

# CasualtyWeek

July 15 2005

## Greece leads revolt over ship pollution fines

Cyprus and Malta also reject criminalisation law, writes Justin Stares Brussels — Thursday July 14 2005

**G**REECE, Cyprus and Malta have hit out at the European Union ship-source pollution directive at a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The directive has now become law at EU level and will have to be translated into national law by all 25 member states.

But transcripts of this week's council meeting show that the three maritime states refused to support the law, which the European Commission says improves protection for seafarers.

The three criticised the commission for breaking away from international conventions and opposed the council decision to make fines arising from the directive uninsurable.

The strongest criticism came from Maltese Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi, who attended the ministerial meeting in person: "Malta believes that the present directive is not in consonance with international maritime law," he said.

### Demotivate

"At a time when Europe – and the rest of the world – is facing a crisis of seafarer shortage, this directive can only serve to demotivate further any potential seafarers from taking a maritime career, defeating Community efforts to address this problem in a positive manner."

Mr Gonzi also referred to the commission's "manipulative" ambition to represent all EU states in the International Maritime Organization.

"Malta reiterates its hope that such unilateral action ... will not create a

precedent that would further undermine the authority of the International Maritime Organization.

"It would be a matter of grave concern if international applicability of maritime standards is compromised by third states that choose to ignore international legislation, not out of the readiness to be bound by more stringent rules, but for abusive and manipulative motives."

Greece, the principal defender of maritime interests in the EU, said the directive was unacceptable.

"Greece is unable to accept the text of the directive since its provisions go beyond those in force at international level, which is likely to have an adverse effect on shipping in general," said Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis.

### Criminal sanctions

"In particular, Greece considers that the provisions of the directive making maritime activity and the maritime profession liable to criminal sanctions go further than the provisions of the international Marpol Convention and are contrary to the international nature of merchant shipping where uniform international rules must apply."

Cyprus, which often follows the Greek lead in the council, also expressed its concern for the record, saying: "Shipping is an international industry and as such it must be regulated by internationally agreed standards and discharges of ships do not form an exemption."

It added that "...amendments made during the examination of this legislative measure fail to match the relevant provisions of international law applicable to the prevention and combating of pollution. Cyprus cannot participate in a process which in its own view is not in line with international law."

The protests by the EU's main maritime players contrasted with the assurances given by commission maritime director Fotis Karamitsos on Monday. "This law improves protection for seafarers," Mr Karamitsos told Lloyd's List. "And those who opposed it, including those who voted against it, already have stricter legislation in their home countries."

In what seemed like a co-ordinated move, the three member states also protested against the council's decision to make fines arising from the directive uninsurable. The Cypriot delegation said it "recognises the importance of the insurability of fines".

Malta took the same line: "Malta does not agree that pollution-related fines of an administrative or otherwise non-criminal nature should be uninsurable, [which] would imply undue and unfair exposure of the shipping industry in spite of the many efforts being undertaken to enhance shipping safety by this very industry." As did Greece: "As far as the issue of the insurability of fines imposed for maritime pollution incidents is concerned, Greece believes that only criminal fines are not insurable."

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

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Flag</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>GT</b>	<b>DWT</b>	<b>Bit</b>	<b>Casualty</b>
<b>AGENA</b>	general	ATG	GL	2,528	3,380	2001	Had engine failure and taken in tow by tug Brucoli Jun 23. Arrived Taranto Jun 24 for surveys, etc. Still under repair 28 Jun.
<b>EURO STAR</b>	container	ATG	BV	6,701	8,238	2005	Had main engine failure Jun 27 off Korea. Requested tug for tow. Tug ard in lat 52.9N, long 128.06.53E, Jun 28. Tow connected and arrived Sasebo Jun 29.
<b>FLORENCE FILBERN</b>	tug	USA	—	—	—	—	Taking water and sinking west of Ballard Bridge, Seattle, Jun 23. Coast Guard crews on scene. Crane due 29 Jun to attempt to raise vessel.
<b>GEORGE ALLEN</b>	fishing	USA	—	132	—	1970	Had fire on board Jun 29 while 15 miles west of Astoria. Fire extinguished.Towed to Astoria. Significant damage to engine-room space. Investigators en route.
<b>HILL</b>	general	LBR	LR	12,930	21,061	1969	Reported Jun 29 under tow for Keelung due main engine failure, ETA Jul 1.
<b>HOPE &amp; SYDNEY</b>	fishing	USA	—	95	—	—	Became disabled following steering problems in lat 42 10N, long 67 44W, Jun 24. Taken in tow by Coast Guard vessel boundd New Bedford.
<b>MARIA GALLEGO</b>	fishing	ESP	—	252	152	1992	Sank in lat 49 50N, long 09 07W, Jun 27. Crew rescued.
<b>MODERN DRIVE</b>	vehicle carrier	PAN	NV	33,831	10,817	2000	Drifting with engine trouble off Niigata Prefecture, in lat 38 24N, long 138 39E, Jun 28.
<b>MSC GRACE</b>	general	PAN	LR	13,258	17,298	1991	Grounded at Buoy 33, vicinity of Hansweert, Jun 29 following black-out. Three tugs on scene & refloated her same day. Proceeded Antwerp & moored.
<b>SEA FOX</b>	general	LVA	GL	2,219	2,560	1976	Sustained multiple engine problems in lat 57 17.3N, long 06 35.3W, Jun 24. Drifting but can use engines for short periods. Tug <i>Anglian Prince</i> on scene. Taken in tow by tug <i>Yewgarth</i> Jun 27, ETA Liverpool Jun 29.
<b>SUPREME</b>	fishing	GBR	—	—	—	1975	Experienced engine failure abt 60 miles NE of Eyemouth Jun 25. Towed to Eyemouth.

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## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### ACBL 3247 (U.S.A.)

Santo Domingo, Jun 30 -- During discharge operations of bulk Atlantic Express, at around 2100, Jun 29, at San Pedro de Macoris, one loaded lightering barge ACBL 3247 (687 gt, built 1984), sank when passing through the entrance channel, in a depth of water estimated around 25ft. Clinker carrying vessels arriving at the anchorage of San Pedro de Macoris discharge their cargo by ships' gear into hopper barges. The barges are then taken by tug through the port and up river to the cement plant of Messrs. Cemex. Allegedly the tug/barge operation is contracted to a U.S. company, who have a division in Venezuela, Messrs. A.C.B.L. Reportedly, two vessels are waiting to enter the port, Atlantic Express and bulk Marianela, one vessel, general cargo Smarty, is awaiting to depart the port and a tanker is due to arrive on Jul 4, which are not able to proceed with their intended operations, as the channel is blocked at this time. Advised that the other tug/barges are able to pass by the sunken barge. The loaded sunken barge is reported to be sunk in an upright condition in the centre of the channel, facing bow to seaward. According to the information received, the referred barge owners are proceeding to perform salvage operations with local assistance for their own account at this time. -- Lloyd's Agents

Santo Domingo, Jul 4 -- Bulk ACBL 3247 is still in the same sunken position and salvage operations are being put together. The barge's sunken position has not yet been confirmed to us; only that it is sunk in the middle of the channel. However, we expect to be fully updated in this respect later today. The full extent of damage sustained by the barge or causes surrounding the sinking have not been fully determined at this time although we are advised that the barge is fully submerged sitting in an upright condition on the seabed. No decisions have yet been made with regard to any repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Santo Domingo, Jul 5 -- A copy of recent soundings of the channel which depict sunken barge ACBL 3247 in position lat 18 26.2N, long 69 18.8W indicated a depth of about seven metres around the sunken barge with the same depth running from the sunken barge to the shore (N.E.side) and for a distance estimated as around 80 metres. The same depth was also portrayed from the sunken barge to the opposite side of the river (S.W.side) for a distance of about 50 metres. Arrangements were made for the vessel Smarty, having a maximum draft of four metres and which had remained secured alongside the pier

due to sinking of the barge, to depart the port as above mentioned with tug assistance and which proceeded at around 1530, local time, Jul 4, without incident. According to the information received, the referred barge owners have made arrangement with Messrs Resolve Marine Group, to perform salvage operations with local assistance, which are anticipated to be completed within 10 days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### AGENA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Taranto, Jul 5 -- General cargo Agena completed repairs evening Jun 30 and sailed 1300, Jul 1 for orders. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### AGHIOS CHARALAMBOS (Panama)

Rio de Janeiro, Jul 6 -- On Jun 25 ore/oil Edward N. collided with bulk/oil Aghios Charalambos at the inner roads of Tubarao due to strong winds. Aghios Charalambos was anchored and had sustained damages at bow. Provisional repairs were effected. Permanent repairs will be carried out in China. No information about the damages to Edward N., but understand not excessive. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### AIS NIKOLAS (Greece)

London, Jul 3 -- Understand bulk Ais Nikolas (36009 gt, built 1984), Ukraine for Indonesia and Thailand, touched bottom May 16. (Note -- AIS Nikolas sailed Ilichevsk May 10 and passed Suez Canal southbound May 16. Vessel subsequently arrived Adabiya (Suez) June 21 ? for repairs.)

London, Jul 4 -- Understand bulk Ais Nikolas grounded in the Suez Canal May 16 and sustained severe rudder damage while being refloated.

Port Said, Jul 6 -- Bulk Ais Nikolas arrived Port Said at 0300, May 16 and entered Suez Canal at 0810 same day with the southbound convoy. At km 53 in the canal, the vessel touched the bottom due to steering trouble and sustained damage to rudder. Suez Canal Authority tugs towed it to Suez outer harbour to effect necessary repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### AL FAHAD (Saudi Arabia)

Jeddah, Jul 4 -- Understand from owners of passenger ro/ro Al Fahad that the vessel is still in the same position. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### ALBENNY (Norway)

Trondheim, Jul 1 -- The owner of general cargo Albenny has informed us that the vessel was sold on May 14, to Fosen Gjenvinning, ≈fjord, for scrapping. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Jul 6 -- Fosen Gjenvinning inform that the scrapping of general cargo Albenny was completed on Jun 14. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### BAHLAWAN (Syria)

Aleppo, Jul 2 -- Our Lattakia office has reported that general cargo Bahlawan is still berthed near

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

Lattakia breakwater and no change in its position and entity. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BALSA 54 (Panama)**

Kingston, Jam, Jul 1 -- Local agent advised that general cargo Balsa 54 sailed Jun 27 for Mississippi River. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 2 -- General cargo Balsa 54 arrived St. James Jun 30.

#### **BARGE 3247**

Santo Domingo, Jun 30 -- During discharge operations of bulk Atlantic Express, at around 2100, Jun 29, at San Pedro de Macoris, one loaded lightering barge, identified as No. 3247, sank when passing through the entrance channel, in a depth of water estimated around 25ft. Clinker carrying vessels arriving at the anchorage of San Pedro de Macoris discharge their cargo by ships' gear into hopper barges. The barges are then taken by tug through the port and up river to the cement plant of Messrs. Cemex. Allegedly the tug/barge operation is contracted to a U.S. company, who have a division in Venezuela, Messrs. A.C.B.L. Reportedly, two vessels are waiting to enter the port, Atlantic Express and bulk Marianela, one vessel, general cargo Smarty, is awaiting to depart the port and a tanker is due to arrive on Jul 4, which are not able to proceed with their intended operations, as the channel is blocked at this time. Advised that the other tug/barges are able to pass by the sunken barge. The loaded sunken barge is reported to be sunk in an upright condition in the centre of the channel, facing bow to seaward. The referred barge dimensions, are estimated as: length 50mts by breadth eight metres, carrying capacity 800 metric tons. According to the information received, the referred barge owners are proceeding to perform salvage operations with local assistance for their own account at this time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BASAVESHWARA (India)**

Kochi, Jul 7 -- Product tanker Basaveshwara continues to operate between Cochin and Mangalore Ports. The damaged port auxiliary boiler has been isolated and is awaiting replacement. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BETATANK II (Liberia)**

London, Jul 6 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0840, UTC: Product tanker Betatank II (58086 gt, built 1989), with about 48,000 tonnes of gasoil on board, had engine fire off Frederikshavn in lat 57 29N, long 10 42E, at 2136, UTC, Jul 5. Vessel has been carrying out transshipping operations off Frederikshavn. The fire has been extinguished and the vessel is now subject to investigations in Frederikshavn Roads. An environmental vessel is on scene.

#### **BLANKENESE (Malta)**

London, Jul 7 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0905,

UTC: General cargo Blankenese (2882 gt, built 1984) had a lifeboat fall from the position where it was suspended 10 metres above the water into the sea about 15 miles south of Gotland at 1700, local time, Jul 6 during a lifeboat exercise. The person on board the lifeboat at the time suffered serious spinal injuries and was taken to hospital. The vessel, bound for Rotterdam, continued its voyage.

#### **BRITANNIA BEAVER (U.K.)**

London, July 1 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: At 0835, UTC, dredger Britannia Beaver (3610 gt, built 1991) was at Honfleur with damaged stern gland. Dredger is going to Dunkirk to drydock for repairs.

London, Jul 5 -- Dredger Britannia Beaver arrived London 2153, Jul 3 and left 0154, Jul 4.

#### **BUNGA MAS TUJUH (Malaysia)**

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Chinese tank ship spilled oil after it collided with a foreign flag container vessel five nautical miles from Xingang port at 1130 today. No casualties are reported. The Liaoning provincial maritime rescue centre organised emergency rescue work immediately and sent vessels to clean the polluted areas. The rescue operation is still going on. The cause of the accident is being investigated.

London, Jul 2 -- Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 1210, UTC, today: Chinese vessel "Qian Dao You No.1" was in collision with c.c. Bunga Mas Tujuh (8957 gt, built 1997). (Note -- Bunga Mas Tujuh sailed Kobe Jun 26 for Xingang.)

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Another 15 vessels were sent yesterday morning to join 11 already cleaning up after two vessels collided at Dalian port in Liaoning Province, sources from the Liaoning Maritime Salvage Administration said. Heavy sea fog means the exact extent of the pollution cannot yet be defined, even though helicopters have joined the operation, said Wang Yuyang, an official with the administration. The collision on Saturday (Jul 2) between a Chinese oil tanker and a foreign container ship resulted in a big oil spill. Both ships were sailing slowly at the time, so there were no casualties, Wang said. The cause of the accident is being investigated, he said. It happened at 1130 hrs, when the oil tanker was about five nautical miles from Dalian port. The Liaoning Provincial Maritime Rescue Centre immediately sent ships to the site and started the rescue and clean-up. The 2,500-ton oil tanker (Qian Dao You No.1) is owned by Zhoushan Qiandao Shipping Co Ltd, based in Zhejiang Province. Carrying 3,800 tons of diesel fuel oil, the ship was heading for Guangzhou. The Malaysia-registered c.c. Bunga Mas Tujuh, started from Japan, passing Tianjin heading for Dalian port. The accident happened amid heavy fog and poor visibility, said

Zhang Zhixin, an official with the maritime salvage administration. The No 5 cabin of the right side of the oil vessel was struck and damaged.

#### **BURAKBEY (Malta)**

London, Jun 30 -- General cargo Burakbey arrived at Ashdod on Jun 29.

#### **BUXTEHUDE (Cyprus)**

Vigo, Jul 4 -- General cargo Buxtehude (2565 gt, built 1985), put into Vigo 1200, Jun 27 in tow of local tug Conde de Gondomar with engine gearbox damage. Vessel is now laying at Bouzas, Vigo repair quay No. 473 waiting for spares and doing other small repairs. Vessel is expected to complete repairs in four to six weeks time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CAP SAINT JACQUES (France)**

London, Jun 30 -- Trawler Cap Saint Jacques was reported passing Dover, in a westerly direction, on Jun 29, with a reported destination of Boulogne.

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

London, Jul 3 -- A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Jul 2, states: Honolulu-based Coast Guard assets are currently responding to pollution control vessel Casitas (270 gt, built 1981) that ran aground at about 0200 hrs and is taking on water approximately 1,000 miles north-west of Oahu and 86 nautical miles east-south-east of Midway Island. Twenty-three people are on board the Casitas, which has lowered all six of its work boats used to remove marine debris. Their intentions are to take some personnel four miles to North Island initially and later to Pearl and Hermes Atoll. A C-130 Hercules aircraft from Coast Guard Air Station Barber's Point was deployed at 0400 hrs to assist and monitor the situation. The C-130 dropped four dewatering pumps that are being used by the ship's crew. Coast Guard cutter Walnut is also en route, and expects to arrive in five days. Walnut is equipped with a Spilled Oil Recovery System (SORS) to assist with clean up efforts should there be any fuel oil pollution from the ship. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has diverted its research vessel Oscar Elton Sette to the ship, and expects it to be on scene tomorrow evening. Due to the presence of an estimated 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel, 3,000 gallons of gasoline, and 200 gallons of lubricating oil on board the vessel, the Captain of the Port Honolulu (the Federal On Scene Coordinator), has taken initial steps to manage any potential oil spill. The area of the grounding is a designated marine reserve with the presence of monk seals and other protected species. A Unified Command has been established with representatives from the vessel owner, State of Hawaii, NOAA, and the Coast Guard to manage the incident salvage and environmental protection aspects of the incident. Casitas was en route to



Maro Reef and French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands for marine debris removal under contract by NOAA, when it ran aground on Pearl and Hermes Atoll causing severe damage to the ship. The crew of Casitas consists of NOAA and University of Hawaii Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR) personnel and ships crew. The island where the people may transit has three NOAA and JIMAR officials on the island currently working to keep track of the Hawaiian monk seal population.

London, Jul 3 -- Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 0925, UTC: Pollution control vessel Casitas is aground in lat 27 57.69N, long 157 46.28W. Vessel is hard aground and taking water. Crew could not keep up with the water entry so they abandoned ship about five hours ago and are now camped on a nearby island waiting to be picked up by a Coast Guard cutter which is en route.

London, Jul 3 -- Pollution control vessel Casitas grounded and was taking on water at Pearl and Hermes Atoll, North-west Hawaiian Islands at approximately 0200, yesterday. The vessel was contracted by NOAA for marine debris removal and had 23 people on board, including scientists from the University of Hawaii and NOAA divers. There were no injuries reported. Pumps were dropped by US Coast Guard, but the attempt to refloat the vessel was unsuccessful. As of 1830, it was reported all personnel was evacuated to North Island until the Oscar Elton Sette arrived on scene. The vessel reportedly has on board approximately 30,000 gallons of diesel. Salvage efforts are underway.

London, Jul 4 -- A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Jul 3, states: The Unified Command continues to monitor pollution control vessel Casitas. A C-130 from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point conducting aerial surveillance of the ship reported this morning that there was a 500 yard rainbow-colored sheen in the water near the vessel. Casitas deployed a pollution-absorbing containment boom around part of the vessel. Subsequent aerial reports late this morning indicate that the sheen may have stopped likely because Casitas transferred fuel to a different tank before the crew departed. The 23 people on board were transported by Casitas's marine debris removal boats to North Island last night and will be transported to Midway Island when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research ship Oscar Elton Sette arrives tonight. Once on Midway Island, arrangements will be made to have the ship's crew and passengers transported to Oahu. A C-130 Hercules aircraft from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point continues to monitor from the air for any new developments. Coast Guard cutter Walnut is also en route, and expects to arrive within four days. The Unified Command continues to explore options to reduce the threat of pollution from the grounded vessel

pending the arrival of salvage ships from the owner of Casitas.

London, Jul 4 -- Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1630, UTC: Pollution control vessel Casitas remains aground in the same position. The Coast Guard has set up a response unit to monitor the situation. C130 aircraft from Midway Island are carrying out overflights to monitor any pollution. A Coast Guard cutter is en route and a working cutter is on scene with booms for any oil spill. A salvage plan is still to be formulated.

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 500-yard-wide oil sheen spotted yesterday morning near pollution control vessel Casitas that ran aground in a marine reserve on Pearl and Hermes Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands is causing concern for Coast Guard officials, who are monitoring the situation. It will take at least three more days for an en-route Coast Guard cutter equipped with a "Spilled Oil Recovery System" to get to the 145-foot Casitas. Right now, a Coast Guard C-130 is watching from overhead but has not been able to determine whether the grounded vessel has a leak. Coast Guard aerial crews did notice, however, that the sheen appeared to go away after an oil containment boom was put in the water. "They really don't, at this point, know the extent of the environmental damage," said Coast Guard spokeswoman Petty Officer Jennifer Johnson. "They are coming up with contingency plans." None of the vessel's 23 crew members and passengers were injured in the grounding. They were picked up last night by NOAA research vessel Oscar Elton Sette, which was in the area, and are expected to be taken to Midway Island and then flown back to Honolulu in a Coast Guard aircraft.

London, Jul 5 -- A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Jul 4, states: The Unified Command continues to monitor pollution control vessel Casitas. The crew and scientific personnel have been safely transported to Midway Island by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research vessel Oscar Elton Sette. A C-130 Hercules aircraft from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point is tentatively planning to transport them to Oahu tomorrow. Oscar Elton Sette will stay in the area to further assist as needed. The Coast Guard National Strike Force Team Pacific, a team that specializes in marine environmental response, arrived on Oahu today from California. The team plans to depart tomorrow and, once at Casitas, will better determine the extent of damages, any threats to the environment and plans for removal of the vessel. The Unified Command continues to explore options to reduce the threat of pollution from the grounded vessel pending the arrival of additional assets. A C-130 overflight observed a light sheen extending approximately a half-mile south of the vessel. A Coast Guard C-130 will

continue to monitor the scene for any new developments. Coast Guard cutter Walnut is also en route, and expects to arrive within three days.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Crew members from the grounded pollution control vessel Casitas were expected back on Oahu today as a team of Coast Guard specialists begins determining how to get the vessel off the reef at Pearl and Hermes Atoll. Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials still weren't giving specifics yesterday about how the 145-foot vessel became grounded Saturday (Jul 2) about 1,000 miles north-west of Honolulu. There were six vessel's crew members and 17 NOAA-affiliated workers aboard. Three members of the Coast Guard National Strike Force Team Pacific, which specializes in marine environmental response, will be taken to the Casitas today by the NOAA vessel Oscar Alton Sette and will analyse how to safely get fuels off Casitas and refloat it, said Coast Guard spokeswoman Petty Officer Jennifer Johnson. The Coast Guard cutter Walnut, which has oil-spill equipment aboard, is under way and will join the rescue effort Friday (Jul 8), Johnson said.

London, Jul 6 -- Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1720, UTC: Pollution control vessel Casitas is still aground. A salvage plan is still being formulated.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The managers of the national wildlife refuge where a debris clean-up vessel, pollution control vessel Casitas, ran aground are "very concerned" about potential damage to the remote area's treasured reef and ecosystem. Barbara Maxfield is a spokeswoman for the U-S Fish and Wildlife Service. She says there are significant sea birds, Hawaiian monk seals, green sea turtles, spinner dolphins and coral reefs in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The delicate character of the accident site has generated worries about potentially severe and long-lasting damage from the environmental clean-up project that somehow went terribly wrong.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: Three Coast Guard pollution control experts have arrived in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to assess the source and extent of a half-mile long sheen spotted at the site where pollution control vessel Casitas ran aground. Coast Guard spokeswoman Jennifer Johnson says the extent of any damage to the remote area's treasured reef and ecosystem won't be known until a report is received from the three-member team or the arrival of the Coast Guard cutter Walnut, scheduled for Friday morning (Jul 8). Johnson says the crew of Walnut will attempt to remove fuel from Casitas. However, if that is determined to be unsafe or environmentally hazardous, officials will wait for the arrival of the American Dream vessel Quest, which left Honolulu this morning.

**CAVALIER DES MERS (Canada)**

London, Jul 6 -- Passenger Cavalier des Mers (128 gt, built 1974), carrying 30 passengers, sustained a steering gear malfunction off Riviere du Loup, St. Lawrence River, in lat 47 50.00N, long 69 40.00W, at 1615, local time, Jun 28. A secondary system used to steer the vessel into Riviere du Loup.

**CEC COPENHAGEN (Bahamas)**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Jul 5: The three-member inquiry committee, constituted by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to find out the causes of the accident at BNS Issa Khan Naval base on Jun 27, has submitted its report today. The committee members handed over the report to Captain Quamrul Hussain, member, operation, of the Chittagong Port Authority today. In the report, the committee said the engines of general cargo CEC Copenhagen were defective adding that the accident had occurred due to engine failure of the vessel. Moreover, the CPA committee placed six-point recommendations to the authority for consideration. According to the recommendations the ships that ply on the navigational channel of the Chittagong Port should comply with the rule regarding speed limits while crossing BNS Issa Khan naval base. The Navy should construct wide berth for naval ships, it said adding that overtaking of ships crossing the naval base should be stopped; no more berth or jetties at BNS Issa Khan base; navigational channel of the Chittagong Port should be kept clear round-the-clock; navy should manage special tug to reduce the extent of damage during any unwanted incident at the naval base. Three enquiry committees were constituted to probe the incident. The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) had constituted a three-member committee headed by Harbour Master Capt. Nazmul Alam. Principal Officer of Mercantile Marine Department (POMMD) constituted another three-member committee headed by Sirajul Islam Engineer and ship surveyor. The Bangladesh Navy, CPA and POMMD had constituted a nine-member committee headed by Commodore M S Alam. Two other inquiry committees did not submit their reports as yet. CEC Copenhagen arrived Chittagong carrying 585 containers on Jun 27. The ship was allowed to take berth in the CPA jetty in the evening. As the ship approached the BNS base, the steering and the engine went out of order. As a result, the pilot stopped the ship suddenly and the vessel dashed against the pontoon of Bangladesh Navy NB-6 that was badly damaged. One patrol boat, one tug, and one tanker moored at the NB-6 were hit by the container ship and tore off the anchor. Orient Express Line (OEL) chartered the vessel whose maiden voyage to Chittagong Port had met accident. CEC Copenhagen is now anchored at CPA Jetty No. 13. The ship will not be permitted to sail before the dispute is settled.

Karachi, Jul 6 -- Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has received a report from three-member inquiry committee, to find out the causes of the accident at BNS Issa Khan Naval base on Jun 27. According to media report, in the report, the committee alleged that the engines of general cargo CEC Copenhagen were defective adding that the accident had occurred due to engine failure of the container vessel. Moreover, the CPA committee placed six-point recommendations to the authority for consideration. According to the recommendations the ships that ply on the navigational channel of the Chittagong Port should comply with the rule regarding speed limits while crossing BNS Issa Khan naval base. The Navy should construct wide berth for naval ships, it said adding that overtaking of ships crossing the naval base should be stopped; no more berth or jetties at BNS Issa Khan base; navigational channel of the Chittagong Port should be kept clear round-the-clock; navy should manage special tug boat to reduce the extent of damage during any unwanted incident at the naval base. It may be mentioned that CEC Copenhagen arrived at the Chittagong port carrying 585 containers on Jun 27. The ship was allowed to take berth in the CPA jetty in the evening. As the ship approached the BNS base, the steering and the engine went out of order. As a result, the pilot stopped the ship suddenly and the vessel dashed against the pontoon of Bangladesh Navy NB-6 that was badly damaged. One patrol boat, one tug, and one tanker moored at the NB-6 were hit by the said container ship and tore off the anchor. CEC Copenhagen is now anchored at CPA Jetty number 13. The ship will not be permitted to sail before the dispute is settled. Two other inquiry committees did not submit their reports as yet. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

**CSL NIAGARA (Canada)**

London, July 1 -- A press report, dated June 29, states: Bulk CSL Niagara was sent on its way upriver early this morning after running aground yesterday alongside St. Helena Island. Steven Youde, public affairs officer with the United States Coast Guard, said the green light was given for the coke-laden ship to resume its transit towards Lake Ontario after temporary repairs were made on the vessel. Vicki Garcia, a public information officer with the U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, said that the freighter was on its way at 0407 hrs. Youde said the Coast Guard was called to investigate the incident at 1300 yesterday. He said a loss of steering control led to the ship being grounded on a shoal. "They ended up with about a 10-inch hole and they pumped out the water and made enough repairs and to prevent more water from being taken on." He said the vessel will be permanently repaired later. "The bulk carrier was inspected by Canadian and U.S.

specialists, in addition to the U.S. Coast Guard before it was cleared to get under way," said Garcia. "We had to wait for a diver and a part," said Garcia. "The inspectors stayed on board until everything had been completed, and they (did) a final inspection of the vessel," she said. The incident is still under investigation. (Note -- Understand CSL Niagara is to drydock at Port Weller for repairs to its forepeak. Its cargo of coke will be discharged there and taken to Detroit by another CSL vessel.)

**EDWARD N. (Panama)**

See Aghios Charalambos.

**EILTANK 17 (Germany)**

London, Jul 6 -- Between 0200 and 0300, local time, today, the 110 metre long, 10 metre wide non specific tanker Eiltank 17, Duisburg for Antwerp, with 2,094 tons of fuel oil, ran onto a breakwater in the River Waal, at Haaften, near Zaltbommel, causing a hole to a side tank containing 300 tons of fuel oil. After the vessel freed herself, the 62-year old skipper turned the vessel, headed for the harbour of Haaften and moored the tanker to the special mooring facility for ships with dangerous cargos. On the way to the harbour the vessel lost at least 30 tons of oil. After mooring the authorities laid an oil boom around the ship to prevent further pollution. A police helicopter from the KLPD will investigate the pollution in the River Waal later today. How much has been leaked all together is not yet known. Later today a tanker from the same company will come alongside Eiltank 17 to pump out the cargo, after which a decision will be made as to what to do with the vessel. An investigation by the river police has commenced.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: An inland tanker (Eiltank 17) carrying fuel oil hit a groyne in the Waal near Haaften early this morning. The resulting hole in the hull caused as much as 30 or 35 tons of oil to leak into the water, according to a spokesperson for the Korps Landelijke Politiediensten (KLPD). The 62-year-old master told the KLPD in a statement that an approaching ship had forced him to turn too far to port, causing him to hit the groyne. "It was a steering error," said a KLPD spokesman. The master was not arrested, but the police made a report. The vessel, which originated in Duisburg, was on its way to Antwerp with 2,094 tons of fuel oil. As soon as he noticed the leak, the master turned his vessel and moored it on a special quay for hazardous cargo in the emergency harbour of Haaften in Gelderland. A screen was placed around the ship to prevent more oil leaking into the Waal. At about 0930 today, the Rijkswaterstaat was vacuuming the oil contained by the screen into tankships and lorries. The water police were examining the scene of the accident. "For the moment the environmental damage seems reasonably limited," said the KLPD

spokesperson. There was no hindrance to shipping. Today the KLPD will map the oil spill from a helicopter. The spokesperson could not say how much fuel had leaked but estimated it at between 30 and 35 barrels. The hole affected a compartment in which 300 barrels of fuel oil were being transported. The Onderzoeksraad voor Veiligheid will investigate the cause of the accident.

#### **ELISABETH (Malta)**

Ponta Delgada, Jul 4 -- After satisfactory trials general cargo Elisabeth left Ponta Delgada at 1500, local time, Jul 2, bound for Figueira da Foz, Portugal. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ELQUI (Uruguay)**

Stanley, Jul 1 -- Fishing Elqui is still alongside the pier and there has been no further development in its situation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EURO STAR (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Yokohama, Jul 1 -- At 0840 hrs, Jun 27, c.c. Euro Star, Shanghai for Osaka, experienced engine trouble, south-east of Cheju Island, Korea, in lat 33 15N, long 127 24E. The vessel towed to Nagasaki (?Sasebo), later the same day. There were no reported injuries and no spillage of oil. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FLORENCE FILBERN (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 1 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1800, UTC: Tug Florence Filbern was lifted out of the water, yesterday, by a 100 ton crane. Present whereabouts not yet known.

#### **FREY (Malta)**

Brest, Jul 4 -- General cargo Frey departed Brest in tow of tug Jupiter, bound Tallinn for permanent repairs to main engine. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FROHAVET**

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

Trondheim, Jul 1 -- Owners of livestock Frohavethave informed us that all the cargo has now discharged and the vessel is sailing for Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, where ETA this evening. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Jul 6 -- Livestock Frohavet arrived Kvernhusvik Shipyard at 1545, local time, Jul 1. Estimated repair time is two to three weeks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GEORGE T.**

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

See "Navarino Bay, Greece" under "Pollution."

#### **GRANVIN (Norway)**

London, Jul 6 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger Granvin is still at Laksevaag Shipyard undergoing repairs, ETC unknown.

#### **HAVSTRAUM (NIS)**

Tallinn, Jul 6 -- Chemical/oil carrier Havstraum (4931 gt, built 1991) is presently at Tallinn Shipyard, Vene-Balti Harbour, where arrived (in tow

of tug Hector) on Jun 19 for main engine repairs. The repairs are likely to be completed by Jul 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HENNY (Germany)**

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: German feeder general cargo Henny (2988 gt, built 1997) contacted a Brunsbuttel Canal lock during the night of "Jun 29." The total damage amounts to at least Euro 35,000. (Note -- Henny sailed Hamburg 1830, Jun 28 and passed Brunsbuttel 2138 same day for Oskarshamn.)

London, Jul 1 -- A temporary blackout of the electric installation when starting the bow steering propeller led to the collision of the general cargo Henny with the Brunsbuttel lock gate Tuesday (Jun 28) evening, shipping company Karl Schl.ter confirmed, writes B. Ient Erdogan in Cologne. While no-one was injured, the damage to the gate amounted to around 15,000 Euros, the police said. Damage to the vessel is estimated to be around 20,000 Euros, but it continued its journey to Oxelosund.

