Cloud over Hong Kong storm signal system

The Hong Kong Observatory will review its storm signal system after a barrage of criticism following its response to winds generated by typhoon Prapiroon.

The observatory kept its storm signal at typhoon 3 last Thursday, meaning it was safe to go to work and for ferries to keep operating.

This was despite winds gusting at more than 200 kmph which causing flight chaos at Hong Kong International Airport, property damage and stormy seas.

Cathay Pacific Airways took the unprecedented step of cancelling all its flights, while Dragonair scrapped 63 flights and other airlines did the same.

Stranded

More than 10,000 passengers were stranded at Hong Kong International Airport. Flights from nearly Shenzhen, Macau and Guangzhou were also disrupted by strong winds and torrential rain caused by the typhoon.

Elsewhere in Hong Kong, more than 10 containers toppled over at the river trade terminal in Tuen Mun, bunker operations were disrupted and sea conditions affected ferry services.

Fast ferries between Hong Kong and Macau and cities in southern China were later suspended, trapping hundreds of passengers, while more than 90 seafarers on two Chinese barges were rescued by Hong Kong government helicopters.

There was also property damage with the windows blown out of several offices including those at shipbroker Simpson Spence and Young.

In the Lloyd’s List office, which is in the same building as SSY, the differential air pressure caused by the winds rattled windows and doors.

Outdated

Leading the criticism against the observatory, meteorologist Clarence Fong Chi-kong said weather officials used an outdated system which only measures sustained winds speeds in Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong’s inner port area.

He said the observatory had put the public at risk and added: “Very high wind speeds were recorded in some parts of the city. We wonder why the observatory still did not issue the No 8 signal.”

Under the present system the observatory uses four main storm categories — typhoon signals 1, 3, 8 and 10 — based on wind speed. The storm classification was kept signal 3 meaning sustained wind speeds of between 41 and 62 kmph in Victoria Harbour throughout Thursday.

This was despite wind speeds of 209 kmph being recorded at Ngong Ping, close to Hong Kong International Airport, and 108 kmph at Tsing Yi near Kwai Chung container port.

Responding to the complaints the observatory confirmed it would reassess the way storm signals were evaluated to improve the system.

In southern China typhoon Prapiroon, named after a Thai rain god and the fifth major storm to hit southern China this year, made landfall near Yangjiang, 190 km west of Hong Kong, at about 1920 hrs last Thursday.

Closed

The oil port of Zhanjiang, which can handle 300,000 dwt very large crude carriers, remained closed on Friday, said Zhanjiang Port Group, while scores of ships took shelter from the storm.

Huangpu and Zhuhai ports were also closed although they were expected to reopen over the weekend.

Ferry services were suspended as the typhoon, later downgraded to a severe tropical storm, hit the Guangdong coast.
### Summary of Major Cases in this week’s issue of Lloyd’s Casualty Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>GT</th>
<th>DWT</th>
<th>Blt</th>
<th>Casualty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOYD H. BLASKE</strong></td>
<td>tug</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Grounded near Lock &amp; Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa, Jul 31 after turning &amp; striking shore with at least 1 barge. Barge holed &amp; required dewatering with portable pumps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GAO HE</strong></td>
<td>container</td>
<td>CHN</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>37,143</td>
<td>47,630</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Had explosion in engine-room off Aden, in lat 13 52N, long 42 47E, Jul 27. Proceeding Hodeidah for repairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOTLANDIA II</strong></td>
<td>ro-ro</td>
<td>SWE</td>
<td>LR</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Had fire on board Jul 10. Taken out of service. Inspected at Visby. Broken bolts found in injection system. Vessel expected to be operational by end of August.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAERSK FAWLEY</strong></td>
<td>container</td>
<td>GBR</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9,990</td>
<td>11,209</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Reported Aug 1 anchored off Rotterdam, in lat 51 58N, long 03 46E, following explosion in engine-room. Crew investigating damage in engine-room. Towed to Eemshaven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RUMYANTSEVO</strong></td>
<td>fishing</td>
<td>RUS</td>
<td>RS</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Sustained hole in bottom off Kamchatka Peninsula Aug 2 and had water ingress in engine-room. Vessels proceeded to assist. Water ingress minimised. Diver's inspection to be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YONG AN 4</strong></td>
<td>bulker</td>
<td>PAN</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>26,737</td>
<td>44,062</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Reported aground in lat 21 36.73N, long 112 48.95E, Aug 2. All 23 crew rescued and taken to Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List

**Marine**

**ANANGEL SPLENDOUR (Greece)**

London, Aug 3 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1220, UTC, today: A report was received at 2039, UTC, yesterday that fishing (general) Harvest Tamara, ZR2242, (453 gt, built 1975) had been in collision with bulker Anangel Splendour (8120 gt, built 1993) in lat 33 04S, long 17 17E. As a result Harvest Tamara sank. All 24 crew of Harvest Tamara were rescued safely without injury. Twenty persons were rescued by Anangel Splendour and the other four by a fishing vessel. Anangel Splendour was instructed to proceed to Saldanha Bay were it is now alongside for investigation. Anangel Splendour did not sustain any structural damage.

**ANNA (Georgia)**

Riga, Aug 3 — Chemical tanker Anna is still at the dry dock. Expected time for completion of repairs is Aug 5. Cargo was discharged and claim for reloading presented. Claim for destroyed bridge is said to be around 2,500 Euros. P&I underwriter is Ingosstrakh. H&M underwriter is Military Insurance Co. Russia. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**APHINE (Russia)**

See Sormovskiy 32.

**ARABIAN SUN (Liberia)**

Dubai, Aug 2 — Understand that product tanker Arabian Sun is still in Fujairah port under repairs. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**ARGO 1 (Netherlands)**

London, Aug 3 — Understand sand suction dredger Argo 1 (1265 gt, built 1983) anchored with a machinery problem in the Scheldt Oostgat near buoy OG 1 yesterday. Tug Holland towed the ship to Flushing outer anchorage where the tug Drado assisted in the tow. (Note — Accoroding to Lloyd’s MIU AIS Argo 1 was stationary in lat 51 26 48N, long 03 35 50E, at 0919 today.)

**ATLANTIC III (Uruguay)**

Buenos Aires, Aug 1 — Passenger ro/ro Atlantic III unberthed from Tandanor at 1030, local time, Jul 27, and is now berthed at Darsena Norte terminal. Repairs were completed. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**ATLANTICA I (Panama)**

See Maris.

**AULAC ANGEL (Vietnam)**

See Front Loader.

**BACOLOD EXPRESS (Philippines)**

London, Jul 29 — A sea mishap at the Bredco Port in Reclamation area, Bacolod, has caused about P400,000 to the management of Ocean Jet Fast Ferry, Inc. This was after their lone fast craft (ferry Bacolod Express (318 gt, built 1986), operating the Bacolod-Iloilo service, accidentally bumped the anchor of a cargo vessel owned by Aleson Shipping, docking about eight meters north of the Ocean Jet
terminal. The mishap occurred at about 0920 hrs while the vessel was about to depart to Iloilo for the last second trip, said Lecil Poral, OJFFI-Bacolod manager. Poral said that they cannot ascertain yet whether the accident was caused by a mechanical or human error. She added that vessel's master was alert and had the presence of mind when he immediately swerved the vessel, bumping it instead at the lower anchorage wall, bringing down the damage to the bow to a minimum. She said that none of the 55 passengers bound for Iloilo City was hurt. The incident caused the cancellation of some vessel's three succeeding trips to and from Iloilo. Meanwhile, according to the Philippine Coast Guard, the Ocean Jet vessel will not be allowed to sail until the investigation is over.

**BALTIC FJORD (Norway)**

Baltic Fjord has been declared a constructive total loss. The badly damaged vessel was towed to Tallinn Shipyard July 31 where it will be scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BENEGAS (Panama)**

London, July 28 — A SwitzerWijmijers Salvage BV report, dated July 14, states: The 6,222 GT vessel (Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier Benegas) loaded with 4,200 tons of liquid gas, was berthed in Aqaba port discharging its cargo (July 13). At about 0940, local time, an explosion occurred followed by a fierce fire. The crew using two tug Switzer Duke immediately interfered with its fire fighting systems. The fire was put out sufficiently at about 1010, local time, to allow Switzer Duke to connect up the still burning vessel, that in the meantime had become unmoored and drifted around, and move the casualty out of port into the Gulf of Aqaba to fully put out the fire. At 1315, local time, the fires were completely out.

**BULUO NI CEVA (Fiji)**

London, July 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The fate of passenger (cruise) Buluo Ni Ceva which recently departed for running aground in Rotuma will be known on Friday (Aug 4) after the Insurance company hands in its report.

**BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)**


**C.S.OCEAN (Panama)**

London, Jul 31 — Information received today, states: General cargo C.S.Ocean (15438 gt, built 1996) grounded at approximately 1330 hrs, yesterday (Jul 30) afternoon. The 560-foot vessel grounded while anchored at the lower anchorage on the Columbia River near the Willamette junction in Vancouver, Wash. An command post was set up at Coast Guard Sector Portland to resolve the situation. Coast Guard officials from Sector Portland and a vessel's representative quickly joined forces to develop plans to refloat the vessel and determine if any damage had been done. There was no pollution discharge as a result of the grounding. C.S.Ocean refloated itself at approximately 1630 hrs and was taken to a deeper anchorage in the area. Two tugs provided assistance and are currently standing by in the event they are needed further. There are no indications that the vessel sustained any damage as a result of the grounding. As a precaution, divers will inspect the portion of the vessel that was aground and Coast Guard inspectors are conducting preliminary damage assessments. C.S.Ocean will be required to undergo a full inspection by its class society to ensure its seaworthiness. This report must be reviewed by Coast Guard inspectors at Sector Portland before the vessel will be allowed to move from the anchorage. The cause of the vessel's grounding is unknown at this time. An investigation will be conducted by Sector Portland.

**CHARLOTTE MAERSK (DIS)**

Singapore, Aug 1 — Container carrier Charlotte Maersk sailed Singapore at 1720, Jul 29, for Kaohsiung, Taiwan. C.S.Ocean (Panama) Jessica is currently at Singapore Tech North Pier East. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CHATON DE FOI**

Honolulu, Jul 29 — Yacht Chaton de Foi was towed to the Honokohau Small Boat Harbour, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. She is at the Gentry's Kona Marina facility where she is reportedly being repaired by the owner. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CHRESTENA II (Panama)**

Mumbai, July 29 — The Coast Guard rescued 25 crew members from the general cargo Chrestena II (10104 gt, built 1978) which ran aground off the coast of Porbandar at 0500, July 28 due to rough weather. The vessel remains aground. — Lloyd's Agents.

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London, Jul 31 — Information received today, states: General cargo C.S.Ocean near Porbandar. Coastguard have rescued and evacuated 25 crew members of general cargo Chrestena II near Porbandar. The crew members of Chrestena II that had run aground off the Porbandar coast were evacuated yesterday, said an official statement released today. The vessel was on board 180 tonnes of marine gas oil and 40 tonnes of high-speed diesel. It ran aground after main engine failure following rough weather. The vessel was towed to the Honokohau Small Boat Harbour, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. She is at the Gentry's Kona Marina facility where she is reportedly being repaired by the owner. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CBST ENDURANCE (Cyprus)**

Balboa, July 27 — General cargo CBST Endurance: No change in situation, and seems likely vessel will eventually be taken elsewhere for repair, if confirmed. Understand the Balboa dry dock fully booked and therefore unable accommodate. — Lloyd's Agents.

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**C.S.OCEAN (Panama)**

London, Jul 31 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1710, UTC. General cargo C.S.Ocean, which drifted, successfully refloated yesterday near Portland, Oregon, is still under Coast Guard investigation.

**CHRESTENA II (Panama)**

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Chrestena II that ran aground off the Porbandar coast yesterday. The vessel had made a course failure in the aftermath of the extreme rough weather prevailing in the Gujarat coast. The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai and the Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC), Porbandar picked up the distress signals from the vessel. Though the master of the vessel computed that there was no immediate danger to the crew but since the state of weather and sea conditions began deteriorating, the ICG team from Porbandar reached the site and evacuated all 25 crew members. They were later handed over to the police for further investigation. The Coast Guard authorities are keeping a close watch on the vessel and any situation arising out of it. The presence of fuel onboard has the potential to cause damage to the environment in the event of an oil spill. Meanwhile the local agent has been directed to undertake the salvage and de-fuelling arrangements of the vessel as soon as possible.

Mumbai, Aug 1 — General cargo Chrestena II remains aground. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: General cargo Chrestena II that ran aground off the Porbandar coast has sparked fears of an oil spill that could prove disastrous for the region’s fishing industry. The vessel ran aground after its main engines failed, due to rough weather. "The vessel had had to ground to load cement, but it was emery and its main engine has 220 scales of oil which can be dangerous to environment, if it leaks," said BK Singh, ICG Commandant of Porbandar. The salvage work on the vessel, laden with 180 tonnes of marine gas oil and 40 tonnes of high-speed diesel began today. Indian Coast Guard and local authorities are trying to de-fuel the vessel at the earliest to avoid any oil spill. The ship owners, marine experts and the vessel’s local agent are taking all possible steps to de-fuel the vessel.

Mumbai, Aug 1 — General cargo Chrestena II remains aground. There was a slight leakage of oil which has been stopped by coast guard personnel. Salvage operations are being hampered by very rough weather. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Passenger ro/ro Columbia (3946 gt, built 1974) was heading to Ketchikan today after one of its two diesel engines lost power. The Coast Guard was notified about the mishap at 0220 hrs. The engine gave out in Stephens Passage after the vessel departed from Juneau en route to Petersburg. The vessel’s crew had originally intended to return to Juneau for safety reasons — the master did not want to take the vessel through narrower passages — but the Coast Guard later cleared it to instead go to Ketchikan, a route that allows the vessel to avoid the Wrangell Narrows. The vessel is expected to arrive in Ketchikan late tonight for repairs, then leave early tomorrow morning for Juneau. Operators hope to be back on regular schedule on Friday (Aug 4).

COUGAR ACE (Singapore)

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicle carrier Cougar Ace was thrown sideways in the anchorage outside the Wrangell Narrows. The vessel listing at around a 60 degree angle. Rescue efforts have yet to begin, but salvage experts said yesterday the 13-year-old car carrier could probably be saved as long as a port of refuge could be found that would accept the crippled ship. The first step would be to correct the ballast situation, "a very difficult exercise" but one that could be done if a decision was taken to tow Cougar Ace into port. Only then would cranes be brought in to return the vessel to an upright position. "It is not a lost cause," one salvor said. "There is always the possibility of saving a vessel if circumstances allow." But persuading a port to let the ship to enter may be as big a challenge as the physical rescue. The master said that some observers had spotted fuel leaking from its tanks at the ship, which was carrying carrying 430 tonnes of fuel oil and 112 tonnes of diesel. A salvage team of the US Coast Guard and SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage Asia Pte. Ltd. are working to prevent pollution to occur in Singapore port. An about 100,000 ton DWT container vessel (Container Carrier CMA CGM Otello) developed a listing as it came off China two weeks ago after touching an apparent uncharted shallow while underway to its next port of call. Large longitudinal cracks had developed in the ships bottom as a consequence. The vessel was then escorted into Singapore where it was allowed to berth alongside and the container discharge started. SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage teams from Singapore and The Netherlands as well as special oil pumping and pollution preventing equipment in the meantime are in use to keep up with the cargo discharge. This is necessary to keep the waterlock in the breached fuel tanks intact in order to prevent pollution to occur by oil leaking out due to decreasing draughts caused by the cargo discharge. Once the cargo is completely off, the salvage process in which SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage is engaged will change over from maintaining the waterlock underneath the oil in the breached fuel tanks into a total fuel removal from the breached tanks in order to prepare the vessel for drydocking.

London, Aug 1 — Container carrier CMA CGM Otello is currently at Raffles Reserve Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd’s Agents.

COLUMBIA (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Passenger ro/ro Columbia (3946 gt, built 1974) was heading to Ketchikan today after one of its two diesel engines lost power. The Coast Guard was notified about the mishap at 0220 hrs. The engine gave out in Stephens Passage after the vessel departed from Juneau en route to Petersburg. The vessel’s crew had originally intended to return to Juneau for safety reasons — the master did not want to take the vessel through narrower passages — but the Coast Guard later cleared it to instead go to Ketchikan, a route that allows the vessel to avoid the Wrangell Narrows. The vessel is expected to arrive in Ketchikan late tonight for repairs, then leave early tomorrow morning for Juneau. Operators hope to be back on regular schedule on Friday (Aug 4).

COUGAR ACE (Singapore)

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicle carrier Cougar Ace was thrown sideways when the vessel’s ballast tank was discharged. According to the North Pacific, a representative of the vessel’s owner said yesterday. “There clearly was imbalance in the intake of ballast water. The investigation ultimately will tell us what caused that imbalance,” said Greg Beuerman, a spokesman for Tokyo-based Mitsu S O.K. Lines. Two days before the vessel was hoisted to safety, the disabled vessel remained floating on its side, 370 km south of Adak Island. Water height came as the fuel in the vessel could be contributing to its buoyancy, Beuerman said.

London, Jul 28 — Rules designed to protect the marine environment could have caused vehicle carrier Cougar Ace to roll on its side. Ballast water was almost certainly responsible for destabilising the ship, which is now listing heavily more than 200 miles offshore. Mitsu OSK Lines, operator of the stricken vessel, confirmed yesterday that the ship had not collided with some object or grounded. After talking to the ship’s master, MOL president Akimitsu Ashida said instability developed during a ballast water adjustment process. Ships are required to change ballast water before entering some ports to ensure alien species are not released into local waters. Cougar Ace was heading to Vancouver and then on to the US west coast ports of Tacoma and Port Hueneme, a particularly environmentally sensitive part of the world, at the time of the accident. MOL said yesterday that the ship, carrying nearly 5,000 vehicles, was still floating although listing. Another expert contacted by Lloyd’s List, a former master mariner, concurred that the accident appeared to be a ballasting error. The ship would be started sinking by Monday morning for Bellingham, Washington. Operators hope to be back on regular schedule on Friday (Aug 4).
America. More than half are Mazda 3 models, the car manufacturer’s best selling model. Another quarter are Mazda’s new 2007 CX7, a crossover utility vehicle. The shipment is fully insured against loss, spokesman Jeremy Barnes said. The company has been unable to verify the condition of the cargo with MOL since the accident.

London, July 28 — A Mitsui O.S.K. Lines press release, dated Tokyo today, states: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL, President: Akimitsu Ashida) announced that the MOL-operated vehicle carrier Cougar Ace is floating stably although the vessel remains listed as before. The United States Coast Guard mentions in their home page that “There have been no sign of the vessel’s fuel tanks losing containment at this time” In order to secure cargo as soon as possible, MOL has arranged to dispatch a towing vessel from Seattle. In addition, a tug with a salvage engineer on board is to sail from Dutch Harbour shortly to investigate the current situation and to determine the best way to right the vessel’s owner, Beuerman said. It is speculated that the Cougar Ace had discharged too much water from ballast tanks at port, Beuerman said. It is speculated that the Concord Guard said. The 654-foot car carrier stretches 155 feet between its hull and antenna. A salvage tow from Seattle is expected to reach the Cougar Ace no earlier than Wednesday (Aug 2), while the Dutch Harbor tug is expected to arrive tomorrow morning. The engine en route today will work on a plan to regain stability for the vessel and tow it to safety. Experts are running models to survey the vessel are being made. The condition of the cargo is unknown. The company has been unable to verify the condition of the cargo with MOL since the accident.

London, July 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: The disabled, crewless vehicle carrier Cougar Ace loaded with nearly 5,000 cars has crossed the bottom of the vessel. In the process of the adjustment work, the vessel rolled on the swell of the sea and suddenly listed.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A shift in wind direction on Wednesday (Jul 26) started pushing vehicle carrier Cougar Ace back towards the Aleutian Islands, and as of late yesterday afternoon the vessel was only 153 miles south of Atka, the Coast Guard said. “We could end up aground,” Petty Officer Sara Francis said, but it was likely winds would dissipate or change direction again as the vessel passed over the islands and prevent that. Yesterday afternoon, winds were out of the south-west at about 22 knots, Francis said, with the vessel’s hull acting as a sail, and it was moving towards shore at about 1.9 knots. The Coast Guard cutter Rush was on scene tracking the situation. According to the National Weather Service, the weather forecast for the Aleutians, winds were expected to pick up to about 30 knots after midnight last night, then reduce to 20-25 knots today. The winds could shift back and blow from the west again by sometime tomorrow, according to the forecast. That could interrupt the vessel’s drift toward shore. The Coast Guard and the Coast Guard’s owners “are working to find a solution and devise contingency plans if it grounds,” Francis said. “With any luck it will be impossible.” An expert and a naval engineer were to fly over the vessel yesterday and try to come up with solutions if the vessel continues its northerly drift. A salvage towing vessel was due to depart from Dutch Harbor last night. The state Department of Environmental Conservation have established the situation closely, and with some concern, said Leslie Pearson, the agency’s program manager for spill prevention and response. Francis said the wind was shifting around 1600 on Wednesday, after the vessel had been drifting almost due east since tipping on its side. By about the same time yesterday, it had moved from about 230 miles offshore to only 153 miles off Atka, she said. The vessel’s position on the water had not changed. It was still listing about 60 degrees to port, Francis said, and trailing a very light sheen. The vessel is carrying 430 tonnes of fuel oil and 112 tonnes of diesel fuel but little is believed to have spilled. “It’s still a really light, broken rainbow sheen,” Francis said. “That means a relatively little amount of oil.”

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MORGENTHAU — The Unified Command is continuing to develop plans to right the vehicle carrier Cougar Ace and plan contingencies for towing it to a port for further assessment and repair. Weather conditions on scene are reported as seven knot winds from the south-west. Sea state is one foot seas and swells. Conditions are overcast with eight nautical miles of visibility.

London, Aug 2 — A Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Aug 1, states: The Unified Command is continuing to monitor the condition of vehicle carrier Cougar Ace, evaluate options for the vessel’s list and plan for a movement of the vessel. Using information obtained from the initial vessel survey, which took place on Sunday evening (Jul 30), the decision was made to begin the use of a favourable weather window and rig a tow from tug Emma Foss to Cougar Ace as a test of the towing arrangement. This will include some additional control of the vessel. Emma Foss is maintaining the tow at minimum speeds to ensure a safe towing configuration and heading. The tow will shift to tug Sea Victory when it arrives on scene later today. The Unified Command is considering three primary options for the vessel: Towing the vessel to a port of refuge and righting it in port; righting the vessel on scene and then towing it to a port for further assessment and repair; and righting the vessel to improve its condition for towing it to a port of refuge for righting. One of the major factors being considered is the extreme angle of the vessel and the difficulty for crews to work on board. The angle also affects what equipment might be needed to effectively right and tow the vessel. A final decision is dependent on several variables including weather, approved ports, stability, safety and expected degree of success. Port representatives continue to make efforts to right vehicle carrier Cougar Ace and plan contingencies for towing to an appropriate port of refuge if those efforts are not effective. With the arrival of a new naval architect and an additional team of salvage professionals at the scene late tonight, a second, more extensive examination of the vessel will take place. Two pumps and other needed equipment were off-loaded from vessel Makushin Bay onto the Cougar Ace last night for an intended rigging of pumps to begin today. The Unified Command is apprised of the natural resources and environmental issues in the port areas being considered. Additional salvage and dive personnel are en route to assist as needed and conduct more survey work to determine the best options for righting and moving the vessel. An analysis of the vessel’s fuel and ballast weights has been undertaken to determine what weights would need to be shifted to right the vessel. As of 0800 hrs, weather conditions on scene consist of south-west winds at 15 knots. The seas are at four feet. The closest point of land is Seaguam Island, 115 nautical miles to the north. Seaguam Island is the next island east of Amlia Island in the Aleutians.

