

Lloyd's

Lloyd's Casualty Week contains information from worldwide sources of Marine, Non-Marine and Aviation casualties together with other reports relevant to the shipping, transport and insurance communities

CasualtyWeek

August 5 2005

Serious oil spill incidents continue to fall

Itopf echoes calls for more sunken wrecks to be emptied of oil by modern technology, writes Michael Grey - Friday August 05 2005

THE number of major spills occurring worldwide continues to fall, according to statistics just released by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation.

Writing in the Itopf annual report, which covers the 12-month period leading up to February 20 this year, chairman Helmut Sohmen reports on a case load of 22 pollution incidents attended by the Itopf teams, with no fewer than 13 of these involving vessels other than tankers.

While the number of incidents was relatively high, Dr Sohmen points out that none, in terms of pollution, was serious.

The most serious case involving the federation's staff was the explosion and destruction of the tanker Vicuna alongside in the Brazilian port of Paranagua, with the loss of four lives.

The bunkers trapped in the wreck, said Dr Sohmen, represented "a significant pollution threat". Federation staff were required on site for many months as the wreck was removed to advise on pollution response.

A further "long and costly" operation, said the Itopf chairman, was that of the Athos I, which was holed after striking an underwater obstruction in Delaware Bay last November.

While the spill volume was less than 1,300 tonnes, up to 1,700 spill responders were required for the clean-up, which extended to 320 km of river bank, of which

60 km was classed as moderately or seriously oiled.

Following the Everton incident, which involved a collision off the coast of Oman in which a small amount of crude oil was spilt, a request for the federation to improve the national contingency plan for the Gulf state was received.

It had also undertaken a wider review of oil spill response arrangements in the Middle East region for the US Navy.

In his report, Dr Sohmen also said that following the success of the Repsol consortium's recovery of oil from the tanker Prestige, which lay in two pieces

3,500 m down off the northwest coast of Galicia, there had been calls for more sunken wrecks to be emptied of oil as they were now within reach of modern technology.

There were, however, conflicting issues which required to be resolved, as it would be impractical to tackle every wreck while clearly "unwise" to ignore all those which began to leak.

Dr Sohmen suggests that a reasonable strategy is to concentrate on those wrecks "which pose a threat to sensitive economic and environmental resources and which can be emptied at a reasonable cost".

If you need casualty information urgently contact:

**Lloyd's
Casualty
REPORTING SERVICE**

**Andrew Luxton, Key Account Manager
Tel: +44 (0)20 7017 4625
Fax: +44 (0)20 7017 4763
Email: andrew.luxton@lloydsmiu.com**

www.lloydsmiu.com/lcrs



**EDITOR
Stephen Legall
Tel +44 020 7017 5228**

**ADVERTISEMENTS
Mike Smith
Tel +44 (0) 20 7017 4488
Fax +44 (0) 20 7017 5007
email mike.smith@lloydsmiu.com**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Peter Barker
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7017 4779
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7017 5007
Email: peter.barker@lloydsmiu.com**

Lloyd's is the registered trade mark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of Lloyd's

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

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ALLIANCE</i>	research	DEU	AB ABS	3,150	3,180	1988	Grounded near Pianosa Island, Tyrrhenian Sea, Jul 24. Navigation of local vessels in the area suspended. Salvage operations in hand. Refloated 27 Jul. Under tow to Genoa, ETA Jul 29.
<i>CANADIAN TRANSFER</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	11,120	22,204	1944	Grounded off Manitou Dolomite dock, Meldrum Bay, lat 45 55.5N, long 83 07W, Jul 26. Holed in No.1 starboard tank. Still aground Jul 27. Requires docking for repairs.
<i>EDNA MARIA</i>	general	COM	HV	1,798	2,230	1970	Reported abandoned in lat 13 42N, long 92 55E, Jul 24. All 14 crew rescued. Vessel located aground off Paget Islands, in lat 13 27.3N, long 92 51.5E, Jul 25.
<i>EISHO MARI 1</i>	general	PAN	CS	1997	2600	2001	In collision with waste carrier <i>Joyang Sunshine</i> south-west of Cheongsan-do in lat 34 11N, long 126 53E, Jul 27. Sank in 47 m.
<i>FU HENG STAR</i>	general	PAN	CS	4,403	7,658	1980	Grounded at Sauren, West New Britain, PNG, in lat 05 31.12S, long 149 15.8E, Jul 24. Discharge of logs to barge commenced Jul 26.
<i>JOHNNY A.</i>	fishing	USA	—	107	—	—	Reported grounded and taking water in Icy Strait, near Whitestone harbour, Jul 25. All five crew abandoned vessel and rescued by another vessel. Sank in lat 58 04 19N, long 135 04 27 W.
<i>JULIA DEL MAR</i>	ro-ro/ container	CNI	GL	6,708	8,492	1981	Arrived Vigo 26 Jul 2005 in tow of tug <i>Charuca Silveira</i> . To proceed to repair berth Jul 28 for main engine repairs, ETC two weeks.
<i>KAISHIN MARU</i>	general	JPN	—	499	1,571	1992	In collision, off Chiba, in thick fog, with general cargo <i>Wei Hang 9</i> . Sustained cracks. <i>Wei Hang 9</i> sank. Coast Guard investigation carried out.
<i>MERIT</i>	general	GIB	GL	2,301	3,171	2000	Had engine failure between Buoys OG 13 & OF 15, River Scheldt, Jul 25. Anchored & taken in tow to Flushing Roads for repairs. Effected repairs and proceeded for Terneuzen Jul 27.
<i>NOBLESSE-C.</i>	general	NLD	BV	1,095	1,637	1980	Lost rudder and anchored in lat 52 18.5N, long 04 07.8E, Jul 27. Arranging tug to tow vessel back to Ymuiden for repairs. Arrived Amsterdam Jul 27 in tow. Docked for repairs Jul 28.
<i>OCEAN BLOSSOM</i>	acid tanker	PAN	NK	3,269	5,807	1995	In collision with a Chinese cargo vessel Jul 22. Both vessels escorted to Dalian Jul 23.
<i>SAMUDRA SURAKSHA</i>	support vessel	IND	NV	5,473	4,000	1982	Struck production platform in Bombay High oilfield Jul 27, due to high tide and choppy seas. Platform and vessel caught fire and abandoned by crews. Extensive damage to both. 10 platform crew killed, 14 missing.
<i>WEI HANG 9</i>	general	MLT	—	3,947	6,482	1983	In collision with general cargo <i>Kaishin Maru</i> , in thick fog, off Chiba Jul 22. Subsequently sank in lat 35 32.5N, long 140 49.2E. Oil spilt. Four crewmen dead, one injured, five missing. Oil spill reported at sinking position.
<i>X-PRESS PUMORI</i>	container	SGP	NK	6,973	8,377	1980	Had turbo-charger failure 16 Jul 2005 and being towed back to Singapore for replacement.

CONTENTS

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

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Piracy	10
Port State Control	10
Seizures & Arrests	10
Pipeline Accidents	12
Pollution	12
Weather & Navigation	12
Earthquakes	15
Volcanic Activity	16
Political & Civil Unrest	16
Kidnappings	21
Labour Disputes	22
Railway Accidents	28
Robberies & thefts	28
Miscellaneous	29
Fires & Explosions	29
Aviation	31
Space Vehicles	34
Product Recalls	34
Port Conditions charts	35

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2005
These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACHAIOS (Greece)

London, Jul 25 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Jul 24 fire broke out on board newbuilding passenger Achaios (1541 gt) which was under construction at Kanellos Bros. Shipyard Perama. At the time of the incident the vessel was moored alongside their quay and work was not in progress. There were no injuries or pollution caused and neither were the shipyard installations affected. The fire was extinguished by the Fire Brigade. Investigation is being performed by the Perama department of the Piraeus Port Authority.

London, Jul 25 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Jul 24 fire broke out on board new building passenger ro/ro Achaios, Piraeus registry no.11228, which was under construction at Kanellos Bros. Shipyard Perama. At the time of the incident the vessel was moored alongside their quay and work was not in progress. There were no injuries or pollution caused and neither were the shipyard installations affected. The fire was extinguished by the Fire Brigade. Investigation is being performed by the Perama department of the Piraeus Port Authority. (Please note the report of vessel Achaios sent Jul 25 indicated that W.E.M Lines were the operators. Our information was incorrect and W.E.M Lines have no connection whatsoever with the vessel. We apologise for any inconvenience caused either to yourselves or W.E.M Lines.)

ALGONTARIO (Canada)

London, Jul 25 -- Bulk Algontario (18883 gt, built 1960), bound Quebec, loaded with mill scale scrap, contacted the bottom above lock 4 Beauharnois and subsequently had engine failure at 0125, EDST, Jul 23.

Montreal, Jul 27 -- Bulk Algontario effected engine repairs and shifted to its discharge berth at Cote St. Catherine, Montreal, Jul 26. The vessel sustained negligible damage due to touching bottom. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALGOSCOTIA (Canada)

Halifax, Jul 26 -- Chem.tank Algoscotia sailed Halifax Jul 23. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALLIANCE (Germany)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: Research Alliance (3150 gt, built 1988) a German oceanographic vessel, which is doing research in the Mediterranean Sea by NATO request, ran aground near the Island of Pianosa, in the Toscana area of the Tyrrhenian Sea, on Sunday.

Engine washing liquid spilled from two tanks, but a local environmental patrol said the leak did not pollute the sea. Alliance is doing special measurements and taking samples jointly with the Italian frigate Leonardo. The navigation of local fishing boats and tourist cutters in the area has been suspended. Tow boats are removing Alliance from the shallow waters. The operation may be complete on Monday afternoon.

London, Jul 25 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0929, UTC: Research Alliance is still aground.

London, Jul 26 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1024, UTC: Research Alliance is still aground, and refloating operations are under way.

London, Jul 27 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1017, UTC: Research Alliance refloated at about 0930, local time, today. The vessel will be towed to port, possibly Leghorn.

London, Jul 28 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1011, UTC: Research Alliance is currently under tow to Genoa, ETA tomorrow morning.

ALMA (Russia)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 23, states: Investigators in the far eastern port of Nakhodka began a probe today into the sinking of fishing Alma. All 13 crew of the vessel which foundered as it was being towed by a coastguard vessel, were brought to Nakhodka. Borderguards accused the fisherman of deliberately scuttling the ship to cover the signs of poaching. Alma was detained on Jul 19 while crab fishing. The crew failed to produce a permit for catching crab. Representatives of all law-enforcement bodies are involved in the probe. The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry department for Sakhalin Region reported that the seiner sank at 0525, local time, Jul 21, at a point with the following co-ordinates: Lat 44 39.8 N, long 136 28.8E. The point is abeam of Rudnaya Pristan (ore wharf) township, Maritime Territory.

AMBITIOUS F. (Cyprus)

London, Jul 25 -- Following received from Port Louis, Mauritius, Port Authority, dated today: C.c. Ambitious F. (7171 gt, built 1998) is at berth 1 west awaiting accident repairs. Vessel is to discharge 380 containers and load 40 containers starting 2300, Jul 29 (believed due to change in schedule). Vessel arrived Port Louis in tow of tug Mahavel 1645, Jul 22. (Note -- Ambitious F. was last reported to have sailed Mauritius Jul 8 for Singapore.)

Port Louis, Jul 26 -- C.c. Ambitious F. was towed by tug Abeille Mahavel from Reunion Island and arrived Port Louis harbour on Jul 22. The vessel which had a main engine breakdown, is actually under repairs and could be in service in two or three days time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AMSTELDIJK (Cyprus)

London, Jul 22 -- General cargo Amsteldijk sailed Bremerhaven Jul 20 for Klaipeda.

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

ARION (Panama)

Rio de Janeiro, Jul 26 -- General cargo Arion is still under repair, ETC Aug 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AROWANA 3 (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 27 -- The owner of the Philippine-registered tank barge Arowana 3 said today that the vessel is now dry-docked at the RNR Shipyard in Navotas, Manila. The vessel is undergoing repairs to a one metre long crack on its starboard side. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AZOFKO 101 (Belize)

London, Jul 25 -- Following navigational warning, dated Jul 22, states: Fish factory Azofko 101 (1266 gt, built 1971) flooded in lat 07 14N, long 49 32E at 2113, UTC, Jul 22.

AZURE (Panama)

Cape Town, Jul 27 -- Bulk Azure is still under repair, ETC early next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BANGA BONIK (Bangladesh)

See Marissa Green.

BBC TEXAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Beirut, Jul 28 -- General cargo BBC Texas is still under arrest at Tripoli. The problem is between the owners and the charterers. No repairs have been carried out to the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BETATANK II (Liberia)

London, Jul 26 -- Product tanker Betatank II sailed from Frederikshavn previous to Jul 21, arrived Ventpils Jul 21 and sailed Jul 25 for Bandar Abbas.

BHN PRODUCTION PLATFORM

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire has broken out on a major oil platform off India's west coast, and there are fears of many casualties. India's Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said that up to 300 people were on the platform but their fate was unclear. "We had a major fire and the platform has been completely destroyed," Mr Aiyar said. The platform, in the Bombay High field, is run by the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and produces 100,000 barrels of oil a day. The platform is some 160 km off the coast of Mumbai. It is not clear how the fire started. The Bombay High field is India's biggest oil field, producing about half of the country's crude oil output.

Mumbai, Jul 27 -- More than 300 people were rescued after a fire destroyed an oil platform off India's west coast, killing at least three and leaving 45 others missing. The BHN platform produces about a seventh of the country's oil. Some people jumped into lifeboats to escape the flames and get to platforms nearby after fire broke out at about 1630, local time, Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said. A nearby support vessel in the Bombay High offshore oil field was also on fire and a chartered rig deployed in the vicinity had been

abandoned, platform owner Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) said. The platform stands about 160 kilometres offshore south-west of India's financial hub, Mumbai, where heavy rains and severe flooding had already stretched emergency services. "The platform has been completely destroyed," Mr Aiyar told a news conference in New Delhi. Initial reports indicated the fire may have started when a drilling vessel was swept into the platform by high monsoon winds, a government source told Reuters. "It is too early to say what was the cause of the fire but we have been able to rescue most of the people. As of a little while ago, three people have died and 45 are missing," Mr Aiyar said. About 225 people were working on the platform, and a total of 341 people had been rescued by the coast guard, the navy and ONGC staff so far, ONGC officials said. "There were high swirls in the sea. High tides were due at around 1630 hrs and that was also around the time the accident happened," ONGC chairman Subir Raha said. Rescue operations were hampered as ONGC's helicopters in Mumbai were grounded because of floods and the few that were available faced rough sea and poor visibility. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 28 -- A major fire yesterday engulfed a large oil production platform on India's largest offshore oil field, destroying a key part of the country's own production infrastructure and resulting in a huge search and rescue operation. The fire broke out on the BHN production platform at 1630, local time, yesterday on India's Bombay High offshore oil field, trapping up to 300 oil workers. It also spread to a support vessel working in the area. The Coast Guard said last night that it had rescued 271 people and was in the process of rescuing a further 20 workers in the sea around the platform. It is unclear whether any of the offshore workers were killed in the incident. The cause of the fire was unknown, but it is thought a multi-purpose support vessel hit the platform, perhaps on the risers leading to the wellheads, and that a jack-up drilling rig owned by US driller Noble Corp was also involved. Indian state firm Oil & Natural Gas Corp, which operates the platform and field, said in a statement that the support vessel was also on fire and personnel had abandoned the drilling rig Noble Charlie Yester, which was deployed in the vicinity. India's Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said up to 300 workers were on board the platform. "We had a major fire and the platform has been completely destroyed," said Mr Aiyar. Around 160 km off the coast of India's commercial capital Mumbai, the platform is thought to be capable of producing 100,000 barrels of oil per day at peak rates. ONGC said search and rescue operations were being carried out using support and platform supply vessels, plus a limited number of helicopters and Coast Guard aircraft. Helicopter operations were hampered by flooding in Mumbai caused by

heavy monsoon rains that have flooded vast parts of the city and the Juhu helibase. The Bombay High field is India's biggest offshore infrastructure project, accounting for almost 40% of the country's domestic oil production and 14% of its crude consumption. The government expects India's overall oil and gas output will be affected by yesterday's fire and the destruction of the platform, which could cost around \$200m-\$300m to replace. The incident is likely to have major ramifications for energy insurance markets.

London, Jul 28 -- A Noble Corporation press release, dated Jul 27, states: Noble Corporation announced today that the Marathon LeTourneau Class 116-C 300' independent cantilever jackup rig Noble Charlie Yester, contracted by India's state owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the Bombay High field, was involved in a fire that began on ONGC's BHN offshore platform. The fire originated approximately 1,000 feet from the rig. Due to monsoon conditions in the area and a 10 hour time difference, information is incomplete and damage to the rig is unknown at this time. Of the Noble employees assigned to the Noble Charlie Yester, two are currently unaccounted for and search and rescue efforts are ongoing. Earlier today India's Minister of Oil reported the fire on the ONGC platform, indicating that the platform had been completely destroyed.

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The raging fire that gutted the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation BHN production platform in the Bombay High oilfield area was caused when ONGC support Samudra Suraksha (5473 gt, built 1982), sent to "pick up" a sick worker on the oil platform struck the platform, said ONGC Chairman and Managing Director Subir Raha today. It was earlier believed that a multipurpose support vessel docked nearby struck the platform due to high tide and choppy seas. "The accident took place at 1605 yesterday when the ONGC vessel approached the process platform BHN (Bombay High North) to transfer an ill person to the platform where medical facilities are available," he said. Raha said after the medical evacuation was completed, the vessel for some reasons, which are yet to be established, apparently lost control and contacted the platform, resulting in the fire. This mishap resulted in serious oil leakage, engulfing the platform and the vessel in a major inferno, he said. The personnel, both at platform and the vessel, made efforts to control the fire and abandoned the platform and vessel when the situation went beyond their control, he said. "The platform was burning till this morning. However, the oil spill has been brought under control with the help of ONGC and Navy personnel," he said. The damage to Samudra Suraksha was extensive but not enough to sink it. The vessel was insured for \$60 million by ONGC. Meanwhile, the

death toll in the huge fire has risen to 10 with 14 people still reported missing. There were 385 people on the platform when the incident took place. All the other 361 persons have been rescued. The dead included six ONGC personnel and one each from Samudra Suraksha and chartered drilling rig in Noble Charlie Yester. Two bodies were yet to be identified, said the ONGC chairman. Search is still on for missing persons, said Raha at a press conference in Mumbai, a thought that was also echoed in the Lok Sabha by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar today Raha said that the offshore Bombay High North platform was insured for \$195 million under ONGC's offshore package insurance policy. The surveyors from the insurance companies are expected to assess the extent of damage soon, he added. Raha said that committee of former chairmen and directors of ONGC has constituted to conduct an internal inquiry and go into the causes of this accident, he said. Royal Dutch/Shell will assist ONGC in probing the cause of a devastating fire at the oil platform. Shell will assist the committee. The platform was "totally lost" in less than two hours along with a Pawan Hans helicopter positioned on it, said the ONGC chairman in Mumbai. He said that ONGC support and supply vessels and three chartered helicopters were quickly mobilised for search and rescue operations. Raha said that ONGC will restore in two weeks time about 70% of the 100,000 barrels per day output lost due to the fire. "We have a contingency plan in place. The 15 wells that poured oil into MHN will be looped to other platforms in the area. We hope to restore 70% of the MHN's production in two weeks time," he said. "Production from Mumbai High North has halted but it is business as usual in the south," the official said. "Our first priority is relief and rescue operations. A smaller team is working on the contingency plan to restore production," the official said. The ONGC official said, "We are confident of restoring the production levels of 100,000 barrels per day in less than six months time." Meanwhile Aiyar said in the Lok Sabha that though the loss of the platform would immediately impact 110,000 barrels per day of crude production, it was expected that 70% of this production would be restored over the next two weeks, while the rest of the production will be restored in four weeks.

CANADIAN TRANSFER (Canada)

London, Jul 27 -- Bulk Canadian Transfer (11120 gt, built 1944) grounded off the Manitou Island Dolomite dock, Meldrum Bay, in lat 45 55.5N, long 83 07W at 2127, UTC, Jul 26. Vessel is holed in No.1 starboard tank.

London, Jul 27 -- Following received from Trenton Marine Safety Department, timed 1920, UTC: Bulk Canadian Transfer ran aground late

yesterday. Understood vessel is still aground and will require docking for repairs.

CASITAS (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: Since pollution control vessel Casitas went aground on Pearl and Hermes Atoll on Jul 2, its owners and government agencies have spent about \$3 million on the vessel's recovery, and it's not over yet. With 30,000 gallons of fuel removed from the vessel, the most immediate risk to wildlife from the wreck has passed, said Barbara Maxfield, US Fish & Wildlife Service spokeswoman. Steps to remove the 145-foot vessel from the reef begin this week, Maxfield said. That will involve stabilising the vessel with lines and anchors, which will allow divers to safely assess damage to the hull of the Casitas and to identify a way to get it off the reef, Maxfield said. Holes in the vessel's hull will be patched and water pumped out, in an attempt to restore its buoyancy and refloat it. If that is successful, the vessel will be towed to Honolulu by tug American Quest. If not, recovery experts with the Coast Guard and hired by the vessel's owner will have to plan how to get the vessel to an approved scuttling site. About 35 people, three tugboats, two barges and a berthing vessel for the crews are at Midway Island now, preparing to return to the Casitas at Pearl and Hermes today or tomorrow, Maxfield said. Endangered Hawaiian monk seals, threatened green sea turtles and many sea birds make their homes in Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which is supervised by the Fish & Wildlife Service. The service's facility at Midway Atoll, about 1,000 miles from Honolulu, has been the coordination point for the rescue effort.

CIELO DI MILANO (Italy)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

DILAY (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 26 -- General cargo Dilay, Ismailia for Setubal, passed Gibraltar on Jul 23.

DIXIE

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: The relatives of one of the sailors who went missing at sea over a month ago want answers and they are calling for a face-to-face meeting with the owner of tug Dixie. The tug and a barge headed for the Turks and Caicos Island from Dominican Republic disappeared with its crew of four Guyanese sailors. The relatives of Dexter Richmond, a crew member, are upset that a month after his disappearance they have not seen the owner of the vessel he was on. According to a relative she just wants to meet Richmond's boss to know exactly what is being done to find the men. She added that all the sailors' families are all still worried and would feel more at ease if they were to meet the owner of the vessel in person.

EASTERN CHALLENGER (South Korea)

London, Jul 28 -- Following investigation report, received today: Summary of the very serious marine casualty: Collision between c.c. Rithi Bhum and general cargo Eastern Challenger with subsequent foundering of Eastern Challenger on Nov 14 2004, in the South China Sea/Taiwan Strait: Eastern Challenger left Kualo, Vietnam at 1110, UTC, on Nov 11 2004. It was carrying a cargo of 6,100mt ilmenite ore and was on the way to Omahama, Japan. Rithi Bhum left Hong Kong at 1830, UTC, on Nov 13 2004 and was making for Shanghai. On both vessels the second nautical officers took over the bridge watch at 0001, UTC on Nov 14. The radar sets of both vessels were in operation, and visibility and weather were good. According to the voyage planning Eastern Challenger was steering a course of 065 deg since passing the last waypoint at 1800, UTC, Nov 13 at a speed of 10.2 knots. The voyage plan of Rithi Bhum provided for a change of course from 076 deg to 063 deg at the waypoint at 0130, UTC. It was proceeding at a speed of 21.5 knots and had already picked up and plotted Eastern Challenger running ahead on its radar screen. At about 0154, UTC, at a distance of 3.5 nautical miles aft, Rithi Bhum was also detected on the radar set of Eastern Challenger. On the basis of the AIS data transmitted, Rithi Bhum was recognised with its vessel name, made out on an approximately parallel course at a speed of 22 knots. Rithi Bhum was assessed as a vessel overtaking on the starboard side. At about 0158, local time, Rithi Bhum carried out an evasion manoeuvre to starboard for another vessel. After passing the vessel Rithi Bhum turned back to port and at about 0204, UTC, was proceeding on the course of 057 deg at an unchanged speed of 21.5 knots. About ten minutes later the bulbous bow of Rithi Bhum collided with the starboard stern of Eastern Challenger. As a result of the strong flooding after the collision the crew of Eastern Challenger left the vessel. Rithi Bhum had sustained heavy damage to the bulbous bow and in its fore ship area. However, it succeeded in manoeuvring back to the scene of the collision and picking up the crew of Eastern Challenger. After this, Rithi Bhum returned to Hong Kong and Eastern Challenger sank later about nine nautical miles north-north-west of the collision location.

EDNA MARIA (Comoros)

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: An Indian warship rescued two African and 12 Asian sailors from a cargo ship (general cargo Edna Maria, ex Susan Anne, 1798 gt, built 1970) disabled in rough seas off the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands, a naval spokesman said today. Spokesman Salil Mehta said the 82-metre vessel carrying logs lost power and steering and was taking in water off the

northern Andamanese island of Piget late yesterday when in a daring operation its crew were rescued in choppy seas by the Indian warship. "The waves were as high as five metres and it was dark when INS Savitri spotted it listing dangerously and went in for the rescue," Mehta said.

London, July 26 -- A press report, dated July 25, states: Indian navy rescued all the 28, including 14 crew members, people on board general cargo Edna Maria which was abandoned by them following its engine failure in the rough sea, official sources said today. Edna Maria registered with Comoros Islands on way from Yangon to Tuticorin carrying 14 crew members and 14 other people developed engine failure. The crew sent out distress signals and then abandoned the disabled ship, the sources said. The Andaman and Nicobar Navy Command, on receipt of the distress signal, sent warship INS Savitri to rescue the people. Braving choppy sea, Savitri rescued all the people onboard the vessel yesterday, the sources said. The rescued crew members of Edna Maria were provided immediate medical attention and were brought to Port Blair and handed over to the Union Territory administration today, sources added.

London, July 26 -- Following received from Port Blair MRCC, timed 1315, UTC: Comoros general cargo Edna Maria, D6CY4, is now aground in lat 13 27.3N, long 92 51.5E.

London, Jul 26 -- Following received from Port Blair MRCC, dated today: General cargo Edna Maria was abandoned in lat 13 42N, long 92 55E at 1430, UTC, Jul 24. Fourteen crew members (12 Myanmarese and two Ghana) were rescued by INS Savitri. Indian Coast Guard aircraft were pressed into service and have located the vessel which ran aground in lat 13 27.3N, long 92 51.5E, off Paget Islands Jul 25.

EISHO MARU 1 (Panama)

Busan, Jul 28 -- Pulp carrier Eisho Maru 1 (1997 gt, built 2001), Busan for Incheon, cargo some 2,000 tons of pulp, was in collision with waste carrier Joyang Sunshine, 2665 gt, built 1979 (ex Arachnis Gold), owners Joyang Co, Incheon, bound Donghae with 4,341 tons of waste, in dense fog, some six miles south west of Cheongsan-do (lat 34 11N, long 126 53E), off Wando, at approximately 0430, Jul 27. As a result of the collision Eisho Maru 1 sank in some 47 metres of water soon after the collision. All 13 crew on board Eisho maru 1 were safely rescued by the Marine police boats and no oil pollution was reported. Joyang Sunshine sustained damage to its bow area as a result. At about 1145 hrs, same day Joyang Sunshine left the site bound for Donghae for discharging of cargo after completion of inspection/investigation. The (owners of) Eisho maru 1 are now discussing salvage operations. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ELTSEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Taranto, Jul 22 -- During the early afternoon of Jul 20, while general cargo Eltsen (3898 gt, built 1981) and bulk Yong Tong (38641 gt, built 2001) were awaiting a pilot off the pilot station (about 2.5 miles off Taranto port entrance) they were involved in a collision reported by the local agent (same for both) as minor. Both are reported to have suffered very minor damages. The reason for the accident seems to be wrong steering/manoeuvring, apparently by both vessels. Both vessels are presently still in port under operations. No delays are expected connected to this accident. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ENISEY (Russia)

St. Petersburg, Jul 25 -- According to Mr. A. Belov, acting Director of 'MOSTOTREST' (the State organisation responsible for bridges operation), the Alexander Nevsky Bridge did not suffer significant damage. The owner of general cargo Enisey refused to make any comments on the incident. According to unofficial information the Enisey did not sustain serious damage and on Jul 23, the vessel was "under loading operations" in Belousovo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FAIR VOYAGER (Liberia)

See "Fair Voyager" under "Pollution".

FLEET TRADER 1

Las Palmas, Jul 27 -- Bulk Fleet Trader 1 arrived Las Palmas Jun 1 from San Pedro, towed by the tug Warlock and sailed for orders Jul 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FLYING DOLPHIN XVIII (Greece)

London, July 25 -- -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil Flying Dolphin XVIII (130 gt, built 1984), performing the schedule Piraeus-Poros-Hydra-Ermioni with 109 passengers on board, sustained port main engine damage this morning. Following the incident the vessel arrived safely at Poros and the passengers with destination Hydra-Ermioni were forwarded to their destinations on another vessel of the same shipping line. Following survey by the marine inspectorate the vessel departed without passengers for Perama in order to carry out repairs.