London, Jul 6 -- General cargo Henny, Vesteras for Hamburg, passed Brunsbuttel 2030, Jul 3. Vessel subsequently arrived Hamburg 2331 same day and sailed 1610, Jul 4 for Bremerhaven.

#### **HILL (Liberia)**

London, Jul 2 -- General cargo Hill arrived Keelung 1344, Jul 1.

#### **HYUNDAI DISCOVERY (U.K.)**

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: C.c. Hyundai Discovery (64054 gt, built 1996) had a complete blackout due to problems with the fuel supply affecting the generators, off the coast of Lower Saxony, Jul 5. The vessel loaded up with containers continued for a hundred metres. The rescue centre at Cuxhaven immediately introduced all measures for towing. (Note - Hyundai Discovery sailed Hamburg at 0330, Jul 5 for Thamesport.)

London, Jul 7 -- Understood c.c. Hyundai Discovery has effected repairs and proceeded.

#### **IRAN AZADI (Iran)**

London, Jul 7 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0934, UTC: Bulk Iran Azadi (20672 gt, built 1979) from Antwerp, cargo 31,500 tonnes ammonium sulphate, 22 persons on board, anchored with unknown defect, in lat 50 59.39N, long 01 13.12E at 0022, UTC, today. Anglian Monarch tasked. (Note -- Iran Azadi sailed Antwerp 1452, Jul 6 for Bandar Abbas.)

#### **IVAN NAZAROV (Russia)**

London, Jul 2 -- General cargo Ivan Nazarov arrived Rostov Jun 24 and sailed Jun 29 for Turkey.

#### **JAG LALIT (India)**

Yokohama, Jul 5 -- According to the local agent of crude oil tanker Jag

Lalit the vessel is now in the port of Aioi due to engine trouble and is now still under investigation by the relevant parties. The vessel is expected to carry out repairs at Aioi after completion of the investigation and the repairs will be carried out at least until the middle of August. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JIN AN (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bulk Jin An (28707 gt, built 2000), carrying 25,000 tonnes of coal, ran aground near Visakhapatnam harbour in the early hours of today. Efforts were still on till late in the evening to set it afloat. The vessel was trying to enter the harbour channel on its own navigation when it ran aground at 0455 hrs, about one nautical mile off the city coast, near the Fishing Harbour. Since morning, the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) tried to pull the vessel away. Four tugs were pressed into service but the cargo-laden vessel did not move and the people watching the operation from the shore saw the cables snapping four or five times. When contacted the VPT Secretary, Naresh Kumar, said that the vessel ran aground even before the usual process of a pilot tug going into the sea to guide the vessel into the harbour had commenced. The VPT's tug power could not move the vessel, and one option was to offload a part of the cargo with the help of mobile cranes to make the vessel float again. The port operations were not affected due to the vessel as it ran aground away from the harbour channel, he added. (Note -- Jin An sailed Singapore Jun 21 for Visakhapatnam.)

London, July 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Jin An, carrying 30,000 tonnes of steam coal, ran aground at the Visakhapatnam fishing harbour yesterday after it lost its direction. Efforts are still on to pull it out with the help of tugs. Arrangements are being made to reduce the weight of the ship by unloading a portion of the cargo from the vessel to a barge. Navy was informed of the incident, though there was no obstruction to the movement of Naval ships. Five tugs were engaged yesterday morning. Three were withdrawn since the vessel could not be pulled out. The ship was coming from China and it had to unload a part of the cargo at the inner berth of Visakhapatnam port. It had arrived here on June 26 and since then it had been waiting for berth allocation. At about 0430 yesterday, port authorities allotted a berth. When the vessel started to enter the harbour, it drifted to the fishing harbour side. Then the vessel's "front panel" ran aground. After an urgent message was sent to the port authorities, five tugs were sent to pull out the vessel, but the efforts were in vain due to some technical problems.

Ymuiden, Jul 4 -- SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. was awarded the (Lloyd's Open form) contract to assist the loaded bulk Jin An from its grounding



position off Visakhapatnam. The vessel fully loaded with coal, which ran aground on Thursday (Jun 30), initially was assisted by local resources. As from Saturday salvage staff from SvitzerWijismuller's Indian office were on site, followed by internationally based salvage experts. Over the weekend controlled refloating plans were developed. Further expert salvage team members from The Netherlands and South Korea are being mobilised in while special salvage equipment is planned to be mobilised from SvitzerWijismuller warehouses in Singapore and Europe. To further prepare for execution of controlled operations, SvitzerWijismuller own or partner tugs will be moved in at the appropriate time while local available resources will be used as appropriate. -- Wijismuller Salvage B.V.

#### **KAPITAN VODENKO (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 5 -- Bulk/c.c. Kapitan Vodenko arrived Hull 0820, Jun 29 and sailed 0100, Jul 1 for Murmansk.

#### **KIPEROUSA (Malta)**

London, Jul 1 -- Efforts to free the handysize bulk Kiperousa, stranded off South Africa for three weeks, have taken a novel turn with the hiring of a heavy lift helicopter to remove part of the cargo. Salvor Tsavlis has chartered a Russian-built MI26 helicopter capable of hoisting 20 tonnes in order to remove up to 1,560 logs, or more than 6,000 tonnes, of the timber carrier's deck cargo. It is estimated that the helicopter, due to arrive from Uganda at the weekend, will be lifting an average of four logs, or 16 tonnes, on each trip and carrying them to a site just over three miles from the casualty, about 40 miles from East London, which is close to road access for onward transport. However, the Greek salvage group was unable yesterday to say precisely how long the operation may take. A spokesman said the decision to call in air capacity was taken in view of the difficulty in bringing another vessel alongside to carry out a conventional lightening operation. "It is in a difficult position, with high tides, bad weather and swells," he said. Tsavlis said that in 21 days of continuous salvage operations it had managed to de-water the engine-room and had removed all bunkers and other pollutants from the vessel. The group's mega-tug Nikolay Chiker, as well as hired-in units Pentow Alex and Toto, together with a 24-strong salvage team, have been mobilised for the operation. According to the salvors the projected use of a helicopter for cargo removal on this scale was "fairly unique".

#### **KIRBY 8600 (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Quick action by a barge inspector and state and federal agencies apparently averted a spill of hydrochloric acid into the Mississippi last Wednesday (Jun 29), a spokesman for State Police Troop A reported. Trooper Johnnie Brown reported that

a Kirby Inland Marine employee noticed an odour from barge Kirby 8600 (1010 gt, built 1980) at Plaquemine Point Shipyard at mile marker 208 in Iberville Parish and immediately called the Haz-Mat Hotline. The Louisiana Hazardous Material Response Unit and the state Department of Environmental Quality responded immediately. DEQ officials found a pinhole leak in the barge. Acadian Ambulance was called in on standby in case of injuries; fire hoses from the shipyard were put in place to spray the problem tank to keep it from fuming, and Oil Mop was contracted to conduct air monitoring. Meanwhile representatives from Kirby and Oil Mop tried a temporary seal, but determined a permanent fix was necessary. The Coast Guard established a 150-yard radius safety zone around the shipyard, and assisted with air monitoring on the river. Kirby Inland Marine called a Texas company to put a more permanent seal on the barge. Just before 2000 hrs, the patched barge was escorted to Dow's Plaquemine site to be offloaded, under DEQ's supervision. "To this point, there have been no leaks into the water and through constant air monitoring no signs of hydrochloric acid were detected in the air," Brown said in an update.

#### **KOBEE V (Panama)**

Busan, Jul 4 -- Hydrofoil Kobee V is still under permanent repairs at Busan and ETC Jul 14. -- Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

#### **LEEUEW (Netherlands)**

London, Jul 3 -- Push tug Leeuw (built 1946) ran aground on a breakwater in the Nieuwe Waterweg below the Breediep at about 2130, local time, yesterday. Another tug made fast a line and did try to refloat it, but did not succeed. Pilot vessel Mercury, and a patrol boat of the Port of Rotterdam came also to assist, but could not do much because of their draught. In the meantime the lifeboat of the KNRM, Kapiteins Hazewinkel, arrived on scene and took off the three people on board the tug, the master, the owner and his son as they feared that the tug might capsize, because there was already a list of 10 to 15 degrees. On board the lifeboat the owner of the push tug contracted, by telephone, tug Smit Denemarken from Smit Towage. The lifeboat also brought over a salvage inspector from Smit Salvage and another person, after which the lifeboat transferred a towing line from Smit Denemarken to the stranded Leeuw. Because of its draught of 80 centimetres, the lifeboat was the only vessel that could come alongside the stranded vessel. After the towing line had been connected Smit Denemarken refloated Leeuw when the outgoing tide had decreased, at about 2230 hrs. Extent of hull damage is not known yet.

London, Jul 3 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1025, UTC: Tug Leeuw has a small leakage

which divers are investigating at the moment.

#### **LIBERTY ISLAND (U.S.A.)**

Miami, Jul 6 -- Hopper dredger Liberty Island sustained slight damage to the starboard side. The vessel entered International Ship Repair & Marine Services Inc, Tampa, Jun 20, where repairs were effected with a five-foot-by-10-foot steel insert. The vessel left on Jun 24 and is currently back in service off Laudania, just south of Port Everglades. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

See "Persian Gulf" under "Piracy."

#### **MAASDAM (Netherlands)**

See "Blockade of Ports by Canadian Fishermen" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **MADEIRA (Comoros)**

Lisbon, Jul 4 -- Following received from Sines sub-agents: Cement Madeira completed repairs and sailed Jul 1 for Praia da Vitoria. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MODERN DRIVE (Panama)**

Yokohama, Jul 1 -- At 2255 hrs, Jun 28, vehicle Modern Drive, Mokpo for USA, experienced engine trouble off Niigata. Repairs were effected and the vessel resumed passage at midnight. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MONI (India)**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 2, states: Repair of the Howrah bridge, damaged by a barge (Moni) on Jun 24, will begin next week under the supervision of experts from Calcutta Port Trust and Rites, consultants for the trust from the eighties. The British firm which had designed the Howrah bridge in 1937 has offered to help with technical know-how. High Point Rendell (HPR) India Pvt Ltd, the Indian arm of HPR, formerly known as Rendel Palmer and Tritton, has written a letter to the port trust assuring all support. When the barge struck the bridge two of the six longitudinal girders, each 700 metres and running from the Calcutta end of the bridge to Howrah, were damaged. A few of the 40 cross-girders were also broken. Initially, the damage was estimated at Rs 1.5 crore but later authorities said it could be more. "Detailed plans are being worked out and repair will start next week," the port trust's chief engineer A.K. Mehra said. First, a scaffolding will be erected and then the trolley-track repaired. "The damage of the trolley tracks has affected the repair work and we have to reconstruct these first," Port Trust chairman A.K. Chanda said. A mechanised trolley, recently installed to facilitate inspection and maintenance of the bridge's underside, had escaped damage. But two of four trolley guides, bolted and welded with the girders, were extensively damaged. Monday, the port trust will formally request Rites to take part in the repair. Before starting work, Rites will submit a



scheme providing all the details, officials said. Overall repairs to the bridge were carried out in 2004 and it was generally in good condition, an official said. According to Sarawgi, HPR India had provided technical assistance to the port trust for the bridge's renovation more than a decade ago. Chanda confirmed that preliminary talks have been held with HPR India. "We will make an assessment of the whole situation after the repair work gets going and then the final decision (on involving HPR) will be taken," he said.

#### **MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)**

Tunis, Jul 7 -- General cargo MSC Al Amine is still under repairs, expected to be completed end July. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MSC GRACE (Panama)**

London, Jul 5 -- General cargo MSC Grace arrived Bremerhaven 2105, Jun 30 and sailed 2200, Jul 1 for Gdynia. Vessel subsequently passed Brunsbützel 0506, Jul 2.

#### **MSC KATIE (Panama)**

Durban, July 6 -- C.c. MSC Katie arrived Durban in tow June 14 and entered dry dock June 17. Estimated date for completion of repairs not known.. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NEPTUNE OKEANIS (Malta)**

London, Jul 6 -- Vehicle Neptune Okeanis, Palermo for Derince, in ballast, passed Dardanelles 1508, Jul 3.

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

London, Jul 1 -- Following received from Ankara MSRCC, dated today: Bulk Nicholas M refloated at 1900, UTC, Jun 30, and anchored in safe location for inspection.

Istanbul, Jul 1 -- Bulk Nicholas M refloated at 2230 hrs, Jun 30 and anchored (near Dogan Aslam) for necessary formalities. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Jul 4 -- Bulk Nicholas M is still lying in the same position and there is no information available at present regarding damage or repairs. - Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NORWEGIAN SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

London, Jul 6 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1750, UTC: Passenger Norwegian Spirit (75338 gt, built 1998) contacted the dock when arriving Juneau at 1415, UTC, Jul 5. Some port holes and the side shell sustained damage, the dock piling was also damaged. No injuries reported. The vessel has now sailed. (Note -- Norwegian Spirit arrived Juneau Jul 5 from Ketchikan and sailed 2200, UTC, the same day for Skagway.)

#### **OSCAR DYSON (U.S.A.)**

London, Jun 30 -- Research Oscar Dyson departed from Kodiak at 1330 hrs, Jun 29.

#### **POCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 1 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0957, UTC: Bulk Pochard left the area this morning.

London, Jul 6 -- Bulk Pochard, Muuga for Paranagua, passed Dover Strait Jul 3.

#### **PRINCESS OF THE WORLD (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 7 -- Passenger ro/ro Princess of the World (9627 gt, built 1972), owned by Sulpicio Lines, caught fire at around 1230, local time, today, off Dalanguin Point, Zamboanga del Norte province. Philippines Coast Guard said that the vessel, with 108 passengers, 109 crew and five sea marshalls was being evacuated as of 1255. The report also said that the ship left Iloilo province at 2000, Jul 6 bound for Zamboanga. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jul 7 -- Passenger ro/ro Princess of the World caught fire off the coast of Dalanguin Point, Zamboanga del Norte province, in the southern Philippines at around 1200, local time, today. The Philippine Coast Guard said that the ship had left Iloilo port in central Philippines at around 1800, local time, yesterday and was bound for Zamboanga City when the accident happened. A massive rescue operation is now underway involving two vessels from the Philippine Navy, a search and rescue vessel from the Philippine Coast Guard and two helicopters from the Philippine Air Force. US troops deployed on the island of Mindanao are also helping in the rescue operation. The Philippine Coast Guard said that passengers and crew have abandoned the vessel and boarded liferafts. There is still no word on casualties nor on the cause of the fire. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 7 -- All 222 passengers and crew of passenger ro/ro Princess of the World which caught fire at around noon today have been rescued, the Philippine Coast Guard reported. "There are no casualties and all passengers and crew have been taken to the port of Siocon in Zamboanga," Philippine Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Armand Balilo said. Princess of the World was still on fire and a Coast Guard vessel was trying to douse the flames, he added. A spokesperson from Sulpicio Lines, owner of the vessel, said that the fire started at the engine room and quickly spread through the ship. He said that they were still trying to determine what caused the fire. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **QUEEN OF OAK BAY (Canada)**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay (6969 gt, built 1981) smashed into at least a dozen boats at the marina next to the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal this morning. But there were no deaths or injuries. The vessel lost power and smashed into the marina at Horseshoe Bay. Witnesses say the Queen of Oak Bay appeared to have lost its power and was blowing its horn as it crashed into Sewell's

Marina at about 1010 hrs. Coast Guard divers who were called in, searched for victims in the water around the grounded B.C. ferry, but found nobody. Divers also checked the hull of the ferry, to ensure that it was safe to move to the dock, so that the passengers could disembark. A pair of tugs have begun to move the ferry. Ferries CEO David Hahn says he hopes to have all ferry services back to normal by 1600 hrs. He also says ferry sailings will be extended later tonight, to ensure that people can get to and from Vancouver Island. He says it was too early to say what caused the crash. "It's very clear that something went wrong, probably on the mechanical side, but beyond that I can not speculate," The ferry had left Nanaimo for Horseshoe Bay at 0830, this morning, with 544 passengers and 189 vehicles aboard.

Vancouver, Jun 30 -- A newly refurbished ferry packed with commuters and vacationers ploughed into a marina at a Vancouver area harbor today, smashing into two dozen small moored boats but rescue officials said no one was hurt. Ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay was entering Horseshoe Bay harbour, north-west of Vancouver, shortly after 1000 hrs when it appeared to lose power, causing it to run aground in one of the busiest passenger ports on Canada's West Coast, eyewitnesses said. Media reports said about 550 passengers and dozens of cars and trucks were aboard the ferry, which was returning to the mainland from Nanaimo on Vancouver Island a day ahead of a holiday long weekend in Canada. Passengers and vehicles began disembarking soon after 1700 hrs. Rescue workers said it was necessary to wait for high tide before the 7,000-ton ship, which was beached on top of several small pleasure boats, could be towed free by tug boats and nudged into a safe berth. B.C. Ferries President David Hahn refused to speculate on what had caused the freak accident, until an investigation was finished but did say the fault was "probably on the mechanical side". Earlier the Coast Guard said a steering problem may have played a role in the crash, which shut down the port for most of the day and left at least one other loaded ferry stranded for hours out in the bay. "The collision was gentle," Shawn Atleo, a passenger on the ferry told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. earlier via cell phone from the vessel. He said the ship's crew had told passengers to "brace for impact" shortly before the crash. Fire engines and ambulances quickly converged on the town and rescue divers checked the waters around the stranded craft to see if anyone had been on any of the damaged sailboats. The Queen of Oak Bay was recently refurbished at a cost of C\$35 million (\$29 million) to overhaul, among other items, its mechanical operations and life-saving equipment.

London, July 1 -- BC Ferries press releases, dated today, state: (1) At approximately 1010 today ro/ro Queen

of Oak Bay, which sails between Departure Bay and Horseshoe Bay, ran aground while coming into Horseshoe Bay. The vessel drifted into Sewell's Marina, damaging several boats. Preliminary reports are that the vessel lost power. An investigation is currently underway. Emergency and regulatory authorities have been contacted. No injuries have been reported at this time. Tugs are standing by and passengers onboard Queen of Oak Bay will be released as soon as possible. There will be delays at Horseshoe Bay terminal. (2) Emergency response divers have completed their work at the grounding site of Queen of Oak Bay. No injuries have been reported. Tugs have pulled Queen of Oak Bay into berth and operations at Horseshoe Bay terminal are expected to resume at approximately 1800 hrs. BC Ferries will provide continuous service between Horseshoe Bay-Departure Bay, Horseshoe Bay-Langdale and Horseshoe Bay-Bowen Island to accommodate waiting traffic, rather than maintain its posted schedule for those routes. (3) Due to the grounding and temporary removal from service of Queen of Oak Bay, the Langdale - Horseshoe Bay and Horseshoe Bay - Departure Bay schedules are revised for the Canada Day long weekend. Ro/ro Queen of Esquimalt will provide extra service to both the Langdale and Nanaimo routes.

Seattle, Jul 1 -- On Jun 30, during the morning ferry run, the British Columbia ferry, ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay, lost power while approaching the dock. The ferry missed the docking terminal and ran aground, damaging between 15 and 20 sailing vessels moored in Horseshoe Bay. No injuries were reported, but the passengers were detained on the vessel until early evening. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Jul 1 -- Ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay: According to the Canadian Transportation Safety Board vessel lost power due to "disengagement of the clutch, leading to a loss of propulsion". The Board has yet to disclose whether the vessel had experienced steering problems. The 21 year old ferry had just returned from a \$35 million CD retrofit and has sustained "superficial" damage according to BC Ferry spokesperson, Deborah Marshall. Ms. Marshall went on to state that "Queen of Oak Bay" and her two sister ships, the Queen of Cowichan and Queen of Coquitlam have all had long history of clutch problems. The 457-foot vessel carried 544 passengers and 189 vehicles at the time of the accident. Several pleasure craft were crushed at Seward Marina as the vessel missed the dock and "ploughed" into the private marina. No number of craft has been given at this time. Private vessels on two piers of the marina are damaged/sunk. Divers were sent down to survey the boats for casualties in Horseshoe Bay. There were no casualties reported on the moored crafts. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 2 -- A BC Ferries press release, dated Jul 1, states: BC Ferries' engineers, representatives from Transport Canada, the Transportation Safety Board and Lloyd's Register of Shipping are reviewing a variety of factors, including mechanical and control systems, which may have contributed to the loss of power experienced by ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay yesterday. Queen of Oak Bay ran aground at approximately 1010 yesterday after losing power during its approach to Horseshoe Bay. The vessel was towed by tugs to Vancouver dry dock in North Vancouver for an underwater and mechanical inspection at approximately 2100 yesterday. A full damage assessment has indicated that the vessel received only minor damage, which included paint scrapes on the rudder and minor scraping on one blade of a propeller. The ship's hull remains fully intact. BC Ferries is not prepared to speculate on the cause of the power failure until all parties have completed their investigation of the incident. Once the investigation is finalised, repairs are complete and the reason for the loss of power is determined, sea trials will be conducted. Sea trials are anticipated mid-next week. Schedules for the Langdale - Horseshoe Bay and Horseshoe Bay - Departure Bay routes have been revised for the Canada Day long weekend. In addition, an extra 2300 hrs sailing will be offered from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen on Sunday, Jul 3, to accommodate anticipated long-weekend traffic.

London, Jul 4 -- A BC Ferries press release, dated Jul 3, states: BC Ferries management and company insurance representatives have started to meet with private boat owners impacted by the ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay incident that occurred at Horseshoe Bay on Jun 30. Marine surveyors were on site from Thursday until today reviewing damage and gathering preliminary information from affected boat owners and Sewell's Marina. A total of 22 boats have been identified as being damaged or destroyed as a result of the Queen of Oak Bay grounding incident. Attempts have been made to contact all boat operators so that the processing of claims can proceed as quickly as possible. Individual meetings with affected boat owners began yesterday and will continue for the remainder of the week in an effort to ensure the owners are dealt with in an expedient and appropriate manner.

London, Jul 4 -- Ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay reported loss of propulsion and drifted into Sewell's Marina in Horseshoe Bay, B.C., in lat 49 23N, long 123 16W, striking numerous vessels at 1018, local time, Jun 30.

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The damaged ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay could be back in service by the end of the week following repairs in North Vancouver dry dock and a series of sea trials. The 24-year-old vessel needs a replacement for a bent propeller and

scratches on the double-bottomed hull need to be repainted, Deborah Marshall of B.C. Ferry Services Inc. said yesterday afternoon. "Thankfully, damage to the vessel was minimal." The Queen of Oak Bay ran aground in Horseshoe Bay on Thursday (Jun 30), damaging or destroying 22 sailboats and power craft at Sewell's Marina. No one was killed or injured in the accident. There's no date set for the vessel to emerge from dry dock, but the corporation hopes to have it back in the water by mid-week. But before it can go back to carrying vehicles and passengers on the Horseshoe Bay-Nanaimo route, there will be extensive sea trials. Transportation Safety Board investigators, ferry and Transport Canada officials hope to recreate the sequence of events that caused the vessel to lose power. Marshall stressed that all B.C. Ferry Services vessels conform to Canada Shipping Act safety requirements, and the Queen of Oak Bay exceeds the act as it could stay afloat with up to four of its 15 watertight compartments taking on water. Regulations state the vessel must remain afloat with three compartments holed. B.C. Ferry Services is also trying to deal quickly with owners of the boats damaged or sunk as the Queen of Oak Bay nosed into the marina, trying to slow down. The corporation's insurance adjuster has met five boat owners and contacted 10 more by telephone. Messages have been left for the remaining seven owners. At least two are used by owners to operate businesses. One man runs a yacht charter business on his sailboat and a commercial diver moors his boat there.

London, Jul 6 -- A BC Ferries press release, dated Jul 5, states: Ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay is scheduled to leave Vancouver Dry Dock early in tomorrow morning and undergo extensive sea trials. Repairs to the vessel are now complete. Representatives from Transport Canada, Transportation Safety Board, Lloyd's Register of Shipping as well as BC Ferries' engineers will put Queen of Oak Bay through rigorous technical sea trials. Shipyard representatives and equipment manufacturers will also be on board. The investigators will simulate the suspected cause of the power failure in order to replicate the cause of the incident. The duration of the sea trials is dependent on the vessel meeting the approval of the investigators. Once Transport Canada is satisfied that the vessel has passed all inspections, BC Ferries will continue with quality assurance trials. After the sea trials are concluded, BC Ferries will release its findings into what caused the grounding. Queen of Oak Bay will return to service on the Horseshoe Bay - Departure Bay route only after Transport Canada and BC Ferries are satisfied with the results of the sea trials and Transport Canada has issued the vessel's operating certificate.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay, that lost power and ran aground at

Horseshoe Bay last Thursday (Jun 30), has been repaired and was due to go out for sea trials today. The ferry corporation said Queen of Oak Bay will be put through a rigorous check, with officials from the company, the Transportation Safety Board and Transport Canada aboard. "Repairs to Queen of Oak Bay are complete and the vessel is scheduled to leave Vancouver dry dock quite early this morning," said B.C. Ferry's spokeswoman Deborah Marshall. Investigators will simulate the suspected cause of the power failure in order to see if they can re-create the incident. "They will be putting Queen of Oak Bay through rigorous, technical sea trials," Marshall said. B.C. Ferries says it won't reveal the cause of the accident until the sea trials are over, but it is suspected it was a clutch failure. B.C. Ferries says the vessel will return to the Nanaimo-Horseshoe Bay run once transportation officials certify it for service once again. "We don't know exactly when the ship would go back into service," Marshall said. "We have to undergo the sea trials and get the approval first."

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Last week's ferry accident in Horseshoe Bay was the result of a mechanical failure that shut down one of two main engines on ro/ro Queen of Oak Bay, disabling the vessel's four clutches and causing reverse-thrust propellers to stop working, the lead investigator with the Transportation Safety Board has confirmed. Aloak Tewari said in an interview that the 7,000-tonne passenger ferry's aft engine, manufactured by the German firm MAK, shut down as it was coming into dock in Horseshoe Bay, and that, in turn, caused the clutch system to disengage. "So when you don't have clutches there is no mechanical power being transferred to the propellers, which means that the propellers have no way of turning. They will, just by friction, eventually come to a stop. And that's what happened," Tewari said. Tewari explained that the double-ended ferry has two main engines, one at each end. Either is used to drive the ferry, depending on the direction it is going. "It's like having a car with a steering wheel and accelerator and brake facing both ways. You don't have to reverse your car, you can just get into the other side and drive off," Tewari said. Just what caused the engine to shut down in the first place will be the focus of sea trials involving the Queen of Oak Bay beginning today. TSB investigators, including Tewari, will join BC Ferries engineers on board the ferry to observe a variety of tests designed to simulate what experts think caused the mechanical failure. Tewari wouldn't elaborate on what specific systems or equipment will be tested. "It's not one thing we're simulating," he said. "Simulating also means eliminating other possibilities. There is a whole gamut of things that we will be testing." Tewari confirmed the vessel was moving at a speed of two to

three knots when it lost power. He said the ferry has the capacity to travel up to 19 knots. Beyond determining the cause of the accident, Tewari said the TSB investigation will also look into any underlying safety deficiencies that allowed the defect to occur. "Our job is to go deeper and find the systemic factors," he said. Any deficiencies identified could affect BC Ferries' entire 35-ship fleet, Tewari said. "This is done as soon as a safety deficiency is identified," he added. He said the TSB only investigates accidents that experts feel will improve overall transportation safety. Jaroslav Kosy, who was captain of the ferry on the day of the accident, has been interviewed, as have ferry crew as part of the TSB investigation, Tewari said. He said those interviews will form the analysis stage of the investigation, to commence once the current fact-finding stage is completed.

#### **RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Jul 1 -- Following received from the managers of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated Jun 30: Rickmers Genoa is still at Shanghai under repair, ETC unknown.

#### **RICKMERS SHANGHAI (Marshall Islands)**

Bremen, Jul 4 -- Bremer Schiffsmeldedienst reports general cargo Rickmers Shanghai (23119 gt, built 2003), from Bremen Industriehafen, touched the quay upon leaving the "lock" at approximately 1115, Jul 3. Vessel sustained a hole of approximately 50 cm in diameter at the stern. Vessel will take the originally planned waiting position at Osterort 5 quay and there the damage will be checked. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Rickmers Shanghai had arrived Bremen 1330, July 1.)

London, Jul 6 -- General cargo Rickmers Shanghai arrived Antwerp 1451, Jul 5.

#### **ROSALIA D'AMATO (Italy)**

Ferrol, Jul 5 -- bulk Rosalia D'Amato arrived Ferrol 0730, Jul 2 from Corunna. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ROYAL IRIS (Panama)**

Piraeus, Jul 1 -- Reportedly a fire broke out in the engine-room of passenger Royal Iris (9159 gt, built 1971) while berthed at Samos Jun 21. The fire was extinguished by crew members using the vessel's automated fire-fighting system. Extend of damage/repairs: not available. All 275 crew members and 639 passengers were reportedly healthy and secure. The vessel finally sailed the same day for Izmir. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Royal Iris subsequently arrived Haifa Jun 26 and sailed same day.)

#### **ROYAL PACIFIC (Panama)**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Royal Pacific (9805 gt, built 1967) that caught fire on Jun 29 in south Taiwan capsized yesterday under the weight of water

pumped into it by firefighters. The firefighters claimed that they were unable to board the vessel and extinguish the flames due to high temperature in the vessel's cabins. To prevent an oil spill, officials have ordered the liner to be encircled with a containment cable. According to sources, there are close to 200 tons of oil on board. All 211 crew aboard the 9,800-ton Panama-registered Royal Pacific were safely evacuated, with only one of them suffering minor injuries, Kaohsiung Harbor officials said. The passenger liner docked at Kaohsiung Harbor on Jun 2 and was relocated to the 54th pier for refitting on Jun 21. It was expected to resume active duty toward the middle of July. On Wednesday (Jun 29), a fire broke out under the deck. Although port authorities dispatched eight fire engines, the firefighters were unable to go on board due to high temperature in the vessel's hull. The vessel began to overturn around 0100, yesterday after large amounts of water were being pumped into the vessel, officials said. Two hours later, it overturned at 90 degrees. Officials said that it was fortunate that the oil on board did not catch fire. The result would have been disastrous, a port authority official said, who added that it will take at least two months to clear up the wreckage. Among the 214 crew members, 141 are from China. The harbour police has gathered them and placed them under watch.

Taipei, Jul 5 -- According to the web news of the port of Kaohsiung, passenger Royal Pacific was carrying out repair work pier No. 54 in Kaohsiung port, when at 1230 hrs, Jun 29, a fire broke out on board. At 0435 hrs, Jun 30, the vessel capsized and inclined to 90 degs, during firefighting. A diver of the oil disposal company "Hai-Li" inspected the vessels 16 oil tanks on Jul 1 and found no oil leaking. As a precautionary measure, the Kaohsiung port authorities required that the ship's owner immediately pump out the fuel/lube oil and laid three sets of oil booms around the vessel. It is estimated work will take around six more days. The extent of damage and intentions regarding repairs are unknown at this stage. After pumping out of the fuel/lube oil, the port authorities and ship's owner will assess that how to pump out the water and right the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAMMARINA M. (Romania)**

Bucharest, Jul 7 -- Ro/ro Sammarina M. is still under repairs at Constantza, the owners advising that the repairs will last at least six more months. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAUVETERRE (France)**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A French fishing vessel has sunk off the coast of the Isles of the Scilly. Fishing Sauveterre (94 gt), which had four crew on board, started taking on water this morning about 60 miles west of the islands. Falmouth coastguards scrambled a helicopter



from RNAS Culdrose to take out a pump. The St Mary's lifeboat and warship HMS Severn also attended. The vessel sank just after 1430 BST. The four crew are being taken to the Isles of Scilly by the lifeboat. Falmouth coastguards had to coordinate the rescue with their French counterparts. Coastguard watch manager Gordon Whatley said: "The smooth co-ordination of this incident has been assisted by our French Coastguard colleagues at Corsen and Gris Nez who helped with communications since none of the crew on board the Sauveterre speak English." The leak is not thought to have been caused by the boat being involved in any collision. The four crew are said to be safe and well.

London, Jul 5 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0325, UTC: At 0848, UTC, Jul 4, MRCC were informed by Corsen MRCC of fishing Sauveterre in distress in lat 50 02N, long 07 58.2W. Navy rescue helicopter tasked and same placed a pump onboard the vessel. St. Marys lifeboat subsequently arrived on scene and placed a second pump onboard. However, the vessel developed a dangerous list and sank in lat 50 01.72N, long 07 28.8W at 1330, UTC. All crewmen were recovered safely to St. Marys lifeboat.

#### **SEA FOX (Latvia)**

London, Jul 1 -- General cargo Sea Fox arrived Liverpool at 1450, Jun 29.

Liverpool, Jul 4 -- General cargo Sea Fox berthed in Liverpool Jun 29 following loaded voyage under tow. Engine repairs/investigations presently under way, these may take about 28 days to complete. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEMLOW (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

#### **SIMEIZ (Ukraine)**

Montevideo, Jun 30 -- Having extinguished the fire on fishing Simeiz, the local authorities ordered the clearing of the ammonia liquid in order to avoid gas leakage, therefore the ammonia liquid is being disposed of into the harbour waters. The vessel will berth at the port of Montevideo, where the bait on board will be unloaded, as it is already going rotten. The water used to fight the fire which remains on board will be removed by means of tank trucks, in order to be able to evaluate damages and dry the engines/equipment. Regarding the dead crew members, DNA analysis will be performed in order to identify the corpses for further repatriation. After evaluating damages, owners will seek repair and replacements estimates. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated Jun 30, states: After a 13-day delay before the official relaunch of the Rochester-Toronto ferry, passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I re-entered service this morning. About 75 cars

and 358 passengers - 312 of them paying passengers riding with dignitaries - were aboard the reinvigorated ship's first voyage to Toronto.