London, Aug 3 — A Coast Guard Anchorage press release dated Aug 3, states: A Unified Command of federal, state and shipping company representatives continues to make efforts to right vehicle carrier Cougar Ace and plan contingencies for towing to an appropriate port of refuge if those efforts are not effective. With the arrival of a new naval architect and an additional team of salvage professionals at the scene late tonight, a second, more extensive examination of the vessel will take place. Two pumps and other needed equipment were off-loaded from vessel Makushin Bay onto the Cougar Ace last night for an intended rigging of pumps to begin today. The Unified Command is apprised of the natural resources and environmental issues in the port areas being considered. Additional salvage and dive personnel are en route to assist as needed and conduct more survey work to determine the best options for righting and moving the vessel. An analysis of the vessel’s fuel and ballast weights has been undertaken to determine what weights would need to be shifted to right the vessel. As of 0800 hrs, weather conditions on scene consist of south-west winds at 15 knots. The seas are at four feet. The closest point of land is Seaguam Island, 115 nautical miles to the north. Seaguam Island is the next island east of Amlia Island in the Aleutians.

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.
remains stabilised approximately 106 miles south of Herbert Island. The Coast Guard cutter Morgenthau remains on scene as well as tug Sea Victory, which arrived at the site from Seattle yesterday and has replaced tug Emma Foss in holding a towline rigged to the Cougar Ace. An additional private vessel, tug Gladiator, has left Anacortes, Wash, and is en route to assist with transporting the vessel if needed. The vessel has similar capabilities to the Sea Victory. According to Incident Commander Capt Mark DeVries of the United States Coast Guard, a decision on when and how to tow the vessel could still be days away. Depending on several factors, including weather, the determined condition of the vessel, success of at-sea salvage operations and the port selected, transit time for the Cougar Ace to the chosen port could be five to six days or more. Weather on-site is expected to deteriorate today, with south-east winds at five knots becoming south-west at 15-50 knots by noon and shifting to north-west late. Seas are at one foot with three-foot swells. The seas will increase slightly with higher winds. It is overcast with visibility reduced to one nautical mile currently. However, the Unified Command does not expect that these conditions will slow the project or create special concerns relative to the condition of the vessel. Weather conditions are expected to improve tomorrow.

DALIANA (Greece)
Piraeus, Jul 28 — Passenger ro/ro Daliana, from Brindisi with 194 passengers and 72 vehicles on board, ran aground in shallow waters near Igoumenitsa yesterday morning. All its crew members and passengers were reportedly safe and uninjured. No pollution was reported. The vessel was refloated 25 minutes after the grounding by its own power and berthed safely at Igoumenitsa port. After class inspection the local port authorities allowed vessel to depart later the same day. — Lloyd’s Agents.

DAYANA (Panama)
Santo Domingo, Aug 1 — Roll On Roll Off Dayana sailed from Santo Domingo, Sunday (Jul 30), bound Trinidad. — Lloyd’s Agents.

DOLLART GAS (Cyprus)

DONG WON NO.628 (South Korea)
See “Somalia” under "Piracy.”

EASLINE TIANJIN (Singapore)

EDMONTON QUEEN (Canada)

DELPHINE GAS (Cyprus)
Enfola, Jul 28 — A medium gas carrier (24,000 grt) Delphine sailed from Limassol, Cypriot, Jul 25, bound to ESPO 6.

EIOMESTHENIS (Bulgaria)
London, Jul 29 — Passenger/ro/ro Eiomenis left Piraeus Jul 25 and vessel is en route to assist with transporting the vessel if needed. The vessel has similar capabilities to the Sea Victory. According to Incident Commander Capt Mark DeVries of the United States Coast Guard, a decision on when and how to tow the vessel could still be days away. Depending on several factors, including weather, the determined condition of the vessel, success of at-sea salvage operations and the port selected, transit time for the Cougar Ace to the chosen port could be five to six days or more. Weather on-site is expected to deteriorate today, with south-east winds at five knots becoming south-west at 15-50 knots by noon and shifting to north-west late. Seas are at one foot with three-foot swells. The seas will increase slightly with higher winds. It is overcast with visibility reduced to one nautical mile currently. However, the Unified Command does not expect that these conditions will slow the project or create special concerns relative to the condition of the vessel. Weather conditions are expected to improve tomorrow.

ELINAKOS (Panama)

ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)
London, Aug 2 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: A short circuit on board passenger (cruse) Enchantment of the Seas (82910 gt, built 1997) led to a small fire, whilst the vessel was at Cozumel, Mexico. The damage was slight, mostly restricted to the "rescue boat" on which the fire started. The vessel resumed and was underway a short time after the incident. (Note — Enchantment of the Seas was reported arrived at Cozumel at 1000 hrs, Jul 29 and sailing later the same day at 2000 hrs.)

ENSCO 107 (Liberia)

ENTERPRISE (Antigua & Barbuda)
Melbourne, July 28 — Understand bulker Enterprise will sail July 29. The filters in the oil pump had become clogged with metal fragments. These have now been flushed out. — Lloyd’s Agents.

EURO SEA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)
See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

EUROPEAN MARINER (Bahamas)
London, Aug 2 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1052, UTC: Roll On Roll Off European Mariner (5897 gt, built 1978), 20 persons on board, in contact with perch approximately 400 yards north of Troon harbour entrance in lat 55 33.2N, long 04 40.9W. Anchored off Troon awaiting information from the owners of dry-dock availability. Awaiting clearance to proceed to Larne on one engine to discharge passenger and cargo. Decision to be made if escort required for crossing North Channel.

London, Aug 3 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0705, UTC: Roll On Roll Off European Mariner which was awaiting clearance to proceed to Larne to discharge passengers and cargo, thence to Liffy Dry Dock, Dublin, made an unescorted single engine passage across the north channel and safely berthed at Larne with tug assistance at 1806, UTC, Aug 2.

EXPRESS SANTORINI (Greece)
Piraeus, Aug 2 — Passenger ro/ro Express Santorini is still under repair at drapetsona, ETC not presently known. — Lloyd’s Agents.

FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)
London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An aging on-board sewage system, a frozen valve and some confusion among crew members caused a recent spill of partially treated sewage from a NOAA survey research Fairweather (1591 gt, built 1968) into Womens Bay, said reports on the spill from state environmental regulators and the vessel’s skipper. The NOAA survey vessel dumped approximately 1,500 gallons of partially treated sewage into Womens Bay last month while the vessel was at dock in the Kodiak Fossil Fuel Facility. The spill that was reported to State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Jul 19 took place between Jul 13 and 17, a DEC report says. “We should have been hooked up (to the Base’s sewage system),” said NOAA Corps Cmdr. Andrew Beaver, skipper of Fairweather. The vessel’s crew thought its onboard sewage system allowed for the discharge, according to a DEC report on the spill. It is reported that the discharge to the Coast Guard environmental personnel, the crew was told to hook up to the Base’s sewage system. The crew first needed to unlock the frozen valve. Another part of the vessel’s onboard sanitation system is broken. The system normally operates as a type 2 MSD, or marine sanitation device, meaning it would do both primary and secondary sewage treatment before putting sewage overboard at sea. A secondary treatment part called the "aseptic cell" needs to be unlocked as well. The Fairweather leaving the vessel with only primary treatment, Beaver said. The frozen valve the second factor leading to the spill and not reported on the Fairweather from hooking up to the Coast Guard’s sewer system when they arrived in Kodiak. Beaver said his crew believed the discharge overboard was permitted, given the primary system was operating. The NOAA vessel is currently under way near Dutch Harbour.

FEDERAL WESER (Cyprus)
London, Aug 1 — Bulker Federal Weser (22654 gt, built 2002) grounded in mud just above the locks, in sight of McLean’s Dock, St. Mary’s River, in lat 46 29.50N, long 84 24.20W, at 0250, UTC, Jul 29. The vessel was freed with assistance from three tugs at 0400, UTC, same day. — Lloyd’s Agents.

FINNMAID (Finland)
Ancona, Aug 3 — At approximately 1750 hrs, Aug 2, passenger ro/ro
Finnmaid (42100 gt, built 2006) broke its mooring ropes, in stormy weather, while lying at berth No. 1, Ancona. The vessel was re-moored with assistance of port services. There were no injuries. An inspection revealed the following damages: Pier No. 2 and central and bollards, gantry crane No.1 hit and damaged davit of “rescue boat” and the vessel’s starboard side was scratched. Under the direction of the vessel to the shipowners has been postponed to next week, after repairs. — Lloyd’s Agents.

FLOYD H.BLASKE (U.S.A.)
London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: Tug Floyd H.Blaske (828 gt, built 1966) grounded just downstream of Lock & Dam 11 in Dubuque, Iowa, Jul 31. The vessel was on the normal approach to the lock when it suddenly turned and struck the shore with at least one barge. The barges are sitting at least a foot higher on the rocks due to the grounding. Barge ACBL 3083 was also holed and had to be dewatered with portable pumps.

FOLEGANDROS (Greece)
London, Aug 3 — Product tanker Folegandros passed through Panama Canal Jul 26 and according to Lloyd’s MIU AIS was in lat 26 02 46N, long 42 47E). Understand one engine-room 180 miles off Aden near distance 31.7 nautical miles. — Westax Marine Services AB. (Note — According to Lloyd’s MIU AIS at 1130 hrs, today, Gotlandia II was at Visby, in lat 57 38.11N, long 18 17.4E.)

GREEN HILL (U.K.)
London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) Green Hill which sank near Ardglass in January with the loss of two lives, may be brought to the surface. The body of one fisherman Connor Bogues is still missing. An operation to try to assess the boat, which is lying 80ft of water, took place yesterday. A decision is expected soon on whether or not the vessel can be raised.

HAO HAI (Belize)
London, Aug 2 — Following navigation warning issued at 1900, JST, today, warning general cargo Hao Hai (1193 gt, built 1978) exists in vicinity of lat 34 40.8N, long 134 17.2E. London, Aug 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 1150, UTC: Hao Hai, from Katagama, reported fire in engine-room generator which has now been extinguished. Crew are now carrying out repairs to the generator.

Gaz Horizon (Panama)
Baltimore, Jul 27 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier Gaz Horizon reportedly completed repairs overnight and is now awaiting inspection/approval by canal authorities prior being scheduled to resume transit. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Gaz Timber (Togo)
London, Jul 29 — According to Lloyd’s MIU AIS Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier Gaz Timber — was in lat 09 09 55N, long 79 34 12W, at 0335 today, speed 16.1 knots, course 195.2 degrees.

Balboa, Aug 1 — Liquid Petroleum Gas carrier Gaz Horizon resumed transit pm, Jul 28, and sailed Balboa at 1902 same day. — Lloyd’s Agents.

GORKY (Antigua & Barbuda)
London, Jul 31 — According to Cartagena Port Authority general cargo Gorky is still at that Muelle Peluconiada, Escombreras, under repair. (See issue of July 17.)

GOTLANDIA II (Sweden)
Gothenburg, Aug 3 — Passenger ro/ro Gotlandia II (7000 gt, built 2006) is temporarily out of service as a result of a fire on board on Jul 10. The cause is being investigated by the “manufacturer” MAN B&W UK. They found broken bolts to the injection system and tests are being conducted to establish why the bolts broke. Once these tests and investigations are finished, all other bolts and similar equipment will need to be changed. Currently, there is no specific date when the vessel will be back in service, but it is hoped to have her operational again by the end of August. — Westax Marine Services AB.

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FERRIES said the Jonathan Swift was being taken out of service as a precautionary operational measure. Over the next two days divers will inspect how much damage, if any, has been caused. A spokesman said: “Depending on the outcome of that investigation, and whether or not repair works have to be carried out, that time scale could be shorter or longer.”

**KAPETAN GIORGIS STRATOULIS (Greece)**


During the morning of Aug 1, the self-propelled mussels barge Kapetan Giorisis (Thessaloniki Register 833) sank due to ingress of water while entering the port of Alkyon Pidnas Pierias. The five crewmembers were rescued by a fishing boat and taken to the coast. There was no pollution. The Port Authority of Skalas Katerinis is performing an investigation.

**KONEMU (New Caledonia)**

Noumea, Jul 27 — Product tanker Konemu is still berthed at fishing quay. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**KOSTAS (Honduras)**

London, July 29 — General cargo Kostas which arrived Skikda 1700, Jan 25 was still in port at berth No 8 July 27.

**KRIO (Malta)**

London, Aug 2 — Bulker Krios (8300 gt, built 1998) damaged its bulbous bow after having struck ice 40 nautical miles west of Iceland, en route for Montreal, Quebec, in lat 61 58.00N, long 29 31.00W, at 1200, UTC, Jul 26. (Note — Krios sailed Murmansk Jul 21 for Windsor, Ontario, and according to Lloyd’s MIU AIS was reported in lat 63 49. 4.5N, long 23 44.19.97’W at 0001, Jul 30, 62.3 nautical miles from Reykjanes, speed 11.3 knots, course 234.4 deg.)

**LADY MOURA (Bahamas)**

London, July 29 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Yacht Lady Moura may not be coming back to Florida & Voss for repairs as the yacht was reported berthed at a repairyard in Cartagena, Spain, July 7.

**LASS URANUS (Germany)**

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Repairs to general cargo Lass Uranus have been completed at Peterhanswerft, Wewelsfleth. The vessel recently passed through the Kiel Canal and proceeded via Lubeck Bay to Neustadt. On Aug 1 Lass Uranus again in the Kiel Canal en route to Brunsbuttel.

**LEIF ERIKSON (Canada)**

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Tourism operators in Newfoundland and Labrador are worried about major delays on the Marine Atlantic ferry service between Port aux Basques, N.L., and North Sydney, N.S. The Roll On Roll Off Leif Erikson (18523 gt, built 1991) has been put into dock to undergo repairs after a major engine part on the vessel broke down on Saturday (Jul 29). The two remaining ferries working out of Port aux Basques are still operating according to schedule. Approximately 500 passengers a day will miss their crossings and some people may have to wait days before they can cross. Marine Atlantic president Roger Flood says the delay comes at a bad time. Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador is working with Marine Atlantic to try to reach tourists about rescheduling their trips. The vessel may be fixed later this week.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll on roll off Leif Erikson was expected to resume its run between North Sydney and Port aux Basques by today. The vessel was put into dock to undergo repairs after a turbo-charger failed on Saturday (Jul 29). A replacement part was en route from Switzerland. About 500 passengers a day had to reschedule their crossings on one of three other vessels. Some people were delayed for only a few hours, while others had to wait a day or two. Officials stressed that passengers who needed to board a ferry because of an emergency were accommodated. Marine Atlantic president Roger Flood said he was not surprised the troubles hit during the busiest time of the year, even though maintenance is performed routinely on the vessels. “When we are running in the summertime, we are running flat out,” Flood said yesterday from Halifax. “We didn’t anticipate any problems with any of the vessels. It happened and now we have to deal with it.” The backlog of travellers is expected to be cleared up within a few days.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Marine Atlantic says hundreds of people who have been waiting at the ferry for a few days are expected to be cleared up by tonight, instead of tomorrow. “What we were thinking at that point is that it would take an additional 24 hours to clean up the backlog after we had the vessel running. We think we’re going to do that faster,” Flood said. However, it is expected to take a little longer for commercial traffic. Flood said it took longer to repair the vessel because a part had to be shipped from Switzerland.

**LIBERTY A. (Cyprus)**

See “Cyprus” under “Port State Control”.

**LIN 1 (Panama)**

See “Somalia” under “Piracy”.

**LINDA (Netherlands)**

London, Aug 1 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Netherlands inland waterways non specific tanker Linda, home port Dordrecht, went off course July 28 while passing the Rhine upstream at kilometre 654.8 in Bonn. Another vessel which was passing brought Linda into difficulties as it was in danger of drifting against a pile of the Kennedy Bridge. The police boat WSP 15 joined by the Dutch inland water craft Eemshoorn prevented Linda from contacting the bridge. Nevertheless the vessel sustained rudder and propeller damage.

**LUCKY STAR (Bolivia)**

Taipei, July 28 — According to a “Notice to Mariners” issued by the Chinese Naval Meteorologic & Oceanographic Office, dated July 21 tanker Lucky Star sank in lat 22 36 14.4N, long 120 15 50.4E, on June 30. All vessels are prohibited from anchoring at the position on safety basis. Source - Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau letter dated July 19. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**MAERSK FAWLEY (U.K.)**

London, Aug 1 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0440, UTC: Container Carrier Maersk Fawley (9990 gt, built 2005), bound Rotterdam, is currently anchored outside Rotterdam, in lat 51 58N, long 03 46E, following explosion in engine-room. Master reports everything under control, with crew investigating damage to engine-room. No assistance required at present.

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1200, UTC: Container carrier Maersk Fawley is still at anchor, awaiting arrival of a tug which will tow it to Rotterdam. The tug is expected on scene this morning.

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1200, UTC: Container carrier Maersk Fawley is in tow of tug Smit Clyde, bound Rotterdam, ETA about two hours.

London, Aug 3 — According to Lloyd’s MIU AIS, container carrier Maersk Fawley was moored in lat 51 52 38N, long 04 23 56.34E, at 2307, UTC, Aug 2, nearest port Schiedam, distance 1.1 nautical miles.

London, Aug 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Aug 2 container carrier Maersk Fawley sustained machine problems four miles west of the Maas. The vessel had to anchor and was then towed to Eemshaven by tug Fairplay 24.

**MAERSK RIO GRANDE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Bolovo, Aug 1 — Container Carrier Maersk Rio Grande (16129 gt, built 2002) is being towed to Balboa by tug Lobos after reportedly experiencing major engine problems. The vessel have an ETA at Balboa of late PM today. — Lloyd’s Agents.
MAJESTIC UNITY (Marshall Islands)

Dallas, Aug 1 — Crude oil tanker Majestic Unity reberteled at 1712, July 30 for discharging operation which was completed at 1400 yesterday. After completion the vessel was shifted to anchorage again due to arrest by the court. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MANISTEE (U.S.A.)

Troy, Mich, July 29 — Bulker Manistee (9790 gt, built 1943) was inbound the Saginaw River early yesterday morning with a split load. It stopped to lighten at the Wirt dock in Bay City, then around 0645 hrs continued upriver to make repairs. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

Troy, Mich, July 30 — Bulker Manistee was undergoing repairs at the Zilwaukee dock in Zilwaukee, yesterday. Manistee told the tug Robin Lynn that repairs should be completed tomorrow or Wednesday, and that Manistee will be headed back up to Stoeport to get another load for the Saginaw River. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

Troy, Mich, July 31 — Bulker Manistee continued to undergo repairs at the Burroughs dock, Zilwaukee, yesterday. Manistee told the tug Robin Lynn that repairs should be completed tomorrow or Wednesday, and that Manistee will be headed back up to Stoeport to get another load for the Saginaw River. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

MARINA STAR (Bahamas)


MARINER OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)

Said to Have Spilled Boat Oil On Bahamas Flag Vessel under “Miscellaneous”.

MARIAS (Honduras)

Carga, Aug 2 — Bulker Maris berthed at the UFL jetty on Aug 1 and is currently undergoing repairs to the damage in hold No. 1. The vessel is expected to depart next week. Product tanker Atlantic I is still lying under attachment, and the claim settlement negotiations between both shipowners are still in progress. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MARRAKECH EXPRESS (Panama)

Genoa, Aug 2 — Passenger ro/ro Marrakech Express is still at Genoa waiting for sea trials. There is currently no information available concerning the vessel’s possible ETS. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.A.)

Suva, Jul 28 — Trawler (All types) Massachusetts, which grounded on a reef about 34 miles off Suva on Jul 7 2002, is in the port of Suva awaiting potential buyers. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MEKHANIK KRASOTKIN (Russia)

See Sormovskiy 32.

MIDNIGHT RIDER (U.S.A.)

Boston, MA, Jul 31 — Understand from salvors Tucker-Roy Marine that fishingvessel Midnight Rider is alongside at New Bedford. The likelihood is that the vessel will be scrapped. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MSC JESSICA (Panama)

See Charlotte Maersk.

NAMA (Panama)

Chennai, Aug 1 — At 1845 hrs, July 30, general cargo Nama (8203 gt, built 1988) ran aground approximately 17 nautical miles from Kakinada Port. The vessel is still aground. Salvage operations, which commenced this morning, are still in progress. — Lloyd’s Agents.

New Flamenco (Panama)


Nikolay Przhevalskiy (Russia)

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off Nikolay Przhevalskyi (9489 gt, built 1984), Japan for Magadan, cargo cars, grounded off Shikotan Island at 0500 local time, today. The crew was able to refloat the ship. No victims are reported. The ship arrived at the port of Yuzhno Kurlisk for survey.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Roll On Roll Off Nikolay Przhevalskiyi, with a cargo of cars shipped from Japan to Magadan, ran aground near the Kuril mountain ridge last night. The ship ran into the rocks near Shikotan, but the crew managed to get the ship out of a shallow place on its own. The ship, slightly holed in the incident, headed for Yuzhno Kurlisk.

NOBEL FORTUNA (Bahamas)

London, Jul 27 — At 1218, EDST, Jul 26, combined bulk and oil carrier Nobel Fortuna (45777 gt, built 1982) dragged anchor and made contact with the bottom at Ha Ha Bay, Saguenay, Quebec, in lat 48 19.55N, long 70 51.57W. The vessel was re-anchored, with tug assistance, two hours later.

NORDIC EXPLORER (U.S.A.)

Boston, Mass., Jul 31 — The managers (Norwegian) Nordic Explorer have reported that the fire was contained in a single space within the vessel, but that damages to wiring harnesses and hydraulic equipment was extensive. Repairs are estimated to take two months. However drydocking of the vessel will not be required. Repairs will take place at the Norship yard in New Bedford. — Lloyd’s Agents.

NORTH SEA (Liberia)

London, Jul 27 — Following received from Aberdeen Coastguard, time 1358, UTC: Container Carrier North Sea has proceeded. (Note — According to Lloyd’s MIU AIS, Container Carrier North Sea is in lat 57 57.59N, long 48 19.56W, at 1031, UTC, today, speed 18.3 knots.)

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) Blue Lady, ex Norway, will finally be broken at Alang yard after the Supreme Court Technical Committee gave its consent to the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) to grant beaching permission to the vessel, officials said. The Supreme Court committee has given the go-ahead to the GMB on condition that the 210-odd tonnes of hazardous wastes generated while breaking the vessel will be disposed of in a safe manner, officials said.

