

August 19 2005

Proposed oil transfer rules spark fears of another Prestige disaster

International Salvage Union fears giving coastal states new powers might be used to justify the refusal of legitimate requests for shelter for casualties, writes Sandra Speares — Thursday August 18 2005

SALVORS have issued a stark warning that new proposals on ship-to-ship oil transfers could lead to another Prestige-style pollution disaster.

The International Salvage Union believes the proposals, under consideration by the International Maritime Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee, could hamper salvors' efforts to prevent a future catastrophe similar to the Prestigein 2002.

ISU president Hans van Rooij said: "The proposals focus on routine STS operations and would give coastal states greater control over operations performed beyond the territorial sea when there is a potential for pollution.

"Our concern, however, is that new measures giving coastal states such powers might be used to justify the refusal of legitimate requests for shelter for casualties and a failure to approve the subsequent removal of cargo and bunkers which could cause pollution."

The MEPC agreed in July to consider the development of amendments to Marpol to prevent the risk of pollution during oil transfer operations between ships at sea.

Amendments to Marpol Annex 1 are to be given "high priority" in the work programme of the sub-committee on bulk liquids and gases with a target completion date of 2007.

Spain and Mexico submitted a proposal to the July meeting suggesting restrictions or a ban on ship-to-ship transfers in MEPC-approved special areas or particularly sensitive sea areas.

The two states also proposed "authorisation of the coastal state off whose shore such operations take place to monitor and establish special conditions for them and to suspend them, according to circumstances, in certain specific cases, even when they are taking place on the high seas outside the state's jurisdiction but are likely to affect its coastline".

The Oil Companies International Marine Forum and the International Chamber of Shipping put forward a joint submission at the meeting saying they did not support an arbitrary ban on STS activities in PSSAs.

They also submitted that "a mechanism for the control of activities on the high seas that affect a state's coastline should be carefully considered".

The trade bodies added that the issue should be fully appraised by the IMO Legal Committee and reviewed against the provisions of the Law of the Sea convention.

For his part, Mr van Rooij said it was "noteworthy" that Spain was a joint sponsor of the proposals.

"This attempt to gain more control over shipping in international waters misses the point", he said.

Special areas and PSSAs were "the very areas most at risk. The freedom of the salvor to perform an STS on a laden tanker in a sheltered location is essential for the protection of such vulnerable areas.

"If coastal states with a reputation for knee-jerk rejection of ship casualties are handed such powers I have no doubt that they will use them to deny refuge for casualties.

"The ISU urges the IMO to keep the Prestige disaster firmly in mind. Acceptance of the proposal from Spain and Mexico could undermine the IMO's recently adopted International Guidelines on Places of Refuge."

The ISU also raised concern that the measures might be used to restrict salvors' ability to remove bunkers from casualties.

Most salvage operations, the union argues, begin with a bunker transfer. Salvors have long been concerned over possible prosecutions because they have no responder immunity.

Mr van Rooij said: "Applying the proposals to bunker transfers would create very serious problems for salvors. It is possible the imposition of restrictions or inappropriate conditions could reduce the chance of avoiding pollution.

"The main point, of course, is that salvors must retain their freedom of action if they are to prevent major spills and catastrophic environmental damage."

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ASIA CONCERTO</i>	general	CYP	KR	4,458	7,186	1998	Sank in lat 33 42.1N, long 132 14.6E, Aug 9 after colliding with general cargo <i>Pine Pia</i> . Fourteen crew rescued, one missing. Oil and other fuel leaking.
<i>BRANDON C. ROEHRIG</i>	tug	USA	—	191	—	1965	Had fire in the Kill van Kull, east of the Bayonne bridge, Aug 10. Crew taken off and fire extinguished by tug and fire crews. Taken to Stapleton Homeport Pier, Staten Island.
<i>GRAMPIAN FURY</i>	trawler	URY	—	713	412	1966	Reported Aug 8 under tow of fishing <i>Promopez</i> in lat 35 58S, long 53 14W, bound Montevideo, after being reported disabled and adrift.
<i>HUI MANA</i>	barge	USA	—	2,299	—	1988	In collision with passenger <i>Pride of America</i> and tug <i>Nalani</i> in Kahului harbour, Maui, Hawaii Aug 1-2.
<i>JACOBA ALIJDA</i>	trawler	NLD	—	429	—	—	In collision with product tanker <i>Shinoussa</i> in lat 53 03N, long 02 42E, Aug 9. Holed and taking water in engine-room. All six crew taken off by fv <i>St. Anthony</i> which has secured a towline. Subsequently sank in lat 53 04.23N, long 02 42.79.
<i>LANDS END</i>	yacht	GBR	LR	364	—	1965	Grounded on a reef on Corsica Aug 9. Holed and leaking fuel. Anti-pollution teams in place. Still aground 10 Aug all but aft under water.
<i>MATHILDA DESGAGNES</i>	general	CAN	LR	4,203	6,943	1959	Grounded near Port Meunier, Anticosti Island, in lat 49 48.30N, long 64 22.6W, Aug 5. Awaiting tug assistance. Reported Aug 9 refloated and at Montreal.
<i>OSTFRIESLAND</i>	ro-ro	DEU	GL	1,860	531	1985	Had machine room fire after leakage in fuel pipe at Emden Aug 3. Extinguished same day. Now under repair at Nordseewerken.
<i>PELORUS</i>	yacht	BMU	GL	5,317	—	2003	Reported Aug 5 supplied with \$216,000 worth of contaminated diesel while docked in Malta. Clean up cost estimated at \$1 million.
<i>PINE PIA</i>	general	KOR	KR	4,314	6,856	1994	In collision with general cargo <i>Asia Concerto</i> near lat 33 42.1N, long 132 14.6E, Aug 9. Sustained damage to the centre of its stem.
<i>PORVENIR I</i>	ro-ro	CHL	BV	3,316	2,076	1972	Shifted in heavy weather off "Morro Gonzalo", Caleta Bonifacio, Aug 3. Crew removed. Stranded at Punta Galera and subsequently sank.
<i>PRIDE OF AMERICA</i>	passenger	USA	NV	80,439	7,988	—	In collision with tug <i>Nalani</i> and tank barge <i>Hui Mana</i> in Kahului harbour, Maui, Hawaii, Aug 1-2. Damage to starboard above waterline. Arrived & Sailed Honolulu Aug 6.
<i>ROSAIRE</i>	dredger	CAN	—	715	—	—	Reported to have been struck by general cargo I.V. 14, Aug 6, in St. John Harbour NB.
<i>STRILEN</i>	general	VCT	PR	1,133	1,397	1966	Grounded in lat 54 51.4N, long 10 31.5E, Aug 8. Refloated with tug assistance Aug 9 and proceeded to a local dock.
<i>TUGCE-T.</i>	product tanker	TUR	BV	5,154	6,237	1985	Reported Aug 5 in lat 06 20.5N, long 10 49.7W, with main engine trouble. Under tow of tug <i>Mamuli</i> bound Monrovia for repairs. ETA Aug 7.

CONTENTS

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

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Piracy	7
Port State Control	8
Seizures & Arrests	8
Pipeline Accidents	10
Weather & Navigation	10
Earthquakes	14
Volcanic Activity	14
Political & Civil Unrest	14
Kidnappings	17
Labour Disputes	17
Awards & Settlements	20
Railway Accidents	21
Robberies & thefts	22
Miscellaneous	22
Fires & Explosions	25
Aviation	29
Space Vehicles	35
Product Recalls	35
Port Conditions	35
Port Conditions charts	36

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



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGIOS GEORGIOS I (Greece)

London, Aug 8 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Chemical/oil carrier Agios Georgios I (795 gt, built 1986) grounded in sandy shallow water off Ag. Georgios, Skiathos, during the evening of Aug 7. At the time of the incident the vessel was coming from Skopelos loaded with 811.780 cubic metres of petroleum products. A patrol boat of the Coast Guard with antipollution materials was immediately despatched, however no pollution was observed. On board were nine crew members who are in good health. During the morning the vessel was refloated with the assistance of a tug and arrived safely at the port of Skiathos where the cargo will be discharged.

Piraeus, Aug 9 -- Chemical/oil carrier Agios Georgios I, from Skopelos, loaded with a consignment of 812,000 cubic meters of oil, stranded in shallow waters at St. George Bay area, Skiathos island, Aug 7. All crew members were reportedly uninjured. No pollution occurred. The vessel was refloated yesterday with tug assistance and remains at Skiathos port where its cargo will be discharged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALGONTARIO (Canada)

London, Aug 4 -- Bulk Algontario was reported arriving and sailing from Quebec on/about Jul 30.

ALMA JANE (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 8 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2135, UTC: Seventy foot fishing Alma Jane was yesterday reported disabled in lat 44 55N, long 126 18W, due to a broken crankshaft. Vessel was taken in tow by a Coast Guard cutter and is due to arrive in Newport, Oregon in around two hours time.

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1435, UTC: Fishing Alma Jane is currently moored at Newport, Oreg.

AMELIA DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, Aug 9 -- At 1305, UTC, today, general cargo Amelia Desgagnes (4433 gt, built 1976), with a cargo of salt, was reported to have run aground in St. Barbe Bay, in lat 51 12.36N, long 56 46.18W. The vessel subsequently freed itself and continued on to St. Barbe. No damage to vessel. No release of pollutants.

AQUILA (U.K.)

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRSC, timed 0716, UTC, today: Fishing Aquila (158 gt, built 1988) five persons on board, had main engine failure in lat 57 58N, long 01 21.6W at 1731, UTC, Aug 8. Problems due to fuel to

fuel blockage. Tow arranged with fishing Coromandel which arrived on scene at 2058, UTC and towed casualty to Peterhead, arriving at 0313, UTC, today.

ARNGAST (Germany)

Copenhagen, Aug 4 -- General cargo Arngast and bulk Atlantic were in collision in the Langelandsbaelt at 1100 today. Arngast reportedly sustained bulb damage, and was given permission by the Danish Maritime Authorities to proceed to Marstal, where the vessel has been detained. Atlantic reportedly sustained minor damage to the railing and stanchions. Danish Maritime Authorities ordered the vessel to anchor south of the Great Belt Bridge, where it has been detained. Danish Maritime Authorities are keeping a watch for possible oil pollution. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 5 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1020, UTC: General cargo Arngast is at Marstal under repair. Vessel sustained minor damage in the collision with bulk Atlantic which has proceeded on voyage to China.

Copenhagen, Aug 9 -- General cargo Arngast still in Marstal where repairs are now carried out at Marstal Vaerft A/S, Marstal. It has been advised that the duration of repairs is expected to be 14 working days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARTEAGA (Madeira)

Singapore, Aug 8 -- Crude oil tanker Arteaga arrived Singapore Aug 6. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ASIA CONCERTO (Cyprus)

London, Aug 10 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 0715, UTC: General cargo Asia Concerto (4458 gt, built 1998), 15 crew on board, sank in lat 33 42.1N, long 132 14.6 E at 2115, UTC yesterday, after being in collision with general cargo Pine Pia (4314 gt, built 1994). Fourteen of the crew from Asia Concerto were rescued, the engineer is still missing. No further details on Pine Pia.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Asia Concerto sank this morning after colliding with general cargo Pine Pia off Japan's southwestern coast, leaving one person on board missing. Asia Concerto had 15 crew on board when it sank in the waters of the Seto Inland Sea off Yamaguchi Prefecture. The 14 crew members were rescued by Pine Pia, which was damaged in the centre of its stem in the 0600 hrs (2100, UTC) accident. Oil has leaked from the sunken ship and the Japan Coast Guard is trying to confirm the amount and the area of the spill. The Coast Guard has launched search operations for the missing Filipino crew member.

London, Aug 10 -- Following navigation warning issued today: Sunken wreck of general cargo Asia Concerto exists in vicinity of lat 33 44.0N, long 132 14.3E.

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated Aug 10, states: A Filipino sailor

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

was missing in Japanese waters today after general cargo Asia Concerto hit another vessel and sank. Fourteen other crew members from Asia Concerto were rescued after it collided with general cargo Pine Pia off the coast of western Yamaguchi prefecture at 0700 today, a Coast Guard spokesman said. "We are searching for a Filipino sailor who went missing in the accident," the spokesman said. The crew members from the sunken vessel were rescued by Pine Pia, he said. The sea had been relatively calm at the time, he said. Asia Concerto was leaking oil and other fuel, and the Coast Guard would investigate the cause of the accident. The Japan Coast Guard dispatched nine vessels and one helicopter to search for the missing sailor between the main Japanese island of Honshu and the smaller island of Shikoku. Asia Concerto was carrying about 6000 tonnes of metal coils, Jiji Press reported. (See issue of Aug 11.)

London, Aug 11 -- Following navigation warning issued today: Oil removal works (? from general cargo Asia Concerto) until further notice, area between lat 33 40N, long 33 50N, and lat 132 05E, long 132 20E.

Yokohama, Aug 11 -- A collision occurred between general cargo Asia Concerto and general cargo Pine Pia in lat 33 44.N, long 132 14.3E, in the Sea of Iyo, Hiroshima Prefecture, at 0625 hrs, Aug 10. Reportedly, oil spill is observed from the sunken Asia Concerto and oil removal is now underway. Missing crewman not yet rescued. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC (Marshall Islands)

See Arngast.

AUDACE A. (Italy)

London, Aug 4 -- Chemical/oil carrier Audace A. was reported arriving at Manfredonia on Jul 27, sailing later the same day.

BANGA BONIK (Bangladesh)

See Marissa Green.

BARATZ (South Africa)

Cape Town, Aug 10 -- Temporary repairs have been conducted to fishing Baratz, which sustained minimal damage. The vessel is back at its fishing grounds. Understand that permanent repairs will be carried out later this year. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BASAVESHWARA (India)

Kochi, Aug 8 -- Product tanker Basaveshwara: Understood that the boiler assembly for replacement is being brought to Cochin via Dubai and the same is expected to arrive by vessel on Aug 10 or Aug 11, from Denmark. The new boiler will be fixed in the vessel around Aug 20. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BEAUFORT (Panama)

Guayaquil, Aug 5 -- Following received from received from SUINSA (Superintendencia del Salitral), in their monthly report of abandoned and confiscated vessels: Chem.tank

Beaufort is in process of being purchased by Recimetal S.A., for selling it as scrap. The vessel is currently anchored at "Estero Tres Bocas". The vessel is not operative. The stern holds were destroyed by fire in April 2003. The buyer will clean and get the tanks gas-free. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BEHICE (Malta)

London, Aug 10 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 2301, UTC, Aug 9: General cargo Behice has been refloated and is currently under tow to Guishan anchorage, China, ETA Aug 12.

BHN PRODUCTION PLATFORM

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has decided to hire a floating platform sub-sea operation (FPSO) from overseas to restore the functioning at its oil processing platform BHN., which was engulfed by fire last week. ONGC sources said the Fortune 500 company would invite expression of the interest (EoI) from the overseas bidders for FPSO in a week or so. The foreign majors engaged in construction of FPSO include Haliburton and Schlumberger. Sources indicated that the FPSO would be a stop-gap arrangement as the reconstruction of BHN which would take at least a couple of years. The processing platform was commissioned in 1978 with an investment of \$300 million. The company was also taking initiatives to ensure that the functioning of the offshore Bombay High would be restored even before the FPSO would be set up, sources said. "We have already taken steps to channelise the oil, which was supposed to go to Bombay High North under normal circumstances, to the other process platform Bombay High South, which was not affected by fire," they added. In the next four weeks, nearly 70,000 barrels a day will be channelled to the south platform. The figure will go up to 85,000 barrels a day in six weeks. The offshore platform has a combined processing capacity of 2.60 lakh barrel a day consisting of one lakh barrel at north and 1.60 lakh at the south platforms. The processing at the south platform went down by 15,000 barrels a day immediately after the fire. Now, it has been scaled up to 1.50 lakh barrels a day. According to sources, ONGC would get insurance claims of \$260 million, \$195 million for the north platform and \$65 million for the multi-purpose support Samudra Suraksha, for the loss it incurred owing to the fire. Meanwhile, the government is planning to set up an independent inquiry committee to look into the incident. A three-member committee, headed by former ONGC Chairman S K Manglik, has already been set up to probe the incident.

Mumbai, Aug 6 -- Shipping Corporation of India has reported that its efforts to save support Samudra Suraksha, involved in the fire that

engulfed oil platform BHN Production Platform at Mumbai High on Jul 27, have not succeeded. The vessel sank on Aug 2 while being towed towards the Mumbai Port. Giving its version of the incident, SCI said that the vessel was engaged in carrying out inspection, maintenance and repair in the Mumbai high offshore oil fields. On Jul 27, while the vessel was performing underwater saturation diving at N-7 platform in Mumbai High north field, a housekeeper in catering department accidentally severed two of his fingers while working in the galley. The Master, in consultation with ONGC representative on board, decided that the BHN platform would be necessary for his medical treatment. On reaching the BHN complex it was observed that BHN had already lowered its "Personnel Basket" to pick up the injured person. The vessel took position on the south face of BHN Platform for personnel transfer by positioning under the platform crane. During the transfer, strong winds and swells pushed the vessel towards the platform and its starboard size, including helideck, made contact with the platform structure. It is suspected that one of the gas pipeline or riser of natural gas might have fractured due to the impact, resulting in leakage of natural gas, SCI said. With the vessel also catching fire and as the situation became "uncontrollable," the master decided to abandon the ship. All ship's personnel, except the six divers who were inside the saturation chambers, disembarked. SCI Reported that a contingency watch was set up at its head office. Once the saturation divers were out of Samudra Suraksha on Jul 29, towing of the vessel to sheltered water were launched. Two towing vessels were deployed, but the vessel could not be rescued and it sank on Aug 2 and 13 nautical miles north-west of Prongs Reef Lighthouse in water depth of about 22.5 metres. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BRANDON C.ROEHRIG (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tug Brandon C.Roehrig (191 gt, built 1965), with five people on board had a fire on board in the Kill Van Kull, east of the Bayonne bridge at 1445, today. U.S. Coast Guard, New York City Police Dept. and New York City Fire Dept. responded, three rescue crews deployed from U.S. Coast Guard Station New York after receiving report via marine band radio. All mariners were safely taken from the vessel by the Coast Guard rescue crews. Fire brought under control by assist tugs & FDNY crews. Tug taken to the Stapleton Homeport Pier in Staten Island.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Tug Brandon C.Roehrig with five crew members on board caught fire yesterday afternoon in the Kill van Kull near Bayonne, but nobody was seriously hurt. The two-alarm blaze on Brandon C.Roehrig started shortly before 1500 hrs, likely

in the engine-room, according to FDNY Deputy Chief James Leonard of Division 8. The tug was opposite the intersection of Richmond Terrace and Westervelt Avenue in New Brighton when it caught fire. The blaze caused moderate damage to the tug. About 125 firefighters from Staten Island and Brooklyn responded to the fire. The operation, which was winding down around 1815 last night, required four fire boats and two tugs, Leonard said. Seven firefighters and one member of the crew were treated for minor injuries at St. Vincent's Hospital, West Brighton, said Leonard. The other crew members refused medical treatment. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Coast Guard, but arson was ruled out. Brandon C. Roehrig, which was initially taken to the home port in Stapleton, was being pushed to the owner's maintenance dock in Port Richmond last night to continue the investigation, which officials estimated would take a few days. The boat is owned by Glen Cove, Long Island-based Roehrig Maritime LLC, which operates seven tugs in New York harbour and along the east coast.

BRENT BRAVO PLATFORM

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Eighty-six workers have been evacuated from a North Sea platform after an oil leak in a storage tank in one of the installation's main legs. The precautionary evacuation began on Sunday night after the leak was discovered by a technician on Shell's Brent Bravo platform. A spokesman for Shell confirmed that 86 people had been airlifted, leaving 60 essential staff on board. The workers were flown to the Brent Charlie, Brent Delta and North Cormorant rigs. The spokesman added: "They are carrying out a controlled shut-down of the platform in order to repair the leak. The indications are that it won't take very long. It is a small leak of oil and no gas is involved. The leak was discovered in a storage cell in one of the utility legs. There has been no leakage of oil into the North Sea."

BUNGA MAS TUJUH (Malaysia)

Moji, Aug 8 -- C.c. Bunga Mas Tujuh arrived Moji Aug 7 from Yantai and sailed same day for Osaka. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CASITAS (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Aug 4 -- Understand pollution control vessel Casitas was refloated at approximately 1135 today, without any pollution or further damage to the reef. Due to its condition, it continued to take on water, it was scuttled at a designated site in approximately 1000 fathoms at 1330 hrs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CEC COPENHAGEN (Bahamas)

Singapore, Aug 4 -- General cargo CEC Copenhagen arrived Singapore Aug 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHRISOPIGI LADY (Liberia)

Singapore, Aug 9 -- Product tanker Chrisopigi Lady is currently at Raffles Pier East, Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CSCL KOBE (Liberia)

Port Klang, Aug 10 -- C.c. CSCL Kobe (66058 gt, built 2001) ran aground in the channel between Northport and Westport. Port operations at Westport and Northport, Malaysia were interrupted for hours because of the haze. The vessel was freed about 12 hours later and did not sustain serious damage. Presently the Straits of Malacca are very hazy with visibility down to 0.5 mile at time. Generally visibility is poor. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See also "Forest, Indonesia and Malaysia" under "Fires & Explosions.")