#### **STARLUCK (Cyprus)**

Buenos Aires, Jul 4 -- Bulk Starluck sailed for Montevideo on Jul 1. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STORM (Liberia)**

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control."

#### **STRANDINGUR (Faroe Islands)**

London, Jul 4 -- A Torshavn MRCC report states: Fishing Strandingur, XPPE, (327 gt, built 1963) informed Torshavn Radio at 0739, July about a leakage 30 miles west of Mykines. Shortly after nearby fishing Jonrit and Vesturland were standing by Strandingur. The Rescue helicopter SR transported pumps from fishery patrol vessel Brimil to Strandingur. At 0940 hrs Brimil arrived at Strandingur and followed it to Torshavn.

#### **TENNON MARU (Japan)**

Yokohama, Jul 4 -- General cargo Tennon Maru, 182 gt, (built 1991) had water enter engine-room at Takasago at 0644, Jun 29. Vessel is now under "waterproof" repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THERESE (Panama)**

Vigo, Jul 6 -- It has been disclosed that general cargo Therese (1953 gt, built 1972), when docking at Barens (Cee), Corcubion Bay, at 0730, local time, Jul 1, due to unknown causes went forward instead of astern and grounded on rocks at the entrance to the quay, about 100 metres from the docking place. In order to refloat at high tide, the vessel emptied its ballast tanks and reportedly discharged about 100 tons of bunkers. Being thence refloated at high tide, the vessel was inspected, on instructions from the Corunna Harbour-master, by underwater divers from tug Ria de Vigo, who found a longitudinal bump of about three metres length, but no cracks or breach. Therese underwent MOU Paris inspection and was found safe for sailing on completion of loading 2,300 tons of caolin. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THOUSAND ISLANDER II (Canada)**

London, Jul 6 -- Passenger ro/ro Thousand Islander II (200 gt, built 1973), en route to Ivy Lea dock, made contact with sandy bottom and incurred damages to the starboard propeller in the St. Lawrence River, Ontario, in lat 44 21.36N, long 76 00.20W at 0840, local time, Jul 2.

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

See "Persian Gulf" under "Piracy."

#### **THURINGEN (Germany)**

London, Jul 3 -- Non specific inland tanker Thuringen (2428 gt, built 1992), 110 metres long, homeport Schweinfahrt, hit the second railway

bridge over the Rhein-Herne-Kanal near Duisburg, Germany, with its wheelhouse, which was ripped from its foundations and fell into the canal, shortly after 0800, local time, Jul 1. These two steel railway bridges are the connection between Duisburg-Meiderich and Oberhausen, from which the second one is about a metre lower than the first bridge. The height movable wheelhouse was too high for the second bridge, maybe by a technical failure or maybe that the 57 year old Czech master had misjudged the height. The crew of the tanker had a problem to stop the unmanoevrable vessel, but succeeded after 300 metres to stop it by dropping the anchors. During that time the vessel did slightly touch an oncoming cargo vessel. The bridge was closed for all traffic. The master drowned. Divers of the fire brigade of Duisburg found him stuck in the wreck of the wheel house, which was lifted out of the water at about noon.

#### **TMM OAXACA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 3 -- C.c. TMM Oaxaca (11153 gt, built 1997) left Veracruz, Mexico, loaded with cargo in containers on Jun 5. On Jun 7 the vessel had a main engine breakdown and came to an emergency stop. The main engine could not be restarted and the vessel was towed back to Veracruz on Jun 10 for repairs, arriving on the following day. Repairs to TMM Oaxaca are now underway and are expected to take approximately eight weeks. The shipowners have declared general average.

#### **TRADEWIND SUNRISE (Panama)**

London, July 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) has extended its gratitude to the master and crew of six vessels who were instrumental in the rescue of the crew of chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise after an explosion onboard the vessel last Wednesday (June 22). Following the explosion, Anthony Hamlett, Wayne Caldeira, Eustace Carrilo and Lester Charles were killed. The four men were employed with Inter Isle Construction and Fabrication Company Limited, Chaguaramas, and had been conducting repair and maintenance work onboard the tanker when the incident occurred. Hamlett's and Caldeira's bodies were recovered from the vessel the day following the explosion, while Charles' body was recovered at 1616 on Tuesday. His body which was in an advanced state of decomposition was discovered just off Carrera Island. At 0847 Wednesday, the body of Eustace Carrilo was discovered just off Point Gourde, by Coast Guard officers who were conducting routine patrols in the area. Tradewind Sunrise is currently anchored a half mile east off Reyna Point, Gaspar Grande. Senior officials at Inter Isle Construction said that they would be absorbing the funeral costs of all the victims.

**TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Belize City, Jul 5 -- Part c.c. Transfer is still grounded on the reef (location: Lighthouse Reef and south of Sandbore Caye - outer extremity of Northern Belize waters). The salvors "Waller Marine Belize Ltd." are on site. Our understanding is that the operation has three phases, i.e. to lighten the vessel, pull it off the reef, and tow it into deep waters for the disposal. The new target date for completion is Jul 21. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**URVAAG**

Trondheim, Jul 1 -- The owners of fishing Urvaag have informed us that there has been no change in the vessels situation. It is still at Averøy. They now believe a decision will be made by the end of August. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**VOC GALLANT (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Port Said, July 4 -- Bulk VOC Gallant (30928 gt, built 2002) entered Suez Canal June 26 and grounded at Km 154. Vessel was refloated by Suez Canal tugs and towed to Suez outer harbour where Suez Canal divers inspected the vessel and reported serious rudder damage. Vessel is still at Suez effecting necessary repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- VOC Gallant sailed Diliskelesi June 11 for Abu Dhabi.)

Port Said, Jul 6 -- Bulk VOC Gallant is now awaiting to enter Suez dry dock. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ZHONG XING**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today states: Vessel Zhong Xing caught fire at a pier near the Zavoiko settlement in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky suburb. Fire-fighters have extinguished the fire, no casualties have been reported. There is also no threat of ammonia leak and oxygen cylinders explosion on board the ship, the main emergencies department for the Kamchatka region said. The signal about the fire on board the ship of "Chinese make" that was refit for a fish factory was received by the fire-fighting services at 1010, local time, today. Firemen gave the blaze second degree on the fire gravity scale. Nine fire-fighting crews were engaged in the extinguishing effort. The ship, having about one tonne of ammonia and oxygen cylinders on board, was 70% damaged by the fire. The causes of the fire and damage are being ascertained.

**PERSIAN GULF**

London, Jul 5 -- A piracy attack occurred against the American pusher tug Thunder (275 gt, built 1991) and

barge Lightning (8723 gt, built 1992), an intergrated tug and barge, carrying US reconstruction cargoes into Umm Qasr, Iraq at 1020, UTC, Jul 2. There were no injuries, even though shots were fired. The motive appeared to be financial.

**SOMALIA**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Efforts to free general cargo Semlow, carrying food aid for tsunami victims in Somalia, continued today with no apparent change in demands from pirates who stormed the vessel off the Somali coast last week, the World Food Programme (WFP) said. "There are no new developments but we do remain hopeful," said Rene McGuffin, a spokeswoman for the WFP, which had hired the ship and 10-member crew to deliver 850 tonnes of Japanese and German donated rice to Somalia's north-eastern Puntland region. "We're still speaking with local officials and elders and Somali authorities so we are hopeful for a good resolution. We understand that the crew and the food are still on the ship and they are fine," McGuffin said, repeating the WFP's stance that the hijacking contravened international humanitarian law and that the vessel should be released immediately.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: Pirates who hijacked a United Nations World Food Program (WFP) vessel off the Somalia coast last week are seeking audience with the UN officials before releasing the hostages, a senior Kenyan official in Nairobi said today. Government spokesman Alfred Mutua said the pirates holding eight Kenyans hostage in Somalia are allegedly not interested in the \$500,000 ransom, but want to settle a score with the United Nations. "The pirates are now demanding to be addressed by the United Nations. They are no longer interested in the ransom," Mutua said by telephone. WFP which has halted all aid shipments to the Horn of Africa nation said the general cargo Semlow was taking aid to victims of the last December's Indian Ocean tsunami and was sailing from the Kenyan port of Mombasa to Bossaso in north-eastern Somalia. The suspension of aid came as efforts to win the release of the hijacked ship carrying food for tsunami victims in Somalia's northeastern Puntland region continued, but with no apparent change in demands from pirates who stormed the vessel last Monday (Jun 27). Mutua appealed to the United Nations to take immediate action and intervene on the issue to have the captives released unharmed. He reiterated his earlier stand that the east African nation government would not offer the ransom.

**Port State Control****UNITED KINGDOM**

Avonmouth, Jul 5 -- Product tanker Storm remains under detention at Cardiff with a large list of defects to be attended to. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**Seizures & Arrests****INVINCIBLE (Mongolia)**

Colombo, Jul 4 -- General cargo Invincible is still under arrest at Galle, under Naval supervision. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**JAZIN I (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Valencia, Jul 1 -- Ro/ro Jazin I is currently still under arrest at Castellon. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Jazin I was detained in August 2003, due to an alleged cigarette smuggling case in 1998. Its crew also had a claim for unnapid wages.)

**PAVEL LEONOV (Russia)**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: trawler Pavel Leonov (2985 gt, built 1973), registered at the seaport of Kholmok in Sakhalin, is under arrest in China, the Russian Consulate in Shenyang informed. The vessel was arrested as a result of a financial conflict between a Russian ship owner and a Chinese company that has a contract with the ship owner. The local authorities claim the ship owner is heavily in debt to the Chinese partner, Tass learned from well-informed sources. The conflict will be settled in a court of law similar to other incidents involving Russian vessels arrested in China. A sick sailor from Pavel Leonov's crew was taken to a hospital under guarantees given by the Russian Consulate in Shenyang. The Russian owner of the vessel has contributed the money needed for the sailor's medical treatment, the same source said.

**POSEIDON I (Venezuela)**

Vigo, Jul 1 -- As far as can be ascertained, general cargo Poseidon I has probably been taken for scrapping. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TARIK GUNER (Turkey)**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Georgian coastguards detained general cargo Tarik Guner (489 gt, built 1909) carrying eight Turkish passengers as it prepared to dock in the breakaway region of Abkhazia in defiance of a Georgian ban on docking there, officials said today. Tarik Guner was detained



outside the port of Sukhumi yesterday and was escorted with its passengers on board to Poti, a port under the control of Georgia's central authorities in Tbilisi, chief coastguard Koba Bochorishvili said. "When the signal to stop was issued, the Turkish vessel changed course and tried to leave in the direction of the Russian port of Sochi," he said. "Building materials were found on board marked for delivery to Abkhazia," Bochorishvili said. The vessel's master had previously received a warning from Georgian coastguards after docking illegally in Abkhazia on a previous occasion, he added. The incident comes after Georgia's foreign ministry in late June issued a reminder of the ban issued last August on landing on Abkhazia's coast without Tbilisi's permission.

#### VIETRANSTIMEX 05 (Vietnam)

London, July 6 -- General cargo Vietranstimex 05 arrived Haiphong 0900, June 29 and sailed 0930, June 30.

#### VOLGO-BALT 234 (Russia)

Beirut, Jul 5 -- Law office Baroudi & Associates have obtained the release of general cargo Volgo-Balt 234 from the Lebanese authorities involved in the Israeli Boycott Regulations and the vessel sailed on Jul 2 for Alexandria. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## Pipeline Accidents



#### BAKER, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: The California state fire marshal has fined Houston-based Kinder Morgan Energy Partners \$500,000 for the company's role in a pipeline explosion that killed five people and injured four others in November. The workers from Livermore, California-based Mountain Cascade were welding a water line extension last November when heavy equipment accidentally nicked the nearby fuel pipeline. Officials believe sparks from welders inside the water pipe ignited the fumes. The explosion caused a 60-foot pillar of fire, destroyed a nearby home and damaged several apartments. A report issued today by California's fire marshal found that Kinder Morgan didn't properly mark the location of its pipeline as required by the company's damage prevention program and state code. The fire marshal also said Kinder Morgan employees didn't follow the company's line locating procedures. Kinder Morgan says it did provide drawings to the East Bay Municipal Utility District that clearly indicated the location of the pipeline. The company said it intends to work with the fire marshal to resolve the matter.

## Pollution



#### NAVARINO BAY, GREECE

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A discharge of fuel oil from bulk George T. (91164 gt, built 1990), when it was anchored in Navarino Bay on Tuesday (Jun 28), caused a slick measuring 240 square metres, the Merchant Marine Ministry said. Pylos coast guard officials have launched an investigation and the cleanup operation has been assigned to a private company, the ministry added.

Piraeus, Jul 1 -- Bulk George T. remains at Pylos undergoing repairs, ETC unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## Weather & Navigation



#### AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gold Coast Deputy Mayor David Power says he hopes the city's reputation as a tourist destination will not be affected by yesterday's floods. Coolangatta Airport was forced to close for 24 hours, grounding planes and inconveniencing thousands of travellers. Councillor Power says he hopes people will understand it was a freak occurrence. "Any time infrastructure, particularly tourism based infrastructure, fails in a city like Gold Coast there is always going to be people disadvantaged and of course that affects our reputation," he said. Councillor Power says it is difficult to estimate the final flood damage bill. He says there has been major damage to infrastructure, including roads and bridges, and it will take months to clean up the debris.

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Queensland emergency services will resume a search in the Gold Coast Hinterland this morning for a couple believed to have been swept away in floodwaters this week. Police say the couple called friends that night to say they were having trouble crossing a flooded causeway. Meanwhile the State Emergency Service says it is hopeful emergency repairs caused by floods on New South Wales' far north coast will be finished by the end of the day. Around 20 crews from across New South Wales are still working in the region. SES spokesman Scott Hankel says receding flood waters mean that teams can now access areas that were cut off. Insurance claims from people affected by flooding in northern New South Wales and south-east Queensland are expected to tip well over \$10 million.

National coordinator Chris Henry says insurers have already received hundreds of claims and it is expected to rise once people have had time to inspect the damage to their homes, cars and businesses. Mr Henry says claims from people on the Gold Coast have already passed \$7 million. "The loss in the south-east Queensland area will fall somewhere between \$7 million and \$10 million on the known losses to date," he said.

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The insurance bill from last week's torrential rain and flooding on the Gold Coast in south-east Queensland and the northern New South Wales is expected to reach at least A\$25 million. Insurance Disaster Response Organisation spokesman Graham Jones says most of the claims are from the Gold Coast region. Mr Jones says the damages figure is well up on initial estimates of around \$7 million. "Certainly that seems to be the figure from the information that we're gathering, as more and more claims are advised and we're receiving outcomes from the assessments that are being carried out," he said.

#### BANGLADESH

Cox's Bazar, Jun 30 -- At least 35 fishermen were missing, feared drowned, after their boats sank during a storm in the Bay of Bengal, officials said today. The strong winds and heavy rain also damaged several hundred houses on islands off Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar sea resort on yesterday night, they said. "The fishermen have remained missing with their eight boats since the year's first monsoon storm swept wide areas along the coast," a disaster management official said. The search for the missing continued today. Bangladesh Meteorological Department said the stormy weather would likely last a few more days. -- Reuters.

#### CANADA

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Summer has hardly started, yet environment officials in Manitoba say they're already dealing with one of the worst summer floods on record. Near Warren, Man, it's been raining heavily across the province for much of the last two weeks, causing creeks and rivers to rise and flood. Provincial agriculture officials say the damage to Manitoba's farmland is unprecedented. About a quarter of all crop land is under water. A further 16% hasn't been seeded and what has been seeded may not survive. Manitoba Premier Gary Doer and Treasury Board President Reg Alcock toured some of the worst-hit areas today. Doer says it's too soon to know the total cost to the agricultural sector. "We're already committed to about \$50 million in unseeded acres coverage under crop insurance and an unspecified amount of money for the degraded crops across Manitoba based on the excessive moisture of crops already in the ground," he said. Doer says he's working with Ottawa to



make sure flood victims will get disaster assistance funding. He said provincial cash will soon flow to the worst-hit municipalities and hinted that Ottawa will help, too. Alcock says early estimates suggest the total price tag for the damage could hit \$200 million. In Winnipeg, volunteers are still sandbagging to protect nearly 100 houses, and people in the southwestern part of the province hope to return home soon, after some homes were evacuated over the weekend. Adding to the frustration, hundreds of roads have been washed out and dozens of highways have water lapping across them, including the major highway between Winnipeg and the U.S. (See issue of Jun 28.)

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Damage from flooding across southern Manitoba will likely total "hundreds of millions of dollars," Treasury Board President Reg Alcock said yesterday after touring a handful of hard-hit rural communities. Alcock, the province's senior federal cabinet minister, estimated the federal and provincial governments will pay out \$25 million to \$30 million to repair infrastructure damage such as washed out roads and flooded homes. The bulk of the damage has affected farmland, which has been either too wet to seed or has been flooded after crops were planted. "It's really the loss of the crops, given the extensive flooding that is really going to jack those numbers up," Alcock said. The provincial government estimated yesterday that more than 20 per cent of the province's 3.8 million hectares of crop land will be no good this year because of heavy rains which have pounded the province repeatedly since the spring. The water has washed out more than 100 rural municipal roads. More than 30 provincial roads have been closed or partially closed because of water spilling over their surfaces. Traffic on the main highway between Winnipeg and the US border was reduced to one lane yesterday. And across the province, hundreds of homeowners have been dealing with flooded basements. "I have not talked to one resident who isn't pumping water," said Fred de Laroque, a councillor in the Rural Municipality of Woodlands north-west of Winnipeg. The province's largest farm lobby group, Keystone Agricultural Producers, said it was shocked by how widespread the water damage has been covering virtually all of the southern part of the province.

#### **EASTERN EUROPE**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 10 people were killed and two were missing as storms and floods hit large areas of the eastern Balkans, leaving thousands of people stranded, officials said today. Hundreds of people were evacuated across Bulgaria's worst-hit regions of Veliko Tarnovo, Targovishte, Stara Zagora and Shumen. An emergency was declared by authorities in four communities in the Shumen region and two districts near Targovishte.

Dozens of towns and villages in some 11 regions were flooded and suffered severe damage, the civil defence agency said in a statement. Two people were killed by lightning in the central-southern town of Parvomai over the weekend, and a third man was also found dead near Plovdiv, probably also struck by lightning. An elderly man was found drowned in his home in the village of Suha Reka, near the north-eastern city of Shumen, police reported. Two women were missing today in a remote village in the central-northern region of Targovishte. The Yantra River burst its banks in the central city of Veliko Tarnovo and flooded several neighbourhoods, including a newly reconstructed 13th-century church. Rescue teams struggled overnight to save at least 35 people stranded by the high waters. Dozens of roads, including the eastern section of the highway linking the capital, Sofia, with the Black sea port of Varna, were flooded. Railroads in eastern Bulgaria also suffered damage, causing severe traffic delays. In neighbouring Romania, thousands of people were stranded as the flooding swept 12 counties in the south, east and centre of the country. A state of emergency was declared in Olt county after an upstream dike burst, sending water sweeping through the villages of Schitu and Serbanesti. Three women and a man drowned in their homes there, police said. A one-year-old child and his grandmother were later found dead. Hundreds of residents were evacuated, and authorities delivered bottled water and other basic supplies. In Romania's Black Sea region of Constanta, 20 villages lost electricity and 200 homes were flooded, said top government official Danut Culetu. Some roads and a bridge were flooded and patients were transported to hospital by helicopter, he said. The US Embassy in Bucharest postponed its Independence Day celebrations scheduled for this evening because of the rain. The party will be held tomorrow.

Bucharest, Jul 3 -- Heavy floods have killed four people and damaged hundreds of homes in Romania over the past two days, the government said today. The four died in the southern county of Olt on the Danube river border with Bulgaria. A baby was also reported missing, 560 people were forced to abandon their villages and 30 km of roads were flooded in the county. TV stations showed the national guard using boats to rescue residents from houses in Olt. The government said in a statement about 2,000 homes in four southern counties were flooded and some 3,500 hectares of agricultural land inundated. Meteorologists warned that more rain was expected over the next few days. Romania was hit by its worst floods in 50 years in April and May, when 3,700 people in western counties on the border with Serbia and Montenegro had to be evacuated from crumbling houses. The floods caused damage worth \$596 million. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Violent storms and heavy rains have battered parts of Bulgaria and Romania, killing at least 10 people. Rivers burst their banks and hundreds of people were evacuated from homes to avoid rising flood waters in central and eastern regions. Two people died of lightning strikes in Parmovai, south-eastern Bulgaria, and others died in Plovdiv and Shumen, with some still missing. A woman and her 18-month-old grandson were among the dead in Romania. The boy was thought to have been swept away by flood waters that tore through his village after a dyke burst, reports said. Areas affected ranged from the central Bulgarian town of Veliko Tarnovo to the Black Sea coast in the east. Roads were closed, including one section of the country's main road from the capital, Sofia, to the port of Varna. At least five people were killed by lightning or flood waters in Bulgaria and several were still missing in central regions. Heavy rains continued up into Romania, with 12 counties in the south, east and centre of the country badly affected. The country's Black Sea coast was also hit. A state of emergency was declared in one county, and hundreds were evacuated as authorities were forced to deliver clean water supplies.

#### **HURRICANE "DENNIS"**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: As Tropical Storm "Dennis" developed winds of 40 mph Shell Oil Co. said 56 people were evacuated from offshore facilities in the Gulf of Mexico and Chevron Texaco said it had started evacuations. However, Shell said on its Web site that production was not affected. "Dennis" was centred about 355 miles south of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and moving west-north-west at about 18 mph. It was on track to reach Haiti on Wednesday (Jul 6) and South Florida on Friday, said hurricane centre meteorologist Trisha Wallace. Tropical storm watches were posted for parts of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: At 2000 hrs, Tropical Storm "Dennis" was centred about 385 miles southeast of Haiti and moving west-northwest at about 16 mph. It was on track to reach Haiti tomorrow and south Florida on Friday (Jul 8), said hurricane centre meteorologist Trisha Wallace.

Miami, Jul 5 -- In the Caribbean Sea, Tropical Storm "Dennis" has triggered tropical storm warnings for parts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which share the island of Hispaniola. By 1700 hrs, (2100, UTC), "Dennis" was about 325 miles south-southwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and was heading west-northwest at 20 mph, a course that would take it north of Jamaica by tomorrow and over Cuba during the weekend. Its' maximum sustained winds were 40 mph, but "Dennis" was expected to strengthen. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Dennis"

had sustained wind of 70 mph by late morning and could strengthen into a hurricane by the end of the day, the National Hurricane Centre said. At 1100, EDT, "Dennis" was centred about 255 miles south-southeast of Port au Prince, Haiti, and 440 miles east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and was heading toward the west-northwest at around 16 mph, the hurricane centre said. Hurricane warnings were posted for Jamaica and southwestern Haiti, with a hurricane watch extending to the Cayman Islands and Cuba, and tropical storm warnings were raised for the southern coast of the Dominican Republic. A survey of oil companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico found that 23 petroleum production platforms and six drilling rigs had been evacuated yesterday interrupting more than three percent of the gulf's normal oil and natural gas production.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Oil prices have broken through \$US61 for the first time, as tropical storms shut down more than one-tenth of US crude production in the Gulf of Mexico. Dealers say New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in August, has ended \$1.69 higher at \$61.28 a barrel, just off an all-time high of \$61.35 reached earlier in the session. The previous peak of \$60.95 was reached on Jun 27. In London, the price of Brent North Sea crude oil for delivery in August climbed \$1.56 to \$59.85 a barrel, beating its own historic high of \$59.59. Analysts say tropical storms "Dennis" and "Cindy" have forced the evacuation of 96 platforms and rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.

Miami, Jul 6 -- Tropical Storm "Dennis" strengthened rapidly from a tropical storm to a hurricane with 80 mph winds. It was expected to become a major hurricane, with winds in excess of 110 mph. The U.S. National Hurricane Center's long-range forecast put it on track toward oil and natural gas fields off the Gulf Coast on Sunday (Jul 10). "Dennis" was 315 miles east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, by 1700, EDT (2100, UTC). It was dousing parts of Jamaica and Haiti with heavy rain that could amount to 12 inches in some areas. The hurricane center warned of possible flash floods and mudslides. Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management said citizens were being evacuated from flood-prone areas and some roads had been blocked by mudslides. There were no reports of casualties. Jamaican supermarkets said they were running low on supplies as people rushed to stock up on nonperishable goods, and schools were closed. "Dennis", moving west-northwest at 14 mph, was expected to skirt the north coast of Jamaica tomorrow and move over the Cayman Islands and western Cuba on Friday (Jul 8). -- Reuters.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Dennis" has unleashed chaos for some part of the US by ripping up piers and spawning tornados in Alabama. The season's

first hurricane has continued to plough through the central Caribbean and is expected to head into the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Cuban authorities issued hurricane warnings for the east of the country as "Dennis" headed for a direct hit. Warnings are also in place for Jamaica and the southwestern peninsula of Haiti from the Dominican Republic border westward. "Dennis" heavy rains, particularly in mountainous areas, "could produce life-threatening flash floods and mud slides," according to the US National Hurricane Centre. Experts at the NHC also in Miami said "Dennis'" movements are threatening some key oil and gas fields off the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Today, the storm is expected to be centred around Jamaica but a hurricane watch also remains in effect for the Cayman Islands. Sustained wind speeds have been recorded at up to 80mph with higher gusts - making "Dennis" a category one hurricane.

London, Jul 7 -- Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Hurricane "Dennis" located near lat 17.0N, long 74.6W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 300 degrees at 13 knots. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 95 knots. Forecast position lat 18.1N, long 76.4W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots. Forecast position lat 20.0N, long 79.0W at 0600, UTC, Jul 8. Maximum winds 100 knots, gusts 120 knots.

#### INDIA

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: All dry cargo operations at Kandla have been suspended for the past two days, due to heavy rain. Therefore, the sailing schedule of all working vessels is currently uncertain. All train services and road transportation from Mumbai to Ahmedabad has also been cancelled. According to the weather forecast, heavy rainfall is likely to continue for a further 48 hours.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy monsoon floods in India's western Gujarat state have left at least 56 people dead and more than 65,000 people homeless, authorities there say. The army has been deployed to assist rescue and relief operations. Schools and colleges have been closed in some parts of the state. Floods are common during monsoon rains which have now spread across India. Weather officials say heavy rain is expected to continue to affect the state over the next few days. Floods in Gujarat have badly hit rail and road transport in many parts of the state. "Some cities have been put on red alert and the army is helping disaster management teams in rescue operation," state revenue minister Kaushik Patel told Reuters. Last week the rise in water levels of the Sutlej river led to the closure of India's biggest hydropower project - the

Nathpa Jhakri Power Project - built on the river, affecting power supply across northern India and the capital, Delhi.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 94 people have died and some 200,000 have been evacuated due to heavy rains and flash floods in India's western coastal state of Gujarat, officials said today. The floods have inundated scores of villages and water has overwhelmed residential suburbs of many towns, including worst-affected Vadodra, state government officials said. Most of the 94 deaths occurred when people were washed away by strong currents after dams overflowed, while others were crushed when buildings collapsed or buried in mudslides, state revenue officials said. They added that around 200,000 people in the affected areas of the state had by today been moved to higher ground. Dozens of train services were delayed due to water-logged tracks while some had to be cancelled, marooning hundreds of passengers on railway platforms. The rains, which began lashing the state earlier this week, have also disrupted flights and left vehicles stranded on water-logged highways, while all schools in the state were closed until Monday, education officials said. Army and paramilitary personnel have been deployed to reach those trapped, state officials said, but bad weather prevented rescue helicopters from lifting those stranded in many places. Vadodra continued to be lashed by incessant rains today and weather officials forecast another 24 hours of rainfall. Power supplies to the city were cut for several hours to prevent short-circuits. Chief Minister Narendra Modi has conducted an aerial survey of the affected areas.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mukesh Ambani-owned Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation's Gujarat Refinery are among the several plants that have been shut down following torrential rains that have caused flood-like situation in the Vadodara region. Most of the units of the IPCL, the second largest petrochemical company in India, except Utility One, have been shut down on account of heavy rains, a senior official of IPCL, A K Anand said, adding that the plant will be restarted after the waters recede. Similarly, the Gujarat Refinery, belonging to Indian Oil Corporation, has also been shut down. The Executive director of Gujarat Refinery, K Acharya, said that IOC was partially closed. Most of the industries located in GIDC in Makarpura and industrial estate in Nandesari where hundreds of units are located were affected by heavy rainfall. Employees cannot get to the industries and factories because of inundation. Milk supply to the city has also been badly affected since Vadodara dairy is not in a position to supply milk.

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated Jul 1, states: One person was killed and four others were hurt today after

torrential rains in Mumbai flattened a landmark hotel, feted as one of India's oldest Victorian-era cast iron structures, police said. The five-storey Watson's Hotel tumbled in the western Indian city's Kala Ghoda Art district after non-stop rains weakened the structure, which was built between 1867 and 1869 when India was a British colony. The victims were inside the building, which originally had 130 rooms and was listed by US-based World Monuments Watch as an endangered monument, along with author Ernest Hemingway's house in Cuba, Nepal's Patan royal palace and Bangladesh's Sonargaon-Panam complex. Monsoon rains have disrupted life in Mumbai, also known as Bombay, and killed scores of people in the neighbouring state of Gujarat.

Mumbai, Jul 5 -- Heavy rains in the western region of India will affect importers and exporters across the country with 29,048 containers piled up at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai compared with the normal pendency of 8,000 - 10,000 containers. The pendency of 19,132 containers in October 2004, when the JNPT was in the middle of a major congestion problem, indicates the gravity of the problem. The situation was brought down to a manageable 9,790 containers by December 2004. "The port is suffering due to clogging of road and rail routes because of incessant rains in the western region," a JNPT official said. He had said that though last week was difficult, the situation would improve from today, as rail and road routes were slowly opening up. Last week, trains were running at half the normal frequency of about five trains a day as the regular rail route from Delhi via Ratlam and Vadodara to JNPT was blocked due to floods. Much to the relief of the industry, Container Corporation of India (Concor) will today resume its normal services of about 12 trains a day via alternative routes. These run via Egatpuri (Maharashtra) to JNPT or the Jalgaon - Surat - JNPT route, Concor executives said. As of this morning, the inventory build up at the Jawaharlal Nehru Container Terminal was 15,427 containers and that at Nhava Sheva Container Terminal at the port was at 13,621 containers, according to JNPT officials, but exporters are keeping their fingers crossed. "It would be difficult to give an exact assessment of losses now as our consignments are on the way." P Suri, General secretary of Delhi Export Association said. He added that as normal routes were blocked, the exporters were uncertain about where their goods were. JNPT officials said the pile-up was due to factors beyond the port's control. During floods and rains, freight transportation was the first casualty as passenger movement was the priority. "The problem arises because, same rail corridors serve both passenger and freight traffic," the official said. There was no overnight solution to this seasonal clogging problem, he added. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The floods in Gujarat have not only washed away and sunk roads and highways but also affected train travel, especially the railway route between Ahmedabad and Vadodara. Authorities now say they will only be able to resume services partially by Saturday, Jul 8. On the stretch between Gothaj and Nadiad, flood waters have washed away both the soil and gravel beneath the railway sleepers completely exposing the track which has sunk in many places. Train traffic on this crucial line which connects Ahmedabad to the rest of the country has been suspended since Jun 30 and authorities hope that traffic will resume by Saturday. "A river which flows through here flooded the area and washed away the soil and gravel. The water level had reached 7 feet," said Arvind Khare, DRM, Ahmedabad Division. For an extremely busy and profitable route, the suspension of traffic has meant huge losses for the railways. The loss can be said to be over Rs 1.5 crore every day," said Khare. For now the railways have deployed buses at the Ahmedabad main station for those wanting to make the journey by road. Also short distance commuter trains are running four times a day between Ahmedabad and Mehemdabad.

#### IRAQ

London, Jul 5 -- Rough weather with wind speeds of 26 knots has been disrupting operations at Basrah Oil Terminal since 0500, local time, this morning (Jul 5). The tug boats are still at the terminal, and navigation operations will recommence as soon as the weather improves.

London, Jul 7 -- Berthing operations at Basrah Oil Terminal have recommenced, following an improvement in the weather in the early hours of this morning.

#### MEXICO

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The third tropical depression of the season spread heavy rain across Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula today as it followed a course that could take it to the US Gulf Coast. The system was becoming disorganized and the Mexican government discontinued a tropical storm warning for the Yucatan's east coast. However, the system could strengthen to tropical storm status tomorrow, and it could reach the coast of Texas or Louisiana on Wednesday (Jul 6) or Thursday, said Jack Beven, a specialist at the National Hurricane Centre. At 1100, EDT, the system was centred 55 miles south-east of Progreso, Mexico, and was moving north-west at 12 mph, heading for the Gulf of Mexico. Up to 10 inches of rain was forecast for the northern Yucatan and extreme western Cuba. The depression had top sustained wind of 30 mph; the minimum for a named tropical storm is 39 mph. It would be named "Cindy" if it reaches tropical storm strength.