Ahmedabad, India, Aug 2 — Indian experts have given the go ahead for the scrapping of passenger (cruise) Blue Lady, ex Norway, which environmentalists say contains toxic material harmful to shipbreakers, officials said today. Greenpeace and other groups say the vessel, which anchored in June off the Alang ship-breaking yard in the western state of Gujarat, contains more than 300 tonnes of asbestos which would put the health of workers at risk. India’s Supreme Court had allowed the vessel to enter Indian waters but put on hold its dismantling, pending a report by an expert panel on the quantum of toxic wastes on board. Two senior officials said the panel has allowed the vessel to be broken “Blue Lady will enter Alang,” one of them said. “It will be dismantled soon.” Greenpeace confirmed the panel had given the green signal for the vessel to be broken but called the decision “illegal.” “We know the expert panel has found more than 1,000 tonnes of banned pollutants on the ship,” Ramapati Kumar of the group said. “How can they allow the ship to be broken?” — Reuters.

OEL VISION (India)

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A major disaster was averted yesterday, when ONGC officials alerted a company team preventing a merchant vessel from colliding with an offshore oil platform. The incident occurred when container carrier Oel Vision (46577 gt, built 1978) experienced a complete power and engine failure yesterday evening and gradually drifted towards platform Romon Mayer, located at the latitude 18 18.30N and longitude 78 35.68E in Mumbai High, company sources said. “The vessel was 4.5 nautical miles from the rig. The direction of the drift was towards this rig,” an ONGC official said. The platform declared an emergency at 2030 hrs and issued a call for the evacuation of its personnel. Several vessels, including support Sagarika Devak were alerted to proceed to the scene to assist. The
Coast Guard were also alerted. Oel Vision was instructed to drop its anchor to "bait a trap". Another anchor was subsequently dropped, as one was found insufficient to hold the vessel. "Oel Vision is now stable at 3.5 nautical miles from the Rontop Mayer rig" and will be towed to Pipavav port in Maharashtra. Coast Guard and ONGC officials said the vessel was coming from Colombo and heading towards Pipavav port. Carrying 268 containers and 28 crew, it had anchored 10 nautical miles from Rontop Mayer, a Bombay High rig. After it lost one of its generators, the ship started drifting in the rough sea towards Rontop Mayer. Around 1800 hrs the Coast Guard got an initial report from Shreyas Shipping Company, the vessel’s shipping agent. Five hours later, a helicopter from the Coast Guard Air Station in Daman spotted the ship "dangerously close to the rig". Emergency was declared on Rontop Mayer and the 77 personnel working there were shifted to another platform. Coast Guard ship Sangram and ONGC’s support vessel Samudra Sevak are monitoring the situation.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Authorities are engaged in a major operation about 100 nautical miles off the Mumbai coast to prevent disabled Container Carrier Oel Vision from colliding with an ONGC oil production rig in the Arabian Sea. The vessel is around 400 metres from the rig and the only options available to the Navy are to either tow it away or, if that is not possible, to sink it to avert a collision, navy sources said. Personnel on board the rig have been evacuated and a precautionary measure, the sources said. The Coast Guard has also been put on alert. “So far, 27 of the 28 crew members of the merchant vessel have been rescued by Indian Navy helicopters in the choppy sea after receiving a communication from the master of the ship,” said a source. The container ship touched bottom and was steadied with steel ropes. Also, they said, professional salvors should have been employed. The cargo should have been jettisoned rather than grounded. He said there was no damage and no leaks. He added that the vessel was at anchorage awaiting a southbound convoy and was due to sail about 15 hours after the incident.

ORIENTAL MIHO (Panama)

Yokohama, Aug 1 — Upon completion of temporary repairs at Kudamatsu Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier Oriental Miho departed for Hiroshima on Jul 26, arriving there on Jul 27. It also departed from Hiroshima on Jul 27 — Lloyd’s Agents.

DTTON (Panama)

Bilbao, Aug 2 — Local agents of fire fighting tug Otono Expositor said the vessel is still carrying out repairs in Bilbao, but it is unknown when they will be completed. — Lloyd’s Agents.

PAMELA (Finland)

Turku, Aug 2 — General cargo Pamela, Naantali for Gdynia, grounded northwest of Uto lighthouse 0100, Jul 1. Vessel sustained hull damage but could proceed by itself to discharge cargo in Naantali prior dry docking at Turku for repairs. Vessel arrived at the dry dock in Turku Jul 3, and left dry dock Jul 17. Lloyd’s Agents. (Note — Pamela sailed Turku Jul 17, arrived Tallinn Jul 19 and sailed same day.)

PANAM SERENA (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Jul 28 — Chemical tanker Panam Serena is still under repair at Keratsini. — Lloyd’s Agents.

PENELOPE A. (Greece)

Piraeus, Jul 28 — Passenger ro/ro Peneleope A. completed repairs and returned to service Jul 26. — Lloyd’s Agents.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd’s Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.
 london, aug 3 — a press report, dated aug 1, states: Heavy weather conditions off tristan da cunha continue as forecast. A decision has been taken to postpone attempts to refloat fishing boat "a turtle" (ex pxv) until winter weather has moderated, so tug zouros hellas has now returned to cape town. the salvors will await favourable conditions and the available time for repairing the tug(s). this is unlikely to be until september at the earliest. the insurance company has advised that they are not abandoning their responsibilities but are merely deferring the operation until later in the year in the difficult circumstances.

refe zanzibar (st. vincent & grenadines)

london, jul 31 — following received from the operators of roll on roll off reeF zanzibar, dated today: reeF zanzibar discharged its cargo in the seychelles and was then taken in tow for zanzibar, where arrived jul 24. the vessel remains there at present undergoing repairs and we currently anticipate it will be back in service in around ten days.

rm margaux (france)

bordeaux, aug 3 — tug rm margaux: salvage operations will take place next week and will be undertaken by mammoet salvage. several shipyards were asked last week to tender for repairing the tug. — lloyd's agents.

rotterdam (netherlands)

see under “miscellaneous.”

rumyantsevo (russia)

london, aug 3 — a press report, dated today, states: three russian ships have arrived at the site where russion fishing (general) rumyantsevo (723 gt, built 1985) is in distress after getting a hole in the bottom off the eastern coast of the kamchatka peninsula. “the lives of the crew are out of danger,” the press service of the kamchatka region’s department of the russian ministry for emergency situations said. the trawler got a hole in the bottom at about noon kamchatka time, yesterday, and water started flowing into the engine department. the crew expected to cope with the situation themselves, but had to seek help by the evening. after divers examine the bottom of the trawler, a decision will be made what to do next. according to the emergency ministry, the weather in the area is favourable for repair work. the sea is calm and visibility is good. the entry of water has been minimised. one more rescue vessel is on its way and is expected to arrive to the site at about 0800, moscow time.

safmarine aguilhas (liberia)

london, jul 28 — a press report, dated today, states: container carrier safmarine aguilhas is to be removed from service in november. capt peter kroon, the principal officer of south african maritime safety authority, says discussions are currently under way on how best to remove the ship. “yesterday’s meeting was one between the authorities and the owners of the ship together with the insurers and its lawyers. the decision is that the wreck must be removed, how they are going to do that is still under discussion, they have gone back to the insurers to discuss ways and means of removing it entirely,” the meeting will be continued at a later time maybe next week when the insurers and the owners have studied proposal.”

london, aug 29 — south african authorities have decided container carrier safmarine aguilhas is so badly damaged that it will now officially a wreck. they have effectively overruled insurers who have not yet declared the ship a constructive total loss. no further attempt will be made to refloat the vessel. “the ship is a write-off,” said capt peter kroon, principal officer for the maritime authority in east london. the ship is to be removed from the site, in order to ensure there is no risk to navigation should the vessel break up and parts start to drift in to shipping lanes. the wreck clearance contract will be put out to tender, and in the meantime salvors smit has been appointed caretaker to watch for and deal with any pollution from the vessel.

london, jul 31 — container carrier safmarine aguilhas, which grounded a month ago outside the port of east london, has almost broken in two and must be removed from the site, the south african maritime safety authority and national port authority ordered at the weekend. they have effectively by-passed insurers who have not yet declared the vessel a constructive total loss. however, insurance sources said this would not be uncommon in such cases where underwriters might be reluctant to accept first because of the potential liabilities attached to a decision. no further attempt will be made to refloat the vessel. the onus is now on the vessel’s owner and p&i club, gard, to act fast to minimise further liabilities during the wreck removal. it was carrying 469 loaded containers, including 21 refrigerated boxes and 112 empties, at the time of the accident. most have been taken off, but all further salvage work and removal of the remaining 100 containers still on board has been halted because of the dangerous condition of the cargo holds and the vessel itself. the safmarine aguilhas is now considered to be past saving and never again put into service. “the vessel is a write-off,” said capt peter kroon, principal officer for the maritime authority in east london. it is to be removed in its entirety in order to ensure there is no risk to navigation should the hull break up and parts start to drift in to shipping lanes. that message has been conveyed to the owners and insurers who must submit a plan to the authorities within a few weeks explaining how the vessel is to be cleared. the wreck clearance contract will be put out to tender and in the meantime salvage company smit salvage has been appointed caretaker to watch for and deal with any pollution from the vessel. the whole clearance exercise continues on the basis of recent experiences.

london, aug 2 — a press report, dated today, states: the marine inquiry into why and how container carrier safmarine aguilhas ran aground at the east london harbour entrance 36 days ago has been completed. but the investigating officer has returned to durban to compile his report, said capt peter kroon, the south african marine safety association principal officer in east london. all fingers point to engine failure as the cause, but whether negligence played a part would still have to be established, he said.

saliC c. (panama)

london, aug 2 — bulker saliC c. (10137 gt, built 1973) ran aground in bostani dilek pillars at around 1015, july 22. fast rescue boat riyi emniyeti 5 and sundoren 8 sent to the vicinity by istabul vts services. there was no loss of life or pollution. salvage assistance agreement signed at 1445, jul 24, refloated and secured the same day at 1930 hrs. (note — saliC c. passed istabul east jul 28.)

sea jaguar (marshall islands)

singapore, jul 31 — crude oil tanker sea jaguar arrived singapore 2355, jul 30. — lloyd’s agents.

sirte star (st. vincent & grenadines)

la spezia, july 31 — container carrier sirte star arrived la spezia july 30 from banghazi. — lloyd’s agents.

skagern (sweden)

hull, july 31 — general cargo skagern is still in port at hull, undergoing underwriters’ surveys. no decision has yet been taken regarding repairs. — lloyd’s agents.

sormovskiY 32 (russia)

novorossiisk, aug 1 — tug mehanik krasotkin and barge aphine owned by prime shipping of palma agency proceeded from port kerch downland (port tol’yiatti) in ballast at 0345, moscow time, jul 20. while leaving first leg of azov-don river entrance channel it was in collision with general cargo sormovskiY 32 on voyage to italy with cargo of grain onboard abt 3167 tonnes. tug has no damages, barge has damage of external plating above waterline, port anchored by mechanical damage with no water ingress. sormovskiY 32 has mechanical damage of fore part bulkwark till frame 2. vessels was shifted on outer road of yeisk for investigation. both vessels arrived into rostov on don repair yard “pribory” by jul 25. — lloyd’s agents.

receive immediate notice as soon as a casualty occurs. for further information please contact andrew luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.
STADT MUNCHEN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Boluda 3, a MI-8 Hip A helicopter of the command staff officer of India’s joint Army, Navy and Air Force command on the Andamans, SE Mariam 2 broke its anchor chain on Wednesday (July 26) and ran aground on Little Andaman island. The rescued sailors were flown to Port Blair to begin the journey home.

London, July 31 — A press report, dated July 28, states: Altogether, nine crew members of the Indonesian ocean going tug SE Mariam 2 (7 fire fighting tug Sumerian 2, 367 gt, built 1976) ran aground, a military spokesman said yesterday. The crew of SE Mariam 2 arrived off the remote islands as part of a bid to assist tug Uni Haul Mabel (299 gt, built 2005) towing two dump barges from Singapore to Abu Dhabi. During their journey, it developed engine problem and started drifting along with its two barges. On request by the owner of ANC. On request by the owner of ANC.

Sumerian 2 (India)

London, July 30 — Following a report from Danish Maritime Assistance Service, timed 0835, UTC: General cargo Sylve was refloated at 2350, UTC, yesterday after part cargo was removed. There was no pollution. The vessel is now mooring in the port of Ronne where vessel still detained for diver inspection and class inspection etc. Vessel will then reload lightered cargo. (See issue of July 28.)

Ronne, July 31 — General cargo Sylve left Ronne today for Liepaja. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

The CALYPSO (Cyprus)

London, July 29 — Passenger (cruise) The Calypso sailed Southampton 2156, July 27 and according to Lloyd’s MIU AIS was in lat 52 20 57N, long 03 36 59E, at 1014 today, speed 15 knots, course 66.1 degrees.

THEODOROS (Panama)

London, Jul 28 — Following received from Piraeus MRCC, timed 2210, UTC: At 2355 hrs, Jul 28, wine tanker Theodoros (634 gt, built 1967), Tartous to Genoa, loaded with olive oil, ran aground in lat 36 06.7N, long 29 38.3E. The vessel has eight crew onboard, but is in no danger. A local patrol vessel is alongside and the tanker is requesting tug assistance.

London, Jul 29 — Following received from Piraeus MRCC, timed 0435, UTC: Wine tanker Theodoros refloated under its own power at approximately 0150 hrs. The vessel is now anchored off Megisti Island, about 2.5 miles for days. The leakage and the resultant flooding was said to have been first discovered immediately the vessel berthed four days ago. Even though Obat Petroleum Depot is believed to possess fire-fighting equipment, including Angus fire pumps, foam tanks and hydrant line outlets, it however, required fire fighters from the neighbouring Julius Benin. ASCON Group to prevent the fire from spreading to the depot, said to be the only privately owned in the country with a private licensed jetty which can accommodate the size of vessels in the range of 20,000 metric tonnes.

TUMA (Nigeria)

London, Aug 3 — At least five persons were feared to have been killed on Jun 20 as crude oil tanker Tuma (66876 gt, built 1975) carrying petroleum product burst into flames at the Beachland Estate, Ibafon, Apapa, Lagos. The explosion, which occurred at the Obat Petroleum Depot, also left some others seriously injured. Two of them are said to be in critical condition receiving treatment for what a source described as “high degree” burns at an undisclosed hospital in Apapa. The cause of the blast, which took place at about 1340 hrs, at the engine-room of the vessel, remained unclear, but electrical spark is suspected. A spokesman of the depot, who pleaded anonymity, told local press that the explosion may not be unconnected with leakage of petroleum product which reportedly flooded the engine-room of the vessels for days. The leakage and the resultant flooding was said to have been first discovered immediately the vessel berthed four days ago. Even though Obat Petroleum Depot is believed to possess fire-fighting equipment, including Angus fire pumps, foam tanks and hydrant line outlets, it however, required fire fighters from the neighbouring Julius Benin. ASCON Group to prevent the fire from spreading to the depot, said to be the only privately owned in the country with a private licensed jetty which can accommodate the size of vessels in the range of 20,000 metric tonnes.
National Ports Authority, which stands to lose rand 1.6 million if concerned carrier Michael S. (ex Umfolozi) is not located, has launched an international alert for the vessel. The vessel disappeared from Walvis Bay harbour on Jul 15 under mysterious circumstances. By yesterday, the Namibias Ports Authority (NamPort) said it still had no word about the vessel. A NamPort spokesperson said that no news had been received on the vessel and that the search was still on. Walvis Bay Port Captain, Vladimir Gusev, has been suspended in connection with the incident. The vessel was detained at Walvis Bay harbour in June after the South African Ports Authority won a High Court order against Seagate Shipping, the company which bought the vessel in January, for the damage done to trailing suction hopper dredge Ingwenya in a collision last September. South Africa’s NPA said it had not given up on its bid to collect the Rand 1.6 million in damages it is claiming from the owners of Michael S. Peter Balfour, an NPA legal adviser for the port of Durban, said today, saying the authority would continue with its claim against the vessel despite the fact that the vessel had escaped. Balfour also said the NPA was assessing its legal options. According to NamPort, the vessel’s master had requested permission from Walvis Bay Port Control to conduct engine trials. Permission was granted. However, later in the evening on the same day, the master radioed Walvis Bay Port Control to report engine problems on the vessel, which was later discovered to be untrue.

London, Aug 2 — According to a Gibraltar Port Authority report, dated Aug 1 container carrier Michael S. (ex Umfolozi) anchored off Gibraltar Jul 31 for provisions and charts etc.

UNI HAUL MABEL (Singapore) See Sumerian 2.

XIN FU ZHOU (China) London, Aug 1 — Container carrier Xin Fu Zhai sailed Rotterdam Jul 20.

XINSHI XAI (Hong Kong) London, July 29 — Bulker Xinshi Hai arrived Newcastle, NSW, July 26 and sailed July 28.

YONG AN 4 (Panama) London, Aug 3 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, dated today: Bulker Yong An 4 (26737 gt, built 1976) reported aground in lat 21 36.73N, long 112 48.95E at 2208, UTC, Aug 2. All 23 crew members were rescued by “GFS” to Hong Kong.

YUSHO OCEAN (Panama) Yokohama, Aug 1 — According to the local agents, general cargo Yusho Ocean is still under permanent repairs at Aomori Shipyard, Setoda. A detailed schedule of repairs has not been fixed yet. — Lloyd’s Agents.

ZAMORANO PRIMEIRO (Spain) Ferrol, Jul 30 — Fishing (general) Zamorano Primeiro has been repaired and has been back in service for 12 days. — Lloyd’s Agents.

ZHI QIAN (Hong Kong) Port Moreby, Aug 1 — Bulker Zhi Qiang is still at anchorage and believe salvors are also onboard/undergoing some repairs. Salvage vessel may have to be towed to China for major repairs at a dockyard. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SOMALIA

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated Jul 30, states: All 25 crew members were abducted four months ago from fishing (general) Dong Won No.628 were released today in Somalia. The eight South Korean sailors and their 17 colleagues from Indonesia, China and Vietnam left Somalia today, the South Korean news agency Yonhap reported, citing government officials in Seoul. The boat was being brought to Kenya under the escort of a US warship. According to the report, a ransom of up to US$800,000 was likely to have been paid for the crew’s release. All crew members were unharmend. According to South Korean reports, armed men seized the boat in international waters off the coast of Somalia at the beginning of April. (See issue of Apr 19.)

Manila, Aug 1 — Product tanker Lin T., which was hijacked by Somali pirates, arrived safely and under its own power at its home port of Fujairah, in the United Arab Emirates, today. The vessel’s 20-man Filipino crew are in relatively good health despite their ordeal. The crew will be brought to Dubai where they will undergo a medical examination and debriefing by Philippine embassy officials. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

BELGIUM

Zeebrugge, Aug 1 — The departure of general cargo Euro Sea (682 gt, built 1965) has suspended as the vessel is under a port state control detention. — Lloyd’s Agents. (Note — Euro Sea arrived at Antwerp at 0005, Jul 28.)

CYPRUS

Limassol, Jul 31 — General cargo Liberty A. is currently still at Limassol, under Port State Control detention. — Lloyd’s Agents.

AL ESRAA (Egypt)

Zeebrugge, Aug 1 — General cargo Al Esraa (12233 gt, built 1996) is currently under arrest, at Antwerp. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents. (Note — Al Esraa arrived at Antwerp at 1720 hrs, Jul 28.)

AL MANARA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

See under “Marine.”

ALALAA 1 (North Korea)

Bucharest, Jun 31 — General cargo Alalaa 1 is still under arrest at Constantza, in respect of a claim for unpaid repairs/drydocking by two Belgian Companies: Zeebrugge Drydock MV. and Soenen B.V.B.A. — Lloyd’s Agents.

ANTARES (Panama)

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: U.S. marshals yesterday seized general cargo Antares (4793 gt, built 1976) at Port Everglades after some crew members filed a lawsuit alleging they have not been paid their full wages. Ten crew members said in the lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal admiralty court that they are owed a combined $331,159 in wages. U.S. District Judge Shelby Highsmith Sr. signed the order for the vessel’s arrest. Ross B. Toyne, a Miami maritime lawyer filed the eight-page lawsuit on behalf of 10 of the crew members, nine Ukrainians and a Romanian. Three other crew members are not part of the suit. Toyne said he intends to file a court motion today to have the vessel sold at auction. The crew members claim in the lawsuit that they were deceived into leaving their homes to work on Antares. The crew says when they arrived at the vessel in Spain, they were forced to execute different employment agreements that paid less than they were promised — otherwise they faced being removed from the ship in a foreign port with no money to travel home. Toyne said one crew member was supposed to be paid $2,100 for 25 days of work, but only received about $917. Antares hired the Ukrainian crew after it lost a Spanish crew that refused to sign a new employment contract, Toyne said. Antares arrived Port Everglades Monday (Jul 31) with a load of cement from Europe. It had been slated to depart last night. Besides their wages, the 10 crew members want the ship’s owner to pay for their return trips home.

CONTAZ TRADER (Ukraine)

Zeebrugge, Aug 1 — Container Carrier Contaz Trader was released from arrest on Jul 26 and the vessel sailed from Antwerp later that day, at 2246 hrs, bound for Istanbul. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.
GLAROS (Panama)

La Spezia, July 28 — General cargo Glaros is currently still under arrest at La Spezia. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

K.WIND (Liberia)

London, July 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Halship Inc, a Halifax-based shipping company that operates a cargo service between Halifax, Portland and Boston, went into receivership July 29. On July 29, authorities seized part containerised general cargo K.Wind (4450 gt, built 1999) that Halship had chartered for the cargo service, amidst claims the ship’s owners, which operators owe more than US$89,000 to a Dartmouth disposal company. K.Wind was seized at the Fairview Cove container terminal, according to the provincial sheriff’s department, which detained the vessel under a Federal Court order. It is now at anchor in Halifax Harbour, Ship to Shore Disposal Services Inc, which provided waste and garbage removal services for the vessel, has filed claim in Federal Court against the ships owners, Flores Navigation Ltd., Halship, Eimskip Bahamas Inc, Islands, Philea Paturel and Eimskip Canada Inc. The claim states Ship to Shore is owed US$89,406 for service to the vessel “including waste removal and disposal for garbage, sludge, oily mixtures and oily engine-room waste.” It says the ship is under charter to Halship. Halship’s shareholders include Philippe Paturel and Eimskip Canada, an Icelandic shipping line with offices in Halifax. Ernst & Young is handling the receivership. Russell Herder, managing director for Eimskip in Halifax, said Thursday he was unable to comment on the reasons for Halship’s troubles. “We were in partnership with Halship, who were operators of the ship. The ship got arrested by a creditor and Halship has gone into receivership.” Eimskip is not responsible for Halship’s bills because it is only a minority shareholder in that company, Mr. Herder said. Ship to Shore claims it received two cheques from Halship but they were returned by the bank due to insufficient funds. It has since received two more cheques totalling almost $22,000, which it is not certain will clear the bank. Hapag Lloyd was a major customer of the feeder cargo service. The service was started by Halship in December 2004 after SPM Container Line ended a similar service between Halifax, Portland and Boston in July 2004.

NORDLAND (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Aug 2 — General cargo Nordland (1937 gt, built 1971) was reportedly abandoned at Santander June 3, 2005: It was reported on Apr 13 that no crew members are on board. At present no ship agent. When the ship arrived at Santander port, the shipping agency was “Berge Maritima” but last May 30 this agency renounced the ship. Now the ship is detained following the orders of two District Courts in Santander. It has declared a distraint procedure. The ship has no propulsion machinery, communication equipment, it was removed, and is not under command. The Santander Maritime Authorities are now instructing an enquiry in order to declare the abandonment. Once concluded the competent maritime authority will require the Courts to order an auction. Update, July 14: In May the court judged in favour of the crew allowing the vessel to be auctioned. Legal claim to be lodged following notification of the judgement.