FRANKLIN STRAIT (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 26 -- General cargo Franklin Strait arrived Rio Haina Jul 11 and sailed same day for Miami.

FROHAVET (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Trondheim, Jul 27 Kvernhusvik Shipyard today advise that repairs to livestock Frohavet are nearly completed. ETD: Jul 28. Destination Bodo, Norway. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FU HENG STAR (Panama)

Port Moresby, Jul 28 -- General cargo Fu Heng Star (4403 gt, built 1980), 23

crew, completed loading 6017.87 tonnes of logs at Anepmete and sailed at 0700, local time, Jul 24, for Kimbe. Vessel subsequently grounded at Sauren, West New Britain, Papua New Guinea, in lat 05 31.12S, long 149 15.8E at 1100, local time, Jul 24. Shipper advised in the morning of Jul 26 that vessel commenced discharge of cargo to a barge to lighten vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GEORGENE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 27 -- A Coast Guard Seattle press release, dated Jul 26, states: The Coast Guard rescued two men after their 60-foot fishing Georgene (67 gt, built 1946) sank early today 85 miles west of Tillamook, Ore. Coast Guard Group/Air Station Astoria, Ore., received a distress call from the operator of Georgene via VHF channel 16 at 0111 hrs, reporting his vessel was sinking with two people on board. Before abandoning ship, the operator passed the vessel's position to aid in locating the liferaft. An HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Astoria was launched and the Coast Guard cutter Orcas was diverted to assist. Bulk Lily Olderhoff and other Good Samaritans in the area also responded to the mayday call. The helicopter located the liferaft and safely hoisted the men into the helicopter. Both survivors were transported in good condition to Air Station Astoria.

GOLDEN CLOUD (Hong Kong)

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

HORAI MARU NO.18 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jul 27 -- Operations to remove the oil from sunken grab dredger Horai Maru No.18 are now being in progress. Concerning possible wreck removal, its P&I club seems to have a negative attitude. After the collision chem.tank Ryoka Maru proceeded to Omaezaki port, under its own power. The Japan Coast Guard's investigation has been completed. Since then, its subsequent movements are unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ISLE OF MULL (U.K.)

London, Jul 26 -- Bridge practices, judged by the UK's Marine Accident Investigation Branch as "poor or ineffective", contributed to an accident at Oban last December when an inbound ferry glanced off a moored vessel and ran head-on into a pier at about four knots, seriously damaging its bow visor and fore-castle. The vessel was the Caledonian MacBrayne ro/ro Isle of Mull (4719 gt, built 1988), bound from Craignure with no passengers. Pre-arrival checklists were still being completed as the vessel approached its terminal and the master forgot to turn on the bow thrusters. There were also difficulties as the master moved from the central to the starboard wing control console, with control of one engine not transferred. By the time the second problem had been corrected there was insufficient sea room to slow or

manoeuvre and the vessel, after glancing off the moored passenger ro/ro Lord of the Isles (3504 gt, built 1989), made heavy contact with the pier. Safety issues, identified in the subsequent inquiry by MAIB, included the failure to establish "a defined point" by which time the harbour arrival checklist must be completed. Bridge management issues included ineffective monitoring of the master's actions and decisions by the officer of the watch, a lack of team briefings by the master, no positive reporting when important tasks were completed by the bridge team and insufficient checks to ensure propulsion control had been transferred between consoles. It was also suggested that the master had been distracted at the time when he would normally have switched on the bow thrusters. Contributory problems had been the bridge ergonomics, with inadequate instrument lighting levels. CalMac has since undertaken wide ranging improvements to its procedures.

ISOLA DI VULCANO (Italy)

See Razzoli.

JIMILTA II (Malta)

London, Jul 26 -- Bulk Jimilta II sailed from Gdynia on Jul 23 for Paldiski.

JIN AN (Hong Kong)

Mumbai, Jul 28 -- Bulk Jin An after completing discharge and repairs went to anchorage at 2000, local time, Jul 21 and sailed Jul 25 for Chennai. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JO SPIRIT (NIS)

Montreal, Jul 22 -- Chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit will discharge its cargo at Hamilton on Jul 23 and will effect temporary repairs. Bulk Orla is undergoing permanent repairs at Montreal, ETC 10-12 days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, Jul 25 -- Chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit will commence temporary repairs at Montreal Jul 26, ETC five days. The vessel will then sail for Hamburg. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JOHNNY A (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 27 -- A Coast Guard Kodiak press release, dated Jul 26, states: A Coast Guard small-boat crew transported five crewmen who abandoned their vessel, fishing Johnny A (107 gt, built 1980), in Icy Strait, near Whistone harbour, yesterday morning. The Coast Guard received a call at 0613 hrs from a crew-member on board Johnny A, home-ported in Hoonah, reporting they had run aground and were rapidly taking on water. All five fishermen put on immersion suits and entered the water. A Good Samaritan boat, Aleutian Mariner, arrived on scene and recovered all five crewmen in good condition. A Coast Guard small-boat crew was dispatched to the scene from Coast Guard Station Juneau. The small-boat crew transported all five crewmen safely back to Juneau.

London, Jul 27 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0745, UTC: Fishing Johnny A, official No.625595, sank in lat 58 04.19N, long 135 04.27W.

JOLLY MARRONE (Italy)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

JOYANG SUNSHINE (South Korea)

See Eisho Maru 1.

JULIA DEL MAR (Canary Islands)

Vigo, Jul 27 -- Ro/ro/c.c. Julia del Mar, EAGJ, (6708 gt, built 1981) put into Vigo 0700, Jul 26 in tow of local tug Charuca Silveira. After stevedoring operations vessel will proceed tomorrow to repair berth for main engine repairs which are expected to complete in two weeks, depending on spares availability. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KAISHIN MARU (Japan)

See Wei Hang 9.

KIM HOANG (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: A 98-foot shrimp boat, fishing Kim Hoang (163 gt, built 2001), was finally freed from a sandbar just yards off the Matagorda Beach (Texas) Jetty Park Thursday (Jul 21) afternoon after the four-man crew spent two days and nights scrambling to save the boat while surf washed over the deck. The boat ran aground at about 2030 Tuesday (Jul 19) when the Biloxi, Miss, crew attempted to enter the Colorado River through the jetty to escape the heavy seas brought on by Hurricane "Emily". The master told Pct. 2 Constable Frank Craft by telephone that no one on board had been injured and he wanted the Coast Guard to help him off the sandbar and into protected waters and that there were no injuries to the crew. The Coast Guard offered to remove the crew by helicopter, but could not tow Kim Hoang since they only assist to protect human life, not property. Craft remained in contact with the crew Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday night the boat moved closer to shore. When the boat ran aground its bow was pointed out to open water, but by Wednesday morning it was pointed to the rocks on the jetty. Buddy Treybig, a Matagorda-based shrimper, spent five and a half hours attempting to pull Kim Hoang off the sandbar Wednesday. "Then, Thursday morning when high tide came, he floated over into the channel and John Rollins got in the channel and pulled him in," Treybig said. "They've got lots of damage. His keel coolers are smashed, he has propeller damage, nozzle damage," he said. Treybig and Rollins suffered some additional damage in the rescue effort, but he said the owner has offered to compensate them. This boat owner is more fortunate than most shrimpers, according to Treybig he has insurance. "He had shrimp on board and he was able to sell those here at Colorado Seafood so he was really happy," Treybig said.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: Bulk Kiperousa has been declared a total loss after final efforts to refloat the ship failed this weekend. The decision was taken earlier today once it was revealed that damage to the ship was mounting. It was hoped that by removing the cargo of logs the ship could be lightened and as a result a heavylift Mi26 helicopter was chartered to remove the approximately 8,000 logs. At the start of this weekend all of the deck cargo had been airlifted ashore where the logs were taken by road to East London. The weekend also coincided with a window of opportunity by way of spring high tides and the Tsavlis salvage team had been confident of refloating the ship. But then came the news this afternoon that the salvage had been called off and Kiperousa was declared a total loss. According to an East London port spokesman, efforts will now turn to removing the balance of the cargo ashore and to East London, where a site has been made available within the port precinct. Once that has been completed it can be expected that the ship's destruction will be hastened.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: Bulk Kiperousa has been declared "a total economic loss" and while salvaging of its cargo of massive hardwood logs may continue, its days of sailing the seas is almost certainly over. This was the word yesterday from Tsavlis salvage master Godfrey Needham, from the doomed 160-metre-long vessel. Kiperousa has turned 180 degrees, its bows now facing the open sea. The Russian salvage tug Nikolay Chiker is still standing by while the repaired Russian Mi26 salvage helicopter was using up every hour of daylight in lifting the thousands of hardwood logs off the vessel. Needham said yesterday: The salvage master said a crack had opened up on the port side of the vessel and that "all four of her holds have flooded". Sea conditions, however, are such that she remains firmly stuck to the reef onto which it ran aground on Jun 7. A number of attempts over the past seven weeks to pull it free have failed. Needham said that even with the bulk of its cargo discharged, making her more buoyant, and with patchwork keeping it afloat, "there does not seem to be much point in saving it, it's no longer a viable economic proposition". Reacting to the latest development yesterday, SA Maritime Safety Association spokesman Captain Peter Kroon said his association would maintain a watch brief on the situation. "My understanding of the situation as of now is that the salvage contract was only for the logs on deck, about 1600 logs, to be removed. That contract was supposed to end today. "Discharging of the logs in the now flooded holds will require a new contract. "Once the discharging has been completed, all topside structures, cranes and the like, will have to burn out when

demolition experts set explosives charged to blow holes in the hull to let the sea flood in and for nature to then take its course. We're probably looking at a new addition to the reef on which it is resting," Kroon said. Earlier, Needham had said while it was too early to do a reconciliation of the costs involved in the operation, to keep Nikolay Chiker on site ran to around \$35,000 a day, while keeping the Mi26 helicopter in the air ran to some \$12,000 per flying hour.

KYOKUYO MARU (Japan)

Yokohama, Jul 22 -- A collision occurred between chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru and non specific tanker Nikko Maru at 0410 hrs, Jul 15, off Kumanonada, in Mie prefecture. A fire broke out on the Kyokuyo Maru and was extinguished at 0720 hrs, Jul 16. Six of her crew were killed. All the crew of the Nikko Maru were rescued. The Nikko Maru was towed to Owase port and is still under investigation by the Japan Coast Guard. The Kyokuyo Maru is still floating off Kumanonada and after confirming that there is no danger of sinking, operations to remove its cargo of benzene in liquid, are to be carried out. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Jul 27 -- Chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru sank off Kumanonada at 1544 hrs, Jul 23. Non specific tanker Nikko Maru is in Owase port and scheduled to sail for a dockyard at Komatsushima, in Tokushima prefecture, on Jul 28. -- Lloyd's Agents

London, Jul 28 -- Following navigation warning issued at 1600, JST, today: Tanker Nikko Maru is to be towed by a tug from Owase to Komatsushima as a "dead ship." At 2230, JST, today tug and tow will be in lat 33 20N, long 135 50E, speed 6.5 knots, length of tow 242 metres. Estimated time of arrival Komatsushima 1000, JST, Jul 29.

LAKE TEGA (Panama)

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated Jul 23, states: Inward and outward movement of vessels to Haldia dock has been affected after bulk Lake Tega (27962 gt, built 2001) got stuck in the dock complex due to some mechanical fault, a senior port official said today. The vessel, which was coming from Dubai via Paradip port, was 'placed' in berth number 12 in the inner side of the dock basin and both inward/outward movement of vessels can now be possible only during high tides, Deputy Chairman, Haldia Dock (Kolkata Port Trust), Madan Lal Meena told PTI. The vessel, laden with 34,000 tonnes of limestone, got stuck at the lockgate at around 1345, local time, yesterday, due to some mechanical problem which was being rectified, Meena said. Inward and outward movement of four vessels, two on the way to the port and two others ready to leave after unloading operation, would become possible once the high tides come. The vessel has been shifted to a nearby

berth and the channel was being cleared, port sources said. The consignment in the Lake Tega was for a domestic steel major.

LIOFAI

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Villagers in two small boats have plucked 60 passengers to safety from sinking general cargo Liofai in the Solomon Islands. The vessel, with a crew of 20, began taking on water yesterday morning about nine nautical miles off the western tip of San Cristobal island, while en route to the capital Honiara on Guadalcanal. The crew radioed the Solomons Maritime Rescue Centre which arranged for two banana boats to head out from Maro'u Bay to assist, rescue centre officer Captain Jack Bana said today. By mid-afternoon the boats had ferried all the passengers to Maro'u Bay while the crew took to inflatable liferafts as the 24.7-metre vessel continued sinking, he said. The crew were picked up yesterday evening by another vessel sent to assist. Last reports were the mast of the Liofai was still above water though the vessel was expected to sink to the seabed around 2,000m down along with its cargo of 600 bags of copra. The vessel, which was overdue for a full survey this month, had a mechanical breakdown which stopped the bilge pump and two emergency pumps could not cope with the incoming water.

Honiara, Jul 27 -- The sinking of general cargo Liofai has been confirmed on Jul 21 in lat 10 9.5S, long 161 06E. -- Correspondents.

LORD OF THE ISLES (U.K.)

See Isle of Mull.

LT LLOYDIANA (Italy)

London, Jul 28 -- C.c. LT Lloydiana sailed from Singapore on Jul 25.

LUCIEN L. (Canada)

London, Jul 21 -- Ro/ro Lucien L. (867 gt, built 1967) struck the wharf at Sorel at 0952, EDST, Jul 21, while manoeuvring to dock. No injuries or pollution reported.

Montreal, July 27 -- Ro/ro Lucien L. is a local ferry that crosses the St. Lawrence between the town of Sorel on the south side and the north shore of the river. It is understood it had a manoeuvring problem and struck the dock at Sorel on July 21. Three people sustained minor injuries. Owners have effected temporary repairs to the vessel and it will continue to operate. Permanent repairs are deferred. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK CHIGNECTO (Canada)

London, Jul 26 -- Tug/supply Maersk Chignecto (2259 gt, built 1983) with 13 people on board, reported a crankcase explosion while conducting trials on the number four main engine at St. John's Harbour at 2220, UTC, Jul 21. Explosion was the result of a failed water pump idler gear wheel shaft. No injuries or other damage reported.

MAERSK GABARUS (Canada)

London, Jul 27 -- Tug/supply Maersk Gabarus (2259 gt, built 1983) had major failure to the No.2 main engine in lat 44 00.30N, long 59 34.30W, Jun 4. Engine parts were ejected out through the crank case doors, striking No.1 main engine and then landing on plating between the two engines. (Note -- Maersk Gabarus arrived and sailed Halifax Jun 8.)

MAERSK VOLOS (Liberia)

London, Jul 26 -- C.c. Maersk Volos arrived at Tema on Jul 17 from Owendo.

MAINEBORG (Netherlands)

Bremen, Jul 26 -- General cargo Maineborg is currently at the repair yard of Rickmers-Lloyd, Bremerhaven. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARISSA GREEN (Netherlands)

Karachi, Jul 22 -- Understand from HRC Shipping Ltd, the owners of c.c. Banga Bonik, that the survey report detailing the extent of damages to the vessel is yet to be received by the company. Earlier, the port authority detained general cargo Marissa Green at Jetty 11. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jul 25 -- C.c. Banga Bonik sailed from Chittagong on Jul 22 bound for Colombo.

MERIT (Gibraltar)

London, Jul 25 -- General cargo Merit (2301 gt, built 2000), loaded with general cargo, had engine failure between Buoys OG 13 and OF 15, River Scheldt, at 1145, local time, today, while proceeding through the Oostgat, bound for Terneuzen. The vessel anchored and was taken in tow at 1430 hrs by tug Multratug 9, which towed it to Flushing Roads. The vessel anchored at about 1600 hrs to effect repairs, after which it will continue its voyage to Terneuzen.

Maassluis, Jul 27 -- General cargo Merit, having solved engine problems at Flushing roads, continued its voyage to Terneuzen today. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MOBILE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1649, UTC: Integrated tug/barge Mobile: Two barges are proceeding to the scene for lightering operations. The first barge is due to arrive on Jul 22 and the second on Jul 23. Lightering will commence once a salvage plan has been approved.

London, Jul 25 -- A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Jul 22, states: Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Port Arthur is monitoring the grounding of integrated tug/ barge Mobile approximately one mile south of the Sabine Jetties today. Mobile is hard aground and was unable to be removed by ocean-going tugs earlier in the week. The Coast Guard is working with Mobile's owners, ITB Mobile LLC, and other agencies to commence a cargo removal operation in order to refloat Mobile. Cargo removal

operations are expected to commence later today. An independent survey conducted by American Bureau of Shipping found no structural damage to Mobile. Mobile is not obstructing navigation, and the port remains open to traffic. The cause of this incident is under investigation.

London, July 25 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 0840, UTC: Tug/barge Mobile is still aground. Part cargo has been discharged and a refloating attempt will be made between, 0600 and 0730, local time, today.

London, Jul 25 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1417, UTC: Integrated tug/ barge Mobile was refloated at 0800, local time, today and is presently at anchor.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: Integrated tug and barge (ITB) Mobile, which grounded about one mile south of the Sabine jetties Wednesday (Jul 20), was refloated at 0742, local time, this morning. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Port Arthur has been monitoring the salvage operation, which required the removal of approximately 3.8 million gallons of gasoline before the ITB could be floated free. There have been no reports of injuries, pollution or damage to the vessel as a result of the incident. The ITB is expected to depart for Port Everglades, Fla., later today. The cause of this accident is under investigation.

MOHAMAD PRINCE (Honduras)

Istanbul, Jul 26 -- General cargo Mohamad Prince (4926 gt, built 1975), while transiting the Dardanelles, Novorossiysk for Tartous, sustained engine breakdown at 0645, local time, Jul 26 and anchored off Karanlik Liman. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NATASJA THERESA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 22 -- Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0850, UTC: Product tanker Natasja Theresa has proceeded on voyage to Rotterdam following propeller problems.

London, Jul 26 -- Product tanker Natasja Theresa arrived at Amsterdam on Jul 25 from Rotterdam.

NICKOLAOS (Panama)

Montreal, Jul 25 -- General cargo Nickolaos (6354 gt, built 2000) sustained crane damage at Sorel on Jul 22, due to a shore crane contacting the vessel's crane. Temporary repairs have been effected, and the vessel is due to sail Jul 26 for US ports. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NIKKO MARU (Japan)

See Kyokuyo Maru.

NISSOS HYDRA (Greece)

London, July 27 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the evening of July 26 small inter-island ro/ro cargo Nissos Hydra, flag Greece, Piraeus Registry No.7756, cargo six tons of general cargo, grounded in sandy shallow waters of

the bay of Vaiona, Poros island. Prior to the incident and while on voyage from Keratsini to Poros, water ingress was noted and it is apparent that vessel proceeded to the bay as a precaution. Due to the grounding there was no pollution caused or injuries to the crew. Nearby the vessel remains a Coast Guard patrol boat.

London, July 27 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1345, UTC: Inter-island ro/ro cargo Nissos Hydra is still aground with a five dergreed list. There has been no pollution. The vessel is small and used to transport passengers and cargo to the islands in the Piraeus area.

London, Jul 28 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0948, UTC: Ro/ro cargo Nissos Hydra was refloated this morning and is presently under tow to Piraeus, ETA 1700, local time, today.

NOBLESSE-C. (Netherlands)

London, Jul 27 -- Following received from Netherlands Coast Guard, timed 1150, UTC: General cargo Noblesse-C. (1095 gt, built 1980) underway between Ymuiden and Zeebrugge today, reported lost rudder and anchored in approximate lat 52 18.5N, long 04 07.8E. Currently contacting tugs for towage back to Ymuiden for repairs.

London, Jul 28 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1018, UTC: General cargo Noblesse-C. arrived Amsterdam at 1730, UTC, Jul 27, and is now docked for repairs.

NORASIA TAURUS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Alexandria, Jul 26 -- The smouldering containers on board c.c. Norasia Taurus were extinguished with the assistance of the Egyptian Navy. The vessel is still in the same position, and the extent of damage is not known. Damietta Port Authority has placed the vessel under administrative arrest to cover the rights of the cargo owners, and the Port dues. Negotiations regarding the arrest are proceeding. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN BLOSSOM (Panama)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 23, states: A Chinese cargo ship, with 22 crew, was in collision with a foreign ship (acid tanker Ocean Blossom, 3269 gt, built 1995), loaded with chemicals, and with 17 crew, at 2230 Friday (Jul 22) and both were stranded in seawater off Dalian. The North China Sea Salvage Bureau under the Ministry of Communications in Yantai had sent a rescue ship to escort the two ships back to Dalian port. Both vessels had been saved by 1020 today and no casualty was reported.

London, Jul 25 -- Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 1010, UTC: The foreign vessel involved in the collision off Dalian on Friday was acid tanker Ocean Blossom, 3FDT5. The Chinese vessel has no English name, call sign not known.

OCEAN TOR (Canada)

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Ocean Tor (100 gt, built 1974) capsized off the north-west tip of the Olympic Peninsula, two people were rescued and two crew members without survival suits were missing, the Coast Guard said. Skipper Wade Mathison, 31, was plucked from the hull of his overturned vessel, the 76-foot Ocean Tor of Ucluelet, British Columbia, and a Canadian fisheries observer, Reginald Westcott, 33, was found in the water shortly before nightfall yesterday. Coast Guard Lt. Matthew Michaelis said. Both were taken on board another Canadian fishing boat, the 181-foot Osprey No. 1 of Vancouver, British Columbia, and were headed back to Ucluelet on the west coast of Vancouver Island early Wednesday, Michaelis said. Still missing early today were two crew members, Kelly Broderick, 49, and Miles Anderson, 42. Cause of the capsizing was under investigation, but Mathison indicated the vessel took some waves over the stern, causing water to pour through an open port into a fish hold. The Coast Guard dispatched boats and two helicopters shortly after 1900 hrs following the detection of an emergency radio beacon signal from U.S. waters off Cape Flattery, Pollinger said.

ORLA (Malta)

See Jo Spirit.

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

New Orleans, Jul 25 -- Drilling barge Parker Drilling 57-B is still aground. Salvage plans are being drawn up. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PIETRO NOVELLI (Italy)

Messina, Jul 28 -- Ro/ro Pietro Novelli (2352 gt, built 1979), operating its regular passenger and vehicle service between Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, struck the quay at Vulcano at approximately 1950, Jul 27, while reversing to dock. Seven passengers were injured and were taken by hydrofoil to a hospital in nearby Lipari Island. The vessel has been taken out of service. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PRINCESS OF THE WORLD (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 27 -- The Philippine-registered passenger ro/ro Princess of the World is still docked at the Timex Wharf, Ricudo town, in Zamboanga City, in southern Philippines, where it is undergoing an inspection by maritime authorities. The vessel which was completely burned is being examined by a second team of inspectors from the Maritime Safety Office of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA). The inspectors have been tasked to discover the cause of the fire which destroyed the vessel. The first inspection was conducted by a team from the MARINA Enforcement Office to determine if the vessel had complied with all safety regulations. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

QUEEN MARY 2 (U.K.)

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Passenger Queen Mary 2 (148528 gt, built 2004) made its first call at Oslo this week, and ended up staying longer than expected. A bit of mechanical trouble delayed its departure until the early hours of today. The vessel with more than 2,500 passengers on board, arrived at Oslo from Le Havre slightly ahead of schedule yesterday morning. It sailed up the Oslo Fjord and pulled into the inner harbour just after 0730, in good time for its 0800 scheduled docking. Yesterday's port visit ended up being extended because of turbine trouble that demanded repairs. The vessel was supposed to sail yesterday evening, but didn't slip out of port until around 0400, today, bound for the Hardanger Fjord on Norway's west coast. (Note -- Queen Mary 2 sailed Le Havre Jul 24.)

QUEEN OF ESQUIMALT (Canada)

London, Jul 25 -- Ro/ro Queen of Esquimalt (9081 gt, built 1963) struck a dolphin while shifting berths at Langdale Terminal, B.C., at 1333, PDST, Jul 15. Considerable damage to port aft rubbing strake.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, Jul 26 -- Passenger ro/ro Queen of the North (8889 gt, built 1969) reported steering problems while in Seaforth Channel, B.C in lat 52 13N, long 128 09.4W at 1413, PDST, Jul 21. Repairs effected on board.

RAZZOLI (Italy)

Messina, Jul 25 -- Passenger ro/ro Razzoli and ferry Isola di Vulcano are both operating their normal daily schedule between Sicily and the Aeolian Islands. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROCKNES (Antigua & Barbuda)

Gdynia, Jul 28 -- Bulk Rocknes, renamed Nordnes, sailed from Gdansk on Jul 1. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROSALIA D'AMATO (Italy)

Corunna, Jul 22 -- Bulk Rosalia D'Amato completed repairs and painting works at Navantia Ferrol-Fene Dock No.5, and sailed at 1130 hrs, today, for orders. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROSTOK (Russia)

London, Jul 26 -- A Multraship Towage & Salvage press release, dated Jul 25, states: Yesterday the aft section of general cargo Rostok, comprising the propeller and rudder, was safely transported to the designated dumpsite where it was beached close to the previously removed wreck piece of the mid section. On Jul 16 the aft section was already lifted in a vertical position, clear of the rocks at the south bank. Subsequently the salvors had to stabilize the section for safe transportation to the dumpsite, which is located at the south bank in St. Georges Channel at Km 102. For this purpose the weight of the section had

to be further reduced by means of mud removal and cutting away steel. After completing this the section was rigged into Cormorant's tackles. The section, weighing some 440 tons, was transported through the Sulina channel and placed on the dumpsite in St. Georges Channel by Cormorant, assisted by the multi-purpose tugs Herman and Fonda and in close co-operation with the harbour-master and local authorities. The salvors will make temporary and provisional repairs to the eroded part of the river bank from which the wreck piece has been removed. Next part to be removed will be the stern section comprising the engine-room. Preparations for lifting this section are ongoing, including continuous mud, debris and steel removal.

RYOKA MARU (Japan)

See Horai Maru No.18.

SAMUDRA SURAKSHA (India)

See BHN Production Platform.

SARDIYN (Netherlands)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control".

SAVANNAH EXPRESS (Germany)

London, Jul 22 -- C.c. Savannah Express sailed Southampton 1053, Jul 21 for Hamburg.

SEALAND TRADER (U.K.)

London, Jul 27 -- Following received from Harwich Haven Port Authority, dated today: General cargo Sealand Trader has been broken up and parts of the hull have been converted for use at Mistley.

SPEEDRUNNER I (U.K.)

London, Jul 25 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: During the early hours of Jul 24, while passenger ro/ro Speedrunner I (3003 gt, built 1990) was performing the schedule Milos-Sifnos-Serifos-Piraeus, the master advised Piraeus Port Authority that the vessel was sailing on only the starboard main engine due to a fuel problem and requested the assistance of tugs to enter the port. Later the vessel arrived safely and disembarked the 216 passengers. Following survey of the repairs by the vessel's class, the Port Authority permitted Speedrunner I to continue normal scheduling.

SPIRIT OF RESOLUTION (New Zealand)

London, Jul 22 -- The New Zealand Transport Accident Investigation Commission is investigating the grounding of general cargo Spirit of Resolution (3850 gt, built 1997) in the Wairoa Channel, on the west side of Auckland, yesterday. John Mockett, chief investigator of accidents, said the Rescue Coordination Centre notified the commission a grounding about 1320 hrs. The vessel, which is owned and operated by Lyttelton firm Pacifica Shipping, was inbound to Onehunga when she grounded near Taumatarea Point. The commission

said the vessel was refloated on the high tide later in the afternoon and then continued under her own power to Onehunga.

Auckland, Jul 27 -- General cargo Spirit of Resolution grounded while going to anchor after crossing the bar and entering the Manukau Harbour prior to berthing at Onehunga on Jul 21. Vessel was held lightly on a mud bottom and was refloated some two hours later. Vessel has no hull damage and has returned to service. -- Lloyd's Agents.

STRILEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 22 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0815, UTC: Cement Strilen was refloated at 1945, UTC, yesterday by vessel Sanne A and is now at the port of Middelfart.