#### PAKISTAN

Peshawar, Jul 5 -- At least five people have been killed and nearly 10,000 people have been displaced after two weeks of heavy flooding in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP), the provincial relief department said yesterday. According to meteorologists, unusual weather conditions, including the heaviest snowfall in the region for over a century, have combined to cause the problems and created severe flooding along the Kabul and Swat Rivers. "This year, summer temperatures in the north have been relatively high. These temperatures have led to massive snowmelt, the largest in 100 years, hence the flooding," Shaukat Ali Awan, chief of Pakistan's Meteorological Department (PMD) said from the eastern city of Lahore, provincial capital of Punjab. The extensive flooding has damaged an 80-year-old bridge, which serves as the main link to the two tribal agencies from the NWFP's provincial capital, Peshawar. "Michni Bridge over the Kabul river near Peshawar has been closed for all traffic after it was partially damaged due to gushing floodwater. However, the repair work is under way and is expected to be completed shortly," Arshad Abbasi, an official at the provincial relief cell in Peshawar, said yesterday. Around 10,000 people from 86 villages along the swollen rivers in Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi and Chitral districts have been affected so far. In addition, floodwater has demolished some 250 mud houses with another 1,500 homes partially damaged while thousands of hectares of standing crops have also been destroyed by the water. Provincial authorities have established some 21 centres in five districts to provide relief assistance in the form of food and medical facilities to affected communities. Afghan refugees living in NWFP have been affected, with the flooding causing extensive damage to low-lying Khazana and Michni refugee camps near Peshawar. A Karach-based relief organisation, the Al-Rashid Trust, has pitched tents in Peshawar for Afghans from Khazana Camp, affected when the Shah Alam river burst its banks. Trust staff has also been providing edible items and other medical assistance to the families housed in temporary shelters. -- Reuters.

Karachi, Jul 7 -- The roofs of many godowns and mud houses blew away in Sukkur and other parts of interior Sindh Province in Pakistan, including Rohri, Pano Akil, Ghotki, Mirpur Mathelo, Daharki, Khairpur, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kandhkot and Kashmore, due to heavy dust storms and rain, which started early yesterday and continued till this morning. One person was killed by lightning in Ghotki, and nine people were injured in Shikarpur. According to local media reports, the heavy dust storm started at about 0245 yesterday, as a result of which hundreds of trees, electric poles, sign boards and hoardings were uprooted and the roofs



of mud houses were blown away. Torrential rain followed, continuing until this morning. The most affected area of Sukkur was the Site area, where the roofs and walls of many godowns were razed to the ground. Dozens of houses situated in the Katcha area of Sukkur were washed away by the rainwater, while many people were injured in rain-related incidents. Normal life in these areas was paralysed, and electricity in almost all the areas was disrupted. Heavy rainfall also occurred in Ghotki, Shikarpur, Kandhkot, Jacobabad and other parts of interior Sindh, where the roofs of several houses blew away, injuring nine people in Shikarpur alone. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### **SOUTH ASIA**

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated Jul 2, states: At least 123 people have died and about 25 million have been affected by heavy rains and flooding in the western Indian state of Gujarat this week, a state official said today. Large stretches of property near rivers, tributaries, and dams in the state with a population of 50 million were under water with more than 900 villages cut off by flooding, said provincial revenue minister Kaushik Patel. A damage estimate was not immediately available, but federal Home Minister Shivraj Patil announced a five billion rupee (110 million dollar) aid package for Gujarat after an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas on Friday (Jul 1). "One hundred hours of rain in different parts of Gujarat has affected more than 70 per cent of the state, 123 people died in various mishaps," state revenue minister Patel said. In all, some 4,577 villages and 31 urban centres in Gujarat were hit by power cuts as rains pounded the state non-stop for four days straight, Patel said. At least 250,000 people have been evacuated because of heavy rains and flash floods in the state and the situation is likely to worsen with more rain forecast, federal Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal told reporters in New Delhi Friday.

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee today said relief work should be speeded up in flood-affected areas of Baroda, Anand, Kheda and Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat. Rains have claimed 142 lives, left 500,000 people homeless and caused massive damage to the economy during the past fortnight in the state. Accompanied by Ms Gandhi's Political Secretary Ahmed Patel, they conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas and met the displaced people living in party-run relief camps in Vadodara, besides district officials, defence personnel and party workers who briefed them about relief work being carried out. Noting that the Centre had provided an immediate aid of Rs 500 crore to Gujarat to tide over the crisis, Ms Gandhi said: "The flood victims have demanded cash doles, which means they have not received

these so far." The Congress President called for coordinated action by the state and Central governments to tackle the situation and stressed the need to provide succour to the flood victims in an organised manner on an emergency footing. In New Delhi, the Centre issued directions to meet the state's requirements of essential commodities on a priority basis and also decided to depute an inter-ministerial team to the state for assessing the damage caused by the natural calamity. Union Home Secretary V K Duggal, who reviewed the flood situation in the western state at a meeting of the high-level Inter-Ministerial Committee, said about 300,000 people had been evacuated to safer places even as flood waters had started receding and life was slowly getting back to normal. In neighbouring Pakistan, troops in life jackets used motor boats to help feed and rescue thousands marooned by flash floods that have inundated dozens of villages in the country's North West Frontier province, an official said. No casualties have been reported. Flash floods washed away two homes, several rice paddies and maize fields yesterday in Swat district, said Abdul Wali Yousafzai, an official at the flood warning centre in the provincial capital, Peshawar. No one was reported hurt. Fresh rains in neighbouring Afghanistan are swelling the Kabul River, which flows into the Swat River. "We are expecting more flooding," Mr. Yousafzai said, adding flood alerts were issued yesterday in the districts of Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowshera. Meanwhile, the provincial government appealed for financial assistance to provide shelter, food and medicine for those affected by the floods. Mr. Haq said the worst floods in more than a decade have totally or partially damaged 14,000 homes in the three districts.

### **SOUTH KOREA**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Heavy weekend rains left at least three people dead and caused widespread damage across parts of the nation, but weather officials forecast a day of lighter rain today before more downpours later in the week. Hundreds of houses and roads were damaged and many people had to evacuate their homes and nine domestic flights were cancelled yesterday. A 57-year-old woman died yesterday in a rain-related car accident in Daegu, 300 kilometres south-east of Seoul, the National Emergency Management Agency. Her death was the third resulting from rainstorms the past few days. On Friday (Jul 1) a 66-year-old man drowned when he was swept away by an overflowing stream in North Gyeongsang Province and a 67-year-old woman farmer was struck and killed by lightning in southeastern Busan. The most damage was in North Jeolla Province, where 33 people were forced to evacuate their homes, over 7,800 hectares of farmlands were flooded and 77,000 livestock were

killed, NEMA official Sa Young-bae said. The two days of torrential rain, accompanied by strong winds, caused estimated damage of about 1.6 billion won (\$1.5 million) in North Jeolla. Most of the heavy weekend downpours were over the central regions but the rain is moving down south today but expected to be lighter overall. "Except Jeju Island, it is expected to rain nationwide evenly," said Yoon Seog-hwan of the Korea Metrological Administration. "The heavy rains will last on and off until Thursday (Jul 7), but we expect less rain today." About 40 mm to 80 mm of rain were expected in central regions of South Korea and throughout North Korea yesterday and 30 to 60 mm in the southern part of South Korea, KMA reported. About 30 mm to 60 mm of rainfall is expected throughout the nation today, Yoon said. This year's monsoon season started on Jun 27 and weather officials say it usually stays over the peninsular for a month. Torrential rain warnings and advisories are posted when more than 150 mm and 80 mm of rain, respectively, are anticipated in a 12-hour period, Yoon said. There have been no torrential rain warnings yet.

### **TROPICAL DEPRESSION "EMONG"**

Manila, Jul 5 -- Over 400 passengers were stranded at the port of Tabaco in the province of Albay in southern Luzon island today as the Philippine Coast Guard ordered all vessels below 1,000 tons gross confined to port as a result of tropical depression "Emong." State weather bureau PAGASA said that as of this morning "Emong" was spotted near Virac in Catanduanes island and was moving toward the direction of central and northern Luzon. Storm Signal No.1 has been hoisted over Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Northern Quezon, Aurora and Polillo Island. "Emong" has maximum sustained winds of 55 km per hour near the centre and is moving in the general direction of central and northern Luzon area at 19 km per hour. Whenever a level No.1 storm signal is raised, the Philippine Coast Guard normally restricts vessels of 1,000 tons gross and below to port as a precautionary measure. At a level No.2 storm signal, trips of vessels of 2,000 tons gross and below are suspended. At a level No.3 storm signal, all vessels regardless of size are restricted to port. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### **TROPICAL STORM "CINDY"**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: At 0400, CDT, 0900, UTC, a tropical storm warning has been issued for the northern Gulf Coast from Intracoastal City Louisiana to Pascagoula Mississippi including the city of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain...And A Tropical Storm Watch Has Been Issued From east of Pascagoula to Destin Florida. Data from an Air Force reconnaissance aircraft indicate that the tropical depression has become Tropical Storm

"Cindy." At 0400, CDT, the center of the storm was located near lat 25.6N, long 90.4W, or about 255 miles SSW of the mouth of the Mississippi River. "Cindy" is moving toward the NNW near 14 mph. Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 40 mph with higher gusts. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 85 miles to the north and east of the center.

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Scattered rain fell along the Gulf Coast today and officials took precautions as Tropical Storm "Cindy" headed toward land, while another weather system gained tropical storm strength in the Caribbean and could hit Florida later in the week. "Cindy", which had crossed Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula as a tropical depression, grew to tropical storm strength early today and had sustained wind of 50 mph by 1100. "Cindy" could strengthen further before its centre reaches the coast late today or early tomorrow, but it is not expected to become a hurricane, said the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The main danger would be if "Cindy" stalls along the coast, dumping heavy rain over a small area for an extended period, said sheriff's Capt. Mike Sanders in coastal St. Bernard Parish. Water levels in canals had been lowered about a foot in anticipation of "Cindy's" arrival, said Windell Curole, general manager of the South Lafourche Levee District. The district covers one of the Louisiana coast's most vulnerable areas and includes a highway that leads to the Port Fourchon offshore petroleum terminal. "If it stays a tropical storm, the worst that will happen is that we'll get a little water over the road," he said. Officials ordered all recreational vehicles removed from the barrier island town of Grand Isle, La., a popular fishing spot. There is only one road out and the town wants the big, slow vehicles out of the way in case residents and tourists need to be evacuated later, said Ray Santiny, a city councilman and town clerk. Officials on the Mississippi Gulf Coast said they were preparing for six to 10 inches of rain. Hancock County jail inmates were filling sandbags for distribution to flood-prone areas, said Dee Lumpkin of the county's Emergency Operations Center. At 1100, EDT, "Cindy" was centred about 165 miles south-south-west of the mouth of the Mississippi River and moving north around 14 mph. Tropical storm-force wind and rain extended up to 105 miles to the east of its centre. It was expected to turn toward the north-north-east.

Miami, Jul 5 -- Tropical Storm "Cindy" strengthened as it edged toward Louisiana's vulnerable and low-lying coast today. Squalls and heavy rains from "Cindy" lashed the north central Gulf Coast late today and forecasters at the National Hurricane Center said the center of the storm would move ashore over southeastern Louisiana tonight or early tomorrow. At 1700 hrs, (2100, UTC), the storm was centered about

95 miles south-west of the mouth of the Mississippi River. Cindy's top sustained winds strengthened to 70 mph, just below the 74 mph threshold for a hurricane. A tropical storm warning was in effect from Morgan City, Louisiana, to Destin, Florida, alerting residents to expect tropical storm conditions within 24 hours. Authorities ordered campers and recreational vehicles to evacuate the coastal city of Grand Isle, Louisiana, which drew up to 20,000 tourists for the Fourth of July holiday weekend and is accessible by a single road. "Cindy" was likely to drop up to six inches of rain on the central Gulf Coast, with as much as 10 inches in isolated areas. Tornado warnings were issued for some coastal Louisiana parishes and emergency workers in Lafourche Parish readied sandbags as a precaution against flooding. "Cindy" was a potential threat to oil infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico, which is home to one-quarter of U.S. oil and gas output. Energy companies evacuated some workers from oil and natural gas platforms and the federal Minerals Management Service said oil companies had shut more than three percent of daily gulf oil and gas production as a precaution. Oil prices jumped amid worries that the storms could keep supplies from building in time for peak fourth-quarter demand. U.S. oil prices settled 84 cents higher at \$59.59 a barrel after touching \$60.10. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: Tropical Storm "Cindy" began moving ashore tonight, pelting the Louisiana coast with sideways rain and intermittent squalls. St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Mike Sanders said the low-lying coastal parish had seen much worse, but residents were still keeping a watchful eye on the storm. Oil companies had evacuated their Gulf of Mexico rigs while tourists and residents on the vulnerable Louisiana and Mississippi coasts were advised to head inland earlier today. Forecasters said the storm could bring up to 10 inches of rain. Numerous flights in and out of the New Orleans airport were cancelled and Amtrak suspended passenger rail service to and from the city until tomorrow afternoon. Officials earlier ordered recreational vehicles on Grand Isle to leave so that Louisiana Highway 1, the only route off the island, would not be clogged with slow-moving traffic should a full-scale evacuation be necessary. A survey of oil companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico found that 23 petroleum production platforms and six drilling rigs had been evacuated, interrupting more than 3 percent of the gulf's normal oil and natural gas production. At 2000 hrs, "Cindy" was centered 55 miles south-southwest of Grand Isle and was moving north-northeast at about 14 mph, with a gradual turn expected toward the northeast. Tropical storm-force winds and rain extended up to 105 miles to the east of its centre.

Mobile, Jul 6 -- Tropical storm "Cindy" made landfall last night, affecting eastern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The ports of Mobile and Pensacola were affected by high winds, up to 45 knots. Local port security and the Coast Guard Sector Chief put Hurricane Condition Zulu into effect. The ports of Mobile and Pensacola and the Intracoastal Waterway are closed pending confirmation of navigational aids. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain and storm surge flooded low-lying streets along the Gulf Coast today as a rapidly weakening Tropical Storm "Cindy" pushed inland, leaving more than a quarter-million homes and businesses without electricity. "Cindy's" top sustained wind had slowed to 35 mph by late morning, downgrading it to a tropical depression, said the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. The storm damaged roofs in parts of Louisiana and ripped up piers along the Alabama shore. In Mississippi's coastal Hancock and Jackson counties, 3 to 4 inches of rain and a storm surge of 4 to 6 feet above normal tide combined to flood low-lying coastal roads. "Cindy" came ashore in southeast Louisiana late yesterday, crossing the barrier island resort town of Grand Isle, where Mayor David Camardelle reported some roof damage. New Orleans and surrounding areas got 4 inches of rain and 70 mph wind, and there were scattered reports of street flooding. Chanel Lagarde, a spokesman for the electric utility Entergy, said about 250,000 Louisiana customers were without power. Alabama Power Co. reported up to 35,000 homes and businesses were blacked out, while Mississippi Power Co. said an estimated 7,000 were without power during the peak of the storm. The only road in and out of Louisiana's coastal Port Fourchon and Grand Isle was closed because two shrimp boats broke free during the storm and got wedged under a bridge, where one sank, the LaFourche Parish sheriff's office reported. Spokesman Larry Weidel said the road would remain closed until midday so debris could be removed. Heavy rain caused isolated flooding in the Florida Panhandle but there were no significant problems, said Mike Weaver, Escambia County's deputy fire chief. At 1100, EDT, "Cindy" was centred about 50 miles north-northwest of Mobile, and was heading north-eastward at about 14 mph.

New Orleans, Jul 6 -- Tropical Storm "Cindy" flooded streets, shut down oil production and knocked out power to thousands in Louisiana and Mississippi today. "Cindy" barged ashore on the central Louisiana coast with winds of 70 mph, just short of the 74 mph needed to achieve hurricane status, the centre said. The storm shredded power lines and snapped tree limbs in New Orleans, where business owners in the historic French Quarter barricaded doors with sandbags to protect against high

water in the low-lying city on the Mississippi. About 270,000 customers were without electricity. "We expect to have a large number restored by the end of the night," said Chanel Lagarde, spokesman for electricity company Entergy. The only highway into the town of Grand Isle was impassible after shrimp boats rammed a bridge south of Leeville. Storm warnings were discontinued as "Cindy" weakened over land, but there was still a threat of flooding as its remnants moved over Alabama and Mississippi. Before coming ashore, Cindy plowed through offshore oil and gas fields in the Gulf of Mexico, where oil companies evacuated workers and shut in energy production. About a quarter of U.S. oil and gas comes from the Gulf of Mexico, and about 3.3 percent of it was shut down, the federal Minerals Management Service said. Oil refineries on land were also affected. -- Reuters.

#### TROPICAL STORM "DORA"

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Dora" in the Pacific was moving toward Mexico's south-west coast. It had maximum sustained wind of 40 mph and meteorologists did not expect it to strengthen significantly.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The severe thunderstorms that raced through Metro Detroit yesterday left a trail of more than 400 downed power lines, fallen trees and thousands of homes and businesses without electricity. The storms about noon packed 60 mph winds and hit hardest in Wayne County. One power line fell across Interstate 94, closing the freeway near Telegraph for about three hours until it could be repaired. DTE Energy spokesman Scott Simons said that about 70,000 customers' electricity was knocked out and crews were working through the night to restore power. Simons said that number had been reduced to 44,000 by last night and all of the outages should be repaired by late tonight. In west Dearborn, Taylor and other communities where there were downed lines, officials urged people to stay away from the fallen electric lines and fences where any of them might be lying. Canton Police made more than 200 runs in one hour after the storm, many to the Holiday Park subdivision on Joy Road. "The north end was hit harder than the south end, in a mostly residential section," said Fire Capt. Dennis Draplin.

### Earthquakes



#### FIJI

London, Jun 29 -- A report, dated Jun 28, states: A moderate earthquake

occurred at 1546, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located south of the Fiji Islands in lat 26.96S, long 176.41W, depth 30 km.

#### INDONESIA

Jakarta, Jul 5 -- A strong earthquake struck Indonesia's Sumatra island today, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, Indonesian authorities said. The U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude of the quake at 6.7. The quake hit at 0852 hrs, with the epicentre in the Nias region west of the Sumatra mainland. "At this point, we don't have any damage reported," Fauzi, the head of North Sumatra's Geological and Meteorology Agency, told Reuters, adding that there were also no initial reports of any deaths or injuries. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake measuring up to 6.7 on the Richter scale hit Indonesia's Sumatra island, causing no damage but spreading panic among people still traumatised by earlier disasters. The offshore quake hit at 0852 hrs, 0152, GMT, with an epicentre 190 km west of the coastal town of Sibolga in West Sumatra province, the National Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said. The quake was felt strongly in the town of Gunung Sitoli on Nias island, where an 8.7-magnitude earthquake on Mar 28 killed more than 900 people and left hundreds more homeless or too afraid to return to their houses. The tremor caused further damage to buildings and roads in the town that were already badly affected by the March earthquake. The Hong Kong observatory measured the quake at 6.7 on the Richter scale, but Indonesian meteorologists put it at 6.0. The Chinese official news agency Xinhua said China's earthquake monitoring network registered it at 7.3. Rachmat, an official with the Jakarta-based meteorology office, said Tuesday's jolt was part of a series of aftershocks that had been rattling the south-western Sumatra coast following the March earthquake.

#### NICARAGUA

London, Jul 4 -- A report, dated Jul 2, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0411, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located near the coast of Nicaragua in lat 11.27N, long 86.54W, depth 37 km.

#### NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA

Managua, Nicaragua, Jul 1 -- A strong earthquake shook Nicaragua and Costa Rica today but there were no reports of damage or injuries. The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.7 struck at 2016, local time, according to the US Geological Survey. The quake, whose epicentre was near the southern Pacific coast of Nicaragua, shook buildings and lasted up to 30 seconds, witnesses in the Nicaraguan capital of Managua said. No casualties or damage were reported, Juan Rodriguez, a spokesman for Nicaragua's rescue

authorities, told Reuters. The temblor was also felt in northern Costa Rica. Authorities there said they had no reports of injuries or damage. -- Reuters.

#### PANAMA-COSTA RICA BORDER

London, Jul 1 -- A report, dated Jun 30, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2126, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located in the Panama-Costa Rica border region in lat 08.40N, long 82.79W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 43 km.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS REGION

London, Jul 5 -- A report, dated Jul 4, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1136, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located in the Prince Edward Islands region in lat 42.08S, long 41.83E, depth 10 km.

#### SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Jul 1 -- A report, dated Jun 30, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1348, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 10.90S, long 162.34E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 66 km.



#### COLIMA, MEXICO

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: An explosion inside the smoldering summit of western Mexico's Volcano of Fire sent ash and gases nearly three miles into the air late today, but did not cause any immediate evacuations. Authorities said the eruption was not as large as several spectacular explosions the volcano unleashed last month. There were no reports of damage, but authorities were searching the area around the 12,533-foot volcano to ensure evacuations were not necessary, said Jorge Sapien, a spokesman for emergency response teams in Jalisco state. (See issue of Jun 16.)

#### MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A large part of the growing lava dome on Mount St. Helens fell yesterday, sending an ash plume above the crater rim, the US Geological Survey reported. A rock fall had caused what scientists called a "substantial seismic signal" and knocked the chunk off the lava dome. The volcano was relatively quiet for the rest of the day.

#### VOLCANIC STREAM, PACIFIC OCEAN

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: An underwater volcano is thought to be behind a huge column



of steam above the Pacific Ocean, Japanese officials say. The coast guard sent helicopters to monitor the 1,000m cloud, 700 miles south-east of Tokyo, and warned ships to stay away. The team said the area around the site appeared to be red. "It's highly likely that it's caused by an eruption of an underwater volcano," coast guard spokesman Shigeyuki Sato said, adding it had happened before. Japanese troops stationed on the island of Iwo Jima first noticed the cloud of steam yesterday. Television footage showed white smoke billowing into the sky from the brick-red water. "We suspect the undersea volcanic moves are becoming active," said another coast guard official. Further investigations will continue tomorrow.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: US military officials said yesterday they feared all 17 troops aboard a special operations helicopter were dead after hostile fire downed the craft and it slid or rolled into a rugged mountain ravine in eastern Afghanistan. If those aboard were confirmed killed, the crash would be the deadliest blow yet to American forces in Afghanistan, already grappling with an insurgency that is widening rather than winding down. The officials said they knew of no communications from the crash site, accessible only by foot. Stormy weather hampered rescue efforts after the MH-47 helicopter crashed Tuesday (Jun 28) while ferrying in reinforcements for troops already on the ground pursuing al-Qaida militants near the border with Pakistan. The officials cited reports from the region that the helicopter struck or landed badly on the side of a mountain then went down into the ravine, suggesting little hope of survival. They said, however, they could not confirm the deaths, and spoke on condition of anonymity since rescue operations were still underway. Even before the crash was announced, a Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility and said he had footage of the attack. As of yesterday, no video had surfaced. US military spokesman Col. James Yonts said the helicopter was fired on as it was approaching a landing zone while rushing reinforcements to a battle in an area known to harbour "terrorist organizations." It flew on, but crashed about a little over a mile away at dusk, he said. "The aircraft was taking indirect fire and direct fire from elements on the ground," he said. Coalition and Afghan troops "quickly moved into position around the crash to block any enemy movement toward or away from the site," a US military statement said. Yonts said fighting

was continuing yesterday. Beside the bad weather, recovery operations were also hampered by the rugged terrain of the remote crash site, reachable only by foot, officials said. The crash took place in the mountains near Asadabad, in eastern Kunar province. The helicopter was carrying forces into the area as part of Operation Red Wing against al-Qaida militants. The downed chopper, a special operations variant of the CH-47 Chinook, was carrying Navy SEALs, one US official said. Another said it was carrying special operations forces but was unsure if they were SEALs or from another unit. Kunar Provincial Gov. Asadullah Wafa told said the Taliban downed the aircraft with a rocket. He gave no other details. Purported Taliban spokesman Mullah Latif Hakimi telephoned the press to claim responsibility for downing the chopper. He also claimed that rebels killed seven US soldiers in an attack in the same area, although US spokeswoman Lt. Cindy Moore said no such attack had been made on an American convoy. Hakimi often calls news organizations to claim responsibility for attacks on behalf of the Taliban. His information has sometimes proven untrue or exaggerated, and his exact tie to the group's leadership is unclear. In some of the latest fighting, suspected rebels detonated a roadside bomb under a police vehicle in the same province as the helicopter crash, killing a district police chief and two other officers, said Zahar Murad, a defense ministry spokesman in Kabul.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: US forces have recovered the bodies of 16 American troops killed in this week's crash of a US helicopter in eastern Afghanistan and other US troops who had been at the scene were unaccounted for, the Pentagon said overnight. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Conway, director of operations for the US military's Joint Staff, told a Pentagon briefing that the US military does not have "full accountability" for US troops who were on the ground at the time the helicopter went down on Tuesday (Jun 28). "At this point, we have recovered all 16 bodies of those servicemen who were on board the MH-47 helicopter that crashed on Tuesday. Positive identification and family notification are under way and expected to be completed soon," Conway said. The MH-47 Chinook helicopter, a Special Forces variant of the US military's CH-47 twin-rotor workhorse, crashed on Tuesday during an operation against enemy fighters in rugged, heavily wooded terrain in Kunar province. US military officials have said the Chinook was probably struck by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by enemy fighters. Asked whether the US military had accounted for the US troops who were on the ground, Conway said, "It's is an ongoing operation. ... And we don't have full accountability nor will we until such time as the operation is complete." Chief Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita said the purpose of the helicopter's mission was to

reinforce American troops on the ground who were fighting insurgents. "We just are not able to account for any other personnel yet - not in terms of people involved in rescue or anything like that," Di Rita said.

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated Jul 1, states: Fighting in central Afghanistan has left at least 25 people dead, nine of them tribal elders, officials say. Twelve suspected Taliban fighters and four policemen were also killed in the violence in Uruzgan province, Governor Jan Mohammad Khan said. He said the militants accused the elders of co-operating with US military forces operating in Afghanistan. The killings were the latest in a wave of violence in Afghanistan ahead of September parliamentary elections. Today the rebels attacked another security post in the province. Four police officers and five Taliban fighters died in the clashes, the governor said.

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated Jul 2, states: Four Afghan police and two soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb blasted a convoy in Afghanistan that included UN and peacekeepers' vehicles, a UN official said. A police chief and his driver were wounded in the attack, UN spokesman Adrian Edwards said. The explosion in the south-eastern province of Paktika appeared to have been caused by a roadside bomb rigged up using an anti-tank mine, Mr Edwards said. He said the police chief of Paktika province and his driver were slightly hurt, but no staff from the United Nations or the International Security Assistance Force peacekeepers were among the casualties. The attack on the 20-vehicle convoy happened about 100 km south-east of Kabul, Mr Edwards said. He said the soldiers killed appeared to have been riding in the open back of the vehicle carrying the police chief, adding that about 10 suspects were rounded up in an ensuing firefight. US warplanes bombed a militant compound in eastern Afghanistan, the US military said. "We had an air strike target an enemy compound on Kunar, which in our assessment we had to hit immediately," spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jerry O'Hara said. "The bombardment was done using precision guided munitions." It was still unclear whether there were any casualties in the attack, which was carried out yesterday, Lt Col O'Hara said. Kunar governor Asadullah Wafa said there had been an air strike on Chichal village in Kunar but he could not confirm Taliban claims of civilian casualties. Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi said the air strike killed 25 civilians, including children. The strike came amid a search for a small US reconnaissance team that disappeared during a rescue attempt by a US helicopter that was subsequently shot down. The Chinook helicopter was downed on Tuesday (Jun 26) by what is believed to be a rocket propelled grenade, killing 16 military personnel, including eight elite US Navy SEALs. The Taliban

have claimed responsibility for the attack. People, claiming to speak for Taliban militants, say they have captured one of the Americans but have provided no proof. American military officials say they are putting everything into the search, including unmanned surveillance aircraft as well as large numbers of ground troops.

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Afghan National Police backed by US-led coalition troops have killed five suspected Taliban militants and detained nine others in southern Zabul province since yesterday, a spokesman of Interior Ministry said today. "Five Taliban militants were killed and nine other armed Taliban were captured as Police backed by coalition forces launched a clean up operation in Mizan district yesterday at 0400," Dad Mohammad Rasa said. The operation, he added, took place in Kariz Kohichinar area adjacent to the troubled Mian Nashin district in Kandahar where over 100 including 77 rebels were killed in a bloody fighting a week ago.

Kabul, Jul 4 -- A second American soldier missing in Afghanistan for the past week has been located, a provincial governor said today, adding that 17 civilians died in a U.S. air raid last week during a search for the missing troops. After declining to comment over the weekend about reports of civilian deaths in Friday's (Jul 1) air strike in Kunar province, the U.S. military said today it had killed an "unknown" number of militants and civilians and regretted the loss of innocent life. Kunar Governor Assadullah Wafa told Reuters earlier an investigation by Afghan security forces showed 17 civilians had been killed in the air raid on a village during a search for a small group of U.S. soldiers missing since last Tuesday (Jun 28). He also said Afghan forces received information yesterday night that a wounded American was being treated by villagers in a remote mountainous part of the province. "Our troops are trying to reach the place," he said. "Villagers have him and are treating him for wounds. But the soldier has not been handed over as yet. He is safe and there is no danger to his life. This is a very difficult terrain -- big trees and mountains." Wafa said the soldier was in the same area where a U.S. helicopter sent to rescue the troops was shot down by militants last Tuesday, killing all 16 U.S. Special Forces soldiers aboard. U.S. military spokesmen in Kabul have declined to confirm reports quoting unidentified Pentagon officials as saying one missing Special Forces soldier was rescued on Saturday (Jul 2) after evading militants for five days. Wafa said he had no information about two other Special Forces soldiers believed to be missing. A U.S. military statement said the compound targeted on Friday (Jul 1) "was a known operating base for terrorist attacks in Kunar province as well as a base for a medium-level terrorist leader. U.S.

forces regret the loss of innocent lives and follow stringent rules of engagement specifically to ensure that non-combatants are safeguarded. However, when enemy forces move their families into the locations where they conduct terrorist operations, they put these innocent civilians at risk." A senior Afghan police officer said U.S. aircraft blasted militant positions in Kunar again yesterday, but a U.S. spokesman said he had no information about fresh strikes he could report. The deaths of the Special Forces troops in the helicopter was the single biggest combat blow to U.S. forces in Afghanistan since they overthrow the Taliban in late 2001 and came amid stepped up militant violence ahead of on Sep 18. elections. The effect will have been worsened by the fact that U.S. soldiers are still missing over the U.S. July 4 holiday. The New York Times quoted a senior Pentagon official as saying that he rescued man was a Navy SEAL commando and three others were still missing. Guerrillas violence continued elsewhere today, when a roadside bomb killed an Afghan driver and wounded two Turkish engineers between town of Ghazni and Paktika province. --

#### ANGOLA

Johannesburg, Jul 6 -- Civil society groups in Angola's oil-rich Cabinda enclave have confirmed that a "major offensive" against separatist rebels is underway in the interior of the province. Agostinho Chikaia, leader of the Mpalapanda Civic Association in Cabinda, told IRIN today that although the clashes between government troops and the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) have not yet "seriously impacted" on the civilian population, insecurity in the affected areas had heightened. "So far, there haven't been any reports of [civilian] deaths - but there is also a lot of secrecy regarding what is actually going on in the interior, so it is difficult to say whether there have been fatalities. From time to time villagers come into (Cabinda) town and complain to us that they cannot go about their daily businesses because they fear for their lives," Chikaia said. Since June the province has seen a build-up of government troops: "One only has to travel a few kilometres before there is an army checkpoint," he observed. Father Raul Tati, a leading cleric and civil rights activist in the province, told a Luanda weekly newspaper this week that the military offensive was aimed at rooting out the remnants of the guerrilla group. FLEC has waged a low-intensity war against the central government since Angola achieved independence in 1975. They hold the view that the enclave has its own distinct identity, history and culture, and have long pushed the Angolan government, which opposes independence for Cabinda, to hold a referendum on the issue. Attempts to get both sides to the negotiating table have so far failed. "Instead for talking

about a solution, the government has chosen to get rid of its adversaries," Chikaia remarked. On a recent visit to the province, the UN Special Representative for Human Rights Defenders, Hina Jilani, raised concern over the high number of government troops in the enclave, commenting that human rights violations continued to occur because of the close proximity of the military to civilian populations. -- Reuters.