OCEAN LORD (South Korea)

London, Aug 2 — Bulker Ocean Lord (24508 gt, built 1984), DDLF, which arrived at Santander at 0613 hrs, today, was subsequently reported at South West Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under Admiralty & High Court arrest.

OTAPAN (Mexico)

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: Turkey’s opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) has filed a motion against the arrival of tank barge Otapan in Turkey from Amsterdam. CHP Ankara deputy Mehmet Boztas today asked Environment Minister Osmam Pepe whether the government had contradicted hazardous wastes regulations in giving permission to a vessel carrying carcinogenic materials to enter Turkish waters. The Otapan, which had been docked for seven years at Amsterdam port, is expected to reach Aliaga port within three weeks. Boztas, who is also a member of the Turkish Parliament Committee for Environmental Research, requested information on why the vessel was allowed for arrival at Turkish ports while no other country had accepted it over the last seven years. He also claimed that developed countries always abused developing countries when getting rid of hazardous wastes. Last week, the Turkish daily “Zaman” reported that the Turkish Environment Ministry had allowed two vessels carrying one ton of mineral wool asbestos in its outer covering, entry into Turkish territorial waters. The ministry first denied reports the vessel was not granted permission. However, it later stated that they had given the green light to the ship provided that it did not carry toxic materials. Maastricht, Aug 2 — Tank barge Otapan sailed from Amsterdam at 1700, local time, on Jul 28, bound for Turkey. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

RASA (Georgia)

Limassol, Jul 31 — General cargo Rasa (1465 gt, built 1971) is currently under arrest at Limassol. — Lloyd’s Agents. (Note — Rasa arrived at Limassol on Jul 27.)

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Aug 3 — General cargo Sentinel is still reported berthed at Genoa, under arrest. Local Port Authorities are not able for the time being to disclose its future whereabouts. — Lloyd’s Agents.

TALAVERA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Venice, Jul 31 — There have been no changes/developments concerning the seizure of the general cargo Tala vera. It is still under arrest at Chioggia. — Lloyd’s Agents.

VISCAYA (NIS)

Karachi, Aug 3 — Understand that the honorable Sindh High Court (SHC) has ordered arrest of chemical tanker Viscaya (15259 gt, built 1982) on complaint of a local shipping agent-Pacific Maritime (Pvt) Ltd, pleading that vessel owner did not pay the bill for our service and other charges to the tune of $22,000. The vessel has already left the Karachi Port for Fujairah (UAE) at 1315, Aug 2 when order was served in evening to port authority. About 7000 tones of exportable worth were loaded at Karachi port. The shipping agent is optimistic that dues would be recovered as we have agreement with concerned local agents to serve notice and resolve the issue. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.
BRYANSK REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill has polluted a wide area in the Bryansk region of western Russia and could lead to an “environmental catastrophe”, Russian officials say. The leak, one of Russia’s largest export pipelines,Russia’s natural resources ministry said. The contaminated area, in the Surozh district, is reported to be about 35 sq km, affecting forests, rivers and lakes. The cause of the spill on the Druzhba pipeline was not immediately known.

NEMBE CREEK, BONNY AREA, NIGERIA

London, July 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Shell has declared a “force majeure” at Bonny Offshore Terminal, effective from 1800 yesterday. This is due to a leakage/rupture pipeline from Nembe Creek and shut it down a week ago.

said Shell chief executive Jeroen van der Veer. “For the rest of the shut-in production we expect some time this year to get some of this back, but it will not be significant. We need to do repairs and this takes time.”

NIGER DELTA REGION, NIGERIA

Abuja, Jul 28 — The Nigerian arm of Royal Dutch Shell has started work on repairing a pipeline where a leak has forced the shutdown of 210,000 barrels per day (bpd) in oil output, a spokesman said today. Shell is losing 180,000 bpd because of the leak discovered a week ago in a section of its Nembe Creek trunk line in Rivers state in the Niger Delta, while Chevron is losing 30,000 bpd that should be going through the same pipeline. “We are going ahead with repairs at this time,” a Shell spokesman said, adding that the firm could not tell how long the repairs might take. Shell on Wednesday (Jul 26) declared a force majeure, or a release from honouring contracts, on Bonny Light exports because of the leak, but the company has said loadings are continuing at the Bonny terminal. Shell has not made any official comment on what caused the leak, but a company spokesman in the delta’s main city of Port Harcourt said the damage was accidentally caused by another company working in the area.

— Reuters.

AFGHANISTAN

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Flash floods caused by heavy rains have killed at least 13 people with another 19 feared dead in eastern and southeastern provinces of Afghanistan, officials said. Thirteen bodies were recovered after floods caused by torrential rains in eastern Nangarhar province on the border with Pakistan, the provincial administration director said. Five heavy scrutiny since the March spill, which occurred after a corroded section of the transit line allowed at least 200,000 gallons of crude oil to spill onto the Arctic tundra. The company has been ordered by the PHMSA to clean the insides of the pipelines and improve corrosion monitoring. BP could also face fines of up to $100,000 per day due to its failure to clean the lines by a mid-July deadline. The head of the PHMSA said in a letter to John Dingell, the ranking Democrat on the House of Representatives’ Energy and Commerce Committee. Most recently, PHMSA regulators began looking into allegations made by Charles Hamel, a longtime advocate for safety improvements in the Alaska oil industry, that some valves on the pipeline were inoperable. Hamel, who in the past has served as a channel for Alaskan oil industry workers to complain of safety and environmental problems, said the reports of the leaking valves were sent to him by two BP workers. BP has acknowledged that the valve did not work properly, although a company spokesman said that the valve did not affect the integrity of the seal around the connection where the leak occurred. It was upstream of another valve.

SAVANNAH RIVER, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A Coast Guard official said Saturday, Jul 29, that an oil spill on one month in the Savannah River has turned out to be much larger than originally thought after two weeks of assessment. Petty Officer Bobby Nash, a spokesman for the Coast Guard District 7, said the spill is estimated to be between 20,000 and 22,000 gallons, about 15,000 gallons more than the previous estimate. Nash said the source of the Jul 17 spill that shut down a 12-mile stretch of the river and part of the Intracoastal Waterway remains unknown. But the Coast Guard has ruled out the possibility that it came from pipelines and facilities. “We believe the source is a vessel,” he said. “We haven’t narrowed it down to a specific number of vessels.”

NEW YORK

New York, Aug 1 — Oil major BP Plc has submitted plans to U.S. regulators to drain an oil pipeline that leaked in Alaska this March, but the company warned it must first get approval to proceed from the U.S. Justice Department, which has subpoenaed BP over the spill. BP has ordered last week by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, a unit of the Department of Transport, to submit plans by Aug 1 to remove 17,000 barrels of crude oil from the OT-21 oil transit line before the Alaskan winter set in. BP has proposed using vacuum trucks or installing a jumper pipeline to remove the crude by the August 22 deadline. The company has already identified the locations on the top of the pipeline where it would install the valves to pump the line out and it is waiting for approval from the government as well as the grand jury investigators. BP’s Alaskan operations have been under
people had been injured and seven were still missing, Ghulam Sayed Khairani said. The rain also washed away around 60 hectares of agricultural land, destroyed several houses and killed scores of animals, he said. His prison and also washed away seven people have died. We've sent our teams to the areas to collect more information." Khast director of rural development Muhammad Omar said. In Pakia villages had reported five people, including children, were dead, the provincial rural development director Mohammad Tahir said.

CHINA
London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A flash flood this month killed at least 18 Chinese workers building a highway in the country's south-west, state media said. At least 17 are missing and feared dead, and another 57 were rescued after a mountainside and swept away the workers' temporary shelters in Mengzi county, a hilly area in the southwestern province of Yunnan, which was hit by heavy rainfall and flooding in the early hours of Jul 20. Eight were confirmed dead at the time. "The death toll has risen to 18 and 17 are still missing," the Beijing News quoted a local official as saying. "There is almost no chance for them to be found alive." But the search for the workers continued as the construction of the highway was ap already one month behind schedule.

KOREA
London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: The death toll from floods and landslides in North Korea this month has risen to at least 154 people, with 127 others missing, according to the United Nations. More than 31,000 homes were damaged and 17,000 families left homeless, the world body said in a report. The disaster has damaged about 750,000 hectares of arable land, which could lead to a loss of 100,000 tons of food due to 10% of the country's annual food shortfall, the U.N. said.

MEXICO
London, Aug 3 — Heavy rains caused a mountainside and swept away the workers' temporary shelters in Mengzi county, a hilly area in the southwestern province of Yunnan, which was hit by heavy rainfall and flooding in the early hours of Jul 20. Eight were confirmed dead at the time. "The death toll has risen to 18 and 17 are still missing," the Beijing News quoted a local official as saying. "There is almost no chance for them to be found alive." But the search for the workers continued as the construction of the highway was ap already one month behind schedule.

HURRICANE "WILMA"
London, Jul 27 — A press report from Tallahassee dated Jul 26, states: The state's plan for spending $82.9 million in federal money for long-term recovery from Hurricane "Wilma" remains in flux. "We also don't have a plan," said Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson. Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings was on hand for a formal announcement in Washington today. Jennings said: "We are for this, we continue to say there are some huge unmet needs as we continue to deal with the housing issues in Florida." Jennings said during a conference call with reporters. The money will be distributed through counties and Indian tribes in areas affected by "Wilma." It is part of an $11.5 billion federal community development block program to assist the five Gulf Coast states affected by "Wilma." The approved plan requires that at least 70% of the money be spend on housing including rehabilitation, relocation, demolition, replacement and the construction of new affordable housing. The remaining money can be used to repair or improve water and sewer systems, streets and other public infrastructure including buildings. Some of the money also can be used to assist businesses by repairing or improving infrastructure to attract or retain jobs.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.
been reported missing either,” operation leader Ann Karin Sundgarden of the Gudbrandsdal police said. The rise to 1962, when 116 mm had fallen. Many parts of Sindh, the Neelum valley road was blocked casualties had been reported today, Muzaffarabad said although no landslides and flashfloods caused by torrential rains would be made operative by Aug 4. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Heavy rains have claimed the lives of at least three people in the Southern Cape. Three people were washed away in their car in Conviche when the road gave way yesterday evening. The body of a three-and-a-half year old girl has been found. Police were still searching for the bodies of a man and a woman who were in a different car. By 0800 this morning 230mm of rain had fallen at George Airport. This was an all time high, according to the weather bureau. The previous maximum measured over a 24-hour period was on 20 August 1962, when 116 mm had fallen. Many roads were closed due to flooding. The road between Knysna and George was closed at Waboomskraal after a farm dam had broken. The road between Knysna and Sedgefield was closed. The damage was not yet known. The road between Plettenberg Bay and De Vlugt was also closed. The level of one of the tributaries to the Keurbooms River had risen to five metres above its normal level at De Vlugt, which was cut off. The Keurbooms River as well as the Bitou River, which run into the sea at Plettenberg Bay were both in flood, said Ray Farnham of the NSRI. Pupils at Wittedrif High School were sent home before both roads running to it had to be closed. A mudslide had caused a tree to fall on top of a house, but nobody was injured. The road in the Kaaimans Pass between George and Wilderness was flooded and the railway used by the Outeniqua Choo-Tjoee had also been damaged. At Glentana two caravans were washed away to sea. Two more were wrecked when they washed up against a house, and several people had to be evacuated from their homes. According to Craig Lambinson of the NSRI, the volunteer organisation had to send a paramedic by canoe to take medicine to a patient with chronic tuberculosis and who had been cut off by the flooded Groot-Brak River.

TROPICAL STORM “CHRIS”

London, Aug 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, date today: Tropical storm “Chris” centre located near lat 16.6N, long 59.2W at 0900, UTC. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest at 285 degrees at eight knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast position lat 17.3N, long 61.0W at 1800, UTC. Maximum winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Forecast position lat 18.2N, long 63.2W at 0600, UTC, Aug 2. Maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm “Chris”, the third named storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, had developed early today near the 39th parallel west of Bermuda. The system was expected to become a hurricane today. The low pressure system was located about 60 miles east of Bermuda.

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Leeward Islands, forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said. A tropical storm was posted for the islands of Antigua, Barbuda, Anguilla, St. Kitts, Nevis, Saba, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius, St. Barthélemy and St. Martin. A tropical storm watch was issued for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. At 0500 hrs, "Chris" was centered about 175 miles east of Antigua and was tracking west-northwest at 10 mph. A tropical storm watch was also posted for the islands of the Leeward Islands by early tomorrow, according to the hurricane centre. The area where the warning was issued was in the open Atlantic about 1,100 miles southeast of Miami.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Tropical Storm "Chris" continued to gain strength today as it approached the eastern edge of the Caribbean. The storm had top sustained winds of nearly 60 mph as it passed over the Leeward Islands, and was forecast to move west-northwest at 10 mph, as it approached Puerto Rico and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. According to the U.S. National Hurricane Centre in Miami, forecasters said it could become a minimal hurricane later in the week. Long-range forecasts put the storm anywhere from south of Cuba to Florida by late in the weekend. A tropical storm warning was posted for all the Leewards, including Antigua, Anguilla, St. Kitts and St. Maarten. Puerto Rico and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, the Hurricane Centre said. At 2000 hrs, the storm was centered about 45 miles northeast of Barbuda, moving west-northwest at 13 mph. It was expected to pass over the northernmost Leewards during the night and skirt the northern edge of Puerto Rico tomorrow. The U.S. National Weather Service said Puerto Rico would begin to experience strong gusts of wind and heavy rain tonight, and the islands of the Leeward Islands and Puerto Rico could receive up to eight inches of rain and could experience flash floods and mudslides, forecasters said. (See issue of Aug 3.)

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Tourists evacuated two small islands off the coast of Puerto Rico today as Tropical Storm "Chris" gained strength in the eastern Caribbean and was expected to become the first hurricane of the Atlantic season. The storm had top sustained winds of 65 mph as it skirted the northern Leeward Islands and moved west-northwest toward the U.S. Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Some 600 tourists evacuated Culebra and Vieques, islands off Puerto Rico's east coast. A hurricane watch was issued for the southeastern Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, the National Hurricane Center said. The watch was issued at 1100 EDT, meant hurricane conditions of winds of at least 74 mph were possible within 36 hours. The storm was expected to pass at least 100 miles west of Puerto Rico, but up to 8 inches of rain was likely to cause flash floods and mudslides, authorities in the U.S. territory warned. London, Aug 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Chris" centre located near lat 18.8N, long 62.6W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 300 degrees at nine knots. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Forecast position lat 19.4N, long 64.0W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 55 knots, gusts 65 knots. Forecast position lat 20.0N, long 65.8W at 0600, UTC, Aug 3. Maximum winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Chris" gained strength as it moved past islands in the eastern Caribbean early today, and forecasters warned that it is possible for the first hurricane of the 2006 Atlantic season by evening. The storm had top sustained winds of 65 mph this morning and skirted the northern Leeward Islands. It was expected to gather strength as it moved west-northwest toward the Virgin Islands, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Centre in Miami. Long-range forecasts put the storm anywhere from south of Cuba to Florida by late in the weekend. If its sustained winds rose to 74 mph, as forecasters expect to happen late today or early tomorrow, Chris will be upgraded to hurricane status. A tropical storm warning remained in effect for Anguilla, St. Barthélemy, St. Maarten, Puerto Rico and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. At 0700 hrs, the storm was centered about 65 miles north of St. Maarten in the Leeward Islands, moving west-northwest at 10 mph. The U.S. National Weather Service said Puerto Rico would see strong gusts of wind and heavy rain this afternoon and into tomorrow. The Leeward Islands and Puerto Rico could receive up to eight inches of rain and could experience flash floods and mudslides, forecasters said. London, Aug 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm “Fabio” centre located near lat 14.7N, long 129.5W at 0600, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 275 degrees at 13 knots. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Forecast position lat 14.2N, long 131.5W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 15.2N, long 134.4W at 0600, UTC, Aug 3. Maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. TYPHOON “EWINARI” Busan, Aug 1 — So far, only 25 out of a total of 171 containers lost from container carrier Easline Tianjin have been recovered by local salvors. Search and recovery operations for the remaining containers have been suspended as these are now assumed to have sunk. The Easline Tianjin sailed Busan about 2230, Jul 26, bound Xingang, after completion of cargo discharge. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. TYPHOON “KAEMI” Beijing, Jul 28 — The death toll from rainstorms triggered by typhoon "Kaemi" has risen to 32 in China's north-east, state media said today. More than 60 were missing. "Kaemi" weakened to a tropical depression shortly after landing on China's southeastern coast on Tuesday (Jul 25), but the heavy rains it brought soaked five provinces, affecting six million people and forcing the evacuation of 1.3 million, state television said. The rainstorm hit the eastern province of Jiangxi, where six were killed when flash floods along a mountainside swept away a military barracks in the town of Yingshan on Wednesday. Another 38 officers, soldiers and family members are still missing. A further 17 villagers died and 14 went missing in floods and landslides in Jiangxi's southern county of Wuyuan, where rivers overflowed and thousands of houses collapsed, Xinhua news agency said. Power, communications and roads were also disrupted. The rain is expected to stop
in the area tomorrow, but is forecast to be followed by a three-day heatwave, prompting officials to warn against public gatherings. Experts have emphasized the importance of staying hydrated and conserving energy.

Karena Ramirez, a local resident, said, "I've never seen such extreme heat before. The air feels thick and heavy." Ramirez, who works as a teacher, added that the situation has made it difficult for her students to stay focused in class.

Weather & Navigation

**TYPHOON “PRAPIROON”**

Manila, Aug 2 — Tropical storm “Praipiroon” killed six people and forced thousands to flee their homes in northern Philippines before heading towards southern China today, disaster officials said. Praipiroon is the fourth storm to hit the Philippines in five years, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council. Light and moderate rain have been reported in the region, with three drownings reported in heavy rains and floods.

**UNIFIED STATES**

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: California appeared to break out of its nearly two-week heat wave today, but before it caused many as many as 141 deaths and did untold damage to crops. Authorities raised their toll of possibly heat-related deaths by more than 40 today. The big increase came primarily from Los Angeles County and the Central Valley counties of Merced and Stanislaus, where coroners said 9 lives had been lost. The storms have been relatively mild, with maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts of up to 80 knots. Forecast winds for today, states: Fast-rising water following a three-air raid yesterday in suburban Cleveland, Ohio, chasing people to rooftops to await boat rescues in 100-degree heat. The storm flooded the Grand River 11 feet above flood level. "We think everybody got out. But we cannot be certain," said fire Capt. Ken Takash, who estimated 800 residents were evacuated. The water also flooded the town of Painesville. In Eastlake, between Cleveland and Painesville, the Coast Guard searched for a man reported missing while checking on his boat at a marina near the Chagrin River. A deluge hit the area Thursday (Jul 27) and early yesterday, but by midday the sun broke through and flood waters began to recede. Gov. Bob Taft declared a state of emergency in Cuyahoga County.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Blistering heat settled over the eastern half of the United States today, with heat wave that was blamed for as many as 164 deaths in California brought a fifth straight day of oppressive weather to Chicago and promised at least three days similar temperatures in the New York metropolitan area. Residents on Chicago’s South Side were evacuated from buildings by the hundreds, one day after the power went out to 20,000 customers. Illinois officials blamed three deaths on the heat. By midafternoon, the temperature in Chicago was 100 degrees, and Baltimore reached 99 and Washington hit 97, though the humidity made it feel like 107. In New York, it was 95 in Central Park and 100 at LaGuardia Airport in Queens. The National Weather Service said the temperature could reach 104 tomorrow, and Thursday (Aug 3) could be bad, too. In Philadelphia, it was 97 and Atlanta it was 95. New York City adopted energy conservation measures. Thermostats in city offices were set at 78, up from the usual 72.
and large municipal installations such as the Rikers Island jail used backup generators. The towering skyline will reflect the cutbacks, with lights turned down on the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building. They give a foreboding picture of the Brooklyn waterfront to be dimmed, as were the lights illuminating the George Washington Bridge, the Brooklyn Bridge and other spans of the New York City–Philadelphia set records today for peak electricity demand. Erin O’Brien, a spokeswoman for the agency that oversees electricity usage in six New England states, said demand tomorrow could surpass the one-day record set just two weeks ago. Demand was just short of the record today, she said. Ohio farmers used fans and cold showers to keep their cattle cool. Even with those efforts, the animals produced about 10 pounds less milk per day because of the heat, said farmer Clark Emmons of Fayette, Ohio. Colonial Downs, a horse track in New Kent County, Va., cancelled racing on Aug 3 amidst record-breaking temperatures and closed major roads. Emergency crews received an onslaught of distress calls, but there were no immediate reports of any serious injuries. Authorities said at least 60 people had been rescued, some standing on roofs, others atop cars. Fire officials said the weather produced about mudslides, boulders and other debris falling from rocky cliffs around several El Paso neighbourhoods. The rain threatened to push the Rio Grande over its banks and more than doubled the normal speed of the river’s current, authorities said. The river had started to recede by late today. The region had received less than an inch of rain in the first six months of the year. But as much as six inches may have fallen since Sunday (Jul 30), the National Weather Service forecasters said. They expect the rain to continue through at least tomorrow morning.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Record-breaking heat and oppressive humidity continued to affect the eastern half of the United States today. By late afternoon, the temperature at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport had risen to 99, with a heat index of 106. In New York, the temperature rose to 101 at LaGuardia Airport and 96 at Central Park. In Philadelphia and Baltimore the temperature was into the upper 90s. The National Weather Service posted heat advisories from New York City to Oklahoma. Forecasters said the heat would continue until tomorrow night, when a cool front was expected to bring temperatures down into the 80s. In Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter Bloomberg said the city was fortunate that no fatalities were linked to the weather. Temperatures in the subway was as high as 111 at a Pennsylvania Station platform. The city’s electric utility, Con Edison, set its second record in two days for peak electricity demand, 23,000MW, from a day earlier. The Long Island Power Authority also set a record. In Massachusetts thousands of people were without power after thunderstorms downed trees and power lines. Most of the power was expected to be restored overnight. Kansas was confronted with a different problem today. Powerful storms, with winds up to 100 mph, hit the central part of the State, downing trees, snapping utility poles and wiping several vehicles off Interstate 70, authorities said. There was however, better news in El Paso, Texas. Small patches of clean-up efforts were the only signs today of the rain-fuelled devastation from earlier in the week and residents were returning to their homes on opened roads under mostly sunny skies. Gov. Rick Perry will be in El Paso tomorrow to get an update on recovery efforts and damage reports. Kathy Wait, a Perry spokeswoman, said the governor planned to meet with county and city emergency officials at the city’s emergency operations centre, which opened yesterday morning. The National Weather Service said the likelihood of further heavy rain had diminished, but that did not discount danger, because any significant rainfall could cause more flooding in a normally parched region saturated by three consecutive days of heavy showers. The official count is 7.5 inches obtained for the year, almost all of it in the last few weeks, but some parts of El Paso, particularly the west side, have been inundated by almost one foot of rain in the last five days, officials said. Area residents and business owners began today trying to clear standing water and thick mud covering streets and the first floors of businesses and homes. Most of the damage was confined to businesses in about a quarter-mile area in the western part of the city, El Paso Police spokesman Andy Suvak said. Staff Sgt. John Colleng of the National Guard said soldiers were deployed today morning to neighboring cities Socorro and Vinton to help residents get back into their homes, make sandbags and help with "whatever is necessary." The normally placid Rio Grande was moving at twice its normal speed, although it receded yesterday morning, officials said. The state has declared El Paso a disaster area.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The boat salvage business in Grand River has rarely been better in the wake of Lake Erie’s heaviest rain-fuelled devastation from earlier in the harbour near the Grand River west of Painesville to seek more underwater wrecks. Hundreds of battered vessels still line the Grand and Chagrin rivers, some swamped with water and others tossed ashore by the flooding. “We haven’t even begun to think about getting up the rivers,” Codeluppi said. One of the final Lake Erie salvage jobs drew a small crowd yesterday. A barge and tug from Eastlake salvage company Huffman Equipment towed in the circuit for the day. Emergency officials said the owner of Pickle Bill’s restaurant in Fiji had been reassured by an observation of an inch and a half to one foot of rain in the last five days, officials said. Area residents and business owners began today trying to clear standing water and thick mud covering streets and the first floors of businesses and homes. Most of the damage was confined to businesses in about a quarter-mile area in the western part of the city, El Paso Police spokesman Andy Suvak said. Staff Sgt. John Colleng of the National Guard said soldiers were deployed today morning to neighboring cities Socorro and Vinton to help residents get back into their homes, make sandbags and help with “whatever is necessary.” The normally placid Rio Grande was moving at twice its normal speed, although it receded yesterday morning, officials said. The state has declared El Paso a disaster area.

