmer and the humidity higher today, he said. The blaze threatened more than 1,000 houses, outbuildings and other structures in Beulah and surrounding ranching country, nestled in dry terrain in mountains about 150 miles south of Denver. No injuries had been reported and no homes had burned. Governor Bill Owens declared a state of emergency for the area and put National Guard helicopters on standby. In South Dakota, a wildfire blackened more than 3,000 acres in the Piedmont area of the Black Hills, destroying a house and a garage, authorities reported. Some 500 people were battling the blaze. The only reported injury was to a firefighter, who recovered from a heat-related condition yesterday. According to the National Interagency Fire Centre, 11 large wildfires were burning on more than 500,000 acres in seven states today.

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: A fire burning in the Coronado National Forest remained at 1,850 acres today and was not threatening any structures, authorities said. The Florida fire was zero percent contained but was expected to be fully contained by Friday night, said Dan Bastion, a spokesman for the team fighting the fire. Firefighters built firebreaks around the fire that would encompass 18,000 acres, but it was unlikely the blaze would grow that large, he said. "The containment lines encompass such a large area because of steep terrain," Bastion said. As a precaution, authorities have closed the Madera Canyon Recreation Area, where there are resort lodges, a campground and summer homes.

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Fresh crews and more aircraft today joined the battle against a wildfire that had forced 5,000 people to flee their homes, hoping improved weather would give them an edge. The temperature had fallen, wind was light and humidity had risen in the area of 11,700-acre blaze in southern Colorado. "It's a good day to fight fire," US Forest Service spokesman Dave Steinke said. "We want to take advantage of the weather today." However, hotter and drier

weather was expected to return tomorrow, he said. No injuries had been reported and no homes were burned, but more than 1,000 houses, outbuildings and other structures were considered threatened by the fire in dry, steep terrain in the Wet Mountains about 150 miles south of Denver. About 800 firefighters were on duty, aided by eight helicopters, seven air tanker aircraft and 58 fire trucks, Steinke said. The fire, started last Wednesday (Jul 6) by lightning, was only 30% contained today. Firefighters shored up containment lines around the 50-home Greenwood subdivision, allowing about 100 people to go home yesterday for the first time in two nights. Flames advanced to within about a few dozen yards of some homes, said Brian Scott, a fire information officer. Fire engine crews patrolled neighbourhoods through the night. The National Interagency Fire Centre said 11 large fires were active today in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota and Texas. They had burned a total of 189,000 acres.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A new fire in Tooele County was threatening structures this afternoon, according to the Bureau of Land Management. The fire was burning about 50 acres near the town of Erda. BLM fire spokeswoman Erin Darboven said it was not immediately clear what kinds of structures were threatened. She did say the fire was under investigation, and was believed to be human caused. Fire crews continued to fight the Ditto fire in the Skull Valley of southern Tooele county. That fire had grown today from 9,000 to more than 19,000 acres, but fire officials said they expected it would be contained by tonight. The cause of the Ditto fire also was under investigation.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A wildfire has burned 800 acres of sagebrush and timber about 10 miles south-east of Omak. The North-west Interagency Co-ordination Center in Portland said it's threatening one structure. About 125 firefighters at the scene are using bulldozers and 15 fire engines in an attempt to flank the fire on the west side while two helicopters drop fire retardant. The fire spread rapidly yesterday but there's no word yet on the cause. No injuries or structural damage has been reported.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A wind-whipped wildfire burning in the Santa Rita Mountains just east of Green Valley has jumped a containment line and forced some evacuations. As a precaution, the Santa Cruz County sheriff's office asked the occupants of about two-dozen cabins and three lodges in Madera Canyon to evacuate due to the Florida fire. A spokesman for the fire crews, Bill Watt, says they want everyone out of the canyon so the crews can continue building fire lines there. Plus, he says, there is only one road into the area. The blaze has charred nearly 93-hundred acres.

More than 700 firefighters are battling the fire, which was ignited by lightning last Thursday. The fire is 16% contained. But firefighters hope that they might get some rain today, which could help their efforts.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Improving weather helped crews make progress against a wildfire that had forced nearly 5,000 people to flee their homes, officials said today. The blaze in the Wet Mountains had grown to 12,200 acres, but firefighters had extended their containment lines around 40% of the fire. The entire town of Beulah and two subdivisions outside town were reopened to residents. Pueblo County sheriff's spokesman Steve Bryant said he did not know how many people had left. About 1,200 people live within the town. Bryant said everyone in Pueblo County was allowed to return, while Custer County dispatchers reported all evacuation orders were lifted. About 100 residents in a Greenwood subdivision were allowed to return earlier this week. "Monday (Jul 11) we got a toehold and yesterday we put a foot in," US Forest Service spokesman Dave Steinke said. Meanwhile in Southern California, a wildfire whipped by coastal winds threatened 300 homes today as it charred rugged brushland on a hill below expensive hilltop estates about 25 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. The blaze in Rancho Palos Verdes grew to 100 acres within about an hour after being reported. In Colorado, Steinke said fire managers could contain the fire soon, with crews massing on the southern and south-eastern edges of the blaze. "That's the area we really need to get buttoned up today," Steinke said. No injuries were reported and no homes burned, but more than 1,000 houses, outbuildings and other structures were listed as threatened by the fire, which was started by lightning on Jul 6. Elsewhere, a 9,260-acre blaze jumped containment lines in southern Arizona, and about 30 summer homes and lodges were evacuated in a valley that is a world-renowned bird-watching area. The evacuations, east of the city of Green Valley near Tucson, were conducted primarily as a precaution, firefighting officials said. Crews wanted people out of Madera Canyon so they can build fire lines and because there is only one road out of the canyon, said Bill Watt, a spokesman for the firefighting team. More than 730 firefighters were battling the blaze that had been started by lightning last Thursday. In other areas: A wildfire burned 8,000 acres on the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington by this afternoon as firefighters worked to control its spread through timber and sagebrush. One family was evacuated. A wildfire in Montana had scorched 1,200 acres of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. The fire was 60% contained by today.



AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO STANSTED AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: An aircraft carrying more than 120 passengers had to divert to an airport after the crew reported fumes on board. The Titan Airways' Boeing 737 flying from Birmingham to Majorca landed safely at Stansted Airport, Essex. Seven crew members reported feeling light-headed and were taken to hospital in Harlow, Essex, after the landing this morning. Four passengers were examined by a doctor but did not require treatment. A back-up aircraft left for Palma at noon. It took off about three-and-a-half hours after the Stansted landing. Essex Ambulance Service incident commander Alan Whitehead said the Titan crew had spoken of concerns about the air supply and had decided to divert to Stansted. He added: "All seven crew were taken to Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow for monitoring as a precaution. They had all complained of inhaling an unknown substance. We immediately set up a triage centre to deal with the passengers."

AIRCRAFT MISSING, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A search has begun for a light aircraft which has disappeared in north-east Victoria. The Piper Chieftain is believed to be carrying up to four people. It disappeared on a flight from Melbourne's Essendon Airport to Mount Hotham. The pilot last made contact shortly before 1800, AEST, requesting permission to land at Mount Hotham. An air search by Australian Search and Rescue has been called off because of bad weather. Police are now conducting a ground search of the area.

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fears are held for the safety of three people who were on a Piper Chieftain, owned by RL Aviation, which has disappeared in Victoria's Alpine region. It took off from Essendon airport yesterday afternoon, with the pilot and a married couple on board. Nothing has been heard from the aircraft since the pilot requested permission to land at Mount Hotham about 1800, AEST, yesterday. Local farmers have reported hearing an aircraft's engine labouring. Rescuers using horses and four-wheel drive vehicles are struggling with heavy snow and low visibility, as they concentrate their search on the south-eastern side of the runway. Last night police conducted a ground search of the area.

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Emergency crews

in Victoria hope the weather will ease tomorrow to allow aircraft to search for a missing aircraft in the state's Alpine region. It is more than two days since the Piper Chieftain went missing near Mount Hotham. The three people on board, Gold Coast developer Brian Ray, his wife Kathy and their Geelong pilot Russell Lee, were headed to the ski resort from Melbourne. A ground search has failed to find any sign of the aircraft.

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The wreckage of a missing aircraft has been found by searchers in Victoria's alpine region. The Piper Chieftain left Melbourne on Friday (Jul 8) afternoon with Gold Coast developer Brian Ray, his wife Kathy and Geelong pilot Russell Lee on board. Ground crews lost contact with the aircraft as it approached Mount Hotham in wild weather. After searching all weekend in blizzard-like conditions, helicopters have finally helped locate wreckage of the aircraft about four kilometres south-east of the Mount Hotham airstrip, near Sharp's Hill. Search and Rescue spokeswoman Tracey Jiggins says helicopter crews spotted the tail of the aircraft sticking out of the snow. "We've actually managed to get some searchers down into the area to have a look and sadly they've also located the bodies of the pilot and the two passengers," she said. The aircraft had crashed into the side of a hill in a heavily wooded area. A path will have to be bulldozed through so investigators, including the coroner and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, can gain access.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Safety investigators will inspect the wreckage today of a Piper Chieftain crash in Victoria's alpine region which killed three people. State Emergency Service workers will continue today to construct a road to access the wreckage before the state coroner inspects the accident site today.

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of the victims of a light aircraft crash on Mount Hotham are being recovered from the scene. Geelong pilot Russell Lee, Gold Coast developer Brian Ray and his wife Kathy died when their aircraft went down in bad weather on Friday (Jul 8). Forensic experts and air safety investigators are examining the crash site before the weather worsens.

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Three bodies were today pulled from the wreckage of the Piper Chieftain aircraft that crashed in Victoria's snow-blanketed highlands last week. Victoria Police said the scene had been cleared just before 1630 hrs. "Once the bodies are removed from the scene they'll be taken to Melbourne and from our point of view the investigation gets handed over to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. "They haven't decided how they're going to remove the aircraft or what further investigation they need to do."

C-FJYS

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine aircraft crash in a hayfield in central Alberta killed two passengers, a man and a boy, police said today. The two-seater Piper Comanche went down at about 1800 yesterday near Andrew, Alberta., about 85 kilometres east of Edmonton. The identities and ages of the dead had not yet been released. The role of a thunderstorm at the time of the crash would be probed, a spokesman with the federal Transportation Safety Board said. "One of the things we'll be looking at is the weather," Bill Kemp said. Records show the aircraft left Cooking Lake airport east of Edmonton at 1030 yesterday. Investigators had not released any communication between controllers on the ground and the aircraft. But they said it had crashed at high speed on a steep angle without evidence of fire or explosion. The aircraft, built in 1956, was registered to B. Allison Flying Services based in Sherwood Park, Alberta., records show.