#### CHINA

Beijing, Jun 29 -- Thousands of Chinese rioted in a dispute sparked by a lopsided roadside brawl, set fire to cars and wounded six police officers in an outburst likely to worry communist leaders in Beijing desperate to cling on to power. The official Xinhua news agency, in a rare report on a local disturbance, blamed Sunday's (Jun 26) riot in Chizhou, in eastern Anhui province, on a few criminals who led the "unwitting masses" astray. The violence was the latest in a series of protests which the Communist Party, in power since 1949, fears could spin out of control and become a channel for anger over corruption and a growing gap between rich and poor. It started before 1500 hrs when a Toyota sedan grazed a middle school student crossing the street and the teen and the driver quarrelled. A few men emerged from the car and set on the student, a local store manager surnamed Wu who saw the clash said. The men were taken to a police station and a crowd that had been watching the fight swarmed around the building, Wu said, demanding that the men be handed over to them as their numbers swelled by the minute. Some among the growing mob focused their anger on the men's Toyota, smashing it, flipping it over and torching it, Wu said. "The firefighters drove up, but when they saw what was going on, they fled," the store manager said. Armed police tried to quell the disturbance but were driven back by a hail of rocks and lit firecrackers, he said. The local Chizhou Daily newspaper reported six policemen were injured by stones, news Web site www.sina.com.cn said. "The crowd also attacked reporters, one of whom was burned by a firecracker, and they grabbed cameras out of the hands of anyone taking pictures," Wu said. Around 1930 hrs, power to the police station was cut and "criminals" started throwing fireworks inside, the Chizhou Daily report said. The crowd, now numbering as many as 10,000, also flipped three parked police cars and set them ablaze. The mob crashed through the windows of Wu's store, located just down the street from the police station, and began looting it. "We called the police immediately, but none came. Four hours later, the provincial police chief arrived with a large group of police, but by that time, my store was already stripped bare," Wu said. "It was raining hard that day. Otherwise, more stores might have been looted." Hundreds of armed police in full riot gear managed to

restore order in Chizhou around midnight on Sunday. The men from the Toyota were being held in detention and police had apprehended 10 "criminals" suspected of involvement in the riot, Xinhua said, adding an investigation of the incident was under way. The riot closely echoed one that erupted in Chongqing in western China last October when a quarrel between residents, in which one man passed himself off as an official, enraged bystanders with the attempted abuse of privilege. Thousands took to the streets, burning police cars and looting government buildings. Protests have become increasingly common in China, fuelled by corruption and the widening wealth gap, but authorities are keen to quickly quash dissent and preserve stability. There were more than 58,000 protests, many of them over land rights disputes, across the country in 2003, a Communist Party-backed magazine, Outlook, has reported. This month, villagers in northern Hebei province protesting to keep their land were attacked by a group of armed hired toughs. Six farmers were killed and 48 injured in the ensuing battle. -- Reuters.

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Jun 29 -- President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo told diplomats yesterday that he had ordered his army to begin disarming, immediately, thousands of foreign rebels in the east of his country. "All armed foreign groups operating in DRC, particularly in the east should be disarmed immediately," he told the ambassadors in Kinshasa, the nation's capital, at a meeting to evaluate the performance of his two-year transitional government. The secretary-general of the Congolese government in charge of administrative affairs, Ntumba Luaba, said, "The Congolese army was given these instructions and would operate with the logistic support of the UN Mission in Congo." Ntumba declined to say when the troops would be deployed. The presence of Rwandan armed groups in eastern Congo has been a source of tension between Kigali and Kinshasa. Some of the senior rebel commanders of these groups are said to have directed the killing of some 937,000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The African Union, the continent's foremost political and security body, says there are 8,000 to 10,000 of these rebels in eastern Congo. Rwanda puts the figure at 15,000. They are composed of the ex-FAR and Interhamwe, now operating under the name of the Forces democratique de liberation du Rwanda. The AU, reporting on a consultative meeting held March 15-18, on the disarmament and neutralisation of these groups said they were organised in a classical military structure but often without corresponding strength. They have two divisions: one each in North and South

Kivu provinces. The AU said the groups constituted "the most serious threat in view of their number and their strength". It said other armed groups in eastern Congo were Burundi's Front national de liberation Forces (FNL) headed by Agathon Rwasa, in the region of Uvira; the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) in the Beni/Butembo region; and the People's Redemption Army whose precise locations are yet to be verified. -- Reuters.

Kinshasa, Jun 30 -- Security forces shot dead at least two demonstrators in Congo's capital today as thousands demonstrated to demand the government's resignation over delayed elections, a U.N. official said. "For the moment it's at least 400 people arrested, about 20 people injured and two people confirmed dead from police bullets," a U.N. official told Reuters. The main opposition Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), which led the protests, said 10 people had been killed in protests in Kinshasa, eight in the southern diamond-mining town of Mbuji Mayi and six in the southwestern town of Tshikapa. The opposition toll could not be independently confirmed. A spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mbuji Mayi said there were no protests there today. In Kinshasa, the sprawling, dilapidated capital of a nation crippled by one of Africa's deadliest conflicts, security forces fired in the air and blasted tear gas at stone-throwing demonstrators as army helicopters clattered overhead. Fears had been running high that frustration among Congo's 60 million people could boil over this week, the original deadline laid down for elections under a 2003 peace deal to end a five-year war. Despite two years of peace, the resource-rich nation has seen little economic progress and the government has failed to impose its authority over vast areas of the east, where armed gangs pillage and kill with impunity. Machine-gun fire rang out in the eastern town of Goma, near the border with Rwanda, this afternoon, the United Nations and residents said. A U.N. spokesman in Goma said two people were killed and 10 injured in what appeared to be an internal military squabble. Government wrangling, logistical delays and fighting in the east were behind the election delay. Some Congolese also suspect politicians of procrastinating to keep the perks of power and the UDPS says President Joseph Kabila's government should quit. "We are going to continue our actions," said Jean-Baptiste Bomanza, a UDPS spokesman. "The power of those running the country ends at midnight tonight." -- Reuters.

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Hundreds of soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo have gone on the rampage after finding one of their colleagues hacked to death. Extra troops had to be deployed in the western town of Mbandaka, when the soldiers swept

through the town, beating up civilians and looting homes. Provincial governor Yves Mombando-Yogo said that loyalist troops had chased the renegades back to barracks. The rampaging troops were integrated into the army after civil war ended. They used to belong to one of the militias fighting in the volatile north-eastern Ituri region. "When they found their colleague dead, they broke into the armoury, stole the weapons and started pillaging," Albert Donatien Bekalola, Mbandaka's mayor, told Reuters news agency. He said that four people had been shot dead by the rioting troops. UN spokesman Kemal Saiki said the rampage had lasted for several hours. There is no indication of why the soldier had been killed. Correspondents say Mbandaka has been relatively peaceful since the Congolese war officially ended in 2003, while armed groups have continued to roam parts of the east.

#### HAITI

Port-Au-Prince, Jun 29 -- Six people died when United Nations peacekeeping troops raided a Port-au-Prince slum today in search of gunmen, U.N. officials said. A spokesman for the Brazilian peacekeepers, Col. Jorge Smicelato, said six presumed bandits were killed in the raid, which was intended to quell violence in the troubled Bel-Air slum. No U.N. troops were hurt. A woman who had been kidnapped was freed when her abductors fled during the action from the house where she was being held, he said. "Those killed were armed bandits who shot at our troops. No one from the civilian population was killed," Smicelato said. Haiti has been plagued by political and gang violence since then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in February 2004, following a bloody rebellion. Two other people were shot dead today in a separate incident near Bel-Air, a centre of support for Aristide. Witnesses said they were killed by gunmen in black uniforms. Up to 25 people were killed in police raids on slums in the capital earlier this month in a government crackdown on gangs. -- Reuters.

Port-au-Prince, Jul 6 -- U.N. troops raided the base of an illegal armed group in the Port-au-Prince slum of Cite Soleil today and at least five people were killed, witnesses and U.N. officials said. More than 350 U.N. troops in armoured carriers stormed a house where gang leader Emmanuel Wilme, known as Dread Wilme, was believed to have taken refuge, said Col. Eloufi Boulbars, a military spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti. He said at least five people were killed. Other witnesses said at least 10 people were shot dead during the raid in which several dozen Haitian police also took part. No U.N. peacekeepers were injured in the early morning raid, which was part of an effort to end the rampant violence that plagues the Haitian capital, Boulbars said. Several Cite Sole residents said Wilme was among those killed, and a



spokesman at the United Nations in New York also said Wilme was dead, but police and U.N. officials in Haiti said they could confirm only that Wilme had been seriously wounded. Wilme, a loyalist to former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, led a well-armed gang that has waged deadly gunfights with rival gangs in Cite Soleil. -- Reuters.

#### INDIA

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indian police have killed five gunmen who attacked a religious site in northern India, while a sixth attacker has blown himself up. The unidentified gunmen raided a complex which houses a makeshift temple to Hindu God-king Ram. The nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced a that nationwide protest against the act will take place tomorrow. No group has claimed responsibility, but the right-wing Shiv Sena Party has blamed the raid on Islamic militant groups they say are supported by neighbouring Pakistan. Activists from the party have burned a Pakistani flag in India's financial hub, Bombay.

#### IRAQ

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: A bomb planted by insurgents on a gas pipeline near the village of Mansia in the northern Iraqi Kirkuk district exploded early this morning. Firemen fought the ensuing fire but were unsuccessful so the pipeline was shut off to allow the fire to burn itself out. "An explosion happened here and it caused a fire. Firemen struggled to put out the fire," said, eyewitness Ahmed Mahmoud. Since January 2005, more than twenty attacks have been carried out on the pipelines around Kirkuk, often bringing a halt to Iraq's stuttering oil industry's exports.

Baghdad, Jul 1 -- Gunmen killed a prominent Baghdad cleric linked to Iraq's top Shi'ite spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, shooting him and two of his aides as he went to Friday prayers at his mosque in central Baghdad, today. Police and officials in Sistani's organization said Kamal al-Din al-Ghoureify was a representative for Sistani in the capital. Elsewhere, a suicide car bomber killed a bystander today at a house in Baghdad used as an office by Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, a Shi'ite. Yesterday, an uncle and a cousin of another prominent Shi'ite politician, national security adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, were shot dead in their shop in Baghdad with four other people, police and officials in Rubaie's service said. Optician Taher Kadhem al-Rubaie was the politician's uncle. His son Qusay also died. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 2 -- A suicide bomber killed up to 20 people at a police recruitment centre in Baghdad today, while across town an angry crowd of Shi'ite Muslims mourned a senior cleric gunned down by insurgents. Another bomb killed five and wounded

12 at a police checkpoint on a main highway just south of the city. After dark, two suicide bombers on foot struck a busy street in the centre of another town to the south, killing five people. The bombings were the worst in Iraq in at least six days, shattering a relative lull in the Sunni Arab insurgency against US forces and the Shi'ite and Kurdish-led government. A senior Interior Ministry source said 20 people had been killed by a bomber in an explosive vest who approached the ministry's special forces recruitment centre in the Mansour district of western Baghdad. Twelve bodies lay under sheets surrounded by wailing relatives in a courtyard at the nearby Yarmuk hospital. Doctors there said they were also treating 21 wounded, many in serious condition. Others may have been treated elsewhere and some bodies may have been collected by families at the scene. Al Qaeda's Iraq wing claimed responsibility. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 3 -- Kidnappers have seized Egypt's envoy to Iraq, possibly in response to reports he was to become the first full-ranking Arab ambassador to the U.S.-backed Iraqi government, diplomats and police sources said today. Ihab el-Sherif, the head of mission, was cornered by gunmen in cars while on a short trip to buy a newspaper near his home yesterday evening and had not been heard from since, an Egyptian diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which said it was checking reports that Sherif had disappeared, has yet to confirm it plans to upgrade his post. The Baghdad mission had no comment. The envoy's white four-wheel drive car was standing undamaged close to a newspaper stand not far from his home. An upgrade to full ambassadorial status for Sherif on the part of Egypt, the most populous and traditionally most powerful Arab state, could enhance the standing of a new Iraqi government many Arabs view with suspicion because of its backing from the United States and sectarian ties to Shi'ite Iran. Washington, which sees the post-invasion election held in Iraq as a model for Arab states, has been urging other Arab governments to recognize fully the new Baghdad administration. A suicide bomber killed up to 20 people, mostly would-be police recruits, in Baghdad yesterday. That evening two bombers struck police and Iraqi soldiers in the mainly Shi'ite town of Hilla to the south, killing nine people and wounding 33. A police source said they wore Iraqi army uniform and hit a restaurant opposite police headquarters. Near the northern oil city of Kirkuk today, a car bomb blasted a police patrol at the town of Riyadh, killing two policemen. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraq has lost about \$11.1 billion due to damage to oil sector infrastructure and lost revenue since petroleum exports resumed after the US-led invasion two years ago, an

Iraqi oil ministry spokesman says. Assem Jihad told Dow Jones Newswires that there had been 300 acts of sabotage against Iraqi oil installations between Jun 2003 when Iraq resumed exports and May 31. He said 70 acts of sabotage took place in the first five months of 2005. Jihad said most of the sabotage took place in the northern oil installations preventing the country from exporting around 400,000 barrels a day from its northern oil fields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Before the US-led invasion in April 2003, Baghdad used to export 800,000 barrels a day from the northern field around Kirkuk. Iraq has resumed sporadic pumping of crude from the Kirkuk fields to Ceyhan over the last six weeks.

Baghdad, Jul 4 -- Gunmen who seized Egypt's top envoy to Iraq had yet to contact authorities or present any demands, Egyptian and Iraqi officials said today. Ihab el-Sherif was snatched by gunmen from a Baghdad street on Saturday (Jul 2) days after Iraq indicated he was soon to become the first Arab diplomat with the rank of ambassador since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. His kidnapping was a setback to efforts by U.S. and Iraqi diplomats to persuade Arab states to give more legitimacy to Iraq's Shi'ite- and Kurdish-led government by upgrading ties. But there was progress on the political side, with a committee that is to draft Iraq's new constitution announcing it would convene with new Sunni Arab members this week for the first time. Iraq's parliament formally welcomed 15 Sunni Arab members to the committee tasked with writing a new constitution, making it the first national political body to include significant Sunni Arab representation since the January election. Committee chairman Humam Hamoudi said the Sunnis would join other members tomorrow. "We will show (the new members) the drafts we have reached so far," he told Reuters. The committee was expanded to 71 members to include the Sunnis in the hope of defusing the insurgency. Previously there were just two Sunnis, because the constitution writers were drawn from members of parliament elected in the January vote that most Sunnis boycotted. The committee, which must agree on a draft constitution by Aug 15 ahead of an October referendum, would have its first full meeting on Wednesday (Jul 6), Hamoudy said. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: A message posted on the internet says the abduction of the Egyptian envoy in Baghdad was carried out by a group calling itself al-Qaeda in Iraq. The statement purported to be from the militant group, which is led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, is the first claim of responsibility for the kidnapping. Ambassador Ihab al-Sherif was seized on Saturday (Jul 2) while buying a newspaper. Two other diplomats from Muslim countries survived separate attacks in Baghdad today. Pakistan's

envoy escaped unhurt but Bahrain's envoy was shot in the arm. "The Egyptian ambassador has been kidnapped by our mujahideen and he is under their control," said the kidnaper claim, which was not accompanied by photographs. It promised to release more details as they "became available". No demands were made in the message, posted on a web forum, and nothing was said about the kidnappers' plans. Cairo has appealed to the kidnappers to treat him well and view him as an Arab patriot and both Egyptian and Iraqi diplomats are working to free him. Correspondents say the kidnappers may have been angered by Egypt's decision to designate Mr Sherif an ambassador, following his arrival in Iraq five weeks ago. The move made Egypt the first Arab country to upgrade ties with Iraq. The US has been encouraging Arab countries to appoint ambassadors to Baghdad in an attempt to strengthen the new state and undermine the insurgency. Many withdrew their ambassadors after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 7, states: Thirteen people were killed and 30 wounded in two almost simultaneous car bombings in Mashruh, about 60 kilometres south of the Iraqi capital, police said. Lieutenant Ali al-Shumari of the Mashruh police said the bombs exploded within about three minutes of each other near a car market. The second blast came as rescue workers were arriving at the scene. Thirteen of the wounded were in serious condition, a hospital source said.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: A website statement claiming the kidnapping of the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq by an Islamist group has announced he will be killed. The message, signed by the al-Qaeda in Iraq group, came after Ihab al-Sherif's ID cards appeared on the internet. Mr Sherif, it said, had been convicted by the group's Islamic court of apostasy, or changing his religion. The message said Egypt, the biggest Arab state and a strategic US partner, was an ally of "Jews and Christians". It did not appear to offer any conditions for sparing the life of the envoy. The pictures posted earlier on an Islamist website include the ambassador's driving licence, and foreign ministry and health insurance cards. "These are the identification cards of the ambassador of tyrants," an accompanying statement said. It is not clear whether the subsequent announcement that Mr Sherif would be killed was posted on the same website. "The sharia court of al-Qaeda in Iraq has decided to hand over the apostate, the ambassador of Egypt which is allied to Jews and Christians, to the mujahideen to carry out the punishment of the apostate ... and to kill him," it said. The announcement accused Egypt's intelligence service of torturing detainees at the US-run prisons of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. It described foreign

embassies in Baghdad as "nothing but observation posts to hunt down" foreign Islamist fighters.

#### IRAQ-KUWAIT

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The United Nations has approved \$52.5bn (£29.3bn) in compensation payments to Iraq's neighbours arising from its 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait. The final figure is a fraction of the \$354bn sought by countries which suffered damage from the invasion. Iraq has called for an end to payouts from its oil revenue, seeking negotiated settlements instead. Iraq has so far paid \$19.2bn, but it is thought it could be decades before all the claims are finally met. The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), which oversaw the compensation claims, wound up its final three-day meeting yesterday. Over the past 12 years it has processed a total of \$354bn in claims but rejected the bulk of them. Compensation was sought by individuals, corporations and governments. Rolf Knutsson, UNCC executive director, told Reuters news agency: "I wouldn't say the claims were inflated. They reflected the impression of claimant countries of the magnitude of damage, which is a subjective matter." Reuters said most of the outstanding payments are owed to Kuwait, which was plundered by Iraq following Saddam Hussein's invasion in August 1990. Under a UN scheme, Iraq uses five percent of its oil revenue in compensation payments. Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Hamud Bidan called for an end to the arrangement, saying Iraq wished to negotiate settlement of the claims instead. Kuwait, however, rejected the move, insisting on "uninterrupted payments" to all the claimants.

#### ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Jun 29 -- Oil and spikes scattered on a major Israeli highway blocked traffic today in what appeared to be a protest by ultra-nationalist Jews against a planned pullout from Gaza, Israel Radio said. It said the spikes slashed tyres of at least 20 cars travelling from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on Route One, near the off-ramp leading to Israel's international airport, but no one was injured. Police searched the highway for further sabotage. Israel was bracing for a nationwide road-blocking rally at 1400 UTC, by ultranationalists hoping to derail the Gaza withdrawal due to begin in mid-August. Newspapers published maps of major road junctions that were expected to be blocked. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to remove all 21 Jewish settlements from occupied Gaza and four of 120 from the West Bank aims to "disengage" from conflict with Palestinians seeking statehood in the two territories. -- Reuters.

Jerusalem, Jun 30 -- Hizbollah guerrillas and Israeli forces fought a gun battle today for the second day running in the worst violence for

months at the tense Lebanese border, Israel said. The firefight continued and Israeli troops believed that they had hit one Hizbollah guerrilla, but there was no confirmation. There was no report of Israeli casualties. Hizbollah said it had no immediate information. An Israeli soldier was killed in a Hizbollah attack in the same Shebaa Farms area yesterday in the worst flare-up since January. Israeli warplanes later struck the outskirts of two south Lebanese border villages. The army said it had attacked Hizbollah posts. Hizbollah was instrumental in ending Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000. The two foes have clashed sporadically in the Shebaa Farms since. The United Nations says Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is complete and the Shebaa Farms is Israeli-occupied Syrian land. Lebanon and Syria say the area is still occupied Lebanese soil. A UN resolution called last year for Syria to withdraw from Lebanon and Hizbollah to disarm. Syrian troops pulled out in April under Lebanese and international pressure but the guerrilla group vowed not to lay down its weapons. -- Reuters.

Gush Katif, Gaza Strip, Jun 30 -- Israel declared a closed military zone in Jewish settlements in Gaza today and sealed off a hotel where radical Jews have holed up to resist a planned August withdrawal from the occupied territory. An army spokeswoman said the temporary closure was designed to halt an influx of ultranationalist opponents of the pullout plan. The measure paved the way for raids to eject those trying to set up anti-withdrawal bastions, such as the hotel. The military presence in the Gush Katif settlement bloc was increased after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he had ordered "every necessary step" to stop far-right Jews from trying to derail his pullout plan through violence and road blockades. Sharon aims to evacuate all 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza and four of 120 in the West Bank, a "disengagement" U.S.-led mediators hope will foster a "road map" peace process between Israel and Palestinians seeking statehood in occupied lands. However, he has been confronted with escalating protests by radical nationalists, some from the banned anti-Arab group Kach. Army officials said settlements were shut to non-residents to put a stop to "extremist" violence that could inflame Gaza, where Palestinian militants have been generally observing a ceasefire crucial to a smooth pullout sought by Sharon. "In the past 24 hours factors opposing disengagement have radicalized their activities in Gaza, including repeated violations of law and order as well as harm to Palestinian residents of the area," an army statement said. "(We have) information that further groups of Israelis may be moving toward Gaza in an attempt to provide back-up for the rioters," it said, referring to Kach activists ousted by troops yesterday

from an outpost seized in a Palestinian district. Once the radical threat was removed, the closure would be lifted, it said. Israeli authorities are expected to seal off the settlements again shortly before evacuations begin. In Gush Katif today, the army cordoned off the Palm Beach Hotel, which has been turned into a barricaded redoubt against evacuation by scores of religious nationalists, mainly from hardline Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. Rightists protested loudly but did not try to prevent soldiers stringing barbed wire around the white stucco seaside complex, which stood vacant for years but has now been renamed Maoz Hayam ("Stronghold-by-the-Sea") by squatters inside. The hotel perimeter was declared a closed military zone yesterday night after a day of clashes between teenage Kach members and Palestinian villagers. A Palestinian youth was badly wounded when he was stoned at close range by Kach youths. Soldiers then ousted dozens of Kach members squatting in a three-story house in the Palestinian district of al-Mawasi adjoining Gush Katif. The Jewish radicals had daubed graffiti and insults against the Prophet Mohammad on the house walls. Many of the 8,500 resident Gush Katif settlers also oppose evacuation but their council welcomed the army closure. "Efforts to bring huge numbers of (pullout) opponents to Gush Katif is not our initiative. We will not accept a group of hooligans who are damaging our cause, as shown by yesterday's incidents in al-Mawasi," it said in a statement. Sharon said he had ordered a security crackdown on ultranationalists he described as "lawless gangs" engaged in "a reign of terror" threatening Israel's democracy. Opinion polls have shown most Israelis favor Sharon's "disengagement" strategy. But rightists say it betrays Jewish claims on biblical land and appeases Palestinian militancy that has included many suicide bombings. Palestinians welcome any Israeli withdrawals from lands occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. However, they suspect Sharon intends to leave Gaza mainly in order to cement Israel's hold on much larger settlements in the West Bank. -- Reutersa.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gaza's Jewish settlements have been reopened, a day after the Israeli army declared them a closed military zone. The army had temporarily sealed off all 21 settlements to prevent an influx of non-resident activists opposed to the Gaza withdrawal. Yesterday, soldiers raided a former hotel to remove 150 Jewish activists opposed to the pullout. A military statement said the lifting of the order followed the "completion of the mission of taking over and the evacuation of the hotel in Neve Dekalim, as well as the radical groups inside it". A military spokesman said restrictions remained

in place to prevent the entry of equipment that might be used to "thwart or prevent the application of the disengagement plan". All the Gaza settlements were declared off limits yesterday to anyone but residents, workers in essential services and journalists. The pullout, which is due to begin in August, will see the removal of settlers from all 21 Gaza settlements, and from four out of 120 in the West Bank. Up to 5,000 settlers will be relocated to a prime coastal area in southern Israel, Nitzanim.

Nablus, Jul 7 -- Israeli troops killed a Palestinian gunman during a clash outside the West Bank city of Nablus today hours after a militant was shot dead in an attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. Bloodshed has largely subsided since a ceasefire in February, but sporadic violence has raised fears that Israel's planned pullout from occupied Gaza in August could be disrupted and has dampened hopes of peace talks afterwards. Israeli military sources said troops fired on two gunmen in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus who had tried to attack Jewish worshippers en route to a nearby shrine known as Joseph's Tomb. Sources in al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of the dominant Palestinian group Fatah, described the militant as a comrade. They said he was 16 years old and was on Israel's wanted list in connection with a Palestinian uprising. Another teenager was critically wounded when Israeli soldiers fired on Palestinian stone-throwers in Balata, witnesses said. The army said troops had come under fire but did not shoot back. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces said they had handed to the Palestinians the body of an Islamic Jihad militant killed in an overnight attack on a Jewish settlement. Soldiers said they found grenades, a bomb and an assault rifle at the scene. The attack late yesterday was claimed by the group, which has a small popular following and less at stake in peacemaking than other factions. -- Reuters.

#### IVORY COAST

Pretoria, Jun 29 -- Ivory Coast's civil war foes tried to revive a deadlocked peace process today, saying pro-government militias should start disarming immediately but setting no date for rebel fighters to do the same. Ivory Coast's president, rebel chief and opposition leaders said in a statement after talks hosted by South Africa's president that it would be impossible to hold presidential polls as planned in October if no progress is made on disarmament. The elections are meant to herald the end of a conflict that exploded when rebels tried to oust President Laurent Gbagbo in 2002 and seized the north of the country. The talks in Pretoria were supposed to revive an April peace deal -- just the latest of many deadletter accords -- which stalled over political squabbling and delays in disarmament on both sides of the war

in the former French colony. The statement said the disarmament of pro-government militias should start immediately and end by Aug 20. It said rebel and army chiefs would meet on July 7 to finalise the adoption of a disarmament timetable. The statement said fighters should start handing in guns by the end of July. The commitments mirrored those made numerous times before by the belligerents in a war that has killed thousands and dragged on for years, fuelled by mistrust and fear on all sides that disarmament would mean losing one's bargaining power. The latest disarmament deadline expired on Monday (Jun 27), with no action taken by either side. Today's statement reminded the participants of the potential sanctions for foot-dragging. "The parties .... agree that the AU (African Union) should impose appropriate sanctions against those parties who fail to implement the Pretoria agreements and block the peace process." South African President Thabo Mbeki said at the end of the talks that the Ivorians had "committed themselves to doing everything to remove ... obstacles that may exist" to the presidential election. Ahead of the South African talks, frustrations had been mounting in Ivory Coast with rebels accusing Gbagbo of plotting attacks and the cocoa-rich west on edge after scores of people were killed in a wave of ethnic violence. Rebels have previously said they would not disarm until militias had laid down their weapons. The militias say the bloodshed in the west shows it is not safe for them to do so. Rebels also want a series of amendments to laws on nationality and other issues to be passed before they will surrender their guns. The statement said the National Assembly should adopt the amendments by July 15 or Mbeki, appointed mediator by the African Union, would have the right to recommend Gbagbo take exceptional measures to push the amendments through. It also called for the country's planned Independent Electoral Commission to become operational by the end of July. -- Reuters.

#### LEBANON

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated Jul 1, states: A senior Lebanese security official said today that a car exploded south of the capital, Beirut. There was no immediate word on casualties. The official said the car was parked near the Lebanon Beach Hotel in the suburb of Khaldeh, just south of Beirut. "The bomb went off when a woman opened the car's door," he said. He said an army patrol was headed to the scene to investigate.

#### MEXICO

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Mexican authorities have welcomed the Zapatista rebels' apparent plan to renounce their armed struggle and take up political action. President Vicente Fox's spokesman said there



would be no legal hurdles for the rebels to join the mainstream politics. The rebels on Monday (Jun 27) issued a statement pledging to announce "a new political initiative" in the coming days. The Zapatista campaign for more indigenous rights has been largely peaceful for more than 10 years. The rebel group took up arms against the Mexican state in the south-eastern state of Chiapas - Mexico's poorest state - in January 1994, when at least 150 people died in clashes. Presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilar told reporters that the rebel statement apparently aimed at joining the political life was good for the nation, adding that the rebel move "opens the possibility for dialogue as an instrument to reach agreements". The Zapatistas statement was issued from their Chiapas strongholds and signed by their military leader Subcomandante Marcos. "With the approval and support of the broad majority of its members, the EZLN [Zapatista National Liberation Army] will undertake a new national and international political initiative," it said. It followed another statement which last week put communities controlled by the rebels on a "red alert" while EZLN members gathered to discuss their future.

#### NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jun 29 -- Sixteen civilians were injured yesterday, by a crude bomb, thrown by suspected Maoist rebels, yesterday, in Nepalgunj, 500 km west of Kathmandu, an army officer said today. "The bomb, which was aimed at an army truck, missed its target, hit an electric pole and exploded in front of the Nepalgunj Medical College," the officer told Reuters. "All those injured were pedestrians." -- Reuters.

#### PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: Thirteen people were killed and 24 others wounded after gunmen opened fire on a row of houses in a coastal village in the southern Philippine province Zamboanga Sibugay around midnight Monday (Jun 27), the police and military said today. The authorities suspect the attack was due to personal grudges among clans within or near the municipality of Alicia, about 800 kilometres south of Manila. Some of victims were less than 5 years old.

#### RUSSIA

Makhachkala, Jul 1 -- At least 10 people, some of them Russian soldiers, were killed today when a bomb exploded in a town near Russia's Chechnya region as a military truck drove past, justice officials said. The bomb exploded in the town of Makhachkala, regional capital of Muslim Dagestan, as a truck carrying interior ministry troops drove up to a steam bathhouse. The bomb, which was packed with metal rods, shattered dozens of windows in buildings nearby. -- Reuters.

Makhachkala, Russia, Jul 5 -- A blast hit a police station in the Russian town of Makhachkala near Chechnya today and may have caused casualties, police said. "An explosion happened at 1420 hrs at a police station ... people say there are casualties," an Interior Ministry spokeswoman said. Makhachkala is capital of the region of Dagestan, which borders Chechnya and has been rocked by an overspill of fighting, with Islamists and police battling each other almost every day. A bomb killed 10 soldiers in the town on Friday (Jul 1) as they were on their way to a steam bathhouse. An Islamist militant group claimed responsibility for planting the device. -- Reuters.)

Nazran, Jul 5 -- Rebels killed a policeman and a soldier in Chechnya's lawless south when they ambushed a Russian convoy sent to investigate the killing of a village mayor, police said today. In further proof of the continuing chaos in the Russian region, 1,000 Chechens gathered in Grozny to protest against the seizure by armed men of the chief of their village -- the latest in a string of kidnappings. A police spokesman said the convoy of police and soldiers had been traveling to Burgaloi village yesterday to investigate the murder of mayor Abdul-Azim Yangulbayev, when they fell into an ambush. Residents of the village of Serzhen-Yurt, which lies on the road that links Grozny to the badlands of the mountainous south, converged on the capital to demand the release of their mayor. Residents said Shakhid Shamayev was seized by pro-Moscow Chechen forces -- who are blamed by rights groups for mass kidnappings -- on Saturday (Jul 2). Kidnappings have been a common trait of the war, with human rights groups accusing both sides of mass murder, abduction and rape. Witnesses said 1,000 protesters had gathered at the government building in the capital Grozny -- an unusually large protest for Chechnya. "We all know Shakhid as a very good man, and what they are saying about him, that he helped the rebels, it is not true," said Usrail, 38, a religious leader from the village. "We will stand here until we know where and in what conditions he is being held," he said by telephone. -- Reuters.

Makhachkala, Jul 6 -- Russian security forces said they killed today the leader of a militant Islamist group behind a wave of fatal bombings in a troubled region near separatist Chechnya. Rasul Makashiripov was leader of the Shariat group which said it planted a bomb that last week killed at least 10 Russian police in the Dagestan region. Security forces also link him and his followers to dozens of other killings. He was one of two suspects killed when security forces raided a building in Dagestan's capital, Makhachkala, Russia's Deputy Interior Minister Andrei Novikov told reporters. There was no independent confirmation that Makashiripov had been killed. -- Reuters.

#### SAUDI ARABIA

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 3, states: In a swift and telling victory, Saudi anti-terror forces killed al-Qaida's top leader in the Kingdom in a gunbattle today, but experts warn the Kingdom still faces a surge in attacks despite its two-year crackdown on militants. The 90-minute battle in the eastern Rawdah district, an upscale neighbourhood in the capital Riyadh, was the latest blow dealt to Osama bin Laden's group in Saudi Arabia. Moroccan Younis Mohammed Ibrahim al-Hayari was killed in a dawn raid by security forces in an area where suspected militants were hiding, an Interior Ministry official was quoted by Saudi Press Agency as saying. Three other suspected militants were arrested, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. He said the three men were on a recently issued list of 36 most-wanted terrorists. SPA, quoting an unidentified official, reported that al-Hayari headed al-Qaida in the kingdom. Al-Hayari topped a list issued on Tuesday (Jun 28) of 36 most-wanted militants sought for participation in previous terror attacks in the kingdom dating back to 2003. The Interior Ministry official said security forces conducted two simultaneous operations in eastern Riyadh to capture suspects and killed al-Hayari after a shoot-out. The official said the first operation ended with two suspects surrendering without incident. But in the second raid, militants fired at troops and lobbed grenades before al-Hayari was killed and another extremist was arrested. The news report said six security forces members were slightly wounded in the gunbattles.

#### SOMALIA

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: President Abdullahi Yusuf has said that he is to head south through Somalia from his northern stronghold collecting troops and militia as he goes. He plans to go to the town of Jowhar, which is 90km north of the capital, Mogadishu, and is his preferred temporary base for the new government. The warlords in control of Mogadishu have threatened to attack Jowhar if the president establishes himself there. Observers say the president's announcement could trigger fighting. Since President Yusuf left his exiled home in Kenya last month he has been based in Bossaso in his home region of Puntland preparing to venture south to Jowhar. "Without troops no government can work," the president said. "We are now recruiting troops in Puntland. They are also being recruited in Hayran, Bay, Bakul, Gedo and Juba regions. We will mobilise," he said. The Somali government, which was established in Kenya, has been divided since May, with the speaker of parliament operating from the capital, and the president refusing to move there while it is still under the control of his rivals. The

Mogadishu warlords were named as ministers in Mr Yusuf's cabinet but soon fell out with him, siding with the speaker. Last month, President Yusuf met the speaker, Sharif Hasan Shaykh Adan, in Yemen's capital, but they failed to agree on where the government should be based. Mr Yusuf is from the north-eastern region of Puntland and has little support in Mogadishu. He has also been criticised for his links to Ethiopia, distrusted by many Somalis for meddling in the long civil war. It is feared that unless foreign powers, or Somali elders, can intervene to prevent a conflict erupting, the stage is now set for a confrontation between the president and his former associates in Mogadishu.