SULPICIO EXPRESS DOS (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 21 -- Sketchy report received today, ro/ro Sulpicio Express Dos (4433 gt, built 1988) collided with barge Golden Arowana 3 (486 gt, built 2005) in waters off Corregidor Island, Bataan, about 0730 hrs today. Golden Arowana 3 was reported coming from Subic Bay. The local Coast Guard dispatched two helicopters to help rescue survivors. From initial information gathered, neither vessel sustained heavy damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jul 22 -- Ro/ro Sulpicio Express Dos has now resumed normal operations. The vessel left Pier 12, North Harbour terminal at Manila, for Cebu today and is scheduled to arrive on Sunday (Jul 24). According to Sulpicio Lines, Sulpicio Express Dos only sustained a minor dent in its port bow, which did not affect the seaworthiness of the vessel. Sulpicio Express Dos was bound for Manila from Cebu at the time of the collision and proceeded to Manila after a 30 minute delay. The Philippine Coast Guard have reported that the Philippine-registered tank barge Golden Arowana 3 is now docked at its del Pan terminal at the mouth of the Pasig River in Manila. The barge arrived today under its own power escorted by a Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue vessel. Golden Arowana 3 was bound for Manila from Subic Bay with a cargo of 850,000 litres of diesel oil at the time of collision. Golden Arowana 3 sustained a metre long crack on its starboard side. The barge anchored off Naic jetty in Cavite province where it transferred its cargo to a sister vessel. According to Cmdr. Avelino Fortuna, director of the Philippine Coast Guard Action Centre, preliminary findings indicated that Golden Arowana 3 was apparently at fault since the Sulpicio Express Dos had right of way. "She should have given way to the larger vessel," Cmdr. Fortuna said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SYLVIA STAR (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 28 -- A Coast Guard Kodiak press release, dated Jul 27,

states: Boat salvage crews stood by as a local diver sealed the fuel vents of submerged fishing Sylvia Star (75 gt, built 1990). Sylvia Star sank at 1629 yesterday near Uyak Bay. The fishing boat's four crewmen safely boarded a zodiac and travelled to a nearby beach. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Kodiak will continue directing salvage operations with the owner of Sylvia Star.

THASSOS IV (Greece)

London, Jul 26 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Greece, report: The Kavalas Port Authority have advised that the problem with the ramp was rectified on Jul 18, and inspected, and passenger ro/ro Thassos IV was permitted to sail on that day. (See issue of Jul 19.)

THERESE (Panama)

London, Jul 27 -- General cargo Therese arrived at Split on Jul 22.

THUNDER HORSE (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: BP's chief executive Lord Browne of Madingley, yesterday said the \$1 billion floating production Thunder Horse would not come on-stream before the end of the year. Thunder Horse was left tilting into the sea after Hurricane "Dennis" blew through the Gulf of Mexico earlier this month. Tony Hayward, head of exploration and production, said the platform was now stable and the sub-sea equipment, which is the most expensive to replace, was not damaged by the hurricane. "It was designed to be able to list 25 degrees and it never got beyond 19 to 20," he said. Asked what saved the platform from destruction, he said: "What saved Thunder Horse is that it stopped listing," and that a fuller investigation was under way. When it finally comes on-stream, Thunder Horse should generate around \$10m of revenue a day for BP.

THURINGEN (Germany)

London, Jul 27 -- Non specific tanker Thuringen: Damage to the hull of the vessel, which came in collision with the Dutch inland tanker Lemarna from Raamsdonkveer, caused only slight damage to both vessels. The damage to the wheelhouse was very extensive and repairs will take at least four weeks.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, Jul 22 -- Following received from Belize Ports Authority, dated today: The salvage operation to refloat part c.c. Transfer from the reef at Lighthouse Reef is currently underway. The vessel is expected to be refloated and towed off the reef Jul 23. Once the vessel has been refloated it will be towed west of Lighthouse Reef to be sunk in an area where it will not be a hazard to navigation. Personnel from the Department of Environment, Belize Audubon Society, Coastal Zone Management and Belize Port Authority will be on scene to monitor the operation. Once the vessel has

been removed a more thorough assessment of damage sustained by the reef system will be conducted by the respective mandated departments. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Belize City, Jul 27 -- Waller Marine Belize Ltd. (contracted by underwriters) has reported today that efforts to dislodge part c.c. Transfer from the reef (carried out Jul 23-25) were unsuccessful. They are presently considering the situation, with regard to the way forward. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRANSMODAL (Argentina)

Montevideo, Jul 25 -- Ro/ro Transmodal enroute to Rio Grande had an explosion and was put into Buenos Aires Jul 14. Understand vessel is still there. -- Lloyd's Agents.

URSULA C. (Cyprus)

London, Jul 22 -- Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 0845, UTC: General cargo Ursula C.: Situation remains unchanged.

London, Jul 22 -- Understand services are being rendered to general cargo Ursula C. under Lloyd's Open Form by SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Jul 25 -- Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 1016, UTC: General cargo Ursula C. sank in lat 36 15N, long 09 11W, at 0100, UTC, Jul 23.

VICUNA (Chile)

London, Jul 27 -- Ultragas, a subsidiary of Ultramar of Chile, is to appeal against a \$21.3m penalty levelled by two Brazilian environmental authorities following the fatal explosion on board chemical/oil carrier Vicuna last year. Four people died in the blast, which blew the vessel in two as it was unloading 14,000 tonnes of methanol at the private berth of Cattalini Terminals Maritimos in Paranagua on Nov 15. The cash demand relates solely to the environmental impact of the gas and bunker spill. An official report into the cause of the incident is still being compiled. But leading Chilean business newspaper Diario Financiero yesterday reported that the company considered the demand unjust and disproportionate. Chief executive Michael Schröder stressed that Ultragas had already spent \$15m as a result of the incident. The money went towards addressing environmental concerns, contracts with specialist companies, clean-up manpower and aid to affected fishing communities. Although he conceded the vessel was responsible for contamination, he argued: "The environmental damage was due, in large part, to the absence of contingency plans in the port of Paranagua to deal with this type of accident." He insisted that the vessel was in excellent technical condition and there were no operational anomalies. The vessel is understood to have carried all the relevant certifications to carry gas. After the accident, Ultragas had taken preventative measures to tighten up

controls while vessels were alongside. Mr Schröder told the newspaper that the incident would not cause a big loss to the company because it would largely be covered by insurance. The vessel is entered with the Britannia P&I club. Directors there were yesterday unavailable for comment. Finally, Mr Schröder added that the company was planning to build a replacement for the lost vessel. He was yesterday in a meeting and therefore not available for comment. The Brazilian national environmental authority, known as Ibama from its Portuguese acronym, and its provincial counterpart, IAP, have taken a tough line against all parties involved in the incident. Terminal owner Cattalini has been handed a hefty fine, while the port authority has had to pay a lesser penalty after being judged to have been slow in applying its emergency plan to contain the loss of gas. Ultragas is a member of the London-based International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, which yesterday confirmed that it had provided technical advice to the clean-up efforts. Local media outlets have also reported that legal action is being taken by the families of the people that died in the accident.

WAVE SENTINEL (U.K.)

London, Jul 27 -- Report today of a fire in the generator room of cable Wave Sentinel (12330 gt, built 1995), alongside Cargo Fleet Wharf, Teesport. Fire now out. No report of casualties.

Hull, Jul 28 -- Cable Wave Sentinel had a small engine-room fire while at Teesport yesterday. Repairs are to be effected at the port and are estimated to be completed in 3-4 days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

WEI HANG 9 (Malta)

London, Jul 22 - One Chinese seaman died, one was injured and eight were missing today after two ships collided off the Japanese coast near Tokyo, causing one of them to sink. General cargo Wei Hang 9 (3947 gt, built 1983), carrying a crew of 21 and a cargo of 5,700 tonnes of scrap metal, was heading for Dalian, China, when it collided with general cargo Kaishin Maru (499 gt, built 1992), owned by shipping firm Kayama Kaiun K.K. based in Osaka Prefecture, off Chiba, at 0510hrs, the coast guard said. Wei Hang 9 sank, while Kaishin Maru sustained cracks in the collision but its four crew members on board are unhurt. Rescuers were searching for survivors of the collision, which occurred in thick fog 10 km off the coast, the coast guard said.

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A crew member was killed and eight others were missing after general cargo Wei Hang 9 sank off the coast of Chiba Prefecture in the Pacific Ocean early today, after a collision with general cargo Kaishin Maru, the Japan Coast Guard said. The accident took place at around 0510 hrs, about 18 kilometres south of Cape Inubosaki in the

prefecture, where visibility was low due to dense fog, the coast guard said. The accident caused an oil spill. Kaishin Maru is owned by Osaka-based shipping firm Kayama Kaiun K.K. and operated by Kotobuki Kisen K.K., based in Imabari, Ehime Prefecture. The port bow of Kaishin Maru and the starboard bridge of Wei Hang 9 collided. Part of Wei Hang 9 was seen around nine metres underwater, the coast guard said. The depth of water in the area was around 50 meters. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the sea was relatively calm with waves of one to two metres, but a dense fog warning was in effect for northeastern Chiba Prefecture at that time. The Japan Coast Guard said it has dispatched eight patrol boats and four aircraft for rescue operations. Kaishin Maru, carrying steel pipes, was sailing to Kushiro port in Hokkaido from Chiba port. Wei Hang 9, loaded scrap iron at Shiogama port, was bound for Dalian, the coast guard said.

London, Jul 22 -- Following navigation warning issued today: Sunken wreck 3947 tons (general cargo Wei Hang 9) exists in lat 35 32.5N, long 140 49.2E.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four crewmen died and five others were missing after general cargo Wei Hang 9 and general cargo Kaishin Maru collided in heavy fog causing Wei Hang 9 to sink yesterday off the coast of Chiba Prefecture, Japan Coast Guard officials said. None of the four crew on the Kaishin Maru were injured. At 0457, yesterday, a local meteorological observatory in Choshi in the prefecture issued a dense fog advisory to areas in north-eastern Chiba Prefecture. Visibility was estimated to be less than 500 metres.

London, Jul 25 -- General cargo Wei Hang 9 and general cargo Kaishin Maru collided in heavy fog off the Japanese Pacific coast in the early hours of Friday morning (Jul 22), killing four Chinese crew. The Wei Hang 9 sank rapidly after the collision. The Japan Coastguard deployed patrol boats and aircraft to the spot some 10 kms south of Cape Inubosaki in Chiba prefecture. By Friday evening five members of the 21 strong crew of the Wei Hang 9 were still missing. Thirteen crew were rescued by the coastguard, although one died later of his injuries. Three others were later found dead. Concern has also been raised about the sighting of an oil spill spreading from the location of the sunken vessel. The Wei Hang 9, which sunk with a cargo of 5,700 tonnes of scrap metal it was transporting to Dalian northern China, had 23,000 gallons of fuel onboard. Cape Inubosaki is host to some of Japan's more beautiful beaches and the Japanese are about to embark on annual holidays. A spokesman for Nippon Marine said the salvage firm was preparing to tackle the oil spill, ahead of its drift toward the coastline.

Yokohama, Jul 27 -- General cargo Wei Hang 9: No schedule of wreck removal has been fixed yet. Japan Coast Guard investigation into general cargo Kaishin Maru seems to have been completed, however its subsequent movements are unknown. - Lloyd's Agents.

X-PRESS PUMORI (Singapore)

London, Jul 26 -- Following received from the managers of c.c. X-Press Pumori (ex X-Press Kaveri, 6973 gt, built 1980), dated Singapore, today: X-Press Pumori, Singapore for Colombo, had turbo-charger failure, about 10 days ago (Jul 16). Vessel is being towed back to Singapore where due later this week for replacement of turbo-charger. (Note -- X-Press Pumori sailed Singapore Jul 13 for Colombo.

YONG TONG (Hong Kong)

See Eltsen.

YUE SHAN (Panama)

Shanghai, Jul 26 -- Bulk Yue Shan was under repair at Dadong Shipyard in Chongming Island of Shanghai. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YUN CHANG (Taiwan)

Taipei, Jul 28 -- Sand carrier Yun Chang is still aground and the owner/P&I is now arranging to pump out the fuel in the vessel's tanks to prevent oil pollution. They will then commence the salvage operation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YUNG CHANG (Taiwan)

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



SOMALIA

London, Jul 25 -- Pirates armed with rifles and a bazooka fired on Italian ro/ro Jolly Marrone (30969 gt, built 1982) last Thursday (Jul 21) as it travelled along the Somali coast, port authorities said, AP reports. The vessel escaped unharmed and none of the crew were hurt. Two smaller vessels, carrying 10 people, attempted to board Jolly Marrone some 100 miles (160 km) off the coast, a spokesman for Italy's central port authority in Rome said. As the master veered off and increased speed, the pirates fired on the vessel and tried to pursue it but gave up after a short chase, the official said. The spokesman, who asked that his name not be used, said no-one was wounded in the attack and added that the vessel did not suffer any major damage. The officers on board are Italians, but the total number of crew and their nationalities were not immediately known, the spokesman said. The Linea Messina-owned vessel was travelling from Mombasa, Kenya, to Djibouti. It continued on course for the East African port after the attack.

London, Jul 26 -- Gunmen who hijacked a United Nations food-aid vessel (general cargo Semlow) bound for Somalia almost a month ago yesterday pledged to release the vessel's crew, Agence France-Presse reported, citing a shipping agent. The information came "from the Kenyan ambassador to Somalia but we are still waiting for their release", AFP quoted Karim Kudrathi of the Motaku Shipping Agency in Mombasa, Kenya as saying. Eight crew members will be released while the Sri Lankan master and a Tanzanian engineer will remain aboard, the report said. (See issue of Jul 15.)

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Red Sea pirates again tried and failed to attack an Italian ship. At 1110 hrs (today) and 85 miles away from the Somalia coast, the Italian product tanker (25400 gt, built 2003) with 24 crew, was attacked by two small pirate boats. The captain immediately sent "SOS" signals to the Italian port authorities, who contacted harbour-master's offices of friendly countries straight away. However, the Cielo di Milano's captain used the ship's fire-fighting devices against pirate boats and succeeded in preventing the pirates from getting any further. The vessel continued its regular course.



GIBRALTAR

London, Jul 22 -- Reported that general cargo Sardijn (1937 gt, built 1994) was detained by the Marine Surveyor (at Gibraltar) at 1630 hrs, Jul 20 and was released at 1700 hrs, Jul 21. (Note -- Sardijn arrived at Gibraltar at 1047 hrs, Jul 20, and sailed at 1722 hrs, Jul 21, destination Antwerp.)



AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: The Russian Government is threatening to break off its diplomatic relations with the Federal Government, new Federal Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Chief Christopher Adebayo Ojo (SAN) hinted at the weekend (Jul 23/24). The decision is to protest alleged delay in trial of 13 of its nationals detained by the Nigerian authorities since Oct 8 last year over allegation of involvement in oil bunkering. A delegation from Russian Government led by its consul in Nigeria hinted the Federal

Government about its plan during a visit to the Office of the new Federation Attorney-General in Abuja. Although the Russian Government said that it was not averse to the Federal Government's decision to prosecute its nationals if they contravened the laws of the land, yet, the foreign government contended that the continued detention of its nationals without any progress in their trial was not tolerable. The delegation which frowned at the slow justice administration system of the country said a situation whereby 40 appearances had been made by its nationals in court without any substantial progress in their trial was unfortunate. Russian Government consequently threatened to sever its diplomatic relations with Nigeria if trial in the case was not sped up by the Nigerian high court trying them. But the new Federation Attorney-General, Chief Bayo Ojo (SAN) who told them that he would look at their complaints, however, assured that the Russians would get fair trial and justice in the matter. He appealed to the delegation members to rub from their minds any pre-conceived notion that the alleged delay in trial was deliberate. The authorities of the Nigerian Navy arrested product tanker African Pride with a 13-man Russian crew aboard on Oct 8, 2004 on the high seas, within the Nigerian territorial waters, near Royal Dutch Shell's Forcados Oil Export Terminal. The vessel was allegedly arrested by a naval team led by Lt Commander Bamidele and was found to be unlawfully conveying about 11,300 metric tons of crude oil valued at about N345million. The arrest of the vessel was not without resistance as the team of naval officers on patrol which seized it had to fire two gunshots into the air to compel the captain and the crew comply with directive to go back to Lagos. Some powerful naval officers were said to have attempted to release the vessel the day it was seized while the 11,300 metric tons of oil allegedly conveyed by the vessel was illegally transferred into another ship three weeks after its arrest at the time the vessel was still in the custody of the navy. The tanker vessel however eventually disappeared before it was allegedly found in UAE recently. The Nigerian Navy had sacked and demoted two admirals over the roles played by them in the disappearance of the tanker vessel. The Captain of the vessel, Mr Pakhomov Valeriy and 12 others, all Russians, had been arraigned before a Federal high court in Lagos while trial had started in the matter. Not less than ten persons had testified against the Russians. But Valeriy had denied before the Nigerian trial court that the vessel was on illegal mission, adding that they were not even arrested within the Nigerian territorial water as being claimed. According to him, he said the vessel was arrested at 31 nautical miles (from the coast) and not 12 nautical miles which is within Nigerian territorial waters. Besides,

Valeriy had said that nobody offered him to carry crude oil and that his vessel could not have carried crude oil because its owner instructed him not to do so. According to him, he said the vessel was loaded by Fabisco and Allied Products but that he didn't know the content.

ANGELIKA S. (Germany)

Corunna, Jun 27 -- General cargo Angelika S. is still laid-up at Corunna, situation unchanged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARDEAL (Romania)

Khulna, Jul 28 -- General cargo Ardeal: Understand that there are no developments with the vessel which is still under arrest at Mongla. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ASUNCION XI (Philippines)

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard today announced the confiscation of over a hundred kilos of bomb-making materials at the North Harbor in Manila. The discovery of the explosives came as the police and military tightened security around Metro Manila to pre-empt a disruption of President Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (SONA) tomorrow. Leaders from the opposition and militant groups said they will hold massive protests near the Batasang Pambansa complex to call for the President's resignation. The authorities recently warned of terrorist and communist infiltration into the ranks of the protesters. A report today from Task Force Sea Marshal said it recovered 120 kilos of ammonium nitrate from general cargo Asuncion XI (110 dwt), owned by San Nicolas Shipping Lines. The Coast Guard said the explosives were confiscated yesterday afternoon while the vessel was docked at Pier 2 in Isla Puting Bato, North Harbor. The report added that the bomb-making materials were placed in four carton boxes. The Coast Guard disclosed that the boxes were owned by a certain Tessie and was intended to be shipped to Coron, Palawan. The report said the confiscated materials were "already processed or finished product ready to be used as explosives." "Agricultural grade ammonium nitrate in solid form is normally used as fertiliser but has likewise more often been used by unscrupulous individuals for the manufacture of bombs and improvised explosives, more particularly for dynamite fishing and recently in support of terrorist activities," the Coast Guard said in its report. "Ammonium nitrate is included in the list of controlled or regulated chemicals, explosives and explosive ingredients, the shipment or transport of which are required to be covered by appropriate permit from the PNP Firearms Explosives Division," it added. The Coast Guard said operatives are now looking for the whereabouts of the owner and will question the owners of the San Nicolas Shipping Lines. The confiscated

explosives were brought to Coast Guard District National Capital Region-Central Luzon for safekeeping. (See issues of Jun 15 and 16.)

Manila, Jul 24 -- The Philippine Coast Guard on reported today that it had detained Philippine-registered general cargo Asuncion XI (110 dwt) following the discovery of over a hundred kilos of explosives on board. The Coast Guard in a report said that 120 kilos of ammonium nitrate were confiscated Saturday afternoon while the vessel was docked at Pier 2, North Harbour Terminal, Port of Manila. The report added that the bomb-making materials were placed in four carton boxes and earmarked for Coron, Palawan in western Philippines. "Ammonium nitrate in solid form is normally used as fertilizer but has likewise more often been used by unscrupulous individuals for the manufacture of bombs and improvised explosives, more particularly for dynamite fishing and recently in support of terrorist activities," the Coast Guard said in its report. This is the second time, in a little more than a month that Asuncion XI has been detained for transporting explosives. On Jun 12, the vessel was held at the North Harbour terminal after Philippine Coast Guard personnel discovered four boxes containing 200 kilos of ammonium nitrate on board during a routine inspection. The Coast Guard said that they would be filing charges against the master of Asuncion XI. They would likewise be questioning the owner. Asuncion XI is owned by the Manila-based San Nicholas Shipping Lines and operates between Manila and Palawan. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 26 -- The Philippine Coast Guard said that it had released general cargo Asuncion XI and its crew on Monday as they were apparently unaware that there were explosives on board. "The vessel has been released to its owner as there is insufficient evidence showing collusion on the part of the crew," Coast Guard Action Centre director Commander Avelino Fortuna said. Asuncion XI was detained by the Coast Guard on Sunday following the discovery of 120 kilos of ammonium nitrate on board. The ship was then docked at Pier 2, North Harbour Terminal, Manila. Asuncion XI is now operating on its regular route between Manila and Palawan in western Philippines. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

CHEMSEA (Greece)

London, Jul 22 -- A report in today's edition of Newsfront states: Seized again at the end of June, this time by a Mediterranean Bunker Services, in pursuit of E4,943, in a claim against the registered owners, Helix Shipping, chemical/oil carrier Chemsea has again been listed for auction. The date is set for Aug 3. The vessel is currently lying at Elefsina and has a start-up price of E46,670 -- Lloyd's Agents.

JERBA (Tunisia)

Bizerta, Jul 28 -- General cargo Jerba is still at the Ml Bourguiba yard under arrest. There are no prospects to date of it's eventual release. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JUPITER (Cyprus)

St. Petersburg, Jul 28 -- Bulk/c.c. Jupiter (renamed Silver Lakes), arrested at St. Petersburg Jun 11 2003, is currently under repair in Kanonersky Shipyard, St.Petersburg. - Lloyd's Agents.

MAE YEMANJA

Corunna, Jul 27 -- Fishing Mae Yemanja is still laid-up at Corunna, situation unchanged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORASIA TAURUS (Antigua & Barbuda)

See under "Marine."

OLYMPIA I (Greece)

London, Jul 22 -- A report in today's edition of Newsfront, states: In the second half of July, passenger Olympia I (5119 gt, built 1953), was seized by a private creditor, in pursuit of a \$18,052, claim against the registered owners, Royal Olympia Cruises.

PAVEL LEONOV (Russia)

Dalian, Jul 27 -- Understand that trawler Pavel Leonov was arrested by the ship agent and the salvor in April due to the non-payment of the agency fee of US\$ 200,000 and salvage fee of US\$ 1,500,000. There is no prospect of release and the auction procedure is ongoing. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANTORINI SKY (Greece)

London, Jul 22 -- A report in today's edition of Newsfront states: After being seized several times, the latest time by Hempel Coatings (Hellas) end-October in pursuit of a Euro11,394.98 claim against the registered owners: Golden Ferries Maritime, ro/ro Santorini Sky has once again listed for auction, this time on Sep 9. Lying at Keratsini, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euro175,000.

WIN EAGLE (Malta)

Avonmouth, Jul 26 -- Bulk Win Eagle is still under detention at Avonmouth, and is expected to sail on Jul 29. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents**BASHKORTOSTAN, RUSSIA**

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Around thirty fire brigades have been involved in fire fighting at the Novo-Ufimsk oil processing plant after an oil pipeline rupture. The spread of the fire has been prevented, the head department of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of Bashkortostan said by

telephone. The Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations specified that the pipeline rupture was a result of pressure caused by gas mixture of fuel and hydrogen fumes in the outlet from the purification block. Firemen have poured cold water onto the block to cool it. The pipeline has been blockaded in the dangerous section until the hazardous hydrogen mixture burns out. There is no threat either to workshops or personnel, the Ministry for Emergency Situations said. The fire earlier assessed at level four on the five-level fire scale has been lowered to a less dangerous level - three. The Novo-Ufimsk oil processing plant belongs to the Bashneftkhim Company.

DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

London, Jul 27 - A press report, dated Jul 25, states: A devastating oil spill has occurred in Otu-Jeremi community in Delta State, following a rupture on a Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) pipeline. The incident occurred in the early hours of yesterday among one of the pipelines, leading to the Otorogun flow stations located in the community. The oil leaked out from a small point and devastated farm land and economic trees. Following the discovering of the spill, which is the second the company is experiencing in the last one week, officials of the company moved swiftly to stop the oil from further damaging the environmental. Shell External Relations Manager, Western Division, Mr. Harriman Oyofa, confirmed the occurrence, but said the spill did not spread beyond the company's pipeline Right of Way (ROW) which is within the company's property. He said all effort has been made to prevent the oil from spreading to other areas. Oyofa assured the community that the company would ensure that the situation is brought under control. While the oil spill that devastated Ugbokodo in Okpe Local Government area was quickly dismissed as sabotage, Shell is yet to make categorical statement on the case of the Otu-Jeremi spillage.

Pollution**FAIR VOYAGER (Liberia)**

London, Jul 22 -- A report in today's edition of Newsfront, states: The Greek operator and Liberian owner of chemical/oil carrier Fair Voyager (28010 gt, built 1985) have been fined \$1.5 million, after pleading guilty to conspiracy, obstructing justice, perjury and making false statements to U.S. investigators. The captain and three crewmembers are awaiting sentence on various criminal charges. In the Southern District Court of New York, judge Loretta Preska fined the

Piraeus-based Fairdeal Group Management and Fair Voyager Maritime of Liberia \$1.05 million, ordered a donation of £450,000 be made to the National Fish and Wildlife foundation, and placed the companies on four years probation. The crew of the tanker, under the direction of the chief engineer, dumped as much as 60 tonnes of sludge and about 40 tonnes of oil-contaminated bilge into International waters between April 21 and November 20, last year. The charges stem from the cover-up conspiracy that followed. In addition, the captain admitted he lied to the U.S.Coastguard on Nov 24, 2004, when he claimed he had performed a routine test to gauge explosive vapours. The U.S.Coastguard determined there were sufficient vapours "to cause the ship to explode" and ordered the ship to leave New York harbour.

Weather & Navigation**HURRICANE "EMILY"**

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mexican authorities yesterday reported the first death from Hurricane "Emily", which destroyed thousands of buildings and drove 90,000 people from their homes as it tore through northern Mexico this week. The report of a woman swept away by floodwaters in the northern city of San Pedro Garza Garcia came just as President Vicente Fox toured the devastation caused by the hurricane. Officials said the evacuation of tens of thousands of people in the Yucatan area and along Mexico's northern Gulf coast helped avoid more extensive tragedies. Civil defense officials in Nuevo Leon state reported that on Friday they recovered the body of a woman who was swept away and drowned while trying to cross a flooded canyon.

London, Jul 27 -- Bell 412 helicopter, XA-VVD, owned by Helivan S.A de C.V , Mexico City, and being operated by Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX), was substantially damaged upon impact with the water following an in-flight encounter with severe weather (hurricane "Emily") while attempting to land at an offshore platform near Ciudad del Carmen, State of Campeche, Mexico, at 2030, CDT, Jul 17. The two commercial pilots were killed.

INDIA

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 22 people have died and some 120 are feared trapped beneath two separate landslides in India's western state of Maharashtra following flashfloods caused by monsoon rains, police and an official said overnight. The landslides occurred in Raighad district, about 170 km south of the

state capital Mumbai, which was drenched with more than 1540 mm of rain in the past two days, police and weather officials said. "We confirm that there are at least 22 people dead in several mudslides caused due to the flashfloods," state Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh told a press conference in Mumbai. "The state has pressed emergency rescue services into operation and has taken cognisance of the damage caused," he added. Police in the state's radio control room put the number of missing feared trapped in the landslides at "more than 120". Mumbai, meanwhile, was also waterlogged after being hit by the torrential rains. Water flooded on to railway tracks and halted all suburban train services, the lifeline of the city, railway officials said. Flights from leading air carriers to and from Mumbai were subjected to lengthy delays, airline officials said.

Bombay, Jul 27 -- Floods and landslides killed at least 70 people in western India today, left dozens more missing, and forced rescue teams to evacuate thousands of people stranded by rising waters in the financial capital, Bombay. The army, navy and air force were called in to help as floodwaters swept the coast of Maharashtra state, with officials increasingly concerned about 150 people feared buried after a landslide in a village 150 km south of Bombay. "We have not been able to reach some villages where more than several dozen people may be missing in landslides," state relief secretary, Krishna Vatsa, told Reuters. Vatsa said the situation in the worst-affected region south of Bombay was improving as the rains had stopped and water levels were receding. But the rescuers' work was hampered because the weather had even disrupted their communications networks. In Bombay, meteorologists said heavy rains and high winds were forecast to continue for another 48 hours, after a record 94 cm of rainfall in the north of the city during the previous day, the highest since 1974. Electricity and phone links were cut in Bombay, schools were shut and commuters were stranded for a second day as trains and buses were cancelled. "We have deployed the army to help people stranded and to evacuate those living in the low-lying areas," a government spokesman said. "We have already evacuated around 10,000 people." Many office workers slept in their offices overnight or checked into hotels. Indian television reported that dozens of people were trapped overnight in a double-decker bus. Trading on Bombay's bond and currency markets was abandoned, flights in and out of the city were rerouted or cancelled and the government called a state holiday, advising people to stay home. Companies postponed board meetings and tourists to the city of 15 million people waited for news about their flights. Outside the city the armed forces helped relief officials air-drop food packets to stranded people. The

chaos highlighted Bombay's desperately overloaded and inadequate infrastructure. Authorities have recently begun demolishing slums as part of a hugely ambitious \$6 billion plan to turn the city into a new Shanghai. -- Reuters.