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London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale has killed at least three children and left more than 1,000 people without shelter in the south of Tajikistan. The earthquake’s epicentre was in northern Afghanistan about 180 kilometres southeast of the Tajik capital Dushanbe and hit at 1557, local time, on Saturday (Jul 29). It almost completely destroyed a village in Tajikistan’s Panj region near the border with Afghanistan. At least 19 people were injured.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: A 6.1-magnitude earthquake has shaken the Indonesian island of Sumatra. A spokeswoman from the main meteorological agency in Jakarta says the quake was strong enough and shallow enough to cause a tsunami within 45 minutes. But a police official in the island speaking around 90 minutes after the quake says they’ve received no reports of a tsunami, nor of any casualties or damage.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: An earthquake measuring at a preliminary magnitude...
of 5.9 jolted some western islands of southern Okinawa prefecture in Japan this afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No tsunami warnings were issued as to the 1640 hrs (0740, UTC) quake. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The quakes epicentre was 40 kilometres under seabed.

TAIWAN

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Taiwan today, rocking buildings in Taipei but causing no damage or casualties, the Central Weather Bureau said. The quake's epicentre was located about 90 miles southwest of Taipei, the bureau said. Japan's Meteorological Agency said there was no threat of a tsunami. The quake was also felt in the Yonaguni islands in southern Japan, but there were no reports of damage or injuries there either, officials said. Taiwan's weather bureau warned against aftershocks, but said they were not expected to cause any damage because of the epicentre's distance from the island.

Mount Karangetang, Indonesia

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Thousands of villagers were evacuated south east of a volcano on an island in eastern Indonesia started spewing lava and hot clouds, officials said yesterday. There were no reports of casualties. Nearly 4,000 people were evacuated from five villages, said Iskandar Gobei, a North Sulawesi provincial official, and police in the area said more would likely leave in coming days. The status of the 1,784-metre Mount Karangetang, one of the country’s most active mountains, was raised to its highest level more than a week ago, said Saut Simatupang, chief researcher at the government’s volcanological agency. Lava and hot ash poured 750 metres down the volcano’s slopes on Thursday (Jul 27), its second eruption since Jul 17. London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: A volcano in eastern Indonesia spewed hot gas and debris a mile down its slopes today, but hundreds of villagers refused to leave areas just outside the danger zone. Mount Karangetang, one of the country’s most active mountains, has been at a state of high alert for two weeks. More than 1,000 people have been evacuated from villages near the peak, but 500 more living further down the mountainside were refusing to budge, saying they wanted to tend to livestock and crops, said Reople Areros, a district official. The 5,850-foot volcano shot out at least 30 bursts of lava and hot ash today, said Saut Simatupang, chief researcher at the government’s volcanology agency. The government could not force villagers to leave or prevent them from returning to check on their property, he said, adding that there were no reports of injuries or major damage.

Mount Mayon, Philippines

London, Aug 1 — Mayon Volcano yesterday erupted a high volume of sulfuric steam, indicating its eruption is imminent, scientists said. They said yesterday’s gas emission rate of 12,548 tons a day was a record high compared with last week’s 9,275 tons, and that meant the volcano was pushing new magma up to the crater in preparation for a violent explosion. Mayon continued to disgorge molten rocks cascading 100 metres down the Mabinit channel, which is 5.6 km from the crater. The toe of the lava at the Mabinit channel was inching its way to the boundary of the 6-km permanent-danger zone, threatening the villages of Mabinit, Matanag, Bonga, and Buyangan, scientists said. The lava front continued to move toward a forested area at the foot of the volcano and threatening to ignite it, they said. Lava and flying rocks at the southeast slopes triggered 388 tremors.

Afghanistan

Jalalabad, Jul 31 — A car bomb killed six people and wounded 16 others outside a mosque in eastern Afghanistan today, but the apparent target, a provincial governor, was unhurt. The blast took place in the city of Jalalabad where thousands of people, including the governor of Nangarhar, Gul Afgha Sherzai, were gathered at the mosque. Sherzai escaped unhurt. — Reuters. Kabul, Aug 1 — At least two NATO soldiers were killed in an ambush today in southern Afghanistan, a day after the alliance took control of security in the volatile region. The soldiers were part of a patrol that was attacked by insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades in Helmand province, a statement by the International Assistance Security Force (ISAF) said. “Two ISAF soldiers were killed in this attack, one wounded and one remains unaccounted for,” it said. The statement did not give identity of the victims. Reuters said heavy fighting had erupted in Masa Qala district of Helmand where the soldiers were ambushed. An ISAF spokesman confirmed the fighting, saying it was “part of an expanding operation” but gave no details. Yesterday, NATO forces took over security in the Afghan south from the U.S. led coalition to begin one of the biggest ground operations in the alliance's history. The NATO takeover should allow the U.S. army to trim down its force from 23,000 to 20,000 and the alliance is expected to expand its mission later this year into the east where the militant threat is greatest. Today, Afghan and coalition forces detained four suspected Al Qaeda operatives during a raid on a village in the southeastern province of Khost, a coalition statement said. The raid is part of an operation to stop attacks on Afghan and coalition forces in eastern Afghanistan, and smuggling of explosives. There was no resistance or casualties sustained on either side, the coalition statement said. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Aug 2 — NATO and Afghan forces killed 18 Taliban guerrillas in a raid on a village in southern Afghanistan, where violence has escalated after NATO troops took over from U.S. forces. In another province in the Talibain’s southern heartland, 15 police surrendered as the rebels were about to attack their post, the Taliban said. An Afghan raid on the rebels today came after villagers told government forces guerrillas had gathered in the village of Chaman in Helmand province. A provincial police chief said: “We carried out the operation in which 18 Taliban got killed and we recovered a huge amount of ammunition.” Nabi Mullakhall, told Reuters today. He did not give further details but said there were no casualties among the NATO and Afghan troops. In the capital, Kabul, a blast today killed a man and wounded two on today, police said. The cause of explosion was unclear. Separately, 15 police surrendered to the Taliban yesterday in Zabul, another province in the south, as rebels readied to storm their post just outside Qalat, the provincial capital, Talibain commander Mullah Zahir said. Zabul police chief Noor Mohammad Pakteen said he had heard the report and a government official in Kabul confirmed the surrender. — Reuters.

Colombia

Bogota, Jul 31 — Fifteen soldiers were killed in a rebel ambush in northern Colombia and three more people died in other attacks today, a week before President Alvaro Uribe starts his second term. An army patrol was ambushed with explosives near the town of Tibus in North Santander province near Venezuela. Nineteen of the 18-member unit, military officials said. Rebels grow coca in that part of the country, which is used to make the cocaine that funds the 50-year-old insurgency. Also today, a bomb blast killed two soldiers in the southwest province of Narino. A remote-controlled car bomb targeting a military convoy injured two soldiers and killed a homeless man who was collecting recyclable garbage on the street. The capital, Bogota, is on maximum alert after Uribe Aug 7 inauguration. The southern
Among people standing close to a crowded bus stand in Surankote town, 230 km north of the winter capital of the restive Himalayan region. Five of the wounded were in serious condition, a police officer said. — Reuters

IRAQ

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A series of bomb attacks in Iraq have killed at least 40 people - many of them soldiers. A pipeline fire in central Baghdad, killing one and injuring two. A suicide bomber operated in Ramadi, but gave no further details. In other incidents: Six labourers were wounded by a bomb blast in Tayaran Square, Baghdad. Three police were also wounded in a roadside bomb attack in northern Baghdad. A Sunni cleric, from a tribe opposed to al-Qaeda, was killed while driving in Samarra and Iraq's national soccer coach has resigned after receiving a death threat. — Reuters

INDIA

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people were killed in shootings and 10 wounded in a grenade attack on a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims in Indian Kashmir, police and the army said. Indian troops shot dead four Muslim rebels during a fierce gunbattle near the de facto border dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan. The four were killed during a gunbattle that erupted late yesterday in the northern Ghizer sector, army spokesman Hemant Joneja told AFP today. He said the four were part of a group that had infiltrated into Indian Kashmir on Wednesday (Jul 26) from across the Line of Control — the ceasefire line protecting ecosystems. — Reuters

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen have opened fire on police stations in western Baghdad, according to police. Armed men in two cars sprayed gunfire at the Muhammad Rasullullah mosque shattering windows and damaging walls. An hour later gunmen stormed the nearby Ashra al-Mubashara mosque, fleeing when police arrived, say officials. Elsewhere, at least three people were killed and 15 others injured by a car bomb near a petrol station in the northern city of Kirkuk, police said. Earlier, the US military confirmed three of their marines died in clashes with insurgents on Thursday in the western province of Anbar. The US military said more than 20 Iraqis were killed in the clashes in what is a known Sunni-dominated trouble spot. A statement said the three marines were attacked by the Army's 1st Armoured Division, which operates in Ramadi, but gave no further details. In other incidents: Six labourers were wounded by a bomb blast in Tayaran Square, Baghdad. Three police were also wounded in a roadside bomb attack in northern Baghdad. A Sunni cleric, from a tribe opposed to al-Qaeda, was killed while driving in Samarra and Iraq's national soccer coach has resigned after receiving a death threat.

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Among the dead was a British soldier killed in a mortar attack in the south, while the US military announced that an American soldier was killed by a roadside bomb yesterday. A provincial governor said that 45 people from his predominantly Shiite region were killed in a Sunni area of western Iraq while travelling by bus out of the country. Gunmen in Baghdad also kidnapped the spokesman of a political coalition including secular, left-wing and independent parties. The bus, carrying many Iraqi soldiers, was struck in the northern industrial city of Beiji, killing everyone on board, said Defence Ministry spokesman Mohammed al-Askari. Police earlier said that 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed on the bus. Al-Askari confirmed that many of the passengers were soldiers, but said he did not know how many. Following the blast, a curfew was imposed in Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad. The Karrada district bomb was near a bank, killing at least 14 people, and injuring 37, said police Lt. Col. Abbas Mohammed Salman. The target was well chosen because Iraqi security forces draw their salaries from the bank on the first of every month. Lt Col Abbas Mohammed Salman said. The attack occurred in the early hours of this morning, the spokesman said. The soldier suffered serious injuries from the explosion and was airlifted to an army hospital, where he died of his wounds. There were no other casualties. — Reuters

Baghdad, Aug 1 — Iraq's northern oil pipeline to Turkey has been hit by yet another attack, delaying the restart of exports to world markets and undermining government efforts to rebuild the industry, sources said today. "It was bombed again yesterday," said a shipping agent. A second source said the pipeline carrying crude from Iraqi northern oilfields to Turkey's Ceyhan port had been sabotaged, but details were sketchy. An Iraqi oil ministry official said only that more time was needed to complete maintenance work. The pipeline explosion on July 9, 2013, was a suicide car bombing outside a bank where security forces were collecting pay. Another blast in Baghdad left one dead and 14 people wounded. At least four civilians were killed in a bomb attack on a police patrol near the city of Muqdadiya. The blast, which the AFP news agency said was outside a police post in a residential area, also wounded at least 10 people, according to reports. A fourth roadside explosion killed one person and wounded another in the Zayouna district of north-eastern Baghdad. According to AP, the explosion narrowly missed a car belonging to the minister of electricity. Yemeni officials said 15 people were kidnapped from offices in Baghdad. There is still no word on what has happened to them.

Basra, Aug 1 — A British soldier was killed today in a mortar attack on an army base in Basra, a British military spokesman said. "A U.K. soldier of the First Battalion, the Light Infantry, has died as a result of an attack on a multi-national force base in Basra city," the spokesman said. The attack occurred in the early hours of this morning, the spokesman said. The soldier suffered serious injuries from the explosion and was airlifted to an army hospital, where he died of his wounds. There were no other casualties. — Reuters

Lebanon was hit by a series of attacks yesterday, mainly in the south, a day after the government approved the deployment of 1,000 soldiers in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. A press report, dated today, states: A Hezbollah rocket slammed into a chemical plant in the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona on Thursday, according to local officials. The type of chemicals involved and the extent of the damage were not immediately known.

Beirut, July 27 — Along Lebanon's sandy beaches and agricultural lands, runs a belt of black sludge, 10,000 to 30,000 tonnes of oil that spilled into the Mediterranean Sea after Israel bombed a power plant. According to the Environment Ministry, the spill is especially threatening since fish spawn and sea turtles nest on Lebanon's coast, including the green turtle which is endangered in the Mediterranean. Carried by a north-easterly wind, the spill has travelled 70-80 km up the coast of Lebanon. An Israeli warship damaged by a Hezbollah missile on July 15 may also have spilled diesel oil into the sea, according to the Environment Ministry website. At Beirut's Sabra Hospital, seven men in navy overalls perch on the edge of a man-made inlet skimming sludge, using buckets on the end of sticks and pouring it into plastic containers. The team is part of a pilot clean-up commissioned by the Environment Ministry. Another mop-up is under way at the San Antoine Sandy Beach Resort, north of Beirut. The Lebanese government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. Lebanon's government has neither the money nor the expertise to deal with. 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sources said at least eight people, including a Jordanian, died in over 40 air raids. Three other civilians were killed in overnight air strikes in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Despite growing world demands for an end to Israel’s war with Hizbollah, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said it was too early to say if Iran and Syria would change, suggesting that negotiations had not reached an impasse yet. "There are some signs that there could be movement in a direction where there is a possibility of a cessation of hostilities," she said.

Battles for Qana

With residents of the village of Qana, which has been hit by at least 54 civilians, today, two days after they were killed in an Israeli air strike that sparked international outrage and calls for a swift end to the fighting, Israeli jets bombed a road near Kfar Kila. The southern Israeli incursion near the border village of Kfar Kila. The southern Israeli military has asked United Nations observers in southern Lebanon to intensify air strikes and off" clashes in the areas of Aita al-Hermil near the Syrian border today, according to residents to flee. However, residents were unable to do so, saying that "several" Mediterranean coastal states and EU countries had sent "positive replies" to a circular asking for help but the premise was that assistance could be rendered when the situation permits. Meanwhile, the Lebanese government has already forecast that "a complete oil spill clean-up operation will cost in the range of tens of millions of euros and will span a long period of time."

Israel’s move today to suspend air strikes on southern Lebanon for 48 hours would give Israel’s soldiers a 24-hour window to allow aid and residents to flee. However, residents were unable to do so, saying that "several" Mediterranean coastal states and EU countries had sent "positive replies" to a circular asking for help but the premise was that assistance could be rendered when the situation permits. Meanwhile, the Lebanese government has already forecast that "a complete oil spill clean-up operation will cost in the range of tens of millions of euros and will span a long period of time."

Beirut, Aug 1 — Israeli troops fought fierce battles with Hizbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon early today, as the Lebanese government called off the search in Qana for bodies. Hundreds of Lebanese protesters in Beirut, chanting slogans against the US and Israeli attacks, demanded an immediate cease-fire as permission for a investigation into the Qana attack. Several Katyusha rockets hit the town of Kfar Kila. The southern Israeli military source reported "on stand-by." Rempec claimed it was "on stand-by." Rempec said its Mediterranean Assistance Unit is "on stand-by." Rempec claimed it was "on stand-by." 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Nations said access had not improved. Israel said it would still use air strikes against Hizbollah leaders and rocket launchers and to back up ground forces. Hizbollah fired two shells into the northern Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona yesterday but no one was wounded. The group also said its rockets hit an Israeli warship off Lebanon’s south port city of Tyre, but an Israeli source denied the claim.

Reuters

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil from a Lebanese power plant struck by an Israeli bomb continued to spill into the Mediterranean Sea yesterday, as the sheer extent of the spill and its ecological toll has elevated the crisis from a national to a regional environmental threat. In the meantime, the Malta-based Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), as per its remit, has been liaising closely with the Lebanese environment ministry to ascertain the environmental damage, contain the spill and in due action. It has been confirmed that it is deemed safe to send clean-up experts to the region. Estimates of the spill’s extent vary from 10,000 to 35,000 tonnes. A floating fuel tank at the Jiyyeh power station, just south of Beirut, were struck by Israeli jets between July 13 and 15. So far the spill has contaminated a 35-kilometre stretch of coastline. Since the bombing, winds have been pushing the oil further north and the spill is now reaching near the Syrian coast. While the Lebanese authorities and infrastructure remain in a state of disarray due to the violence in the region, the spill continues to move unchecked as the continued bombing of Lebanon and the Israeli blockade of the Lebanese coast render it impossible to dispatch any experts from REMPEC or Barcelona Convention signatory countries, including Malta, to the area to begin containment and clean-up activities. REMPEC and the United Nations Environment Programme’s Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the UN’s International Maritime Organisation (IMO), in addition to liaising closely with the Lebanese authorities, is also organising such a team of experts to assist in the clean-up as soon as hostilities in the region cease. It has also activated its Mediterranean Assistance Unit to mobilise key pollution control centres in the region that will take action. The oil action and rates of the pollution have been affected and rates draw to an end. Yesterday, a REMPEC spokesperson confirmed: ‘There is no way to have any concrete information about the extent of the spill at this stage. The clean-up must be physical as the oil sticks to the rocks and shore, but we cannot do anything until there is a guaranteed ceasefire. We have a unit on the Mediterranean that we have already given security clearance to enter the region. The UN agency has also requested signatories of the Barcelona Convention to ensure personnel and equipment to be ready to intervene once the region is accessible, which many have agreed to. Malta, the official country to respond to the request but said it needs to know a bit more about the situation and what it can offer. The spokesperson also confirmed that an oil slick has reached the Syrian coast and has been cleaned up by Syrian authorities. A new fire breaking out at the power plant has also threatened an unmanned oil tank that contains another 15,000 tonnes of oil. Thick, black smoke from the fire has been polluting the air over Beirut and its suburbs and officials in Beirut have warned residents near the sea to keep their windows closed and stay as far away from the oil as possible, since fumes from the oil can cause skin and respiratory problems.

Gaza, Aug 1 — Egyptian mediators have resumed efforts to strike a deal to free an Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian militants from Gaza but any breakthrough looks some way off, a senior Palestinian official said today. Israel launched an offensive in Gaza from noon on Sunday following a declaration of Corporal Gilad Shalit on June 25 by militants including gunmen from the ruling Hamas faction. It opened a second week of fighting after Hizbollah seized two soldiers on July 12. Israel said it was not aware of any fresh Egyptian mediation and Hamas denied it was involved in such talks. Shalit, who is in his 18th day of captivity, is not safe to send clean-up experts to the area to begin the clean-up as soon as hostilities in the region cease. It has also activated its Mediterranean Assistance Unit to mobilise key pollution control centres in the region that will take action. The oil action and rates of the pollution have been affected and rates draw to an end. Yesterday, a REMPEC spokesperson confirmed: ‘There is no way to have any concrete information about the extent of the spill at this stage. The clean-up must be physical as the oil sticks to the rocks and shore, but we cannot do anything until there is a guaranteed ceasefire. We have a unit on the Mediterranean that we have already given security clearance to enter the region. The UN agency has also requested signatories of the Barcelona Convention to ensure personnel and equipment to be ready to intervene once the region is accessible, which many have agreed to. Malta, the official country to respond to the request but said it needs to know a bit more about the situation and what it can offer. The spokesperson also confirmed that an oil slick has reached the Syrian coast and has been cleaned up by Syrian authorities. A new fire breaking out at the power plant has also threatened an unmanned oil tank that contains another 15,000 tonnes of oil. Thick, black smoke from the fire has been polluting the air over Beirut and its suburbs and officials in Beirut have warned residents near the sea to keep their windows closed and stay as far away from the oil as possible, since fumes from the oil can cause skin and respiratory problems.

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in the outskirts of the ancient city but its target was not immediately clear, the security sources said. Air strikes have hit civilians in several villages in the vicinity on several fronts in south Lebanon yesterday, "We have so far now about six efforts running inside Lebanon ... by a bigger or brigade-size efforts in each one of them," Israeli Brigadier General Shuki Shahar said. An Israeli brigade usually has at least 1,000 soldiers. Israel's justice minister said about 300 of an estimated 2,000 Hizbollah fighters had been killed so far, and the tourism minister later said 400 had already been killed. Hizbollah, which says it does not hide its dead and that it has many thousands more fighters, has announced 43 deaths in that period and said the Israeli statements were false. — Reuters.

Beirut, Aug 2 — Hizbollah guerrillas have fired at least 182 rockets into Israel, an Israeli security source said in south Lebanon today after helicopter-borne Israeli commandos attacked Hizbollah targets in the area. Air strikes in support of the helicopter raid on Baalbek in northeastern Lebanon killed 19 people, including four children. In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told Reuters Israel would carry on fighting until an international freeze reaches south Lebanon, but offered to send troops ahead of a truce and a durable ceasefire agreement. Olmert called for an international combat force to implement a U.N. resolution calling for Hizbollah to be disarmed, saying Israel had already destroyed much of the group's military power. Soon after he spoke, one of more than 180 rockets launched by Hizbollah today landed near a Hizbollah-run hospital in south Lebanon, killing 10 civilians, mostly children, in the southern village of Qana. Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos met Lebanese officials in the southern city of Tyre Tuesday evening (Aug 1) to allow two unidentified tankers to deliver fuel and diesel oil into Beirut port. The ships, which were the result of intense diplomatic negotiations between the Israeli forces and United Nations diplomats from the World Food Programme, have raised hopes that further urgent deliveries of humanitarian aid will now be allowed through the blockade. According to WFP sources the two vessels, carrying 1,900 tonnes of fuel and 50,000 tonnes of diesel oil, were finally granted safe passage and allowed to dock in Beirut early yesterday morning. The most recent humanitarian aid convoy to Lebanon had been turned back last week amid an Israeli air and sea blockade. Land routes, mainly by trucks carrying goods from Beirut port to Syria and beyond, are hit. Israel has struck the radars and fuel tanks at the ports, with port buildings in Tripoli and Tyre badly damaged. Beirut port has been spared the worst though it is now idle except for incoming humanitarian aid convoys and outgoing foreign evacuees.