London, Jul 8 -- Piper PA-18 C-FJYS, operated by B. Allison Flying Services, crashed near Andrew, Alberta, Jul 6 while on a flight from Cooking Lake, Alberta. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

CRASH, CARLISLE AIRPORT, CUMBRIA, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: An aircraft crashed just seconds after it had taken off from Carlisle airport on Sunday afternoon (Jul 10). Four people, including the 33-year-old pilot from Dumfries, walked away unharmed from the wreckage of the PA28 Piper light aircraft. It is believed the aircraft took-off and crashed into a hedge at the edge of the airport. Debris ended up on the adjoining A689 road. Also on board were two girls aged 12 and 16, and a 43-year-old man, all from Dumfries. An air investigation is currently underway.

CRASH, CLEVEDON, NEW ZEALAND

See ZK-TAX.

CRASH, KILTO AREA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A pilot has been praised for his skill in crash landing a stricken aircraft, saving the lives of all five on board, after the Cessna 210's engine failed. A Perth family of four walked away from the wreckage on a remote West Australian cattle station with barely a scratch, while the pilot suffered minor leg injuries. The aircraft was flying over the peninsula north-east of Broome in WA's far north when the pilot reported the aircraft had total engine failure. Brisbane air traffic controllers picked up the mayday message and contacted WA police. However, before officers could arrive, the aircraft plunged to the ground on the Kilty cattle station, about 60 km north-east of Broome.

When station staff reached the scene they found the aircraft damaged, but the five occupants relatively unscathed. The pilot had a possible broken ankle, but the passengers had suffered only shock, health authorities say. Police said the aircraft belonged to Broome-based King Leopold Air, an air charter company which has run joy flights over the Kimberley since 1992. A spokesman for the company said the aircraft was forced to make a "precautionary" landing, but all the passengers were able to walk away. The aircraft had left Broome airport on a chartered flight to Derby, via the Horizontal Falls, when it experienced engine trouble, police said.

CRASH, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

See N902J.

CRASH, ROME AREA, ITALY

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A helicopter crash in Italy killed an Erickson Air-Crane mechanic and injured three other people, a company official said. Marty Erickson, 49, of Rogue River died. Erickson pilot Chris Woods, 31, of Washington state, Erickson mechanic Troy Niemeyer, 30, of Eagle Point and Italian pilot Floriano Finmore, 50, sustained minor injuries in yesterday's crash, said Dennis Hubbard, the company spokesman. Details were sketchy on how the crash occurred. Hubbard could not confirm an Italian newspaper report that said the helicopter went down five minutes after taking off from a Rome airport. The helicopter was built by Erickson Air-Crane in Central Point for use by the Italian forest service.

CRASH, SACRAMENTO AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Two sheriff's deputies were killed and a third was seriously injured today when their helicopter crashed into a hillside. Authorities did not immediately know what caused the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department helicopter to crash near the American River east of Sacramento. Witnesses told The "Sacramento Bee" they saw flames shooting out of the helicopter's engine.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 9 -- Pakistan International Airlines said today that one of its Airbus A310 aircraft, flight No PK-283, carrying 189 passengers from Peshawar to Dubai, developed a technical fault in its engine oil-pressure system yesterday and landed at Karachi International Airport, as a result. The aircraft took off from Peshawar Airport at 0605 hrs but shortly afterwards, the captain noticed an engine oil-pressure problem and requested an emergency landing. The aircraft landed at Karachi airport at 0815 hrs. The passengers were later

taken to Dubai on board another aircraft, while the grounded aircraft was being thoroughly inspected. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FT. EUSTIS, NEWPORT NEWS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard reports that around 1400 this afternoon an HH 60 Jayhawk helicopter with the Coast Guard based in Elizabeth City made an emergency landing at Ft. Eustis in Newport News. The Coast Guard says the chopper developed an in-flight technical problem during a routine training mission. There were at least three people on board at the time. The crew landed the chopper without incident at Ft. Eustis. Right now, technicians are trying to determine the cause of the problem and fix it so the crew can get on their way. There was no damage to the chopper when it landed and no one on the ground or in the air was hurt at all. No one sent to the hospital and no one even checked out as a precaution.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: A single-engine aircraft made an emergency landing, spinning off the runway just after departing yesterday afternoon from Mobile Regional Airport, authorities said. Only the pilot was on board, and that person was uninjured, said Julie Adam, marketing associate for the airport. The (Piper) Cherokee had just taken off from Mobile when it began experiencing landing gear problems, Adam said. The pilot decided to circle back and land, Adam said. When the aircraft landed, it spun off the runway about 50 ft, Adam said. The incident occurred at 1449 hrs, she said. While rescue workers were on the scene, other aircraft continued to depart and arrive. Steve Huffman, Mobile Fire-Rescue Department spokesman said that a hazardous-materials truck was summoned to contain fuel leaking from the aircraft. Adam said the aircraft would remain in place overnight, and that the Federal Aviation Administration would investigate the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The malfunction of a hydraulic system forced the aircraft carrying Czech Foreign Minister Cyril Svoboda to Latin America to make an emergency landing in Mauritania, an official said today. Ministry spokesman Richard Krpac said Svoboda's aircraft landed in Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott, late yesterday. Svoboda was on his way to Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. Krpac said an aircraft with spare parts for the Soviet-made TU-154 will be sent to Nouakchott to fix the problem. "An