ROMANIA

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Deadly floods in northeastern Romania earlier this month, which killed 24 people, caused damage worth 800 million dollars, the government said today. "In all, 3,571 houses were completely destroyed and 2,993 are on the point of collapse," Interior Minister Vasile Blaga said. "Nearly 3,000 kilometres of roads and about 100 kilometres of dykes were damaged by the worst floods for 30 years," he added. Romanian President Traian Basescu has called on the commission to provide 20 million euros for emergency reconstruction work.

SWITZERLAND

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Swiss insurance companies said today that the damage caused by violent storms that hit the Lake Geneva area in western Switzerland on Monday (Jul 18) could reach 100 million Swiss francs (about \$77 million). The Swiss Insurance Association said hailstones the size of golf balls damaged around 15,000 cars, and the damage to cars alone will cost insurers up to 70 million Swiss francs (about \$54 million). High winds and hail destroyed hundreds of hectares of vineyards, the hardest hit being the Lavaux wine region on the northern shore of Lake Geneva where the local vintners associationsaid between 400 and 500 hectares had been wiped out. Insurers have yet to estimate the cost of the damage to buildings but expect to receive up to 4,000 claims for torn-off roofs, broken windows and flooded cellars. At least three people were seriously injured during Monday's storms, which brought gusts of wind up to 160 km per hour. Several boats on Lake Geneva capsized and trees were uprooted, with one falling across the railway tracks disrupting rail service in canton Valais.

TROPICAL STORM "BANYAN"

London, Jul 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Banyan" near lat 16.3N, long 137.7E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 15 degrees at seven knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 17.9N, long 138.0E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 19.6N, long 138.1E at 0600, UTC, Jul 23. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots.

London, Jul 25 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Banyan" was located

near lat 28.3N, long 136.5E, approximately 465 nautical miles south-south-west of Tokyo, Japan, and has tracked northward, or 350 degs, at 13 knots over the past six hours. This position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The maximum sustained winds are 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 120 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 75 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 24 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 26, the centre is predicted to be near lat 33.3N, long 137.4E, with maximum winds of 50 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful typhoon is approaching Japan's Pacific coast and may land between the Kii Peninsula and eastern Kanto area tonight, the Japan Meteorological Agency said yesterday. Typhoon "Banyan" was about 390 kilometres south of Shionomisaki point in Wakayama Prefecture at 2100, local time, yesterday and heading north at 35 kilometres-per-hour. Shionomisaki point is at the southern tip of the Kii Peninsula.

Tokyo, Jul 26 -- Tropical storm "Banyan" neared the coast of Japan's main island today, bringing strong winds and torrential rain, but it weakened and was swerving away from a forecast course over the densely populated capital. The storm had been expected to batter Tokyo with winds of up to 90 kph, but it shifted course slightly and was heading for the Boso peninsula east of the city, a Meteorological Agency official said. "It is very large, so the effects will be widespread, but it is generally weakening," a Meteorological Agency official said. Coastal roads were being closed and some trains, flights and ferries cancelled ahead of tropical storm "Banyan", estimated to be 70 km south-south-west of Miyakejima, an island south of Tokyo, at 1600 hrs (0700, UTC), the Meteorological Agency said. Oil refiners were also forced to halt some shipping. Nippon Oil Co, Japan's biggest oil refiner, suspended waterborne operations at its Negishi refinery and its Yokohama oil terminal, both in eastern Japan. Idemitsu Kosan Co and Cosmo Oil Co, Japan's third- and fourth-biggest refiners, also said they had suspended waterborne operations at some facilities. The Meteorological Agency issued flood warnings for Tokyo and surrounding areas, and hundreds of people in Shizuoka prefecture west of the capital were urged to evacuate. The storm was expected to make landfall on the Boso peninsula at about 2100 hrs (1200, UTC), a Meteorological Agency official said. Under Japanese standards the storm is considered a typhoon, but other agencies categorise it as a severe tropical storm. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office:

Tropical storm "Banyan" near lat 33.4N, long 138.8E, at 0600, UTC, Jul 26. Movement past six hours 045 deg at 16 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by a combination of satellite and radar. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Becoming extratropical. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 27: Position lat 39.3N, long 143.6E. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Becoming extratropical.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful typhoon approached the Tokyo region today, delaying flights and traffic and causing a sea accident as Japan braced for downpours. Typhoon "Banyan" was near Miyakejima island, 180 kilometres south of Tokyo, and racing up at 30 kilometers per hour at 1700 hrs, the meteorological agency said. Packing winds of up to 90 kilometres per hour, Banyan was to strike the eastern edge of Tokyo in Chiba prefecture late today and move along the Pacific coast of eastern Japan through tomorrow, the agency said. But intense rain fell on and off in downtown Tokyo late this afternoon, with many business people opting to go home early to escape the typhoon as several train services were called off. At least 43 domestic flights linking Tokyo to the rest of the country were cancelled and some expressways were impassable because of the pouring rain, public broadcaster Japan Broadcasting Corporation said. A sailboat was wrecked in the Pacific east of Hachijojima island, 300 kilometres south of Tokyo, but the two crew members were rescued by an air force helicopter, a coast guard official said.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Banyan" landed in eastern Japan yesterday evening, after causing downpours in the Tokyo and Nagoya areas and disrupting air, land and sea traffic, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The season's seventh typhoon is the first to make landfall on the Japanese archipelago this year and is heading north-east to reach waters off Hokkaido today, the agency said, adding it will be reduced to an extratropical depression tomorrow.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Banyan" pummelled Japan with heavy wind and torrential rains, leaving at least four people injured and forcing the evacuation of hundreds. The typhoon landed in Chiba prefecture about 80 kilometres southeast of Tokyo. It had winds of up to 90 kilometres per hour, the Meteorological Agency said. Four men in central Japan were injured in separate incidents, some slipping off the roofs of their homes as they tried to make repairs before the storm hit. About 320 people were evacuated from their homes around central Japan amid concerns about landslides, public broadcaster NHK reported. Kyodo News agency said a military helicopter was sent to rescue two men aboard a

yacht. Neither was hurt, it said. Some coastal areas recorded up to 400 millimetres of rain, and authorities were issuing flood warnings for the Tokyo area, the Meteorological Agency said. Ferry services between the mainland and islands south of the capital were cancelled, as were 47 flights by domestic and international airlines. Some trains in Tokyo and the surrounding area were delayed or running slower as a precaution against heavy wind and rain. Authorities closed parts of coastal highways. Nippon Oil Corp and Cosmo Oil Co halted ship deliveries of oil products from several refineries. But the suspensions were not expected to disrupt domestic supply because refiners have enough gasoline and fuel in stock to cover emergency interruptions from typhoons or earthquakes. The storm was expected to travel up Japan's eastern coast before heading out into the Pacific Ocean.

London, Jul 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office today: Severe tropical storm "Banyan" was in lat 42.2N, long 147.7E, east of Japan moving north-east at 25 knots, at 0900, UTC, today. Maximum winds 50 knots. Radius of over 30 knot winds 300 miles east semi-circle and 150 miles elsewhere. Forecast position for 2100, UTC, today, lat 45.5N, long 150.3E.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Severe winds caused by typhoon "Banyan" in Japan, hit the Kuril Islands in Russia's Far East, a source in the regional meteorological service said today. There was also heavy downpours, with 35-40 mm of rainfall falling in the course of the night, the source said. The rains were followed by 20-metre-per-second wind gusts. The winds are moving northeasterly along the Kuril chain in the direction of Kamchatka. A gale warning was issued on the Kuril Islands late yesterday afternoon, and all emergency services were activated. "The winds will pass through southern Sakhalin, bringing moderate and heavy rains today," the source said. There was no gale warning for Sakhalin. The winds will mostly affect the Kuril Islands, the source added.

TROPICAL STORM "FRANKLIN"

Miami, Jul 21 -- The busy Atlantic hurricane season notched its sixth tropical storm today when "Franklin" formed in the northern Bahamas islands. Forecasters said "Franklin" could drop up to 5 inches of rain on Eleuthera, Great Abaco and other islands in the northwestern Bahamas. At 2300, EDT, yesterday, the centre of "Franklin" was about 100 miles north-east of Nassau, the Bahamian capital and was moving to the north-west at 13 mph, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. Sustained winds were about 45 mph and forecasters said the storm could strengthen in the next day. Forecasters said they expected "Franklin" to move north through the Atlantic for a few days and then to loop back toward the Florida coast early next week. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Franklin" centre located near lat 26.7N, long 77.3W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 25 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 310 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Forecast position lat 27.6N, long 77.7W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum wind 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 29.0N, long 77.6W at 0600, UTC, Jul 23. Maximum winds 50 knots, gusts 60 knots.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Franklin" strengthened today as it moved away from the Bahamas and headed eastward in the Atlantic, while its rotation carried extremely hot weather to the Florida peninsula. Heat index readings along Florida's Atlantic coast could exceed 110 degrees during the weekend, even though "Franklin's" 70 mph wind and strong rain were not forecast to affect land. It was expected to continue strengthening into tomorrow and would be classified as a hurricane if wind speed increases to at least 74 mph. At midday today, the storm's centre was about 245 miles north-northeast of Great Abaco Island and nearly 635 miles west-southwest of Bermuda, moving northeast at 9 mph. The system was no major threat to any land mass, and the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said "Franklin" may lose its tropical characteristics by early next week.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Franklin" had weakened in the open Atlantic and was expected to begin losing its tropical characteristics. With top sustained winds down to 50 mph, it was centred 365 miles west of Bermuda, and moving toward the east-northeast at 10 mph. Despite its distant location, the circulation driven by "Franklin" was helping blast Florida with hot, humid air. Many parts of the state had heat-index readings of 105 degrees or more on Saturday (Jul 23). A heat advisory was posted for northwest portions of the Panhandle through today, and forecasters warned that little, if any, of the state would soon get relief from the oppressively hot, sticky temperatures. The heat index yesterday reached 110 at Tyndall Air Force Base, 108 in Orlando and 105 in Miami Beach.

London, Jul 25 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Interests in Bermuda should monitor the progress of tropical storm "Franklin". At 0900, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 30.8N, long 70.3W. This position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the east-north-east, or 70 degs, at four knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1008 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. At 0600, UTC, Jul 26, the centre is predicted to be near

lat 31.2N, long 69.0W, with maximum winds of 30 knots and gusts to 40 knots.

London, Jul 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Franklin" located near lat 31.3N, long 68.0W, at 0900, UTC, Jul 26. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots. Forecast for 0900, UTC, Jul 27: Position lat 32.7N, long 67.8W. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots.

London, Jul 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office today: At 0900, UTC, today, tropical storm "Franklin" was in lat 33.1N, long 68.8W, wind speed 35 knots. Forecast for 0600, UTC, July 28: Lat 35.7N, long 68.2W, wind speed 35 knots.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Franklin" is continuing its wobbly course over the open Atlantic, but forecasters have discontinued a tropical storm watch for Bermuda. According to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami, "Franklin"'s slow, erratic path is expected to straighten out as the storm turns north. Forecasters say the storm is no longer expected to effect Bermuda. "Franklin" is now expected to begin moving toward the northeast and away from the western Atlantic islands. The storm is centred today about 240 miles west-northwest of Bermuda, crawling north at seven miles per hour. It has top sustained winds near 40 miles per hour.

TROPICAL STORM "GERT"

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Gert" headed for Mexico's Gulf Coast yesterday, bringing the threat of several inches of rain to areas already soaked by Hurricane "Emily". Mexican officials posted a tropical storm warning for parts of the Gulf coast, stretching from Palma Sola northward to La Pesca. "The primary threat with this system is rainfall," said Richard Pasch, a hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. "And rains from "Gert" will reach some of the areas earlier affected by "Emily", which would pose an increased flood threat." Pasch said "Gert" could deliver four to eight inches of rain to some areas, with isolated mountain regions receiving up to 12 inches. The rain could trigger flash floods and mudslides, he said. At 1700, EDT, "Gert" was centred about 65 miles south-east of Tampico, Mexico, moving toward the west-northwest at 10 mph. The system had sustained winds of 40 mph, just above the 39 mph threshold to become a tropical storm, but had potential to strengthen slightly before landfall.

TROPICAL STORM "NALGAE"

London, Jul 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Nalgae" near lat 30.6N, long 158.5E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 360 degrees at seven knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat

31.8N, long 158.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 32.9N, long 158.4E at 0600, Jul 23. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

Taipei, Jul 22 -- Sand carrier Yung Chang is still aground on the sand coast, up to now without any crew on board. Two Taiwanese crew died as the rescue liferaft overturned in rough seas when the crew left the vessel in the morning of Jul 21. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 22 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: General cargo Golden Cloud (5355 gt, built 1982) is reported to have lost 23 containers overboard in Kaohsiung harbour on Jul 19.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated Jul 22, states: Seventeen people have been confirmed killed and eight missing in Zhejiang and Taiwan provinces after Typhoon "Haitang" this week, with direct economic losses valued at 8.1 billion yuan (US\$1 billion). According to the Taiwan Disaster Rescue Centre, quoted by Shenzhen Special Zone Daily, twelve were left dead on the island and two are yet to be unaccounted for. Five people were killed in Zhejiang, where six others are still in missing and more than 12,000 houses destroyed. The provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters said today that, by Thursday morning (Jul 21), economic losses there totaled 7.22 billion yuan (US\$870 million). Typhoon "Haitang" had weakened significantly before arriving in central China's Hunan Province yesterday, according to meteorologists.

Earthquakes



ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Port Blair, India, Jul 24 -- A strong earthquake of 7.2 magnitude shook India's Andaman and Nicobar islands today, causing residents of the region to run from their homes, but there were no early reports of casualties or damage, police said. "The quake was felt in all the islands of the Andaman and Nicobar chain," a police official said, referring to the more than 550 islands in the remote Indian Ocean archipelago that was devastated by last year's tsunami. In the capital Port Blair, hundreds of people ran out of their homes in panic and rushed to open places.-- Reuters.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake which hit India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands has sparked fears of a tsunami in Thailand. Indian officials say there is no threat of a tsunami after the tremor, measuring seven on the

Richter scale, struck the remote islands off the country's south-east coast. However Thailand issued a tsunami alert and ordered thousands of people living along the Andaman Sea coastline to evacuate. There have been no early reports of damage or casualties. Thailand later cancelled the alert, saying people could now return home. "We've found no tsunami that could endanger people's lives or damage property therefore we now call off the alert," Plodprasob Surasawadee, head of the National Disaster Warning Centre, said in a message broadcast on all television networks.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Aceh's capital city Banda Aceh was hit by an earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale at 0745 today, but no reports on casualties and damaged buildings have been made available yet, an official said. Yasir, who works at the Mata Ie Geophysics station in Aceh Besar, said the epicentre of the quake was about 40 kilometres below the sea to the east of Aceh Jaya regency.

JAPAN

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.0 earthquake shook the Tokyo area today, injuring more than two dozen people, rattling buildings across the capital and temporarily suspending flights and train services. There was no danger of tsunami, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. The quake was the strongest, as measured on Japan's sliding scale of tremor intensity, to hit the capital since 1992, Kyodo News reported. The earthquake, which struck at 1635 hrs, was centered about 55 miles underground in Chiba prefecture, just east of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said. The quake injured at least 27 people in the area, Kyodo reported. Power supply in eastern Japan was not disrupted, but Tokyo's main international airport in Narita briefly closed its runways. Bullet trains between Tokyo and western coastal areas were also suspended, but air and train services resumed later in the evening.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: The magnitude 6.0 quake that hit Tokyo and its vicinity on Saturday (Jul 23) injured 37 people in the area and caused four fires, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said today. Of the victims, 19 are in Tokyo, nine in Saitama, five in Chiba and four in Kanagawa, the agency said. There were also 46 cases in which people were confined in elevators due to the quake.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude-5.6 earthquake struck southwestern Montana yesterday night, rattling windows and shaking buildings, but there were no immediate reports of any serious damage or injuries. The

US Geological Survey said the earthquake was centred about 23 miles north-west of Dillon. It was felt as far away as Helena, about 120 miles to the north, and some residents of Great Falls, more than 200 miles to the north, also reported feeling the tremor. In Dillon, Beaverhead County Commissioner Mike McGinley said there were reports of broken glass and other minor damage, but nothing significant.



Volcanic Activity

MOUNT PAKTU, NORTH KOREA/CHINA

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated Jul 22, states: Volcanic activity around Mt. Paektu, on the border of North Korea and China, is on the rise, a Chinese scientist said today. The mountain, classified as a dormant volcano, experienced considerable seismic activity around 1014-19 and there have been numerous "outbursts" since then, including substantial volcanic activity in 1702. Liu Jiaqi, a researcher at China's Institute of Geology and Geophysics, said at an international symposium on volcanic activities in Northeast Asia. He said the last volcanic outburst at the mountain was reported as recently as 1903. Liu also said the 2,750-metre-high mountain had three existing vents that were formed at different times. The main vent is the 384-metre-deep Chonji, or crater lake, while the other two are located on the Chinese and North Korean sides of the border. "The mountain lies atop the East Asian tectonic plate system where it comes in contact with the Pacific plate" the scientist said. He said the subduction of the Pacific plate under the Asian plate causes the region to rise and triggers volcanic activity.



Political & Civil Unrest

AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: At least 13 people have been killed in clashes in central Afghanistan, officials say. The governor of Uruzgan province, Jan Mohammad Khan, blamed Taliban rebels for trying to incite ethnic tension in the area. Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi said their fighters were not involved in the incident. The situation is said to have calmed down after the intervention of Hazara and Pashtun elders. Mr Khan told the AFP news agency suspected Taliban fighters had killed about 10 in a Hazara village on Monday (Jul 18).

He said the Hazaras thought the attacks were by local Pashtuns and raided a village. (See issue of Jul 20.)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A roadside bomb exploded in eastern Afghanistan, striking a U.S. military convoy and wounding six American troops, the U.S. military said today. Unidentified attackers shot at the convoy after the blast yesterday in Kunar province's Asadabad district, prompting U.S. forces to launch air strikes and artillery fire against suspected enemy positions, the U.S. military said in a statement. It was not immediately known whether any enemy fighters were killed or wounded, the statement said. Today, a small bomb exploded at a police checkpoint in the Afghan capital, injuring two officers and a passer-by and damaging a U.N. vehicle, police said. The blast occurred on a road near Kabul's airport shortly after dawn, police Gen. Mabob Amiri said.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 23, states: Suspected Taliban gunmen have shot dead a judge in southern Afghanistan, in the latest apparent attack on government officials ahead of September elections. Judge Qazi Namatullah was killed by two men on a motorbike today in Panjwayi district, Kandahar Province. A man claiming to speak for the Taliban said the group killed the judge because he worked for the government. Local official Mohammad Shafi also died today, a day after being hurt by a bomb in nearby Shawalikot district. The Taliban say they also carried out that attack. Meanwhile, tribal leaders have helped free three election workers kidnapped in north-eastern Nuristan Province. In the last two months at least four pro-government clerics have been killed in southern Afghanistan by suspected Taliban gunmen. Observers say the killings, and attacks on mosques, are part of a campaign of violence intended to deter Afghans from participating in the elections. The election workers in Nuristan were conducting a voter registration programme. They were kidnapped in Kamdesh district, about 80km from the Pakistan border, a few days ago, a spokesman for the regional governor said.

Kandahar, Jul 26 -- U.S. and Afghan forces have killed up to 50 Taliban fighters in attacks in the central province of Uruzgan, the provincial governor said today. A major Taliban ammunition depot was destroyed during the fighting late yesterday in Deh Rawud district of Uruzgan and 25 Taliban guerrillas were captured, Uruzgan's Governor Jan Mohammad Khan told Reuters. "We have suffered some losses too, but I do not know how many," he said. "Between 40 and 50 Taliban men died in the fighting and bombing." -- Reuters.

COLOMBIA

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Five people were killed and another 13 were taken

hostage during clashes between armed groups in a rural area of west Colombia, said local authorities yesterday. The armed groups initially kidnapped 16 people during a conflict in Riosucio, Choco department. In this rural zone, the guerrilla forces Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the right-wing paramilitary organization United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) are both active. The kidnappers later released three hostages for unknown reasons, said department officials. They did not say which group took the hostages. Police and armed troops reached the area in attempt to rescue the hostages.

EGYPT

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Several explosions have rocked the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh early today. Rescue officials have confirmed that at least 25 people have been killed and a further 110 or more are injured. Police said the explosions were caused by four car bombs in Sharm el-Sheikh and the nearby resort of Naama Bay. About 15 minutes later after the explosions at Sharm el-Sheikh, two blasts were heard from the direction of Naama Bay, an area with dozens of luxury hotels popular with holidaymakers from Europe. Residents say the first explosion at Sharm el-Sheikh started a fire and sent a cloud of smoke up over the town. Another resident said one of the explosions came from the direction of the Moevenpick Hotel in Naama Bay and broke the windows of his apartment. It was unclear how far away he was from the blasts. Bystanders said four cars had exploded in the car park of the Moevenpick Hotel. President Hosni Mubarak has a holiday villa in the adjacent Golf Hotel. Three tourists were killed and others injured in two bombings in the Egyptian capital Cairo in April.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 88 people have been killed in bomb attacks in the Egyptian resort of Sharm al-Sheikh, hospital staff say. Some 200 more were injured in the overnight blasts. The first, in the Old Market, was followed by two more in Naama Bay, where a hotel was badly hit. Most of the dead are Egyptians, but foreigners are among the victims too. A 34-year-old Italian man on his honeymoon and a Czech citizen have been confirmed dead, and at least 20 of those injured are thought to be foreign. The blasts came within minutes of each other, shortly after 0100, local time, when the bars and markets were busy. In the most devastating attack, a bomber rammed his car into Ghazala Gardens Hotel, according to an eyewitness. "A suicide car bomber forced the barrier at the entrance of the hotel. A member of the security staff tried to stop him but he sped towards the reception and there was a huge explosion," an hotel employee said. Parts of the front walls of the hotel collapsed, trapping people

under the rubble. A few hundred metres away, a bomb went off in a car park near the Moevenpick Hotel and popular nightlife spots, causing widespread damage and casualties. In the Old Market area blast, about 4km away, 17 people - believed to be Egyptian workers - were killed as they gathered at a street cafe, rescue officials said. In a statement posted on an Islamic website, a group calling itself the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, al-Qaeda, in Syria and Egypt, said it carried out the bombings, although the claim has not been verified.

Dubai, Jul 26 -- A third previously unknown Islamist group has claimed responsibility on the Internet for the bomb attacks on Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh resort in which at least 64 people were killed. The claim by the Tawhid and Jihad Group in Egypt could be more credible as it was posted on an Islamist Web site often used by the al Qaeda Organization in Iraq, but it was not possible to verify the authenticity of the undated statement. Two other Islamist groups, one claiming links to al Qaeda, have already said in Internet statements that they were behind the Sharm el-Sheikh bombings on Saturday (Jul 23). The Tawhid and Jihad Group in Egypt also said it was responsible for bomb attacks that ripped through the resort town of Taba last October, killing 34 people. It said it carried out both attacks "in obedience to the leaders of jihad (holy war) in al Qaeda, Sheikh Osama bin Laden and Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahri" and to avenge the "oppressed brothers in Iraq and Afghanistan." The group's name is similar to the former name of the Al Qaeda Organization in Iraq led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But the language and style of the statement was less elaborate and had fewer Koranic references than previous claims by Islamist groups affiliated to al Qaeda. The statement named five of those involved in the Taba attacks as Iyad the Palestinian, Suleiman Fulayfel, Hamad al-Tirbani, Mohammed Badawi and Salamah al-Tihi, saying they had all been killed. Egyptian police have identified Fulayfel as one of two bombers who drove a rigged car into a Taba hotel and was killed when he failed to get away in time. "We did not announce these details previously because of our security situation," said the group. "But we are now in a better position and we can also claim our second operation in Sharm el-Sheikh, which we picked to challenge the tyrants of the security forces." The group said it was waging a war to expell "Zionists and crusaders" from Muslim lands, and told non-Muslims they must seek bin Laden's approval before setting foot in Muslim countries if they wanted to be safe. It also warned Muslims against mixing with Christians and Jews, saying they were legitimate targets if they did so. -- Reuters.

INDIA

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated Jul 23, states: In a landmine

blast triggered by the extremist MCC, two policemen were killed and two seriously injured near the Sarabdaha village in Khijarsaray police station area in Gaya today. According to sources, there were over 25 suspected rebels who attacked the police party when they were returning from inspection. Maoist guerrillas have killed eight people, including two policemen, in two Bihar districts, police said today. Police said four people were killed yesterday in a field near Raghunathpur village in Aurangabad district. Two others were killed in retaliation today. Aurangabad District Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar Sinha confirmed that Maoist outfits were behind the slayings. Those killed reportedly belong to smaller Maoist outfits.

Srinagar, Jul 27 -- Shops, schools and businesses across turbulent Indian Kashmir were closed today in protest at the killing of three teenagers by soldiers, police and witnesses said. In the region's main city of Srinagar, the streets were mostly deserted due to the strike. Police and military jeeps and trucks patrolled the city. Saturday (Jul 23) night's shooting of the three boys, aged between 13 and 15, has fuelled anger and led to widespread protests in Kashmir. A 15-year-old boy was also wounded. Today's strike was called by the hardline faction of Kashmir's separatist alliance, the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, which slammed what it called the government's shoot-to-kill policy. "Delhi has given directions to its troops to kill Kashmiris," Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the chief of a hardline faction of Hurriyat, said in a statement. The army said it regretted the deaths of the teenagers and said soldiers had mistaken them for Muslim militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, because they had violated a night-time curfew in place in parts of the region. The army said it was investigating the shootings. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indian troops shot dead five suspected militants, the army said, as a strike gripped the Kashmir valley in a fourth straight day of protests since soldiers mistakenly killed three boys. The five died in four separate clashes spread across two districts bordering the Pakistan-controlled sector of disputed Kashmir. An army spokesman Wednesday said the dead were Islamic militants encountered during cordon and search operations. The strike closed government offices, schools and many shops in Kashmir, correspondents reported. Traffic was light on Srinagar's roads and paramilitary troops were out in force. Several hundred people demonstrated in Kupwara today compared to thousands on previous days, witnesses said. The protestors were defying an official ban on gatherings of more than four people. Five policemen and five protestors were hurt yesterday as police used tear gas, fired in the air

and lashed out with batons against chanting demonstrators, witnesses said. The army has apologised for the killings of the boys and an official inquiry is being held.

