

Bad weather warnings for RAC rally drivers

THE R.A.C. International Rally of Great Britain started in damp, dank conditions near Heathrow Airport today, with warnings to drivers of rain, floods, ice, snow and fog ahead.

In the light drizzle falling at the start, the first car had trouble with wheel spin when getting up the slippery ramp, and had to be given a push. It was a Ford Escort driven by one of the seven all-women teams.

Later starters found the drizzle turning into a violent downpour.

Rain is likely to make conditions on many of the special stages on forest tracks difficult, if not impossible.

Several stages had been cancelled before the start, but not because of conditions. The first two, it was found, were likely to upset shooting rights in woods through which they ran.

The 199 starters included Harry Kallstrom, of Sweden, in a Lancia, and the Finnish winners of the two previous years—Simo Lampinen, in another Lancia, and Rauno Aaltonen, in a Japanese Datsun.

Ahead were 2,300 miles of road, including the 400 miles of special stages in the forests on which the rally will be won and lost. It ends back at London Airport next Wednesday.

Among the large crowd of spectators seeing them off was the forlorn figure of the Irishman, Paddy Hopkirk, one of the great rally drivers of the past decade. For the first time in 15 years he was not competing.

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6d

G-PLAN PERMANENT EXHIBITION AT

HOLBROOKS BATHING STREET, NP-28222

Brave PC 'would take risk again'

Evening Telegraph Reporter POLICE CONSTABLE Michael Lacey acted with great gallantry the last time he went into action in Coventry. The price - fractured skull, a broken nose and an anxious time for his wife, Enid, as he lay in a hospital bed. He was injured when he was in action as an intruder in a Coventry office. The man threw an empty barrel at him. Yesterday, a judge at Birmingham Assize praised him and other officers concerned in the action for their bravery. (See Page 9).



A hug from five-year-old Peter Lacey for his brave dad.

Hit on forehead

He was hurt when officers were investigating a report that intruders were inside premises in Roundstone Road, Coventry. One of the men for the court was told yesterday, had thrown a 15lb machine gun case at PC Lacey - hitting him on the forehead. Colleagues who later saw him in the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital found him in a "terrible mess". It was only a hairline fracture, it was allowed back about 10 days, and there is no question of him giving up the force. "I have been fair and objective in my criticism of the trial."

THINK WINTER SPORTS WITH SKI-WEAR from DAVIES'S 44, Smithford Way, Coventry

More signs of crack in pit strike

THERE were more signs today that the Yorkshire pits strike, which has cost £5,500,000 in lost production, was cracking.

As a number of colliery branches of the National Union of Mineworkers in the Barnsley area were meeting to consider the position, resolutions were put forward that the men should return to work.

And in County Durham, colliery mechanics have decided against unofficial action to back the £5 wages claim.

In four Durham pits, more than 5,000 miners have been on unofficial strike for the past week. Meanwhile delegates representing 38,000 striking miners were being asked by their executive this afternoon to continue the week-old strike which has closed 50 pits.

Lodge officials at a special conference in Farnham were being asked to reaffirm the strike decision and to send pickets to their battlefields not yet affected to try to persuade miners to strike.

More meetings

It was expected that eight lodge delegates would urge a return to work on Monday, but it is understood that this is to be taken on this issue. Several Yorkshire pits originally opposed strike action are meeting this afternoon to consider returning to work on Monday.

Miners' union panel representing Britain's most militant miners will hold a crucial meeting tonight on whether to return to work.

The South Yorkshire panel also meets today. The National Union of Mineworkers decided in London on Thursday to go ahead with a ballot of Britain's 300,000 miners on the National Coal Board's latest offer of up to £3 a week.

PILLION RIDER KILLED



AN ENGAGED Bedworth couple crashed on a motor cycle last night near their homes, and the girl died shortly after being taken to Manor Hospital. She was 18-year-old Angela Coombes (above), of 6, Lila Road, Bedworth. Her fiancé, 21-year-old Mr. Philip Stafford, of 118, Garden Lane, Bedworth, was driving when his machine ran into a car parked near the kerb in the lane. He has a broken leg and other injuries, and is in Manor Hospital, where his condition is described as "fair". Miss Coombes was employed as a trainee gardener by Bedworth Urban District Council, where Mr. Stafford - one of four brothers - is also a gardener. When the accident happened, the couple were on their way to Mr. Stafford's home. Both were former pupils of Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth, and had known each other for some years.

New fowl pest case in county

POWL PEST was confirmed in a small flock of less than 100 birds on a farm at Alvedon, near Stratford-on-Avon, today.