official meeting with the Colombian energy minister scheduled for 1700 local time is jeopardised," Krcpac said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SHANNON AIRPORT, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A US passenger aircraft with nearly 200 people on board made an emergency landing at Shannon Airport this afternoon. The American Airlines flight from Heathrow to New York was over the Atlantic when the crew reported an electrical fault and smoke in the cockpit. All 190 passengers and crew were evacuated from the jet, and a full inspection is now being carried out. It is not clear how long the Boeing 777 will remain on the tarmac.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SOUTH WEST OKLAHOMA CITY, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: A faulty fuel gauge forced a pilot to make an emergency landing yesterday in an area located several miles from any airport. The pilot landed in a field near Southwest 140th Street and Western Avenue, south-west Oklahoma City. He was not injured during the emergency landing. Police said the aircraft apparently lost power after the fuel gauge malfunctioned. Lt. Jane Lewis said the experienced pilot found a safe spot to land between some hay bales and power poles. The aircraft was on its way to Wiley Post Airport. After a quick inspection from mechanics, an all-clear from federal investigators and a fresh tank of gas, the aircraft took off without any problems.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SPANISH FORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A single-engine aircraft had a brush with a power line while using the old State Road 6 near Spanish Fork River Park as a makeshift runway Monday (Jul 11) morning. Around 1115 hrs, Michael Ottaman walked away from his damaged aircraft after he was forced to land it on the road because of a failed fuel pump. On the way down he clipped a power line that crossed the road, damaging his propeller and landing gear, according to the Utah Highway Patrol. Ottaman was en route to Bozeman, Mont., from Prescott, and had plans to refuel at the Heber Valley Airport. While flying near Spanish Fork Canyon, he reported problems with his fuel pump shortly before his engine stopped working altogether. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TRABZON, TURKEY

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft belonging to United Arab Emirates (UAE) Airlines made an emergency landing at the Trabzon Airport of Turkey on

Wednesday (Jul 6), Deputy Governor Bahattin Atci said. Atci told said that the aircraft, en route from Vienna to Dubai, was carrying 14 crew members and 109 passengers when it made an emergency landing at the airport of (northern city of) Trabzon as one of its engines broke down. "Passengers waiting at the airport will be sent to Dubai by a plane, expected to come from Britain within three or four hours," added Atci.

FLIGHTS DELAYED, HALIFAX, CANADA

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Delays and flight cancellations continue to plague Halifax International Airport. Four flights were cancelled and one was delayed this morning because of thick fog. Some flights were diverted to Moncton, N.B., late yesterday. The passengers aboard those aircraft were later taken by bus to Halifax. Gina Connell, spokeswoman for the airport authority, says some navigation systems used by pilots during foggy weather are unavailable because they are being upgraded. Six flights were either diverted or cancelled yesterday night by the low ceiling of cloud cover, said Connell. Last weekend, hundreds of travellers were left stranded at the airport and elsewhere when scores of flights were cancelled for similar reasons. Earlier this month, the airport authority started working on the intersection of the two runways, rendering some navigational aids unavailable. (See issue of Jul 6.)

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Delays and flight cancellations continue to plague Halifax International Airport. Four flights were cancelled and one was delayed this morning because of thick fog.

INCIDENT AT TWEED AIRPORT, NEW HAVEN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A single-engined Piper aircraft had its landing gear collapse as it was taking off from Tweed Airport, New Haven, today. The incident happened just before 1800 hrs. Three people were on board the aircraft. No one was injured. The East Haven Fire Department was called to the scene as a precaution.

INCIDENT, NINYO AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Philippine Airlines aircraft bound for Vancouver was stuck on Runway 6 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on this evening, causing PAL to divert at least two flights to Clark International Airport in Pampanga. PAL engineer Octavio Lina said PR 106 was not able take off after it failed to make a 180-degree turn due to a mechanical problem. Pilot Captain Wilfredo Daclan said the Airbus's steering wheel malfunctioned. All of the 281 passengers and crew were safe, Daclan said. PR 731 from Bangkok and PR

850 from Cebu were diverted to Pampanga. Cathay Pacific CX 918 bound for Hong Kong and Singapore Airlines SQ 075 bound for Singapore were delayed. The arrival of CX 903 from Hong Kong and Lufthansa LH 788 from Frankfurt, Germany, were also delayed.

MID-AIR COLLISION, MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

London, Jul 11 -- A press report, dated Jul 10, states: Two small biplanes simulating a World War I dogfight collided today at an air show in central Canada, killing both pilots instantly. Witnesses said one aircraft came from beneath and collided with the second craft. Both burst into flames and crashed. No spectators were hurt, but the air show in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, about 120 miles north of the Montana border, was immediately cancelled. The pilots were members of the US-based Masters of Disaster civilian aerobatics team. A third aircraft involved in the dogfight simulation landed safely. Clive Tolley, executive director of the air show, said Canada's Transport Safety Board would be arriving tomorrow to launch an investigation into the crash. "It was a civilian performance that has been practised many, many times and done in a safe manner many, many times," Tolley said.