London, Aug 2 — French shipping group CMA CGM is to provide a vessel to take urgently needed supplies into war-torn Lebanon. The company is working with France's ministry of foreign affairs, currently organizing the deployment of the national humanitarian aid effort. The Saade family, which owns CMA CGM, comes from Lebanon and has close ties to Lebanese relatives trapped in Beirut. No decision has been taken yet as to whether to supply a container or ro-ro vessel. The vessel will be placed at the disposal of the French government at no cost, said corporate communications senior vice president Tanya Saade Zeenny. CMA CGM hopes the Saadés will be able to leave Marseilles for Beirut in the next few days. Whether the shipment will be allowed through the Israeli military blockade, however, remains unclear. According to Ammar Kanaan, chief executive of Beirut Container Terminal, foreign vessels are coming in; however, these are mainly military vessels evacuating the foreigners. "The port is not under fire, but it is still under siege," he said. Access to Lebanese ports was temporarily granted by the Israeli army last Tuesday evening (Aug 1) to allow two unidentified tankers to deliver fuel and diesel oil into Beirut port. The shipments, which were the result of intense diplomatic negotiations between the Israeli forces and United Nations diplomats from the World Food Programme, have raised hopes that further urgent deliveries of humanitarian aid will now be allowed through the blockade. According to WFP sources the two vessels, carrying 1,900 tonnes of fuel and 50,000 tonnes of diesel oil, were finally granted safe passage and allowed to dock in Beirut early yesterday morning. The most recent humanitarian aid convoy to Lebanon had been turned back last week amid an Israeli air and sea blockade. Land routes, mainly by trucks carrying goods from Beirut port to Syria and beyond, are hit. Israel has struck the radars and fuel tanks at the ports, with port buildings in Tripoli and Tyre badly damaged. Beirut port has been spared the worst though it is now idle except for incoming humanitarian aid convoys and outgoing foreign evacuees.

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and Tripoli,” warned Amer Daoudi, WFP emergency co-ordinator on Monday, noting that the operations of power stations and other key installations are under severe threat.

While it is not clear which vessels were involved in the fuel supplies, as reported by the UN and International Red Cross, it is believed that two explosions occurred in the sea area off the coast of Lebanon for a further two weeks. The extension will come into effect immediately on expiration of the current WOA and continue until August 16, whereupon it will be subject to further review.

Gaza, Aug 3 — Israeli forces killed two suspected rebels and a civilian in the southern Gaza Strip, Palestinian witnesses said early today.

An airstrike killed one militant and wounded two others as gunmen confronted more than 50 Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers advancing near Rafah airport. Islamic Jihad said the dead and wounded men were its members. One of the wounded men was in a critical condition, witnesses said. The Israeli army confirmed its forces were operating in southern Gaza. The fighting came after its troops were targeted with a rocket-propelled grenade. A second airstrike east of Rafah killed a member of the Hamas militant group and wounded two civilians.

A Somali minister outside a mosque in the capital, Mogadishu, today, triggering riots by pro- and anti-Qaddafi fighters. According to a Somali security official, 500 soldiers were taking part in the clashes.

Philippines, Aug 1 — The military has reported at least 50+ soldiers were killed in a battle with Muslim rebels near the southern city of Zamboanga.

OPPOSITION & CONFLICT

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government blocked roads out of the town, and about 1,000 protesters fled by taking to the streets with sticks, knives and stones, witnesses said. Scores of shops were looted in several hours of chaos. Officials said details of how two men arrested on suspicion of involvement in the shooting. Other sources in Baidoa, however, said one was a young Muslim fundamentalist banned by the government. Eritrea's rulers in Mogadishu denied involvement, saying Ethiopia was behind the killing to destabilize its neighbor. “Its trained militia killed the minister,” Islamist leader Sheikh Sharif Ahmed said. Ethiopia did not immediately respond to the accusation but charged Eritrea actively supported radical Islamists in Somalia. Shocked diplomats and analysts said the shooting could have been by an Islamist militant or linked to internal divisions within the government. A no-confidence motion on Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi is due to be debated in parliament tomorrow. Amid the tensions, a curfew was imposed in Baidoa overnight. In what government sources said was an effort to draw the Islamists into peace talks, 18 ministers and other top officials quit the government yesterday. Analysts said power-sharing with the Islamists may be the only way to secure peace. In Mogadishu, meanwhile, another mysterious plane landed today, fuelling suspicions the Islamists were receiving weapon deliveries. Their militia blocked roads near the airport as military trucks unloaded goods to waiting trucks. On Wednesday (Jul 26), a cargo plane delivered goods an Islamist aide said were sewing machines. But the government pointed the finger at Eritrea, which it said was secretly arming the Islamists. — Reuters. (See issue of Jul 26.)

Mogadishu, Jul 30 — A conventional passenger plane flew in and out of Mogadishu's recently re-opened international airport for the first time in nearly six years on the request of stabilisers the Islamists have brought to the capital. “From now on, our airplanes will fly and land into Mogadishu's international airport,” said Fadil Hussein, an administration officer of local Jubba Airways, told Reuters. The airport re-opened earlier this month, as Islamists who took the city from warlords in June gradually have been restoring some long-closed installations in Mogadishu. As well as today's passenger flight, various cargo planes have also been flying in and out of Mogadishu this week. The flights have fuelled accusations from Somalia's interim government — based in the provinces — that the Islamists are receiving weapons from Eritrea in preparation for a possible military push against them. The Islamists and Eritrea both deny that. — AP

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Four more ministers have resigned from Somaliland and joined the government, following a larger walk-out last week. This comes as East African diplomats prepare to meet in Nairobi today, aimed at solving the crisis in Somalia. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development is expected to look into creating a buffer zone and so that a peacekeeping force could be deployed, but the Islamic courts that control the capital, Mogadishu, reject proposals for foreign troops in Somalia. “Because of... the Islamic courts, we have... decided to resign and join the other former ministers who have already stepped down,” a statement released today by four parliamentarians said. On Saturday (Jul 29), Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gheydi narrowly survived a parliamentary vote of no confidence, prompted by his perceived failure to reach a deal with the Union of Islamic Courts, whose militia have taken control of Mogadishu and much of the south. Tensions have been growing recently between the government, which controls only the town of Baidoa where it is based, and the UIC. Diplomats say no solution can be found without a new political strategy that make up the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development - hence the Nairobi talks. But two of the IGAD states - Kenya and Ethiopia - are the ones accused of meddling in Somalia. Ethiopia has acknowledged sending troops to support the embattled government in Baidoa and reports say Eritrea has been sending arm shipments to the Islamists in Mogadishu. The UIC has refused to attend talks to resolve the crisis as long as Ethiopian troops remain in Somalia. SRI LANKA

Colombo, Jul 28 — Tamil Tigers traded mortar fire with the military in Sri Lanka's east today while a bomb on a rickshaw exploded at a rebel checkpoint, killing six rebel fighters and injuring many more in a fourth day of aerial bombings today in a bid to wrest control of the restive east from the rebels. Kfir fighter planes raided the eastern districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee in an operation to clear the way to the sluice gate, which the government accuses the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of blocking to choke water supplies to farmers on government land. Military officials said the air force had destroyed a rebel base in Batticaloa and believed the death toll was far higher, but the Tigers said their fighters were killed on their forward defense line with government territory. The rebels vowed to hit back. "We can't continue to maintain our patience," said S. Elian, head of the Tigers' political wing in Trincomalee. "We will definitely retaliate... This is causing a war-like situation." Hardline Buddhist monks in saffron robes who hate the Tigers and are allied to President Mahinda Rajapakse are trying to restrict the sluice gate to the east in Batticaloa. Around 1,000 local farmers from government territory joined them in protest. "This is our life. We have passed all our valuable items, including gold to get money for cultivation," said farmer I.T. Karunaratne. "If we don't get water within two days, everything will go waste. All this because of the war. There should be peace. If the government can't open the sluice, how can they fight a war?" The Tigers demanded monitors from the five major Union states Sweden, Finland and Denmark quit the 5-nation Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) by September 1 after they were listed as terrorists. The Finns and Danes said yesterday they had been left with no choice but to remove 22 monitors between them in the absence of security guarantees. They have yet decided. Their exit will badly hamper the mission at a time when it is monitoring the bloodiest period since the cease-fire after it has come under fire from countries out, it reduces the mission.
by more than a third and is a serious task to solve," said SLMM spokesman Theres. "We will want to get a final decision from Sweden. Then it is in the hands of Norway and Iceland. "It's a question of how we can have confidence in keeping the operation functioning," he added. "One option is to get additional countries involved. The Tigers have pulled out of peace talks indefinitely, Rajapakse had said. "A divided problem will demand the separate Tamil homeland, and analysts and diplomats widely fear it could take years to seal a final peace deal. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jul 31 — Sri Lanka's four-year ceasefire is now void and the island's two-decade civil war is back on, on a top Tamil Tiger rebel said today as the guerrillas and the military entered a sixth straight day of fighting. S. Elian, head of the Tigers' political wing in the restive eastern district of Trincomalee, said army troops had resumed a bid to advance towards land they control in the east and had fired artillery and mortars at them. They had fragmented mine爆炸 their way towards the forward defence line in the east in a water supply dispute. Elian is not the Tigers' main spokesman, but he is one of their top officials and their political head in Trincomalee. He has repeatedly warned of a return to war. Sri Lanka's air force has killed 15 rebels in overnight bombing raids in the east and injured several others. The army says it has sustained no casualties, despite reports of injuries around the strategic eastern port of Trincomalee yesterday as they tried to reach a sluice where the Tigers were blocking water to Sinhalese farmers in government territory. It is the first open advance on rebel-held areas since the 2002 ceasefire. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jul 31 — Eighteen soldiers were killed when a fragmentation mine blew up their army bus in restive east Sri Lanka, hours after a top Tamil Tiger accused the government of restarting the country's two-decade civil war. The military blamed the ambush — the deadliest such attack since a 2002 truce — on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Seven soldiers and three rebels were killed earlier in the day in the first army advance on rebel-held territory since the ceasefire, taking the day's death toll to 28. — Reuters.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Tamil Tiger rebels have launched a new offensive to keep the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) away from the island. The Tigers said they were involved in a full-scale battle with the Tigers over a disputed waterway some 70 kms away. Meanwhile Sweden said today it would pull out its staff from the SLMM after its mission ended. — Reuters.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jul 29 — Sudanese government forces and allied militias attacked bases of a new rebel alliance in Darfur despite a six-month ceasefire. "Some Tigers are still in the town and are fighting at our troops with small arms," they are sure to move east back to their own territory." The main military advance to reopen a single Tiger-held sluice gate south of Mutur and restore water to 50,000 people seems to have all but halted minefields and mortar fire. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked three army camps before dawn yesterday and the military fear for more attacks. Assessing casualties is almost impossible. The army says it killed dozens of rebels yesterday for the loss of six servicemen. Diplomats say the government is likely talking up rebel losses and may also talk down its own casualties. On Tuesday, the Tigers were able to shell the Trincomalee naval base with howitzers. The fire did not resume yesterday, indicating the LTTE had either been destroyed or moved out of range. The big question mark, aid workers say, is over what is happening in the mainly Muslim, army-held town of Mutur, close to the border with rebel territory. The town overlooks the entrance to Trincomalee port. Some aid workers say they have to live with shellflights, with civilians sheltering in churches, mosques and education centres. So far, it is too risky for aid staff to head in. Mutur is bordered to the north by water and to the east and west by rebel territory. If, as some reports suggest, clashes block the road to the south, then the town is cut off. — Reuters.

Colombo, Aug 3 — A Tamil Tiger army shell hit an Arabic college during a battle in eastern Sri Lanka today, killing 10 civilians, the island's military said. "The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired the shell. Ten adults were killed and there are also 20 others injured," a military spokesman said. The rebels and army battled with artillery, mortar bombs and small arms fire today and in around the town of Mutur in the eastern district of Trincomalee. — Reuters.
"Yesterday (Friday) all day and until the evening the government of Sudan with the support of NRF, attacked Jabel Moun and Kulukul, north of el-Fasher," Abu Bakr Hamid al-Nur, a rebel NRF commander, told Reuters from Darfur today. The rebels said Jabel Moun and Kulukul are a mountainous area on the Sudan-Chad border. Kulukul is 35 km north of Darfur’s main town el-Fasher. Nur said the government used Antonov planes and tanks to attack Jabel Moun and Kulukul. "We moved an administrative force from el-Fasher which was ambushed by the NRF near Kulukul," said an army spokesman, adding one soldier was killed and another injured. "In Jabel Moun we have security forces at the entry and exit points to stop rebel forces who are looting from civilians and these clashes are happening daily," he added. The African Union and United Nations stand on a joint statement late yesterday condemning the violence in Jabel Moun and blaming the government and Janjaweed for the attacks on civilians. "We are particularly concerned about the fate of the civilian population in the area," the statement said. "(We) call on the parties involved in the fighting to abide by what has been agreed and to guarantee the safety of the civilians." All the main rebel groups signed a ceasefire in 2004 while some NRF commanders say this truce is now dead. Nur said it only applied in Darfur but the NRF were free to attack the government in other areas of Sudan where they have troops. The cash-strapped African Union force backs a U.N. takeover of its struggling Darfur peace monitoring mission and has become increasingly ineffective since the peace deal, as fighting escalated between rebels many of whom disavow the deal. An international aid group was attacked in West Darfur by NRF rebels on July 27 by the displaced who said they were poisoning them with vaccinations, a U.N. report said. One Sudanese driver was killed and three national staff of the aid groups, which was not named, were injured in the attack. In South Darfur’s vast Kalma camp, 17 women were raped by armed militiamen as they went out to collect firewood last Monday (Jul 24), the Sudanese Organization Against Torture said. "During the attack, the militia opened fire with the whole magazine of their guns and flogged them before raping 17 of the women," the rights group said. — Reuters.

THAILAND

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Three police officers were killed and another injured when a bomb exploded along rail tracks in the restive southern provinces of Thailand this morning, hours after insurgents launched more than 70 mortar and rocket attacks last night. Police said the bomb was triggered off in Songkhla Province’s Chana about 0715 hrs when security forces were inspecting rail tracks. "This was a routine patrol before trains depart every morning," the police official said. Last night, a soldier was wounded when a bomb hidden near a tree exploded in Narathiwat while at least two karaoke outlets were also targeted. Police said more than 70 violent attacks took place last night when insurgents started their attacks from 2000 hrs in the four southern provinces of Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla. Insurgents also targeted government officials’ residence, government buildings, burning tyres and throwing spikes on the road to slow down movement of security forces and set a rubber factory on fire. Officials said security forces were put on alert after they received information that there would be big scale attacks tonight. Bangkok has dispatched more than 20,000 troops to the restive region but facing difficulties in tracing down the insurgents who deploy guerilla style movements.

UGANDA

Nabanga, Aug 2 — Peace talks between the Ugandan government and the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) will resume next Monday (Aug 7) in Juba, Riek Machar, the chief mediator and southern Sudanese Vice-President, said. "The talks will start on Monday," Machar told reporters yesterday near the border between Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), after meeting Joseph Kony, the LRA leader. "I am optimistic that this time they will come up with a positive result because I have seen the commitment of the Ugandan people." However, Kony demanded a cessation of hostilities before talks. "We wish to categorically state that any meaningful negotiations can take place without a cessation of hostilities," he said. Kony denied abduction of children by West Darfur government forces. "We moved an administrative force from el-Fasher to stop rebel forces who are looting from civilians and these clashes are happening daily," he added. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 3,000 Colombian oil workers will hold a one-day strike to protest government plans to sell off 20 percent of state-run oil company Ecopetrol SA, union officials said today. "All our workers are going to stop working to defend the business from privatization," oil workers union president Jorge Gamboa said, adding that the stoppage would be on Thursday (Aug 3). Ecopetrol has employed nonunion workers during past work stoppages, resulting in little difference in the operations of Colombia’s largest company. Gamboa said Ecopetrol had prevented union members from entering the company’s installations Wednesday (Aug 2). In past strikes, Ecopetrol has accused the union of sabotaging machinery and
equipment, a charge denied by the union. An Ecopetrol spokesman said that although the company had no immediate reaction and would not comment until a strike was under way, President Alvaro Uribe is set to meet with the union Wednesday to discuss the government’s plans for Ecopetrol, one of the government’s largest sources of revenue. While proven reserves are declining, oil is still Colombia’s largest legal export, accounting for about 25 percent of overseas income. In an effort to balance the central government’s finances, Uribe has privatized a number of state entities, including banks, electricity companies and hospitals.

**CYPRIUS**

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: About 280 workers from the National Bank of Greece working in a total of 20 branches on the island of Cyprus are going on a termless strike as of today. The strike was organized after the expired contracts of two employees of the National Bank from Greek origin were renewed.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Johannesburg, Jul 31 — A strike over wages by workers at Kumba Resources, Africa’s top iron ore producer, widened today as the Solidarity union joined after its members rejected the latest wage offer. With Solidarity joining, the unions said some 6,000 workers were now striking in part or the whole of the strike, which started yesterday. About 4,000 workers of South Africa’s biggest miners’ union, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and 500 from a smaller union went on strike as of today. The three unions have demanded that Kumba increase wages by nine percent at higher grades and 10.5% at lower levels. — Reuters.

Johannesburg, Aug 1 — Kumba Resources, Africa’s top iron ore producer, said today a strike over wages by about 6,000 workers at its iron ore and coal mines had disrupted production, and it was relying on strategic stockpiles to mitigate the loss of output. Kumba, majority owned by mining giant Anglo American Plc, says it has about 9,000 workers. Solidarity said the strike had halted mining at Kumba’s mines owned by Kumba in Sishen, the country’s biggest iron ore mine, and Grootegeluk, Kumba’s flagship coal mine. — Reuters.

**SPAIN**

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Thousands of desperate travellers packed Barcelona airport today because of lingering chaos from a wildcat strike by ground crew employees that forced the cancellation of nearly 600 flights on one of the busiest days of the vacation season. Spain’s industry and development ministers condemned yesterday’s 11-hour walkout by 2,500 Iberia employees - 200 of them swarmed over runways, halting all air traffic for most of the day - and said legal action against unions behind the strike would continue with their disrupted travel plans. Carriers struggled to deal with travellers whose flights were cancelled yesterday and others arriving for flights scheduled for today. Iberia and unions representing the disgruntled ground staff were meeting today, Iberia said. Thousands of people spent the night at the jam-packed airport. Red Cross crews handed out food and water. Frustrated travellers blocked roads leading into the airport yesterday night. Close to 100,000 passengers were affected by the airport disruption. Iberia said. A trickle of flights resumed yesterday night. The Iberia employees were angry because the Spanish national airport authority, known as AENA, this week granted a new handling license at Barcelona’s El Prat Airport to Spanish construction and services company Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas SA and to affiliates of Iberia’s rivals Air Europa and Spanair, which is a unit of Scandinavian airline operator SAS AB.

**SRI LANKA**

Karachi, July 29 — M.S.M Niyaz, Chairman of the Sri Lank Association of Clearing and Forwarding Agents, has estimated that the damage caused due to “go slow work” by Sri Lanka Ports Authority trade unions recently to press their demands could be as high as Rs. one billion. He told local media that the disruption to movement of cargo due to the trade union action could as well have long term negative effect on the export and import sectors. He urged unions and authorities should make every effort to avoid such unfortunate incidents in future. He said at the moment the level of congestion at the port is too high due to the backlog created at the port. “It will take some time to reduce this congestion. It will even take as long as another one month,” Niyaz said. He said that most of the containers shipped to Colombo during the period when the port workers were engaged in a go-slow campaign have been dislocated in several other ports in the region. “These containers which are now in ports such as Singapore, Malaysia, Mumbai and Dubai have to be shipped again to Colombo,” Niyaz said. In order to reduce congestion at the Port he proposed that all the LCL (Less Container Load) cargo to be sent to the off-port container freight station at Peliyagoda. That would reduce the pressure on the Port to a great extent,” Niyaz said. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

**ASBESTOS-RELATED ILLNESS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: A jury awarded Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

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series of landmark court rulings, instigated by the music and film industries, that illegal downloading site in Britain, which sells allofmp3.com, the second most popular download site in Britain, which sells chart albums for less than £1. Along with Russia and South Korea, the IFPI named Canada one of the worst offenders. Outdated copyright laws have helped digital piracy flourish, the report said. John Kennedy, chairman of the IFPI, said: "The Kazaa ruling is a major step forward because the industry can now put their powerful distribution software to a legitimate use. But the increasing take-up of broadband means more opportunity for illegal downloading. We are surprised that a sophisticated nation like Canada takes so little care of its intellectual property." The IFPI said that illegal action against individuals who were found to be file sharers would continue. About 20 cases have been brought, with offenders in Britain paying up to £6,500.

LEGAL AFFAIRS & SETTLEMENTS

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated July 28, states: The music industry hailed a victory in the battle against illegal downloading yesterday after forcing one of the world’s most prominent file-sharing sites to pay $100 million in damages and become a legal business. Kazaa, a longstanding source of illicit music and film downloading, is facing a $2.7 million fine. Official figures showed that Kazaa was by far the most downloaded software with 239 million. Sharman Networks, which is based in Australia and is the owner of Kazaa, agreed yesterday to pay the fine after four years working with simultaneous users worldwide. The Kazaa-to-peers network acted as a free jukebox, making files accessible to any computer. Kazaa became the most downloaded software with 239 million. Sharman Networks, which is based in Australia and is the owner of Kazaa, agreed yesterday to pay the fine after four years working with simultaneous users worldwide. The Kazaa-to-peers network acted as a free jukebox, making files accessible to any computer. Kazaa was by far the most downloaded software with 239 million.

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settlement was made about five months after the January 2005 accident, it is believed that Stanko had caused the accident. Stanko was convicted Wednesday (Jul 26) of drunken driving, but acquitted of charges of homicide by vehicle while intoxicated and reckless endangerment. State police say Stanko was driving with a blood alcohol level twice the legal limit when his car struck a Centre line and hit the vehicle driven by 28-year-old Linda Jenkins of Butler (Pennsylvania), who was four months pregnant. She died the next day.

**Railway Accidents**

**BEAUMONT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The site where the train derailed was at Beaumont station, which manages the tracks in Beaumont, was investigating the accident, the station reported.

**DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 people were injured when a passenger train derailed in Durban this morning. Metnoc 911 spokesperson Chris Botha said one coach left the tracks near the Durban-bound 9202 train at 0645 hrs. Most of the injured passengers had tried to jump from the coach, said Netcare 911 paramedic Chris Botha. Metrorail spokeswoman Thandi Mkhize said train services had been “severely affected” by the derailment, with delays of 45 minutes to an hour. She said Metrorail was investigating the incident. The cause of the derailment was not known. The Railway Safety Regulator said it would continue to engage with Metrorail and the South African Rail Commuter Corporation to ensure both adhered to safety standards.

**SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A train partially derailed in Savannah yesterday. The train “jumped the tracks” at Bay Street and Augusta Avenue. Police says two of 26-boxcars derailed around 0530 hrs yesterday morning. The woodchip cargo was not affected and no one was hurt. The train was headed to Faulkville from Savannah International Paper. CSX and Georgia Central Railway officials are investigating.