#### **SUDAN**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated Jun 30, states: Sudan announced the imminent end of a state of emergency across most of the country and began releasing political prisoners today, including the leading Islamic opposition figure. Sudan has been under a state of emergency for 16 years ever since President Omar el-Bashir seized power in the largest country in Africa and today's developments are expected to help prepare for a handover to a transitional government with former rebels. The emergency will not be lifted in Darfur, the western region where a rebellion and counterinsurgency have created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, and the eastern Red Sea and Kassala states, where there have been occasional anti-government violence and protests. The most prominent prisoner released was Hassan Turabi, an Islamic ideologue who was once the strongman of el-Bashir's regime until the president accused him of power grabbing and dismissed him. Turabi immediately plunged back into politics with a news conference at his Popular Congress party headquarters, criticizing the government for planning to adopt a new constitution via a parliamentary committee and a vote instead through a national referendum. In a national broadcast today, el-Bashir said the emergency would be lifted when the new constitution is adopted and a transitional government is installed in accordance with the January peace treaty that ended the 21-year civil war in southern Sudan. God willing, on the 9th of July, we will sign the interim period constitution, el-Bashir said. On July 9, the leader of the former rebellion in southern Sudan, John Garang, is due to become vice president in a transitional government that will prepare the way for elections and a referendum for southerners on whether to secede.

#### **THAILAND**

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Violence in the deep South claimed three lives in Pattani yesterday and on Friday night (Jul 1), while two suspected southern instigators were arrested with a gun, ammunition and propaganda video CDs in Narathiwat.

#### **TURKEY**

Tunceli, Turkey, Jul 2 -- Five soldiers were killed and eight people were injured today when a bomb planted by Kurdish guerrillas exploded on a train in eastern Turkey, military officials said. A second train which travelled to the scene to provide assistance was fired on by militants armed with rifles, an official said. It was not clear if there were any casualties in this attack. The state-run Anatolian news agency said a postal train was targeted in the first attack. The five dead and three of those injured were soldiers travelling on the train in Bingol province between the eastern towns of Elazig and Tatvan when the blast occurred around 0715, GMT. One official said rebels from the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were believed to have laid the C-4 plastic explosives on the track and triggered them by remote control. A military operation was launched to capture those responsible. The blast toppled carriages, and work had begun to rescue people trapped inside, an official said. Around 100 people were on board the train at the time. The injured were being transported to hospital by helicopter. On Friday (Jul 1), police shot dead a suspected suicide bomber at the Justice Ministry after he apparently tried to set off an explosive device near Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's office. Police grabbed him after he apparently set off a detonator but failed to explode his main device. He escaped into the street where police shot him. Police gave the bomber's name as Eyup Beyaz and said he was known to be a member of Turkey's largest far-left faction, the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C). Turkey has a long history of bombings mounted by a wide range of groups, from leftists to Islamists and the PKK, but suicide attacks are rare. Four devastating suicide bomb attacks claimed by a group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network killed more than 60 people in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul in November 2003.

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 2, states: A bomb attack on a passenger train in eastern Turkey has killed six people and injured at least 12. The train was carrying 45 passengers between the towns of Elazig and Tatvan in Bingol province. The bomb was placed on the track and derailed some of the carriages. Another train sent to the rescue was also attacked, said the provincial governor. There are no reported casualties from the second attack. Officials blamed Kurdish paramilitaries of the PKK. Military officials said those killed were security guards. Turkish president Ahmet Necdet has sent a message of condolence to the families of those killed. Some people were trapped under the derailed cars near the town of Genc, said governor Olgur Korukcu, according to Anatolia news agency. Reports said a second set of explosives was found and defused 500 metres down the track. The second train was attacked and blocked about 1km from the first but there are no further reports on its fate.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Explosions have ripped through central London, with scores feared dead and the city plunged into chaos. Underground lines first reported explosions at around 0849 hrs and further blasts have since been reported overground, with at least one bus ripped apart. Scotland Yard said explosions have been reported at Edgware Road, King's Cross, Liverpool Street, Russell Square, Aldgate East and Moorgate. Those incidents are thought to involve blasts in the underground system or at stations. Officers have confirmed that a bus exploded in Tavistock Place, near Russell Square.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been killed and scores have been injured after three blasts on the Underground network and another on a double-decker bus in London. Home Secretary Charles Clarke said blasts occurred between Aldgate East and Liverpool Street tube stations; between Russell Square and King's Cross tube stations; at Edgware Road tube station; and on a bus at Tavistock Square. Paul Woodrow of the London Ambulance Service said: "At King's Cross station there is a rescue operation in the tunnel down on the line." More than 182 casualties and one of the dead were taken to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel but it said that 123 people had since been released. And St Mary's Hospital said it was dealing with 26 injured people, including four with critical injuries and eight in a serious condition. All London Underground services have been suspended indefinitely and bus services in central London (Zone One) have been halted.

#### **YUGOSLAVIA**

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least three blasts rocked the centre of Kosovo's capital yesterday, and one targeted the U.N. mission headquarters. An Associated Press reporter saw at least three U.N. vehicles set ablaze in the parking lot of the U.N. mission headquarters in Pristina. There were no immediate reports of any injuries after at least three near-simultaneous blasts, said Hua Jiang, chief U.N. spokeswoman. The second blast detonated near the building of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE, which is a block away from the U.N. compound. The third blast went off near the Kosovo government building which also houses the province's parliament and damaged it slightly, said Jiang. She did not say what caused the blasts. Police sealed off the areas after the explosions. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan last month appointed a senior Norwegian diplomat Kai Eide to evaluate progress and report back to him by the end of summer. Eide arrived in Kosovo on Friday (Jul 1), on his second fact-finding visit since his appointment.



**ZIMBABWE**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least three people including a pregnant woman and a child were killed overnight as the Zimbabwean government continues to destroy what it says are illegal houses, Amnesty International said. The human rights group said the deaths occurred during the past 48 hours of destruction at the Porta Farm informal settlement near Harare and the eviction of some 10,000 residents. "Amnesty International has received information that at least three have died - including a pregnant woman and a four-year-old child - during a chaotic mass eviction," it said in a statement. "There are unconfirmed reports of a second child dying. Circumstances are not yet clear," it added, noting that confirmation would take the total to four deaths. It said many of the people had been herded into police trucks and taken away to an unknown destination. It called on President Robert Mugabe's government to immediately halt the campaign of evictions and destruction that has left at least 300,000 people homeless. (See issue of Jun 29.)

Johannesburg, Jul 6 -- The Zimbabwean government has continued with its programme of demolishing illegal homes, despite urgent calls by aid workers to halt the operation. In Epworth, an old settlement of around 300,000 people 15 km east of the capital, Harare, residents began destroying their own homes yesterday rather than pay a fee of US \$150 per room if the job was done by government bulldozers. Aid workers told IRIN that the walls of houses and kiosks due for demolition had been daubed with a large cross by police and local authority officials, in an operation affecting over half the residents. With no transport available to the designated transit camp of New Caledonia, 20 km east of Harare, or back to their rural areas, the displaced people were left to fend for themselves out in the open in the cold of mid-winter. The initial clearance operation in Epworth began on Jun 20, with the demolition of newer sections of the settlement, leaving around 12,000 people homeless. On Monday (Jul 4) the police moved into the centre of Epworth and began marking structures deemed illegal, although one aid worker alleged this was done at the discretion of individual officers rather than city council housing plans. The target was extensions to legal homes, "cottages" built by property-owners for renting out to tenants, the main market and individual kiosks. Residents in the older section of Epworth said they had been given seven days to tear down their houses before the bulldozers moved in; those in newer parts of the settlement were told they could expect a final visit from the authorities anytime this week. The government has argued that its cleanup programme is part of an urban renewal strategy that will eventually build 10,000 homes at a

cost of \$300 million. For the moment it wants people cleared from illegal settlements to move to New Caledonia or transit centres in the eastern city of Mutare, and a yet to be established facility in Bulawayo in the south of the country. From the transit centres people are supposed to move on to their rural areas, or alternative locations, but for more than a month the vast majority have remained in the temporary holding camps. -- Reuters.

## Labour Disputes

**CANADA**

Vancouver, British Columbia, Jun 30 -- The Canadian government appointed a mediator today to try to end a five-day strike by truck drivers handling containers at the Port of Vancouver, the country's busiest port. Veteran mediator Vince Ready will immediately convene talks to discuss compensation for the more than 1,000 drivers who went on strike on Monday, federal labour minister Joe Fontana and his British Columbia counterpart Michael de Jong said. The truckers, who handle an estimated C\$30 million in goods per day, mostly for shipments between the port in British Columbia and Washington state, are demanding higher wages and extra money to cover increased fuel costs. The government will also launch an inquiry into traffic issues at the West Coast port and recommend ways to solve problems facing truck drivers, who are independent owner-operators but are represented by an association. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: Containers will keep piling up at Vancouver-area ports after mediated contract talks broke off between truckers and their employers today. The Vancouver Container Truck Association blames the brokers for the failed negotiations. "The brokers failed to step up to the plate . . . they refused to move beyond the existing inadequate rates," association spokesman Paul Uppal said in a release. "The reality is that the brokers are focused (on) competing amongst themselves at our expense." Uppal said the next step in ending the dispute is an industrial inquiry commission. Although the port remains open and containers continue to move by rail, the daily 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 drivers say they aren't being compensated for the large increases in fuel costs. Vince Ready, a veteran mediator, was appointed last week by the federal and provincial governments to help resolve the dispute. The federal government also said it would launch an inquiry under

the Canada Labour Code to look into traffic issues at the port and recommend ways to resolve problems facing the truck drivers.

**LIBERIA**

Monrovia, Jul 6 -- Civil servants in Liberia began a three-day strike today to demand 18 months of salary arrears, dating from 2002 and 2003, when former president Charles Taylor was still in power. Jeffersson Elliot, the president of a trade union representing 50,000 government employees, said Liberia's transitional government had allocated US \$9 million in its 2004/2005 budget to pay off these arrears, but this money appeared to have gone missing. "This is a struggle for survival and we will not stop our strike action until the government pays our arrears of 18 months," Elliot said. "We are demanding a full explanation from Gyude Bryant's government as to why the US \$9 million in the last budget for our arrears has been diverted." The trade union leader said that if the present three-day stoppage failed to persuade the government to pay up, his union would stage a series of wildcat strikes. Junior government employees earn between 500 and 700 Liberian dollars (US \$9 and \$13) per month. Most civil servants stayed at home today forcing several government departments to remain closed all day. The Foreign Ministry stayed shut and most junior employees failed to show up at the Executive Mansion where Bryant, the chairman of the transitional government, works. Officers of Liberia's new UN-trained police force were on guard at key public buildings to prevent striking workers from interfering with the few senior government officials who did report for duty. The civil service strike began days after Liberia's transitional parliament rejected the government's US\$ 80 million budget for the financial year which began on July 1. -- Reuters.

**PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jul 7 -- Pakistan Vegetable Manufacturers Association (PVMA) has asked Oil Tankers' Association (OTA) to end their strike and start dialogue for resolving the fare issue. As result of strike, the supply of edible oil from Karachi port to other parts of the country came to halt yesterday as OTA went on indefinite strike against recent increase in diesel prices. The OTA ensured through its agents that none of the terminals would load tankers for any part of the country from Jul 5. Industry people feared that strike would create severe shortage of edible oil in the next few days. It may be noted that the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had increased diesel prices by three rupees per litre on Jul 1. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**PHILIPPINES**

Manila, July 5 -- Operations at the domestic port of Culasi in Roxas City in central Philippines remained



paralyzed for the second straight day as port workers continued their strike. The strike began early yesterday morning when about 250 workers belonging to the Culasi Arrastre Workers Labour Union stopped work because of unresolved wage issues. Passengers were allowed to board or disembark from their vessels but workers refused to load or unload cargo. The state-owned facility is the main port in the island of Panay. -- Correspondent.

### **SOUTH KOREAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL**

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Unionized pilots at Asiana Airlines, South Korea's second-largest airliner, returned to work after staging a 24-hour walkout yesterday to demand better working conditions and greater job security. However, they threatened to strike again if management continues to refuse to accept their demand in planned negotiations. Company officials said the walkout had a limited effect on flight schedules, with just over a half of the union members participating in the strike. "We will continue to talk with management to iron out differences without causing disruptions. However, we already gave them our final offer and there is little room left for us to compromise," said union official Kim Pyong-hong, saying that about 280 of the union's 527 members participated in the walkout. The pilots are engaged in a year-long dispute with airline management over issues such as working conditions and job security. The pilots union gave the management a 10-day deadline starting today to accept their demand. If further talks break down, the pilots are planning to stage a full-scale strike that may cause major disruptions at the start of the airline industry's summer high-demand period. The airline plans to utilise 305 non-union pilots, including 63 foreign pilots, to minimise any disruption of flight schedules to be caused by the strike. The pilots have been demanding better working conditions and job security, including the extension of the retirement age to 57 from the current 54 and a cut in flight hours from 1,200 hours per year to 1,100 hours per year. Separately, the pilots union at Korean Air, the country's largest airliner, continued their "work-to-rule" campaign for the third consecutive day, mostly by slowing down the speeds of their planes on the runways. Korean Air's pilots are calling for more rest time between flights and also demanding to have their retirement age extended to 59 from the current 55. The collective action by the pilots of the country's two flagship carriers have caused public concern about possible disruptions of flight services.

### **UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: More than 1,200 workers at five Asarco copper-mining facilities in Arizona were on strike today, with

still others in Texas likely to join in, as the impact of a walkout begun over the weekend continued. The strike began the day after a contract expired for some 750 workers belonging to seven unions. Union officials said the strike was precipitated by what they asserted were violations of fair labour practices by Asarco in refusing good-faith negotiations. Union employees at the company's Hayden Smelter and its Mission Mine in Sahuarita, Silver Bell Mine in Marana and its refinery at Amarillo, Texas, who had been working for a year without a contract - since its expiration on June 30, 2004 - then began voting the next day to join the strike. Nearly 300 hourly workers were on the payroll at the Amarillo facility, and a Steelworkers union spokesman said at least 250 union members voted today. In all, unions represent about 1,500 of Asarco's 2,000 employees at the Texas and Arizona sites. Asarco Inc., a Tucson-based subsidiary of the Mexican mining company Grupo Mexico, had asked its unions to accept a three-year salary freeze and medical benefits and pension reductions, though copper prices had reached \$1.74 a pound last week before falling back. "Asarco is one of the highest cost companies in the industry," the company said in a release. It said it was "extremely disappointed" that the unions had chosen to strike "rather than continue trying to negotiate a new contract." Asarco has not recovered fully from previous low copper prices "and must be prepared for the future," the statement added. Net first-quarter 2005 profits were \$2.05 million compared to \$16.4 million, despite lower prices, for the same period a year earlier. Asarco cited higher asbestos liability and environmental costs, pension and health care expenses and maintenance costs, as well as mine development costs. Copper analyst Charles Bradford of Soleil-Bradford Research, said copper prices have been strong all year but began weakening a week ago. "We think there's too much copper out there, or there will be soon, anyway," with old mines being reopened because of the prices the commodity has been commanding and demand increased particularly from China, now a major copper importer.



### **ANTITRUST LAWSUIT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 1, states: Microsoft is to pay \$775m, £438.4m, to computer giant IBM to settle an anti-trust claim. Under the settlement, the software maker will also give IBM a \$75m credit for its computer programmes. Microsoft said the settlement resolves discriminatory pricing and

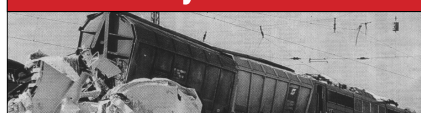
overcharging allegations made by IBM. The action dates back to a 1990s US federal case which found Microsoft had been acting as a monopoly by forcing computer firms to take its software. The \$775m payout is the latest in a long line of such payments following the action brought by the US Department of Justice, last year Microsoft agreed to pay \$2bn to Sun Microsystems. In 2004, the European Commission also fined the software group \$597m for similar monopoly allegations, Microsoft was also forced to make a version of its Windows XP software that does not contain Windows media player, known as Windows XP Home Edition N. "With these antitrust issues behind us, both Microsoft and IBM can move ahead, at times co-operatively and at times competitively, to bring the best products and services to customers," said Brad Smith, Microsoft's general counsel and senior vice president. "This is a significant step toward our efforts to resolve these issues with other companies," he added. One major antitrust action brought by RealNetworks against the software giant remains, as well as several other smaller cases. The case does also not resolve another outstanding claim launched by IBM. The computer group alleges that Microsoft's software dominance damaged its server hardware and software business. However, IBM has said it will not launch any compensation claims in the case for two years, it will also limit such claims to damages suffered after June 2002.

### **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A couple who devoted 11 years to the care of their disabled son have received a £4m settlement in a claim against a Harley Street obstetrician. A High Court judge described Karl and Natalie Power's devotion to son Jack as a "tribute to humankind". Robert Francis QC said the claim arose out of the "management of the delivery" of Jack, born prematurely with cerebral palsy at Portland Hospital in 1994. Obstetrician Peter Cass denied liability, the court heard. Jack is dependent on others for his care and has to use a wheelchair but the court heard he had a "preserved intellect". His parents moved from the south of England to California, in America, in search of a better life for their son. Mr Francis said that a decision by Mr Cass not to order steroids to be given to Mrs Power when she was admitted to hospital would have formed the central issue in the case if it had gone to trial. It would have been argued that in 1994 it was accepted practice that steroids should be given in order to avoid complications that Jack suffered. Philip Havers, QC for Mr Cass, said: "The claim has been settled without an admission of liability but having said that I would like to express on the defendant's behalf the very sincere regret of the outcome in this case."

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A boy who was left brain damaged at birth when his mother was given the wrong drugs during labour has been awarded £3m in damages. Simon Chandler, from Reading, who is now 13, was severely disabled as a result of his delivery at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in December 1991. Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority agreed to the payout at the High Court in London today. Approving the settlement, Mr Justice Forbes praised Simon's parents. The judge said they had shown their son a great deal of love and devotion. The health authority also paid tribute to Mr and Mrs Chandler for the care they have shown Simon and described him as a "remarkable young man." The court heard that during his birth, Simon's mother was given a drug to increase her contractions, although she was already contracting at an adequate rate of five times every 10 minutes. As a result of the unnecessary medication, the baby's heart rate dropped dramatically and within 25 minutes Simon had suffered severe brain damage. Speaking after the case, Simon's solicitor Susan Brown said his parents were relieved with the payout and pleased they will now be able to provide for all of their son's future care. In a statement, the health authority said: "Despite detailed investigations into the circumstances of Simon's birth, it was regrettably not possible to determine the cause of his problems. However, a compromise has been agreed and we hope that the settlement will go some way to making Simon's life a little easier."

## Railway Accidents



### BEAUFORT WEST AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A freight train derailment in the early hours of today damaged and closed the main rail link between Johannesburg and Cape Town, a spokesperson said today, adding it would re-open late tomorrow. While many goods are carried by road, the rail link provides one of the main links between South Africa's commercial heartland of Gauteng and Cape Town, the country's second port. "One of the wagons on a freight train derailed and in the process it damaged some track," Mike Asefovitz, spokesperson for state rail company Spoornet, said. "On the passenger side we've made arrangements to bus people. On the goods side, we've diverted some trains and we're holding some back." The damaged line, near Beaufort West about 300 km north-east of Cape Town, would be repaired by the end of tomorrow, he said.

### BRAMBERG, AUSTRIA

Bramberg, Austria, Jul 2 -- Two people were killed and 34 injured today when two trains collided in Austria's Alpine province of Salzburg. Rescuers said the trains crashed into each other after one of them failed to wait at a two-track section at a station and sped onto a single-track section between stations. Seven rescue helicopters were at the scene, as well as 150 firefighters, 12 doctors and around 50 paramedics, police said. Fire officials were saying each train had two carriages and three of the four carriages had derailed. Austrian police and rescuers earlier said three people were killed, but the spokesman for the rescue operation, Rupert Schuhmann, put the death toll at two. "Unfortunately there are two people dead," Schuhmann said from the town of Bramberg, where the crash took place. "There were a total of 42 people in the two trains. Of those, 34 were injured and six were unhurt." "Both trains were travelling at relatively high speeds," Schuhmann added. Eight people trapped in the wreckage were rescued safely. Some of those hurt suffered serious injuries, but rescuers declined to say whether the death toll was likely to rise. The police said the cause of the accident was still being investigated. -- Reuters.

### JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An investigation is under way into the collision of two freight trains near Jackson, Mississippi, this morning. All five crew members on board were taken to a hospital -- and a fire department spokesman says two of them were critically injured. Firefighters put out resulting fires in the engine area and in the nearby woods. Most of the rail cars were empty. The collision occurred well away from any homes or businesses.

### JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Jakarta, Jun 30 -- At least two people were killed and 84 injured today when two passenger trains collided during rush hour in the Indonesian capital, police said. A train packed with commuters slammed into the back of another that was stationary at around 1625 hrs (0925, UTC), derailing several carriages. Local television footage showed hundreds of people milling around the site, some with blood on their clothes and faces. "Two are confirmed dead and 84 are injured according to reports from the hospitals," police officer Susanto told Reuters. A Reuters photographer at the scene said rescue crews and bystanders working in heavy rain had cleared the trains within about 90 minutes of the crash. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two passenger trains packed with rush hour commuters collided near the Indonesian capital yesterday, leaving at least two people dead and 86 people injured, medics said. The crash near Jakarta occurred

when a commuter service from Bogor, south of the capital, rammed into a stationary train on the outskirts of the city, derailing and damaging economy class carriages from both trains. Rachmadi, an official from the state rail company, said the train that was hit had stopped because another train was having problems on the line ahead. A local policeman said at least 86 people, including several children and pregnant women, were injured. Two bodies were recovered from the crash site, one man and a woman. Medics said at least four other people were in a critical condition. Yesterday's accident near Jakarta was one of the first involving a fleet of second-hand commuter trains acquired from Japan.

### PRESCOTT, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 52-car derailment in Prescott brought passenger and freight traffic to a halt yesterday between Toronto and Montreal, one of Canada's busiest rail corridors. The tanker cars were empty at the time of the accident and Ontario Provincial Police said the only two people on the train escaped uninjured. The accident occurred moments after the train, heading east, crossed under the Edward Street overpass, one of the main streets in the town of 4,000 people, about 45 minutes south of Ottawa. Although homes are situated about 100 metres from the track, police said residents were not in danger and no evacuations were necessary. As of last night, there was no immediate word on when the track would reopen. CN spokesman Mark Hallman said the cause of the accident had not been determined. Mr. Hallman added that CN officials were looking at possible detours until the track was reopened.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Via Rail says it expects passenger service between Toronto and Montreal to return to normal this afternoon. The trains have been detouring through Ottawa since a freight train derailed Monday (Jul 4) near Prescott in eastern Ontario. More than 50 rail cars left the tracks near Prescott in eastern Ontario and tipped onto their sides. No one was hurt and no dangerous cargo was involved. CN says extreme heat may have played a role. The derailment is expected to be cleared in time for Via's Wednesday afternoon departures. Via Rail service between Toronto and Montreal remains affected in the wake of a freight train derailment. Catherine Kaloutsky of Via Rail says passenger trains on the Toronto-Montreal run continue to be re-routed through Ottawa. Kaloutsky says she expects normal service to resume in time for Via's afternoon departures from Montreal. She also expects full freight service to resume by around 1800. Toronto-Ottawa Via service is not affected.

### RAIPUR AREA, INDIA

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two coaches of a



passenger train derailed today near the Chhattisgarh capital Raipur injuring at least 22 people. The two front coaches of the Bilaspur-Tirupathi Express, which was on its maiden journey, derailed at Mandir Hasaud at 1050, local time. The injured were taken to the government hospital in Raipur, 18 km from the accident site. Nine of the injured, including the train driver and his assistant, are in a serious condition, said railway officials.

**SAINSHAND, MONGOLIA**

Ulaanbatar, Jun 30 -- Two wagons of a freight train bounded from border town of Zamyn-Uud (Mongolia) to Ulaanbaatar city derailed on 925th km, near the station Sainshand, at 0100, Jun 27. The train consisted of cistern cars only. A breakage of connector between the 2nd and 3rd wagons resulted the accident. The rail traffic was suspended for 9 hours 35 minutes. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TUNNEL COLLAPSE, GERRARDS CROSS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

See under "Miscellaneous".

**Robberies & Thefts**



**Miscellaneous**



**BUGLARIES, JAPAN**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hokkaido police have arrested 58 members of a major theft ring suspected of stealing 590 million yen (£3 million) in a series of burglaries in Tokyo and 22 other prefectures. Those arrested include Ding Changlin, 43, the suspected ringleader, and other Chinese mainly from Fujian Province as well as Japanese, the police said yesterday. Six groups were formed under Ding, each consisting of two or three Chinese thieves and a Japanese driver, and are suspected of breaking mainly into high-rise apartments from January 2003 to September 2004 by opening door locks using wires and stealing bank passbooks and other valuables, they said.

**Computer Systems**



**SASSER WORM**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The German teenager suspected of being behind the Sasser virus has gone on trial in Germany. Sven Jaschan is charged with computer sabotage, disrupting public services and illegally altering data. The 19-year-old is being tried as a minor behind closed doors as he was 17 when he allegedly wrote the worm.

Sasser wrought havoc in many companies when the Windows worm struck in May 2004, swamping net links and making computers unusable. A \$250,000 bounty offered by Microsoft produced a tip-off that led German police to Sven Jaschan in May 2004. The German authorities have called a public broadcaster and three German city councils as witnesses to describe the disruption that the worm caused. Soon after being arrested in May 2004 at his home in Waffensen, Mr Jaschan reportedly confessed that he was the creator of Sasser and some versions of the Netsky virus. Anti-virus firm Sophos estimates that 70% of all the virus infections in the first half of 2004 could be blamed on Mr Jaschan's creations. Statistics gathered by Sophos show that in the first six months of 2005 there were four variants of Netsky in the top 10 viruses and they accounted for 25.5% of all infections. Unlike many other viruses, Sasser made its way from computer to computer without help from users. It got into Windows computers by exploiting a programming bug in the operating system.

**BREAKDOWN OF FIBREOPTIC INTERNET LINK, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jul 1 -- Pakistan internet users are still facing slow and congestion problems during browsing and downloading. Restoration of the internet system in the country could take at least another week as the ship arranged by the SEA-ME-WE-3 consortium had not yet reached the fault site in Arabian sea. Meanwhile, the management of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd claimed in an official statement that it was providing enhanced satellite-based Internet provider connectivity to corporate customers, including banks, airline ticketing system, call centres and other financial services. The statement said the PTCL had added 136MB (2,000 circuits) for voice and 1,500 circuits for data and call centres on satellite in addition to 8,475 circuits, to overcome the problem. The Pakistan International Airlines and Air Blue had been provided with full connectivity, while other airlines were being approached for their requirements, the statement maintained. It said some of the leading banks had also been given the facility while others were being approached to fulfil their requirements. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A repair ship today searched the Arabian Sea for damage to an undersea cable which has disrupted Internet connections for Pakistan's 10 million online subscribers for almost a week. The exact site of the fault in the Southeast Asia, Middle East and Western Europe-3 (SEAMEWE-3) fiber link has not yet been located, said Junaid I. Khan, chief executive officer of Pakistan Telecommunication Co. Ltd, PTCL, which operates the cable. Khan said about 50% of Internet links have been restored using a satellite backup system. He did not give any other details and he would not speculate about how long it might take to repair Pakistan's sole undersea fiber link for the Internet. PTCL officials have said some key Internet users, airlines, banks and the stock market, are using the backup system. Meanwhile, other Internet users complained that the disruption was damaging their businesses.

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 3, states: Engineers working on the snapped Internet link failed today to trace the fault in SEA-ME-WE-3. The engineers are aboard a ship sent by the 92-party consortium that runs the cable to the coast of Karachi. The president of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company, Mr Junaid Khan, said that in a repair operation that involved scores of technical experts from various countries, the defective portion of the undersea SEA-ME-WE-3 had been narrowed down to around five kilometres. "The fault has not been traced. Previously, we had narrowed the defective portion down to 15 km. At the moment engineers working



aboard the ship sent in by a UAE-based company, E-Marine, were scanning five kilometres of the 39,000-km-long fibre-optic link, which is believed to contain the defective portion," he said. Pakistan made an initial investment of \$35 million in SEA-ME-WE-3. It pays around \$2.5 million as maintenance cost, including repair cost, to the consortium annually. The PTCL president said: "Apparently the undersea fibre-optic link is not damaged. If it had been damaged, it would have been easy to detect it. Besides, the rough weather has made the fault localisation process, a tedious exercise in the best of times, even more cumbersome. Engineers are having a hard time differentiating between noise and signals sent back by the faulty portion of the cable in what is known as sonic testing."

London, July 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The defective portion of the submarine cable, SeeMeWe3 has been severed and taken out of the deep sea for necessary repairs and testing, which is expected to be completed today by the engineers of UAE-based company E-Marine deputed for the job. The much awaited repair works of the faulty fibre-optic cable that constitute of seven phases had finally started on Monday night with testing of 17 km long cable route since completed and the defective portion taken out for repairs.

#### **OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

Tokyo, Jul 1 -- A second case of a weaker strain of bird flu has been discovered on a chicken farm in eastern Japan, close to where an initial instance of the virus was detected earlier in the week, local government officials said today. "Another case of the H5N2 strain has been confirmed," a government official in Ibaraki prefecture said. The H5N2 strain is a weaker type of bird flu than the H5N1 strain found in previous avian flu outbreaks in Japan early last year. On Sunday (Jun 26), Japan's Agriculture Ministry said the H5N2 form of bird influenza virus had been found at a chicken farm in the prefecture where hundreds of fowl had died between March and May. Authorities have culled 25,000 birds at that farm. Japanese authorities limited the movement of eggs and chickens in a five kilometre radius around the chicken farm to prevent the virus from spreading. The latest case was found at a farm located within the area. The farm has about 30,000 birds. The official said authorities were in the process of culling about 94,000 chicken at five farms, including the second case, after some chickens tested positive in antibody tests, which showed they had been infected in the past. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Asia's bird flu outbreak is at a critical stage where it could easily become a human pandemic and officials should help prevent that by launching mass vaccinations of poultry, UN health experts warned

today. Dr. Shigeru Omi of the World Health Organization said at the opening of a three-day UN conference on bird flu that the virus has "tightened its grip" on the region and is capable of springing major surprises. "We believe we are at the tipping point. Either we reverse this trend or things will get out of hand," Dr. Omi said. "We must have an all-out war against this virus." The virus, which has killed 54 people in Asia, currently appears to spread to people only when they come in close contact with sick poultry. Medical experts fear that the H5N1 bird flu strain could mutate into a form that easily passes between people and trigger a dangerous global pandemic because people have developed no resistance to the strain. "The virus has behaved in ways that suggests it remains as unstable, unpredictable and versatile as ever," Dr. Omi said. "Judging by its performance today we need to be on constant alert for surprises," he said in a speech earlier. The UN meeting is co-organized by the WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health, known by its French acronym OIE. The pandemic threat posed by the virus has been reinforced by its re-emergence in China, where it killed 6,000 wild migratory birds last month in the remote Qinghai province, Dr. Omi said. He said wild birds had previously been considered "reasonably resilient" to H5N1, and their deaths in such large number shows the virus can have unexpected consequences. Dr. Omi noted that there have been 64 human cases in Asia this year, mainly in Vietnam, compared to 44 cases in 2004. Of the 64, 22 died, compared to 32 fatalities for all of last year, he said. Vietnam is now "chronically infected", while Cambodia and possibly Indonesia also have reported their first human cases, he said. Dr. Omi joined FAO chief veterinary officer Joseph Domenech in telling the conference that mass vaccinations of poultry and more efforts to develop new poultry vaccines were needed in order to avoid a human pandemic. "Avian influenza is not just an Asian problem", Mr. Domenech said. "No poultry producing country is safe from the occurrence of the avian influenza as long as there are pockets of infections in Asia." Mr. Domenech told the conference that Asia needs about \$100-million (US) over the next two years to fund a viable program to fight bird flu, but so far only one-tenth that amount has been raised. Pledges from donors such as the EU and the US were "still not enough and still not coming quick enough", he said. The meeting also aims to identify ways that the production and marketing of live animals in Asia endangers human health. In most of rural Asia, poultry, domestic animals and farmers live in close proximity, often sharing the same room, increasing the chances of the virus jumping species. Countries must tighten regulations in the production, transport and marketing of poultry and poultry products,

especially since live bird markets in Asia have played a role in the spread of virus to humans, said T. Fujita, OIE's regional representative for Asia and the Pacific. He said efficient inspections are needed to detect and eliminate sick birds from live markets and to ensure that different animal species are sold in different premises, he said.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: An outbreak of avian flu in wild geese in western China has raised fears that the virus responsible could soon spread beyond its Asian stronghold. Researchers say evidence of the H151 pathogen in the geese is a big concern because of the migratory animals' ability to fly huge distances. Their reports, in the *Science* and *Nature* journals, are the first to show viral transmission between wild birds. Previously, the flu was only seen to move to wild birds from domestic fowl. World health officials are worried avian influenza virus (AVI) could cause a pandemic of human disease if it ever acquires the ability to pass easily from human to human. So far, the impact on people has been limited to 54 deaths out of 154 infections in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia - again, after contact with domesticated chickens and other infected food birds. News that the H151 viral strain is now being passed around wild geese makes avian flu even more of a global threat than it already is, the scientists say. "These birds can fly one thousand miles a day at maximum," explained Yi Guan, of the University of Hong Kong, China. "This means the virus has the opportunity to expand its distribution to currently virus-free areas," he said. The reported outbreak was first detected on Apr 30 April in bar-headed geese (*Anser indicus*) at Lake Qinghaihu, a protected nature reserve in Qinghai Province. The animals displayed classic symptoms, such as tremors, diarrhoea, head tilt and paralysis. By May 20, the outbreak had claimed some 1,500 birds, report Yi Guan and colleagues in *Nature*; not just bar-headed geese, but great black-headed gulls (*Larus ichthyaetus*) and brown-headed gulls (*Larus brunnicephalus*). Genetic analysis of the virus extracted from dead birds shows that it is closely related to the strain that has caused human illness in Thailand and Vietnam. Lake Qinghaihu is a major breeding centre for migrant birds, say to Jinhua Liu and colleagues in *Science* magazine. Bar-headed geese are known to move south to Burma and north over the Himalayas to India. In their report, Liu's team analysed a variety of birds collected from the lake. The scientists managed to isolate four H5N1 virus sub-strains, and tests on mice and chickens showed them to be highly virulent. Fifteen of the 16 test animals were dead within three days of exposure. "The occurrence of highly pathogenic H5N1 AIV infection in migrant waterfowl indicates that this virus has the potential to be a global threat," Liu's team write in *Science*. Evidence of

spread in wild geese means farmers outside of southeast Asia should now be more vigilant for signs of the disease, the research teams say. Avian flu is almost impossible to stamp out once it becomes established in farm poultry populations, they warn.