IRAQ

Algiers, Jul 22 -- Algeria has not yet received any claim of responsibility from the kidnappers of two diplomats snatched near their mission in Baghdad, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today. "As long as there are no claims of responsibility from those behind the kidnappings we have to wait. We don't know who is behind it," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdelhamid Chebchoub told Reuters. In the Iraqi capital yesterday, eight gunmen grabbed mission chief Ali Belaroussi along with diplomatic attache Azzedine Belkadi, who took up his new post a few days earlier, he said. "They had just left the embassy on their way to lunch when they were intercepted in their car some 60 metres from the embassy building," Chebchoub said. "An embassy attache crossed his colleague's Toyota car in the street and then saw two cars pull up, gunmen get out of their vehicles and quickly snatched the two diplomats and put each of them in a car," he said. Documents and mobile phones were left in the car of the diplomats, who were not accompanied by bodyguards. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 22 people have been killed by a suicide bomber who blew up a lorry laden with explosives at a police station in the Iraqi capital Baghdad. About 25 people, mostly civilians, were injured in the blast at about 1450, local time, in eastern Mashatal area. It was the worst attack since a suicide bomber blew up a tanker last week killing nearly 100 people. The police station is surrounded by concrete barriers and the bomb exploded outside the perimeter. "It appears that the bomber who was driving the truck wanted to enter the police station, but for some reasons the explosives exploded 20 m before the police station," an interior ministry official was quoted as saying. The bodies of the victims, many of whom were policemen, were completely burnt by the blast," he said. At least one building and a number of vehicles were set on fire by the blast. Firefighters are at the scene trying to extinguish the flames. The blast left a giant blackened crater at the scene, from where emergency workers carried bodies away on stretchers. Police say the death toll could rise still further. Today's attack came amid uncertainty over the participation of Iraq's Sunnis in the committee drafting Iraq's new constitution. Sunni representatives are continuing their boycott announced on Thursday (Jul 21) - two days after three Sunni politicians were killed in Baghdad. They have demanded an international investigation of the incident.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two suicide bombers have attacked police checkpoints in central Baghdad, killing seven people. Five people died when the first bomber blew up a minibus close to the Sadeer hotel, sending clouds of black smoke into the sky. The hotel, which has been attacked in the past, once housed US contractors. Hours later, a second bomber struck near an entrance to Baghdad's government and diplomatic compound, killing two policemen. On Sunday, a suicide bomber killed at least 25 people when he blew up a lorry at a police station in the Iraqi capital, injuring more than 30. Insurgents have often targeted police in an effort to destabilise the country. However, police said most of those killed outside the police station were civilians, some of them so badly burnt they have been hard to identify. The police station is surrounded by concrete barriers and the bomb exploded outside the perimeter. The blast left a giant blackened crater at the scene. More than 200kg (440lb) of explosives are thought to have been loaded onto the lorry. Other cars were set on fire and shops in the area damaged. On Sunday, the Iraqi government announced it had a new security plan for the entire country but it has not revealed any details and nothing it has done so far seems to be working. In some areas of Baghdad, residents are trying to provide their own security by setting up barriers on the roads in their neighbourhood. The latest attacks come amid uncertainty over the participation of Iraq's Sunni Muslims in the committee drafting Iraq's new constitution. Sunni representatives are continuing their boycott announced on Thursday, two days after three Sunni politicians were killed in Baghdad. They have demanded an international investigation of the incident.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been detained in connection with the kidnapping of two Algerian diplomats last week, an Iraqi Interior Ministry official said today. Gen. Hussein Ali Kamal, a ministry security adviser, did not say who the suspects were nor when they were picked up in last week's abduction of Algeria's top envoy to Iraq, charge d'affaires Ali Belaroussi, 62, and another Algerian diplomat, Azzedine Belkadi, 47. The two Algerians were kidnapped at gunpoint last Thursday (Jul 21) along with their driver in west Baghdad's upscale Mansour district, police and Algerian officials said. Today, al-Iraqiya TV broadcast part of an interview with Interior Minister Bayan Jabr, who referred to the detentions. An Internet statement Saturday (Jul 23) attributed to al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for kidnapping the two diplomats this week, saying their government had ignored warnings against deepening ties to the U.S.-backed Iraqi leadership. The statement's authenticity could not be verified.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: Algeria has withdrawn all its diplomats from Iraq following the kidnap of two of its staff last week. "I can confirm that there are no longer any Algerian diplomats in Baghdad," said minister Abdelkader Messahel. Algeria said the decision was a precautionary measure and was not made in response to the kidnappers' demands. Iraq has been trying to encourage other countries to set up embassies in Baghdad, but Egypt's top envoy has already been abducted and killed. The group al-Qaeda in Iraq claimed to have carried out both attacks. Ali Balaroussi, Algeria's top envoy to the country, and his colleague, Azzedin Belkadi, were seized in Mansour, Baghdad, on Thursday (Jul 21). Pictures of what appeared to be identity papers belonging to Mr Belaroussi were posted on the internet today. Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Bedjaoui said his government was trying hard to get the two diplomats freed. "The government is not sitting idle. I cannot tell you what it is doing right now, but it is doing everything it can for the two nationals to be freed," he said.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: A roadside bombing killed four American soldiers in southwestern Baghdad, the U.S. command said today, and 16 Iraqi government workers died in a hail of gunfire as they left work on the western edge of the capital. A statement by the U.S. command said the soldiers from Task Force Baghdad died Sunday (Jul 24) night when their vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in the southwest of the city. The statement gave no further details. However, Jim Driscoll, a spokesman for the Georgia National Guard, said the victims were assigned to the 48th Infantry Brigade. They were the Georgia Guard unit's first combat casualties since World War II. The 16 Iraqi government employees were killed this evening on the western edge of the capital when gunmen fired at a pair of buses taking them from an Industry Ministry facility to their homes in Shiite neighbourhoods. Gunmen in two cars followed the buses and opened fire, also wounding 27 passengers, officials said. The bloodshed occurred against a backdrop of intense deliberations to forge a new constitution by an Aug 15 deadline. A draft copy published today in a government newspaper said Islam would be designated as the main source of legislation - a departure from the model set down by U.S. authorities during the occupation. U.S. and Iraqi officials hope that the new constitution and the government to be elected in December will help take the steam out of the insurgency, especially if the Sunni Arab community accepts the formula. Most of the insurgents are Sunni Arabs. "It's very important that the constitution is produced through the participation of all Iraqis," U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters today. "This is

important for ending and defeating the insurgency," adding that Sunni Arabs can count on the United States to ensure their interests are protected. However, a draft published today in the state-owned Al-Sabah newspaper included several key points demanded by the majority Shiites. The draft not only states that Islam is the main source of legislation but that no law will be approved that contradicts "the rules of Islam." That requirement that could affect women's rights and set Iraq on a course far different from the one envisioned when U.S.-led forces invaded in 2003. "Islam is the official religion of the state and is the main source of legislation," the draft reads. "No law that contradicts with its rules can be promulgated." The document also grants the Shiite religious leadership in Najaf a "guiding role" in recognition of its "high national and religious symbolism." Al-Sabah noted, however, that there were unspecified differences among the committee on the Najaf portion. Those would presumably include Kurds, Sunni Arabs and secular Shiites on the 71-member committee. During the U.S.-run occupation, which ended June 28, 2004, key Shiite and some Sunni politicians sought to have Islam designated the main source of legislation in the interim constitution, which took effect in March 2004. However, the U.S. governor of Iraq, L. Paul Bremer agreed only that Islam would be considered "a source" - but not the only one. At the time, prominent Shiite politicians agreed to forego a public battle with Bremer and pursue the issue during the drafting of the permanent constitution. Some women's groups fear strict interpretation of Islamic principles could erode their rights in such areas as divorce and inheritance. It could also move Iraq toward a more religiously based society than was envisioned by U.S. planners who hoped it would be a beacon of Western-style democracy in a region of one-party rule and theocratic regimes. Members of the constitutional committee said the draft was one among several and none would be final until parliament approves the charter by Aug. 15. Sunni Arabs involved in writing the charter have complained that Shiites and Kurds are trying to steamroll their version of the draft. The Sunnis agreed only yesterday to resume work on the committee after they walked out to protest the assassination of two colleagues this month. Sunni Arab support is crucial because the charter can be scuttled if voters in three of Iraq's 18 provinces reject it by a two-thirds majority - and Sunni Arabs are a majority in four provinces. Sunni Arabs make up about 20 percent of Iraq's 27 million people but dominate areas where the insurgency is raging. If the Aug 15 deadline is met, voters will decide whether to approve the charter in mid-October and if they do, another general election will take place in December. In an Internet statement today, al-Qaida's wing in Iraq warned

Iraqis not to take part in the constitutional referendum, saying democracy goes against God's law and anyone who participates would be considered an "infidel," and earmarked for death.

Dubai, Jul 27 -- Al Qaeda in Iraq said it killed today the two Algerian envoys it had kidnapped last week, according to an Internet statement. The statement was posted on a Web site often used by the group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Its authenticity could not be immediately verified. "Your brothers in the Al Qaeda Organization in Iraq... have killed Ali Belaroussi, the chief of the Algerian mission, and diplomatic attache Azzedine Belkadi," the statement said. It was not accompanied by a video or pictures. Yesterday, the group vowed to kill the two men because they represented an "infidel" government. It also posted on the same Internet site a video showing the envoys blindfolded. -- Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Palestinian militants shot and killed two Israelis near a Gaza border crossing today, Israeli rescue services said, in the latest flare-up of violence in recent weeks despite a cease-fire declared in February. Several other Israelis, including soldiers were injured in the attack when the gunmen opened fire with light automatic weapons at the Kissufim border crossing, Israel's Zaka rescue service said. Israeli soldiers responded, injuring or killing one of the attackers, the military sources said. The Al-Qods armed wing of the radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

IVORY COAST

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: At least 24 people were killed on Saturday (Jul 23) when unidentified gunmen attacked two towns in the Ivory Coast, government forces said today. General Philippe Mangou, head of the national army, said in a statement that the gunmen attacked the town of Anyama, north of the main coastal city of Abidjan, late Saturday, leading to seven deaths and two injuries among government forces and four deaths among the attackers. Afterwards, the gunmen fled to neighboring Agboville, some 70 km north of Abidjan, and took control of the town early yesterday. Government forces took the offensive yesterday afternoon and recovered the town, Mangou said, without disclosing casualties on either side. At least 13 gunmen were killed and more than 30 others were arrested when government forces hunted down the fleeing gunmen in Agboville and neighboring regions. A local resident said that calm reigned in the town today with its streets patrolled by national security forces, but government buildings and shops were still closed. UN peacekeepers were sent to Agboville

shortly after the attacks, a spokesman for the UN peacekeeping mission in the country said.

LEBANON

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A bomb exploded on a narrow street crowded with bars and restaurants late yesterday, wounding two people just hours after US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited the area, officials said. The blast went off in front of a restaurant on Monot Street, an area popular with young people and packed on Friday nights. Military and security forces swarmed over the area after the blast. The bomb was placed either under or inside a car parked outside the restaurant, a security official said. Three cars were damaged, he said. Rice left the country several hours before the blast. The motive or the target of the attack was not immediately known.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jul 25 -- Nepal's main political parties rejected today an appeal by the country's Maoist rebels for talks to plan joint opposition to King Gyanendra's seizure of power, saying the guerrillas should stop killing civilians first. "We urge the Maoists to stop attacking unarmed civilians, including political activists, and stop extortion," the top leaders of seven parties said in a statement. "We appeal to the rebels to create an atmosphere of confidence and demonstrate that they are sincere about talks with the political parties." The king has ignored international pressure, including from the United States, to restore democracy and analysts say he is far from cutting any deal with the parties or the Maoists. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 23, states: Maoist rebels in Nepal have killed seven security personnel in an attack in the country's west, the army says. Officials say two rebels were killed in a search operation after the ambush. The Dang district clash is the biggest attack on security forces in a month. An army spokesman said that security forces guarding a key telecommunications tower had come under attack from about 150 Maoists. Reinforcements were sent but cloud is preventing retaliation from the air. The army spokesman said four soldiers and three policemen died in the ambush. He denied reports that the bodies of the two Maoists had been recovered from the clash site, near the town of Rajkot, about 400km west of Kathmandu. Eight days ago the UN secretary-general's special adviser, Lakhdar Brahimi, concluded a visit to the kingdom with a stark warning against allowing the situation to slide further. The visit by the diplomat - who has played key roles in Iraq and Afghanistan - was seen here as a sign of deepening international concern at Nepal's violence and political paralysis.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Philippine security forces are hunting 10 would-be suicide bombers and have already foiled a plot for a major attack, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's national security adviser said today. Norberto Gonzales said he was worried about possible new attacks in Manila following the recent terror bombings in London and Egypt. "From intelligence information we have gathered from our neighbours, we know that there are suicide bombers now in the Philippines, at least 10 of them, preparing for a terrorist attack," he told ANC television as he pushed for passage of an anti-terrorism law. He offered no other details about the alleged terrorists. Gonzales also said Philippine security forces foiled a plot to bomb unspecified targets with the seizure of 1,320 pounds of explosives earlier this year. At the time, police said bombings planned by the al-Qaida-linked Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf group were pre-empted with the arrest of a suspected militant whose information led to the explosives cache in March. The military said the explosives were intended for terror attacks in Manila during the Easter holidays. Several draft anti-terrorism bills are pending in Congress. Some would set up a contentious national ID system or allow electronic surveillance and arrests without warrants. Gonzales' announcement comes as Arroyo faces an impeachment complaint in the country's legislature. The complaint, filed yesterday, alleges she "cheated and lied" to obtain and hold power and could be impeached on four grounds. Arroyo has denied manipulating the May 2004 poll by discussing vote-counting with an election official before she was declared the winner.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed and four others injured when a bomb blast hit a train in the Russian Caucasus republic of Dagestan, bordering Chechnya, Interfax quoted authorities as saying. The bomb went off at 0530, local time, underneath the first carriage of an electric train travelling between the town of Khassaviourt in the west of the republic and the regional capital Makhachkala, the sources said. Two hundred metres of track were damaged by the blast and train movements were suspended temporarily. The authorities often blame such attacks, which have multiplied in recent months, on Dagestani Islamists.

SPAIN

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Spanish police arrested two suspects today after a small bomb exploded in the north-western Santigao de Compostela city, causing minor material damage but no casualties. The explosion occurred at

1545, local time, near a central square in the capital of Galicia province, after the authorities received a bomb threat half an hour before. Some media reports said the explosion was originated by a package detonated by police near Galicia Square, but others said the bomb exploded in a parking lot. Police cordoned off the zone and evacuated some nearby buildings. The authorities said the two detainees were linked to a movement for the independence of Galicia. In recent days, police reinforced security in Santiago de Compostela prior to the upcoming Santiago Apostol fair, scheduled for July 25, which is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

SRI LANKA

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen opened fire on police in a town in restive eastern Sri Lanka, killing an officer, and an attacker was shot dead in the return fire, the military said today. Unidentified gunmen opened fire late yesterday at police guarding a bank in the town of Pottuvil, in the same region where just hours earlier suspected Tamil Tiger rebels had thrown a grenade at a tsunami relief centre. The identity of the dead attacker had not been established but a magisterial inquiry into the case was due later today, military officials said. The grenade thrown at a welfare centre at Akkaraipattu wounded three police guards, officials said. The attack was the second on a tsunami relief centre this month, with a security post at a centre in the Muslim town of Muttur being targeted nine days ago.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jul 25 -- Sudan troops and helicopters killed and wounded a number of civilians in attacks on villages in the western Darfur region, a rebel commander in the area told Reuters today. Sudanese officials were not immediately available to comment. "Sudanese forces came in trucks and attacked two places south of al-Fasher ... They killed a number of civilians and injured others ...," said Bosh Shag Umar, a local commander with the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM). Umar said the first attack was in the Abu Hamra area yesterday morning and the second in the Sheng al-Tobei area later the same day. Both areas are south of al-Fasher, capital of Northern Darfur State, he said. Around 40 trucks full of troops and around three helicopters razed three villages to the ground in the Abu Hamra area, around 120 km south of el-Fasher. Between 40 and 42 trucks, without helicopters, attacked Sheng al-Tobei village and 20 tents belonging to families forced out of their homes by earlier fighting, he added. Umar said the government troops used rocket-propelled grenades in the attack, around 90 km south of el-Fasher. -- Reuters.

THAILAND

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: An employee of an irrigation project and a village volunteer were gunned down in Pattani and Narathiwat provinces yesterday. In Pattani an irrigation project worker, was shot dead near Ban Lahan in tambon Paen of Sai Buri district while leaving his home for work. Police said two men followed him on a motorcycle and the pillion rider shot him three times in the head and body, killing him instantly. In Narathiwat, Anon Boonmatakut, 51, and his wife were on the way from Ban Tanyongmali on a motorcycle to visit relatives in Sukhirin district when two men arrived on another motorcycle and one of them opened fire at Anon at a point-blank range. Anon was killed on the spot while his wife was safe. Police believed the shooting was designed to create unrest.

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A railway official was shot dead in Yala province yesterday and an employee leader of the Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command (SBPPC) was beaten to death late Tuesday night (Jul 26) in Narathiwat. Three bombs also went off in Yala yesterday, slightly injuring one soldier. Another two soldiers were shot in an ambush in Muang district late last night and one of them was in critical condition. In Yala, Sawat Buaphet, 42, chief of the public works office of Balo railway station in Raman district, was killed by motorcycle gunmen while returning home from work on his motorcycle. Pol Lt-Gen Thanasit Mathayat, an officer of Kotabaru tambon police station, said Sawat was killed instantly on Wang Phaya-Kotabaru road. His body was found lying near his motorbike when police arrived. Also in Yala, a bomb targeting soldiers providing protection for teachers exploded about 1645 near Ban Kalang in tambon Tanopute in Bannang Sata district. One soldier was wounded. The second bomb went off about 1715 near Ban Khuan Din Daeng on Yala-Betong road in tambon Krong Pinang, Krong Pinang district. Nobody was hurt. The third blast was about 1730 near Ban Thamnop in tambon Tanopute of Bannang Sata district. Nobody was injured. In Narathiwat an employee leader on a job-creation project of the SBPPC, was travelling home on a motorcycle with a religious teacher from Tanyongmat market when they were stopped by four men near Ban Bango Sato in Rangae district. The four men beat them with wooden sticks and iron bars before fleeing, leaving them lying unconscious on the road. Maburi and the religious teacher, who was not identified, were taken to Rangae Hospital. Maburi died later on. Meanwhile, Muang district police said a motorcycle repair shop owner and his friend, who were shot and wounded on Tuesday in Rangae district, died yesterday in hospital. They were attacked by two men who arrived on a motorcycle pretending to need repairs.

TURKEY

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A bomb exploded today at an Istanbul cafe frequented by tourists, wounding at least three people, police said. The blast at a cafe near the city's Galata bridge was caused by either a remote-controlled bomb or a bomb with a timer, police said. The injured included a Dutch citizen and a Turk who worked at the cafe, the Anatolia news agency reported. There were no immediate details on the third wounded person, but police said none of the injuries was serious. Police suspected Kurdish rebels were behind the attack.

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Jul 26 -- A bomb derailed a train in eastern Turkey today, but no one was injured, the third attack on a train in the troubled region this month, officials said. There were immediate no claims of responsibility and officials named any suspects. Kurdish separatist groups have said they were behind the two other attacks. Five wagons in the train, which was also carrying passengers and freight, came off the tracks after a bomb planted earlier was detonated by remote control, security sources said. The train was travelling between the eastern towns of Elazig and Mus, and the attack occurred in the same stretch where a bomb hit a train on Jul 2, killing six security guards. -- Reuters.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: The men who failed to blow up three London Tube trains and a bus last week are still in Britain and may have access to explosives, police believe. Three men are being held by the Metropolitan Police, but they are not thought to include any of the bombers. A package found in a west London park and destroyed in a controlled blast is believed to have been a fifth bomb. Meanwhile, the family of Jean Charles de Menezes, who was shot dead in error, are considering suing the police. The 27-year-old Brazilian was shot by officers at London's Stockwell Underground station on Friday (Jul 22), after he was mistaken for a suicide bomber. Police chiefs have apologised to his family, but relatives say there was no reason to suspect the electrician of being a terrorist and that apologies are "not enough". The shooting is being investigated by Scotland Yard's Directorate of Professional Standards and the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair insisted the policy of "shoot-to-kill in order to protect" would continue. He also warned that more innocent people might be killed in the fight against terrorism. The Association of Chief Police Officers' president, Chris Fox, said: "Our officers go out, not to shoot, but to disrupt and protect." Police were given an extra 14 days yesterday to quiz two men arrested in Stockwell on Friday (Jul 22) on suspicion of preparing, instigating or

commissioning terrorist acts. Today, police will either release a third man, arrested in Tulse Hill, south London, on Saturday (Jul 23), or apply for another 14 days to question him. It is thought that police now knew who tried to carry out last Thursday's attacks. However, here was nothing to suggest the men had fled the country, but police believed some of them may have killed themselves. Meanwhile, Home Secretary Charles Clarke said "good progress" was being made in the ongoing bombings investigation, thanks to "tremendous support" from the public. Detectives are continuing to probe links between those who carried out the 7 July attacks, in which 56 people died, and last Thursday's (Jul 21) attempted bombings. They believe some of the Jul 21 team may have attended a pre-mission "bonding session" with Jul 7 bombers Mohammad Sidique Khan and Shehzad Tanweer, at the National Whitewater Centre in Bala, north Wales.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Aldgate Tube station which was damaged in the July 7 bombings has reopened after repairs, as London's transport gradually returns to normal. The Metropolitan Line has also fully reopened following the bombings, but the Circle Line remains shut, as do stretches of the Hammersmith and City, Piccadilly and District lines and roads near bus blast site Tavistock Place.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A man arrested in Birmingham by anti-terror police could be one of the suspects in the failed 21 July attacks, security sources have said. The man was held after being shot with a Taser stun gun and has been taken to London for questioning. A suspect package was found during his arrest and is being examined. A further three arrests were made by anti-terror police in Birmingham overnight. And two people were held on a train travelling to King's Cross. In London, hundreds of police and MI5 agents are continuing the hunt for the men who tried to bomb three underground trains and a bus six days ago. A flat in north London linked to two of the suspects is being searched, and police say chemicals found there and in a garage may have been for explosives. The man taken to London for questioning is thought to be at the high-security Paddington Green police station. His arrest, in Heybarnes Road, in the Hay Mills area of Birmingham at 0430, BST, today, followed a joint operation between West Midlands Police and officers from the Metropolitan Police Anti-Terrorist Branch. Following Army advice on the suspect package found, residents of about 100 neighbouring homes were evacuated and a controlled explosion is due to take place. A second address in Bankdale Road, in Washwood Heath, Birmingham, was raided a little later, and the other three men were arrested under the Terrorism Act

2000. Forensic tests are taking place at both addresses in Birmingham. The two men arrested on the King's Cross-bound train were held at Grantham railway station, in Lincolnshire, following information from two off-duty Met police officers.

YEMEN

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated Jul 22, states: Calm has returned to Yemen after at least 39 people were killed in two days of clashes between police and people demonstrating over a sharp rise in fuel prices in one of the poorest countries on the planet. Yemeni officials had appealed for protesters to stay calm, while opposition groups urged the government to reverse its decision. Among the 39 dead in rioting in the capital Sanaa and several towns across the country were four members of the Yemeni security forces, according to witnesses. At least 50 protesters were also wounded, with government forces backed by army tanks and armoured vehicles deployed along main roads. Violence appeared to have subsided in the capital today, with many shops closed for the weekend, amid fears of resumption of armed confrontations following midday prayers.

ZIMBABWE

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Zimbabwean authorities demolished huts and evicted people west of the capital today, witnesses said, defying U.N. demands to halt the much condemned urban renewal programme that the world body says has left 700,000 people homeless or without a job. In Geneva, the Red Cross asked for \$1.9 million to provide emergency relief to victims of the devastating government-led cleanup. It said the money was for tents, blankets, soap, mosquito nets, water and purifying tablets for the homeless. The government authorities came at night, beat people and burned huts, at Porta Farm, 25 miles west of Harare, a settlement the government set up in 1991 to house 3,000 squatters so they would not be seen by visiting Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, a witness said. The number of inhabitants has grown to 30,000 in the past 14 years. Thousands of people were told they have to move to rural areas, said the witness, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals. The government of President Robert Mugabe made no comment about the demolitions and evictions - part of a larger programme that began in May to clear out urban slums, but Mugabe's government has previously defended Operation Murambatsvina or "Drive Out Trash" as a necessary urban cleanup drive to reduce crime and restore order in overcrowded slums and illegal markets, and has promised to help the displaced rebuild. Zimbabwe's opposition says the demolitions are aimed at breaking up its strongholds among the urban poor and forcing them into rural areas where they can

be more easily controlled by chiefs sympathetic to the government. Ignatius Chombo, a minister of the local government, has defended the Porta Farm evictions, saying the area is needed for a sewage site and that water supplies there are contaminated. Last Thursday (Jul 21), the United Nations made public a report by its envoy saying the demolitions had "unleashed chaos and untold human suffering" in a country already gripped by economic chaos and shortages. A top government official said today that Zimbabwe still has not acquired all the food it needs to avert a possible famine, but that it will not ask international relief agencies for help, the state-run Herald newspaper said today. Lancaster Museka, from the Labour and Social Welfare Ministry, said Zimbabwe was still trying to reach the target of 1.8 million tons of maize, and donors were still needed. Don Muvuti, chief executive of the government's Grain Marketing Board, said last month that the country had bought the 1.8 million metric tons it needed from South Africa. There was no immediate clarification of the contradicting assessments. U.N. World Food Programme head James Morris warned on July 1 after a visit to Zimbabwe that he feared four million people were at risk of famine, and his aid workers needed access to all parts of the southern African country.

Kidnappings



COLOMBIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest".

MEXICO

London, Jul 21 -- A press report, dated Jul 20, states: Investigators in Mexico's capital are treating the attack on the coach of a popular soccer team as a kidnapping, but said today that the victim's family has not sought their help. Ruben Omar Romano, 47, was forced from his car by five armed assailants and abducted Tuesday afternoon outside his team's practice facility in southern Mexico City. Family members and the soccer club Cruz Azul have not filed a formal police report about the abduction. People in Mexico are often reluctant to report kidnappings to police, out of fear that corrupt officers may be involved in the abductions or that authorities might kill the victim along with the kidnappers in any rescue effort. Mexico City Attorney General Bernardo Batiz said that while a kidnapping investigation had been launched, his office would stay "on the margins" of the case because crime had not been formally reported. Batiz said two vehicles used in the abduction and found abandoned a short distance away had been stolen the previous day.

Labour Disputes

**CANADA**

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: The Canadian federal and British Columbia governments flatly rejected calls yesterday to intervene in the truckers protest at Vancouver ports, despite an outbreak of vandalism, threats and violence over the weekend. "I think it is time for the federal government to impose a period of time when everyone goes back to work" while recommendations are drawn up to resolve the dispute, Mike Bowman, vice-president of Pro-West Transport said yesterday in an interview. The two sides are expected to meet with Vince Ready, the government-appointed facilitator, later this week. But Mr. Bowman was not optimistic about the outcome. He said Mr. Ready will likely advise the government afterward that the two sides are so far apart that no end is in sight. His appeal for intervention came a week after the Chamber of Shipping, which speaks for the international maritime sector of Western Canada, urged Ottawa to recognise the protest as an "extraordinary disruption" and immediately impose measures to stabilize the national transportation system. Earlier, the chamber appealed to the provincial government to "take immediate action" to resolve the dispute. "This dispute has gone on too long and it now can be considered to be an extraordinary disruption," chamber president Rick Bryant stated in correspondence with federal Transport Minister Jean Lapierre. "The system is breaking down on a national level." About 1,200 independent owner-operated truck drivers have refused to work since June 27, effectively bringing the transport of containers at Vancouver's ports to a crawl. About 200 truckers continue to cross protest lines and haul containers. Also, rail cargo is still moving out of the ports. The truckers are seeking an industry-wide deal with brokers to raise rates as a result mostly of soaring fuel prices. The four-week-old protest turned violent late last week. Eight trucks from Pro-West Transport were sprayed with bullets from an automatic weapon shortly after midnight on Friday (Jul 22). The gunshots shattered windshields and left holes in truck radiators and side panels. The incident occurred shortly after the trucking firm was featured on local news reports hauling a container from a port despite the protest. Another trucking firm reported windshields on its trucks had been smashed and a brick had been thrown through the bedroom window of the young son of a trucker who had hauled containers from the port. Another company also reported that

security personnel were held at gunpoint recently while others vandalised their trucks. Despite the escalation in tensions, the federal and provincial governments continue to rely on Mr. Ready to resolve the dispute. The government's authority is limited because the drivers are independent contractors and not union members or government employees. Andr  Fortin, a spokesman for Mr. Lapierre, said in an interview that federal legislation enabling the government to intervene in an "extraordinary disruption" is not applicable, and that government lawyers said the legislation is not appropriate in this situation. Graham Currie, a spokesman for B.C. Labour Minister Michael de Jong, said there is not a lot more that the government can do, he said. "They have to come back to the table and talk."

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: B.C.'s business community demanded the federal government stop idly watching today while the province suffocates under a violent trucker strike at the Port of Vancouver. The Vancouver Board of Trade estimates the strike is costing the province \$75 million a day in transportation costs alone as a consortium of business groups held a news conference to say things are getting serious. Business leaders said they are close to having to lay off people and those able to afford alternative shipping routes may not come back to Vancouver, which is at risk of developing a reputation for having an unreliable port. Ian May of the Western Canadian Shippers Coalition said he is amazed at Ottawa's inaction. "The damage to Vancouver's reputation as a reliable conduit for goods is real and only the future will show us the full extent of that damage," he added. "Of particular concern to the business community is the violence that has characterized this dispute."

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: About 40 truck operators stormed in to Pro West Transport's works yard on River Road demanding money they say is owed them for work they did before walking off the job Jun 27 in solidarity with a Lower Mainland-wide container truck work stoppage. "We're here to get our paycheques," said Amardeep Singh, speaking on behalf of the group of drivers gathered outside Pro West's property on River Road around noon, shortly after the confrontation between employer and employees was broken up by Richmond RCMP. Singh said the company owes the truckers between \$400,000 and \$500,000 for work they did hauling containers to and from the Lower Mainland ports during the month of June. He said company managers promised to have the cheques available to drivers this week. The company says they are holding back the cash because the drivers left work with equipment belonging to Pro West, including radios. Oostindie said the company must first calculate how much that

lost equipment is worth before issuing cheques. "There is some money forthcoming and they will be paid," Oostindie said. Both sides say they are speaking to lawyers about the payment issue.