DOGGER (Bahamas)

See Sierra Express.

DREAM PRINCESS (Bahamas)

See "Vessels Diverted To Cyprus Due To Security Concerns" under "Miscellaneous".

EDNA MARIA (Comoros)

Kolkata, Aug 5 -- General cargo Edna Maria is still aground. The Indian Coast Guard are assessing the possibility of lightening and refloating the vessel. No pollution reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EL SAFA (Panama)

Hodeidah, Aug 10 -- Passenger ro/ro El Safa sailed Hodeidah Aug 6 for Mumbai. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELQUI (Uruguay)

Stanley, Aug 4 -- Fishing Elqui is still alongside the quay. There has been no change in the situation of the vessel, which is still up for sale. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELTSEN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Aug 9 -- General cargo Eltsen arrived Piraeus Jul 25 for repairs.

EVERISE GLORY (Malaysia)

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Despite their outstanding claims on Pulau Batu Puteh/Pedra Branca, Malaysia and Singapore agreed that sunken general cargo Everise Glory, near the island, should be completely removed for the safety of international navigation. A statement by Wisma Putra yesterday said the two countries reached the consensus without prejudice to their claims concerning sovereignty over the island, Middle Rocks and South Ledge. Officials of both sides met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore yesterday to discuss the removal of the wreck of Everise Glory lying about seven nautical miles north-east of the island following a collision on Jun 4. Discussions were conducted in an open and friendly atmosphere with both sides gaining a deeper understanding of each other's

concerns, said the statement. The two governments also agreed that this agreement was not intended to set a precedent on ship wreck removal as each case has to be considered on its own merit. The two governments recognised that the decision on the method for removing the hazard posed by the sunken vessel depends on a multitude of factors. These included the specific location of the wreck in the middle of one of the world's busiest sealanes, at a point where there is heavy converging and crossing traffic, the width of the sealane, safety of the salvage operation, protection of the marine environment and the interests of the international maritime community.

FETISH (Cayman Islands)

Buenos Aires, Aug 4 -- Bulk Fetish was refloated at 0940, Aug 3, with the assistance of tugs Alianza Rosario and Buni. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Santos, Aug 8 -- Bulk Fetish arrived Santos Aug 7 from Rosario. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FROHAVET

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Trondheim, Aug 10 -- Livestock Frohavet left Kvernhusvik Shipyard 1750, Aug 4, for Denmark. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GLORIA (Estonia)

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

GOLDEN BAY (Malta)

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Malta Maritime Authority (MMA) is investigating an incident that allegedly happened at around 1000.CEST, this morning at Lighters Wharf, Marsa. The MMA received reports saying that the collision involved non specific tanker Golden Bay (231 gt, built 1959), that was carrying diesel oil. The barge was shifting from Flagstone Wharf to Ras Hanzir Dolphins. A boat that was moored in the area was reportedly sunk whilst the jetty was slightly damaged. No pollution or injuries were reported. The Ports Directorate of the MMA and the Police are investigating the incident.

GRAMPIAN FURY (Uruguay)

London, Aug 10 -- Following navigation warning issued Aug 8: Fishing Promopez towing trawler Grampian Fury (713 gt, built 1966) in lat 35 58S, long 53 14W, line length 450 metres, bound for Montevideo port. (Note -- Grampian Fury, with 28 persons on board, was reported disabled and adrift, in lat 36 15S, long 53 25W.)

HAJ FAYEZ (Cambodia)

Tunis, Aug 9 -- General cargo Haj Favez (4013 gt, built 1979) had engine breakdown in Bizerta Roads Aug 7. Vessel was rescued by National Navy then towed to Bizerta port. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HANJIN BUSAN (Cyprus)

Karachi, Aug 9 -- C.c. Hanjin Busan (17933 gt, built 1979) damaged a tug on arrival at Karachi Port yesterday. According to Pakistan's port authority, reasonable compensation was obtained from the vessel for damage to its tug during towing. Hanjin Busan arrived from Sri Lanka at 2015, Aug 8 and offloaded containers at berths No. 29/30 of Karachi International Container Terminal. It is expected to sail for India today. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Aug 11 -- C.c. Hanjin Busan sailed Karachi Aug 9 for Jawaharlal Nehru. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HILL (Liberia)

Taipei, Aug 11 -- General cargo Hill sailed Keelung Aug 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HUI MANA (U.S.A.)

See Pride of America.

I.V.No.14 (Canada)

London, Aug 8 -- General cargo I.V.No.14 (149 gt, built 1937) was reported to have struck dredger Rosaire (715 gt, built 1952) at 1048 hrs, Aug 6, in St. John Harbour, N.B..

JACOBA ALIJDA (Netherlands)

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0306, UTC: Trawler Jacoba Alijda (429 gt, built 1987) and product tanker Shinoussa (27793 gt, built 1990) were in collision in lat 53 03N, long 02 42E, at 0139, UTC, Aug 9. Jacoba Alijda sustained a hole and reported taking water in the engine-room. All six crew members were taken off by fishing St. Anthony, which is still alongside the vessel.

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0311, UTC: Trawler Jacoba Alijda and product tanker Shinoussa are still at the site of the collision, and fishing St. Anthony has secured a towline to Jacoba Alijda. Shinoussa is not believed to be holed or leaking oil. A damage assessment will be carried out in daylight.

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0354, UTC: Trawler Jacoba Alijda has sunk in lat 53 04.23N, long 02 42.79E.

London, Aug 9 -- A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: In the early hours of this morning a Dutch fishing vessel sank 48 miles north east of Bacton, south east of Cromer. Yarmouth Coastguard were alerted by crew on a standby vessel at 2351, yesterday, to an incident that they had overheard on the radio between the casualty vessel, Dutch trawler Jacoba Alijda, and their rescue vessel, Dutch fishing vessel St. Anthony, registered in the UK. Rescue helicopter 125 from RAF Wattisham was scrambled and contact was made with the rescue boat fishing vessel St. Anthony; the skipper stated he had rescued six crew, all of which were safe and well and a tow line would be attempted to be put on the fishing vessel. The Rescue helicopter

was then stood down. Yarmouth Coastguard received a call at 0401 this morning from Greek product tanker Shinoussa stating they had been in a collision with the Dutch trawler Jacoba Alijda, they were confident they had not sustained any damage but were standing by the casualty and another fishing vessel. Martin Miller, Yarmouth Coastguard Watch Manager, says: "We were not made aware of the collision until 0400 we understand the 27,000 ton tanker carrying 15,000 tonnes of fuel oil to be intact and no pollution has occurred. At first light the vessel will be inspected to assess if any damage has been sustained, by personnel on board the Thames Gas Platform standby vessel Putford Rover. If all is well the tanker will then continue to its destination Tees Port. The Dutch Coastguard has informed us that the Jacoba Alijda sunk at 0455. "The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has been informed of this incident." The weather conditions on scene were moderate with good visibility.

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from the operators of product tanker Shinoussa: At 0030, BST, today, a collision occurred between Shinoussa and trawler Jacoba Alijda in the North Sea, some 48 miles north-east of Bacton. Following the collision, the crew of Jacoba Alijda, a Netherlands registered fishing vessel, transferred to another fishing vessel. It is understood that all her crew are accounted for and in good health. Jacoba Alijda subsequently sank at 0455, BST. UK maritime authorities in Yarmouth and Southampton were contacted by Shinoussa at approximately 0200, BST. The vessel remained on site in order to provide further assistance as needed and to await instructions. Following an inspection earlier this morning, it has been established that Shinoussa has sustained some minor damage to her bulbous bow, with all other systems working properly. No damage to cargo areas and no pollution. After consultation with the MCA, the vessel has now continued on to its destination Teesport. Shinoussa is operated by the Eletson Corporation of Greece. The vessel is a double hulled tanker of 46,538 dwt, and sails under the Greek flag. While is not clear at this stage how the incident occurred, Eletson will co-operate fully with any subsequent investigations with the authorities and other parties into its cause. Eletson would also like to thank all those who assisted with the rescue operation and the UK Maritime authorities for their professional response.

JAVA SEA (Singapore)

Singapore, Aug 9 -- General cargo Java Sea is currently at Singmarine North Quay 2, Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JIN XI (China)

Christmas Island, Aug 4 -- Bulk Jin Xi (10904 gt, built 1993), which arrived Christmas Island Jul 31 from

Pasir Gudang, did not load due to grounding. Vessel sailed Aug 1 to Singapore, for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Christmas Island, Aug 8 -- The grounding of bulk Jin Xi took place on the day of its departure (Aug 1), at 0518 hrs, and as vessel didn't stay around too long we couldn't determine the exact point of grounding. Our best guess is at North West Point. The master informed us that the problem occurred due to the failure of the duty officer to keep an appropriate lookout. Damage was done to the forward section around the forepeak with the side shell plating being ripped open. The vessel departed late morning on same day as the grounding, for Singapore. It is understood that due to the high costs of repair the vessel has been sent to China for dry dock repair. Jepsens have substituted bulk Seletar Hope, which is now due Christmas Island on Aug 10, to load 17,500 tonnes of bulk phosphate for Malaysian ports. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JO SPIRIT (NIS)

Maassluis, Aug 9 -- Chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit arrived Hamburg Aug 8 from Cote Ste. Catherine. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Salvors SvitzerWijmuller, has been awarded a contract to remove the balance of cargo from the grounded bulk Kiperousa. The previous salvage contract with Tsavlis involved the unsuccessful refloating of Kiperousa. Apart from attempting to refloat the vessel, the team also undertook to remove the deck cargo of about 1600 hardwood logs loaded in Gabon in an effort to lighten the vessel. These efforts came to an end on Jul 24 when the vessel was declared a constructive total loss and the salvage attempt was abandoned. Approximately 6500 logs remain stowed in the holds of the flooded ship. A new contract has been awarded in favour of SvitzerWijmuller and the Tsavlis team has departed from the scene. The heavylift Mi26 helicopter that was brought in from Central Africa to help discharge the deck cargo after attempts at using supply tugs has also left. The helicopter has returned to Central Africa where it is believed to have a contract delivering food aid in Sudan. The Tsavlis tug Nikolay Chiker called briefly at East London at the weekend for repairs after receiving damage in the salvage attempt but has since sailed. The team from the South African offices of SvitzerWijmuller, led by Captain Nic Sloane, is already on site and making preparations to remove the balance of cargo. The attempt is expected to take up to two months. Two barges are being brought to the scene, one from Durban and the other, a larger barge from the Middle East. Arrangements have been made with the National Ports Authority at East London to store the logs at a site in East London harbour.

LAINE MICHELLE (U.S.A.)

See Leisure Lady.

LANDS END (U.K.)

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated Aug 10, states: A French navy ship is to arrive off Corsica to hem in a fuel slick left by a British luxury yacht Lands End (364 gt, built 1965) which holed itself on a reef off the southern part of the island, officials said. The 49-metre yacht ran into the reef two kilometres off shore yesterday for reasons yet to be determined. Its 13 passengers and 12 crew members abandoned ship without injury. The ship remains stuck on the reef with all but its aft underwater. The French said a tug was standing by for the salvage of the yacht. The navy vessel sent to the scene from Toulon was equipped with an anti-pollution water barrier which would be used to contain oil and fuel that had escaped. A Monaco-based company handled the running of the yacht, which was rented out for Mediterranean cruises for Euro 13,000 a day.

LEISURE LADY (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The master of casino vessel Leisure Lady (88 gt, built 1984), which collided with commercial shrimp fishing Laine Michelle (83 gt, built 1976) approximately nine miles off Fort Myers Beach, at 1400, Aug 7, said yesterday he cannot say when the gambling boat will relaunch. U.S. Coast Guard officials said they cannot comment on the accident. "The case is still under investigation," said Lt. James Fogle, of the Coast Guard. Fogle said there were people on the casino boat gaming during the accident but said there were no reported injuries. Leisure Lady departs from Fort Myers Beach twice a day Tuesday through Sunday and has 180 slot machines and 12 table games. Yesterday, workers were repairing Lady Leisure, but Captain Tom Drake said he would not comment until the investigation was complete. "We can't say anything that would affect their investigation," Drake said.

LIAN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Ronne, Aug 10 -- General cargo Lian arrived Ronne Aug 9 from Szczecin and sailed Aug 10 for Slite. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

LOYALTY (Panama)

London, Aug 11 -- Product tanker Loyalty sailed New York Aug 8.

MAHARDI (Indonesia)

Singapore, Aug 6 -- General cargo Mahardi sailed Singapore Aug 5 for Port Klang. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARISSA GREEN (Netherlands)

Karachi, Aug 5 -- Understand from HRC Shipping Ltd, the owners of c.c. Banga Bonik, that the dispute with the owner of general cargo Marissa Green is yet to be resolved. Marissa Green was detained at Chittagong Port for damaging Banga Bonik but later released on the submission of a bank

guarantee for Taka 35 million (\$0.53 million) (not Taka 3.5 million as earlier reported) against the claim of Taka 120 million (USD \$1.85 million). In order to establish the actual cost of the damage the local court has asked for a submission of the findings of the Underwater Survey/Dry Dock. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MATHILDA DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, Aug 5 -- Reported that general cargo Mathilda Desgagnes (4203 gt, built 1959) grounded near Port Meunier, Anticosti Island, lat 49 48 30N, long 64 22 06W, 0024, EDST, today. Vessel remains aground and awaits tug assistance.

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from Quebec MRSC, timed 1455, UTC: General cargo Mathilda Desgagnes has been refloated and is presently at Montreal.

MAWASHI AL-GASSEEM (Kuwait)

London, Aug 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Maritime Union of Australia says it has humanitarian concerns for 69 foreign crew members on board livestock Mawashi Al-Gasseem that has been placed under arrest at Port Adelaide. The union says the workers have not been paid in months, and are having to rely on outside assistance for food. Last month, the Federal Court found the ship's owner owed more than \$US600,000 in unpaid fuel. It subsequently ordered the carrier be arrested in Port Adelaide, effectively stopping it from any further movement. The Maritime Union's South Australian branch secretary, Jamie Newlyn, says the ship's mostly Filipino crew is owed about \$US450,000 in back pay. "The 69 crew on board that vessel haven't been paid since February and some in fact haven't been paid for over 12 months," he said. Mr Newlyn says food and basic provisions are being given to the workers, but many of them are worried that they have not been able to provide for their families.

MIRAGE I (Bahamas)

See "Vessels Diverted To Cyprus Due To Security Concerns" under "Miscellaneous".

MISSISSIPPI (Canada)

London, Aug 10 -- At 2322 hrs, Jul 9, bulk Mississippi (9706 gt, built 1943) lost steering and struck the guard gate wall, Mile 9, Welland Canal. The vessel sustained damage on the port bow, above and below the waterline. Wall damaged.

MITHRIL (Netherlands)

London, Aug 10 -- Information received from Germany, dated today, states: General cargo Suna (2889 gt, built 1994) Brunsbittel to Kiel, caught "the wrong lane" close to Rendsburg and was in collision with general cargo Mithril (1909 gt, built 1994) Baltic to Bristol, Aug 9. The Suna drifted against the berth of the canal ferry Nobsikrug afterwards missing it only by chance. The bow of the Mithril was

damaged severely, the vessel sprang a leak and was moored in the harbour of Rendsburg. The Suna proceeded to Kiel where it was arrested. The damage is estimated to be Euro 250,000. Both crews as well as the pilots were not injured. (Note -- Mithril sailed Rostock at 2220, Aug 8 for Bristol. Suna sailed Brake at 2035 Aug 8.)

MOHAMAD PRINCE (Honduras)

Aleppo, Aug 6 -- General cargo Mohamad Prince arrived Tartous Jul 30. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MOL DISCOVERY (Panama)

London, Aug 4 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1409, UTC: C.c. MOL Discovery has completed repairs and proceeded on voyage.

MOLODYOZHNY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Aug 10 -- Ref Molodyozhny sailed Vladivostok Aug 5 for Kamchatka. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC CHRISTINA (Cyprus)

London, Aug 10 -- C.c. MSC Christina arrived Ningbo Aug 3 and sailed Aug 5. Vessel subsequently arrived Busan Aug 6 and sailed Aug 7 for Qingdao.

NALANI (U.S.A.)

See Pride of America.

NEW GLORY (Dominica)

Singapore, Aug 9 -- General cargo New Glory is still at Raffles Anchorage, Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NIKOLAY CHIKER (Russia)

See Kiperousa.

NORASIA TAURUS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Limassol, Aug 5 -- C.c. Norasia Taurus is berthing today at Larnaca port to discharge all cargo onboard (about 1,600 Containers). The vessel had a fire on board on Jul 16 off the coast of Egypt. After the fire was put out the vessel was towed to Larnaca. An LOF2000 has been signed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN BLOSSOM (Panama)

Moji, Aug 2 -- Acid tanker Ocean Blossom arrived Shimonoseki Aug 1 from Dalian and sailed same day for Tsuneishi. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ORIENT PROSPERITY (India)

Mormugao, Aug 5 -- C.c. Orient Prosperity arrived Mormugao Aug 1 from Mumbai. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

OSTFRIESLAND (Germany)

London, Aug 4 -- Information received from Germany, dated today, states: Ro/ro Ostfriesland (1860 gt, built 1985), berthed in outer port of Emden, sustained a machine room fire after leakage in fuel pipe Aug 3. First the fire was successfully tackled by the crew, but then it broke out again. Emden firefighters were alarmed and finally managed to put out the flames.

The vessel is under repair at the Nordseewerken Emden now. It usually connects Borkum island with Emden port.

PACIFIC RUNNER (Marshall Islands)

Zeebrugge, Aug 8 -- Vehicle Pacific Runner arrived Zeebrugge Aug 5 from Algiers and sailed Aug 6 for Bremerhaven. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

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

New Orleans, Aug 9 -- Drilling barge Parker Drilling 57-B: The salvage contract has been awarded and salvors are currently awaiting the arrival of more equipment to commence the removal of the derrick and rigging. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PELORUS (Bermuda)

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated Aug 5, states: A fuel supply problem that affected Roman Abramovich's yacht Pelorus (5317 gt, built 2003) during a recent visit to Malta is feared to be "bad publicity" for the island and could have serious negative repercussions on its yachting industry. The problem on Pelorus caused delays, leading its owner, to cancel a visit to Malta. Mr Abramovich was likely planning to spend a day on his boat before sailing away, said Simon Borg Cardona, managing director of yacht agents and brokers Nautica Ltd, which handles the magnate's yachts when in Malta, organising berthing, facilities and supplies. But the delays caused by the problem in the fuel supply, which have not been specified, disrupted his plans and he is said to have done a right about-turn. Mr Abramovich was scheduled to arrive in Malta from Boston on his private jet when he rerouted and headed for Sardinia instead. The motor yacht was delayed by a couple of days and then left, Mr Borg Cardona said. Although it is, as yet, unclear whose fault it was, the crew blame the fuel suppliers and the fuel suppliers deny making any mistakes, it is feared that Malta's boating scenario could suffer due to bad publicity. In the case of Pelorus, the fuel was ordered through an international bunkering company but supplied by locals, Mr Borg Cardona said, adding that the cause of the problem had not yet been established and it was premature to point fingers. (Note -- Pelorus arrived Valletta Jul 19 and sailed Jul 26.)

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Labour Member of Parliament Jose Herrera yesterday called for an inquiry into the incident involving yacht Pelorus. The vessel was supplied with \$216,000 worth of contaminated diesel while it was docked in Malta. The yacht was docked in Malta awaiting owner Mr Abramovich's arrival on his private jet from the United States, but an onboard warning system detected that the fuel contained an excessive amount of water and shut the boat down. The engine was not damaged but it was estimated that cleaning out

the contaminated fuel would cost around \$1 million. Dr Herrera called on the authorities to investigate this incident because the negative publicity was having disastrous effects on the country's efforts to promote the island as a yachting hub in the Mediterranean.

PIETRO NOVELLI (Italy)

Messina, Aug 5 -- Ro/ro Pietro Novelli has arrived in Messina where it is undergoing permanent repairs at the local shipyard. We do not have full details of extent of damage/status of repairs as we have not been instructed on the hull damage. However, the damage is not too serious. It is expected that the vessel will promptly resume service on the usual Milazzo/Aeolian islands route. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Messina, Aug 10 -- Ro/ro Pietro Novelli has completed permanent repairs and is now back on scheduled service on the Aeolian islands route. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PINE PIA (South Korea)

See Asia Concerto.