### **TUNNEL COLLAPSE, GERRARDS CROSS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jun 30 -- Following received from the BBC, dated today: A tunnel has fallen onto a rail line, after 20 metres of a supermarket car park collapsed in Buckinghamshire. Two trains were travelling in opposite directions when the Tesco tunnel at Gerrards Cross collapsed. The train drivers reported the damage. Network Rail said there were no reports of injuries. Minor roads have been closed in the area and services on the Chiltern Line have been suspended. It is believed that trains may not be able to use the line for three days. Network Rail has sent engineers to the site where Tesco are building a store. Eyewitness Brett Jackson said the tunnel collapse happened at about 1915, BST, today. It is thought that tons of rubble has fallen onto the track from the Tesco construction site. The Health and Safety Executive will be involved in an investigation and British Transport Police said trains would be disrupted for up to three days. The line carries services between London and Midlands.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Commuters in the Midlands and London face up to three days of disruption after a rail tunnel collapsed. Tonnes of earth dropped on to the track at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, near to where a new Tesco store is being built. No trains were in the tunnel at the time yesterday evening, although one was stationary nearby. An hourly service is now running between Birmingham Snow Hill and London Marylebone via Aylesbury. Rail replacement buses are operating throughout the day between Beaconsfield and Amersham, High Wycombe and Maidenhead and Denham and West Ruislip. Chiltern Railways said safety inspectors were on site investigating the cause. Network Rail said there were no reports of injuries after about 20 metres of tunnel collapsed at 1915, BST. A Tesco spokeswoman said: "We have launched an urgent investigation with our engineer contractors and will work with the authorities to understand what happened and get rail services back to normal as soon as possible." The Health and Safety Executive will investigate, and British Transport Police said trains would be disrupted for up to three days.

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Commuters in the Midlands and London face up to three days of disruption after a rail tunnel collapsed. Tonnes of earth dropped on to the track at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, near to where a new Tesco store is being built. No trains were in the tunnel at the time

yesterday evening, although one was stationary nearby. An hourly service is now running between Birmingham Snow Hill and London Marylebone via Aylesbury. Rail replacement buses are operating throughout the day between Beaconsfield and Amersham, High Wycombe and Maidenhead and Denham and West Ruislip. Chiltern Railway tickets will be accepted by Virgin Trains, First Great Western Link, Central Trains, Silverlink Trains and London Underground. Chiltern Railways said safety inspectors were on site investigating the cause. "Passengers are being advised to travel via alternative routes and buses have also been ordered. We are currently putting arrangements in place to minimise disruption." Network Rail said there were no reports of injuries after about 20 metres of tunnel collapsed at 1915, BST. A Tesco spokeswoman apologised for the disruption to services. She said: "We have launched an urgent investigation with our engineer contractors and will work with the authorities to understand what happened and get rail services back to normal as soon as possible." The store was in the "very early" stages of construction and was being built above the line. The Health and Safety Executive will investigate, and British Transport Police said trains would be disrupted for up to three days.

### **Fires & Explosions**



### **BRUSH, HAWAII, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A rash of Leeward fires put a significant strain on Fire Department manpower yesterday, requiring about 50 percent of its front-line resources. Forecasts for a dangerous brushfire season probably mean the department will have to contend with similar situations this summer. Yesterday, about 130 firefighters turned out to fight four separate blazes during a two-hour period. What had been a busy day for firefighters reached the critical point at about noon yesterday as 21 engine companies, seven tankers, three ladder companies and an HFD helicopter were used to fight major brushfires in Ewa Beach and Wai'anae, a building fire in Waipahu, and a scrap-metal fire at Campbell Industrial Park. The building fire displaced dozens of people. Deputy Fire Chief John Clark said HFD expected a busy brushfire season because of the wet winter conditions on O'ahu that produced high-grass areas. "We consider brushfires to be a waste of manpower and resources but we still have to do it," Clark said. "Some people say let it burn but if we did that, flying embers landing on roofs might start house fires. At the

same time, smoke and soot could pose numerous health problems." A Level 3 situation, in which at least half of the fire companies are responding to a call such as a fire, are uncommon although yesterday was the second in three months. During a 15-hour period from midnight to 1500 yesterday, firefighters battled 28 brushfires, 75 percent of them in West O'ahu, according to fire spokesman Capt. Kenison Tejada. Fireworks are suspected of causing 80 percent of the brushfires that occurred before 0900 Tejada said. The early brushfires were minor, burning about a half-acre each, but crunch time came with a succession of fires starting in the brush between Iroquois and North roads in 'Ewa Beach at 1100 HFD dedicated six engine companies, three tankers, a helicopter and 37 men to the fires, which scorched about 50 acres, according to Tejada. Work on the Ewa Beach fire was just starting when firefighters were called to the Hawaii Metal Recycling Co. plant at Campbell Industrial Park at 1120. A fire was burning from the bottom vehicles piled about two stories high in an area about the size of a football field, said HFD HazMat 2 Capt. Roy Murakami. Firefighters shot water onto the pile while specialists removed vehicles. The third fire, at a two-storey wooden structure at 94-241 Aniani Place in Waipahu, was reported at 1241. "The structure was 25 percent involved by the time we got there," Tejada said. Thirty-six people living in eight units at the address were displaced by the fire, which caused damage estimated at \$500,000, added Tejada. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Six engine companies, two ladder companies and 35 men responded to the Waipahu fire. The fourth fire was reported at 1300. Five engine companies, four tankers, the helicopter and about 33 firefighters battled the brushfire between Lualualei Naval Road and Ili'ili Road in Nanakuli, Tejada said. The fire had burned about 125 acres of military property and four acres of private property by early evening, he said. The Fire Department has 56 front-line units. The move to go to Level 3 was made with 25 units out of service, Clark said. An additional 10 companies, undergoing maintenance or training, were declared "out of service" but could have been used if needed, he said.

### **CHEMICAL FACTORY, TAICHUNG, TAIWAN**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 3, states: A fire raged through a fertilizer plant in Taichung today and injured at least 15 people before being brought under control by a joint effort of both civilian and military firefighters. The injuries did not appear to be life-threatening, with most of the victims suffering from smoke inhalation. The fire broke out early in the afternoon in a Taichung industrial area, with thick smoke billowing into the sky. There was no immediate word on the cause.

Explosions could be heard from the plant, apparently from the flames igniting chemical stocks. Potentially poisonous smoke billowing into the sky, while officials warned residents living near the industrial park in Taichung where the fire erupted to stay indoors. Firefighters from more than 50 fire engines, backed up by helicopters and dozens of soldiers, battled the blaze. Taichung firefighters, aided by colleagues from neighbouring towns and troops specializing in chemical warfare from a nearby military base, brought the extensive blaze under control in about three and a half hours. Officials also sent special army teams to the area to control traffic and guard against the possibility of chemical contamination spreading to adjacent residential neighbourhoods. Reports from various monitoring stations run by the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) in Taichung area later released test reports noxious fumes produced by the blaze. EPA officials said that all tests showed that the fumes from the fire and the plant did not pose threats to humans. Police are investigating the cause of the blaze. The financial loss caused by the fire could run up to tens of millions of New Taiwan dollars, officials estimated.

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire that broke out at a fertilizer plant in Taichung City, Taiwan Province, yesterday reignited a second time at around 1000 today, according to Hong Kong media. Heavy smoke could be seen at the spot and an emergency evacuation was underway to protect people from toxic chemicals being released, according to reports. Sixteen firefighters have been reported injured. The initial blaze started at around noon and was thought to be under control after five hours' efforts, but it reignited for the first time yesterday evening. A large amount of water polluted with toxins released by the fire has escaped into nearby rivers, and the local environmental department is running tests to find out how serious the situation is.

#### **COAL MINE, NINGWU, CHINA**

London, Jul 3 -- A gas explosion ripped through in a coal mine in Ningwu County, North China's Shanxi Province yesterday killing 19 miners. The Jiajiabao coal mine was a illegal township mine, quoted by local officials. 34 miners were working underground at the time of the explosion. Four managed to escape and 11 others were rescued. Provincial officials rushed to the site for rescue.

#### **FACTORY, TAKAKA, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated Jul 1, states: Takaka residents today welcomed news that Fonterra will begin rebuilding its fire-ravaged dairy factory next week. After meeting Fonterra this week, Tasman Mayor John Hurley told yesterday's full Tasman District Council meeting that

the dairy giant would be "working like beavers" to get the factory up and running again. Work on the foundations would start next Friday (Jul 8), he said. Much of the \$80 million factory was destroyed by fire on June 21. Fonterra has announced its intentions to at least partially rebuild it. Fonterra general manager of manufacturing in New Zealand, Brent Taylor, said the factory would be in operation again some time between October and Christmas. Details on the capacity of the rebuilt factory and how many people it would employ would be announced on July 25, he said.

#### **FOREST, SAINT RAPHAEL AREA, FRANCE**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: The French authorities have taken to safety thousands of holidaymakers because of a forest fire threatening campsites in the south of the country. Up to 400 firefighters are battling the blaze, which has already destroyed large areas of woodland near the coastal resort of Saint Raphael. Emergency services say a strong wind is making the situation more difficult. Forest fires, an annual problem, are expected to be worse this year because of an unusually dry spring and summer. At six campsites, the emergency services asked tourists to leave their tents and caravans as a precaution. By late afternoon, the fire had cut a swathe through 800 hectares of woodland. A motorway linking Nice to Aix-en-Provence has been closed in both directions, and there are reports that the fire has reached the perimeter of a military base. The emergency services say two other forest fires over the weekend elsewhere in southern France have now been brought under control.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: French firefighters are continuing to battle a forest fire that forced the evacuation of thousands of tourists in the south of the country. The blaze is being brought under control but has already destroyed large areas of woodland near the coastal resort of Saint Raphael. Officials have voiced fears that arsonists may have caused the blaze. Emergency services say a strong wind has made the situation more difficult. At six campsites, the emergency services asked tourists to leave their tents and caravans as a precaution. But most of those evacuated were able to return by the evening. "The fire has been checked but it is not entirely under control," fire chief Stephane Farcy said. The fire forced the temporary closure of a motorway linking Nice to Aix-en-Provence and there were reports that it has reached the perimeter of a military base. The emergency services say two other forest fires over the weekend elsewhere in southern France have now been brought under control.

#### **GRAIN ELEVATOR, MAUMEE, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 3, states: More than 24 hours after

a pair of explosions rocked The Andersons/Cargill grain elevator along the Maumee River, the threat of a third blast kept firefighters from entering the facility yesterday. Officials said it could be several days before they determine the cause of the fire. "Multiple seven figures. Easily," said James M. McKinstry when asked to estimate the loss that could run into the millions of dollars. He said the loss has the potential of being so staggering that it is impossible for him to quantify with a dollar amount. Sorting out the damage eligible to be covered by insurance is a task for another time, he added. Toledo Fire Chief Michael Bell and Eric Renzhofer, a city fire battalion chief, said they were keeping firefighters in a defensive posture. The crews were spraying the smoldering fire with water from a distance, rather than moving into the 160-foot-high concrete grain silo and attacking the blaze head on. The threat of another explosion is expected to dissipate as the grain becomes wetter, reducing the amount of explosive dust. The intensity and heat of the blaze are expected to remain strong for days because of a pool of molten rubber that is believed to be inside the silo. Chunks of rubber from the five-foot-wide conveyor belt are believed to have fallen into the silo, officials said. Tons of foam brought in from the BP refinery in Oregon and the 180th Air National Guard at Toledo Express Airport were used to control the fire Friday (Jun 1) night. Crews phased down their use of the material yesterday because the number of hot spots became scattered. Firefighters were still battling flare-ups at the silo after 2030 hrs, last night when fire flared along a section of rubber conveyor, producing thick smoke. At least one additional fire engine was called to the scene, and firefighters again trained foam on the damaged structures. Foam was being stockpiled in the event the fire gained momentum, Chief Renzhofer said. Chief Bell also said the city has access to foam from other parts of Ohio under a statewide mutual-aid pact created by the Homeland Security Act. The fire was reported at 1539 hrs, Friday, nearly 40 minutes after employees had left for the holiday weekend. No injuries were reported, even though the blast hurled sheets of metal skyward. At one point, flames shot off a conveyor belt 150 feet in the air. Investigators include Kyle Walton, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' agent in charge in Toledo, and Keith Loreno, of the state fire marshal's fire and explosion investigation bureau. Both said they would be looking at debris and interviewing employees and witnesses, as well as gathering evidence from inside the elevator. They said their presence was standard for a major explosion and did not indicate a suspicion of sabotage. Some \$7 million to \$10 million of grain was inside the silo. While it is unknown how much of that can be salvaged, the cost of



rebuilding or replacing the structure itself will be in the millions. If the structure can't be rebuilt, the cost of building a new grain elevator would undoubtedly be in the "tens of millions" in today's market, Mr. McKinstry said. The grain elevator that caught fire is one of four operated by The Andersons, but one of only two along the Maumee River. The Andersons' capacity to serve its marine markets "has essentially been halved," Mr. McKinstry said. That, he conceded, has the potential to cause at least some short-term complications in operations.

Troy, Mich, Jul 6 -- Firefighters are still actively fighting the fire in a south Toledo grain elevator, more than three days after it exploded. Two explosions rocked the facility on Friday (Jul 1), less than an hour after employees went home for the Independence Day holiday weekend. Firefighters have been on the scene ever since, methodically uncovering pockets of fire in the silos, and putting the out. Toledo Fire Chief Mike Bell said yesterday the fire was more extensive than firefighters thought. They have now found flames in the grain in five of the silos in the elevator. Right now, they're pouring water on the outside of the silos to cool them down. Bell says crews will need to pull some of the burning grain out of the silos, and completely extinguish the flames. Great Lakes & Seaway News.

#### **LUBRICANT DEPOT, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, July 3 -- Pakistan State Oil (PSO) said a huge fire that broke out in its lubricant depot near National Refinery at Korangi Industrial Area, in Karachi, was doused by the fire brigade after a six hours long operation with the help of 50 fire tenders this morning. Pakistan Airforce, Pakistan Navy, Karachi Port Trust, Civil Aviation and different station's vehicles took part in fire fighting operation. Four firemen were slightly injured while extinguishing the fire. The Governor of Sindh has ordered an investigation of the incident. The fire erupted at 2300 yesterday at the PSO lubricant manufacturing plant adjacent to the National Refinery near Bilal Colony in Korangi Industrial Area. A huge quantity of stored chemicals and petroleum products and plastic recycle material burnt to ashes. PSO is yet to ascertain loss and cause of fire accident. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

#### **NINGWU COUNTY, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nineteen miners were killed as a gas explosion ripped through in a coal mine in Ningwu County, Shanxi Province, Saturday (Jul 2), Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday. The Jiajibao coal mine was an illegal township mine, Xinhua quoted local officials as saying. Thirty-four miners were working underground at the time of the

explosion. Four managed to escape and 11 others were rescued. Provincial officials rushed to the site for rescue, Xinhua said.

#### **NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE, JAPAN**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report from LaSalle, dated today, states: A fire broke out at a facility of the Hamaoka nuclear power plant in Omaezaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, last night, but no radioactivity has leaked outside the plant and no one was hurt in the fire, the operator of the plant said. The 2110 hrs fire occurred near a fusion furnace in the second basement of a building constructed for disposal of waste materials, Chubu Electric Power Co said.

#### **PLYWOOD PLANT, SUTHERLIN, OREGON, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Only the blackened tangle of machinery remained this morning at the destroyed Murphy Plywood plant, with some small fires burning in the debris and hazy smoke still clouding the burnt remains. A fire that began in the roof of the Sutherlin plant yesterday afternoon quickly spread to engulf several buildings on the property, destroying 250,000 square feet of the plant, said John Murphy, one of the plant owners. He estimated damage to be upward of \$30 million. A warehouse that contains plywood ready to be shipped was salvaged, along with the stacks of veneer in the yard. A faulty motor inside one of the dryers used to dry veneer likely caused the fire, which began at 1230, Murphy said. Fire departments and police are continuing to investigate the cause today. When employees noticed the fire, they tried to extinguish it from inside and from on the roof. He said about 65 of the plant's 290 employees were working. No one was injured. By evening's end, he lost hope that the plant was salvageable. "Now we've had a total loss," he said. Murphy said employees "many who are trained in firefighting" could have controlled the burn, but firefighters ordered employees to evacuate once they arrived. Firefighters mainly attacked the fire from the north side and didn't go to the south side where flames had spread to another warehouse. By 1600 the fire consumed the entire roof of the building and spread to a neighbouring plant building that contained stacks of dried veneer, which were soon glowing red with flames. A huge plume of black smoke billowed skyward. Flashes of red flames could be seen through holes in the walls of the huge warehouse buildings. About 110 firefighters responded from throughout the county, including Sutherlin, Tri City, Cottage Grove, Oakland, Roseburg, Douglas County Fire District No. 2 and Douglas Forest Protective Association. Businesses were evacuated, and firefighters worked to keep the buildings wet, as well as the stacks of plywood and other materials in the

yard beyond the buildings. Murphy estimated firefighters had contained the fire by 2130.

#### **PREMISES, QUEBEC, CANADA**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: No one was injured as 80 firefighters battled an overnight blaze in Aylmer, Que., that destroyed several businesses and forced hundreds of people from their homes. The fire caused about Can\$6 million in damage as it destroyed the Glenwood Plaza in the town across the Ottawa River from the nation's capital. The popular mall, which was the oldest in Aylmer, contained between 20 and 26 businesses as well as the town's only liquor store and the local post office. Businesses destroyed included a grocery store, a Giant Tiger discount store, a bakery, a Videotron, a café, and a number of professional offices on the second floor. Witnesses say the fire started just before 0200 today in the MarchÉ Frais food store in the mall. It spread to a paint store next door and then spread quickly through the roof to the entire complex. At one point, firefighters broke down the door of a pet store and removed all the animals they could. Flames from the block-long plaza shot four or five storeys into the air as the blaze reached its peak. Starting at around 0230 emergency crews roused hundreds of people living nearby and closed the town's major artery. By 0630 the major fire had been put out, but some hot spots were still active. All that remained of most of the plaza were cement blocks visible between exposed girders. There is no word on the cause of the fire.

#### **PREMISES, SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, adted Jul 5, states: A fire that had been deliberately set raged at a commercial building in San Fernando today, causing no injuries but about \$1 million in losses, authorities said. The fire at the structure housing Aleph International Corp. at 1026 Griswold Ave. broke out about 0050 hrs and was knocked down about 0145 hrs, by some 80 Los Angeles firefighters, department spokesman Brian Humphrey reported. The losses were estimated at \$500,000 to the one-story structure and \$500,000 to the contents, he said. The blaze apparently started in a pair of trash bins in the rear parking lot, Humphrey said, adding that arson investigators determined the fire had been set deliberately. Aleph International, a subsidiary of Japan-based Nippon Aleph Corp., manufactures sensors, relays and switches for use in the electronics, automotive and security industries.

#### **SCHOOL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: A fire that destroyed a school gymnasium in Las Vegas caused an estimated \$2.5 million in damage and has prompted federal authorities to lend their assistance to

the investigation. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' National Response Team is joining the Las Vegas City Fire Department to investigate yesterday's fire at Roy Martin Middle School. There's no word yet on what started the blaze, and federal authorities say they are helping to process a very large scene. The fire began late yesterday afternoon. Children participating in a city summer programme were at the school when the fire began, but no injuries were reported. The intensity of the fire caused the gym's roof to collapse. About 75 firefighters worked to extinguish the blaze, which caused a huge plume of smoke visible from across the Las Vegas valley.

#### **STORAGE & LUBRICANT TERMINAL, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jul 2 -- A huge fire broke out in storage and lubricant manufacturing terminal facility of state owned oil marketing company - Pakistan State Oil (PSO) near National Refinery at Korangi Industrial Area in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan tonight. According to central fire brigade sources, all the fire brigades of the Karachi Port, Pakistan Navy and other stations have been called in to help extinguish the fire, which is still burning and feared may engulf whole plant if not doused soon. About twenty vehicles are presently trying to control the fire. Police and Rangers have cordoned off the whole area. No immediate reason behind the fire incident is known. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **THEATRE WORKSHOP, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 1, states: A \$2 million major alarm fire gutted the Berkeley Repertory Theatre's 1230 Fifth St. workshop yesterday night despite the best efforts of Berkeley and Albany firefighters. The blaze was reported about 1930 hrs, and went to two alarms eight minutes later. A third alarm followed 20 minutes after that. By the time the fire was contained at 2142 hrs, every piece of firefighting in equipment in Berkeley and Albany was on hand, two additional Berkeley firefighting crews had been called up and two firefighters had sustained injuries. The 7,500-square-foot structure near the corner of Fifth and Gilman streets, had been home for 15 years to the craftsfolk who create the sets for Berkeley Rep's production. Tony Taccone, the theater company's artistic direction, said hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of carpentry, metalworking and painting equipment were lost in the flames which billowed as high as 30 feet from the roof during the peak of the fire. While firefighters were unable to save the contents of the theatre shop, the efforts prevented the spread of flames to adjacent businesses. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation, and Berkeley Rep has begun the search for new quarters.

#### **WAREHOUSE, PADDOCK WOOD, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A huge fire that tore through a warehouse in Kent was tackled by about 100 firefighters. Crews from both Kent and East Sussex were called to Paddock Wood after the fire started at the warehouse owned by Whirlpool this afternoon. At its height a thick plume of black smoke was visible for up to 30 miles. It is not thought anyone was injured. Roads were closed off and train services from nearby Paddock Wood station were cancelled. Fire crews were called to the warehouse on an industrial estate at Transfesa Road at about 1615, BST. The building contained electrical appliances and people at the scene reported hearing a series of explosions as appliances blew up in the heat. There were fears gas cylinders stored in the building could also explode. The thick smoke could be seen up to 30 miles away and was clearly visible in Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Ashford. The fire had been brought under control by about 1830, BST. The warehouse was left burnt out and with its metal frame twisted. Assistant Chief Officer Bill Welch, of Kent Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We're stopping people getting too close, the dangers for us are the cylinders inside the building and around the back. Our concern is for those but also the collapse of the building when we're working there and also the environmental impact it's had on surrounding people." This evening road closures around the fire scene were causing disruption and train services were expected to be affected by the closure of the station, yards from the warehouse, until tomorrow morning.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: A warehouse depot nearly a quarter of a mile long is beginning to collapse after being destroyed by fire. Flames swept through the Whirlpool distribution centre in Paddock Wood, Kent, yesterday afternoon. Parts of the building were still alight today. At its height a thick plume of black smoke was visible for up to 40 miles. Thirty firefighters were still at the scene today damping down outside the building. No crews were inside the building which was starting to crumble. Greg Theophanides, a spokesman for Kent Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The building has been cordoned off because the structure is not safe. Firefighting action at the moment is confined to damping down hot spots outside the building because it is not safe to put firefighters into the building." He said emergency teams would talk to Whirlpool about what the next stage would be for the depot site. About 100 firefighters from Kent and East Sussex tackled the fire at the warehouse which contained appliances like washing machines and refrigerators to be despatched across the country. A dense blanket of smoke covered the

town after the fire started on the industrial estate at Transfesa Road at about 1615, BST. People reported hearing a series of explosions as appliances blew up in the heat. There were fears gas cylinders stored in the building could also explode. Emergency teams said firefighters worked throughout the night to control the blaze. No-one was injured. Train services on the nearby Paddock Wood to Maidstone West line were still suspended today.

#### **WILDFIRE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters from Texas and Mexico spent the yesterday battling a lightning-sparked blaze on the Caldwell Ranch in Fort Davis County that was expected to grow to about 1,000 acres by early today. Two Texas Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopters were being used to dump water on the Three Points fire, which stood at about 300 acres last night. The fire was about four to six miles away from the McDonald Observatory, said Ron Perry, a spokesman for the Texas Forest Service. The fire began Saturday (Jul 2) night and smoke from the blaze caused the observatory and its visitors center to close Sunday. The fire was one of several to break out over the weekend in West Texas. Perry said the Winery fire that consumed between 1,000 to 1,500 acres east of Fort Stockton was extinguished early Sunday. A lightning strike caused a 500-acre fire on Chinati Peak south of Marfa, he said.

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The 12,000 acre Blue Springs Fire in south-western Utah was contained yesterday and the 11,000 acre Diamond Complex Fire remains at 95% percent containment. It is expected to be fully contained today. Many firefighters were still on duty last night to handle any blazes started by fireworks.

#### **WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: Southern California firefighters battled wildland blazes in Orange County and in the San Bernardino National Forest today. The Orange County blaze spread over 200 acres of grassland near Chino Hills State Park, said Polly Bowen, a spokeswoman for the county Fire Authority. The fire was reported shortly after 1400 hrs and the cause was unknown. Firefighters from Anaheim, Chino Hills and Brea were helping county crews tackle the blaze. No injuries were reported and no homes were threatened, Bowen said. In the San Bernardino National Forest, an 80-acre fire burning in stands of trees forced the evacuation of children from a campground, officials said. The fire was reported at 1518 hrs in the Barton Flats campground area, said Norma Bailey, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Forest Service. Parts of Highway 38 were closed and an evacuation center was set up at Yucaipa High School, Bailey



said. Fifteen fire engines, two helicopters and nine hand crews were assigned to the blaze. Ten fire engines also were dispatched to protect structures in the area, Bailey said. There were no injuries reported and the cause of the fire was under investigation.

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: A total of 23 wildfires ignited yesterday in Colorado. Today, crews had them under control. One at the Rio Blanco River near Pagosa Springs has burned 650 acres in the San Juan National Forest. Fire crews are letting the fire run its course in order to burn up dry brush and leaves. Officials say that tactic will help to prevent future fires and reserve resources.



#### 5N-COO

London, July 1 -- Fokker 100, 5N-COO, operator IRS Airlines, with six crew and 85 passengers on board, departed Lagos-Murtala Muhammed Airport at 1220, June 29 on a domestic flight to Abuja and Kano. The flight was 75 nautical miles from Lagos when it developed hydraulic problems so the crew decided to return to Lagos. The landing on runway 19L was uneventful until the crew attempted to steer the plane off the runway. At that moment the starboard main landing gear collapsed. There were no fatalities.

#### ACCIDENT, GOMA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jul 1 -- A Russian-made commercial aircraft had crash-landed in the eastern Congo, a United Nations spokeswoman said yesterday. The Antonov 26, belonging to the small commercial carrier Mango Airlines, crash-landed on Wednesday (Jun 29) on a runway near the city of Goma, after its landing gear failed. The aircraft skidded off the runway and stopped 10m from nearby houses. The eight passengers aboard were shaken, but no injuries were reported.

#### ACCIDENT, SIKORSKIY MEMORIAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Emergency crews were on the scene of an accident involving an aircraft at Sikorsky Memorial Airport late today. Authorities tell News Channel 8 a Cessna aircraft overshot the runway as it was coming in for a landing around 2230 hrs. The aircraft suffered damage to the propeller and right wing. According to Bridgeport Fire Department officials two people were on board the aircraft. They were not injured, police said.

#### AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO CINCINNATI/NORTHERN KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 3 -- A press report, dated Jul 2, states: Delta Air Lines aircraft had to come back after take-off from Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport Friday afternoon (Jul 1), reports said. Flight 1661 to Portland returned because the cabin did not reach pressurization, Delta said. Ambulances were standing by. After landing around 1800, three people were examined at the airport, but no one was taken to a hospital. Delta officials said there were 183 passengers on board and six crew members. Passengers were cold, but there were no injuries. All passengers were rebooked on a new aircraft scheduled to take-off at about 2030. The aircraft will have to be recertified by the Federal Aviation Administration before it can fly again.

#### C-FACV

London, Jul 5 -- Canada Jazz flight JZA8125, a DeHavilland DH8C, C-FACV, was holding on L4 taxiway, behind a CanJet 737, a MYTRAVEL A330, G-MDBD, operating as MYT010 was taxiing to runway 08R, via Lima taxiway at Vancouver, International Airport, British Columbia, at 1423, PDT, Jul 3. As MYT010 passed behind JZA8125 a wingtip struck the tail of the DHC8. Both aircraft were damaged and returned to the apron.

#### CRASH, CHARLOTTE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 5 -- A press report from Charlotte, dated today, states: Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration were searching yesterday for the cause of the crash of a small aircraft that left the pilot in critical condition, police said. The Vermont State Police identified the pilot as Cameron Brown of Washington, Conn., the only person aboard when the single-engine, two-seat aircraft went down shortly before 1700, Sunday (Jul 3). The aircraft had just taken off from a small, private airfield when it lost power and hit trees as it came down, police said.

#### CRASH, CLEVEDON, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men have survived a light plane crash at Clevedon, southeast of Auckland. The plane was a Cessna 172 from the Ardmore Flying School and it became submerged at the mouth of the Wairoa River. However, police were able to rescue the pilot and passenger. Flying school general manager Craig Hunter said neither of the two men on board were hurt, apart from a few bruises. Hunter said the men were flying in a low flying area and were hit by a flock of birds, possibly ducks.

#### CRASH, JACKSON'S MILL, LEWIS COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A helicopter crashed at

Jackson's Mill air strip, Lewis County, just before 1100 today as it tried to take off, but engine trouble brought it straight to the ground. As soon as the helicopter crashed the engine caught on fire. The pilot got out of the helicopter immediately as the fire quickly got out of control. It destroyed the helicopter. "He got approximately 10 ft off the ground and came back down," says Assistant State Fire Marshal Edsel Smith. "He then noticed a small fire and tried to extinguish it himself but was unable to." Police say the pilot was planning to attempt practice manoeuvres. The Federal Aviation Administration will be investigating the crash.

#### CRASH, KUNUNURRA AREA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Northern Territory police say early investigations indicate a helicopter that crashed in remote bushland near the Western Australian border last night may have clipped a tree. Police believe the tail rotor may have touched a tree and thrown the helicopter into an unrecoverable spin, sending it crashing to the ground on Waterloo Station, about 140 kilometres from Kununurra. The pilot and passenger on board are employees of the station and were mustering cattle at the time. The 30-year-old pilot has suffered minor chest injuries while the 21-year-old passenger has some bruising. Police and an ambulance were dispatched from Kununurra but due to the remoteness of the area, they were unable to reach the men for several hours. Timber Creek police camped at the site last night and will continue their investigations today.

#### CRASH, MARBLE AREA, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

See N44269.

#### CRASH, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: The Federal Aviation Administration confirmed that a pilot was killed this afternoon after his twin-engine plane crashed at the University of Oklahoma's Max Westheimer Airport in Norman. Robert Spector, of Norman, died after his Piper PA-34 clipped the second floor of the terminal building and crashed on the ground below. Norman fire officials said that no injuries were reported on the ground. FAA officials said Spector was arriving on a solo flight from Austin, Texas, in a plane registered to Norman-based NDI Airplanes. According to a witness at the scene, the pilot was apparently trying to correct the plane's positioning before he hit the building. Cameron Quetone, who works at Ozzie's Diner inside the terminal facility, said he heard the engine stop just before the small plane hit the corner of the building. The aircraft crashed in front of the east wall of the terminal after it clipped the northeast



corner of the building, Quetone said. Norman emergency crews were investigating at the scene late today. National Transportation Safety Board and FAA officials were also expected to arrive at the airport, which is used frequently by small charter, corporate and university aircraft.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING CHUBU, JAPAN**

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Continental Micronesia plane made an emergency landing yesterday at Chubu Centrair International Airport near Nagoya due to trouble in its hydraulic system, but no one was injured, airport officials said. Flight 975, bound for Chubu airport from Guam with 160 crew members and passengers on board, developed the hydraulic trouble at 1935 hrs, when it was flying 20 kilometres north of the airport, the officials said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated Jul 6, states: A Glasgow-bound aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing at Bristol International Airport today. The alarm was raised when smoke was detected in the baggage hold of the British Airways aircraft shortly after it took off from Bristol. The captain set off the plane's on board fire extinguishers to avert a possible blaze before turning the plane around. Twelve fire engines were called to the airport as a precaution, but the plane landed safely. All 17 passengers and the crew on board the flight were uninjured, and were put onto another plane and sent on their way shortly afterwards. No other flights are believed to have been delayed. In a statement, British Airways apologised to passengers for the delay, and added: "Safety is always our first priority. Our pilots are highly trained and followed established procedures on this occasion." Bristol Airport said: "Passengers on the flight were transferred to another plane to continue their journey."