CYPRUS

Limassol, July 21 -- The truck drivers strike which continued for eight days has been suspended today until July 28 to allow time for their demands to be negotiated satisfactorily. Meantime the building industry has been affected and some other work groups. The Limassol port storage capacity has been taxed including piling of containers. Two ships respectively with iron and timber cargoes had to wait outside the port for some days without berthing for discharge. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Jul 28 -- The truck drivers strike has been called off and business is returning to normal. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GREECE

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Greece's general umbrella union, the General Confederation of Workers (GSEE) has called for a 24 hour strike tomorrow, for both the public and private sector. The strike has been called in response to government plans to pass legislative reforms making working hours more flexible and lowering overtime pay. Public banks and semi-government authorities are expected to be closed all day. Telephone service, utilities and the post office will be subject to slowdowns. Olympic Airlines and the Greek national railway (OSE) are expected to offer reduced services, public transportation in Athens is expected to be at a standstill, and port activity will be disrupted. Public administration and services will be affected by a four-hour work stoppage called by the 200,000-strong Union of Civil Servants (ADEDY). The union has accused the conservative government of Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis of wanting to make the work day longer and weaken the unions. Journalists will also be on strike so there will not be any newspapers printed, or any radio or television news broadcasts tomorrow.

Athens, Jul 26 -- Greek flag carrier Olympic Airlines will cancel 50 flights today because of a 24-hour strike as part of industrial action called by main trade union body GSEE against proposed government labor reforms. Olympic Airlines said yesterday it would fly to one domestic destination and one international today. Today, parliament will debate labour reforms proposed by the New Democracy government intended to create more jobs and boost competitiveness. The proposed bill aims to introduce more flexible working hours and cheaper overtime pay. Unions said the proposed changes will cut workers' pay. The capital's transport system will ground to a halt today as workers join in GSEE's strike. Public utility

employees and bank workers will stay away from work while civil servants will hold a four-hour work stoppage in the morning. GSEE will also stage a protest rally outside Parliament. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Greek private and public sector workers held a one-day nationwide strike today to protest against the government's labour reform plans, causing chaos across the country. Flag carrier Olympic Airlines grounded about half its flights, flying to just one domestic and one international destination. Dock workers handling commercial traffic at Piraeus, Greece's main port, downed tools while passenger ferry operators trimmed their schedule to one ferry per destination. Athens public transport workers, bank and hospital employees and staff at public utilities also stayed away from work. Trolleys, which had resumed services after a two hour work stoppage in the morning, were crammed with commuters at noon. The proposed law is unacceptable as it seeks to abolish the eight-hour work day." OTOE, the umbrella union for bank employees, said about 70 percent of staff had stayed away from work. Main private sector trade union body GSEE said the response was overwhelming. "The participation rate is 90 percent and even 100 percent in some cases," GSEE spokesperson Anestis Stathis said.

HONG KONG

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: United Airlines passengers on Hong Kong flights should expect the unexpected today. Flight attendants have threatened disruptions as part of their global protest against the company's new pension system. "We might target one flight or one city for our strike action. We might ground a single flight or all flights, or shut down all the airline's flights in and out of a city for a day," said Jack Kande, spokesman for the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA. In Hong Kong, flight attendants will distribute leaflets to passengers in the departure area this morning telling them about the protest. Mr Kande said he could not tell whether flights coming in or out of Hong Kong would be disrupted. United has 10 flights in and out of Hong Kong a day. "We hope passengers will understand," he said. The union is the world's largest flight attendants' union, representing 46,000 flight attendants for 22 airlines. "We are waiting for the decision of our leaders in Chicago. It is a secret if any flight will be grounded." The union has been angered by the debt-stricken company's unilateral termination on Jun 30 of a contractually mandated pension plan. The union claims the airline's flight attendants could lose up to 70 per cent of what they hoped to receive on retirement. United Airlines said yesterday it was committed to meeting customers' travel needs and service would not be disrupted. It said it respected the

cabin crews' role in delivering a high standard of service and hoped the flight attendants' union's leaders would accept the company's repeated invitations to discuss a viable replacement pension plan for its members at United. "AFA-represented employees are now the only employee group at United without a replacement retirement plan. United remains committed to reaching agreement with the AFA," the company said.

INDIA

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: There has been a breakthrough in negotiations to find a settlement on the wage rate for tea labourers in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, but officials say a final decision is yet to be made on the issue. The acting mediator between the planter's unions and the tea labourers unions, said that both sides have agreed to a wage rate. He said for the next two years, the labourers will get a daily wage rise of two rupees (five cents) each year. The mediator, West Bengal Labour Minister Mohammed Amin, said that would then rise to two rupees fifty paise in the third year (a little over five cents). However, it is believed that the negotiations are now stuck on the question of when exactly the increase should be applicable. The unions want the new wage rate to be effective from April 2003, when the previous wage settlement expired, but the management say the new rate should be effective from the current financial year (April 1, 2005). Nearly 500,000 tea labourers have been on an indefinite strike in West Bengal since Jul 11. They initially wanted their wages to be doubled but have now reduced that demand significantly.

London, Jul 25 -- Indian truckers continued the strike for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, resulting in a total deadlock in export-import activities at Benpole. Hundreds of trucks with goods were stranded on both sides of the port. The Indian truckers demanded return of four trucks, which were seized by the customs and BDR after the vehicles were illegally sold at the land port after unloading goods.

London, Jul; 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Honda workers in India are expected to continue their industrial action today a day after protesters fought running battles with riot police. The strike exploded into violence yesterday as workers protested against the dismissal of colleagues from Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed "anguish" over the incident in which hundreds of people were injured. India's parliament is expected to discuss the clashes. The strike was called after four workers at the Honda plant in Gurgaon, near New Delhi, were fired and fifteen others temporarily suspended on charges of insubordination a month ago. Workers have been demanding the

reinstatement of the sacked workers and an increase in wages. Yesterday's protests erupted into violence after demonstrators tried to block a highway and ignored police orders to break up, news agency Agence France Presse reported. Police said they were attacked, while protesters said they reacted to the actions of the authorities. "There was violence from both sides," said Bhupinder Singh Hudda, head of Haryana, the state where Gurgaon is located. "Hundreds, including many policemen, were injured." According to local television estimates, as many as 700 workers may have been injured in the violence. Honda's plant employs some 1,900 workers, the majority of whom have been on a go-slow since May. The company has estimated that the industrial action has cost it about 2.5bn rupees (£33m; \$57m).

London, Jul 26 -- Nearly 500,000 tea workers have ended a strike in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal after unions agreed to accept performance-related pay. The strike had brought production at more than 300 tea gardens to a halt. Unions settled for a 15% rise in daily wages, and agreed pay would be linked to productivity. They had long resisted the move and wanted pay doubled. Tea is West Bengal's main export and the state government intervened in the strike which began on Jul 11. The deal was signed by representatives of 14 tea workers' unions and representatives of the planters' association. The state's Labour Minister, Mohammed Amin, said the tea workers would now get a 15% rise in their daily wages spread over the next three years, and their daily compensation has been almost doubled to 4.5 rupees a day. The tea industry says it has lost up to 200m rupees (\$4.5m) a day because of the strike.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Air New Zealand international flights will continue to be disrupted today by striking cabin crew, but the airline says fewer passengers are turning up in vain for cancelled flights. The airline said only a few people made unnecessary trips to the airport yesterday, the first day of the second strike, as it had been able to contact more of the about 15,000 passengers caught by 85 flight cancellations. Passengers face 12 cancellations today and more disruption at the weekend and on Monday, before the end of the third and final strike. Renewed pay talks continued in Auckland yesterday, for the third day since the sides agreed to get back together, but the airline has said it cannot restore cancelled flights even if a settlement is reached. Air NZ said the talks so far with the Flight Attendants and Related Services Association were "constructive". The talks were still going continuing last night. The National Party's industrial relations spokesman, Wayne Mapp, yesterday called on the warring sides to repair damage to the airline's

reputation by abandoning the strikes and reinstating flights. Leading travel insurer The Mike Henry Group, a leading travel insurer, said it had received about \$10,000 in claims from people whose plans had been disrupted and expected to end up with about four times that level. Air NZ said it would lose about \$4 million from the three 48-hour strikes. However, it expected savings on costs such as fuel and labour would reduce that to between \$2 million to \$3 million.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 30 Air New Zealand flights will remain cancelled tomorrow and Monday (Jul 25) despite agreement being reached by the company and long-haul cabin crew over pay and conditions. The airline said contingency measures put in the place when about 1000 members of the Flight Attendants and Related Services Association gave notice of industrial action were irreversible. Over the past week, cabin crew have already held two of three planned 48-hour strikes, with the last due to have begun tomorrow morning. FARSA said it had withdrawn further action after concluding a deal with airline management over terms and conditions of employment for the next three years. Air NZ said 16 flights would remain cancelled tomorrow and 13 on Monday, making a total of 85 cancelled since Monday (Jul 18). Air NZ international division general manager Ed Sims said the agreement with the union came after four days of "constructive discussion" this week between the parties. He said the company would now be able to continue with introducing its new Boeing 777 fleet over the next year. Details of the agreement were subject to ratification and would not be released until they were presented to union members from Monday. Air NZ had previously offered a 3.3 per cent pay rise in response to the union's claim of 3.8 per cent. Several issues relating to conditions, including crewing levels on the new 777s, meal allowances and annual leave, had also remained unresolved after months of negotiations. The industrial action did not affect domestic services.

PUERTO RICO

San Juan, PR, Jul 22 -- The Truckers' Union went on strike at 0700, Jul 21. Cargo is not being picked up from piers, and container and trailers are backing up, causing excessive congestion and lack of space for incoming cargo. Gasoline deliveries to filling stations have been interrupted due to the strike. -- Lloyd's Agents.

San Juan, PR, Jul 24 -- Truckers strike over as of yesterday morning. Drivers back to work and relieving congestion at the port areas. Gasoline tankers back on the road replenishing the filling stations. Still a lot of motorists without fuel. Should be back to normal in a few days. Governor had called out the National Guard which made it difficult to carry out cargo surveys at piers. Strike was over

increases in tariffs the truckers would charge for moving trailers within the island. Both parties, truckers and government, which sets the tariff through Public Service Commission, are back at the negotiating table. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: Dock workers at St. Petersburg port began a limited three-day strike today to demand better working conditions, accusing port operators of pressuring them to accept less favourable contracts, news reports said. The workers will strike for one hour a day and refuse to work overtime, said Alexander Moiseyenko, head of the St. Petersburg dock workers union, according to the Interfax news agency. After three days, the workers may decide on a full-scale strike. The strike is meant to slow the loading and unloading of ships in the port, he said. The three port operators in Russia's second largest city are offering new collective contracts that remove indexation of pay and weaken job security, Interfax reported a representative of the workers as saying. Union leaders were seeking dialogue with employers, but the port administration told the trade union to leave its offices and switched off their phones, said Moiseyenko. The union is threatening full-scale industrial action if management does not respond to their complaints. Union and port officials were not available for comment.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three South African Airways (SAA) flights were cancelled this morning as the airline's employees embarked on a nationwide strike, SABC news reported. It quoted SAA as saying that none of the ground staff had arrived at work this morning. The United Association of South Africa (Uasa) said yesterday that thousands of its members would take part in the strike following a deadlock in pay negotiations. Uasa is the largest representative union of ground staff and cabin crew at SAA. It was not yet clear whether members of fellow trade union, the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) were also on strike. Both unions demand an eight-percent increase while SAA is offering five percent. All incoming and outgoing domestic flights and outgoing international flights would be disrupted.

Johannesburg, Jul 23 -- South African airline SAA has suspended all international and domestic flights until further notice as a strike by cabin and ground crew entered a second day, the company said today. South African Airways (SAA) said in a statement that it had managed to get a significant number of travellers to their destinations on other carriers, despite the cancellation of domestic flights. It appealed to people planning to travel by SAA to postpone their

travel plans and not to arrive at airports for check-in. Satawu, one of the unions leading the industrial action, said it hoped to meet with SAA today for talks. Scores of passengers have been left stranded as flights were cancelled, including to other African cities like Lagos and Nairobi. SAA cabin crew and ground staff went on strike from early yesterday after unions and management failed to reach agreement on wages at a final meeting on Thursday (Jul 21). The union is demanding an 8% annual wage increase while SAA is offering 5%. The other union involved, the United Association of South Africa, said it was seeking a meeting with SAA management and added that the strike would continue until an agreement was reached. The union's umbrella federation approached the national ministry of labour to facilitate a meeting with SAA management, but no talks were planned. The national Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration said in a statement yesterday that SAA management and the union had rejected intervention. The unions argue that SAA can afford an 8% raise after it disclosed a 966 million rand (\$146.7 million) net profit for the 2004/05 financial year earlier this month. -- Reuters.

Johannesburg, Jul 25 -- South African Airways (SAA) was forced to cancel dozens more flights as one of the worst strikes in the airline's history went to a fourth day today, stranding travellers from London to Lusaka. SAA dispatched airplanes to pick up waiting passengers in the United States, Switzerland, Britain and Germany under a pre-strike agreement which allowed crews already in those countries to work the return flight. Many more ticket holders simply scrapped travel plans after a weekend of chaos at South Africa's major airports. SAA cabin crew and ground staff went on strike on Friday (Jul 22) after unions and management failed to reach agreement on wages at a final meeting on Thursday (Jul 21). The union is demanding an eight percent annual wage increase while SAA is offering five percent. The two main unions involved in the strike today rejected an offer of a five percent raise padded with an increase in benefits and a once-off payment of 1,600 rand. The strike has forced the airline to suspend most of its regional and international flights, while airline officials say domestic flights were being assessed on an hourly basis. At Johannesburg International Airport, the country's busiest, officials said the huge queues of desperate passengers that had formed over the weekend were shrinking, in part because people were staying home. The strike snarled travel across the continent, where the South African airline is the dominant regional carrier. SAA passenger Veronique Tadjou, who had been due to leave Abidjan for Johannesburg on Friday, finally made it out to Nairobi only to find more problems there.

"Nairobi airport is chaos, there are queues and people asking to get on flights, the transfer desk is flooded, there are people all over," said Tadjjo, who must now fly to Tanzania's Dar es Salaam before finally returning to Johannesburg. The troubles at SAA have proved a boon to other airlines operating in South Africa, which have long flown under its shadow. "We've carried in excess of 3,500 SAA passengers over the weekend," said Stuart Cochrane, a spokesman for Comair Ltd., which runs a domestic service under a franchise deal with British Airways as well as the low-cost carrier Kulula.com. Kenya Airways, which is seeking to expand its regional profile, was also picking up some of SAA's slack. "We have helped passengers to East and West Africa, whenever the capacity was available," Kenya Airways spokeswoman Hajila Komora said, adding that the airline was flying bigger jets on some of its routes to help accommodate SAA passengers. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 170 workers across South Africa have been arrested in the Pick 'n Pay wage strikes, with further action planned for today. Nearly all of the workers were detained on Friday (Jul 22), when the strike began. They were picketing stores in contravention of a court order and refusing to allow customers entry to the stores. On Friday alone, the supermarket chain lost about R24-million (€2.07 million), a Pick 'n Pay spokesperson said yesterday. While the exact charge brought against the workers is unknown, friends and relatives of the workers have been told that the amount of R59 000 would have to be paid before anyone was released. Sapa reported that according to SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union spokesperson Lucas Ramatlhodi, 80 strikers were in custody in Krugersdorp. These include Northgate Pick 'n Pay staffers who were taken to Krugersdorp cells on Saturday (Jul 23) because the Honeydew police station had no holding cells for them. The nationwide strike began on Friday, and when workers blocked entrances to Pick 'n Pay stores, the supermarket chain applied for and was granted an interdict preventing strikers from entering its stores. Pick 'n Pay is offering a R310, or 7.9 percent, monthly increase to its workforce of about 25 000 while the union is demanding a R400, or 12 percent, increase. "If you consider not only the offered increase but also the comprehensive benefits that our employees enjoy, we believe that our employees are among the best remunerated in the industry," said Pick 'n Pay chief executive Sean Summers. Yesterday it was business as usual at the two major hypermarkets, in Northgate and Norwood, with no sign of disturbances. About 30 striking workers sat around the Norwood store's car park but no singing or demonstrating took place.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: South African retailer Pick 'n Pay has experienced a total turnover loss of just less than R50-million (£4.28 million) over the four days since Friday (Jul 22), when approximately 20,000 staff, members of the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu), began their strike over higher wages, according to CEO Sean Summers. Providing an update on the strike action today, Summers said most of the turnover loss was experienced on Friday and Saturday (Jul 23), the first two days of the strike. For the most part, Pick 'n Pay stores were trading normally nationwide today, as Saccawu organised marches in the major cities across South Africa. A meeting between Pick 'n Pay management and Saccawu representatives has been agreed and will take place at 0900 hrs, tomorrow, under the auspices of the Commission for Conciliation, Arbitration and Mediation (CCMA), to try to find a resolution to the dispute. "Yesterday, we found considerably more restraint exercised at stores on the part of our employees. We are grateful that they have behaved in a more respectful manner," Summers said. Picketing rules have been agreed with the union through the CCMA, and Pick 'n Pay believes that any picketing action will now be conducted peacefully and within the law. "We have requested of the union that the few remaining instances of bad behaviour be dealt with by the union leadership," Summers added. Safety arrangements have been made for today's marches by the union. "We believe that our offer of 7.9% or R310 per month, backdated to March 2005, together with all the benefits Pick 'n Pay employees enjoy, is more than fair," noted the CEO. "The company and our employees have suffered significant financial losses and we are hopeful that this dispute will be resolved as soon as possible." Saccawu is demanding a 12% increase in wages, or R400 per month.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: South Africa's national airline reeled under its worst strike which entered a fifth day amid impending third-party mediation efforts between the management and two unions demanding an eight percent wage increase. However, the crippling protest -- which has stranded thousands and led to 75 percent of all domestic and international flights being cancelled on the first day -- appeared to be losing some of its momentum with some domestic flights due to take off today. "The domestic schedule is quite relaxed today, we have three confirmed domestic flights (from Johannesburg) to Cape Town, Durban and East London," South African Airways spokesman Onkgopotse Tabane told AFP. "We managed to put 95 percent of our domestic passengers on SAA and other flights yesterday," he said. "However all international flights are still grounded although we are expecting

10 international flights to come into Johannesburg today and one or two in Cape Town." "Several thousand passengers continue to be stranded and about 2,000 international passengers are currently lodged in various hotels," he added. South African Airways management over the weekend sweetened its offer of a five percent annual wage increase with a five percent increase on housing and medical benefits as well as a one-off 1,600-rand (Euros 198) bonus, but unions are still insisting on an eight percent hike. "Our position was five percent. We revised it to five percent across the board -- applied also to medical aid and housing -- plus 1,600 rand. Collectively viewed, all this amounts to a seven percent increase in terms of cost to company," the SAA spokesman said. Mediation by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration due this afternoon comes after an appeal by Labour Minister Membathisi Mdladlana to both parties to end the logjam. "We are keen that there is a speedy resolution ... and we are calling on the unions to respect the outcomes of the mediation process," spokesman Tabane said. SAA declined to give a figure of how much the strike had cost but the United Association of South Africa (UASA), representing SAA's ground and cabin crew, said the carrier had lost about 200 million rand (Euros 24 million).

Johannesburg, Jul 26 -- Union officials said today up to 18,000 South African steel and metal workers had started a two-day strike to highlight skills shortages in the sector and to protest against recent wage offers. Solidarity trade union spokesman Dirk Hermann said the strike would affect hundreds of steel and metals firms nationwide, but not listed firms Mittal Steel S.A. and its smaller rival Highveld Steel & Vanadium as they conduct their wage negotiations in-house. Solidarity said members were protesting over a wage offer by the sector's employer federation giving unskilled labourers a larger percentage increase than skilled workers. The union, which represents mostly white skilled workers, called this unfair as it excluded its members. Employers agreed earlier this month to pay 5.2 percent for the highest-paid skilled workers, and 6.8 percent for the lowest-paid grades of unskilled workers, which the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) accepted. Solidarity refused to sign the deal, and called the strike. Solidarity estimated about 15,000-18,000 of its members were taking part, Hermann said. Officials at the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa (SEIFSA), which negotiates on behalf of most of its 2,300 member firms, were not immediately available to comment. SEIFSA has said that it usually offers unskilled workers a higher wage rise in order to help bridge the gap in pay. "The strike is about skills shortage in South Africa and the lower increase sends a negative message," said

Hermann. "In the wage deal with NUMSA, it was agreed that artisans (skilled workers) will get 1.6 percent less than the rest of the industry and we don't understand this rationale." Solidarity and NUMSA plan a separate strike at Highveld tomorrow after their in-house wage talks deadlocked last week. Highveld has said it would continue to talk until the last minute in order to avoid the threatened strike, in which more than 2,000 workers could be involved. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Close to 3,000 members of Solidarity and the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa are on an indefinite strike at steel producer Highveld Steel's Witbank plant. Solidarity spokesperson Jaco Kleynhans said the unions are standing firm on their wage demand of an eight percent increase. Highveld Steel is offering employees a 5.5% wage increase. "I think the company's production will be heavily affected by the strike. We are on an indefinite strike until the company agrees to meet our wage demand," Kleynhans added. Among the union's demands is an improvement to the housing allowance of its members. Highveld Steel CEO Andre Denysschen said the company has shut down the plant as a safety precaution. Asked how much Highveld Steel is losing in terms of production, Denysschen said: "I am not in a position to say how much production we are losing due to the strike action. We are currently assessing the situation."

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The South African Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) today said thousands of municipal workers were beginning to gather in different cities across the country in preparation for their three-day wage strike. Samwu spokesperson Chichi Selepe said the union expects between 150 000 and 200 000 workers to heed the strike call across the country. There was chaos at Johannesburg taxi ranks today as council bus drivers joined the three-day strike. Johannesburg city authorities today said they have put in place contingency plans to ensure minimal disruption of services during the strike. More than 30,000 municipal workers were today expected to down tools in Gauteng alone, according to Samwu. Selepe said workers in Johannesburg would gather at the Library Gardens this morning and march from there to the South African Local Government Association (Salga) offices in Braamfontein to deliver a memorandum. Contingency plans to ensure minimal disruption of services have been put in place by the City of Cape Town, ahead of the national strike. City spokesperson Mandla Tyala said in a statement that while the city respects the rights of employees to strike, its first duty is to ensure service delivery. Tyala said workers in essential services -- such as health, traffic, fire and emergency, city police and those providing water, electricity and sanitation -- may not go out on strike. "Residents should treat Wednesday as a normal collection day

for refuse removal ... The city will ensure that refuse is removed," said Tyala. Andre Adams, Samwu's provincial secretary, said marches would be taking place across the Western Cape where memorandums would be handed over to all executive mayors. The strike follows a deadlock in wage negotiations between Salga, Samwu and the Independent Municipal and Allied Workers' Union. The unions want a wage increase of the greater of nine percent or R400. The demand for a new minimum wage is R3,000 per month. Salga is offering six percent, which the unions said is "ridiculously low". Yesterday, Salga said it would go ahead and apply the six percent salary increase across the board. Samwu general secretary Roger Ronnie said the "provocative step" would only make a settlement more difficult.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The South African Airways pay strike is still on, the SAA help desk said today after an overnight mediation attempt by the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration. Unions and the airline were not immediately available to comment on the outcome of the CCMA mediation session. However, in a full-page newspaper advertisement headed "We are sorry", the airline said: "The past few days have been the most difficult in the recent history of our airline." It continued: "When cabin crew fail to report for duty as part of this industrial action, we cannot operate flights as no aircraft can be operated without a minimum number of cabin crew. This is a safety requirement of the Civil Aviation Authority of South Africa." Mediations between the SA Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu), the United Association of SA (Uasa) and SAA began at 1500 hrs, yesterday in a bid to resolve a dispute over the eight percent the unions want and the five percent the airline has offered. SAA say they have moved up to the latest offer from an initial opening offer of two percent six months ago, but that the unions have not adjusted their demand. Meanwhile, since the strike started on Friday (Jul 22) 75 percent of the flights had been cancelled, postponed or delayed, SAA said. All international and regional flights were cancelled until further notice and domestic flights were being assessed hourly. About 65% of passengers have been rerouted, or accommodated on other flights or on SAA's alliance partners. If the present online booking falls into the dates affected by the strike, SAA said it would honour the change at the original price paid. They had agreements with various airlines on endorsement of tickets, loaning of aircraft, additional capacity and consolidation of various SAA flights where possible. Contingency plans included the training of contract cabin crew for relief on domestic flights and the training of students to man call centres and reservations posts. They were also accommodating up to a 2000 stranded passengers worldwide in hotels.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A crippling pay strike by workers of South Africa's national carrier was declared over by one union as a third-party mediator announced that "an in-principle agreement" had been drafted towards resolving the pay dispute. "Yes, it is definitely over. Some of my people have gone back to work already," said United Association of South Africa (UASA) spokesman Gerhard Ueckermann. "We believe things will be running up to between 70 and 80 percent by tomorrow and full-steam by Friday," Ueckermann told said, adding that the union accepted a six percent pay hike as opposed to the eight percent it was demanding. SAA has declined to give a figure of how much the strike had cost but UASA, representing SAA's ground and cabin crew, said the carrier had already lost about 200 million Rand by the start of the week.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: The summer of labour unrest is heating up as Asiana Airlines pilots continued their strike for the fifth day today and hospital workers entered the second day of their walkout. As the collective actions drag on, there is growing public protest against the unionists for causing inconvenience to air travellers and patients. The two strikes are expected to have a negative impact on labor-management relations and the government's labour reform package, designed to achieve industrial peace. The country traditionally faces a seasonal rise in collective actions by unionists every summer. This phenomenon is usually called a "summer struggle," in which workers press their demand for better working conditions and higher wages. Asiana has cancelled half of its domestic flight services since Monday (Jul 18) and many travellers were stranded at airports, groping for other traveling options. With the strike now affecting the international flight schedule of the airline, around 800 travellers scheduled to fly to Sydney, had to resort to other airlines on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Patients also had to suffer inconvenience as more than 3,000 nurses, administrative staff and other workers are refusing to work at 12 major hospitals. Around 300 members of the hospital workers' union rallied in front of the South Chungchong Provincial Office today, demanding a 9% wage hike, full implementation of the five-day workweek and better job security for non-regular workers. The union adopted a more flexible stance on 65 issues and resumed negotiations with the management yesterday. The two met again yesterday at 1000 hrs, but failed to iron out their differences on the other 13 issues, of which the union says it will not yield under any circumstances. They decided to have another meeting at 1400 hrs today. So far, no serious medical service disruption has been reported as a minimum number of hospital staff

continue to work at major facilities, such as intensive care units, operation rooms and emergency rooms. The management and the unions (of Asiana and the hospitals) are faced with strong public pressure to bring their strikes to a halt, and time will come soon to make the decision for both cases.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Asiana Airlines plans to cancel 21 of 96 flights to Cheju Island today as unionized pilots continue their strike for the seventh day. The nation's second-largest airline said that five flights bound for Cheju were cancelled yesterday for the first time since the pilots launched the walkout on Sunday (Jul 17). The company said 94 of 174 domestic flights were cancelled, including five flights to Cheju. However, no international flights have been cancelled so far while all cargo flight services were suspended. The Asiana pilots' union and management failed to compromise on 13 major issues, including a cut in flight hours, an extension of the retirement age from the current 55 years old to 58. Meanwhile, 16 major hospitals nationwide face imminent mediation by the National Labour Relations Commission (NLRC) to resolve their labour dispute as there has been no progress in negotiations with workers who went on strike for the third straight day. The hospital union and management failed to reach an agreement in last-minute negotiations, which were intended to iron out differences before imminent mediation by the commission. Management refused to accept the union's demands, including full implementation of the five-day workweek, expanding its workforce, a 9.89-percent wage hike and a 820,000 won per month guaranteed minimum wage. The commission held a meeting to discuss whether to mediate the hospital dispute. The Korean Federation of Hospital Workers' Unions discussed ways to brace for the commission's mediation, which will be decided at noon today.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Asiana Airlines said it is considering requesting government mediation for an end to the prolonged strike by its unionized pilots. The possibility comes as pilots of South Korea's second-largest airline continued their collective action for the ninth straight day. "It's unlikely negotiations with the union will bring out tangible results anytime soon. So it is also one of our options to seek the urgent arbitration by the government," said Ma Jae-young, public relations manager of the airliner. Under the law, labour-management disputes of some public service industries such as railroads, buses, oil refinery and distribution, water supply, electricity and hospitals are subject to government arbitration at the request of the union or management in case of labor disputes. The airline industry is not one of them, but the Labour Minister has the

right to put the industry under the effect of an urgent arbitration if a strike is feared to disrupt flight operations and cause severe inconvenience to the public. Once arbitration is called, the union should put its strike on hold for a month. Arbitration has the same effect as a labour-management agreement and the two sides are obliged to follow it. Air services were again largely disrupted today. A Sydney-bound flight scheduled to leave Incheon at 2000 hrs, was cancelled. A total of 96 domestic flights were also withdrawn, including 22 to and from Cheju, with all four cargo flights suspended. The company has also suffered an enormous financial loss from the strike. According to Ma, as of yesterday the company has incurred a loss of 22 billion won. The figure is expected to rise steeply if international flights are further affected. The union was quick to denounce the company's plan to seek an urgent arbitration, saying it would prefer for management to return to the negotiation table. Previous negotiations broke up on Friday (Jul 22) and the two sides still have yet to set a date for the next round, remaining far apart on 13 key issues including a cut in flight hours from 1,200 hours per year to 1,000 hours and an extension of the retirement age from the current 55 years to 58.