N111RC

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pilot error, probably brought on by an excessive amount of an over-the-counter antihistamine, caused a 2003 Greenacres plane crash in which the Boca Raton pilot was killed, according to a National Transportation Safety Board report released on Thursday (Jul 7). On a clear day on Dec 30, 2003, as veteran pilot Norman Lowenstein flew his Cessna 441 (Conquest II) (N111RC), the aircraft suddenly plummeted 1,200 feet before crashing into a community pond. One witness reported seeing the aircraft "about 200-300 feet off the ground, coming straight down in a flat spin," the report stated. An autopsy listed the cause of death as blunt force injuries due to the crash. Toxicology tests found more than 10 times the typical, maximum over-the-counter dose of chlorpheniramine, a sedating antihistamine, in Lowenstein's system, the report states. "It is probable that the pilot's performance and judgment were substantially impaired by his very high blood level of chlorpheniramine," the report said.

N134US

London, Jul 12 -- Yakovlev Yak-3 N134US crashed near Heber, Utah, at 1515, Jul 9, while on a local flight from Heber. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board was seriously injured and the other suffered minor injuries.

N318RF

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Stark County pilot and his three passengers escaped

uninjured today when their aircraft skidded off the runway as it landed at Medina Municipal Airport. The pilot, Michael J. Bowers, of North Canton, had taken off in the twin-engine Cessna at 0715 hrs for Raleigh, N.C. En route, Bowers told the state highway patrol, he noticed the oil temperature gauge for the aircraft's left engine was high, and he decided to head back to Medina rather than continue on to North Carolina. As he landed at 0915 hrs, the Cessna left the runway and went over an embankment and into a ravine. According to the highway patrol, the aircraft was damaged, but the extent could not be determined until it was hoisted from the ravine. The accident shut down the east-west runway of the airport for much of the afternoon while emergency crews responded to the crash. It was not known whether the accident was the result of a mechanical malfunction or pilot error.

London, Jul 8 -- Cessna 421B (Golden Eagle) N318RF slid off the runway at Medina Municipal Airport, Ohio, at 1315, Jul 7, while on a flight from Medina to Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The five persons on board were not injured.

N4933U

London, Jul 12 -- A press report, dated Jul 11, states: The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate an emergency landing in a Miami County field near 359th Street and Somerset over the weekend (Jul 9-10). The pilot from Blue Springs, Mo., said he was climbing to cruising altitude shortly after take-off from the Gardner airport when the aircraft (N4933U) began to idle. "I had a mechanical problem with the throttle, tried to adjust and it came out in my hand," pilot Dale Walkup said. Walkup was not hurt during the landing. Aviation investigators will try to determine just how the throttle came out.

N5155N

London, Jul 9 -- A press report, dated Jul 8, states: Federal investigators believe fog contributed to the crash of a Cessna 182Q (Skylane) (N5155N) into Long Island Sound last month, which killed four people. A preliminary report filed by the National Transportation Safety Board found that Herbert K. Rollins III's aircraft was operating correctly on approach to Groton-New London Airport. Investigators believe that Rollins may not have been used to flying in fog and are reviewing his flight history. Killed in the Jun 27 crash off the coast of Avery Point were Rollins and his wife, Patricia, and Peter and Helen Walsh of Australia. The Cessna was one of 22 aircraft participating in the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians' annual "fly-about." Some participants rerouted to nearby Providence because of the weather. Rollins was flying through cloud cover, according to the NTSB report, and was using his instruments to guide him.

N5661J

London, Jul 8 -- Maule M-7-235 (Super Rocket) N5661J crashed at Seward, Alaska, at 1915, Jul 7, while on a flight from Seward to Little Johnstone, AK. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the five persons on board was killed and two suffered minor injuries.

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine floatplane crashed into a lake near Seward, and one teenager drowned but four other people survived by climbing onto icebergs, state troopers said. The four were rescued after a search plane spotted "small black dots on a small iceberg," troopers spokesman Greg Wilkinson said. All were treated at a hospital for minor injuries and released. The survivors told troopers that the impact of the Thursday morning (Jul 7) crash tore off the Glacier Air Adventures aircraft's floats and collapsed its wings, but the fuselage stayed afloat long enough for the five to get into the water. They swam for a pair of icebergs, but the frigid water was too much for 17-year-old Mark Schroeder, of Durban, South Africa. The others made it to the icebergs. A search was launched when the aircraft was reported overdue Thursday afternoon. The search pilot made several passes around Johnstone Lake before spotting two people waving from an iceberg no larger than a mattress, Wilkinson said. They pointed him to the two other survivors, who were on another iceberg. The survivors were Glacier Air Adventures pilot Kurt Stenehjelm, 54; Ryan Fisher, 28, of Seward; and William O'Neal, 59, and his wife, Carolyn, 60, from Overland, Kan., according to Wilkinson.

N73747

London, Jul 12 -- Cessna 172N (Skyhawk) N73747 crashed near Brevard, North Carolina, at 1800, Jul 10, while on a flight from Brevard to Greenville, South Carolina. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

N902J

London, Jul 7 -- Piper PA-34-220T (Seneca III) N902J crashed near Norman, Oklahoma, at 2125, Jul 6, while on a flight from Austin, Texas, to Norman. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

S2-ADN

Karachi, Jul 11 -- Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport reopened to international flights yesterday after remaining closed for nine days. Meanwhile, the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 (S2-ADN), operated by Bangladesh's national airline Biman, which skidded off the airport runway on Jul 1 while returning from Dubai, was shifted to the Bay 5 zone of the airport tarmac yesterday morning. The damaged aircraft was mounted on four Chittagong Port Authority and towed away by two Army tanks and

armoured recovery vehicles deployed for the purpose. Insurance company surveyors have already visited the scene to assess the loss from the accident. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ZK-TAX

London, Jul 11 -- Cessna 172R (Skyhawk) ZK-TAX, operated by Ardmore Flying School Ltd, crashed into the channel estuary of the Wairoa River Jul 4. The two persons on board were not injured.