**TAMPA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A major Tampa road was blocked after two lomcottons and two freight cars carrying grain have derailed in Florida’s Orange County yesterday afternoon. A crane was used to clear the train. There were no injuries or hazardous spills, and crews were working to clean up damaged cars. According to CSX railroad company, the train was heading to Faulkville from Savannah and on its side, yesterday. Crews were working to clean up damaged cars. The derailment blocked off traffic on Busch Blvd between Himes and Twin Lakes Blvd. Crews are waiting for equipment to come in from Georgia to clear the train. It was expected that the area would be closed throughout the morning and possibly into the afternoon.

**THOMPSON RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

London, Aug 3 — A report from LaSalle, PQ, states: A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Twelve CP Rail cars carrying coal tumbled from a trestle into the Thompson River, BC, late Monday (Jul 31). The westbound trestle was on route to Vancouver on tracks jointly used by CN and CP Rail when the derailment occurred. Of the 124 cars, 20 derailed and 12 plummeted down a steep embankment into the river, CP Rail spokesman Ed Greenberg said yesterday. There were no injuries. CN spokesman Jim Feeny said the busy section of track would remain closed for the foreseeable future. “There are coal cars in the river right now and we’ll be removing the coal when it is practically possible,” Feeny said. Transport Canada spokesman Rod Nelson said tests would be conducted to see if there are any risks to the river’s habitat. Bernie Fandrich, owner of Lytton-based Kumsheen Rafting Resort, said Monday afternoon that he forced his company to “shut down on that section of river.”

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.
A press report, dated today, states: Russia’s famed State Hermitage Museum yesterday reported the theft of more than 220 works, including jewellery and engraved objects, worth around $5.6 million, an incident that highlighted the poor security at Russian cultural institutions. The Hermitage housed in the ornate Winter Palace of the Russian czars in St. Petersburg said museum employees were likely involved in the thefts. The museum said staff members learned of the missing items during a routine inventory. When the check started, the curator in charge of most of the collection where the theft occurred died suddenly at his workplace, the statement said. The museum did not identify the curator or say when or how he died. It also did not identify specific items that were stolen. There are many strange aspects of this affair, but unfortunately, there is no doubt that it did not happen without the participation of museum staff, the statement said. The museum also said it was trying to modernise its system for monitoring visitors and employees, and acknowledged that most of the premises were not fully secured. Many of the building’s more than 1,000 rooms have inadequate ventilation and some employees, for example, often have to open windows for fresh air. The museum closed the Great in 1764. Today, its vast holdings of antique and Western art include world-renowned collections of Italian Renaissance, 17th and 18th century Dutch and Flemish, and Impressionist renowned collections of Italian and Western art include world-renowned collections of Italian Renaissance, 17th and 18th century Dutch and Flemish, and Impressionist art are included in this arrangement. Rosonkrhankulturka will send investigators to the Hermitage tomorrow to review its security measures, news agencies reported.

### BUNKER SHORTAGE, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Aug 14 — There has been an increased reports of vessels forced to divert away from South Africa to find bunker supplies as the oil refineries run low on supplies. For example it was being claimed there were no spot fuel fixtures available at any South African port. The situation has arisen partly as a result of the annual shutdown at the Shell/BP refinery in Durban leaving the Engen refinery battling to keep up with demand. Adding to the problem is that Cape Town’s Caltex Refinery is reported to have also run out of stock. Ports and Ships was told that shipping lines and agents holding contracts were the only ones obtaining bunkers at present. The Shell/BP Refinery (Sapref) is expected to return to production Aug 14 following its shutdown for maintenance, after which the situation with bunkers can be expected to return to normal. After disastrous shortages of fuel last year when four of the refineries were shut at the same time it was understood that arrangements would be made in future to import fuel requirements when necessary. While there are no shortages at the Engen diesel being reported at present it is apparent that bunker fuel, which is mainly a waste product from production is not included in this arrangement.

### GREENPEACE PROTEST AT NELSON, NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Jul 28 — Following Greenpeace protest release issued at 0843, Jul 30: Early today, Greenpeace activists locked themselves to fishing (general) Chang Xing (1314 gt, built 1975) to prevent it from leaving Nelson. Four activists boarded the Chang Xing, locking themselves to the mast and other parts of the vessel. In blocking the vessel’s departure, Greenpeace also locked metal braces and a large sculpture of a deep-sea fish to the vessel stern as a reminder of the deep sea life being destroyed daily by heavy seas bottom trawlers. “We’ve done what the Government should be doing — taking strong action against those who are destroying unique deep-sea life out in international waters,” said Greenpeace oceans campaigner Mike Hagler. Greenpeace expressed the damage caused by dragging heavy bottom trawl nets across the sea floor by filming and photographing the crew of the Chang Xing dumping large quantities of unwanted species including lantern sharks, squid, deep-sea kina and endangered black coral. — Lloyd’s Agents.

### OUTBREAK OF “BIRD FLU”

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Five new patients in Phitsanulok and Phichit provinces declared bird flu red zones, are suspected to have caught the H5N1 virus, doctors said yesterday. The Public Health Ministry said the new cases pushed the number of suspected cases to 44 nationwide, all awaiting bird flu laboratory test results. Bunchai Theerakan, acting chief of Phitsanulok Public Health Office, said three new patients in the province were admitted on Wednesday at Nong Maprang, Wang Thong and Rung Phiat hospital. All showed symptoms similar to influenza, and all had had direct contact with chicken in areas where mass chicken deaths were reported. The hospitals were waiting for blood test results. Dr Bunchai said doctors had found seven suspected bird flu cases in Phitsanulok since the start of the year, but tests for all came back negative. In Phichit, two patients, a 42-year-old woman from Sak Lek sub-district and a four-year-old girl from Thap Hae district became ill after they touched dead chicken carcasses at their homes, according to Dr Sunee Theerakanwong, director of Phichit Hospital. Mysterious mass chicken deaths have also occurred in Phichit. Five other provinces listed among the bird flu alert zones are Sukhothai, Uttaradit, Suphan Buri, Kanchanaburi and Nakhon Pathom. Tawatch Suntracharn, director-general of the Disease Control Department, said Phichit has the highest number of suspected deaths with 15, followed by Sukhothai, 10, and Suphan Buri, seven. Meanwhile, caretaker Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan told officials in bird flu zones to follow the ministry’s avian flu control procedures to help control the disease spread. (See issue of Jul 28.)

### A311DEATH

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A trojan known as A311 Death is estimated to have infected 10,000 computers in Australia. The Australian Computer Emergency Response Team is investigating the program, which is believed to have come from Russia. Chris Horaley, a AusCERT security analyst, says thousands of Australian PCs are infected, and the trojan is spreading fast. “Our current estimate is around 10,000 but there’s more infections world-wide,” he said. “They seem to be constantly feeding new runs of this particular trojan by a lot of different vectors.” The Australian Tax Office says the A311 Death trojan has been used to detect the tax file numbers of 200 people who have lodged their tax returns online. Those people have all been offered new tax file numbers, and a spokeswoman says lodging a tax return online is still considered safe if users have the latest virus detection software. But Mr Horsley says most anti-virus programs will not detect this trojan. Sometimes not. One of the methods that the trojan uses is disabling antivirus and also changing the operating system to hide its presence when the programs running on it,” he said. “So that’s made detection in this particular case quite difficult.” But Peter Cassidy, from the US based Anti-Phishing Working Group, says virus protection is still a good idea.

### Miscellaneous

**ROBBERS & THEFTS**

THEFTS FROM MUSEUM, ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Russia’s famed State Hermitage Museum yesterday reported the theft of more than 220 works, including jewellery and engraved objects, worth around $5.6 million, an incident that highlighted the poor security at Russian cultural institutions. The Hermitage housed in the ornate Winter Palace of the Russian czars in St. Petersburg said museum employees were likely involved in the thefts. The museum said staff members learned of the missing items during a routine inventory. When the check started, the curator in charge of most of the collection where the theft occurred died suddenly at his workplace, the statement said. The museum did not identify the curator or say when or how he died. It also did not identify specific items that were stolen. There are many strange aspects of this affair, but unfortunately, there is no doubt that it did not happen without the participation of museum staff, the statement said. The museum also said it was trying to modernise its system for monitoring visitors and employees, and acknowledged that most of the premises were not fully secured. Many of the building’s more than 1,000 rooms have inadequate ventilation and some employees, for example, often have to open windows for fresh air. The Hermitage was started by Catherine the Great in 1764. Today, its vast holdings of antique and Western art include world-renowned collections of Italian Renaissance, 17th and 18th century Dutch and Flemish, and Impressionist renowned collections of Italian and Western art include world-renowned collections of Italian Renaissance, 17th and 18th century Dutch and Flemish, and Impressionist art are included in this arrangement. Rosonkrhankulturka will send investigators to the Hermitage tomorrow to review its security measures, news agencies reported.

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was reported yesterday in the central region of Gelderse Vallei. “All 25,000 birds at the farm were culled last night,” a spokeswoman for the Dutch Agriculture Ministry said. “We are now taking samples of all farms around the farm and testing and the first results are expected on Friday (Aug 4). Authorities in the Netherlands, Europe’s second biggest poultry producer after France, were hit by an H7N7 avian flu strain in 2003, which led to the culling of some 30 million birds, about a third of its poultry flock. The virus had proved negative, it said. H7 bird flu in its highly pathogenic form can kill large numbers of birds and can occasionally infect people, although it is rarely fatal in humans. — Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS FLAG VESSEL

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Passenger (cruise) Mariner of the Seas (138279 gt, built 2003) fell ill with a gastrointestinal illness during a weeklong voyage from the Bahamas. The ship’s owners said today. The illness, believed to be a norovirus, was brought onto the vessel by a passenger, struck 221 of the ship’s 3,680 passengers and six of its 1,202 crew members, said Royal Caribbean spokesman Michael Sheehan. Sick passengers started complaining of vomiting and diarrhea Wednesday (Jul 26) and were treated with over-the-counter medication, he said. Most are expected to have recovered by the time the ship docked tomorrow morning in Port Canaveral as scheduled, Sheehan said. The cruise included ports of call in the Bahamas, Virgin Islands and St. Maarten.

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Passenger (cruise) Mariner of the Seas is in the Caribbean today, one day after some heavy cleaning while in Port Canaveral after more than 300 people on board the previous voyage came down with Norovirus. The Brevard County Health Department and the Centre for Disease Control has tracked the disease back to a passenger who brought it on board with them. That virus spread quickly to 328 passengers and about a dozen crew members. The cruise line tried to prevent the spread of the virus by handing out hand sanitiser and urging passengers to wash their hands. Workers from the cruise line and the Centre for Disease Control spent several hours yesterday scrubbing down almost every surface of the vessel.

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands)

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at two propane dealers Friday (Jul 28) night. Damage estimates are predicted to be in the millions of dollars. Ashley Furniture lost about $750,000 in inventory Friday night. The explosion blew out a back door causing the overhead sprinkler system to fail. The water hit the Ashley warehouse as well as the one next door. Ashley regional manager Bill Bedore says overheat sprinklers at the warehouse saúde are “on hold” pending an investigation, running through everything in stock. He estimates it will take “a few months” to repair the damage. The water from Ashley ended up next door at Goodman/Amana. A lot of businesses that were affected are meeting with insurance agents. But what happens with those claims could depend a lot on what fire investigators find. Fire investigators have their work cut out. It all started at ProFlame. On Friday night there was talk that lighting may have sparked the explosion and resulting fire but that was quickly ruled out. It has been established that an employee was filling up a tank when the explosion happened, still an investigator said it doesn’t look like it was intentionally set. North Las Vegas fire investigators are back at the scene gathering evidence and they have a capsule theory. “There were tanks being filled, we’re just not sure from that point how the flames started and how it got going from there,” explained one investigator. While the investigation continues, so does the clean up, both at ProFlame where the fire started and at AmeriGas next door. AmeriGas’ district manager, David Vance, is already focusing on rebuilding, but guarantees his employees and customers have nothing to worry about; it’s business as usual. “No, there will be no layoff, they’re out there delivering gas right now.” Despite all the damage, local fire officials say of the amazing no one was killed or severely injured. Chunks of the exploded propane tanks were found 300 yards away. Each weighed about 3,000 pounds. Friday (Jul 28) fire investigators estimated the damage to be between $1.5 million and $2 million, but now they say that estimate could go a lot higher, but they won’t know until their investigation is complete.

CHEMICAL PLANT, LINHAI, JIANGSU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion at a chemical plant in eastern China killed 11 miners on the team, were suspended for check-up.

A total of 7,000 local residents who were evacuated from the blast site have returned to their homes as local environmental protection authorities said by last night, the toxic gas, chlorine, from the blast had dispersed and had little influence in the area. Preliminary investigation showed improper operation by workers was mainly to blame for the accident. Government of the Sheyang County has ordered all chemical industries suspend production for check-up.

COAL MINE, FUYYIAN, CHINA

London, Aug 1 — Eleven miners were killed in a sudden surge of coal and gas at a coal mine in Fuyuan, a county in eastern China’s Jiangsu Province had risen to 22, with 28 others injured, according to the China’s state media. The blast, which took place at 0845 yesterday at the Fuyuan Chemical Plant, a Sino-German joint venture in Linhai Township of Sheyang County, toppled the workshop. The plant produces Dichloro Fluoro Benzene for industry. The 28 people who were injured in the blast has been hurried to hospital.

More than 7,000 local residents who were evacuated from the blast site have returned to their homes as local environmental protection authorities said by last night, the toxic gas, chlorine, from the blast had dispersed and had little influence in the area. Preliminary investigation showed improper operation by workers was mainly to blame for the accident. Government of the Sheyang County has ordered all chemical industries suspend production for check-up.

Electricity Sub-Station, Saltley, Birmingham, United Kingdom

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 17,000 homes and businesses in the Birmingham area have been left without power after a fire at an electricity sub-station. Central Networks engineers were notified just before 2245, UTC, yesterday of a fire at the sub-station in Watson Road East, Saltley. Company spokeswoman Rebecca Middleton said they were switching customers onto different parts of the network. Heartlands Hospital was forced to use back-up generators as customers in areas as far apart as Ward End, Bordesley Green East and Erdington reported loss of supply. Parts of the overhead lighting network were also plunged into darkness. Ms Middleton said she was unable to say when power would be restored. “We are trying to switch customers onto different parts of the network,” she said. Jim Sinnott, from the Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade said they were alerted at 1118 hrs. Film crew members said filming had finished and the set was being de-rigged. Pinewood - which began life in 1935 - has a long association with the Bond films, starting with the first movie Dr No in 1962. It took more than a year for a sound stage to be rebuilt following a fire at the studios in 1984. It reopened in January 1985.

Forest, Brazil

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated Jul 26, states: A fire raging today through a rain forest along Brazil’s eastern coastline, 25,000 acres of trees, firefighters said. The fire in Brazil’s Atlantic Forest remained out of control late today, said firefighters from the municipality of Mage, 50 miles north-east of Rio de Janeiro. The forest has been threatened by a month-long dry spell, the firefighters said. Environmentalists say the Atlantic Forest, a diverse and fragile ecosystem, is home to hundreds of bird species, many of which are unique to the region.

Forest, Indonesia

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters today battled more than 170 raging ground and forest fires on the Indonesian part of Borneo island to prevent haze spreading to neighbouring countries, officials said. More than 50 firefighters worked to contain forest fires and blazes set to clear land at 171 hotspots in four provinces on the island. "Military spokesman Masyud. He said another
UNITED STATES
OIL RIG EXPLOSION
WAREHOUSE, REDMOND, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: A fire yesterday killed an estimated $1.5 million damage to an oil refinery in East Java province early today, police said. The blast took place at a joint Pertamina-PetroChina oil refinery in Bojonegoro regency just after midnight, as workers tried to contain a gas leak in the refinery. Firefighters were called shortly before 2200 hrs to J.T. Shavings at 2162 SE 1st Street. The arriving crews found the fire burning on the east end of the building and spreading throughout the warehouse. Crews stopped the fire at an interior wall and protected an office area from fire damage, she said. Investigators were on scene today looking for the cause of the fire.

OIL RIG EXPLOSION
GUYMON AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Two oil rig maintenance workers remain hospitalized after being injured when a natural gas rig near Guymon, Oklahoma, exploded. Guymon Fire Chief Clark Purdy said the men are in a local hospital, but their injuries do not appear to be life-threatening. Their names have not been released. The two were part of a crew from Eagle Well Service of Libby, Montana, working on the rig, about five miles north-east of Guymon, when it caught fire Tuesday afternoon (Jul 25.). The rig is owned by E-O-G Resources of Houston and was destroyed by the fire.

OIL RIG EXPLOSION
GUYMON AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The estimated damage caused by a fire at Hudson Auto Sales has risen from $1 million to $1.5 million. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. The July 22nd fire destroyed the auto repair shop and at least 18 of its vehicles. Business owner Edison Santana of Leominster said he has no insurance on the business. The state fire marshal’s office ruled the fire accidental, but it will take more time to determine exactly what happened. Witnesses reported a series of explosions within the garage of Hudson Auto Sales while fire tore through the roof and walls of the building. Workers inside the six-bay garage of Hudson Auto Sales saw sparks falling from the ceiling before an explosion rocked the building.

PREMISES, MANAMA, BAHRAIN

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: A fire yesterday continued the task of dealing with the causes and aftermath of the worst tragedy to hit labourers in the kingdom. Fire yesterday killed 16 Indians mostly from the state of Tamil Nadu, who were sleeping in overcrowded accommodation. An ad-hoc joint committee of Civil Defence and labour ministry’s representatives is still investigating the cause of the fire but an official has urged all people in charge of labour accommodation to adhere to safety measures to ensure the tragedy is not repeated. “One possible cause is the large number of labourers who were living in cramped accommodation,” Civil Defence director Khalid Al Abi yesterday said in a press statement.

WAREHOUSE, REDMOND, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: At least 900 residents evacuated Chadron, Nebraska, after wildfires reached the town’s border and caught several houses on fire today. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency spokesman Jim Bunstock said. Firefighters were called today to control six wildfires burning since late Wednesday (Jul 26) after multiple lightning strikes hit dry grasslands in the north-west area of the state, Bunstock said. The wildfires span across a 25-mile area, he said. Personnel from the state and federal National Guard, federal firefighters and other agencies were assisting in quelling the fire, which may grow or shift given today’s “hot, windy and dry” forecasted weather conditions, Bunstock said. Any evacuations depend on the damage produced by the two fires that were burning parts of Chadron late yesterday into today. So far no death or injuries have been reported.

OIL RIG EXPLOSION
GUYMON AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters yesterday continued the task of dealing with the causes and aftermath of the worst tragedy to hit labourers in the kingdom. Fire yesterday killed 16 Indians mostly from the state of Tamil Nadu, who were sleeping in overcrowded accommodation. An ad-hoc joint committee of Civil Defence and labour ministry’s representatives is still investigating the cause of the fire but an official has urged all people in charge of labour accommodation to adhere to safety measures to ensure the tragedy is not repeated. “One possible cause is the large number of labourers who were living in cramped accommodation,” Civil Defence director Khalid Al Abi yesterday said in a press statement.

London, Jul 25 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: Two oil rig workers were part of a crowd that was caught in the blaze. Three miles north of Guymon, the Lakin fire, was burning a half mile east of California-Oregon Transmission Project power lines and three-quarters of a mile south of lines used by the Western Area Power Administration and Pacific Gas & Electric Co. The California Independent System Operator, which manages most of the state’s power grid, said Friday (Jul 28) that it had contingency plans to reroute electricity around the transmission lines if they failed or had to be shut down because of the fire. The lines carry about 4,200 megawatts between Washington’s Bonneville Power Administration and California. More than 300 firefighters were battling the blaze, which had charred 507 acres in mountainous terrain about 200 miles north of Sacramento. Firefighters hoped the fire would extinguish itself over the next few days but an official has urged all people in charge of labour accommodation to adhere to safety measures to ensure the tragedy is not repeated. “One possible cause is the large number of labourers who were living in cramped accommodation,” Civil Defence director Khalid Al Abi yesterday said in a press statement.
south-east of Harrison, has reached US Highway 20. Officials estimate it to be 70% contained. In addition, three more wildfires continue to burn outside of Chadron, Neb. The Nebraska governor's office said that, out of the six fires burning in north-western Nebraska, only one is contained and a second one is almost contained. However, windy conditions are keeping the other fires burning strong. Much of north-western Nebraska is charred after lightning strikes sparked several wildfires across the panhandle late last week. Old wild fires, hot and dry conditions, and about 700 firefighters continue to battle the flames.

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: Firefighters continued to make progress in containing wildfires burning around Texas today but windy conditions have been slowing their efforts. The Texas Forest Service says as many as ten fires are burning in the state and over 80,000 acres have been scorched since Thursday (Jul 27). Fires broke out in north, central, and southern areas of the state, including in Comanche, Palo Pinto, Clay, Menard, Kendall, Throckmorton and Young counties.

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London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Firefighters continued to make progress in containing wildfires burning around Texas today containing wildfires burning around Texas today but windy conditions have been slowing their efforts. The Texas Forest Service says as many as ten fires are burning in the state and over 80,000 acres have been scorched since Thursday (Jul 27). Fires broke out in north, central, and southern areas of the state, including in Comanche, Palo Pinto, Clay, Menard, Kendall, Throckmorton and Young counties.Officials say some parts of Texas are 30 inches behind normal precipitation over the last 16 months — and fire conditions could worsen unless more rain falls. Firefighters said they are worried that Monday’s 100-degree temperatures could bring the fires out of control again. (See issue of Aug 1.)

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throughout Texas. A fire in north-west Comanche County had burned 100 acres and threatened 15 homes, including at least six that were temporarily evacuated, said Traci Weaver, spokeswoman for the Texas Forest Service. The fire was 90% contained. Firefighters had yet to get control of a “very active” fire in south-west Texas. A group of three fires had burned 2,500 acres on the Pecos-Brewer county line and the Pecos-Terrell county line, the forest service reported. Firefighters used bulldozers, brush trucks and helicopters to battle the blaze, which was started by lightning. There were no reports of injuries or property damage.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Firefighters reported progress today in subduing Oregon’s three major wildfires. In the Cascade Range, the last of the residents in a town threatened by the Black Crater fire near Sisters were allowed to return yesterday, as firefighters focused on the nearby Three Sisters Wilderness. The fire was burning over an area of 9,000 acres, or about 14 square miles. At the eastern boundary of the state, authorities said all but one Foster Forest Service road that had been closed because of the Foster Gulch fire, which was burning on more than 53,000 acres, or about 83 square miles. In the center of the state in Wheeler County, firefighters said they expected to have the Maxwell fire by Saturday (Aug 5). The fire was burning over about 5,200 acres, or eight square miles, including the Bridge Creek Wilderness. It has forced the closure of some local roads and campgrounds.

Roger Peterson, a spokesman for the North-west Interagency Co-ordination Centre, said the wind and weather were expected to remain mild for the rest of the week and help the firefighting effort. Meanwhile, in Nevada, firefighters today reported huge gains against three wildland fires sparked by lightning, which have been blamed for all but one wildfire in the state. The Winters fire north-east of Winnemucca, which has scorched about 150,000 acres, is 80% contained. Full containment was expected late tomorrow. Officials with the Elko Interagency Dispatch Centre said crews took advantage of the favourable conditions overnight to construct fire line and set back fires. Two other fires burning in Elko County were 47% contained and 73% contained, officials said. The Basco fire north-west of Elko has burned more than 2,000 acres, or two square miles, including the Bridge Creek Wilderness. The fire was burning on an area of 2,500 acres, or about 15 square miles, and was 50% contained. The three fires burning near Harrison. So far, 80 square miles have burned and four homes have been lost to the fires.