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Asiana Airlines said today that it incurred more than 30 billion won in sales losses from a prolonged strike by its pilots. An Asiana manager said domestic routes were the hardest hit as unionised pilots continued their strike for the 10th straight day, adding that 94 out of 174 flights were cancelled. He said that all four cargo flights were also cancelled, while 110 international flights remained in normal operation. The manager estimated the losses at 30.5 billion won (\$30 million) in sales due to cancellations of domestic, international and cargo flights.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike by union pilots of Asiana Airlines Inc. started to take a heavy toll on the carrier's international passenger flights yesterday as the walkout continued for a 12th day. Asiana canceled 18 international flights on seven routes scheduled from yesterday through to the end of July, the company said in a statement. Asiana cancelled five flights to Sydney, four to Los Angeles, two each to Japan's Takamatsu and Miyazaki, China's Guilin and Chongqing, and India's Delhi. The flights to those destinations was suspended either because it is a frequently run route or because pilots capable of flying the aircraft used on the routes are unavailable, the carrier said. "The strike is stretching into the long term and we had to cancel some long and short-distance routes because of the problem with the supply of pilots," said Asiana spokeswoman Kim Su-jung. "Bracing for the possibility the walkout will continue until

August, we are now rearranging next month's flight schedule and are scheduled to announce the details this weekend." All of the airline's cargo services will remain grounded until the strike ends and about 300 flights to the southern resort island of Jeju will also be cancelled through to Aug 7, the company said. Since the pilots union went on strike on July 17 demanding better working conditions and participation in management decisions, Asiana has dropped more than half of its domestic flights and all of its four cargo flights per day, but has maintained service on its international routes using non-union and foreign pilots. "Economic damage will snowball as the strike now has begun affecting international flights," said aviation analyst Ko Min-je at Hanwha Securities Co. "International flight operations are the most profitable business for Asiana and the carrier generates nearly 50 percent of its revenue in July and August, the highest season of the year." Asiana has so far lost an estimated 33 billion won in sales from the strike and forecasts it loses an additional three billion won in sales every day. This translates to a net loss of 600 million to 700 million won per day, according to Korea Investment & Securities Co. With negotiations between labour and management suspended since Friday (Jul 22), Asiana Vice President Joo Jae-hong travelled yesterday to Mount Songni in North Chungcheong Province where about 400 striking pilots were assembled to persuade them to return to work. The government has said it will intervene in the strike if it feels the walkout is inflicting "excessive" damage on the public and the national economy. The strike has threatened exports this month, blocking overseas shipments of time-sensitive goods such as semiconductors.

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Asiana Airlines will cancel 56 international flights on 14 routes for four days starting today as its unionized pilots entered the 12th day of their strike, a company spokesman said today. Eight Incheon-Sydney flights will be cancelled for four days along with the same number of flights to and from Los Angeles, and two each to and from New York and San Francisco. Asiana will also cancel eight flights to and from Fukuoka, six to and from Hong Kong, four each to and from Matsuyama, Guilin, Hangzhou and Delhi, and two each to and from Takamatsu, Chongqing and Taipei. A Sydney-bound flight and a Sydney-Incheon flight were cancelled yesterday as well, making the total number of disrupted flights to the Australian city six since Jul 19. Two flights to and from Takamatsu, Japan were also cancelled. Domestic flights have been massively disrupted as well. A total of 94 domestic flights were cancelled yesterday including 18 to and from Cheju. The company said most inland domestic flights are to be cancelled by Aug 7 with around 300 flights to and from Cheju Island being

suspended during the peak season. With the cancellation of domestic and international flights, the number of passengers having to turn to other traveling options will reach about 50,000, the company estimated. Asiana said it has suffered 34.5 billion won in losses since the pilots launched their collective action on Jul 17, adding that the losses are expected to reach around 47 billion won by Jul 31.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: A truck strike paralysed fuel deliveries across Puerto Rico today, prompting motorists to form huge lines at gas stations that were quickly running out of fuel. Hundreds of truck drivers refused to transport gasoline, food and other products to demand a 30 percent raise on government-set payments for deliveries. The truckers said they were willing to accept a temporary 10 percent raise to end the strike and resume negotiations. The government insisted their demands were too high, saying it would raise the costs of products, punishing consumers. Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila said he would deploy National Guard troops to help police escort truck drivers willing to deliver to gas stations, hospitals and other essential services. At least 400 of the U.S. Caribbean territory's 1,450 petrol stations ran out of fuel as hundreds of motorists rushed to fill their tanks, causing massive traffic jams in the capital, said Efrain Reyes, the president of the Association of Gasoline Retailers.

Railway Accidents



CONRAD AREA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: A train bound for grain elevators in Washington state derailed near Conrad, Montana, today, spilling corn and blocking the tracks, BNSF Railway said. Cause of the derailment, which happened at about 0730, MDT, was not immediately known, BNSF spokesman Gus Melonas said. No one was injured. Melonas said 13 cars derailed. Eight were "in a pile," four were on their sides and one remained upright, he said. Mechanical equipment and vacuums to remove the corn were sent from Havre. Melonas said the amount of corn spilled had not been determined. The train travelling from Craven, South Dakota, to Kalama, Washington, derailed on BNSF's line that connects Great Falls and Shelby, a line used daily by seven or eight trains. Melonas said the track is likely to re-open tomorrow afternoon. BNSF is now the official name of the Burlington Northern Sante Fe railroad, he said.

RANDOLPH, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated Jul 23, states: Railroad repair crews continue their efforts to replace the tracks destroyed during a train derailment near Randolph in Columbia County. Sixteen cars of a Union Pacific train came off track while travelling from St. Paul to Chicago yesterday night. Crews are replacing 1,000 feet of track, as they plan to reopen the line tomorrow morning. The freight train contained non-hazardous farming products. The derailment will delay delivery of those items, but Mark Davis from Union Pacific says they accept full responsibility. "All cost is boreed by Union Pacific so we will pay those shippers for their damaged goods as well as repairing of the rail cars." Meanwhile, a group of investigators has yet to determine a cause for the derailment.

WARSAW, POLAND

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirty- eight people have been wounded in the centre of Warsaw today as a result of a train collision, spokeswoman for the Polish Railways Anna Rozek said today. The trains collided in part of the railroad between Warsaw Central station and the Eastern railway station. A long distance train running from Zakopane to Gdynia on the Baltic coast collided with an el-train. One of the railway tracks was blockaded, and other trains were directed to reserve railway tracks. The causes of the accident are being specified. There is no threat to the life of the passengers injured in the accident, doctors said. The trains collided when both were running at a rather low speed, the spokeswoman said.

Robberies & Thefts



GOLD AND SILVER FROM MINE, PUNO AREA, PERU

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: Armed robbers in Peru have shot dead two people and stolen more than \$1m of gold and silver from a mine in the south of the country. At least two more people were shot and injured during the attacks on the Tucari mine. The mine was raided by at least 12 people, who also kidnapped the superintendent and head of security. Workers say the robbers stole around 30 bars of dore, a gold and silver mix worth an estimated \$1.2 million. Until now, co-ordinated attacks such as this have been virtually unheard of and experts fear this could affect foreign investment in Peru and in turn the country's economy, which relies so heavily on the rising price of gold. The Department of Puno, where the Tucari mine is located, is one of the poorest

and most politically volatile areas of Peru and has seen a wave of social unrest in recent years.

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF BRIDGE, MEKONG RIVER, THAILAND/LAOS

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Part of a second bridge connecting Thailand to neighbouring Laos collapsed into the Mekong River yesterday, the Nation reported, citing police. A Japanese construction engineer was killed, eight other workers are missing, and seven are injured, the paper said, quoting Pairot Chantim, an inspector at Mukdahan police station. Witnesses said a crane bent under the weight of a beam, which was then dropped onto the 1,600 metre-long structure, the paper reported. Heavy rain hampered search and rescue efforts. The 2.5 billion baht (\$60.5 million) bridge, financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, was 90 percent complete, the paper said. Initial damage was estimated at over 100 million baht, said Songsak Paecharoen, a Highways Department engineer who is overseeing the project. The bridge is being built by the Japanese construction firm Sumitomo.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of six of the eight workers missing in the Mekong river after an accident during the building of the second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge on Friday (Jul 22) were recovered yesterday. The eight plunged into the river after being hit by a giant construction crane that collapsed and broke into three pieces. Two workers are still missing. The bodies are being kept at Mukdahan hospital. The confirmed death toll as of yesterday was eight, including a Lao worker, who was seriously injured and died at a hospital in Ubon Ratchathani on Saturday. The number of injured stood at 10. Police were waiting for experts from Sumitomo Co and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to arrive to establish the cause of the accident and those responsible for the deaths and injuries.

COLLAPSE OF DAM, YUNNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 people have been killed after a dam collapsed in south-west China, state media has reported. Dozens of houses were destroyed when a torrent of water swept through the town of Xiaocaoba in Yunnan province, Xinhua new agency said. The latest burst comes amid warnings from environmentalists that thousands of villagers living beneath China's enormous Three Gorges Dam are at risk. Critics of the dam say if it breaks, it would spell

disaster for those living down-river. A local official said days of heavy rain had caused a retaining wall in a reservoir in Xiaocaoba to collapse. Xinhua said one person was missing and another 23 were injured.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: Bird flu has hit poultry in a Siberian village, in Russia's first case of the disease for more than 15 years. More than 300 birds have died in Suzdalka, in the Novosibirsk region, and transportation of poultry to and from the village is now banned. An epidemiologist in the region said no humans had contracted the disease, Itar-Tass news agency reported. The strain of the virus involved is not the H5N1 type, which has killed more than 50 people in Asia. A spokesman for the Russian emergencies ministry, Viktor Beltsov, said the virus type detected in Suzdalka, in Dovolenskiy district, was AH5. He did not give further details about it. The virus has killed about 200 geese and 100 chickens, Russian officials told the Gazeta.ru website. A team of vets and virologists has gone there to investigate.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major "clean-up" operation will take place in Suphan Buri province, in Thailand, next week with an aim to wipe out bird flu, according to Livestock Development Department chief Yukol Limlamthong. "We will try to contain the virus in Suphan Buri. The operation will be led by the provincial governor and the provincial livestock chief," he said. "The Livestock Development Department will set up mobile units to control fowl movements throughout the province. Checkpoints will be set up on all road links with Kanchanaburi, Nakhon Pathom and Ayutthaya provinces where all kinds of fowl are raised." Chemicals would also be used to kill the bird flu virus, he added. Mr Yukol met with the governor, district chiefs, and livestock and public health officials in all districts of Suphan Buri yesterday to discuss the second outbreak of bird flu in the province. Many kinds of animals were raised in Suphan Buri, Mr Yukol said. Also, rice fields in the province were flooded throughout the year and its roads were of better condition than elsewhere. These factors made it difficult to control the virus, he said. A source said laboratory tests carried out between July 1-21 found bird flu at 14 spots, 13 in Suphan Buri and one in neighbouring Kamphaeng Phet. A total of 107,513 fowls have already been culled in Suphan Buri. The Livestock Development Department is waiting for results of lab tests of samples from 41 other spots in 19 provinces, Suphan Buri, Ayutthaya, Prachin Buri, Rayong, Buri Ram, Loei, Kalasin, Udorn Thani, Nong Khai, Maha Sarakham, Nakhon Phanom, Lamphun, Chiang Rai, Phetchabun, Phitsanulok, Sukhothai, Kanchanaburi, Phangnga and Surat

Thani. In Kamphaeng Phet, livestock office chief Kamol Charoenket yesterday made an inspection trip to tambon Phothong, Pang Sila Thong district, where bird flu was detected at a village on Thursday (Jul 21). As a result, 333 chickens were culled and disinfectant was sprayed all over the areas where the virus was detected. Kamphaeng Phet has declared Pang Sila Thong an epidemic zone and prohibited fowl transport out of the area.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Numerous bird flu cases have been registered in ten residential areas of Russia's Novosibirsk region. The press service of the Emergency Situations Ministry said today that 230 fowl died over the past 24 hours alone in four areas. A total of 1,100 fowl died since the beginning of the epidemic on Jul 21. Veterinary studies have shown that the cause of it was bird influenza A of H5 blood group. The version of food poisoning is not ruled out, the press service said. The regional virology centre Vektor, the veterinary department and the health department are taking sanitary and anti-epizootic measures in the region.

Fires & Explosions



COAL MINE, FENGXIANGPO, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen miners were reported missing after a gas explosion early today in south-west China's Guizhou Province, the local mine safety authorities said. The accident occurred at 0130 hrs, today at the Fengxiangpo Coal Mine, a village-run pit in Kaiyang County, on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Guiyang, said a spokesman with the provincial coal mine safety supervision bureau. He said Fengxiangpo is a licensed coal mine which basically meets production safety standards. Rescuers are busy searching for the trapped miners, whose whereabouts are still unknown.

COAL MINE, SHENLONG, XINJIANG, CHINA

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated Jul 25, states: The last missing body from the gas blast that hit the Shenlong Coal Mine of Fukang County on Jul 11, was recovered today, the regional government said. Some 87 people were working in the shaft at the time of the explosion. Only four of them survived the disaster. Eighty-two bodies were recovered within two days after the accident, however, further rescue for the one missing was dampened by the broken down ventilation system, shaft collapse and high density of poisonous gas. China's work safety watchdog has blamed the coal mine blast on a number of safety

loopholes, including overproduction, lack of a work safety license and bad management. Local police have detained five people, who were accused of being accountable for the coal mine gas blast.

FACTORY, PLYMPTON, DEVON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: Nearly 400 employees at a Devon factory are to be made redundant after a large fire destroyed their workplace. An investigation into the cause of the blaze at Hilliers food manufacturers in Plympton is continuing. Sixty firefighters attended the fire which destroyed ovens and machinery inside the building. After an anxious few days for staff, the company announced today it had gone into administration. Administrators are expected to release a statement later today. In the meantime, they will be meeting staff and unions to explain the situation.

PREMISES UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities were today searching for the cause of a four-alarm fire that blazed through a midtown Atlanta complex early yesterday morning, forcing residents to evacuate and sending plumes of smoke high above the city's skyline. No injuries were reported in the fire, which tore through a condominium building under construction in the Atlantic Station complex, a massive new office, residential and commercial development. The blaze also spread to several cars parked in a parking deck and on the street. Firefighters seemed to have suppressed the flames and some residents were allowed to return to their homes. But the flames reignited on the rooftop of a nearby building roof hours later, drawing more firefighters to the scene and evacuating exhausted residents again into the sweltering summer heat. Authorities do not yet know the cause of the fire. The mixed-use Atlantic Station development includes a high-rise office tower, several condominium and apartment buildings, a strip of townhouses, the city's first IKEA home retailer store and a host of department stores, shops, restaurants and theaters that have yet to open. Flames crossed the street to the Art Foundry, and 30 of its 340 units suffered fire, heat, smoke or water damage. Shooting flames were visible from a mile away.

PREMISES, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Las Vegas fire officials are putting damage at three million dollars after a spectacular fire that destroyed two large country club homes and heavily damaged a third early this morning in Las Vegas. Two neighbouring houses under construction were also damaged by intense heat during the fire before

0200 hrs, in the exclusive Red Rock Country Club west of Las Vegas. Fire investigators still aren't sure what started the fire.

PREMISES, MILDEN, CANADA

London, Jul 25 -- A report from laSalle, dated today, states: A report from Mildren, dated today, states: A tangled mess of metal is all that's left of Mildren's fire hall complex and the lumber yard next door after a fire ripped through the two buildings Saturday (Jul 23). The blaze then sparked flames across the street in the offices of the Rural Municipality of Mildren, about an hour south-west of Saskatoon. Witnesses said the fire started when a downed power line ignited a roof at the lumber yard. The fire spread rapidly. The volunteer fire department lost its water tanker truck and most of its firefighters' suits with jackets worth up to \$1,000.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A \$700 million (£400m) charge to pay for the aftermath of the Texas City refinery explosion ruined hopes of another record quarter of profits at BP yesterday. The oil major posted second-quarter profits of \$4.98billion (£2.9billion), after including \$826m of exceptional expenses, down from the \$5.5billion it made in the first three months of the year. Some of the charge for the Texas City blast will go to pay for legal and medical bills and to pay compensation for the 15 dead and 170 injured workers. BP agreed last week to pay tens of millions of dollars to the families of the deceased. Lawyers representing the claimants said the settlements were "extremely big". Joseph Jamail, a prominent personal injury lawyer who represents 12 of the 300 claimants, said he had "never dealt with a company that has stepped forward so quickly and in good faith to adequately compensate the ones who were harmed". BP previously blamed the explosion on a failure by employees to follow procedure but said yesterday it was working closely with the US Chemicals Safety Board, which believes faulty monitoring equipment was also behind the accident. The oil major has sacked five people at Texas City. BP was not insured for the explosion and faces a cost of \$40m to investigate the events and a \$200m bill to repair the damage. In addition, a spokesman estimated BP would suffer \$200m of operational losses each quarter until the unit returns to full capacity. The fallout reduced BP's refining availability by over two percentage points to 93.1pc.

REFINERY, UFA AREA, BASHKORTOSTAN, RUSSIA

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: There have been no fatalities connected with a huge explosion at the Novo-Ufimsk oil refinery today, a spokesman for the Russian Emergencies Ministry said. "There are no deaths resulting from

the accident," the spokesman said, adding that the explosion was caused by a pipe that burst, resulting in a level-four fire. The explosion occurred earlier today at the Novo-Ufimsk oil refinery (Novoil), located 30 km from the town of Ufa (capital of Bashkortostan). Witnesses reported a huge flame at the plant's gasoline production facility.

TYRE PLANT, WATERTOW, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated Jul 22, states: Earth-moving equipment today began clearing hundreds of thousands of used tires from a Wisconsin tyre recycling facility that burned for three days. The massive tyre fire began Tuesday (Jul 19), forcing local residents to remain inside, and threatened to burn at the 12-acre facility for up to a week. Emergency management officials said there were more than 1 million old tyres at the site. Dodge County firefighters sprayed F500, a non-toxic, biodegradable foam fire suppression agent, on the blaze yesterday night extinguishing all but a few hot spots, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel said. At one point, the blaze produced a plume of black smoke so thick it was photographed by satellites in orbit.

WAREHOUSE, ROCHESTER, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are at a blaze which broke out late yesterday night at a warehouse in Kent. A total of 16 crews have been working at the site, in Anthonys Way, Strood, Rochester, since the fire started just before 2300, BST. The burning Skipway warehouse was used as a recycling centre, according to Kent Fire and Rescue. Crews were making "steady progress" but the fire had still not been brought under control by this morning.

WAREHOUSES, CEBU INTERNATIONAL PORT, PHILIPPINES

Manila, July28 -- An early morning fire, today, destroyed Pesos100 million (US\$1.78 million) worth of property, cargo and vehicles at the Cebu International Port in Cebu City. The fire which started at around 0400 hrs razed five warehouses and a one-storey building housing the offices of the Cebu Ports Authority, Bureau of Customs, Maritime Police, Starlight Cargo Express and Oriental Port and Allied Services Corp. Dozens of smuggled vehicles, which were confiscated and kept in the port's warehouses were also burned. Firemen said that the fire started at the office of Starlight Cargo and quickly spread to the other parts of the building and adjacent warehouses. Firefighters said they were initially unable to contain the fire after live ammunition kept at the Maritime Police office started "cooking off". Officials said that they were looking at arson as a possible cause of the fire. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

WILDFIRES, SARDINIA, ITALY

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hundreds of people including tourists have fled fires in northern Sardinia, authorities on the Italian island said today. Dozens of homes were destroyed along the famous Emerald Coast in the north-east as well as large swathes of brush and forest. Hundreds of people were evacuated from various hotels and tourist villages along the coast, and were forced to move along the beaches because roads in the area were cut off by the blazes. Dozens of small private boats and coast guard cutters, as well as a large military ship, took part in evacuation efforts. In the northwest near the town of Alghero, several hundred more people were evacuated from a campground.

WILDFIRES, SPAIN

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire that ravaged a nature reserve in central Spain killing 11 firefighters was declared under control yesterday as the official in charge of environmental issues in the regional government resigned over the blaze. The deadliest fire in the country in 15 years sparked fierce debate in Spain, with the opposition criticizing the apparent lack of coordination between regional authorities and the government in Madrid when the blaze broke out on Saturday (Jul 16). A statement from the regional government said the blaze was "under control" as of early yesterday. It said a few minor fires had been seen, but they did not cross the firebreak marked out to stop the main blaze from spreading.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 -- A press report dated today, states: Residents of a remote town in southwestern Utah voluntarily evacuated their homes yesterday ahead of a wildfire that blackened more than 800 acres. The blaze threatened 20 structures near Motoqua, an unincorporated town about 20 miles north-west of St. George, on the Utah-Nevada border. The fire had not damaged any buildings, but some residents left their homes voluntarily as the flames approached, said David Boyd, a fire spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management. Fire officials did not immediately know how many residents fled ahead of the fire. The blaze was likely started by an overnight lightning strike and had burned more than 800 acres by midday today. Elsewhere in Utah, a 7,400-acre fire was growing as it burned in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, which provides habitat for the federally protected desert tortoise. About 12 miles north of St. George, another fire was burning into thick timber in the Dixie National Forest. The blaze, estimated at 8,700 acres, was 35 percent contained. Extreme heat was beginning to take a toll on more than 700 firefighters in southern Utah. Two had to be hospitalized for dehydration and heat exhaustion.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews expected to bring a 44-acre brush fire in California under control by 1800 today, officials said. A lightning strike started the fire on Thursday (Jul 21) in a remote area off state Route 79, north of Chihuahua Valley Road, said Capt. Robert Ramirez of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Firefighters got to it before structures were threatened. Residents were not in jeopardy. The fire began about 1600 hrs on Thursday and CDF used six air tankers, three helicopters and about 220 personnel to fight it. The fire was mainly fought from the air because there are no access roads. CDF crews also responded to a brush fire in Winchester in Riverside County. Two acres of vegetation, two outbuildings and one home burned in the blaze, which started before noon yesterday. The fire was contained about 1300 yesterday, said CDF spokesman Patrick Chandler.

London, Jul 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire ripped across 30 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest yesterday between the resort towns of Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead, but there were no immediate reports of injury or damages to homes. It was just one of 32 fires that the National Interagency Fire Center said were active yesterday in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah. An estimated 3.9 million acres have burned so far this year. The fire, reported around noon, burned across heavy brush in steep, remote slopes, some of which was charred last year when wildfires swept across Southern California. About 240 firefighters, with the help of four helicopters and four air tankers battled the flames. Also yesterday, a wildfire that has charred 65,000 acres in central Arizona jumped a highway where firefighters were hoping to contain it, forcing the evacuation of the 15 homes in the rural community of Sunflower. Another 350 homes near another side of the fire, including the subdivisions of Sleepy Hollow, Sycamore Creek, Mazatzal and Walnut Springs, were evacuated earlier, but residents were allowed to return yesterday. Crews and engines were protecting structures in Sunflower, which is about 40 miles northeast of Phoenix and to the west of the fire. They were also burning away vegetation near the homes in both Sunflower and the Punkin Center area, said fire spokeswoman Laura Prevatte. In south-western Utah, about 135 people evacuated their homes yesterday after wind-swept flames travelled downhill toward a tiny desert town. Air tankers were fighting the flames, and no houses were in immediate danger, said Undersheriff Bart Bailey. Gunlock was hemmed by wildfires on two sides, just weeks after escaping a

brush with another blaze. Elsewhere, residents of the village of Motoqua returned to their homes yesterday after the threat from a 3,500-acre wildfire subsided. The blaze destroyed one home on a ranch, but 19 other structures near the town were not damaged, said David Boyd, a fire spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management. No injuries were reported. The residents had left their homes voluntarily as the flames approached, Boyd said. In Nevada, a wildfire burning in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area grew to 1,500 acres yesterday, prompting the voluntary evacuation of a nearby community. The Loop Fire was one of several sparked by lightning in recent days in the Spring Mountains west of Las Vegas. It prompted the voluntary evacuation of several dozen homes in the nearby Calico Basin community and prompted the closure of the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center. Two airtankers, two single-engine planes, two helicopters and multiple crews were working the fire.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Overnight rain and lower temperatures helped give firefighters the upper hand yesterday on two huge fires that had threatened three separate communities in south-west Utah. Fire officials said yesterday that an 18,300-acre group of fires 12 miles north of St. George was 70 percent contained. About 10 miles north of the city, a group of seven fires that had burned into one covering more than 17,800 acres was 30 percent contained. Together, the fires had formed almost a complete ring around 50 homes in Dammeron Valley and the towns of Veyo and Gunlock. Flames also had gotten to within one-quarter mile of homes in Gunlock, but an evacuation order there was lifted Saturday (Jul 23). The threat level for those communities was eased yesterday, US Forest Service fire information officer David Chevalier said. In central Arizona, a 71,600-acre wildfire near the town of Punkin Centre was winding down, thanks to rain, higher humidity and lighter wind, officials said yesterday. The fire was 60 percent contained and full containment was expected this morning. No houses were threatened and residents who had been asked to evacuate about 350 homes in the Punkin Centre area had already been allowed to return. Elsewhere, 11 homes had been evacuated from a forested area of north-east Wyoming as hot, dry wind stymied efforts to contain a cluster of lightning-caused fires, authorities said yesterday. Other residents in the area east of Sundance were told to be ready to evacuate on 30 minutes' notice. The fires, which were only five percent contained, had charred one and-a-half square miles of mainly ponderosa pine in the Black Hills National Forest, which straddles the Wyoming-South Dakota line.



ACCIDENT, AQABA AIRPORT, JORDAN

Amman, Jul 26 -- A Moldovan Antonov cargo aircraft sustained a brake failure while landing in Jordan's southern Aqaba airport today, airport officials said. "The failure resulted in a slight accident in the cargo terminal at 1415 GMT (10:15 EDT). There were definitely no casualties and the crew are safe," one Aqaba official told Reuters. An Israeli rescue service had said that the aircraft suffered a tyre puncture upon landing at the airport in Aqaba, revising an earlier report that the aircraft had crashed. "This was not a crash. The aircraft's tyre burst and the ruckus appeared like a crash," a spokesman for ZAKA said. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Russian-made cargo aircraft parked at a Jordanian airport rolled into a ditch yesterday, causing minor damage and no injuries, Jordan's civil aviation chief said yesterday. The aircraft sat wedged yesterday evening in a watery ditch at the airport in Aqaba with its tail sticking slightly up. "The plane did not crash; it was a minor accident, the aircraft was neither airborne, nor taking off or landing," Civil Aviation Authority Chief Capt. Suleiman Obeidat said. He said the Antonov An-12 was parked on the tarmac at King Hussein International Airport in Aqaba, near the Israeli border, when it suddenly rolled onto nearby unpaved ground. Obeidat and Neal Kawar, a cargo expeditor for Heston Aviation, the Jordanian firm which handled the aircraft's ground operation, said there apparently were no blocks under the wheels to hold the aircraft in place.

ACCIDENT, NHILL AIRFIELD, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft about to take off from a Victorian airfield has run off a runway, across a road and into a paddock, injuring four men. The 12-seater twin-engine Piper Chieftain was set to take off from the Nhill Airfield in the state's west at 1830, AEST, yesterday when the incident happened, police said. None of the men was seriously injured and all were in a stable condition, a Rural Ambulance spokeswoman said. A 32-year-old man was briefly unconscious after suffering lacerations to his head, while a 34-year-old man suffered a fractured leg and head cuts. A third man was treated for possible spinal injuries after complaining of a sore back, while the pilot suffered an ankle injury and neck and back pain. The men were taken to Nhill Hospital before being transferred to Wimmera

Base Hospital. The plane, which had flown from Moorabbin to Essendon, Ouyen and then Nhill, had been bound for Charlton.

ACCIDENT, NORTH LAS VEGAS AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

See N7UP.

AIRCRAFT MISSING, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

See VH-OAO.

C-FHDH

London, Jul 25 -- The Piper PA-28-140, C-FHDH, was taxiing from apron I to apron II at the Regina airport at 1515, Jul 22. The pilot did not see a sign to the left of the apron entrance, and the left wingtip of the aircraft struck the face of the sign. The aircraft continued forward and the left wingtip struck a building just east of the apron entrance. The pilot and passenger were not injured. The aircraft sustained damage to the left wing at the tip and root, and will be checked for hidden structural damage.

CRASH, SALT LAKE CITY AIRPORT AREA, UTAH, UNITED STATES

See N31TE.