Space Vehicles



DISCOVERY (Space Shuttle)

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: NASA says a plastic and foam cover fell off a window of space shuttle Discovery causing some damage on the eve of its planned launch, indicating it hoped to fix the problem swiftly. The protective cover, which is taken off before the launch, fell about 20 metres on to one of the shuttle's two orbital manoeuvring systems, which are used once the craft is in orbit. Some of the tiles on the edge of the system were damaged in the incident, NASA manager for Discovery preparations Stephanie Stilson said. "I have been assured it can be fixed quickly and then we can move on. There is plenty of time to work out an issue like this," she said. NASA spokesman Kyle Herring says the panel that contains the tiles will be replaced. Discovery is scheduled to take off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 1551, US time, today. With storms forecast in the area today, NASA managers appeared more concerned with the weather than the damaged tiles.

London, Jul 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A plastic cover has fallen 20 metres from a window on space shuttle Discovery, damaging tiles near the shuttle's engines. Nasa say the damage has now been repaired and the launch will go ahead from Kennedy Space Center at 1550, EDT, today. Nasa officials said the cover had fallen off by itself at about 1700, EDT, yesterday during routine work at launch pad 39B, where Discovery is being readied for launch. The panel fell off crew window seven, hitting tiles on a "carrier panel" near the shuttle's tail. A spare carrier panel has been taken to the pad in case the panel needed to be replaced. The plastic window cover which fell is made of plastic with a foam edge and is taped in place to protect the windows and keep them clean before launch.

London, Jul 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: NASA has delayed the launch of shuttle Discovery until at least Saturday (Jul 16) due to a problem with a fuel sensor. Deputy

shuttle program manager Wayne Hale said: "It took us about five minutes of discussion to confirm that and decide that it was time to try another day." Mr Hale said the best case scenario would be a launch attempt on Saturday. NASA Administrator Michael Griffin previously said the earliest date for another launch attempt would be next Monday, but later said he had the date wrong. Discovery was fuelled and ready with the astronauts strapped in their seats for a planned launch at 1551, local time, today when the problem with the liquid hydrogen fuel sensor occurred at 1332 hrs. The cause was not immediately clear. Delays due to technical problems or bad weather are common during shuttle launches. The malfunctioning sensor is one of four that detects fuel levels and would cut off the shuttle's three main engines if at least two showed that fuel was running low. A premature cutoff might damage the engines, force the shuttle to make an emergency landing or leave it short of its desired altitude. NASA has until July 31 to launch Discovery. NASA had problems with fuel level sensors during a test of the external fuel tank in April, but engineers said they did not know if Wednesday's malfunction was related. The problem was the third technical issue to crop up since the countdown to Discovery's launch began on Sunday. A faulty heater delayed the fuelling of the external tank with liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen by more than an hour today.

Product Recalls



BABY STROLLERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jul 7 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Graco Children's Products Inc., of Exton, Pa., today announced a voluntary recall of about 1 million Duo Tandem and about 143,000 MetroLite Graco Duo Tandem Strollers and Graco MetroLite Stroller sold between 1994 and 2002. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately until a repair kit has been obtained. These strollers can fail to latch properly and unexpectedly collapse while in use. This can result in broken bones, cuts, bumps, bruises and other injuries to young children riding in the stroller and consumers pushing the stroller.

For the Duo Tandem strollers, Graco has received reports of 306 collapses causing 230 reported injuries, including a broken arm, and a cut to a child requiring 46 stitches. For the MetroLite strollers, Graco has received reports of 223 stroller collapses causing 34 reported injuries including 18 bumps and bruises to the head or body. Other injuries associated with both strollers include cuts, scrapes, scratches, pinched fingers and muscle pulls. The recalled Duo Tandem strollers, manufactured between 1994 and 1999, have two seats, one seat in front and one seat in back. The strollers have a blue, white or green plastic and steel frame. They have four wheels in the front and two wheels in the rear. The cloth seats and tops have various colors and patterns. There is a label with the model and serial number on the stroller's frame. Only strollers with serial numbers and model numbers listed below are included in this recall. Graco Duo Tandem: Model Numbers: 7950, 7955, 7960, 7965, 7970 and 7980 Serial Number Range Between 01011994 and 12311999 and model number 7990 Serial Number Range Between 01011996 and 10311998. The recalled MetroLite strollers, manufactured in 2000 and 2001, have a blue, gray or black plastic and steel frame. The cloth seat and top have various colours and patterns. The strollers have four wheels in the front and two wheels in the rear. These strollers were sold as a stand-alone stroller and also as part of a travel system that included an infant car seat/carrier and a base. The car seat/carrier is not affected. There is a label on the cross bar under the foot rest containing the model and serial number. Only strollers with serial numbers between 10012000 and 12312001 in the first 8 digits and the following model numbers are included in this recall. Graco MetroLite Model Numbers 6110DW, 6114NGS, 6110F3, 7410CON, 6111FKB and 7413CML Serial Number Range 6114HAV, 7413MRN, 6114JAM. The Duo tandem strollers sold at discount, department and juvenile product stores nationwide from January 1994 through to December 2000 for between \$80 and \$150. The MetroLite strollers sold at discount, department and juvenile product stores nationwide from November 2000 through December 2002 for between \$100 and \$200. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using these strollers immediately and contact the firm to receive a free repair kit. The kit includes a custom-designed latch that consumers should attach to the stroller's frame to ensure it is properly

latched. The repair kit will be available in approximately one to two weeks. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Ford Motor Co. is recalling the 2006 Ford Expedition and 2006 Lincoln Navigator because the left-side tyres may have tread damage caused by a sharp piece of steel they may have encountered during manufacturing, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced today. There are 10,061 vehicles involved in that recall, the NHTSA said.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 11,592 Tacoma pickup trucks from the 2005 model year that have bench seats, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced today. The NHTSA said the seat-belt buckle sensor may not function as designed, which could cause the air bag to deploy improperly in a crash.