PORVENIR I (Chile)

Valparaiso, Aug 4 -- Ro/ro Porvenir I (3316 gt, built 1972) sailed from Chacabuco to Talcahuano Aug 3 in heavy weather off "Morro Gonzalo" at Caleta Bonifacio. Due to strong winds (120 km/hr) and 10 metre waves the container's lashing, which were stowed on board, collapsed causing the shifting of the vessel (60° app.). Due to this shifting, the vessel's engine sustained damage by sea water. The captain informed of the vessel's situation to the Chilean Maritime Authorities at 0751, local time, Aug 3. Chilean Maritime Authority informed that all members of the crew were rescued. The vessel remains stranded at Punta Galera. The containers carried frozen fish. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Porvenir I sailed Chacabuco Jul 30.)

Valparaiso, Aug 5 -- Ro/ro Porvenir I sunk yesterday at approximately 1600, local time, the second officer died, two crew members are missing -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (See issue of Aug 8.)

PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Aug 4 -- Passenger Pride of America (80439 gt) was involved in a contact with a Smith Maritime tug in Kahului Harbour, Maui, Hawaii, on Aug 1-2. It was reported that the tug was manoeuvring a fuel barge into position when the bow line parted and the tug's anchor came into contact with the ship. Damage is reported to its starboard side, above the waterline. Full damage assessment is to be made upon arrival in Honolulu on Aug 6. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Aug 8 -- The vessels involved in the collision with passenger Pride of America were tug Nalani (98 gt, built 1981) and tank barge Hui Mana (2299 gt, built 1988). -- Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Aug 8 -- Passenger Pride of America arrived Honolulu Aug 6 from Nawiliwili and sailed same day for Hilo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PROVIDENCE II (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

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

RADWAN (Cyprus)

See "Bay Of Bengal" under "Piracy".

ROMILDA (Greece)

London, Aug 8 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro Romilda (4985 gt, built 1974) sustained damage to one of the main engine while sailing to Santorini, morning Aug 6. At the time of the incident vessel was performing the schedule Piraeus-Syros-Paros-Naxos-Ios-Sikino-Folegandros-Santorini-Anathi. Following the incident vessel arrived at Santorini safely and disembarked the 120 passengers. Those bound for Anathi were forwarded to their destination on a vessel performing local itineraries. The vessel sailed for Piraeus without passengers in order to perform repairs. Following inspection by the Marine Inspectorate at Piraeus, vessel sailed at 0140, Aug 7 for Syros-Mykonos-Paros-Naxos-Heraklion-Koufonissia-Donoussa-Aigali-Katapola.

ROSAIRE (Canada)

See I.V.No.14.

SAFMARINE MEROULA (Cyprus)

London, Aug 8 -- General cargo Safmarine Meroula (8975 gt, built 1981) had engine breakdown off the South African coast Aug 4. Salvage services rendered to vessel by Smit Marine South Africa (Pty) Ltd under LOF 2000. Vessel was towed into Saldanha Bay Aug 5. (Note -- Safmarine Meroula sailed Cape Town Aug 3.)

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from the Department of Merchant Shipping, Limassol, dated today: General cargo Safmarine Meroula was deleted from the Cyprus registry on Aug 3.

Cape Town, Aug 11 -- General cargo Safmarine Meroula has sustained damage to a generator and was assisted by salvors Smit in order to arrive at the port of Saldanha. Agents advise that repairs are almost complete although it would appear that Smit have had the vessel arrested. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SAMUDRA SURAKSHA (India)

See BHN Production Platform.

SANTA EMMA (Panama)

Halifax, NS, Aug 4 -- Ro/ro Santa Emma is berthed at Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick. Hull repairs have been effected, and understand tugs have been ordered. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jun 6.)

SEMLOW

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

SHINOUSSA (Greece)

See Jacoba Alijda.

SIERRA EXPRESS (Greece)

Falmouth, Aug 4 -- C.c. Sierra Express is still anchored in Falmouth Bay, and general cargo Dogger is still alongside at Queens Wharf. No decisions have been taken concerning repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Falmouth, Aug 6 -- C.c. Sierra Express berthed Duchy Wharf, Falmouth Docks, 1930, Aug 5, to effect repairs. General cargo Dogger berthed Kings Wharf, Falmouth Docks, 1000, Aug 5, awaiting decision regards cargo discharge and repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SOULA (North Korea)

Aleppo, Aug 10 -- Our Tartous branch has reported after investigation that general cargo Soula arrived Tartous on May 14 and that the main engine has been repaired. Soula is expected to sail from Tartous to an unknown destination within three days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Aug 10 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1120, UTC: General cargo Strilen (1133 gt, built 1966) grounded in lat 54 51.4N, long 10 31.5E, about 2139, UTC, Aug 8. Vessel was refloated with tug assistance Aug 9 and was reported proceeding to a nearby local dock.

STRYMON (Greece)

London, Aug 9 -- At 2115 hrs, Aug 8, chem.tank Strymon (30020 gt, built 2005) contacted the bottom while docking at Montreal. No injuries or pollution reported.

SUNA (Russia)

See Mithril.

SWEET LASS II (Malta)

London, Aug 10 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1350, UTC: Bulk Sweet Lass II (35350 gt, built 1981), cargo 450,000 tonnes of granulated slag, grounded while attempting to enter the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) on Aug 7. Vessel is soft aground and believed undamaged. Lightering operations commenced yesterday and it is hoped to refloat the vessel at midday, local time, today.

London, Aug 10 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1840, UTC: Bulk Sweet Lass II: Lightering operations will continue until sunset today. Operations will then be suspended until early tomorrow morning. It is hoped to make a refloating attempt sometime around mid-morning tomorrow.

TALLIN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Miami, Aug 4 -- While being in dead tow by a tug operated by P & L Towing, inbound, yesterday, general cargo Tallin (2810 gt, built 1997) struck the Fifth Avenue Bridge, Miami, with the port side causing

damages to the port bridge and other areas. G/L surveyor attending. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THE IRIS (Malta)

See "Vessels Diverted To Cyprus Due To Security Concerns" under "Miscellaneous".

THE JASMINE**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See "Vessels Diverted To Cyprus Due To Security Concerns" under "Miscellaneous".

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Local and international marine experts continue to trying to figure out how to remove part c.c. Transfer from a section of Lighthouse Reef atoll. While officials had hoped to dislodge the wreck during a salvage operation earlier this month, reports indicate that the attempt was unsuccessful. It is understood that when Transfer experienced problems and crashed into the coral in January, only one third of its length sat on the reef, but when Hurricane "Emily" passed through the Caribbean, the large accompanying waves pushed an additional third of the vessel into the shallows. With that much dead weight high and dry, even the powerful tug imported to pull the vessel off the reef proved ineffective, forcing officials to come up with plan B. It is understood that there are two options: one to bring two larger tugs to the site and proceed with dislodging the vessel, or hire work crews armed with welding torches to cut the ship into several pieces to facilitate its removal. Since the grounding no fines have been levied against the owner of the vessel, identified to us as Ariane Shipping Company; however it is understood that officials are making a thorough assessment of the monetary damages to the environment. They will then levy a fine three times that amount, a minimum of \$600,000, against those responsible.

TRANSMODAL (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Aug 10 -- Ro/ro Transmodal: Cleaning works have already been initiated with removal and/or dismantling of affected equipment. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TUGCE-T. (Turkey)

Monrovia, Aug 5 -- Product tanker Tugce-T. (5154 gt, built 1985) informed us that she had developed engine problems en route to Nigeria. We are the appointed shipping agents and we established radio communications with the vessel am today. We learned that the vessel has main engine problems and engineers from her home base will arrive in Monrovia on Aug 7 to remedy the problem. She is being towed by the salvage vessel Mamuli and is presently in position lat 06 20.5N, long 10 49.7W. She has been in this position since 0930 today. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Tugce-T., ukraine for Apapa-Lagos, passed Gibraltar Jul 23.)

Monrovia, Aug 8 -- Owners of product tanker Tugce-T. inform that they are flying a marine surveyor from Istanbul this Wednesday (Aug 10). Yesterday, four fitters/mechanics arrived to help mend the main engine. The vessel is presently around the fairway buoy at Monrovia port. -- Lloyd's Agents.

UTTARKASHI (India)

Visakhapatnam, Aug 10 -- Bulk Uttarkashi sailed Visakhapatnam Aug 9 for Paradip. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VAGABON DES MERS (Canada)

London, Aug 8 -- At 2325 hrs, Aug 6, fishing Vagabon Des Mers (54 gt, built 1982) was reported disabled, in lat 45 31.58N, long 72 52. 58W, with cracked engine block. The vessel was towed back to port by the Coast Guard vessel Cap Rozier.

WAVE SENTINEL (U.K.)

Hull, Aug 11 -- Cable Wave Sentinel sailed from Teesport at 0700, Aug 9, bound Portland. -- Lloyd's Agents.

WILKE (Gibraltar)

London, Aug 4 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1434, UTC: General cargo Wilke (2901 gt, built 1994), Queenborough for Szczecin in ballast, is presently stopped and drifting in lat 53 27.2N, long 05 00.6E, to effect engine repairs.

London, Aug 5 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0510, UTC: General cargo Wilke completed repairs and proceeded on voyage at 2030, UTC, Aug 4. (Note -- At 0409 today Wilke was in lat 53 56 13.2N, long 07 45 19.44E.)

X-PRESS PUMORI (Singapore)

Singapore, Aug 9 -- C.c. X-Press Pumori is currently at Pan United Shipyard Floating Dock 2, Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YUN CHANG (Taiwan)

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

**BAY OF BENGAL**

London, Aug 10 -- Bangladesh Coast Guards arrested some 41-sea pirates from the Bay of Bengal during piracy on a ship off Kutubdia Island yesterday morning. It is said, a tug Care Play-14 from Kutubdia island area on the Bay at around 0800 hrs was towing product tanker Radwan (23904 gt, built 1980), a scrap vessel. A gang of pirates attacked the vessel and the tug and started looting goods from the vessels. However, on receiving the message, the mobile team of the Coast Guard on board CGS Tauhid rushed to the spot and surrounded the two vessels and asked the pirates to surrender. They

surrendered on the spot. The Coast Guards arrested some 41 pirates from the two vessels and five trawlers used by the pirates. They also recovered the looted goods including huge ropes, one refrigerator, rubber boat and pistol from the possession of the arrested pirates. They also seized the five trawlers, used in the piracy. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Coast Guards arrested some 41 sea pirates from the Bay of Bengal during piracy on product tanker Radwan (23904 gt, built 1980) off Kutubdia island this morning. The Coast Guard also seized huge looted goods from the pirates. In another operation, the Coast Guards also arrested three alleged smugglers from the outer anchorage of the Chittagong Port in the Bay of Bengal last night. Radwan, a scrap vessel, was being towed by a tug from Kutubdia island area on the Bay of Bengal at around 0800 today. A gang of pirates attacked Radwan and the tug and started looting goods from the ships. However, the crew of the tug ship informed the Coast Guard about the piracy through wireless message. The message was immediately sent to the mobile team of Coast Guard. On receiving the message, the mobile team of the Coast Guard on board CGS Tauhid rushed to the spot near Kutubdia island. The Coast Guard surrounded the two ships and asked the pirates to surrender. They surrendered on the spot. The Coast Guards arrested some 41 pirates from the two ships and five trawlers used by the pirates. They also recovered the looted goods including huge ropes, one refrigerator, rubber boat and pistol from the possession of the arrested pirates. They also seized the five trawlers, used in the piracy. Besides, the Coast Guards arrested three alleged smugglers from the outer anchorage area of Chittagong Port on the Bay of Bengal at about 2100 yesterday. They also seized mobile phones and an engine boat from their possession. The Coast Guard handed over the 41 arrested pirates and three smugglers to the Custom authority. The process has been started to file cases with Patenga thana, said Coast Guard sources.

RADWAN (Cyprus)

See "Bay Of Bengal Radwan" under "Piracy".

SOMALIA

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Eight Kenyans taken hostage by Somali pirates will be released within the next three days, it has been announced. Also held hostage in the same vessel (general cargo Semlow) together with the eight Kenyans are a Tanzanian engineer and a Sri Lankan ship captain. Somali leaders and elders on behalf of the hijackers have agreed to release the 10 to go to the Somali port of El Maan within the next three days. The release agreement has been entered into between representatives of the

Somali Transitional Federal Government and officials from the United Nations World Food Programme. At the meeting where the agreement was entered into on Friday (Aug 5) were Kenya's Ambassador to Somalia Mohammed Affey, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Kenya, Mohamed Kaleel Meelaub Keeran and Colonel Nicholas Fulko Miti of the Tanzanian High Commission in Kenya. Mr Affey said that he was happy an agreement to free the hostages had finally been arrived at. "I am excited that after one-and-a-half months of negotiations, we have secured their release. However, we can only celebrate once they arrive in Mombasa," said Mr Affey. "We are grateful to the Somali Transitional Federal Government and the Kenyan ambassador for their combined efforts to ensure that the vessel, the food and, most importantly, the 10-member crew who have suffered greatly during this ordeal will be released unconditionally," said WFP's Country Director Robert Hauser in a press statement. It was also agreed at the Friday meeting that the food consignment be handed over to the Somali Transitional Federal Government in El Maan to be distributed to communities inhabiting the central regions of the country. Community elders and the TFG representatives guaranteed that after the consignment was off-loaded, the vessel would be allowed to sail on without any hindrance or threats, WFP said. Upon its release, the vessel is expected to discharge the 850 metric tons of food aid donated by Japan and Germany at the northern Mogadishu Port of El Maan, and then return to its base in Mombasa.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Somali pirates have reneged on a deal brokered by the United Nations to free ten hostages held for more than a month and the fate of general cargo Semlow and the crew was still unknown so far, officials working for the World Food Programme (WFP) in Nairobi said today. Under the deal, which included the release of the hostages and the ship's cargo of mainly rice for post-tsunami aid, a UN-chartered Kenyan ship was due to dock at the port of El Maan near the Somali capital Mogadishu by Monday (Aug 8). The officials, however, said the pirates have not been in touch since the agreement, struck by Somali clan elders, UN mediators and the pirates, was reached five days ago. They said that they did not know whether contact has broken down or not. "We have been waiting for the ship since last weekend, but it has not come. We will still wait as we don't know what has happened again," said an official at the WFP office in Nairobi. The pirates originally demanded a 500,000 dollar ransom for the hostages, including eight Kenyan crew members, a Sri Lankan captain and a Tanzanian engineer. Later they demanded only the rice for tsunami victims in the northeastern Somali

city of Bosaaso. The WFP said at the weekend that a deal had been reached on Friday (Aug 5) for the safe return of the ship, its crew and the 850 tons of rice it is carrying within days, on the condition that the rice would be distributed in central Somalia, where the pirates come from.

Port State Control



UNITED KINGDOM

Hull, Aug 11 -- General cargo Gloria: According to Port of Tyne Harbour-master's office, vessel is still under detention at Tyne dock. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Seizures & Arrests



AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Aug 8 -- A report from LaSalle, dated today, states: A report from Lagos, dated Aug 5, states: Reprieve yesterday came the way of 13 nationals of Russia, Romania and Georgia who have been standing trial on a two counts of criminal charge of illegal crude oil bunkering with product tanker African Pride, as Justice Rose Ukeje of the Federal High Court, Lagos, admitted them to bail. She, however, said their bail is on the condition that the listed countries' ambassadors to Nigeria must sign undertaking to produce them when hearing in the matter resumes. Their application for bail was, however, not opposed by the prosecution as the judge further ruled that they must deposit their international passports and travel documents with the court, adding that the Nigerian Foreign Minister or the National Security Adviser to the President shall verify claims by their ambassadors. She also ruled that the ambassadors must identify which of the accused persons are their nationals, adding that if they jump bail, the privilege will be revoked. The suspects, who had been standing trial before Justice Gloria Okeke of the same court, were earlier refused bail by the court which upheld argument of the prosecution that the accused persons are foreigners and that if they decide to jump bail, there was no way the court could ensure they are brought back to the country to face trial.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The captain of product tanker African Pride, arrested in Nigeria, was discharged from hospital yesterday and put back into custody, the mother of one of the sailors told Itar-Tass by telephone. Valery Pakhomov, 65, was hospitalised last week with an outbreak of malaria,

Lyudmila Kravtsova said. "We have agreed with Russian medics living in Nigeria that when our seamen are released from prison, they will organize their thorough medical examination," Kravtsova said. "Local Nigerian medics, educated in Russia, are also ready to help us," she added. She also reported that "all Russian seamen spent yesterday in preparations for their release from prison." Twelve Russian sailors who have been kept in custody on charges of smuggling oil from Nigeria are supposed to be out on bail today following last Thursday's (Aug 4) ruling of the Lagos Federal Court. However, some formalities need to be carried out first, specifically the sailors must sign a letter of guarantees promising that none of them will leave Nigeria, will stay in the territory of the Russian embassy and show up at court hearings. The lawyers of the Russian seamen and Russian embassy staffers spend Monday at the Lagos Federal Court finalizing the text of the letter of guarantees, the mother of Andrei Kravtsov said.

AL QAMAR (Honduras)

Port Said, Aug 5 -- Passenger ro/ro Al Qamar is still under arrest at Suez. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CAN GIO (Vietnam)

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: General cargo Can Gio and its crew continue to languish in captivity even after a trial over a trade dispute that caused their capture originally finished almost a fortnight ago. The vessel was seized on orders from the Tanzanian Supreme Court on Jul 27, 2004 when it docked in the country. Tanzania's Mohammed Enterprises filed a lawsuit against Thanh Hoa alleging the Vietnamese company had not executed a contract it had signed. Can Gio, which has been detained in Tanzania for more than a year, is now facing major trouble since the Tanzanian Supreme Court refused to release it following a hearing on July 22 on the trade dispute. The ship owner Sea Saigon Shipping Company said it was suffering great loss from the capture of the ship. Maintenance costs had mounted to \$1 million since it was seized in July 2004 while the ship's value had depreciated by half as it was in a state of disrepair, the company said. At the July 22 hearing, the court imposed a fine of some \$2 million on the Vietnamese government, considering it a defendant in the lawsuit filed by Mohammed and alleging Vietnam failed to handle the case fairly. The fine included damages for the unfulfilled rice export contract and interest from 1999. The Vietnamese Prime Minister has asked the Ministry of Trade to draft plans to oppose the Tanzanian court's decision. The Vietnamese Embassy in Tanzania is set to hire lawyers to appeal against the seizure of the ship.

The embassy will write to Tanzanian agencies criticizing the court verdict and calling for just action.

CAPO GRIFO (Italy)

Genoa, Aug 8 -- Asphalt tanker Capo Grifo sailed Genoa Aug 4 for Aliaga, in tow of salvage tug Ocean Lady. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FILIPPUS (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Aug 10 -- C.c. Filippus is still under arrest at Porto Alegre, with no known date for the vessel's release or departure. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HIGHLANDER

Cape Town, Aug 11 -- Fishing Highlander is still berthed in Cape Town harbour. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PONGSU (North Korea)

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The captain of North Korean general cargo Pongsu was duped by drug smugglers who used a bogus charter to bring heroin to Australia, a Supreme Court jury heard yesterday. Ian Hayden, representing Man Sun Song, 65, said the vessel was chartered by smugglers using the name of a defunct Malaysian company. He said a conman told a customs agent he wanted to use the Pongsu to export BMW and four-wheel-drive vehicles from Melbourne to Malaysia. But two drug importers, posing as charterers' representatives, boarded the vessel in China, he said. The vessel was stopped off Boggaley Creek, near Lorne, on charterers' orders, and the captain acted in good faith in following instructions, Mr Hayden said. "He didn't have an understanding about what we all know now, that it was in fact a sting and it was a bogus charter," he said. Song and three other senior crew members have pleaded not guilty to aiding and abetting heroin importation. The three other accused are the Pongsu political secretary Dong Song Choi, 61, chief mate Man Jin Ri, 51, and chief engineer Ju Chon Ri, 51. Prosecutor John Champion, SC, has told the jurors that two non-crew members headed for shore on Apr 15, 2003, in a rubber dinghy with the heroin. He said one drowned and the other was arrested, along with three other men from a "shore party" who came to collect the heroin. Yesterday, John O'Sullivan, for Choi, said he had a purely political role on the vessel, reinforcing the Communist Party line. Nick Papas, for Man Ri, said there was no evidence he knew narcotics were being imported. Stephen Russell, for Ju Ri, said the case against him was based on guesswork and speculation.