CRASH, ADA AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

See N1971W.

CRASH, BERLIN, GERMANY

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 22, states: A light aircraft has crashed close to the German parliament and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's office. The single-engine plane crashed on the lawn of the Reichstag shortly before 2100 hrs (1900, UTC), the fire service said. The cause of the crash, in which the pilot died, is unclear. Berlin police says they do not believe the crash is connected to terrorism. "Nothing, absolutely nothing indicates a terror background," said Interior Minister Eckhardt Koerting. "It appears at this point that it may have been some sort of accident or a case of suicide." Mr Koertig told reporters. A witness said the plane had been flying low and slow between the Reichstag building and an adjoining block of offices. Another witness said the plane was flying upside down and the pilot was trying to land. No-one on the ground is reported to have been injured. According to initial reports, the pilot did not have any explosives on board the aircraft.

CRASH, BORNEO, KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Malaysian police and rescue officers today resumed an intensive search for four missing passengers on an ill-fated helicopter, which crashed late yesterday in the jungles of Borneo. Wreckage of the Hornbill Skyways helicopter was discovered late yesterday in hilly

jungles at the border of Malaysia's eastern Sarawak state and Indonesia's Kalimantan province, several hours after the chopper was reported missing, a police spokesman said. An intensive search was immediately launched to find the pilot, Razali Sani, and three passengers on board. It was believed that Razali had tried to make an emergency landing when the wind in the area picked up but lost control before the chopper crashed, said district police chief Johar Ahmad. Johar said that search and rescue operations had to be called off late yesterday due to strong winds and dangerous conditions at the crash site. Johar said that air surveillance at the crash site showed the helicopter to be intact, adding that rescue officers believed that the passengers had a strong chance of survival.

CRASH, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

See N741LL.

CRASH, GEORGETOWN AREA, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES

See N59RK.

CRASH, GULF OF MEXICO

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

CRASH, JACKSON AREA, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

See N65875.

CRASH, PEDRAS LAVRADAS, PORTUGAL

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A water-dropping helicopter crashed today after hitting electrical lines while battling a forest fire in central Portugal, slightly injuring its pilot, emergency services officials said. "The helicopter had just refilled with water and it hit electrical cables just as it took off, causing it to fall," said civil protection agency SNBPC spokeswoman Gisela Oliveira. The pilot, the sole occupant of the aircraft, appeared to have suffered only light scratches and cuts but was taken to a local health centre for a full check-up, she added. The blaze near the central mountain town of Pedras Lavradas was the only wildfire that was still burning out of control in Portugal today.

CRASH, SAGINAW AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See N5670M.

CRASH, TSA DE TSAN, ITALY

Genoa, Jul 25 -- A French Jodel aircraft crashed into the Tsa de Tsan (Tete Blanche) glacier, at a height of 3,500 metres, near the Swiss border on Jul 22, during a flight from Chambéry, France, to Chamois, Aosta, Italy. The four occupants were killed. - Lloyd's Agents.

EI-DOC

London, July 27 -- Robinson R44 helicopter, EI-DOC, struck trees while flying near Derrybrien, Ireland, at

1110, UTC, July 9. The pilot and one passenger were fatally injured, and one passenger sustained serious injuries. The helicopter was destroyed. The flight departed the Waterford Airport and was destined for Galway Airport.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT CHICAGO O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: An American Airlines jet made an emergency landing at O'Hare Airport yesterday after the pilot reported flap problems. Flight 1367, coming from Los Angeles, ended up landing safely around 1800. None of the 200-plus people on the 767 was hurt. Later there was another scare at an American hangar at O'Hare. Heavy winds tore off 125 feet of siding, an airline spokeswoman said. "We had 50-knot winds," she said, adding there were aircraft in the hangar, but it's unclear if any were damaged.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Narita-bound Japan Airlines jumbo jet was forced to make an emergency landing at Manila's airport yesterday after indicators warned of a fire or smoke in the aircraft, an airport official said. But the official said a check of the Boeing 747-300 aircraft after it landed at Ninoy Aquino International Airport found neither fire nor smoke.

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines aircraft carrying 335 people made an emergency landing in Manila yesterday after an instrument panel indicated a fire on board, an airport official said. It later proved to be a false alarm. JAL flight 742 to Japan had been airborne for 12 minutes when its pilots saw the warning of a fire in an auxiliary power unit aboard the Boeing 747-300 aircraft and decided to return to Manila, said airport assistant manager Octavio Lina. The 315 passengers, including seven infants, and 20 crewmembers were asked to disembark from the aircraft, which was checked briefly then later cleared to fly, Lina said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ONEIDA COUNTY AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft made an emergency landing at the Oneida County Airport yesterday afternoon after reporting an in flight emergency shortly after take-off, reported the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. A 1976 Cessna model 177R aircraft owned by Adirondack Flying Services of Lake Placid made an emergency crash landing at the now closed Oneida County Airport after only about 30 minutes of flight. The aircraft, flown by 57-year-old James H. Bisson, of Pierceland, had been en

route from Lake Placid to Binghamton when problems arose. Bisson reported an in-flight emergency to air traffic controllers at the former Griffiss Air Force Base, saying a possible hydraulic failure had engaged the aircraft's landing gear, which was not locked. Air traffic controllers monitored the situation and diverted Bisson to the Oneida County Airport. After touching down using the aircraft's rear landing gear, both the rear and nose landing gears collapsed upon contact with runway. The aircraft skidded along the runway on its body, turning sideways before coming to rest, deputies said. The pilot and his three passengers, did not suffer injury and required no medical attention, deputies said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ROTORUA AIRPORT, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A freight plane carrying three people had to make an emergency landing at Rotorua Airport yesterday when some of the wheels failed. Police say the plane landed safely after the pilot reported the wheels on the left side of the Convair were not locking into position as it approached the airport about 1000.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TOKUSHIMA, JAPAN

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines passenger aircraft made an emergency landing at Tokushima airport around 2030, yesterday after oxygen masks were deployed in the cabin due to a malfunction in the aircraft's pressurization equipment, airline officials said. The Airbus A300, which had left Tokyo's Haneda airport for Tokushima at 1900, was carrying 186 passengers and nine crew members. JAL had discovered that one of the two instruments for regulating air pressure inside the aircraft malfunctioned before departure but decided the aircraft could sustain a flight with the other instrument, the officials said.

GOSFORD AREA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter is engulfed in flames at Somersby Falls near Gosford in New South Wales today after apparently crashing. At this stage there are no reported injuries or fatalities. A fire brigade helicopter is on the scene and other emergency crews are also making their way to the crash site.

INCIDENT AT LAGOS AIRPORT, NIGERIA

London, Jul 25 -- A Lufthansa A330-300 aircraft on Saturday (Jul 23) skidded off the Murtala Muhammed International Airport at Lagos, after its front tyres burst, after running into a pot hole on touch down, on runway 18L. A pilot said the control tower was already alerting pilots to

this part of the runway to avoid any mishap. As a result of this incident, British Airways yesterday diverted its flight 075 bound for Nigeria to Abuja. A source said last night that the flight diversion was to ensure the safety of the passengers and crew. The returning flight for the diverted plane will also take off from Abuja, instead of Lagos, according to the airline. British Airways had to make an arrangement with Aerocontractors and Virgin Nigeria to fly their passengers out of Lagos to Abuja today. All expenses will be borne by the British carrier, according to its officials. It was learnt that the boycott of the Lagos airport will continue until tomorrow after the "bad spot" may have been "rectified". A source said, the management of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), inspected the affected portion of the runway yesterday with a technical team from British Airways and some other foreign airlines.

INCIDENT AT NEW CHITOSE AIRPORT, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines (JAL) jet landed at New Chitose Airport in Hokkaido without being able to reverse the engine thrust because of faulty maintenance work by a subsidiary, company officials said. The aircraft, a twin-engine Boeing 777-300, landed safely without overrunning the runway because the pilot used the spoilers on its wings and hydraulic brakes to slow down the aircraft. Company officials said the thrust on both engines could not be reversed because mechanics at a wholly-owned subsidiary forgot to remove a safety pin that blocks engine thrust from being reversed after completing the maintenance work on the aircraft. As punishment over the incident, JAL International cut the salary of Managing Director Takao Imai by 10 percent for a month on disciplinary grounds. The Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry severely reprimanded JAL International and instructed it to implement measures to prevent a recurrence. The pilot of the aircraft on Flight 1001 from Tokyo's Haneda Airport noticed that he could not pull the lever to reverse the engine thrust as it was landing at New Chitose Airport at around 0757, local time, on Sunday (Jul 24), according to JAL officials. The captain used the spoilers on the aircraft's main wings and hydraulic brakes to slow down the aircraft. The aircraft did not overrun the 3,000-metre runway. JAL officials said Boeing 777-300s could never normally overrun a 3,000-metre runway even if the runway was frozen and engine thrust could not be reversed. JAL commissioned the subsidiary to paint the aircraft from July 19 to 23, according to company officials. During the work, mechanics at the affiliate inserted safety lock pins in its engines to prevent the engine thrust from being reversed. After the work, other mechanics

examined the aircraft, but did not check the inside of the engines because they thought the pins had already been removed.

N1971W

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three family members, including an 11-year-old girl, were killed yesterday when their twin-engine aircraft crashed and burned along a highway, authorities said. The aircraft, a Cessna 310, crashed about 1800 near an airport and along US 377, said Roland Herwig, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. "It looked like they may have been trying to land, but we're not sure," said Highway Patrol dispatcher Edith Luman. The victims were the pilot, Harland Brent Stonecipher, 34; his wife, Tina Lynn Stonecipher, 33; and their daughter, Nicole Ann Stonecipher, 11. They were no others on board, she said. The victims were all from Centrahoma, a small community located east of Ada in nearby Coal County. Herwig said it was not clear whether the aircraft had just taken off or was attempting to land at the time of the crash. The cause was under investigation.

London, Jul 25 -- Cessna 310Q N1971W crashed near Ada, Oklahoma, at 2255, Jul 24. The three persons on board were killed.

N31TE

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: Three people were killed in an aircraft crash after taking off from Salt Lake City's Municipal Airport 2 in West Jordan today. Two men and one woman were aboard. KUTV reported that two of the victims were from Huntington Beach, Calif., and one was from Evanston, Wyo. It was not known what caused the crash. The six-passenger Beechcraft Bonanza reportedly had just left the small airport after refueling when it plunged to the ground and rolled end-to-end, crossing a major roadway and coming to rest in a field. Authorities called the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration to investigate.

London, Jul 25 -- Beechcraft Bonanza N35 N31TE crashed near Salt Lake City, Utah, at 2220, Jul 24, while on a flight from Salt Lake City to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The three persons on board were killed.

N5670M

London, Jul 21 -- Mooney M-20J (Mooney 201) N5670M crashed near Saginaw, Texas, at 1721, Jul 20. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N59RK

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: A single-engine plane clipped a sport utility vehicle at a private runway just south of Georgetown this afternoon, touching off a fiery accident that left two people dead and three injured. The accident occurred just before 1600 hrs, as the

sport utility vehicle rounded a bend on Gov. Stockley Road, where it collided with the plane, said state police Spokesman Master Cpl. Jeff Oldham. The impact caused the left wing fuel tank to rupture and spill fuel on the vehicle, he said. The vehicle burst into flames and rolled over. The SUV's two occupants, who were trapped inside, were killed. The plane's three occupants managed to escape or were rescued after the craft slid into a fence just east of the airstrip. The pilot, a 63-year-old man, and one of his two female passengers were trapped in the plane and had to be cut from the wreckage. All three were taken to area hospitals for treatment. Area resident Lori Williams said the plane took off from the airstrip about 45 minutes before the crash. State police investigators don't know where the plane was headed. Oldham said the plane was a Piper Archer II single prop plane. The vehicle was a 1991 GMC Jimmy, registered in Delaware. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were on the scene investigating.

London, Jul 27 -- Piper PA-28-181 (Archer III) N59RK crashed near Georgetown, Delaware, at 1957, Jul 26. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The three persons on board were seriously injured, and two persons on the ground were killed.

N6327T

London, Jul 27 -- North American P-51 N6327T crashed near Calumet, Wisconsin, at 1602, Jul 26, while on a local flight from Oshkosh, WI. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N65875

London, Jul 21 -- Cessna 172P (Skyhawk) N65875 crashed near West Bend, Wisconsin, at 1225, Jul 20, while on a flight from Milwaukee, WI. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N7017Y

London, Jul 25 -- The Piper PA-30 Twin Comanche, N7017Y, was on a VFR flight from Quebec City/Jean Lesage International Airport to Ottawa/MCIA when the landing gear was lowered for landing, it failed to indicate down and safe at 1445, Jul 24. The pilot made repeated attempts to extend the gear using the flight manual emergency procedure but was unable to extend the gear beyond approximately half way. The partially-extended gear collapsed on touchdown resulting in damage to the underside of the aircraft and the propellers. The pilot and passenger were uninjured. The aircraft was removed from the runway about three hours later. Full assessment of damage and cause of the gear malfunction is pending and will be advised by the operator.

N741LL

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Illinois Department of Transportation

helicopter crashed this morning along the side of Interstate 294 in suburban Chicago, but no one was killed. Four people were on board the helicopter at the time and they were taken to a nearby hospital, said IDOT spokesman Matt Vanover. All four were being treated for minor injuries at Advocate Christ Medical Centre, said Illinois State Police spokesman Doug Whitmore. A hospital spokesman confirmed the four were being treated, but she didn't know their conditions. Authorities said no cars were hit when the helicopter crashed just off the shoulder of I-294, also known as the Tri-State Tollway. The helicopter came to rest on its side in a grassy area between the guardrail and a sound barrier that lines the road near a residential area.

London, Jul 27 -- Bell 206L-3 LongRanger III N741LL, operated by the State of Illinois, crashed near Chicago, IL, at 1515, Jul 26. The aircraft was destroyed. The five persons on board were not injured.

N7UP

London, Jul 22 -- A press report dated yesterday, states: Three people were injured after their twin-engine aircraft crashed today at North Las Vegas airport. Authorities said two men and a woman were taken to University Medical Center but their injuries were not life threatening. The aircraft took off shortly after 1700 hrs and got about eight feet off the ground before it slammed back down, coming to rest between two runways, said Donn Walker, regional spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The aircraft was destroyed. The 11-seat, 1964 Aero Commander was owned by Commander Northwest, an Alaskan corporation, according to FAA records. The U.S. Forest Service contracted with the company for the aircraft's services, Walker said.

London, Jul 22 -- Rockwell Commander 680 FL (Grand) N7UP, operated by the US Department of Forestry, crashed at North Las Vegas Airport, Nevada, at 0007, Jul 21, while on a local flight from North Las Vegas. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were seriously injured.

N9JQ

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated Jul 24, states: A small aircraft from Ohio crashed in Rock Hill this morning, killing two people on board, said a National Transportation and Safety Board spokeswoman. The Beech 35 aircraft crashed near the North Carolina state line about 1000, said NTSB spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi. The flight left the Ohio State University Airport and was heading to Rock Hill, which is about 20 miles south-west of Charlotte, N.C., Peduzzi said. There were three people on board; the extent of the third person's injuries wasn't clear. Ohio State University Airport director Doug Hammond said the aircraft didn't belong to the university; its owner paid to keep it at the airport.

London, Jul 25 -- Beechcraft Bonanza V35B N9JQ crashed near Rock Hill, South Carolina, at 1503, Jul 24, while on a flight from Columbus, Ohio, to Rock Hill. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third was seriously injured.

RPC-2181

London, Jul 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A two-seater Cessna crashed in a rice field in Barangay Caditaan yesterday but caused no injury to its pilot and its lone passenger, local officials reported. Councilor Elden Hilotin, who rushed to the crash site upon learning of the incident, said they found the pilot, Edcel Luciano, and his passenger, Calvin Mendoza, both safe despite the extensive damage suffered by the ill-fated aircraft. Luciano said they were cruising at an altitude of about 1,980 metres when the aircraft's engine stopped some 30 minutes after it took off at Legazpi Airport. The aircraft, with tail number RPC-2181 and registered under Flyer's Philippines, a flying school, was en route to Cebu City and apparently was on a test flight.

VH-OAO

London, Jul 27 -- Piper PA-31-350, VH-OAO, crashed in mountainous terrain during an approach for landing at Mount Hotham Aerodrome, Victoria, Australia, at 0726, UTC, Jul 8. The pilot and two passengers were killed.

XA-VVD

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

Space Vehicles



DISCOVERY (Space Shuttle)

London, Jul 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: NASA have restarted the countdown to their first space shuttle flight since the 2003 Columbia disaster. Discovery is due to lift off at 1439 BST, tomorrow, from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. NASA test director Pete Nickolenko said: "We are all eagerly looking forward to a successful launch." Forecasters predict a 60 per cent chance the weather will be suitable for launch.

Product Recalls



KIA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated Jul 21, states: The Kia Sedona

is the subject of its second recall notice in three months because of potential problems with a throttle cable that could lead to a crash. Kia Motors America Inc. said today it was recalling more than 118,000 Sedonas from the 2003-2005 model years because the throttle cable may stick, especially in cold climates with freezing conditions. The throttle cable connects the accelerator and the throttle body in the engine. Kia said if water seeped into the throttle cable prior to freezing conditions, it could lead to the cable freezing. Under these conditions, when the driver takes his

foot off the accelerator, the cable could stick and the vehicle's speed could be maintained, potentially leading to a crash. Kia said in a statement it began the recall "during the warm summer months to resolve the issue before the affected vehicles are subjected to cold weather conditions later this year." The recall is expected to begin in September.

MAZDA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Mazda Motor Corp. is recalling nearly 30,000 2004

model year RX8 cars. Officials said that there is a defect in the steering mechanism that could cause you to not be able to steer the car.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLD-WIDE

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Toyota has issued a massive minivan recall. Toyota is recalling more than 345,000 Sienna minivans because of defective seat belts. Officials said that they might not properly restrain passengers during a crash. The minivans are the 2004-2005 model.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	25-Jul-2005	Coal: One vessel at anchor; 8 vessels due by 7/8; up to 5 days delay expected.
Dalrymple Bay	25-Jul-2005	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth, 13 at anchor; 41 vessels due by 12/9; 5-25 days delay expected. Vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability. Shippers have a certain entitlement of coal shipped through the terminal. If they exceed their entitlement, additional vessels are moved further down the list, with a resulting additional delay in berthing
Dampier	25-Jul-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some grade/stockpile problems. Some vessels will berth out of turn and the berthing lineup may change at short notice. Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 4 at anchor; 9 vessels due by 9/8; up to 1-7 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 10 vessels due by 5/8; up to 4 days delay expected; a shift to lay-by on completion of loading always possible.
Gladstone	25-Jul-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels loading at berth, 2 off port; 37 vessels due by 31/8; up to 4 days delay expected; Barney Point: 6 vessels due by 22/8; up to 1 day's delay expected
Hay Point	25-Jul-2005	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth, 11 vessels due by 5/8; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Newcastle	25-Jul-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels loading at berth; 43 vessels due by 17/8; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 22 vessels due by 17/8; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 4-9 days delay expected
Port Hedland	25-Jul-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 4 vessels due by 2/8; up to 5 days delay expected; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 1/8; 2-3 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel due by 28/7; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 2/8; 1-2 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	25-Jul-2005	Coal: Two vessels awaiting cargo; 13 vessels due by 23/8; CB1: 2 vessels due by 26/7; from 27/6-18/7 CB1 will be out of service due to power outage; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	25-Jul-2005	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 18 vessels due by 9/8; up to 2 days delay expected; cargo shortages may result in vessels berthing out of turn; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (8 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively; shippers advise that stores, air freight and baggage can no longer be delivered to the vessel or taken off at berth, but must be delivered/removed by launch.
Brazil		
Paranagua	26-Jul-2005	Fourteen vessels at berth of which 10 loading, 4 discharging; 17 vessels waiting in roads of which 11 to load, 6 to discharge; 42 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio de Janeiro	26-Jul-2005	Porto do Rio: 5 vessels at berth of which 4 loading (3 steel products, 1 other), 1 discharging wheat; Tecon: 1 vessel loading steel products; Porto de Sepetiba: 3 vessels discharging, 7 loading/discharging (3 iron ore, 4 others); 23 vessels due over the next 7 days
Rio Grande	26-Jul-2005	Two vessels at berth of which 1 loading lumber, 1 discharging urea; 6 vessels waiting in roads; 19 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	26-Jul-2005	Eighteen vessels at berth of which 10 loading, 7 discharging, 1 loading/discharging full containers; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 vessels loading/discharging full containers; Tecondi: no vessels; Termars: 1 heavy loader; Rodrimar: 1 vessel loading/discharging full containers; Cosipa: 4 vessels loading steel products; Ultrafertil: 1 vessel discharging fertiliser; Cargill: 1 vessel loading bulk sugar; Santos Brasil: 2 vessels loading/discharging full containers; Dow: 1 vessel discharging chemical products; Cutrale: no vessels; 31 vessels waiting in roads; 33 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	26-Jul-2005	Four vessels berthed; 1 vessel waiting in roads; 2 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	26-Jul-2005	Seventeen vessels berthed; 16 vessels waiting in roads: Vitoria: 3 vessels at berth of which 2

Port Conditions

loading, 1 discharging; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 vessel loading/discharging full containers; Praia Mole: 5 vessels at berth of which 3 loading (1 cellulose, 2 steel products), 1 discharging coal, 1 other; Tubarao: 4 vessels at berth of which 2 loading iron ore, 1 discharging fuel oil, 1 other; Portocel: 2 vessels loading cellulose; Ubu: 1 vessel loading iron ore; 21 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Egypt

Alexandria	01-Aug-2005	Thirty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 22 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers; 11 vessels dry-docked; 28 vessels at inner anchorage, 13 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	01-Aug-2005	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 12 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 5 containers; 8 vessels at outer anchorage.
Dekhaila	01-Aug-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	01-Aug-2005	Twenty-four vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.

India

Kolkata	25-Jul-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Pipe, POL), 2 discharging (Timber Logs, Edible Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels under repair; 4 vessels due (Containers-2, Timber Logs, Passenger).
Haldia	25-Jul-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading Iron Ore, 7 vessels discharging (Crude, POL, Coking Coal-2, Net Coke, Lime), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 3 to load); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels due (Crude, POL, Palmolive, Rock Phosphate, Ammonia).
Paradip	25-Jul-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Iron ore, Thermal Coal), 3 vessels discharging (SKO/ HSD, NC Coal, Rock Phosphate).
Visakhapatnam	25-Jul-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Iron ore, 7 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Rock Phosphate, Steam Coal, Timber Logs, LPG, Pet Coke); 2 vessels loading and discharging (Magnesium, General Cargo); 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 4 to load); 24 vessels due (Iron Ore-8, Feld Spar, S.F.Slag Bags, Thermal Coal, POL Products, Sulphur, Pet Coke-2, Styrene Monomer, Timber Logs, Methanol, Lime Stone, POL, Acetone, Caustic Soda, Containers Passengers);
Chennai	25-Jul-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Granite Blocks-2, Caustic soda, ATF, Iron Ore), 3 vessels discharging (General Cargo, Coal, Crude Oil), 2 vessels loading and discharging (Granite Blocks/S.Coil, Granite Block/Project); 2 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 Containers vessels due.
Tuticorin	25-Jul-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels discharging (Raw Cashew, Rock Phosphate, Mechenaries, Timber Logs), 1 vessel loading and discharging containers, 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	25-Jul-2005	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Rock Phosphate, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 3 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge)
New Mangalore	25-Jul-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron ore Fines-4, POL Product); 2 vessels discharging (LPG, Timber Logs); 4 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 13 vessels due (Iron Ore (P)-2, POL crude-2, LPG, Soya Bean Oil, POL Product, Iron Ore Fines-3, Granite Stone, Containers, Phosphoric Acid)
Mormugao	25-Jul-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Alumina, 2 vessels discharging (Met Coke, Phosphoric Acid); 2 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 4 vessel under repair/dry docked; 5 vessels due (Containers, Met Coke, R.P.C., Iron Ore-2).
Mumbai	25-Jul-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading General Cargo, 11 vessels discharging (General Cargo-8, Fertiliser (RM), POL-2); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels awaiting order to load); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 14 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 11 vessels under arrest; 25 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 17 vessels due (Container-3, Oil, General Cargo-13).
J.N.P.T.	25-Jul-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging SKO, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge Containers.
Ennore	25-Jul-2005	1 vessel working at inner anchorage at port basin and loading; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge (Waiting for Coal Berth – 1 on Receivers Account); 2 Thermal Coal vessel due
Kandla	25-Jul-2005	11 vessels operating at berth of which 8 discharging (Chemical-2, Phosphoric Acid, Furnace Oil, DSBO, DAP, Timber Logs-2), 2 vessels loading (Agriculture Product, DEG); 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (5 to discharge, 3 to load).

Israel

Ashdod	26-Jul-2005	No labour problems; Three vessels loading general cargo at berth, 16 discharging at berth (11 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 5 loading/discharging containers at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 passenger vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 2 vessels awaiting orders; 8 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	26-Jul-2005	No labour problems; One vessel discharging general cargo at berth, 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels due, with no delays expected.

Port Conditions

Haifa	26-Jul-2005	No labour problems; Six vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 8 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 13 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	25-Jul-2005	Oil products: Two vessels loading at berth; 2 vessels in roads to load; 3 vessels due by 26/7, all to load.
Mozambique		
Maputo	25-Jul-2005	Eight vessels at berth of which 3 loading, 2 discharging, 2 discharging/loading, 1 other; 19 vessels due by 9/8 of which 4 to load, 8 to discharge, 7 to discharge/load.
Pakistan		
Karachi	01-Aug-2005	Seven vessels discharging at berth (2 coal, 1 urea, 1 MAP, 1 tallow, 2 phosphate), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 cement vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 5 vessels due (1 containers, 1 urea, 1 tallow, 1 chemicals, 1 base oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	01-Aug-2005	One paraxylene vessel discharging at berth, 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 MEG).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	01-Aug-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 wheat, 1 aluminium, 1 barley, 1 UAN solution, 1 pig-iron/steel sheet/steel billets), 3 discharging bulk sugar; 8 vessels waiting in roads, of which 1 to discharge bulk sugar, 6 to load (1 scrap, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 1 diesel oil, 1 bulk NPK, 1 steel billets, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge/load containers; 49 vessels due, all to load, of which 5 DRI, 3 scrap, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 aluminium, 2 slabs, 2 steel sheets/steel billets, 2 bulk urea, 1 paper/cartons, 2 HBI, 1 coils/pipes/tin plate, 1 steel sheets, 2 bulk NPK, 1 UAN solution, 1 steel billets/flowers, 5 steel billets, 3 coils, 1 steel sheets/cars, 1 barley, 1 zinc, 2 copper, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 DRI/HBI, 1 bulk cement, 2 wheat, 1 diesel oil, 2 cars; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 2 diesel oil.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	25-Jul-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). Five container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bulk palm oil, 3 bulk cement); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge bagged maize; 7 vessels dry-docked; 1 vessel at new tanker berth; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.
Turkmenistan		
Okarem	25-Jul-2005	Oil products: Five vessels in roads, all to load crude oil.
Turkmenibashi	25-Jul-2005	Oil products: One vessel loading gasoil at berth; 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 gasoil, 1 other); 1 vessel due 25/7 to load.
Ukraine		
Mariupol	01-Aug-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 2 steel, 1 fire-clay, 4 coal; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 1 coal; 53 vessels due, of which 51 to load (27 steel, 10 coal, 10 fire-clay, 1 bran, 1 pitch, 1 fertiliser, 1 equipment/bricks), 2 to discharge (1 chrome ore, 1 equipment).
Odessa	01-Aug-2005	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (3 metal, 1 corn), 5 discharging (1 luggage, 1 bananas, 1 sand, 2 sugar), 2 discharging/loading containers, 3 passenger vessels; 7 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load metal, 4 to discharge (1 fertiliser, 3 sugar), 2 to load/discharge containers; 49 vessels due, of which 20 to load (15 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 corn, 1 wood, 1 wheat, 1 barley), 1 to discharge citrus, 28 to discharge/load containers.
United States		
Beaumont, TX	26-Jul-2005	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 4 days delay expected.
Galveston, TX	26-Jul-2005	ADM-Farmland terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Houston, TX	26-Jul-2005	Cargill terminal: 3-4 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	26-Jul-2005	Kalama export terminal: 5 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.

Port Conditions

New Orleans, LA	26-Jul-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 2-3 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: no delays expected. Peavey/Paulina: Closed until 5/9. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: No delays expected. Maintenance until 5/9. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 3 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 3-4 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays expected.
Portland, OR	26-Jul-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	26-Jul-2005	Temco terminal: 3 days delay expected.

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

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

Copyright © Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc 2005. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.

ISSN 0047 4908

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

Lloyd's is the registered trade mark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of Lloyd's

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2004 These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.