VOLKSWAGEN MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 8 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Volkswagen AG is recalling nearly 40,000 Jetta sedans in the United States because fuel could leak and start a fire, federal safety regulators said today. Jettas from the 2005 model year are involved in the recall. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said a fuel supply line clamp may not be properly positioned, which could lead to a leak. Volkswagen said it knows of no deaths or injuries related to the defect, which was reported to the company by a small number of owners.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Jul 4 -- Port situation Jul 4: Genoa: One tanker waiting for berth. Average delay in berthing 12 - 24 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth. No vessels awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	11-Jul-2005	Coal: Twelve vessels due by 2/8; no delays expected.
Brisbane	11-Jul-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Three vessels due by 30/7; up to no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	11-Jul-2005	Coal: Three vessels loading at berth, 15 at anchor; 39 vessels due by 23/8; 5-25 days delay expected. Vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability. Shippers have a certain entitlement of coal shipped through the terminal. If they exceed their entitlement, additional vessels are moved further down the list, with a resulting additional delay in berthing
Dampier	11-Jul-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some grade/stockpile problems. Some vessels will berth out of turn and the berthing lineup may change at short notice. Shippers do not guarantee vessel will be able to load up to the maximum sailing draft available. Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 10 vessels due by 24/7; up to 8 days delay expected; 48-hr maintenance shutdown 13-15/7; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 4 at anchor; 8 vessels due by 21/7; up to 7 days delay expected; a shift to lay-by on completion of loading always possible.
Espernace	11-Jul-2005	Iron ore: One vessel at berth, 1 arrived; up to 2 days delay expected
Geraldton	11-Jul-2005	Iron ore: Two vessels due by 16/7; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Gladstone	11-Jul-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: One vessel loading at berth, 7 off port; 31 vessels due by 4/8; up to 7 days delay expected; Barney Point: 6 vessels due by 30/7; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Hay Point	11-Jul-2005	Coal: One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 10 vessels due by 22/7; up to 2 days delay expected
Newcastle	11-Jul-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels loading at berth; 42 vessels due by 27/7; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 20 vessels due by 27/7; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 5-13 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	11-Jul-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 20/7; up to 3 days delay expected; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 18/7; up to 3 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 3 vessels due by 20/7; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 2 vessels due by 15/7; up to 2 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	11-Jul-2005	Coal: Three vessels awaiting cargo; 13 vessels due by 15/8; CB1: 2 vessels due by 26/7; from 27/6-18/7 CB1 will be out of service due to power outage; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	11-Jul-2005	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 19 vessels due by 30/7; up to 3 days delay expected; cargo shortages may result in vessels berthing out of turn shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (8 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively; shippers advise that stores, air freight and baggage can no longer be delivered to the vessel or taken off at berth, but must be delivered/removed by launch.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	10-Jul-2005	Eleven vessels in port of which 9 loading, 2 discharging (1 salt, 1 containers); 2 vessels in roads both to load (1 empty, 1 scrap); 7 vessels due of which 3 to load, 4 to discharge.
Varna	10-Jul-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-seven vessels in port operating of which 23 loading, 8 discharging, 6 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Egypt		
Adabiya	11-Jul-2005	Fourteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 8 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 livestock, 1 tanker, 1 container vessel.
Alexandria	11-Jul-2005	Twenty-nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 21 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel, 1 tanker; 29 vessels at inner anchorage, 4 at outer anchorage; 12 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	11-Jul-2005	Twenty vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 11 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 Ro/Ro, 4 container vessels; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	11-Jul-2005	Thirteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 11 bulk carriers, 2 container vessels; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	11-Jul-2005	Seven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 6 container vessels.
Suez	11-Jul-2005	Four vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 reefers, 2 passenger vessels; 3 tug boats.
Suez Canal	11-Jul-2005	Twenty-five vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.

Port Conditions

Estonia

Tallinn 11-Jul-2005 No labour problems. City port: No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected; Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): no vessels loading at berth; no vessels due; 5 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.

India

Kolkata 11-Jul-2005 3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading Containers, 1 vessel discharging HSD; 1 vessel under repair; 1 General Cargo vessel due.

Haldia 11-Jul-2005 13 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Iron Ore, 10 vessels discharging (Crude, POL-2, Palmolive, Rock Phosphate-2, Phosphoric Acid, Sulphur, Noke, Steel), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 5 vessels due(Butadiene, Crude, Thermal Coal, Containers, Iron Ore).

Paradip 11-Jul-2005 9 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron Ore, Thermal Coal-2, Chrome Ore, Chrome Concentrate), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Lam Coke, MOP); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load).