RAVENI (Tonga)

Messina, Aug 5 -- C.c. Raveni: Situation unchanged and we do not expect news in foreseeable future. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ST.TROPEZ (Bahamas)

London, Aug 11 -- Passenger St.Tropez, which was arrested in Florida in June after months of legal

wrangling, is to be auctioned at Port Everglades on Sep 20 under a federal court order, after unpaid crew joined in as co-plaintiffs in the original suit filed by the vessel's food and beverage concessionaire. Informed sources estimate that the vessel would fetch around \$2.5 million in a properly managed auction. The amount is unlikely to be enough to pay off all creditors, including initial plaintiff Admiral Cruises, which is owed \$1.6 million according to the original lawsuit. The vessel's crew of around 150, mostly Filipinos, has dwindled to about 25 directly responsible for vessel operations, as the rest have been repatriated. The total wages due to all seafarers amount to \$150,000, but the crew's final claim is likely to be double that figure after providing for severance pay. National Maritime Services of Fort Lauderdale, the substitute custodian appointed by the US Marshal after the arrest, has spent more than \$600,000 so far on vessel and crew maintenance and this is likely to increase in the run-up to the auction, company sources said. National Maritime's dues are the only claim that enjoys priority over crew wages under the admiralty court sale. The fight for the remaining money due to other creditors is likely to be complicated by the intervention of Kenneth Welt, the Chapter 7 trustee who was responsible for operating the vessel under bankruptcy protection until a federal judge ordered it arrested in June. Mr Welt has intervened in the original complaint as a de facto creditor, and is understood to be claiming the expenses incurred by the trustee in the course of running the vessel. Plaintiff crew have opposed this on the grounds that the trustee's true role in the bankruptcy scenario was akin to that of an owner and not a creditor. The list of other creditors awaiting their slice of the auction pie includes Nordea Bank, which is owed \$6 million. The vessel is owned by S Navigation II Ltd, which chartered the vessel in November, 2002, to Southern Navigation I Ltd. The charterer is believed to have changed its name to Florida Entertainment LLC in March, 2003. Admiral brought a breach of contract lawsuit against the vessel this January and secured an arrest order. However, Florida Entertainment LLC filed for bankruptcy protection in February, which halted the arrest and transferred operational control to Mr Welt's office until a federal judge in June reinstated the original arrest order. Entertainment is likely to continue even during the auction, the final arrest order indicates. In ordering the vessel sold on Sep 20, Judge Alaberto Jordan of the US District Court of the Southern District of Florida noted: "The US Marshal has informed me that gambling equipment is on board the vessel. Therefore, potential buyers may be required to obtain a gambling licence to purchase the vessel."

Pipeline Accidents



ADYGEYA, RUSSIA

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

KAMBAR, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Aug 7 -- A gas pipeline of the country largest gas supplier to gas utility firms-Pakistan Petroleum Limited burst yesterday, creating a hole of five inches near Drigh police station in Kambar in Sindh province of Pakistan. Company officials ruled out subversion. Broken pieces of the pipeline have been sent to Karachi for laboratory test to ascertain the cause of the explosion. The officials are of the view that the pipeline burst due to gas pressure. No short supply of gas from any one of gas utilities firm was reported. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SIVASAGAR, ASSAM STATE, INDIA

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

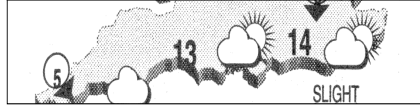
Pollution



MILFORD HAVEN, PEMBROKESHIRE, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 5 -- An oil spill has hit the Welsh coastline, triggering an investigation. Up to 500 tonnes of kerosene leaked from a tank owned by Petroplus in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire. Some has ended up on Hazelbeach near the village of Llanstadwell. Warning signs have now been put up. The Environment Agency said the oil had created "a localised visual and odour impact". EA received reports of oil contamination in Hazelbeach stream, which borders the Petroplus site, on Wednesday (Aug 3). The company, which owned up to a problem on Tuesday, believes it entered water through soil underneath the leaking tank. The agency and company, along with Pembrokeshire County Council and the Countryside Council for Wales, have since been working to clear up the chemical. An EA statement added, "A full investigation will be carried out to identify the cause of the incident and identify steps to be put in place to prevent a reoccurrence."

Weather & Navigation



BAY OF BENGAL

Dhaka, Aug 5 -- At least 75 Bangladeshi fishermen were missing and feared drowned because of storms in the Bay of Bengal over the past two days, officials said today. Rescuers picked up some 170 fishermen after 15 fishing boats with 245 fishermen aboard capsized during the storms, an official of the Cyclone Preparedness Centre said. The storms sweeping the Bangladesh coast line from Cox's Bazar in the south-east to Bagerhat in the south-west also damaged hundreds of houses. -- Reuters.

BELARUS

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: One man was killed and nearly 3,000 villages sustained a power blackout as a storm whipped through north-east Belarus overnight, the country's interior ministry said today. The man, a Russian citizen, was killed by a falling tree as winds of up to 100 kilometres an hour pounded the north-east Vitebsk region, a spokesman for the ministry said. Thirteen hospitals and 52 schools were left without electricity. Electric trains in the area were also halted. Some 10,000 emergency personnel were working to repair the damage, the spokesman said.

BULGARIA

London, Aug 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed overnight in Bulgaria and more than 5,000 people fled their homes as severe floods devastated the Balkan country, destroying roads and cutting off remote villages, officials said. Police declared a state of disaster and evacuated more than 5,000 people in south and west Bulgaria, where water levels have reached more than 1.5 metres above normal, officials said. A 54-year-old woman died under a landslide in south-western Bulgaria, while a priest was crushed when a wall in his church collapsed after being weakened by floods, police said. Another man drowned after his car was engulfed in a swollen river. Torrential rains have swept across the Balkan region for most of the summer, killing dozens of people in Bulgaria and its neighbour Romania and causing hundreds of millions of euros in damage to roads, bridges, railways and crops.

HURRICANE "DENNIS"

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 5 -- Understand that general cargo Providence 2 patched her holed bottom, settled all debts here at Freeport, and departed bound for Miami night of Aug 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HURRICANE "FERNANDA"

London, Aug 11 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Fernanda" located near lat 16.5N, long 120.5W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 295 degrees at eights knots. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Forecast position lat 17.0N, long 121.6W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 17.6N, long 122.7W at 0600, UTC, Aug 12. Maximum winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

INDIA

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Flood waters in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, including India's commercial capital Mumbai, have receded and life is slowly returning to normal. A week-long drenching across the state caused rivers to burst their banks and dammed water to overflow and pour into residential areas, killing more than 1,000 people. "After more than a week of flooding, life is limping back to normal in the worst-hit areas in western and interior Maharashtra," state police chief PS Pasricha said. Mr Pasricha says 1,071 people died in the rains across the state. A record 94.4 centimetres of rain poured down in a 24-hour period in Mumbai between Jul 26 and 27. The deluge closed India's main stock exchange, banks, businesses and schools and paralysed air travel and trains. Officials say health camps set up by municipal authorities to prevent the outbreak of diseases are short of medicines, but efforts are ongoing to build up stocks as quickly as possible. The meteorological department has predicted more rain in the next 24 hours, but the intensity is expected to be moderate.

IRAN

Tehran, Aug 10 -- Overnight floods caused by heavy rains have killed about 10 people and left 20 missing in the northeastern Iranian province of Golestan, an official said today. Red Crescent emergency workers in the area also told Reuters the floods had caused extensive damage and said it had dispatched helicopters to look for survivors. "About 10 people died and 20 are missing. We still hope that they fled to the mountains," state radio quoted the head of disaster management in the province as saying. Roads, farms and buildings had been damaged by the torrents of floodwater rushing through the heavily forested Caspian Sea province, the radio said. The Interior Ministry said it had no further details. -- Reuters.

MALACCA STRAIT

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 9, states: The central and southern parts of the Straits of Malacca continued to be shrouded by severe haze today, limiting visibility to

about one km. A statement from the Meteorological Services Department says the condition is expected to persist until tomorrow and is hazardous to ships without navigational aids. Today, the Natural Resources and Environment Minister said in a statement that little change was expected in the hazy conditions in the Klang Valley and several west coast states in the next two to three days due to the continuing dry weather and open burning in Sumatra, Indonesia.)

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Malaysian authorities closed Kuala Lumpur's second airport today because of thick haze blamed on fires outside the capital and in neighbouring Indonesia, Transport Minister Chan Kong Choy said. The minister said that Subang airport, Malaysia's former main airport just south of the capital, was closed at 1240 hrs with visibility less than 300 metres. It would remain closed until conditions improved. The minister added that contingency plans were being made in case the country's main airport, Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) where visibility was about 800 metres, also had to close. "We have three airports that are capable of handling the scheduled flights which are Langkawi airport, Penang airport, as well as Senai airport in Johor Bahru in the event the haze condition worsens at KLIA," he told reporters. Langkawi and Penang islands are both off Malaysia's northwest coast and Senai is in the south. All three areas are less affected by the haze. When asked if any flights had been diverted, he replied: "Emirates (airlines) diverted a flight scheduled to arrive at KLIA at 1415 hrs to Singapore's Changi Airport." Under international airport authority guidelines, airports must close once visibility falls below 300 metres. However, airlines and pilots can also make independent decisions to divert flights. The haze crisis is being blamed on peat fires outside Kuala Lumpur, as well as hundreds of blazes in Indonesia's Riau and North Sumatra provinces, and Borneo island.

London, Aug 11 -- Malaysia's west coast Port Klang was forced to temporarily suspend operations for the second day in a row today after a choking haze closed in on the area, officials said. Terminal operators Northport and Westport stopped operations for about two hours from mid-afternoon after deciding conditions were too hazardous for workers, they said. Northport suspended its operations for three hours late yesterday due to the dark and unhealthy conditions, which forced employees to wear protective masks and turn vehicle headlights on. "We have already resumed operations now and we will have to see how the situation is, and there will be a two-hourly review," a Northport spokeswoman said. The government's Port Klang Authority, which can order a suspension of shipping activities, said that it was leaving decisions on

suspensions up to the operators for now. "The operators are monitoring and they will keep us informed as and when it is necessary," general manager O.C. Phang said. (See also SCL Kobe under "Marine." and "Forest, Indonesia and Malaysia" under "Fires & Explosions".)

NIGERIA

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: At least ten people have drowned and more are missing after weekend flooding which destroyed a bridge and a residential area of the town of Jalingo in northeastern Nigeria, a government official said today. "The damage to the bridge and buildings is very extensive," Taraba state spokesman Matthew Eliud Jen said. "The River Jalingo bridge collapsed when the river overflowed its banks as a result of several hours of downpour. The state governor, Jolly Nyame, is currently at the scene of the disaster to assess the damage," he said. "We are yet to ascertain the exact figure of casualties and those missing. But we have recovered at least 10 corpses so far," he added. Nigerian press reports said that as many as 50 people may have drowned.

RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, Aug 10 -- A storm and flood took place in Kaliningrad region on Aug 9-10. Wind gusts to 25 metres per second. The raising of water level in River Pregol came to 130 cm. According to officials, the port of Kaliningrad was closed, vessel movements were stopped, approximately 15 industrial plants were flooded, among them was shipbuilding yard "Yantar". Understand approximately one metre of water covers the container terminal and some port facilities are flooded. The traffic is still paralysed. In few districts of Kaliningrad region the power outage was noted. The airport works without any delays. Railway network is working but lines are partly covered with fallen trees. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL STORM "FERNANDA"

London, Aug 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Fernanda" near lat 15.3N, long 117.1W at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 290 degrees at nine knots. Position accurate to within 35 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Forecast position lat 15.8N, long 118.3W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 60 knots. Forecast position lat 16.3N, long 119.6W at 0600, UTC, Aug 11. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "HARVEY"

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: Tropical Storm "Harvey" moved into the open Atlantic after lashing Bermuda with heavy rains and gusty winds. "Harvey" was

moving east-northeast over the Atlantic at about 12 mph, forecasters said. With top sustained winds near 65 mph, "Harvey" gained strength as it moved away from Bermuda. The storm today passed about 35 miles south-east of Bermuda, where it dropped more than 11 inches of rain.

London, Aug 8 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Harvey" centre located near lat 38.9N, long 50.3W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 50 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-east or 45 degrees at 12 knots. Maximum sustained winds 45 knot with gusts to 55 knots. Forecast position lat 39.9N, long 48.7W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Forecast position lat 40.9N, long 46.5W at 0600, UTC, Aug 9.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Harvey" was falling apart in the cooler waters of the north Atlantic, and did not threaten land, forecasters said. "Harvey" had top sustained winds near 50 mph but was losing its tropical storm qualities, they said. "Harvey" was centred about 535 miles south-east of Cape Race, Newfoundland, and moving north-east at about 20 mph.

TROPICAL STORM "IRENE"

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: The ninth named storm of the busy Atlantic hurricane season, tropical storm "Irene", formed today but posed no immediate threat to land, forecasters said. At 1700, EDT, the storm was about 1,100 miles east-north-east of the northern Leeward Islands and was moving to the west-north-west at nearly 10 mph, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. The system had sustained winds of 40 mph, just above the 39 mph threshold for a tropical storm. The hurricane centre said "Irene" was poorly organised and little strengthening was forecast during the next day. The centre's five-day projection indicated the storm would make a turn to the north, bringing it east of Bermuda.

London, Aug 8 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Irene" centre located near lat 21.9N, long 48.9W at 0900, UTC. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 295 degrees at 12 knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast position lat 22.6N, long 50.5W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 23.4N, long 52.4W at 0600, UTC, Aug 9. Maximum winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Irene" weakened into a tropical depression yesterday. At 2300, EDT, the tropical depression was poorly organized with top sustained winds of about 35 mph, just below the 39 mph

threshold for a tropical storm. It was centred about 740 miles east-north-east of the northern Leeward Islands and moving west-north-west near 13 mph, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. A five-day forecast indicates the storm will turn north and pass near Bermuda.

London, Aug 9 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical depression "Irene" centre located near lat 22.5N, long 53.6W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 270 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Forecast position lat 22.5N, long 55.2W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots. Forecast position lat 23.0N, long 57.4W at 0600, UTC, Aug 10. Maximum winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots.

London, Aug 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical depression "Irene" located near lat 22.4N, long 57.3W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 60 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 270 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. Forecast position lat 22.9N, long 59.0W at 1800, Aug 10. Maximum winds 25 knots, gusts 35 knots. Forecast position lat 23.7N, long 61.1W at 0600, UTC, Aug 11. Maximum winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

Taipei, Aug 10 -- Vessel Yun Chang: Transfer cargo to the barges for light the weight has not yet completed and the vessel is expecting to be refloated Aug 13. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TYPHOON "MATSA"

Taipei, Aug 5 -- Typhoon "Matsa" lashed northern Taiwan today with torrential rain and strong winds, forcing schools, government offices and financial markets in capital Taipei to shut. Packing maximum sustained winds of 144 kilometres per hour and gusts up to 180 kmh, "Matsa"'s centre was 180 kmh east-northeast of Taipei at 0800 hrs (0000, UTC), the Central Weather Bureau said. The medium-strength typhoon was heading north-northwest toward China at 14 kmh. After a night of pounding rain, Taipei's normally busy streets were empty as residents batted down for the storm, heeding the government's warning to stay at home and be on alert for flash floods and landslides. There were no casualties reported so far. Schools and businesses in six other cities and counties in northern Taiwan were also shut. If "Matsa" stays on its present course, it is unlikely to make landfall in Taiwan. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 5 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Matsa" near lat 26.6N, long 123.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past for the past six hours 345 degrees at eight knots.

Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 35 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 27.9N, long 122.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 29.1N, long 121.2E at 0600, UTC, Aug 6. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 600,000 people were evacuated as China braced for Typhoon "Matsa," expected to batter coastal areas near its largest city Shanghai. By 1700 hrs, 0900, GMT, today emergency teams had moved 590,000 people to safer ground and some 35,000 boats were proceeding back to port to take shelter, the official government website of Zhejiang province, in eastern China, said. Chinese meteorologists voiced concern that Matsa, packing winds of 162 km per hour and moving north-west at 15 km an hour. "Matsa" pounded Taiwan today with torrential rains and strong winds that forced financial markets, offices and schools to close. There were no reports of casualties but several hundred people were trapped in mountain areas after mudslides blocked roads.

London, Aug 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 1.2 million people were evacuated as typhoon "Matsa" pounded the coast of eastern China, causing widespread flooding. The storm landed at Ganjiang town in Zhejiang province and was moving north-west towards six major cities including Hangzhou, the Xinhua news agency said. No casualties have been reported so far, but most areas in the coastal province have been lashed by heavy rain. Television images showed streets flooded, with reporters at the scene saying the water level in some areas was waist-high. Packing winds of 162 km per hour, "Matsa" brought huge waves onto the shores. Gale-force winds also uprooted trees and knocked down some houses, local media reported. About 41,300 boats have returned to harbour, Xinhua said. A lot of farmland is believed to be submerged and destroyed, although final figures were not available. Ningbo Port, the country's second busiest, was closed yesterday, the China Daily said. In Shanghai 43,600 residents were evacuated and several streets were flooded, the Shanghai Morning Post said. All flights of Eastern Airlines and Shanghai Airlines in Zhejiang and Shanghai were grounded, the paper said. More than 100 Eastern Airlines flights are expected to be cancelled today, and several dozen from Shanghai Airlines will face the same fate, the Post said. Serious economic loss is expected in the populous and developed Zhejiang province, according to Xinhua. Local authorities have been urged to lower water levels in reservoirs to prevent

floods, Minister of Water Resources Wang Shucheng was quoted by state media as saying.

London, Aug 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Matsa" battered China's eastern coast with strong winds and heavy rain yesterday morning, killing one and forcing more than a million people to flee their homes. The domestic airport in Shanghai was shut and most international departures were cancelled. Debris and small floods clogged streets after downpours in the night. Safe harbours have been arranged for 41,000 ships and regional authorities have been urged to lower water levels behind rain-swollen dams to try to avoid flooding. Ningbo port, the country's second largest in terms of handling capacity, was closed on Friday. In Taiwan, "Matsa" shut down schools, government offices and financial markets Taipei, and caused flooding and mudslides in rural areas. No casualties have been reported from "Matsa" in the island, but initial farm damage was estimated at TS\$36 million (US\$1.1 million), while more than 50,000 households were left without electricity and 100,000 families had no tap water. Maximum sustained winds of 144 km per hour and gusts of up to 180 km per hour were recorded.

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Matsa" roared into the eastern province of Anhui yesterday after hitting Shanghai, with the death toll from the storm rising to at least four. "Matsa", now downgraded to a tropical storm, killed one person in Anhui after leaving two dead in Zhejiang province and one in Shanghai, state media reported. The storm affected more than 763,000 people in Anhui and caused at least yuan 373 million in economic damage. Anhui authorities evacuated more than 8,600 people from the path of the typhoon, which battered neighbouring Zhejiang province starting on Friday (Aug 5). The storm was forecast to move north-west, bringing rain to northern Anhui before affecting Shandong province and even Beijing. Coastal province Shandong has called more than 30,000 vessels back to port. Jiangsu province reported heavy rain and flooding along some rivers yesterday. Zhejiang, where the typhoon first made landfall, bore the brunt of the damage. The typhoon caused yuan 6.5 billion in damage, knocking down more than 13,000 houses and destroying 205,000 hectares of crops. Landslides in Yueqing city killed two and left two more missing. Shanghai was already cleaning up from the typhoon, which caused flooding, cut off power and halted transport. The storm pelted some districts with more than 200 mm of rain. The city officially put its casualties at one dead and two injured from the collapse of a temporary dormitory for workers on Friday night, but the government-backed Eastday website reported three more deaths. It said two people were electrocuted in a flooded house and another was blown off a roof. City officials said damage to

agriculture was severe. Vegetable prices have climbed in the wake of the disaster. "Prices of some leafy vegetables have risen because the typhoon killed everything," said one middle-aged woman shopping at a wet market. Shanghai's domestic Hongqiao and international Pudong airports both reopened yesterday, although airlines warned of a heavy backlog of flights. Ferry services to outlying islands and tourist cruises also resumed. The city halted some services on its main subway line after water flooded underground tunnels, but workers had fixed the problem by mid-morning. At least 15 flights from Hong Kong to Shanghai, Hangzhou and Taipei were cancelled yesterday because of the typhoon, while a total of 64 flights had been affected in the previous two days. As the typhoon weakened to a tropical storm, airlines were gradually restoring their services to Shanghai and the region yesterday. With the weather improving in Shanghai, a Dragonair spokesman said the airline yesterday deployed two extra aircraft to fly passengers from Hong Kong to Shanghai and other cities, while China Eastern put on four more flights to carry passengers who were affected by the storm.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 9, states: A tropical storm that killed 13 people in eastern China headed towards the capital today, where authorities prepared to evacuate tens of thousands of residents in outlying areas prone to landslides. The city's Municipal Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters was preparing to evacuate as many as 40,000 people in the mountains north of Beijing as tropical storm "Matsa" approached, the state-run China Daily newspaper reported today. Thirteen people have been killed by the storm since it hit the mainland as a typhoon, the paper said, citing China's Ministry of Civil Affairs. The storm slammed into the eastern province of Zhejiang on Saturday (Aug 6), pummeling the region with winds up to 100 mph, flooding farmland and ruining more than 13,000 buildings. In Shanghai, China's largest city, three people died of electrocution due to flooding and a construction worker died when his dormitory was blown down, local reports said.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The 130mph tornado which ravaged south Birmingham will leave insurers with a £25m bill, it has been estimated. Association of British Insurers spokesman Malcolm Tarling described the freak storm of Jul 28 Jul as a "devastating event" for those affected. He said he expected claims to total £25m, but added insurers were geared up to deal with just this kind of event. However, the overall repair bill seems sure to be higher than this estimate, as many householders have no insurance. Mr Tarling said insurers

had been contacting customers living in streets known to have been badly hit, providing them with advice on making early claims. The ABI estimate came as the heart of Birmingham's so-called Balti Belt was reopened nearly two weeks after the tornado. Some restaurants claimed the cordoning off of the area caused business to drop by as much as 60%. The traders' association in the Ladypool Road area said earlier this week that 115 businesses damaged by the tornado had all now been made safe. It appealed for the cordons to come down, saying firms had "suffered enough." But police chiefs, who have been responsible for controlling the cordons on the worst-affected streets, had feared the reopening could lead to "tornado tourism," with people curious to see the effects of the twister. The sudden storm damaged buildings and cars, uprooted trees, and took entire roofs off some homes. Repair work is continuing in parts of Kings Heath, Moseley, Balsall Heath and Sparkbrook.