This is the fourth case confirmed in Warwickshire during the current outbreak. A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said another suspected case was being investigated on a farm at Two Gates, near Hanworth.

The British Veterinary Association warned today that the current fowl pest virus is infecting human contacts "with unusual severity."

IN BRIEF

60,000 toll fear after tidal wave

ABOUT 60,000 people are feared to have been washed away by a huge tidal wave which swept over Hadera Island, at the mouth of the River Chamon in East Pakistan, according to unconfirmed reports reaching Dacca today.

LILLIAN BOARD'S parents flew out to Munich today to see their ailing daughter who entered the Ringberg Clinic, Badariz, last week for treatment for cancer.

HEAVY RAIN during the night and heavy drizzle today has led to flooding in many London streets.

YIPPIK leaders Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman were booked on a flight from Northern Ireland to Prestwick today.

£25,000 BOND

The weekly £25,000 Premium bond prize announced today, was won by bond No. 64W 99932. The winner lives in Birmingham.

Power seized by army in Syria

DEFENCE Minister Hafez Al-Assad, backed by the army, appeared to be in firm control of Syria today after a series of swift moves to forestall the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party's civilian leadership from undermining military power.

Head of State Nureddin Al-Atassi's residence was under house arrest and General Assad's forces seized control of the radio, television and newspapers. All telephone links to and from Dr. Atassi's residence were cut and troops and military police stood guard at key buildings in Damascus.

Also killed yesterday with Dr. Atassi were several other prominent civilian leaders. A Baathist official told a Press conference that the tenth international congress of the party which wound up an emergency session on Thursday, had decided to relieve General Assad and the Chief of Staff, Major-General Mustafa Tlas, of their posts. Apparently, however, General Assad struck first.

At the crisis of the crisis was the role Syria offered to the recent fighting in Jordan between King Hussein's troops and Palestinian guerrillas. Life was normal in the Syrian

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IRAN ACCUSES COVENTRY MP OF INTERFERING

The Iranian Embassy in London has accused Mr. William Wilson, M.P. for Coventry South, of interfering in Iran's internal affairs "in a scurrilous political campaign of deliberate lies and slander directed against Iran and its judicial system."

The accusation, strongly denied by Mr. Wilson, is made in a Press statement about a House of Commons Press conference last Monday, called by the "Liberation for Colonial Freedom" and Iranian students.

The Iranian Embassy says that unsubstantiated charges and accusations were brought against Iran's security authorities. They say that Mr. Wilson apparently organised the conference and had "presumed the right to interfere."

He had adopted the role of spokesman for a negligible number of Left-wing Iranian students whose activities against Iran are of a subversive nature. The statement continues: "That a Member of Parliament has chosen to exploit the House of Commons as a platform for his activities against Iran is viewed by Iranians with deep concern. It was Mr. Wilson's provocative and hostile activities which led to the Embassy's refusal to grant him a visa visit Iran."

Mr. Wilson said today that the conference at the House of Commons was not organised by him. A letter was sent out which was signed by a number of Labour M.P.s, and he was one of them. The Embassy statement was surprising in view of the fact that he went to a trial in Iran two years ago and had said nothing different

TAKE YOUR PICK FROM A GREAT SELECTION OF BRITISH-MADE CARS

Table listing car models and prices: MORRIS MINI 850; aqua; heater £652 9 2; MINI CLUBMAN; flame red £771 5 3; MINI CLUBMAN ESTATE; white £820 15 3; 1100 2-door De-luxe; antique or blue £800 8 0; 1100 4-door Super; Bedouin or blue £860 0 10; 1300 4-door Super; green, white, or blue £915 2 2; 1300 GT; white £995 10 6; 1600; Carlton grey £1,165 10 10; Prices ex-works. Delivery charge, etc. extra.

Table listing car models and prices: FORD ESCORT 1300 GT 3-door; tawny £900 2 10; CAPRI 1600 XL; tawny; vinyl roof, sport wheels £1,170 12 0; Prices ex-works.

Table listing car models and prices: HILLMAN AVEGGER De-luxe; green, tangerine £844 7 6; AVEGGER Super 1500 c.c.; red £918 15 0; AVEGGER GT; safari beige £1,072 17 0; Prices ex-works. Delivery charge, etc. extra.

Table listing car models and prices: ROVER 31-Litre Saloon; silver birch; h.r.w. £2,484 19 9; Price ex-works. Delivery charge, etc. extra.

SWAN GARAGE LANE GARAGE 158, WALSGRAVE ROAD, COVENTRY. Tel. 54541.

LATEST