Visakhapatnam 11-Jul-2005 10 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore-2, B.F.Slag-2), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-3, Alumina Powder, Steam Coal, Lime Stone); 8 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (5 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 vessel under repair; 1 vessel (MV Jin An) waiting beyond break waters; 32 vessels due (Iron Ore-8, Steel, Soya Bean, Thermal coal, Food Grains, C.P.Coke, POL Products, Rock Phosphate-2, Liquid Ammonia, Caustic Soda-2, POL-2, LPG, Steam Coal-2, Containers- 4, Met Coke, Urea, MOP, DBM Bags).

Chennai 11-Jul-2005 9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Granite Block, Iron ore), 6 vessels discharging (General Cargo, Petroleum Oil, S.Plate, S.Coal, Crude Oil, Containers), 1 vessels loading and discharging Granite Blocks/Steel; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.

Tuticorin 11-Jul-2005 9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (General Cargo, Granite, Ilminite, 4 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Thermal Coal-2, Furnace Oil), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.

Cochin 11-Jul-2005 7 vessels operating at berth of which 4 discharging (Soda Ash, Sulphur, Neptha, HSD), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 4 vessel awaiting berth (3 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge).

New Mangalore 11-Jul-2005 8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (POL Product, Iron Ore Fines-2), 5 vessels discharging (Fertilizer-2, POL Product, POL Crude, Crude Palm Oil); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 11 vessels due (POL Product, Lime Stone, Granite Stone-3, Iron ore Fines, Iron ore (P)-2, POL Crude-2, Timber).

Mormugao 11-Jul-2005 3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Iron ore, 2 vessels discharging (C.P.Coke, Naphtha), 2 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under repairs/dry docked (Repairs/dry docking is being carried out by the Western India Shipyard Ltd. in their yard); 3 vessels due (Met Coke, Iron ore-2).

Mumbai 11-Jul-2005 21 vessels operating at berth of which 8 loading (General Cargo-7, POL), 11 vessels discharging (General Cargo-7, Fertilizer (RM)-2, POL-2) 2 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, General Cargo); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessel awaiting order to load; 15 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 11 vessels under arrest, 23 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 15 vessels due (Containers-3, Oil-4, General Cargo-8).

J.N.P.T. 11-Jul-2005 5 vessels operating at berth loading and discharging Containers

Ennore 11-Jul-2005 1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 2 vessels Thermal Coal vessels due.

Kandla 11-Jul-2005 15 vessels operating at berth of which 9 discharging (S.Coils, Urea, DAP, Timber Logs-2, Scrap, Chemical, CSDBO, Phosphoric Acid), 6 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Miller, Salt, Crude Oil); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge;

Pakistan

Karachi 11-Jul-2005 One vessel loading cement at berth, 9 discharging at berth (1 chemicals, 1 coal, 2 DAP, 2 general cargo, 2 urea, 1 MOP), 4 loading/discharging containers; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 2 vessels due (1 container, 1 coils), with no delays expected.

Port Qasim 11-Jul-2005 Four vessels discharging at berth (2 palm oil, 2 coal); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 13 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container, 1 MEG, 11 ore); QICT berth: 1 vessel loading/discharging containers.

Poland

Gdansk 11-Jul-2005 Ten vessels in port operating of which 7 loading at berth (1 coal, 4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo, 1 coal); 2 vessels in roads (1 bulker, 1 wood): 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 19 vessels due.

Gdynia 11-Jul-2005 Three vessels in port operating, all loading at berth (2 grain, 1 coal); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 35 vessels due.

Port Conditions

Russia

Novorossiysk	11-Jul-2005	Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 12 loading, 5 discharging; 11 vessels in roads of which 8 to load, 3 to discharge bulk sugar; 45 vessels due, all to load; Oil terminal: 1 tanker loading fuel oil at berth; 3 tankers in roads of which 2 to load crude, 1 diesel oil; 4 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
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Spain

Bilbao	11-Jul-2005	Thirty-three vessels in port operating (7 tankers, 26 others), of which 9 loading, 13 discharging, 11 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	11-Jul-2005	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 2 loading (1 cement, 1 scrap), 10 discharging (9 steel products, 1 vehicles), 2 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	11-Jul-2005	Seven vessels in port operating of which 4 loading (2 steel products, 1 oil, 1 sulphur), 1 discharging ore, 2 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads; 20 vessels due of which 12 to load (11 steel products, 1 wheat), 8 to discharge/load containers
Mariupol	11-Jul-2005	Ten vessels in port operating of which 9 loading, 1 discharging/loading equipment; 4 vessels in roads all to load (3 steel, 1 fire-clay); 42 vessels due of which 39 to load, 2 to discharge (1 cars, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge/load containers
Odessa	11-Jul-2005	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 5 loading, 7 discharging, 2 loading/discharging containers; 8 vessels in roads of which 3 load, 3 to discharge oil, 2 to load/discharge containers; 70 vessels due of which 38 to load, 4 to discharge, 28 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Charleston, SC	11-Jul-2005	Charleston Harbour will be closed from 19:00 to 23:00 on 14 July 2005 to all commercial traffic due to the opening ceremonies for the recently completed Cooper River Bridge. There will be no movement of vessels inbound or outbound during these times. This is due to the large number of private watercraft anticipated.
Houston, TX	11-Jul-2005	LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	11-Jul-2005	Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: 3 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	11-Jul-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle, WA	11-Jul-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	11-Jul-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.

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