UNITED STATES

Chicago, Aug 8 -- Low water levels on U.S. Midwest rivers from a summer-long drought caused several barges to run aground and shut down part of the Ohio River, U.S. Coast Guard officers said today. The Coast Guard said it closed a seven-mile stretch of the Ohio River just north of where it meets the Mississippi River on Sunday night, after four tow barges ran aground, blocking the navigation channel, said Denise Matthews, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in Paducah, Kentucky. "We are concerned with the low-water conditions that have caused their groundings," she said. "We're uncertain of the conditions and will survey the area." The Mississippi River is the primary waterway for transporting commodities from farmers and interior production areas to export terminals at the U.S. Gulf. Transportation problems caused by low water levels caused barge freight costs to rise today, dealers said. By late this afternoon, two of the four grounded tow barges were free but that section remained closed, Matthews said. The Coast Guard, with help from industry and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will measure the depth of the Ohio River from mile markers 969 to 976 tomorrow morning before deciding whether to reopen the river, she said. Barges ran aground on a nearby section of the Ohio River and in two spots on the lower Mississippi River, but the groundings did not close the navigation channels, Coast Guard officers said. At Cairo Point, where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers meet, two boats with barges in tow ran aground overnight Sunday because the river was 10 feet below normal, Matthews said. The channel remained open while the boats worked the barges free. Vessels will also survey water depths tomorrow morning in that section of the Ohio River, from mile marker 976 to 981. On the lower

Mississippi River, a boat grounded 11 of 34 barges in tow today about 10 miles south of Greenville, Mississippi, according to the Coast Guard officer on duty. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Severe hailstorms that ripped through the Bismarck and Hettinger, N.D., areas in late July caused in excess of \$100 million damage to insured property, state Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman announced this morning. More than 20,000 claims have been received as today from several major insurance carriers who write the majority of auto, homeowners and farm/ranch policies in North Dakota, Poolman said in a news release. He said the numbers could increase as claims procedures are wrapped up. "Most companies are probably pretty well done processing auto claims, but homeowners claims are another story because the evaluation requires an on-site inspection," Poolman said. The total hail damage numbers do not include damage to crops.

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: As the Midwest's worst drought in 17 years continues to lower inland rivers, Larry Daily, president of Alter Barge Line Inc, and other barge operators shake their heads at sunny skies and hope for rain to buoy their cargos, spirits and bottom lines. The summerlong drought has squeezed Alter's fleet of 300 barges and six towboats. Because of lower water levels in the Mississippi River, Alter has had to trim payloads by about six inches per barge, or about 100 tons apiece, to shed enough weight to clear shallow spots in the last two weeks. He figures the lighter loads stand to cost his company about \$300,000 per month. "But we're moving," he said optimistically as his crew continue to transport everything from corn and soybeans to cement, steel products, coal and fertilizer up and down the Mississippi, largely between St. Louis and St. Paul, Minn. Near where the Ohio River hooks up with the Mississippi near Cairo on Illinois' southern tip, several barges ran aground beginning on Sunday (Aug 7). Those vessels have since been cleared and that stretch has reopened on a case-by-case basis with barges allowed to pass if they sit high enough, said Coast Guard Lt. Anthony Baird in Paducah, Ky. "That's not necessarily a typical trouble area there," Baird said. "The last time we saw low water this severe or extreme was in 1997, then previously in 1988." Commercial traffic on the Mississippi ekes on, though any further drop in the water level may make shipping troublesome, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. Around St. Louis, the National Weather Service said yesterday that the Mississippi's level would continue to decline over the next month. Some potentially strong rainfall was expected in coming days in northwest Missouri, but whether that matters, feeding into the Missouri River then into the Mississippi River, depends on the rain's intensity, said

Scott Dummer, a weather service hydrologist. A Coast Guard advisory Tuesday recommended that deep-draught barges be moved out of the Upper Mississippi River as soon as possible. Mariners also are urged to be vigilant about repositioned channel-marking buoys. The Corps has been scrambling to keep the Mississippi open, hustling its 247-foot-long dredger up the river to lower the bottom of St. Louis' harbour. The work was expected to be completed today. A commercial dredge hired by the Corps recently reopened the Kaskaskia River in Illinois and has been sent south to go to work near Cape Girardeau, Mo. The low water has been a triple whammy for MEMCO Barge Line, president Mark Knoy said. Barges with that suburban St. Louis-based company are now covering about 150 miles a day, not the typical 200, to safely sneak through the shallower stretches. Narrower channels have forced 20-barge tows instead of the normal chain of 30. The company's barges' draught is also down about 30 inches to 9 feet so that the barges can make it through the shallows. That means less payload and profits for the transporter of grain, raw materials for the steel industry, and coal for MEMCO's corporate parent, Ohio-based American Electric Power Co. Inc.

Earthquakes



CHINA

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 6, states: The earthquake which jolted the county of Huize in south-west China's Yunnan Province Friday (Aug 6) left nine injured as of 1900, Saturday. Xiao Liang, vice magistrate of the county, said the quake, measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale, toppled down 3,700 houses and affected more than 25,000 households. The source with the county's disaster relief headquarters said they have mobilised 173 medical workers and 11 ambulances with medicines worth 270,000 yuan to the quake-hit areas.

INDONESIA

London, Aug 8 -- A magnitude 6.0 quake struck Papua region, Indonesia, in lat 3.868°S, long 140.143°E at 0833, UTC, today. The depth of the quake was 8.6 km.

JAPAN

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 shook Tokyo and Yokohama at 0106 today, the US Geological Survey said. The quake registered a maximum of 4 on the seven-level Japanese intensity scale in Yokohama and a level of 3 in Tokyo and parts of nearby Chiba prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said on its Web site. The earthquake was

centred about 25 miles underground, near the east coast of Honshu, Japan's biggest island, about 100 miles north-east of Tokyo, the US organization reported on its Web site.

TONGA

London, Aug 7 -- A report, dated Aug 6, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0956, UTC, today, in Tonga. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in lat 19.61S, long 175.91W, depth 196 km.

VANUATU

London, Aug 10 -- A 6.1 earthquake occurred in the Vanuatu region at 1412, UTC, Aug 9, 2005. The depth of the quake was 36.6 km.

Volcanic Activity



MCDONALD ISLAND, SUB-ANTARCTIC

London, Aug 10 -- A volcano is erupting on Australia's most remote territory, McDonald Island, in the sub-Antarctic. The volcanic activity is changing the shape of the island and ultimately changing the environmental make-up of its cold and windswept surface. Environment Minister Ian Campbell said satellite images had detected the volcanic activity on the rarely visited island, 4100km south-west of Western Australia. McDonald is better known for its surrounding waters which are home to the Patagonian toothfish, heavily poached by ships transgressing Australian waters. Senator Campbell said the McDonald Island volcano had been dormant for 75,000 years before erupting for the first time in 1992. He said there had been several eruptions since - most recently in 2001 - and the island's size had doubled in that time from 1.13sq km to 2.45sq km.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: One US soldier and at least 16 militants were killed in a clash after insurgents attacked a patrol of Afghan and US troops in southern Afghanistan, the American military said overnight. The firefight occurred yesterday in the Deh Chopan district of Zabul province, which has been the scene of violence linked to Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants in recent weeks. "The service member was killed when an Afghan and US patrol conducting operations aimed at routing enemy forces from the Deh

Chopan area came under an unprovoked attack by enemy forces with small-arms fire and rocket propelled grenades," the US military said in a statement. US warplanes and other coalition aircraft "arrived at the scene and provided continuous close air support", the statement added. "Battle damage assessment is currently ongoing. Initial estimates indicate at least 16 enemy forces were killed. Non-combatants were not involved in the attack," it added.

CHINA

Beijing, Aug 9 -- Thousands of residents of a central Chinese city ransacked government offices, trashed cars and attacked a police station after police dogs bit petitioners while breaking up a protest, a resident and media said. It was the latest in a string of outbursts as discontent grows in the world's most populous nation over a range of issues including a widening wealth gap and widespread corruption. About 100 residents from Daye, a city within the larger city of Huangshi, petitioned the Huangshi government last Thursday (Aug 4) over a plan to change its status to that of district, Hong Kong's Wen Wei Po newspaper reported yesterday. An online bulletin board with postings by people claiming to be witnesses said the protesters felt that downgrading Daye to a district would allow Huangshi to siphon away its funds. The change in the status of Daye, rich in mineral resources, would "affect the interests of a small number of people" in the city in Hubei province, a police official said. However, more than a few Daye residents were apparently upset by the pending change. Police ultimately brought out dogs to end the protest and four petitioners were bitten, the newspaper said. Two days later, on Saturday, a crowd of about 10,000, angered by the dog attack, converged on the Huangshi city government and party offices, smashing windows and property, Wen Wei Po said. A Huangshi hotel employee also said that about 10,000 people participated. The crowd wrecked more than 10 vehicles, the newspaper said. The city government in Huangshi, some 600 km west of Shanghai, appealed for calm today. "The city party committee and government call on the entire city to make clear the distinction between right and wrong, keep calm, and not be poisoned and bewitched by a small number of people with ulterior motives," it said on a government Website. Land disputes, corruption, abuse of power and a widening rich-poor gap have led to a rise in the number of protests in recent years. A Hong Kong newspaper quoted the Minister of Public Security as saying there were more than 74,000 last year alone. The protesters blocked the highway between Huangshi and Wuhan, and stopped traffic on a bridge, the city government said on its Website, quoting the Huangshi Daily. The government urged the people not to spread rumours about the incident

and called for stability, but it warned it would "resolutely and severely" punish people involved in the attack. -- Reuters.

EGYPT

London, Aug 9 -- The death toll of British nationals killed in last month's bomb attacks in Egypt has risen after another person died of their injuries, the Foreign Office in London said today. Local media said the person was a 16-year-old girl. "We can confirm that one British national who had been receiving hospital treatment since returning to the UK died on Aug 8," a spokesman said. "There are now eight British nationals among the dead. Three more are missing, presumed dead." At least 64 people, mostly Egyptians, died in the attacks on hotel and shopping areas in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Jul 23. -- Reuters.

INDIA

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Suspected separatist rebels blew up a crucial oil pipeline and nearby homes in India's northeast today, shutting down operations, police said. No one was hurt in the pre-dawn attack at the pipeline of the state-run Oil India Ltd. in Sivasagar in Assam state, 350 km north-east of the state capital Gauhati, police said. The pipeline brings crude from Oil India Ltd's pumping stations and oil fields in eastern Assam via a refinery in Numaligarh town to Gauhati. The attack was seen as a show of strength by the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam ahead of India's Aug 15 Independence Day celebrations, the officer said. Rebels try to carry out such attacks before important national days. "Soon after the blast we switched off all pumping operations from eastern Assam and have taken control of the fire in a few hours," said the company's General Manager Mohan Bhandari. "There are sufficient crude supplies available for the refineries to run, but the pipeline will take a few days to be restored."

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Stepping up violence ahead of Independence Day, ULFA blew up a gas pipeline, a steel bridge and a transformer across Assam, police said today. Militants blew up an Oil India Limited gas pipeline at Disaibotha in Sibsagar late last night leading to extensive loss of gas and affecting supply to several tea gardens. The banned outfit also exploded a bomb on a steel bridge on Namsai-Bordumsa road along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border last night but no major damage or casualty was reported, official sources said. In another incident, they blew up a transformer in a Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) powerhouse at Narengi under Noonmati police station here last night affecting power supply in the area. Repair and restoration work is on and power supply is expected to be restored soon, the sources said. A major disaster was

averted in Jorhat town when the police defused a time bomb found in front of two adjacent schools about five minutes before it was to explode yesterday, the sources said.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 13 people were injured yesterday when a makeshift bomb exploded at a bus station in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, reports said. The improvised explosive device was concealed in a lunch box placed at the bus station in Karimnagar district, according to a local police official.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: India and Pakistan agreed yesterday to continue with a cease-fire in disputed Kashmir as part of confidence-building measures between the two countries, Press Trust of India reported. Both sides "reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the ongoing cease-fire," and agreed to implement a 1991 agreement on airspace violations, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters at the end of daylong expert-level talks, according to the report.

IRAQ

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: A U.S. Marine was killed during combat operations in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, military officials reported today. The Marine, who was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed yesterday by small-arms fire, authorities said. Three soldiers of Task Force Baghdad, part of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, were killed yesterday night in a Baghdad bombing, and 14 Marines died yesterday in a roadside bomb blast in Haditha in western Iraq. Six Marines also died in a firefight Monday (Aug 1) in that city, and a suicide bomber killed another Marine near Hit, south of Haditha. On Tuesday (Aug 2), a soldier was shot dead in the Iraqi capital. Another soldier died Sunday (Jul 31) in a bomb blast near Baghdad. The number of U.S. troops killed in the Iraq war stands at 1,825, according to the military. Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari today outlined a security plan to combat insurgency. The plan seeks to improve intelligence and communications coordination, develop quick intervention forces, fight corruption and smuggling, enlist the help of citizens, build international ties to defeat terror and follow up on a recent crackdown to secure Baghdad. "We are saving no efforts, no funding, no budget to support this plan to stand up to terrorism," al-Jaafari said. Five Iraqi security officers died today in and around the northern city of Kirkuk, police said. Gunmen in the centre of Kirkuk shot dead three police officers and wounded another, Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin said. Two police commandos died and four others were wounded when a car bomb exploded near Kirkuk, Amin said.

American-led forces killed five insurgents and detained 28 others in northern Iraq yesterday and today, the U.S. military said. U.S. freelance journalist Steven Vincent was found shot to death yesterday in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, officials said. Vincent and a female interpreter, Nuriya Tiays, were abducted Tuesday in central Basra, an official said. Tiays is being treated at a hospital after being shot in the chest. An editorial by Vincent in The New York Times on Sunday detailed the growing influence of Islamic militants in the largely Shiite city. More than 60 journalists and media assistants have died in the Iraq war, according to media watchdog group Reporters Without Borders.

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: A pipeline was on fire near the northern Iraqi oil centre of Kirkuk following three explosions, a North Oil Company official said. 'Fire broke out on a secondary duct in the region of Tub Zawi, 20 kilometres west of Kirkuk,' NOC fireman Ali Mohammed told AFP. 'The Americans told us three explosions took place on the duct ... we have tried to limit the fire, but the flames are preventing us from reaching the duct to determine to source of the explosions,' he said.

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A US Marine was killed in a suicide car bombing in a village west of Baghdad, the military said today. The Marine, assigned to Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division, was killed yesterday in Amiriyah, a few miles south of Fallujah, the statement said. Fallujah is 40 miles west of Baghdad. The death brings to at least 30 the number of American service members to die in Iraq since the beginning of this month. At least 1,828 US military personnel have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bombing in central Baghdad has killed at least three Iraqis and a US soldier. Police say the bomber appeared to be targeting an American military patrol in Tayaran Square. Earlier, 10 Iraqi policemen and a number of civilians were killed in a spate of drive-by shootings, most of them in the capital. Tayaran Square, which was hit at about lunchtime, lies in a busy part of Baghdad and is usually full of people waiting for buses. Five civilian cars, a US Army vehicle and a four-wheel drive were reported damaged in the blast. At least 91 Iraqis were injured, medical sources said. Earlier, five officers died in a drive-by shooting in east Baghdad as they slept in their car after a night shift. About 15 minutes later, two officers were killed and their driver was wounded in the nearby Zaytouna district. An attack in the Dura neighbourhood, in south Baghdad, killed police captain Haidar Mizhir Salih and another policeman, a local officer said. In Baquba, a police lieutenant said one officer was shot dead and another was wounded in a nearly simultaneous attack. Three Shia pilgrims heading to Iran were

also killed and eight injured when attackers sprayed their vehicle with gunfire near the town, medical sources said.

Tikrat, Aug 10 -- Four U.S. soldiers were killed and six wounded in an attack on a patrol near the northern Iraqi oil refining town of Baiji overnight, the U.S. military said in a statement today. Police in the town said two Humvee patrol vehicles and a larger armoured vehicle appeared to have been wrecked and burnt out. They were surrounded by U.S. troops after the incident. The U.S. military said the attack happened at 2330, yesterday. It gave no details of what kind of weapons were used. -- Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A roadside bomb killed two US soldiers and injured three in central Iraq, the US command said today. The patrol with Task Force Liberty was hit yesterday evening in the city of Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement. All the soldiers were transported to a coalition medical facility where two of them died from wounds sustained in the attack, the statement said.

ISRAEL

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: An Israeli soldier opened fire inside a bus in Israel's northern Galilee region today, killing four Israeli Arabs and seriously wounding five other people before he was killed, according to Israeli police. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon condemned the attack, calling it "a reprehensible act of a bloodthirsty Jewish terrorist who sought to attack innocent Israeli citizens." An angry mob in the predominantly Israeli Arab town of Shfaram surrounded the bus shortly after the shooting. Police spokesman Eran Feinmesser could not confirm Israeli media reports that the gunman was killed by the mob. The shooting victims included the bus driver and a passenger, both residents of Shfaram. The Israel Defense Forces confirmed the shooter was an Israeli soldier. Israeli television reported the soldier, a West Bank settler, went AWOL two months ago because he did not want to participate in removing settlers from Gaza and the West Bank as part of Sharon's disengagement plan. Sharon vowed Monday (Aug 1) that his plan to withdraw Israeli troops and about 9,000 Jewish settlers in Gaza and four small areas of the West Bank will go ahead as planned starting Aug 15.

MAURITANIA

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: Shops and businesses reopened and traffic was flowing again in Mauritania's capital today, just a day after a military junta toppled the oil-rich country's autocratic president while he was abroad. The quick return to calm -- Nouakchott's international airport also reopened -- indicated acceptance

of President Maaouya Taya's bloodless overthrow in a nation more accustomed to coups than democracy. The ouster of Taya, who himself seized power in a coup, had prompted celebrations in the Islamic nation that had looked increasingly to the West amid alleged threats from al Qaeda-linked militants. The new junta promised to yield to democratic rule within two years, but African leaders, the United States and the European Union condemned the coup. African leaders declared the days of authoritarianism and military rule must end across the continent. Taya arrived yesterday in nearby Niger from Saudi Arabia, where he attended King Fahd's funeral. He made no comment to reporters, but the secretary-general of his party, Boullah Ould Mogueya, said the party would not recognize "anti-constitutional change." The junta, calling itself the Military Council for Justice and Democracy, said Col. Ely Ould Mohamed Vall was its president. Vall, 55, has served as national police chief since 1987. Known for his calm and reserve, he was considered a close confidant of Taya for more than two decades. The junta statement identified 16 other army officers as members. Except for one captain, all are all colonels, the highest rank in the country's armed forces. Regional powerhouse Nigeria condemned the coup. "As far as we are concerned, the days of tolerating military governance in our sub-region or anywhere are long gone," said Femi Fani-Kayode, a spokesman for Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo. "We believe in democracy and we insist on democracy." African Union chief Alpha Oumar Konare rejected "any unconstitutional change of government," as did U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In Washington, State Department spokesman Tom Casey called for "a peaceful return for order under the constitution and the established government of President Taya." Britain, in its capacity as current president of the European Union, issued a statement today condemning "any attempt to seize power by force" and called for "full respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law" in Mauritania. Islamist leaders in Mauritania have led the opposition to Taya, criticizing him for building close ties with Israel. Mauritania opened full diplomatic relations with Israel six years ago. Israel's embassy in Mauritania was operating normally, although security had been tightened as is standard at such times, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said in Israel. After the coup was announced, hundreds of people celebrated in the city centre, saluting soldiers guarding the presidential palace, clapping and singing slogans in Arabic against Taya. Most people stayed home, but dozens of civilian cars moved through the streets, horns blaring. "It's the end of a long period of oppression and injustice," said Fidi Kane, a civil servant. "We are very delighted with

this change of regime." State television and radio were back on air by yesterday afternoon, with journalists reading the junta's statement repeatedly, interspersed with Quranic readings -- normal in the Islamic nation.