AIRCRAFT MISSING ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Search crews continued looking for an aircraft that went missing Friday (Jul 28) with three people on board, and they planned to keep looking today. Four aircraft from the Civil Air Patrol and Alaska State Troopers were scouring water and land for signs of the multi-engine, turboprop Sunday, said Maj. Mike Haller, a spokesman for the Rescue Coordination Center in Anchorage. With a low tide, efforts were aimed at coastlines late Sunday, he said. The investigation, he added, will continue until dark and resume early today. Haller said he remained hopeful that the three were still alive. “We’ve had people find their way out of circumstances that were way worse,” he said. “We’re going to keep searching.” The aircraft had been flying back and forth between Kenai and Anchorage on Friday. The aircraft departed Kenai airport at 2010, Friday, and last checked in with Commander Northwest, a Washington-based company that owns the aircraft, 20 minutes later. The three people on board were all pilots, according to the brother of one. Haller did not release their names.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Searchers continue to look for an aircraft with three people aboard that vanished on a flight between Kenai and Anchorage. The Civil Air Patrol sent out five aircraft from Kenai and Anchorage reported seeing the aircraft near where it was last heard from Friday night (Jul 29). The aircraft was a single-engine, turbo-propeller Sunday, said Capt. Russ Edwards of the rescue coordinator. The coordinates of the aircraft were at a point about three miles offshore between Moose Point and Point Possession, over Gompertz Channel, searchers said. Radar data showed the control at the Anchorage airport and a signal from a satellite-tracking device aboard the aircraft point to that spot. But the aircraft could have dipped below the radar or the tracking device could have suffered a glitch; either could mean the aircraft might have flown miles in any direction, said Capt. Russ Edwards of the rescue center. No signs of debris or oil sheen have been spotted in the air searches of the water. The pilots did not file a flight plan.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for a missing aircraft with three experienced pilots from the Pacific Northwest intensified today after people aboard a fishing vessel near Anchorage reported seeing the aircraft near where it was last heard from Friday night (Jul 29). The aircraft was a single-engine, turboprop Sunday, said Capt. Russ Edwards of the rescue coordinator. The coordinates of the aircraft were at a point about 10 to 15 miles southwest of Anchorage. The last contact with the four-seat, propeller-driven plane was at about 2030 Friday. The people on the fishing boat reported seeing the blue-and-white aircraft Friday night because it was not the type of aircraft normally seen flying close to the water, Pierre said.
rocky terrain and came to a rest in an upright position. The pilot exited the aircraft unhurt, but the aircraft was destroyed by a post-impact fire. On Jul 26, when it was determined that C-GCMK had not reached its destination and rescue was immediately dispatched. The wreckage and pilot were found on Jul 28, 76 nautical miles south-southwest of Repulse Bay. ATC records indicated that the flight plan for the flight to Roche Bay had been closed, but the one for the flight to Rankin Inlet had been inadvertently taken out of MIDS. Nav Canada has launched an operations safety investigation.

**CRASH, CARSON AREA, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES**
London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated Jul 30, states: U.S. Forest Service employees found human remains and the wreckage of a twin-engine plane that disappeared in January on a flight from Arizona to Tacoma. Cold weather and snow made a search impossible at the time, said Skamania County Undersheriff Dave Cox. The Cessna 421 was piloted by 42-year-old Martin Ayers of Scottsdale, who made a distress call on January 26 in heavy weather near Soda Peaks Lake, north of Carson. The plane soon disappeared off the radar screen. Two Forest Service workers stumbled across the crash site Friday (Jul 28) just south of where it was believed to have gone down, the sheriff’s office said. Thorough search and recovery efforts were expected. Searchers found what appears to be paperwork with the plane’s tail number. Officials plan to attend the site tomorrow to investigate.

**CRASH, PIETERMARITZBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**
London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men died when a light aircraft crashed outside Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal this morning, said an ambulance service. The Cessna 172, piloted by 30 km to Poznan, Ewa Olkiewicz, Wielkopolskie police spokeswoman, told the PAP news agency. The aircraft is being checked while authorities plan to attend the site tomorrow to investigate. The aircraft was destroyed by a post-impact fire. The CAA immediately informed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about problem in one engine C-GCMK had not reached its destination and rescue was immediately dispatched. The wreckage and pilot were found on Jul 28, 76 nautical miles south-southwest of Repulse Bay. ATC records indicated that the flight plan for the flight to Roche Bay had been closed, but the one for the flight to Rankin Inlet had been inadvertently taken out of MIDS. Nav Canada has launched an operations safety investigation.

**CRASH, TILLCOUNTLY AREA, CLACKMANNANSHIRE, SCOTLAND**
London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot walked away unhurt yesterday after his light aircraft crashed at Newmarket 60km on a hillside, flipped over, and broke in two. Aviation experts said the fact that the plane took the bulk of the impact in the Ochil Hills near T latter landed safely. No one of injured. The aircraft is being checked while passengers were transferred to another aircraft. Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN**
Karachi, Aug 2 — An aircraft of the private airline of Pakistan has made an emergency landing at Karachi International Airport this evening. Local media reported that an aircraft of Aero Asia Airline flight No E4-102 bound for Islamabad with 126 passengers on board, left this afternoon but soon after the pilot informed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about possible mechanical and requested for return and landing permission. The CAA immediately responded and made the requisite arrangements at airport. The aircraft landed safely. No one of injured. The aircraft is being checked while passengers were transferred to another aircraft. Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, ORLY AIRPORT, PARIS, FRANCE**
Valletta, Jul 27 — An Air Malta flight from Heathrow to Malta was forced to make an emergency landing at Orly Airport, Paris, last night after the aircraft developed problems regarding pressure. The aircraft, with 144 passengers on board, landed safely at Orly airport. The passengers were given accommodation in different hotels until a replacement aircraft is sent. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**F-GLQZ**
London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators have concluded a report into the crash landing of an Air France flight No 358 from Paris skidded off a runway at Toronto’s Lester B. Pearson International Airport a year ago, landing in a ravine and bursting into flames. Many of those 397 passengers have blamed the pilots for landing near halfway down the runway in bad weather and are suing the airline for negligence. The investigators examined whether human error, mechanical failure or bad weather were to blame. The preliminary report must now go to top officials with the Transportation Board for review and will not be made public until all of them have signed off. Christian Plouffe, a spokesman for the agency based in Gatineau, Quebec, said that process could take months. Initial
investigations indicated that all systems on the aircraft appeared to have functioned normally. Officials said the digital flight data recorders revealed no system troubles or malfunctions. The initial findings released earlier indicated that the aircraft “landed long” or about 4,000 feet down the 9,000-foot runway.

INCIDENT AT LOUISVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A FedEx Boeing 727 aircraft skidded off a runway at Louisville International Airport yesterday morning during an aborted takeoff. The three crew members weren’t injured, and there was no apparent damage to the aircraft, according to airport spokeswoman Rande Swann. By yesterday afternoon, the aircraft had been moved to a hangar, said FedEx spokesman Jim McCluskey, speaking from the company’s Memphis, Tenn., headquarters. He could not say why the pilot aborted takeoff, and said the incident was under investigation. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Les Dorr said that agency also was investigating the incident. “The preliminary information is that they either had an engine shut down on them or had to shut the engine down for some reason,” he said. The aborted takeoff occurred at 0917 hrs on the airport’s east runway as the aircraft was departing for Memphis. Swann said the airport’s other two runways remained open and there were no disruptions to other flights. The east runway reopened at 1420 hrs.

INCIDENT AT TOKUNOSHIMA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Small cracks that were overlooked by mechanics during inspections caused the main landing gear of a Japan Air System (JAS) MD-81 to collapse as it landed at Tokunoshima Airport (TKN) on January 1, 2004, according to the investigation report released by the ARAIC. Three cracks were found, believed to be the starting points of the break. Inspectors suspect that the cracks, measuring between three and 5.2 millimeters long, developed as a result of metal fatigue. The committee concluded that cracks probably developed as a result of stresses generated during a gear walk (serious form of wear) and that the landing gear was not in use at the time before restrictor plates were installed.

London, Jul 31 — Cessna 120, N1918V, operated by NJC120 LLC, on takeoff, lost control and crashed into a field at Ashland, Kentucky, at 1730, local time, today. The aircraft was destroyed.

London, Jul 31 — McDonnell Douglas MD-10-10F, N391FE, operated: FedEx, flight 630, departed Seattle at 0558, PDT, July 28 for a cargo flight to Memphis. The aircraft landed on runway 18R, Memphis International Airport, at 1130 hrs and had a port main gear collapse. A fire erupted on the port side, causing extensive damage to the No.1 engine.

N415GA

London, Aug 1 — Cessna 208 Caravan, N415GA, operated by Hampton Island Aviation, six persons on board, crashed into a small body of water near the coast of South Carolina the morning of Aug 1.

N5232X

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated Jul 30, states: A single-engine plane crashed today in mountains east of Winter Park, killing two people, officials said. The victims were the only people on board. Federal Aviation Administration duty officer Andee Curran said. The plane had taken off from Kremmling and was on its way to Boulder. The Citabria 7KCAB, was listed as being registered to a Coe Hargraves, who recently sold it. He said the plane was in good condition at the time of purchase. “It’s an exquisitely well-qualified and certified. The plane was in good and legal mechanical condition,” Hargraves said. “There was nothing wrong with the plane. There was nothing wrong with the pilots.” He said investigators will have to determine why the plane crashed. He had been willing to identify the two victims, but said they were from Boulder. Boulder County sheriff’s officials said the plane went down about 0700 hrs, today in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area near the Skyscraper Reservoir, near the line between Boulder and Grand counties. London, Jul 31 — Champion 7KCAB, N5232X, privately operated, crashed under unknown circumstances at Rollins Pass, Rollinsville, Colorado at 1005, local time, Jul 30. The two persons on board were killed. The aircraft was destroyed.

N577RS

London, Jul 28 — Mooney M-20J N577RS crashed near Monroe, Louisiana, Jul 27. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N736VM

London, Jul 31 — Cessna R172K, N736VM, operated by Maverick Aviation LLC, on landing, flipped over in the lake at Grand Rapids, Minnesota, at 0001, Jul 9. The aircraft was destroyed.

N848LC

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers searched until dark yesterday for the pilot of a single-engine plane that crashed into Lake Michigan about four miles from Chicago shores, authorities said. The American Legend Cub’s pilot and passenger were returning to Cleveland from Oshkosh, Wis. The U.S. Coast

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.
Guard rescued the Cub's passenger, a 49-year-old Texas man, who was floating on an aircraft cushion in the lake off Chicago's South Side. Mike Fox of the Chicago Fire Department said the passenger, who was taken to a hospital in good condition, "said the engine stopped, the plane floated for a few seconds and they were able to get out." The search for the pilot was to resume today.

London, Aug 2 — American Legend AL-11 N848LC crashed into Lake Michigan near Chicago, Illinois, at 1650, Jul 30, while on a flight from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. One of the two persons on board was injured and the other is missing, presumed dead.

N8707U
London, Jul 31 — Cessna 172F, N8707U, privately operated, lost power, veered to the left and crashed into a field at American Falls, Idaho, at 1421, local time, Jul 29. The aircraft was destroyed.

N93356
London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: A flight seeing floatplane crashed today near Juneau with seven people on board. The large, single-engine floatplane was operated by Ward Air. According to officials, it crashed just before noon into Berners Bay. Fortunately, all seven passengers survived the crash, though three of the passengers were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. The cause of the wreck is still under investigation.

OB-1809P
London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: According to the Peruvian accident investigators, the August 2005 accident involving a TANS Boeing 737 near Pucallpa was caused by a loss of situational awareness in a severe hailstorm on approach to Pucallpa. The flight crew failed to abort the un unstabilized approach and continued their fast descent despite the GPWS warnings and the severe storm that they were penetrating. It also appeared that a co-pilot under instruction was in the right hand seat while the regular co-pilot was in the passenger cabin at the time of the accident.

CHOCOLATE BARS, UNITED KINGDOM
London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Confectionary giant Cadbury Schweppes has said the salmonella contamination at one of its production plants will cost it about £20m this year. Half of the sum relates to the cost of recalling one million chocolate bars, while the rest comes from advertising costs and "manufacturing improvements". Cadbury said the cost included £6m it hoped to recover through its insurance. The news came as the firm announced a 20% rise in pre-tax profit for the first half of 2006. The world's largest confectionary firm said pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30 hit £402m. Cadbury performed well in the Americas and Asia, but said it had a "challenging" start to the year in Europe - particularly the UK - where the market was weak. The company withdrew a million bars in June after a pipe at its plant in Marlbrook, Herefordshire, caused salmonella contamination.

COFFEE MAKERS, UNITED STATES
London, Jul 26 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 25, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Bunn-O-Matic Corp., of Springfield, Ill., today announced an extension of a voluntary recall of approximately 561,000 BunnÆ home coffeemakers, initially commenced in June 2005 (when some 1.75 units were recalled), to include additional date codes. The coffeemakers plastic pour-in bowl and lid can melt or ignite due to an electrical failure, posing burn and fire hazards to consumers. Bunn-O-Matic has received 16 additional incident reports involving the bowl or lid melting or igniting in these units, including seven reports of minor property damage. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves BunnÆ home coffeemakers with model numbers GR-10B, GR-10W, B-10B, B-10W, and BT-10B (including any of those same model numbers ending in the additional letter D) with six-digit date codes (1) ending in 0446 with the two middle digits between 012 and 005 or (two) ending in 0546 with the two middle digits between 010 and 040. (If the date code has a seventh digit, consumers should ignore the last digit and use the first six digits.) The model number and date code are stamped on a small white or silver sticker on the bottom of the coffeemaker. The 10-cup BunnÆ coffeemakers have either a black or white plastic base and top, and measure 14-inch high by seven-inches wide by 13-inch deep. The word øBUNNÆø is printed on the front of the machine in chrome. Manufactured in the United States, the coffeemakers were sold at Department and hardware stores nationwide between May 2004 and January 2006 for about $100.

TRACTORS, UNITED STATES
London, Jul 27 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 25, states: A voluntary recall of approximately 2,800 John Deere 3000 Twenty Series and 4000 Twenty Series Open Station Compact Utility Tractors has been conducted by Deere & Co., of Moline, Ill., in co-operation with the CPSC. The seat bracket to which the seat belt is attached could have been positioned incorrectly during the manufacturing process resulting in a poor weld. In a tractor roll over, the weight of the operator could cause the bracket to break off of the seats pivot plate. No incidents/injuries have been reported. These vehicles are small agricultural tractors that are green, with yellow seats and wheels. The recall involves models: 3120, 3320, 3520, 3720, 4120, 4320, 4520 and 4720. Manufactured in the United States, the tractors were sold at authorized John Deere dealers nationwide from October 2005 through to March 2006 for between $17,000 and $28,300.

ITALY
Genoa, Jul 31 — Port situation/berthing delays: Genoa: No vessels are waiting for berths. Savona: No vessels are waiting for normal berths. One vessel is waiting for a special berth. La Spezia: No vessels are waiting for berths. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SRI LANKA
See under “Labour Disputes.”

SYRIA
Aleppo, July 29 — Waiting time is presently two days at both at Lattakia and at Tartous. — Lloyd’s Agents.
## Port Delays

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Port</th>
<th>Date of report</th>
<th>No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbot Point</td>
<td>09-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Coal: 1 vessel waiting; 6 vessels due by 22/8; there will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 15/8 to 07.00 21/8; no vessels will be loaded during this period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalrymple Bay</td>
<td>09-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Coal: DBCT berth 1: 2 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 2: 4 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 9 vessels waiting; 23 vessels due by 24/8. Aug 7: Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 17/8. Aug 9: Grain: 5 vessels due by 19/8, 2 to load wheat, 3 grain pool; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.</td>
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<td>Brisbane 09-Aug-2006 Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 5 vessels waiting; 23 vessels due by 24/8.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dalrymple Bay 09-Aug-2006 Coal: DBCT berth 1: 2 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 2: 4 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 9 vessels waiting; 23 vessels due by 24/8. Aug 7: Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 17/8. Aug 9: Grain: 5 vessels due by 19/8, 2 to load wheat, 3 grain pool; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.</td>
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<td>Geraldton 09-Aug-2006 Aug 7: Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading. Aug 9: Grain: 1 vessel anchored to load wheat; 4 vessels due by 20/8, 3 to load wheat, 1 grain pool; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.</td>
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<td>Gladstone 07-Aug-2006 Aug 7: Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel loading, 2 berthed, 10 waiting; 30 vessels due by 10/9; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 waiting; 12 vessels due by 4/10. Aug 9: Grain: 1 vessel due 17/8 to load wheat; no delays expected.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hay Point 09-Aug-2006 Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels due by 15/8; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 4 vessels due by 15/8; 4 vessels due by 19/8, not yet scheduled for berthing.</td>
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<td>Port Hedland 09-Aug-2006 Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), “A” berth: 1 vessel berthed, 3 waiting; 3 vessels due by 12/8; “B” berth: 1 vessel berthed, 2 waiting; 2 vessels due by 11/8; 11 other vessels due by 24/8, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) “C” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 12/8; “D” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 4 vessels due by 12/8; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 19/8.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bulgaria</strong></td>
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<td>Bourgas</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Ten vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (2 coils, 1 wheat, 1 containers), 6 discharging (1 scrap, 1 billets, 1 lead concentrate, 1 jet fuel, 1 containers, 1 iron ore); no vessels in roads; 10 vessels due, of which 4 to load (1 coils, 1 gasoil, 1 containers, 1 wheat), 6 to discharge (1 reinforced concrete, 1 containers, 1 clinker, 1 coals, 1 iron ore, 1 copper concentrate).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varna</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 31 July - 6 August: Thirty-seven vessels in port operating of which 21 loading (5 bulk wheat, 2 scrap, 1 liquid urea, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 1 chamotte/soda, 5 soda, 1 containers/equipment in packing cases, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 bulk kaolin), 9 discharging (2 containers, 1 metals in packages, 6 bulk coal), 7 discharging/loading (6 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases); no vessels waiting in roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cyprus</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laranaca</td>
<td>08-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 5 conventional vessels due 9/8; no delays expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limassol</td>
<td>08-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 4 container vessels, 2 Ro/Ros due 9/8; no delays expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Egypt</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adabiya</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Thirty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 23 general cargo, 9 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 2 containers; 16 vessels at inner anchorage, none at outer anchorage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damietta</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Twenty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 15 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 container vessels; 21 vessel at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dekheila</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Twelve vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Said</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 4 container vessels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tugs, 2 vessels dry-docked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suez Canal</td>
<td>07-Aug-2006</td>
<td>Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.
Estonia
Tallinn 07-Aug-2006
Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): No vessels berthed, none waiting at anchorage; no vessels due, with 4 days berthing delay expected.

Pakistan
Karachi 07-Aug-2006
Three vessels loading at berth (1 naphtha, 1 rice, 1 steel plates), 10 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 HSD, 1 chemicals, 2 urea, 2 sugar, 2 general cargo, 1 phosphate), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 SBM, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals); 4 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 bunkering), with no berthing delays expected.

Port Qasim 07-Aug-2006
One cement vessel loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (2 sugar, 1 palm oil), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 cement vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 fuel oil, 1 LPG, 1 phosphoric acid).

Poland
Gdansk 07-Aug-2006
Two vessels loading at berth (1 bulkers, 1 coal), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulk, 2 tankers); 12 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 22 vessels due.

Gdynia 07-Aug-2006
Six vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 2 general cargo, 1 bulk, 1 grain), 2 discharging at berth (1 grain, 1 bulk); 23 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 48 vessels due.

Russia
Novorossiysk 07-Aug-2006
Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 scrap, 1 steel sheets/tin plate, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 1 slabs, 1 steel billets, 1 wheat, 1 barley, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging equipment; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 slabs, 1 diesel oil, 1 wheat; 65 vessels due, of which 60 to load (4 DRI, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 6 aluminium, 6 wheat, 6 copper, 3 slabs, 5 steel billets, 2 steel sheets, 1 cellulose, 1 pipes, 2 coils/steel sheets, 1 tin plates/coils, 1 soda ash, 2 vegetable oil, 2 HBI, 1 H-beams/coils, 1 bulk NPK, 1 pig-iron/steel billets, 1 cement, 5 coils, 3 bulk urea, 1 steel sheets/WRIC, 1 containers, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets/WRIC), 2 to discharge (1 maize, 1 vegetable oil), 3 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 2 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.

Slovenia
Koper 07-Aug-2006
Port working normally. Ten vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 discharging bulk cargo, 2 loading bulk cargo, 3 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 1 discharging general cargo; 22 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 1 car carrier to discharge vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo, 3 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 5 to load bulk cargo, 5 to discharge bulk cargo, 1 passenger vessel.

Spain
Bilbao 07-Aug-2006
Thirty-one vessels operating (4 tankers, 27 other vessels), of which 5 loading, 11 discharging, 15 loading/discharging.

Sagunto 07-Aug-2006
Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 machinery, 2 bulk fertiliser), 13 discharging (9 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit, 1 anhydrous ammonia, 1 vehicles), 2 loading/discharging steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka
Colombo 07-Aug-2006
Cargo operations at Sri Lanka Ports Authority operated berths are at present experiencing a “work to rule” by port workers which started 13/7. Delays are affecting all port users. Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (8 containers/feeders, 3 bulk cement, 1 bulk fertiliser); 3 container/feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels dry-docked; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
Ukraine

Illichevsk 07-Aug-2006
Eight vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 containers, 2 ore, 2 sunflower oil, 1 ferro nickel), 1 discharging ore, 1 loading/discharging containers; 2 vessel in roads, both to load/discharge containers; 18 vessels due, of which 14 to load (9 steel products, 3 coal, 1 barley, 1 sulphur), 4 to load/discharge containers.

Mariupol 07-Aug-2006
Sixteen vessels in port operating, all to load, of which 8 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 coke, 2 coal, 1 kaolin, 1 bran, 1 barley; 16 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 13 steel, 1 equipment, 1 fire-clay; 53 vessels due, of which 50 to load (26 steel, 13 coal, 5 fire-clay, 1 bran, 2 wheat, 2 ammonium sulphate, 1 sunflower beans), 2 to discharge (1 containers, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge/load containers.

Odessa 07-Aug-2006
Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (4 metal, 1 scrap, 1 wheat, 1 oil, 1 barley), 7 discharging (3 luggage, 1 meat, 1 general cargo, 1 wheat, 1 bananas), 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 passenger vessel; 6 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 metal, 1 ore, 1 coal), 2 to discharge (1 metal, 1 bananas), 1 to load/discharge containers; 98 vessels due, of which 52 to load (36 metal, 4 pig-iron, 2 scrap, 1 ore, 2 ferro alloy, 3 wheat, 1 timber, 1 barley, 1 peas, 1 coal), 5 to discharge (2 metal, 1 ore, 1 bananas, 1 oil), 41 to discharge/load containers.