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, CHANGBEI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NANCHANG, CHINA**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A China Eastern aircraft bound for Shanghai with 94 passengers on board was forced into an emergency landing yesterday afternoon, seven minutes after taking-off from the Nanchang Changbei International Airport. The aircraft had collided with a flying bird, the Shanghai Morning Post reported. No casualties were reported. Flight MU5568 took off at 1346 but reported abnormal readings accompanied by irregular noises and jet shaking one minute later when it rose to about 100 metres, the same report said. The jet made an emergency landing at the Changbei airport at 1352. The emergency forced China Eastern flight MU2765 from Guiyang to Nanchang to circle in the sky, and land 10 minutes

behind schedule. Over 50 of the 94 passengers on board took the following flight MU5566 to Shanghai. The rest boarded another aircraft China Eastern had dispatched from Shanghai for the emergency. An initial check indicates that the Shanghai-bound jet had problems with an engine vane which was deformed probably due to being hit by a flying bird. The aircraft is being repaired and an investigation is still going on.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, HAWKE'S BAY AIRPORT, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: The pilot and one passenger of an Air Napier light aircraft walked away unscathed after an emergency landing at Hawke's Bay Airport just after 0845, this morning. As the airport's emergency tender and two fire service appliances stood by, the pilot carried out a text-book wheels-up landing after earlier discovering the nose-wheel would not extend. Air Napier manager Gary Peacock said the pilot, whom he described as very experienced, discovered the fault as he was going into Wairoa. The flight had left Palmerston North early this morning but had to over-fly Napier because of fog conditions. The pilot called Mr Peacock and told him he had a problem with the nose wheel. "He had plenty of fuel on board so we kept him out over the bay," Mr Peacock said, adding that he had time on his side for the fog to clear. He also chose to bring the aircraft to Napier rather than Wairoa or Gisborne because of the emergency services available. After gaps in the fog opened, and with emergency vehicles in place, the pilot brought the twin-engine aircraft in slowly and touched down on the grass in front of the tower and well away from the main runway. The aircraft slid to a stop after about 150 metres and the pilot and passenger stepped out. A mobile heavy lifting crane was on the scene within about 30 minutes to remove the Piper Seneca for inspection. Mr Peacock said the major damage was to the propeller blades, which were bent back. He was not sure of the full extent of the damage or how long the aircraft would be out of service.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, RALEIGH-DURHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Jet Blue aircraft on its way to Florida made an emergency landing at Raleigh-Durham International Airport this morning. It happened at about 0930, local time. The pilot of an A-320 Air Bus reported that passengers requested a landing because of an odour in the aircraft. Spokesperson Mindy Hamlin said the landing was safe and the aircraft was checked out in the airport's General Aviation area. The aircraft will continue on its flight to JFK West Palm Beach when the aircraft refuels.

Jet Blue does not serve Raleigh-Durham International.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, WICKENBURG, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine air tanker helping to fight a brush fire near Tonopah made an emergency landing yesterday evening in a remote desert area near Wickenburg. Authorities say the pilot escaped injury. A search and rescue team from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office found the pilot walking along a road. As a precaution, he was taken to a nearby hospital for a medical evaluation. The pilot's identity was not immediately released. Authorities say he was the only person aboard the Arizona-based air tanker. The aircraft was en route to Wickenburg Airport when the pilot issued a mayday distress call about 1940 hrs. A spokesman for the Arizona State Land Department says the pilot "apparently lost power" and was forced to put the aircraft down.

#### **FLIGHTS DELAYED, HALIFAX, CANADA**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Airlines flying out of the Halifax International Airport hope to be back on schedule, after weather and runway renovations caused two days of delays and cancellations. CanJet, Continental and American Eagle all operated extra flights yesterday morning, while Air Canada used bigger aircraft and added more flights in the early afternoon. The problems began Friday (Jul 1), when heavy fog rolled into Halifax. For two days, flights were either cancelled, delayed or diverted to Moncton, N.B., because runway upgrades meant the airport's instrument landing systems weren't working. Without the guidance systems, pilots could not land safely in the poor visibility. The fog was clear by yesterday morning, and aircraft began moving again, but the renovations mean similar problems will occur over the next three weeks whenever heavy fog rolls in.

#### **FLIGHTS DIVERTED DUE TO FOG, SEATTLE-TACOMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The approach lights at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport went out this morning while the runways were shrouded in heavy fog, forcing 21 incoming flights to be diverted. No flights landed at Sea-Tac for nearly two hours, said airport spokesman Bob Parker. Some flights were held on the ground at their point of origin, while others were diverted to Bellingham, Wenatchee, Portland, Ore., and Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia. Arrivals resumed after the fog lifted. The lights went out after a part failed, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer. The part was expected to be replaced later in the day.

**G-MDBD**

See C-FACV.

**INCIDENT AT PORT HARCOURT AIRPORT, NIGERIA**

Paris, Jul 6 -- An Air France passenger jet with more than 190 people on board struck a cow shortly after landing at the coastal city of Port Harcourt, a spokeswoman for the airline said today. The jet hit the animal which had strayed onto the runway shortly after the regular flight landed with 196 passengers on board. "The plane hit the cow after landing but there is absolutely no problem. Nobody was hurt," a spokeswoman said. -- Reuters.

**INCIDENT AT SIEM REAP AIRPORT, CAMBODIA**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: An airport near Cambodia's famed Angkor temples was closed today after a Vietnam Airlines jet overshot a runway in foul weather and ploughed into a nearby field, a manager at the facility said. None of the 98 people on board the Airbus A320 from Ho Chi Minh City was injured in the accident yesterday evening at Siem Reap International Airport. However, the plane lodged into the ground and the facility must remain closed for about a day until the plane is dragged out of the way, the airport manager said. The plane "ran off the runway after landing in adverse weather conditions", according to a statement from Mr Khék Norinda, manager of Cambodia Airport Management Services, which operates the airport. "The entire aircraft is stuck into the ground and experts are on the field to remove the A320 by lifting it up and dragging it back on the runway." Ten flights, eight of them international, were cancelled late yesterday and the airport was closed until further notice, he added. Mr Mao Has Vannal, the head of Cambodia's civil aviation authority, said authorities were launching an investigation into why the aircraft failed to stop and ended up 50m from the runway.

**INCIDENT AT VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CANADA**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Air Canada has taken a Dash-8 out of service after it clipped wings with a UK bound Airbus yesterday. The incident happened as both aircraft were taxiing for take-off at the Vancouver International Airport. The Transportation Safety Board is awaiting a report from My Travel to help determine if any safety protocols were breached prior to the accident. The much larger My Travel flight was inspected and allowed to fly to Manchester, England, after inspectors determined the damage was only minor.

**N14532**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed in a remote area of Summerville,

sending both passengers to the hospital. The aircraft crashed around 1500 yesterday afternoon, near Hodge Road and Thorpe Drive. The aircraft had just taken off from the Summerville Airport. One victim is in critical condition and the other is stable.

London, Jul 6 -- Aeronca C-3, N14532, crashed near Summerville, South Carolina, at 1900, Jul 4, while on a local flight from Summerville. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board was seriously injured.

**N1621U**

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated Jul 5, states: The wreckage of a small plane missing since Friday (Jul 1) was found about 175 miles south of Anchorage, and the bodies of the three men who were on board have been recovered, state troopers said today. The Cessna 207 crashed on the north side of West Amatuli Island between Seldovia and the north end of Kodiak Island, troopers said. A Coast Guard search team spotted the wreckage late this morning, and an Alaska Air National Guard search and rescue team recovered the bodies a few hours later. The search began Sunday (Jul 3) after the wife of John Phillips, 63, of Columbia, S.C., reported her husband had not checked in with her as expected, troopers said. The other two men on board the plane were James P. Leverett, 50, of Charleston, S.C., and Ken O'Connor, 77, of Charlotte, N.C. The men were licensed pilots who rented the 1973 white Cessna from Merrill Field in Anchorage to tour Alaska. Searchers believe the men took off Friday afternoon on what was supposed to be a short flight from Homer in the Kenai Peninsula. Conditions were good at the time for low-level flying, the National Weather Service said. The cause and time of the crash are under investigation.

London, Jul 6 -- Cessna T207 (Skywagon), N1621U, crashed on Amatuli Island, Alaska, Jul 1. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

**N2056W**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated Jul 3, states: A single-engine Beechcraft V35 plane crashed today in a swampy area of the Florida Panhandle, killing the pilot and injuring his teenage son, officials said. The identities of the victims weren't immediately released. "We don't know where they were going or where they were coming from," said Lt. Frank Owens, spokesman for the Walton County Sheriff's Office. "They were just passing over our county." The teenager was airlifted to Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. Doctors said he was in stable condition, Owens said. The plane crashed at 1212 hrs, near a swampy area in north Walton County, and local residents helped locate the crash site. The airplane was registered to John D. Yates of Friendswood, Texas. Federal

Aviation Administration records show Allen Dale was listed as another owner of the plane. Holly Baker, FAA spokeswoman, said the circumstances of the crash were unknown, but that the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board would investigate.

London, Jul 6 -- Beechcraft Bonanza V35, N2056W, crashed into a swamp near Defuniak Springs, Florida, at 1711, Jul 3, while on a flight from Houston, Texas, to Panama City, FL. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other suffered minor injuries.

**N21835**

London, Jul 1 -- Piper PA-32RT (Cherokee Six), N21835, operated by Delta Sales Company, while on a flight from Kansas City, Missouri, to Wichita, Missouri, with one person on board, on departing runway 21, Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport, Kansas City, at 1035, UTC, Jun 30, made contact with levy, located off end of the runway, and crash landed on the south side of the levy. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot suffered minor injuries.

**N3211R**

London, Jul 6 -- Rockwell S-2R, N3211R, crashed near Bristol, South Dakota, at 1330, Jul 5. The one person on board was killed.

**N403CF**

London, Jul 1 -- Agusta A119 (Koala), N403CF, operated by Tri State Care Flight LLC, while on an air ambulance flight from Durango La Plata County Airport, Colorado, with three persons on board, crashed at 2002, UTC, Jun 30, approximately 30 miles west of Durango La Plata airport. All three persons on board died. Damage to aircraft unknown.

**N4200N**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Piper PA 31, (N4200N) made a crash landing while attempting to take off from the Fort Payne Municipal Airport at 0830, today. The pilot and his passenger were injured. Fort Payne Police Chief David Walker said the aircraft, a twin engine aircraft, lifted into the air then fell to the ground. He said the aircraft slid sideways, ran off the runway and caught fire. The pilot, 24-year-old Ryan Carter of Sylvania and the passenger, 57-year-old Mike Stetson of Scottboro were able to get out of the aircraft before the flames spread. The two men were injured, but the nature of their injuries is not immediately known. They are being treated at Baptist Medical Center-Dekalb. Walker said the aircraft sustained extensive damage and is owned by Rainsville-based Waste Processing Equipment. He said the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

London, Jul 1 -- Piper PA-31P, N4200N, operated by Billy J. Traylor, while on a flight from Fort Payne,



Alabama, to Gulfport, Mississippi, with one person on board, while departing runway 22, Isbell Field Airport, at 1316, UTC, Jun 30, lost an engine, the wing dipped and aircraft cartwheeled to west side of the runway. The aircraft was substantially damaged and fire was reported. The pilot suffered minor injuries.

#### **N4386G**

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A single-engine plane crashed near the Grand Rapids-Itasca County Airport shortly before 1800 hrs, today, killing the pilot, the plane's only occupant. The pilot was pronounced dead at Grand Itasca Hospital in Grand Rapids. His name was not released. The crash is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

London, Jul 6 -- Piper PA-46-310P (Malibu), N4386G, crashed near Grand Rapids, Minnesota (not Michigan as before reported), at 2300, Jul 4. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N44269**

London, Jun 30 -- Taylorcraft Model BC12-D, N44269, crashed near Marble, Colorado, at 1950, Jun 29. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N686T**

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated Jul 1, states: A light aircraft with five people on board crashed and sank this evening off the south tip of Lopez Island in the San Juans, the Coast Guard said. One person was deceased, one was missing and two were seriously injured, Coast Guard Lt. Matthew Michaelis of Seattle said. The fifth person on board, a 17-year-old girl, swam to shore and made her way to a nearby house to get help, Petty Officer Kurt Fredrickson said. She suffered only minor injuries. One of the injured was being airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle while a Coast Guard helicopter was taking another to St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Fredrickson said. No identifications were immediately available. The Coast Guard cutter Wahoo continued searching in the area where the aircraft went down. The aircraft, a Beech 55, reportedly was en route to Friday Harbor in the San Juans from Redmond, Ore., said Karen Byrd, a Federal Aviation Administration duty officer in the Seattle suburb of Renton. Mike Reed of Sisters, Ore., reached by telephone tonight, said he was the owner of the aircraft but declined to discuss the crash.

London, Jul 6 -- Beechcraft Baron E55, N686T, crashed into the sea off Lopez Island, Washington, at 1555, Jul 2, while on a flight to Friday Harbor, WA. Two of the five persons on board were killed, two were seriously injured and one suffered minor injuries.

#### **N8626V**

London, Jul 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Anchorage pilot and his passenger narrowly escaped injury when their single-engine aircraft ran out of fuel over Prince William Sound early Saturday night (Jul 2) and crash-landed in a marsh east of Whittier. Matthew Gallagher and his wife, Monica, barely made it to land, Coast Guard Petty Officer Christopher McLaughlin said. "They ran out of gas about 100 yards out and just made it to shore," he said. "But he got lucky and found a clearing." The two had taken a 1975 Bellanca wheel-plane for a flight over the Sound on Saturday but got disoriented and ran low on fuel as they tried to return to Anchorage, according to the Coast Guard. The pilot made a smart move when he radioed the Federal Aviation Administration flight service station in Juneau around 2000 to explain their predicament, McLaughlin said. The FAA notified the Coast Guard, but a Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Kodiak was in the area on a routine training mission and had overheard the radio call, McLaughlin said. The helicopter crew used the aircraft's direction-finding equipment to home in on the Bellanca. Gallagher had told the FAA he had seen a cruise ship. When the helicopter crew saw the ship below them, McLaughlin said, "they knew they were getting close." After 20 to 30 minutes of searching, the helicopter located the Bellanca and began escorting it toward Whittier. But seven miles east of Whittier and about 100 yards from shore, the aircraft's engine sputtered out, McLaughlin said. The helicopter crew watched Gallagher crash-land in a marsh near the beach, McLaughlin said. The Jayhawk immediately set down nearby, but when crew members reached the aircraft they found the Gallaghers uninjured, he said. "He was just a good pilot and was able to crash it to where they landed without injury," McLaughlin said. The Gallaghers were flown to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, then driven home. The aircraft, which is owned by Alaska Star Flying Club LLC, was badly damaged, according to the FAA. The aircraft was not insured for damage, according to club member Bob Griffin of Eagle River.

London, Jul 6 -- Bellanca 7GCAA, N8626V, crashed near Whittier, Alaska, at 0430, Jul 3. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were not injured.

#### **S2-ADN**

London, Jul 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Biman Bangladesh Airlines DC-10 aircraft with 202 passengers on board from Dubai caught fire after it was forced to make a belly-landing in Chittagong today, officials said. A child suffered head injuries while three other passengers sustained slight scrapes during an emergency evacuation, Ahsan Hossain Kazi, a spokesman for the national carrier, said, adding that fire was

quickly doused. The Biman flight had originated in Dubai and was making a stopover in Chittagong on its way to Dhaka when the accident occurred around 0845 hrs, 0245, GMT, Biman traffic officer Apurba Dewan said. "All 202 passengers disembarked safely from the aircraft," he said. "The tail and wing of the aircraft caught fire after its two right-sided wheels broke up, forcing the aircraft to make a belly-landing outside the runway of the airport," said Moshrraf Hussain an airport security officer. The pilot activated the emergency doors and all passengers disembarked safely within 20 minutes, he added. Officials said the pouring rain had hampered the spread of the fire which was quickly put out by the fire brigade. Airport and airforce security officers cordoned off the damaged aircraft. "We have launched an investigation into the accident. Flight operations have been suspended from the airport and we are waiting for more details," the Biman spokesman said.

London, July 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 10 passengers of a Biman Bangladesh Airlines DC10 (S2-ADN) received minor injuries in an accident at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport this morning, report agencies. Sources said one of the rear wheels of the aircraft, carrying some 200 passengers from Dubai, deflated and caught fire about 0830 hrs while landing at the airport. The aircraft skidded off the rain-soaked runway by about 200 feet. The fire, however, could not spread due to rain. Ten passengers were injured slightly while trying to come out quickly from the aircraft out of panic. The injured persons were released after first aid at the medical care unit of the airport. The remaining passengers of the aircraft were rescued to safety. Of the passengers, 167 were to disembark in Chittagong and rest 33 in Dhaka. The Dhaka-bound passengers are being sent by road, said the official. Meanwhile, a five-member committee has been formed to probe into the accident. Habibullah, Director (flight safety) of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), will head the committee. The aircraft is now caught up in a muddy ground, starboard wing broken, said a Biman official. Mohammad Selim, pilot of the aircraft, said that he at first landed the plane on the runway and later took it to the muddy ground to avoid fire spreading as some of its engine parts fell apart. "If I had not taken the aircraft to the muddy ground, there could have been a fire." Authorities soon after the accident suspended operation of the airport for two days. Seventeen flights of Biman and GMG Airlines in international and domestic routes have been cancelled. The DC-10 will take over six months to fly again after necessary repairs. Officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines made the observation after a preliminary investigation and assessing the extent of damage of the aircraft. Sources at the engineering



department of the carrier said the starboard engine of the aircraft was fully damaged while the starboard wing is broken. Managing Director of Biman, Mahmudur Rahman said that the engineering department of the airlines was working to assess the extent of the damage. The Bangladesh Biman Airlines took the aircraft from a French company named 'Pegasus' on lease. The DC-10 has an insurance of US\$ 15 million. Though civil aviation and Biman have adequate equipment, assistance has been sought from army, railway and Chittagong port to salvage the aircraft. An army team has started their operation at the Shah Amanat International Airport.

Chittagong, July 3 -- DC-10, S2-ADN, operator Biman Bangladesh Airlines, and owned by Olympic, France, skidded off the runway at Chittagong July 1. Salvage operations of the aircraft commenced 1100 yesterday and which will be undertaken in two phases: The aircraft will be removed to west end side, 150 ft. from runway, and then to dismantle different damaged portion of the aircraft, as necessary. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Jul 6 -- Bangladesh state owned airlines Biman said that salvage of the DC-10 (S2-ADN) aircraft that had an accident at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport last Friday (Jul 1) is expected to be completed today. It will be shifted to a special platform constructed for this purpose 150 feet away from the runway. The aircraft might be declared scrapped after submission of the investigation report to the authority, aviation experts feared. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Product Recalls



### CHOCOLATE BARS, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: New South Wales police say interim tests on a poisoned Snickers bar that was sent to its manufacturer with a warning has revealed the contaminant may be pest poison. Masterfoods recalled all Snickers and Mars bars from shelves in New South Wales last Friday (Jul 1) after the company received a letter saying seven of them had been poisoned. Police say test results on a bar sent with the letter are inconclusive but the contaminant looks like a type of commercially available pest poison. Masterfoods says more than 80 people have reported feeling ill after eating its Mars and Snickers bars. Masterfoods says a 15-year-old boy bought a Snickers bar at Seven Hills train station in Sydney's west yesterday and has since reported feeling ill. But Mr Weston-Webb says it is difficult to tell if people's symptoms are the result of eating the chocolate. "Yesterday, we had 29 reporting the same sort of

variety of symptoms as we've had before - we've had headaches, people feeling sick, stomach upsets but no real patterns that help with the investigation," he said. Mr Weston-Webb the number of people reporting Mars and Snickers bars still on the shelves has dropped.

### CHOCOLATE BARS, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people who ate Mars and Snickers chocolate bars are recovering after becoming ill with stomach complaints as the bars' manufacturer steps up efforts to remove all the products from stores across New South Wales. MasterFoods ordered a recall on Friday (Jul 1) of thousands of Mars and Snickers, two of its most popular products, after receiving a letter claiming seven of them had been contaminated. The letter threatening to poison a member of the public was one of such three such letters sent to MasterFoods' head office at Ballarat in Victoria since Jun 8. The previous two letters contained threats against a Sydney company, which has not been named. NSW police would not say whether the letters were handwritten or typed, but said they were addressed only to MasterFoods. It is not known where they were posted from. MasterFoods regional president Andy Weston-Webb said yesterday the company's hotline had received up to 2000 calls since Friday and 19 people had complained of feeling ill after eating the bars. Two people complaining of vomiting went to a Sydney hospital but were not admitted, he said. "They told me that they were starting to feel better and that they had been to hospital and that they hadn't been admitted," Mr Weston-Webb said. "We do need to investigate whether there is a pattern. It's possible it has been linked to this. It's of course possible that it isn't: People do fall ill for a variety of reasons." Efforts to remove the chocolate bars were stepped up at the weekend, with MasterFoods contacting more than 6000 retailers and removing more than 4000 charity boxes from NSW organisations. It focused yesterday on removing the bars from vending machines and continued a publicity campaign with full-page advertisements in major newspapers. Mr Weston-Webb said his company did not know why it had been caught up in the contamination threat, but believed Snickers and Mars bars had been chosen at random. He would not give details about the targeted Sydney company, the nature of the threats contained in the letters or how much money MasterFoods might lose from the recall.

London, Jul 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Another threatening letter has been sent to Masterfoods, the maker of the Mars and Snickers chocolate bars that have been taken off the shelves in New South Wales because of contamination fears. The latest letter comes after the interim tests results on a poisoned Snickers bar, which sparked a recall of the

products in New South Wales, were released. Police say that interim tests on a poisoned Snickers bar which was sent to the company shows that the contaminant may be a commercially-available pest poison. Masterfoods president Andy Weston-Webb says the letter arrived in the post at the company's headquarters in Victoria. "We received another letter from the extortionist yesterday at our Ballarat office and we immediately passed it to the police," he said. "The extortion threat remains against a third party in Sydney. The new letter did not require us to change our course of action. We are continuing to withdraw product from shelves, to collect it in a secure place and we will start destruction tomorrow." He says about 30 people called the company's helpline yesterday complaining of feeling ill. It is believed that the letter has been sent by the same extortionist who claims to have contaminated seven chocolate bars in the Sydney area.

### EXERCISE BENCHES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jul 1 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, today announced a voluntary recall of about 10,000 Nautilus NT 1020 Exercise Benches, manufactured by Daytona Fitness Co., of Xiamen, China, and imported by Nautilus Inc., of Vancouver, Wash. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A weld on the bench frame under the seat can crack and separate from the main frame, allowing the bench to collapse and the user to fall and suffer injuries. Nautilus has received four reports of the main pivot separating from the exercise bench's main frame. No injuries have been reported. The Nautilus NT 1020 is a free-standing exercise bench typically used for free weight workouts. It is comprised of a white steel base with wheels on one end, with a black vinyl bench and back support. The fronts of both the white base and the black vinyl back support are stamped with the name "Nautilus." A tag affixed to the reverse side of the back support includes "Distributed by Nautilus/Schwinn Fitness Group Inc." and "Made in China." At the bottom of the product's base, near its wheels, is a sticker that includes the words "Production Date Code" and a 4-digit number. The first three digits of the date code identify the day and the fourth digit identifies the year in which the unit was built. Units included in this recall have Production Date Codes from year 2002 that run between code numbers 1952 and 3652, and Production Date Codes from year 2003 that run between code numbers 0013 and 1903. Benches that are white in color and do not have a Production Date Code sticker also are included in this recall. Sold at specialty health and fitness stores nation-wide from November 2000 through January 2004 for between \$300 and \$400. Manufactured in China. Consumers

should stop using these exercise benches immediately and contact Nautilus to receive a free repair kit. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**LAWN TRACTORS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jul 6 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Transaxle Manufacturer: Tecumseh Power Co., of Grafton, Wis., today announced a voluntary recall of about 21,000 lawn tractors. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The axles on these lawn tractors can crack and break if subject

to extreme load amounts. Should the axle break, it could cause a loss of control and result in injuries to the rider. No incidents/injuries reported. These lawn tractors have a 6-speed MST206-545C Peerless transaxle and a 17.5, 18, 18.5 or 19 horsepower engine. Sold at home and hardware stores nation-wide from December 2004 through May 2005 for between \$750 and \$1,300. Transaxles manufactured in Brazil. Consumers should immediately stop using their lawn tractor, and contact Tecumseh for assistance in identifying affected units, and free repair if necessary. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Jul 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Motors Corp said yesterday it is recalling about 209,000 units of its Libero station wagon for free repairs due to defective mounting bolts in the tailgate, which the automaker said led to a user being injured last year. Subject to the recall are vehicles made between March 1992 and August 2002, Mitsubishi said in a recall notice to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Last September, a user sustained injuries to the neck when a loosened bolt caused the tailgate to fall over, the automaker said.

**Port Delays**

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	04-Jul-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 11 vessels due by 29/7; no delays.
Brisbane	04-Jul-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 17/7; up to 1 day's delay expected due to port congestion and cargo unavailability.
Dalrymple Bay	04-Jul-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 18 anchored; 35 vessels due by 4/8; 5-25 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	04-Jul-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems; some vessels will berth out of turn and berthing may change at short notice. Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 5 vessels due by 14/7; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; a 48 hour maintenance shutdown is scheduled from 13-15/7; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 13 vessels due by 17/7; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Esperance	04-Jul-2005	Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 11/7; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Geraldton	04-Jul-2005	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 2 vessels due by 16/7; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	04-Jul-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, of which 2 loading, 1 waiting; 4 vessels anchored; 33 vessels due by 31/7; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; terminal will be closed for shiploading activities for 4 days from 11/7 for maintenance; Barney Point: 1 vessel anchored; 6 vessels due by 27/7; up to 2 days delay expected due to port congestion and cargo unavailability.
Hay Point	04-Jul-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 8 vessels due by 11/7; up to 3 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability
Newcastle	04-Jul-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessel berthed and loading; 47 vessels due by 22/7; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 21 vessels due by 20/7; no unallocated vessels; 5-12 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	04-Jul-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 12/7; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; there will be a 60 hour maintenance shutdown starting ca. 5/7; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 5 vessels due by 14/7; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 2 vessels due by 9/7; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 5 vessels due by 14/7; no delays expected; there will be a 24 hour shutdown for shiploader repairs starting ca. 5/7.
Port Kembla	04-Jul-2005	Coal: 2 vessels awaiting cargoes; 15 vessels due by 15/7; up to 2 days delay expected; CB-1: 2 vessels due by 26/7; no delays expected. The second stage of the electrical repairs and maintenance programme will be carried out from 27/6 to 18/7; during this period, CB1 will be out of service.
Port Walcott	04-Jul-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 17 vessels due by 23/7; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn

**Port Conditions**

**Azerbaijan**

Apsheeron	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 jet fuel vessel due 2/7
Baku	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: no vessels; Sangachal district: 1 crude oil vessel due 3/7; Transserve terminal: closed

**Egypt**

Adabiya	04-Jul-2005	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 6 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 livestock vessel, 1 containers
Alexandria	04-Jul-2005	Thirty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 23 general cargo, 7 bulk carriers, 2 containers, 1 tanker; 16 vessels dry-docked; 31 vessels at inner anchorage, 4 at outer anchorage
Damietta	04-Jul-2005	Twenty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 12 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 Ro/Ro, 4 containers; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	04-Jul-2005	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 2 containers; no vessels at outer anchorage
Port Said	04-Jul-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 6 containers
Suez	04-Jul-2005	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 reefers, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs
Suez Canal	04-Jul-2005	Twenty-one vessels transiting Northbound, 32 Southbound

**Estonia**

Tallinn	04-Jul-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 soya bean vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with 6 days berthing delay expected.
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**Georgia**

Batumi	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 loading gasoil, 1 discharging gasoline; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil; 7 vessels due by 18/7, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 2 gasoil, 3 crude oil.
Poti	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel due 3/7 to load gasoil.
Supsa	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels due by 6/7, both to load crude oil

**India**

Kolkata	04-Jul-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 6 discharging (Containers-2, Timber Logs-2, General Cargo, Molasses), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under repair; 1 Containers vessel due.
Haldia	04-Jul-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron Ore-3, Thermal Coal), 5 vessels discharging (Crude, Coke-2, Rock Phosphate-2), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 8 vessels due (POL, Crude-2, Coke-2, Containers-3)
Paradip	04-Jul-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Iron Ore, Thermal Coal, Chrome Ore), 4 vessels discharging (Met Coke, NC Coal, Sulphur, Pet Coke); 2 vessels awaiting berth to load.
Visakhapatnam	04-Jul-2005	17 vessels operating at berth of which 7 loading (Steel Cargo, Met Ore, Soya, B.F. Slag-2, Thermal Coal, POL), 8 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Coke Fines, Steam Coal, POL, Urea-2, Pet Coke, Ammonium nitrate), 2 vessels loading and discharging Naptha; 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel (MV Jin An) waiting beyond break water; 28 vessels due (Iron ore-7, Steel, Soya Bean, C.P.Coke, Food Grains, Coking Coal-5, Rock Phosphate-2, Liquid Ammonia, Timber-2, POL-4, Lime Stone, Steam Coal-2).
Chennai	04-Jul-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Furnace Oil, Iron Ore, Granite Block), 9 vessels discharging (Timber Logs, Steel, Sulphur, S.Coal-2, Rock Phosphate, HM Scrap, Crude Oil, General Cargo), 4 vessels due (Containers-2, Timber Logs, Passenger).
Tuticorin	04-Jul-2005	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading General Cargo, 2 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Thermal Coal); 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	04-Jul-2005	3 vessels operating at berth loading and discharging (Containers, Cashew Shell Liquid, Palmolein); 1 vessel awaiting berth to load and discharge.
New Mangalore	04-Jul-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore (P), POL Product-2, Granite Stone), 3 vessels discharging (Cement, LPG, POL Crude); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 3 to load); 13 vessels due (Timber, POL Crude-3, POL Product, Iron ore (P), Fertilizer-2, Iron ore Fines, Granite Stone-2, Crude Palm Oil, Containers).
Mormugao	04-Jul-2005	1 vessels operating at berth and discharging Met Coke; 4 vessels under repairs; 7 vessels due (C.P.Coke, Coking Coal, Container, Iron Ore-4).
Mumbai	04-Jul-2005	15 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (General cargo-3, POL-2), 7 vessels discharging (General Cargo-6, Fertilizer (RM)); 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, General Cargo-2); 1 vessel working at mid stream to discharge Lauric/Myristic Acid; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 2 vessels awaiting order to load; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 15 vessels under repairs; 12 vessels under arrest, 24 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 21 vessels due (Containers-3, General Cargo-18).
J.N.P.T.	04-Jul-2005	5 vessels operating at berth to loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 8 Container vessels due.
Ennore	04-Jul-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel loading Iron Ore at Inner Anchorage at (Port Basin); 4 vessels due (Thermal coal-3, POL).



**Port Conditions**

Kandla	04-Jul-2005	16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 loading (Agriculture Product-2, Rice-2, Salt, P.Cargo, Benzene), 9 vessels discharging (Urea, I. Scrape, DAP, Timber Logs-2, Chemical, POL, CPO, SBO), 4 vessel awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels under repairs; 3 vessels due (DAP, Methanol, Furnace oil).
<b>Iran</b>		
Neka	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil; 2 vessels due by 2/7, both to discharge crude oil.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	04-Jul-2005	Port working normally. Five vessels berthed of which 4 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals/ore/cement, 1 vessel loading general cargo; 22 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 1 bulk carrier to discharge fertiliser, 4 bulk carriers to load coal/grain, 5 vessels to load sawn timber/timber products/general cargo, 2 Ro/Ros to load general cargo, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 reefer to discharge refrigerated goods, 1 tanker to discharge liquid chemicals.
<b>Spain</b>		
Sagunto	04-Jul-2005	Ten vessels in port operating of which 6 discharging (4 steel products, 1 vehicles, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 1 loading bulk fertiliser, 1 Ro/Ro discharging/loading general cargo, 2 vessels discharging/loading steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
<b>Turkenistan</b>		
Aladja	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil.
Turkmenibashi	01-Jul-2005	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, of which 2 completed loading (1 jet fuel, 1 naphtha), 2 loading (1 gasoil, 1 fuel oil); 13 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 gasoline, 2 fuel oil, 3 gasoil, 1 light gasoil, 1 kerosene, 3 unknown cargo, 1 heating oil, 1 crude oil.

**Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.**

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**ISSN 0047 4908**

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