Rosso, Aug 8 -- Jubilant at the ousting of their president, Mauritians have cast aside international condemnation and pledged support for a military junta that has promised to lead them to democratic rule. The army seized power on Wednesday (Aug 3), while President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was out of the country, and installed a "Military Council for Justice and Democracy" which has vowed to hold presidential polls within two years -- and promised none of its members will stand. Thousands of people clad in traditional blue and gold boubous marched through the sandy streets of Rosso, a frontier town on the Senegalese border, late yesterday after the junta outlined its plans for the West African country. "Mauritians had lost all hope of development, democracy and social justice. But this is our moment," said Ahmed Diop Moctar Neche, a pharmacist shouting to be heard above the crowd. "This is not the Mauritania of yesterday. They cannot tell lies to the people," he said. One man held a picture of Colonel Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, the junta's leader, above his head in the middle of the throng. Police officers and soldiers were among the crowd. Taya seized power in a 1984 coup and ruled with an iron fist for two decades. Dissident soldiers nearly toppled him in 2003 and the government says it foiled two more coup bids in 2004. Thousands of black Africans -- who make up about one third of the population in a country where light-skinned Moors have long dominated government -- were forcibly expelled from the region around Rosso during Taya's rule. "We are listening. If the new rulers do something that is in our interest we may go back," said the elderly head of a community of refugees in Dagana, a village close to Rosso on the Senegalese side of the border. The United States, former colonial power France and the United Nations have all condemned the putsch. The 53-nation African Union has suspended Mauritania. However, Mohamed Abdellahi Ould Babana, Mauritania's ambassador to Ethiopia who sits on the AU's human rights commission, said he believed the AU suspension would not last long. "It's a provisional suspension. If they came here they would see how people have received the new regime. The AU will come back to its senses and see the will of the people," he said. The self-styled junta promised yesterday to hold a referendum on changes to the constitution within a year to be followed immediately by legislative elections. It has met members of the Islamic Republic's opposition parties, Taya's own party, business leaders and diplomats based in the capital Nouakchott. -- Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least two soldiers were killed and three others injured in anti-government guerrillas offensive in mid-western Nepal yesterday, local police office said today. "At least two soldiers were killed and three were injured when the guerrillas launched an offensive on a security base camp in Kalikot district, some 700 km west of Kathmandu," district police office said in a press release. The gun battle continued till late in the night and a helicopter was flown to the incident site to provide a covering to the security men, the release noted.

Kathmandu, Aug 9 -- Nepal rushed hundreds of troops to the country's west to hunt for at least 140 soldiers missing after fierce fighting with Maoist rebels, but bad weather was hampering operations, a senior army officer said today. Heavy monsoon rains were making it difficult for helicopters to land near the site of the weekend gun battle in the remote Kalikot district, 600 km from the capital, Kathmandu, the officer said. "We have already sent additional troops to the area. More soldiers are being sent," he said. "Soldiers are blocking the nearby mountain passes to stop the guerrillas from fleeing." The rebels said 159 troops were killed and another 50 captured in the firefight that began after hundreds of Maoist guerrillas attacked an army camp set up to construct a road linking Surkhet town with the backward region of Karnali that borders Tibet. The claim could not be independently verified because there are no communication links with the remote area. The army said one soldier was killed and three others wounded in the attack and that it was able to contact eight soldiers yesterday. A local contractor who fled the area and arrived at the Kalikot district capital of Manma told the Kantipur daily the attacked camp was still smouldering yesterday. The army said nothing was known about 100 civilians who were also working on the project. -- Reuters.

Kathmandu, Aug 9 -- Nepal's army said today it had found the bodies of 40 soldiers killed fighting Maoist rebels while 76 other troops were still missing two days after a fierce gun battle in the west of the country. It was the army's highest casualty toll in a single engagement since King Gyanendra sacked the prime minister and took power in February saying political leaders had failed to quell the bloody revolt. The bodies were found after hundreds of troops were rushed to hunt for soldiers missing after the fighting in the remote Kalikot district, 600 km from the capital, Kathmandu. "Forty of our men have achieved martyrdom," an army officer said. "They captured some of them, lined them up and shot them in the head." The rebels said yesterday they had killed 159 troops and captured another 50 in the firefight that began late on Sunday (Aug 7). The army

rejected the claim. No independent verification was possible because the fighting took place in a remote village with poor communication links. Both sides routinely overstate enemy casualties and under-report their own losses. The fighting began after hundreds of guerrillas attacked an army camp set up to construct a road linking Surkhet town with the backward region of Karnali that borders Tibet. "The base which was overrun is under our control now. Road construction will resume within a few days," the army officer said, adding that soldiers would continue looking for their missing colleagues. The army said nothing was known about 100 civilians who were also working on the project. -- Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Aug 8 -- About 100 tonnes of oil escaped from the Khadyzhensk-Psekubskaya pipeline in Adygeya, which had been damaged in an oil robbery, Viktor Beltsov from the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said today. About 1.5 kilometres of a rice field drainage canal and a four-kilometre stretch of a Kuban River canal near the village of Takhtalukai were polluted with oil from the 320-millimetre pipeline that transports oil to the Krasnodar refinery, he said.

SRI LANKA

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suspected Tamil Tiger rebel lobbed a grenade at an office of Sri Lanka's main Marxist party yesterday in the island's restive northeast, wounding at least three people, police said. The attacker was shot and wounded by police guarding the office of the JVP, or People's Liberation Front, in the town of Kantalai. The JVP was a member of the coalition administration till mid-June when it quit in protest at a proposed government deal to share tsunami aid with Tamil Tiger rebels. There had been a spate of killings in the eastern province following an unprecedented split in the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in March last year.

TURKEY

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Kurdish rebels killed five Turkish soldiers in a rocket attack in southeastern Turkey early today, the Anatolia news agency reported. It was the deadliest attack by Kurdish rebels on Turkish forces since early July, when six soldiers were killed and 12 people were injured by a remote-controlled bomb. The attack came just hours after Kurdish rebels released a kidnapped Turkish soldier they had held captive for more than three weeks. The rocket attack occurred just after midnight and targeted a group of soldiers serving in remote Hakkari province, which borders both Iraq and Iran and which has seen an increase in violence between Turkish soldiers and Kurdish rebels. The attack killed five soldiers

and injured at least seven more people, Anatolia said. The rebels are based in northern Iraq and carry out attacks in southeastern Turkey.

Kidnappings**PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Aug 7 -- Khawaja Muhammad Akram, a Lahore based industrialist and owner of a pharmaceuticals firm-Mass Pharma, while returning to his home from factory in Lahore city, Punjab Province of Pakistan, was kidnapped by unknown person yesterday evening. According to his family members, the alleged kidnappers so far did not make any call for ransom while police are being informed accordingly. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Labour Disputes**ARGENTINA**

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: Argentina's passenger and cargo train network was paralysed today due to a strike by workers demanding a wage increase. La Fraternidad Trade Union's leader Omar Maturano told the press that its members had not received any wage increase in the past nine years. The 24-hour strike started yesterday evening. Millions of passengers were affected by the train service stoppage. The strike leaders demanded a basic wage of 634 US dollars, which is 19 percent higher than what the employers have proposed. Negotiations between union workers and representatives of employers have failed thus far. Passenger trains that travel around the suburbs and the industrial zone of the capital, as well as cargo trains run by Argentine and foreign firms, were brought to a complete standstill by the strike.

BANGLADESH

Karachi, Aug 10 -- Federation of Bangladesh Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association (FBCFA) has called off their strike which has lasted for 20 days at the country's largest land port Benapole following a fruitful discussion with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Monday (Aug 8). C&F agents and some other organisations functioning at the Benapole Land Port started the strike on Jul 21 to press home their 12-point demands, including scrapping present valuation system, classification committees, either cancellation of the clean report findings (CRF) or taking it granted without creating extra hassles for the

importers and delivery of the items within 24-hours of arrival. It is said the normal activities at the port will resume from today. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

CANADA

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: An interim agreement in Vancouver's port strike appears to be working, as the majority of truck companies have agreed to mediated terms and the transport of 25,000 backlogged containers has begun. Since yesterday morning, the port of Vancouver has required any drivers or firms accessing the property to sign an agreement stating they would abide by terms outlined by mediator Vince Ready last week. The licences will be in effect for 90 days, port spokesman Duncan Wilson says, during which time he hopes a task force can hammer out a permanent agreement. "As of right now, more than 40 companies have signed up," Mr. Wilson said. He estimated it could take anywhere between one and five weeks to completely move the backlog.

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Lower Mainland merchants weren't the only people affected by the now-resolved container truck drivers strike at the port of Vancouver. Businesses in Quesnel also suffered as a result of the labour dispute that held up \$30 million worth of merchandise each day for five weeks. The Retail Council of Canada is pleased to see the containers rolling again but is concerned the disruption has shaken the confidence of RCC members in the reliability of the Port of Vancouver as a viable gateway for the future.

RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, Aug 5 -- Dockers of Sea Port of St. Petersburg finished their three-days preventive strike Jul 27. The strike in the First, Second and Forth Stevedoring Companies started Jul 25. Each shift of dockers stopped working for one hour. In such a way dockers wanted to express their disagreement with respect to new project of labour contract offered them by employer. A further strike is scheduled for Aug 12. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Aug 7 -- South African gold miners launched their first industry-wide strike in 18 years today to demand higher wages in the world's biggest bullion producer, the country's main mining union said. "I can say now that the strike is on," Gwede Mantashe, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said. The union had said the strike would start across the country at 1800, local time (1700, BST). "All the workers who were due to go on the 1800 hrs shift are out, all the four companies involved in failed wage talks have been affected." Around 100,000 gold miners represented by the NUM would remain on strike until a solution was found, he said. Despite improved

offers from two companies, last-minute talks failed to yield a deal, according to an official from the Chamber of Mines, which negotiates on behalf of gold producers. Mantashe had earlier said even if any better wage offers were forthcoming, it would be too late to call off the strike. South Africa's gold industry accounts for around 15% of global output, and the mining sector contributes about 8% to the nation's gross domestic product. A strike would lead to the loss of around 28,000 ounces of gold production and rand 79 million rand (£6.9 million) in lost revenue per day, a Deutsche Securities analyst has estimated. Two unions called the strike after rejecting the latest offer by the Chamber of Mines, of a 4.5-5% wage rise plus bonus payments. The Solidarity union with about 10,000 members will join the strike just before midnight tomorrow, and a third 15,000-strong union will decide tomorrow whether to also take part. Unions are demanding a rise of between 10 and 12%. Wages make up around half of total costs in the labour intensive sector, the biggest in terms of mining employment. The strike would paralyse the South African mines of the world's No 2 gold producer AngloGold Ashanti, fourth-ranked Gold Fields, sixth-placed Harmony Gold and South Deep, a joint venture of South Africa's Western Areas and Canada's Placer Dome. In 11th-hour talks, AngloGold and South Deep offered wage hikes of between 5.25 and 6.5%, the NUM said. The union would seek out the views of its members on the new offer and respond tomorrow afternoon. Frans Barker, head negotiator for the Chamber of Mines, said: "There was some informal contact between AngloGold and South Deep and the NUM, but there was no agreement." "If the strike goes on for too long, the country will start feeling the impact, especially on its export account." Miners typically earn rand 2,500-3,000 rand per month. Mantashe said the NUM could consider a wage increase of 7-8%, but such an offer would have to include a 1% increase in the miners' risk cover under their provident fund, and higher allowances for those living outside the gold companies' hostels. Mining firms, which gave workers a 10% wage rise two years ago, say they cannot afford rises much above inflation, which is running below 4%. -- Reuters.

Johannesburg, Aug 8 -- About 100,000 South African gold miners, demanding higher wages, stayed off work today in the country's first industry-wide strike in 18 years, bringing mines in the world's biggest bullion producer to a standstill. The gold miners' strike is the latest and biggest industrial action in recent weeks in a country plagued by huge income gaps between the rich and mostly black poor, more than a decade after the end of apartheid. "The strike is 100% country-wide, all our people, about 100,000 of them are on strike," Gwede Mantashe, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers said. The strike started across the

country at 1800, local time, yesterday. "It seems all the gold mines have come to a stand-still," Chamber of Mines head negotiator Frans Barker said. The miners' strike had paralysed the South African mines of AngloGold, fourth-ranked Gold Fields, sixth-placed Harmony Gold and South Deep, Barker said. He said the chamber, which negotiates wages on behalf of gold producers, estimated a daily loss of around 40,000 ounces of gold production and rand 130 million rand (£11 million) in lost revenue per day due to the strike. "There are no formal talks going on for now. The NUM is still considering the latest wage offers by two of the gold miners," Barker said. In 11th-hour talks yesterday, the world's No. 2 gold producer AngloGold Ashanti and South Deep, a joint venture of South Africa's Western Areas and Canada's Placer Dome offered wage hikes of between 5.25 and 6.5%, the NUM said. The NUM's Mantashe said the union would seek out the views of its members on improved offers and respond later today. South Africa's Harmony Gold Chief Executive Officer Bernard Swanepoel said the strike was painful to the industry, but added that union wage demands were unaffordable to the industry. "Obviously there will be continued discussions. As an industry this is very painful timing, this is obviously not what we wanted," Swanepoel said. "I don't think the industry can afford a strike, but am absolutely convinced the industry cannot afford the wages increases." "Although still the world's largest producer, South African output is now less than one tonne a day, and in a market which is dominated by currency considerations, such a loss is unlikely to impact the price, we believe," HSBC gold analyst Alan Williamson said in a report. Two unions called the strike after rejecting the latest offer by the Chamber of Mines, of a 4.5-5.0% wage rise plus bonus payments. Unions are demanding a rise of between 10 and 12%. The Solidarity union with about 10,000 members will join the strike just before midnight today. A third 15,000-strong union, mostly made up of supervisory staff would decide later today if it would join the strike. -- Reuters.

Johannesburg, Aug 9 -- Unions and producers met today to try to end the biggest strike by South African gold miners in 18 years, but no end to the stalemate was in sight, negotiators on both sides said today. The Solidarity trade union, traditional representative of white workers, has joined the strike led by the black National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), keeping some 110,000 workers away and bringing mines to a standstill in the top bullion producer. "It doesn't seem as if we're making progress, the parties seem to be very far apart," Frans Barker, chief negotiator for the Chamber of Mines that represents gold producers, told the domestic news agency SAPA. Barker told Reuters separately: "There have been offers placed on the table by

gold companies. Unions say they are ready to look at some (parts of the offers) while they say others are unacceptable. It is all very mixed at the moment." NUM General Secretary Gwede Mantashe confirmed that his union had met some producers. "We are still engaged," he said. "I am unable to give you any specifics at this point." Barker said the strike paralysed the South African mines of the world's No. 2 gold producer AngloGold Ashanti, fourth-ranked Gold Fields, sixth-placed Harmony Gold and South Deep. The Chamber, which negotiates wages on behalf of gold producers, estimated a daily loss of around 40,000 ounces of gold production and 130 million rand in combined lost revenue per day due to the strike. Today AngloGold and South Deep added an increase of 10-16 percent in housing subsidies, Barker said. Gold Fields and Harmony have put on the table offers of five-six percent in wage increases and a rise of 10 percent in housing subsidies, Barker said. The NUM says its point of reference in talks is a wage increase of seven-eight percent, a one percent raise in the miners' risk cover and higher accommodation allowances. A third 15,000-strong union, the United Association of South Africa (Uasa), mostly made up of supervisory staff, said it would consider the offers from AngloGold and South Deep. Tim Kruger, Uasa's spokesman, told Reuters yesterday his union would decide on Friday (Aug 12) whether it would join the strike or not. Uasa had no immediate comment today.

Johannesburg, Aug 10 -- South African gold mines piled up losses as they stood still after around 110,000 miners stayed off work today, with officials seeing no end in sight to the sector's first industry-wide strike in 18 years. Officials of the black National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Solidarity trade union, traditional representative of white workers, said they saw no immediate end to the strike which started on Sunday (Aug 7). Solidarity spokesman Reint Dyekama told Reuters the Chamber of Mines, which negotiates wages on behalf of gold producers, had called the unions for a meeting late in the afternoon, to possibly table a fresh offer from gold producers. Harmony Gold now had the highest of the individual wage offers above all the other producers, Dyekama said. The gold producer had lifted its offer to between six and seven percent. The NUM and Solidarity called the strike after rejecting the Chamber of Mines' offer of a 4.5 to five percent wage rise. They demanded a rise of between 10 and 12 percent. The unions have since said their point of reference in talks is a wage increase of seven-eight percent, among other demands. The NUM, which represents about 100,000 striking miners, has so far rejected a wage increase offers by AngloGold and South Deep, a joint venture of South Africa's Western Areas and Canada's Placer Dome. Gold Fields has also tabled a new offer since the strike

started. An analyst estimated that the world's sixth-placed producer, Harmony Gold was the worst hit so far by the strike, losing 15 million rand (\$2.32 million) per day as about 90 percent of its mines were in South Africa. The world's No. 2 producer AngloGold Ashanti and fourth-placed Gold Fields had lost about 12 million rand and 10 million rand respectively in revenues so far, but they would withstand the strike better than Harmony as they had more mines abroad, the analyst said. The analyst said the strike had not yet affected the spot price of gold, but revenue losses were starting to pile up. The Chamber has estimated a daily loss of around 40,000 ounces of gold production and 130 million rand in combined lost revenue per day due to the strike. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The national strike which has shut down much of South Africa's gold mining looks set to be settled. The mainly black National Union of Mineworkers said it had advised its members to accept a new pay offer. Employers upped their offer to 6-7% yesterday, the fourth day of a dispute involving more than 100,000 miners. The NUM argues that its members deserve more pay, and also wants better living conditions. "We will know later this morning what our members' views are on the offer, but we have asked the branch leaders to recommend that they take it," Gwede Mantashe, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers said. The employers, represented by the Chamber of Mines, have offered a 10% increase in the housing allowance. Although the new offer falls well short of the 12% the NUM has said it wanted, it is nonetheless substantially better than the employers' initial offer. "We have asked our delegates to recommend the offer to our members," said NUM general secretary Gwede Mantashe on TV news station CNN.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Aug 5 -- The South Korean government has warned it will intervene to end a crippling strike by pilots at the country's second largest airline. The strike at Asiana Airlines entered its 20th day today with the government threatening to invoke emergency powers to end the stoppage. The government has set a deadline of Sunday (Aug 7) for a resolution or else it will force pilots back to work. More than 250 international flights have been cancelled during the dispute. About 400 pilots walked out on Jul 17, setting out a number of demands such as more rest days, a rise in the compulsory retirement age from 55 to 58 and greater input into the airline's business strategy. The strike has severely disrupted domestic and international flights and forced the airline to cancel all cargo flights. Asiana says the stoppages have affected 45,000 passengers and cost an estimated 200bn won (\$198m). Talks resumed between the airline and unions today against a backdrop of a

government imposed deadline for staff to return to work. Ministers have said they will invoke rarely used emergency powers, designed to safeguard industries considered critical to the national economy, to end the strike. Staff would be forced to return to work for a 30-day cooling-off period and during that time the dispute would be referred to a labour commission.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Korean Labour Ministry today decided to intervene in a protracted Asiana Airlines labour dispute now nearing its fourth week and announce emergency arbitration for tomorrow morning. That means the carrier's striking pilots will have to go back to work immediately and face criminal charges if they fail to do so. Labour Minister Kim Dae-hwan discussed emergency arbitration with National Labour Relations Commission Chairman Shin Hong today and said he reported the overall situation and government plans to arbitrate at today's Cabinet meeting. The ministry says a strike immediately ends once emergency arbitration is announced, while labour and management must go back to the negotiating table and stay there for up to 30 days. If that fails to produce results, the government steps in and forces a compromise. Meanwhile, Asiana Airlines management and pilots negotiated overnight yesterday but again failed to reach agreement over thorny issues like union participation in management decisions. Airline representatives returned to Seoul this morning saying the union was not willing to negotiate and there was no point in further talks. The carrier said 112 out of 290 flights were cancelled today, 10 international, 98 domestic and four cargo flights. Tomorrow, 103 out of 291 flights, five international, 89 domestic and nine cargo flights, will be grounded, the company said.

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The government of South Korea said today that it was poised to step in to end a strike by pilots at Asiana Airlines - the third time the government has invoked emergency powers since 1969 - amid concern that the stoppage at the second-largest Korean airfreight carrier would crimp exports. "The government's intervention is imminent, since talks failed" between Asiana's management and the union, said Ha Hyeong So, an official in the Labour Ministry's management and co-operation division. He did not provide details. The South Korean Commerce Ministry said that about \$150 million of goods could not be exported in July because of the strike at Asiana. About 10 percent of South Korean exports, valued at about \$690 million, could be delayed this month if the work stoppage continued, it said. The strike has caused the airline to lose an estimated 353 billion won, or \$348 million, in sales. "If Asiana's management gives in to the pilots'

demands, other staff unions will go on strike too, thinking they can push the airline" around, said Lee Hoon, a Samsung Securities analyst who recommends buying the airline's stock. "The airline will become a much stronger company once it overcomes this difficult situation. We expect losses of about one billion won every day," said Lee, the Samsung analyst. Asiana's forecast of 90 billion won in operating profit may be cut to 70 billion won in the quarter ending Sep. 30, he said. The strike had affected 451,000 travellers as of the weekend, causing their flights to be cancelled, rerouted or delayed, Asiana said. "Talks ended with no agreement," a spokesman for the airline, Oh Kyung Keun, said today. "No date has been set for more talks. The management will hold a meeting today and decide what to do next." A second staff union at Asiana, representing 950 flight attendants, said that it would decide tomorrow if it should also stop work. The union wants basic wages to be raised by seven percent. Management had rejected the increase. Labour Minister Kim Dae Hwan held a meeting Sunday night to prepare contingency plans should Asiana fail to break the deadlock with the striking pilots.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Using rarely invoked powers, the South Korean government today ordered an end to a 25-day strike by unionized pilots at Asiana Airlines, the country's second-biggest carrier. The pilots said they would comply. The government's intervention forces the pilots to immediately stop the strike for 30 days. The order, used in industries considered critical to the national economy, has only been given twice before: in 1993 during unrest at Hyundai Motor Co. and in 1969 at Korea Shipbuilding Corp. Labour Minister Kim Dae-hwan, in nationally televised comments, called it a "regrettable" decision, but cited economic losses and dangers from long flight hours by the company's non-unionized pilots who are flying during the strike as some of the reasons for the government's decision. The pilots planned to return to work, union spokesman Lee Sang-jun said. They had faced potential arrest if they ignored the order. Asiana spokesman Oh Kyung-keun said the airline expects to resume about 80 percent to 90 percent of its flight schedule in about a week as the pilots must have health checks and receive simulator training before flying again. The next step is for the union and management to resume negotiations for 15 days. If no agreement is reached the National Labour Relations Commission will step in to arbitrate and can ultimately dictate terms of a settlement. Asiana has been forced to cancel over 2,000 domestic and more than 130 international flights, some on profitable long-haul routes to New

York and Los Angeles, since the strike began on Jul 17. About 90 percent of its cargo flights have been suspended. The airline has been operating with non-union pilots and union members who haven't joined the walkout. About 500 of the airline's more than 800 pilots belong to the union, but not all were striking. The union says about 400 pilots joined the walkout. The strike has been costly for the airline and companies such as travel agencies, importers and exporters, resulting in estimated losses of 353 billion won (\$348 million) through to Aug 7. That is expected to jump to 542 billion won (\$535 million) through to Aug 15.

TONGA

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Australian government has warned travellers considering going to Tonga about the effects of a two-week-old strike by public servants in the South Pacific nation. Doctors, nurses and other medical staff at Tonga's main hospital joined the strike by thousands of public servants which has bought government services in the impoverished country to a standstill. "There have been disruptions to hospital and medical services and continuing strike action has the potential to affect other services, including possibly the operation of international flights into and out of Tonga," the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said in an update to its travel advisory on Tonga. Marches were held in the capital Nuku'alofa and the striking workers are planning a mass march on Monday (Aug 8) to present their demands to Tonga's ruler, KingTaufa'ahau Tupou IV. They are seeking pay rises of 60 to 80 per cent and have rejected a government offer of no more than 30 per cent increases. The strike began when senior government officials won pay increases of up to 80%.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The daughter of the King of Tonga has accepted a petition from a crowd of demonstrators who have turned out in the Tongan capital, Nuku'alofa, in support of public servants who are on strike. The 10,000 petitioners sat and waited in the sun until the gate to the palace grounds opened and out walked the King's only daughter, Princess Pilolevu. The petition asks the King to defer a proposed new salary structure for two years and grant pay increases for public servants of up to 80 per cent backdated to Jul 1. It tells the King that the Tongan Government has already lost \$9 million in revenue since the public service strike began last month.

London, Aug 10 -- Striking public servants in Tonga are still awaiting a reply from the King to their petition on Monday (Aug 8) for him to intervene in their pay dispute with the Government. Strike leaders were told late yesterday that any reply from the King would not be made until today at

the earliest. The petition, which is seeking pay rises of between 60 per cent and 80 per cent for public servants, was hand delivered to the King's daughter after a huge public rally on Monday. Yesterday, teachers and students who should have begun the third term, took to the streets in support of the pay demands. The strike is now into its 20th day.

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Civil Servants Strike Committee in Tonga says it totally rejects the King's decision to call in an independent auditor to look at the disputed figures behind the pay strike that enters its fourth week tomorrow. The committee says it will not cooperate and will instead put a new options paper to the Government. After a meeting last night, the strike committee informed the Tongan Cabinet Office that it had rejected the King's reply to the petition presented to his daughter by thousands of protesters on Monday (Aug 8). Committee chairman Finau Tutone says the strike is about people not about figures. "We still go on the strike and we are now preparing a counter proposal for the Government for negotiation because we do not want the independent auditor or independent company to come and deal with this, because socially they don't understand," he said. "They are dealing with numbers but there are social impacts on this." Mr Tutone says the counter proposal will be given to the Government tomorrow.

Awards & Settlements



SENDING SPAM E-MAILS, WORLD-WIDE

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Microsoft has settled its lawsuit with "King of Spam" Scott Richter, with Richter promising to pay the software giant \$7 million for sending an estimated 38 billion e-mails a year. Richter and his online marketing company, OptInBig.com, will pay the sum to settle a lawsuit brought against Richter in December 2003. He and his affiliates have also agreed to comply with US federal anti-spam laws and stop sending spam to anyone who does not opt in to receive marketing e-mails. The settlement depends on the dismissal of bankruptcy cases filed by Richter and his company earlier this year. Richter and OptInBig plan to file for dismissal of those cases later today. After refunding its legal costs, Microsoft will pump \$5 million of the settlement money back into fighting Internet crime, by providing technical training and forensic assistance to law enforcement staff and developing new technology tools, it said. A further \$1 million will provide computers for poor children at community centres in New York state. Helped by Microsoft, New

York attorney general Eliot Spitzer also sued Richter over spam offenses in December 2003. Spitzer settled that case with Richter last July for \$50,000. Microsoft's case, brought in Washington state, accused Richter of sending mass e-mails with misleading subject lines and forged sender addresses in violation of state and federal law. Before mending his ways he sent, or helped others to send, 38 billion unwanted e-mails a year, Microsoft said. Richter has freely admitted to sending large volumes of unsolicited e-mail and has cheerfully embraced the title of "Spam King". But he has denied breaking any laws, saying his company operated within US regulations including last year's CAN-SPAM Act. As part of Microsoft's settlement, OptInBig.com has agreed to three years of oversight.

UNDERPAYMENT OF INSURANCE SETTLEMENTS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: A lawsuit settlement by CCC Information Services Group, Inc. and several insurance companies will result in a court-appointed monitor who will review the methods of CCC's Valuescope programme for the next five years. The agreement applies to several class action lawsuits filed in Madison County (Illinois) Third Circuit Court against CCC and 15 of its insurance company customers alleging that claimants were underpaid for their totaled vehicles. CCC agreed to pay about \$8 million, while the insurance companies are required to pay additional unspecified funds for claims by the plaintiff class members. The settlement stresses that the defendants admit no wrongdoing. The company has a strong belief in the integrity and accuracy of our valuation product, CCC Sr. V.P. and General Counsel Robert S. Guttman said. We concluded, however, that settlement of these suits is the best course of action in order to avoid further protracted litigation, expense and distraction. It's too soon to gauge whether the settlement will have any significant effect on collision repair shops nationwide. Valuescope is primarily sold to insurers to help them determine the value of crashed vehicles declared total losses. Our expectations are that there will not be changes in the product, says Guttman. A lot will depend on what the monitor's findings are. His job is to ensure that there is compliance with the terms of the agreement. For insurers, they'll have the added assurance from a third party that the integrity and accuracy of the product will be validated. Monitoring the process is Philip Rowley of LECG, a worldwide consulting firm that specialises in court-related analyses. Rowley did not respond to an interview request, but Guttman says university professors and an assortment of industry experts will conduct several studies under Rowley's - and the judge's - supervision. Examples of the planned

research include, Vehicle Mileage Impact Valuation Study and a Vehicle Local Market Determination Study. Guttman pointed out that Valuescope does not make the decision as to whether a vehicle totaled, nor does it determine the payout. That call is to be made by the claimant's insurer, he notes, and CCC has been unfairly drawn into a flurry of unwarranted class actions spurred by what it calls an overeager plaintiff's bar. Since 2000 some two-dozen lawsuits have been filed against the company. We've been absolved or dismissed from most of them, he says. We just happened to get caught in the crosshairs. The target is the insurance industry. Our data supports the insurance industry; our view is that this is an industry issue. The judge in Madison County still must sign-off on the agreement, although Guttman is confident all is in order. This would resolve seven of the 11 cases in which we were the named party, he says. Lawyers and judges will likely look to the Illinois case as the others are litigated. A lawyer in California points to an earlier action that he settled against CCC and insurers, saying that it might have bridged the gap in the Madison County negotiations. I think that my case may have had something to do with it, says Gary K. Kwasniewski, of the Viau & Kwasniewski law firm in Los Angeles.



Railway Accidents

CHEAKAMUS RIVER AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Aug 7 -- A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Crews worked nonstop today to clean up a train derailment that dumped thousands of litres of a toxic chemical into the Cheakamus River north of Squamish yesterday. Health officials issued an advisory to residents a few hours after the crash to avoid the river, where dead fish floated near the banks. But late this afternoon, they deemed the Cheakamus and the Squamish River downstream again safe for recreational use. However, wells within 100 metres of the Cheakamus downstream from the spill were still off-limits until tests confirm the water is safe. An B.C. Environment Ministry official said tests today showed the pH - acid-alkaline - balance of the water had already returned to normal after thousands of litres of sodium hydroxide spilled into the Cheakamus. "There has been a number of fish killed that were killed outright or have been suffering ill consequences from a higher pH water," said Lance Sundquist, the ministry's incident commander. A 144-car CN Rail freight bound for Prince George left the track yesterday morning, with nine of the cars tumbling about 12 meters down

the steep Cheakamus River canyon. One of them was a tank car loaded with 51,000 litres of sodium hydroxide or caustic soda, a highly corrosive industrial liquid with a wide variety of uses, including in the pulp and paper industry. It broke open and much of the contents leaked into the river. Health officials advised people yesterday to stay away from the river and not to use water from wells located 100 metres from the river. Crews were visiting individual homes to check pH levels in well water. Sundquist said it will take at least a month to assess the damage the spill has caused to the fish population but anticipated no long-term effects on water quality. CN Rail spokesman Graham Dallas said rail line was expected to be back in operation by this evening. The derailed cars littering the embankment below the rail line's bridge now are not expected to be retrieved before Wednesday, during which the river will again be closed to recreational use, local officials said. The cause of the derailment was still not known.

RATMALANA, SRI LANKA

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 8, states: A train struck an empty passenger car sitting on a railway track in southern Sri Lanka today, injuring at least 20 people, police said. The train crashed into the carriage in Ratmalana, about 20 km south of the capital Colombo. The carriage had accidentally broken away from a train that had earlier travelled on the track, said Sirisena Herath, deputy inspector general of police, citing preliminary reports. Police at the scene said at least 20 people were hurt in the accident. Three were in serious condition, including the train driver, hospital officials said. The train had been travelling from Colombo to the southern town of Aluthgama when it crashed into the empty carriage, leaving it crumpled on the track.

SOMIS, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Amtrak train collided with a dump truck crossing the tracks in Somis, California, injuring 20 people, two of them seriously, officials said. The two occupants in the dump truck were taken to the hospital with serious injuries, said Joe Luna, a Ventura County Fire Department spokesman. Their conditions were not immediately available. Eighteen of the Surfliner train's 168 passengers and crew suffered minor injuries, said Amtrak spokeswoman Vernae Graham. Only one passenger remained hospitalized following the crash. The cause of the crash in Somis, north-west of downtown Los Angeles, was not immediately known, Graham said. The front cab car partly derailed after the collision, she said. The remaining passengers and crew members boarded another train bound for Los Angeles, Graham said. From there,

buses would drop off passengers at destinations between Los Angeles and San Diego.

WABAMUN, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, Aug 7 -- A press report, dated Aug 6, states: The province of Alberta has issued an environmental protection order to make sure CN Rail cleans up an oil spill that has fouled Wabamun Lake, 75 km west of Edmonton. The government has also called in two world-renowned experts to provide advice to the environment department. One of them is Dr. Ron Goodman and the other expert is Dr. David Schindler. Goodman says issuing the order against CN in this spill is unusual. As much as 1.3 million litres of heavy bunker fuel oil were spilled Wednesday (Aug 3) morning when 43 cars derailed along the CN main line between Wabamun Lake and a row of cottages. It's not clear how much of that oil went into the lake, which provides the town's water. About 100 Wabamun Lake residents took part in a five-hour blockade of the CN Rail main line through their community yesterday afternoon. The blockade ended after the company promised daily updates on the steps being taken to clean up an eight-kilometre oil slick.

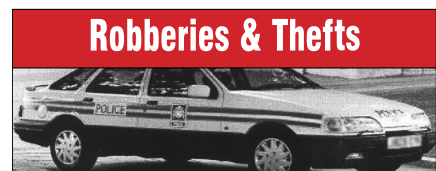
London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A faulty section of track may be the cause of an Alberta train derailment, according to Canadian National Rail officials who are scrambling to clean up a massive oil spill that has killed dozens of birds and put a popular lake off-limits. CN officials said the questionable rail in Wabamun, about 65 kilometres west of Edmonton, was electronically inspected by a machine that runs over the track, a process that occurs four times a year, in May. The area of track had also been physically inspected the day before last Wednesday's (Aug 3) derailment, which saw 45 of 140 cars leave the rails. More than 700,000 litres of bunker fuel oil, used in liquid asphalt and to power barges and ships, has seeped into the ground and Lake Wabamun. Initially, the company reported that 1.3 million litres of the substance had leaked. More than 150 people are now working to contain and clean up the seven-kilometre-long oil slick on the lake. CN has been forced to bring in buoyant containment booms from Montreal, Texas and Louisiana to help rein in the oil slick. More than a dozen vacuum trucks are working at the shore to suck up the oil. The company has also brought in specialists to help supervise the clean-up and veterinarians and wildlife experts to help tend to injured wildlife. By yesterday, 243 oil-covered birds and a few animals had been brought in to a makeshift cleanup centre. Although the material isn't toxic, at least 77 of the birds have choked to death after being doused in the sticky black substance. TransAlta Corp. reported that one of its three power plants that draws cooling water

from the lake has been shut down because of concern that the oil would foul its cooling system.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: People around Alberta's Lake Wabamun are being told not to use or drink water from the lake or their well because a hazardous chemical may have been part of the material spilled last week after a train derailment. Alberta Environment issued the warning yesterday after experts raised concerns. "We do have concerns that there was a harmful substance," Irwin Huberman, spokesman with Alberta Environment, told the Canadian Press. "Until the final results come through in the next day or two, as a precaution, we are advising people to stay off the lake and not to use the water." People are also being told not to use lake water for watering gardens or for showering because of the risk of exposure to the chemical, which is used to treat utility poles. They have also been warned not to gather or try to clean wildlife. Meanwhile, clean-up efforts continued to contain oil spilled Wednesday (Aug 3) after the train derailment. An estimated 562,000 litres of heavy oil are still sitting on the lake west of Edmonton. Officials with CN Rail say changing weather conditions are making it difficult to contain the spill. In the derailment, 1.3 million litres of heavy bunker fuel oil spilled when 43 cars derailed along the CN main line between Wabamun Lake and a row of cottages. The cause of the derailment is under investigation. Over the weekend, booms or barriers were placed on the lake in an effort to keep what had been an eight-kilometre-long oil slick from spreading. As well, skimmers are being used to try to remove the oil. Ron Goodman, an expert hired by Alberta Environment to advise the railway, told CBC News it could take between two and five years to return the lake to its original state. As of Friday, 60 oil-covered birds and five muskrats had been found.

WEST GLACIER, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: Two BNSF Railway trains collided at a switching point at West Glacier this afternoon, partially derailing one locomotive but causing no injury and minimum damage, a railway spokesman said. Spokesman Gus Melonas said a westbound freight train travelling from Chicago to Portland hit the 10th car of an eastbound container train as it was moving off the mainline onto a siding. One of the three locomotives of the westbound train derailed, but crews were putting it back on the tracks and traffic was expected to resume tonight, Melonas said. The collision occurred about 1430 hrs, at a very slow speed. Both trains were loaded with containers and contained no hazardous materials, he said.



BANK, CEARA PROVINCE, BRAZIL

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thieves have tunneled into a bank in north-eastern Brazil and stolen \$US68 million, the biggest bank heist in the nation's history. "It's something you see in the movies. ... They dug a 200-metre tunnel that goes underneath two blocks," police investigator Francisco Queiroga said. The thieves broke into a branch of the central bank in the north-eastern state of Ceara over the weekend and removed 156 million reais (\$89 million). The theft was not discovered until this morning because the bank was closed. "The tunnel was dug right underneath the vault," Queiroga said. "We've never heard of so much money being stolen from a bank in Brazil." Federal police in Ceara said it was the biggest known heist in Brazil and that between six and 10 people were suspected of doing the job.

CASH, BANK, FORTALEZA, BRAZIL

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thieves tunneled nearly 300 feet to a Central Bank vault in northeastern Brazil and stole about \$65 million, police said yesterday, in what has been described as the biggest such robbery ever in Brazil. The money was stolen from the Central Bank's vault in the city of Fortaleza, about 1,550 miles north-east of Sao Paulo. The thieves built a 13-foot deep, 262-foot-long tunnel from a house near the bank to the vault, federal police said in a statement. The elaborate tunnel had electric lights and walls reinforced with wood panels and lined with plastic sheeting, police said. The short statement did not explain how the robbers broke through the vault's six-foot thick concrete walls to reach the cash. Police said the robbers left behind a drill, electric saw and a blowtorch. The heist took place sometime between 1800, Friday (Aug 5) when the vault was closed for the weekend, and 0800, yesterday when it was reopened. The statement said cameras and motion detectors inside the vault did not function.



DEVASTATION OF CROPS, NIGERIA

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated Jul 29, states: A plague of quela

quela birds has devastated up to 70% of farmers' crops in northern Nigeria. The birds fly in densely packed flocks and are one of the world's most abundant species. The area borders Niger which is suffering from severe food shortages because of last year's drought and locust invasions. Journalist Mustapha Mohammed, who visited Gadana in north-eastern Yobe state, says that thousands of the small dark birds with red beaks were hovering in the sky. Farmers were distraught, he said, and had taken to sleeping in their fields fearing further invasions. "We started three days fasting and prayers, hoping for Allah's intervention against these destructive birds that are threatening our means of existence," village head Sule Aliyu said in an interview on state radio. State and local officials say more than 8,000 hectares of crops - mainly millet - has been destroyed, with tens of thousands of peasant farmers affected. "The birds are migratory; most of them came from Niger where they could not find food to eat," agriculture official Tukur Maru said. The area already has a low crop yield due to desertification. Agricultural Minister Malam Adamu Bello said that the government planned to start aerial pesticide spraying soon. An earlier spraying campaign in June failed to stop the invasion.

FLOODING IN COAL MINE, XINGNING, CHINA

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 miners were trapped underground when a coal mine flooded in north-eastern Guangdong yesterday. The 103 workers failed to return to the surface after the water entered the Daxing Colliery in Xingning, Meizhou city, at 1330 hrs, Xinhua reported. It was not clear whether any miners survived the accident, likely to be the worst in the province in recent years. Xinhua did not report any rescue figures. In a move reflecting the seriousness of the accident, Minister of the State Administration of Work Safety Supervision Li Yizhong and director of the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety Zhao Tiechui led a team to the scene to direct the rescue operation. An order has also been made for the nearby coal mines to halt operations immediately.

Beijing, Aug 8 -- Hopes faded today for 102 Chinese coal miners trapped by flood waters. Flood waters were rising in the mineshaft in Xingning in the southern province of Guangdong which was inundated yesterday. "There are 15 million to 20 million cubic metres of water under the mine and the water level is still rising 50 cm an hour," the Xinhua news agency quoted a vice mayor of nearby Meizhou as saying. "Chances of the trapped workers surviving are relatively small," he said. What triggered the flooding was unknown, Xinhua said. The China News Service said adjoining mines had been ordered to suspend production and evacuate workers. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers in China have warned that the number of miners who are trapped in a flooded mine could be higher than the 102 previously reported. The confusion is because the colliery's managers have fled the scene, leaving behind no accurate records of how many men were working underground. The mine, in southern China, flooded on Sunday (Aug 7). There are now fears that up to 200 men are trapped in its tunnels. Rescuers are working frantically to try to install high powered pumps to clear away the flood waters.

Beijing, Aug 9 -- At least 123 miners are now known to have been trapped deep underground in a flooded shaft in south China, not 102 as first reported, and they have little chance of survival, official media reported late today. "An additional 21 miners were added to the missing list announced yesterday after the mine counted the number of miners working underground today," Xinhua news agency quoted a senior official in charge of rescue operations as saying. "Currently, they are still trapped about 480 metres underground," said You Ningfeng, vice governor of Guangdong province. "The chance of survival for the trapped miners is slim after being stranded for more than 55 hours," he added. Despite the pessimism, Xinhua quoted Guangdong governor Huang Huahua as pledging: "If there is a tiny hope, we will spare no efforts to rescue the trapped miners." As frantic rescue work continued at the Xingning pit, China's top work safety official was quoted as saying that this latest in a string of mining disasters was a prime example of pit owners flouting safety laws to make money. The mine was operating without a licence and in violation of local government orders to shut down for inspections after a July flooding at another pit in Xingning, Xinhua said. The July accident claimed 16 lives. "This is a typical case in which mine owners make money, miners lose their lives and the government pays the bill," Li Yizhong, director of the State Administration for Work Safety, was quoted as saying. More than 60 managers of the mine fled after Sunday's (Aug 7) flooding and the Xingning government has called for them to return to help with rescue efforts, Xinhua said. One local Communist Party official estimated that the volume of water in the shaft of the Daxing mine "almost equals that of a medium-sized reservoir". The source of the flood waters was still unknown, making it impossible for rescuers to stop the flow and bring water levels down. Xinhua said that four pumps were working round-the-clock and five high-power pumps were to be installed, but that even so the rescue operation could take a long time. Senior officials from the party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection had arrived at the scene to supervise investigations along with provincial supervisors. -- Reuters.

GAS LEAK IN COAL MINE, YUZHOU, CHINA

Beijing, Aug 3 -- A gas leak at a coal mine in central China has killed 24 miners and left two missing, state media reported today, in the latest accident to strike the world's deadliest mining industry. More than 40 workers were underground in the Xinfa coal mine in Yuzhou, Henan province, when gas began filling the shafts last night, Xinhua news agency said. Seventeen miners managed to escape, but 24 suffocated to death, it said. -- Reuters.

GRETA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dockers in Sligo are continuing to picket general cargo Greta (1289 gt, built 1984) in a dispute over pay with a Co Leitrim-based metal recycling company and a shipping agent. The seven dockers, who are members of SIPTU, are preventing the loading of the vessel at Sligo Harbour. They claim they are owed Euro 24,000. SIPTU says the scrap metal company, Erin Recyclers of Kinlough in Co Leitrim, has reneged on a deal it made with them. The shipping agent, Cermar Shipping, says there is no contractual agreement with the dockers. It says they are impeding the loading of the vessel and it is considering seeking a court injunction to prevent their action. The Vice Chairperson of Sligo Harbour's board, Veronica Cawley, said it has no direct role in this dispute. The dockers are not employees of the board and the dispute is between them, their union and the company involved, she added.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Investigators have determined that a strain of bird flu virus infecting fowl in Russia is the type that can infect humans, the Agriculture Ministry said today. The virus caused the deaths of hundreds of birds in a section of Siberia this month, but no human infections have been reported. In a brief statement, the ministry identified the virus as avian flu type A H5N1. "That raises the need for undertaking quarantine measures of the widest scope," the statement said.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said bird flu in the Novosibirsk region had killed 2,382 poultry, including 127 since yesterday morning. Mass death of poultry was registered in 18 settlements of the Dovolensky, Kupinsky, Zdvinsky and Chistoozerny districts. "Preliminary tests of the samples taken from dead poultry showed the presence of the flu virus A of H5N1 strain," the Ministry said. Authorities launched a set of veterinary, sanitary and anti-epidemic measures in the province. "Poultry death cases were also registered in the Omsk region and the Altai territory. In the Omsk region, 450 poultry died, and in the Altai territory - 300, but the diagnosis has not been formally

confirmed in these two provinces. Crisis headquarters representatives will fly with a fact-finding mission to the Omsk region today.

Moscow, Aug 2 -- Russia's Siberian region of Novosibirsk said today it will slaughter 65,000 birds in 13 locations as more cases were confirmed today of a strain of bird flu dangerous to humans. "It has been decided to slaughter all hens, ducks, geese and turkeys at farms where the virus had been detected. The farms' owners will be paid compensation for all the birds that are killed and provided with safe poultry meat and eggs at a discount price," a Novosibirsk administration spokeswoman said. The H5N1 strain of bird flu which can spread to humans has so far been officially confirmed in three Siberian regions -- Novosibirsk, Altai and Tyumen, and is thought to have been brought to Russia by migrant birds from China. The first cases were confirmed in Novosibirsk on Friday, followed by Altai yesterday. An outbreak of the virus was also confirmed in a village in the south of Tyumen, the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement today. So far no cases of humans being infected with bird flu had been registered. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A regional veterinary laboratory confirmed a bird flu virus in the village of Vtorye Korosteli in Altai's Rubtsovsky district, where 180 poultry died at private households. No cases of infection among humans were registered, the press service of the regional emergency situations department said. Vtorye Korosteli is the third Altai settlement quarantined after the bird flu outbreak in the region. Exports or imports of poultry is banned in the affected areas which have also been cordoned off. Authorities set up disposal centres for dead or sick poultry. Another six districts announced restrictions, following poultry death cases.

Moscow, Aug 8 -- A bird flu outbreak in Russia's Siberian regions may be spreading, but no humans have been infected so far, officials and Russian media said today. The highly potent H5N1 strain, confirmed in the Siberian region of Novosibirsk, has swept parts of Asia and killed more than 50 people since 2003. Outbreaks in Russia and later in neighbouring Kazakhstan have been reported since mid-July. In a sign the outbreak had yet to be contained, news agencies reported the virus may have spread to two more districts of the Kurgan region in western Siberia where bird flu was confirmed in wildfowl last week. "Dead bird samples from these areas have been taken away for checks," Interfax news agency quoted a regional agriculture official as saying, but Russia's consumer rights watchdog said the situation was under control. "As of August 7, 2005, the epidemic situation...remains stable...There have been no infections and no one was suspected of having been infected," the watchdog, part of

the Health Ministry, said in a statement. Itar-Tass news agency quoted Novosibirsk officials as saying mass deaths among farm birds largely stopped today in the worst-affected, quarantined areas of the Novosibirsk region. Mass poultry deaths in Novosibirsk have been registered since Jul 10, according to media reports. The number of Russian regions hit by the avian flu rose to five last week. Russia's growing bird flu crisis could drive up imports of poultry. Russia annually consumes more than two million tonnes of poultry meat and imports more than half its needs from the United States, Brazil and other countries. The European Union has decided to ban imports of chickens and other products from Russia and Kazakhstan, although in practice the EU does not buy poultry from the two ex-Soviet countries. In Central Asia's Kazakhstan, the deaths of 364 hens in the village of Krasny Yar, initially assumed to having been caused by bird flu, turned out to be due to a regular bird disease, Interfax quoted regional veterinary officials as saying. But there was no word on the situation in other, more widely affected Kazakh regions, including Pavlodar where bird flu had been registered officially. The Russian Emergencies Ministry said in a note issued today that a total of 5,573 domestic and wild birds had been affected in the Novosibirsk, Omsk and Tyumen regions. Russia has culled tens of thousands of domestic birds in past days to prevent the virus spreading. In Tyumen region alone, more than 12,000 chickens, ducks and geese had been killed, Tass said. Tass quoted Tyumen officials as saying the virus had been confirmed in another small village called Vorobyovo, but it was unclear how many birds were affected there. Tass said checks were being carried out in a number of nearby settlements. Interfax news agency reported from Altai, another affected Siberian region, that state inspectors joined forces with local hunters to locate, check and, if necessary, shoot down infected birds, especially in areas near big farms. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 35-year-old man in Vietnam has tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu, bringing the country's death toll to 22 since the disease's reoccurrence in late December, a health official said today. Test results at the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City confirmed that the man from the southern Mekong Delta province of Ben Tre was infected with the virus, said Nguyen Phuc Sinh, director of the local Preventive Health Center.

St. Petersburg, Aug 9 -- A bird flu epidemic in Russia is subsiding and should disappear by late August, a World Health Organisation official said today. However, Russian health officials were less optimistic, suggesting birds migrating from the five Siberian regions where the deadly virus has been raging since mid-July

could spread the disease as far afield as the United States. "Things are quietening down. The epidemic will vanish in 10-15 days," Oleg Kiselyov, head of a research institute operating under the WHO's auspices, said in Russia's second city of St Petersburg. "It won't spread further because of changing weather conditions. It's never warm enough in Siberia in late August." The highly potent H5N1 strain, which has struck mainly in the western Siberian region of Novosibirsk, has killed over 50 people in Asia since 2003. Outbreaks that have killed wildfowl and poultry in Russia and Kazakhstan since mid-July have raised fears the disease could spread to humans on the Eurasian land mass, sparking fears of a worldwide epidemic. However, Kiselyov said there was no need for such worries in Siberia. "If no one has been infected so far, people won't get infected. All the measures undertaken have helped localise the outbreak." He added, however, that Russia would soon test and introduce a new type of vaccine to prevent humans from getting the potentially deadly virus. The first batch will be sent to the worst-hit Novosibirsk region as soon as October, he said. In another sign of calm, the Emergencies Ministry said that the number of deaths among domestic and wild birds was just 15 overnight compared with a total of 5,583 since mid-July. However, Russia's top epidemiologist, Gennady Onishchenko, said it was too early to draw rosy conclusions. "The epidemic is being localised. Its spread is currently limited to five regions, but that does not mean that birds could not be dying somewhere else," he was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency in Novosibirsk. There were also fears among Russian veterinary officials that migrating birds could take the virus to other countries. "It's possible that the birds have already spread it beyond Russia," Yevgeny Nepoklonov, deputy head of the state veterinary watchdog, told Interfax. "The birds fly not only over Siberia but also along the far eastern coast on to the United States of America. Some birds fly along the Kazakh border from Novosibirsk water reservoirs and then on to Volgograd." There was no word today on Kazakhstan, where bird flu was registered in several regions bordering Russia's Siberia. In another Central Asian country, Uzbekistan, the agriculture ministry said it was suspending imports of poultry and eggs from Russia and Kazakhstan due to the outbreak. The move followed similar plans by the European Union, although Brussels buys no poultry from the two ex-Soviet countries. -- Reuters.

POWER OUTAGE, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Aug 9 -- The entire Karachi port city was plunged into darkness from this morning as a high tension extra line of the Water and Power Distribution Authority (WAPDA), which provides electricity to the

Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC), tripped. The KESC engineers were able to restore electricity in some of the areas by noon. The routine life of the citizens was completely affected by the abrupt power breakdown. According to details in the later hours yesterday and today a high tension extra line of WAPDA through which electricity reaches the KESC, got interrupted and tripped near Korangi due to which 21 grid stations linked to it got closed. Darkness gripped half of the city areas after the tripping which include Landhi, Quaidabad, Malir, Model Colony, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Bahadurabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, new Town, Soldier Bazaar, Saddar, Clifton, Defence, Gizri, Mehmoodabad, Baloch Colony, PECHS, Lyari, Kharadar, Mithadar, M. A. Jinnah Road, Keamari, Karachi port, Civil Line and several other areas. The power breakdown also affected many five star hotels, the Chief Minister's House, Governor House, newspaper offices and other office buildings. Power breakdown caused about \$1 billion production loss, chairman SITE Association Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar baig informed local media. He said that apart from production loss there are multiple other losses in various shapes. He said that KESC authorities are not giving any details of the breakdown. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

VESSELS DIVERTED TO CYPRUS DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger ro/ro The Iris (12668 gt, built 1982) and passenger The Jasmine (12811 gt, built 1981) diverted to the port of Limassol because of a security alert on Friday (Aug 5) were due to leave the island yesterday, Cypriot authorities said. Cypriot Coastguard Chief Antonis Shakallis said extra security measures had been taken on land and around the coastline while the two vessel docked off the island. "We have taken extra security measures, we have increased our staff at sea and land at the ports" Shakallis told the Cyprus News Agency. Shakallis said he expected the vessels to head back to the Israeli ports of Haifa and Ashdod, although he could not confirm this. On Friday Israel ordered cruise ships headed for Turkey with 3,500 Israeli passengers to change course to other ports because of a specific security threat. Israel Radio said a "terror alert" prompted Transportation Minister Meir Sheerit to instruct the Israeli-flag vessels sailing from Haifa to stay away from the Turkish port of Alanya where they had been due to arrive later in the day. Another vessel, passenger Mirage I (14264 gt, built 1973), docked at Larnaca late on Friday night. Larnaca is a scheduled stop for the vessel. A fourth Israeli ship, passenger Dream Princess (22945 gt, built 1970, docked at Larnaca early yesterday, again as part of a scheduled stop. Both vessels were also due to leave Cyprus yesterday afternoon. Cypriot security sources

earlier said the Israeli vessels were ordered to keep away from Alanya because Israeli authorities deemed the security measures there to be unsatisfactory.

Fires & Explosions



CHEMICAL PLANT, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire raged at a chemical plant early today, forcing authorities to evacuate hundreds of homes in two suburban Detroit communities. Authorities said no injuries were reported, and no one was inside the plant when the fire started. Witnesses described a series of loud explosions at the Michigan Chemical Recovery plant that shook the ground and shot flames and smoke into the air. The plant is a division of the Environmental Quality Company, which specializes in treating, recycling and disposing of hazardous materials, according to its Web site. At least 1,000 homes were evacuated in the neighbouring community of Wayne because of fumes from the fire, said city manager John Zech. It was not immediately clear how many homes were evacuated in Romulus, about 25 miles south-west of Detroit. Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert said one tank exploded at the plant, which then set off explosions in other tanks. He said air quality was one of the primary concerns and that the intensity of the fire and uncertainty about the chemicals kept firefighting crews from getting too close. "What the plant does is takes hazardous materials and neutralize it so they're not hazardous anymore," Lambert said. Romulus Police Chief Charles Kirby urged residents within a half-mile radius to evacuate because materials in the smoke could pose a danger to their health. Shelters were set up at high schools and community centers, and the Red Cross and Salvation Army were expected to provide assistance.

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The inferno that tore apart a Romulus chemical plant kept burning throughout last night, prolonging a public health scare and evacuation order that forced thousands to seek shelter at motels, a school, and with friends and relatives. Potentially toxic soot was strewn across neighbourhoods surrounding the plant, and dangerous chemicals stewed in the hot rubble left by a series of explosions that jolted EQ Resource Recovery Inc. Fire officials were not sure when the fire would be extinguished and the evacuation orders for Romulus and Wayne would be lifted. Officials said areas outside the evacuation zone were not at risk from fallout from the plant fire. City of Wayne Deputy Fire Chief Mel Moore

said this evening: "We could have it out at the end of the night or it could take two, three more days." Romulus Fire Chief David Allison said today would be the earliest the fire would be extinguished. The problem stems from a hot solvent-type chemical leaking from the tanks, Moore said: When the water is put on the chemical the fire flares up so it's better to let it drain into a contained area, and once it cools, the company will remove it, Moore said. More than 24 hours after the industrial meltdown, local and federal officials still could not provide answers to anxious residents about potential health risks, or offer explanations as to the cause. The fire prevented investigators from starting a full probe. In the meantime, they began testing the fallout. They urged residents to avoid contact with the grit and soot, but to be cautious if they did begin cleaning homes and cars. Results from complex tests on the materials that spewed from the fire at EQ Resource Recovery Inc. likely won't be available until late today or tomorrow, said federal emergency response officials. Until then, no one knows whether the area is embedded with dangerous levels of toxics like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a group of chemicals that are probable carcinogens and also may damage skin, body fluids and inhibit ability to fight disease after even short-term exposure. In addition to the grit, federal officials were scanning the air around the plant, using pole-mounted monitoring boxes, a specially-equipped twin-engine aircraft crammed with scientific instruments for infrared and thermal imaging, and a mobile lab that was expected to arrive just after midnight. Initial test results showed that levels of contaminants in the air, even during the height of the blaze's fury, were not an imminent threat to those who breathed it. The intense heat likely destroyed many potentially dangerous chemicals before they could waft through the neighbourhood, said Charles Kirby, chief of the Romulus Department of Public Safety. The uncontrolled mixture of chemicals, heated at uneven temperatures throughout the inferno, can create entirely new compounds, making it even harder to predict what sort of residue is left behind, say scientists. Attorneys and politicians wasted no time reacting to the disaster. Even as the fire burned, Macuga & Liddle P.C. of Detroit announced a class action, and U.S. Rep. John Dingell, D-Dearborn, promised a full investigation, declaring "the federal government has dropped the ball" on safety regulation. Meanwhile, several families were taking up the EQ company's offer to put them up free in local hotels.

CHEMICAL PLANT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small explosion and fire forced the evacuation last night of employees at a chemical plant

owned by a subsidiary of BP. All the employees had been accounted for and there were no injuries, officials said. Authorities said the fire broke out in an olefins unit of the Innovene plant, formerly BP Amoco Chemical. The company has two olefins units and three polypropylene units at the site. Residents in the area were being urged to remain indoors, authorities said. Innovene is a wholly owned subsidiary of BP.

CHEMICAL PLANT, WEST PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire at a chemical plant in Lawrence County over the weekend erupted into a raging inferno. Now investigators are busy trying to figure out what started the blaze in the first place. Flames engulfed the Remacor warehouse in West Pittsburg on Saturday (Aug 6) and smoke could be seen for up to 20 miles. Since the plant houses magnesium, which can combust if exposed to water, firefighters had to let the fire burn itself out. The fire chief told KDKA that the blaze could continue to burn for several days. Flames spread to three other buildings, but no one suffered any injuries. Today, investigators are back at the scene looking for clues to what sparked the flames.

COAL MINE, LEBU AREA, CHILE

Santiago, Aug 8 -- Three miners died and more than 20 were injured in an explosion in a coal mine in southern Chile today, a government official told local television. The explosion occurred at the beginning of the morning shift at 0730, local time, in the Victoria coal mine near the Pacific coast town of Lebu, some 420 miles south of the capital. Nestor Matamala, governor of the Arauco region where the mine is located, told Chile's National Television that the mine had been evacuated after the accident, which involved gases that build up naturally in underground mines. -- Reuters.

COAL MINE, LIUPANSHUI, CHINA

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen miners were killed and two others went missing in a gas explosion early today in a coal mine in south-western China's Guizhou Province, official media reported. The Xinhua News Agency report said that the explosion occurred at around 0300 as 39 miners were working in the Wanzi Coal Mine in Liupanshui.

FACTORY, HEIDELBERG, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A blaze in a plastics factory in the Melbourne suburb of Heidelberg has caused millions of dollars in damage. A Metropolitan Fire Brigade spokesman said the damage was estimated between \$8 million and \$10 million. "It took 20 trucks and around 70 crew around two hours just to get it under control," he said. "The fire duty will go on through the night and into tomorrow." Fire crews arrived

at 0100, AEST, today as the blaze spread rapidly through the factory. The MFB advised people to stay indoors and close their windows to avoid the thick smoke from the burning plastics, however, it was not considered a health risk. The spokesman said much of the building had collapsed and it would most probably have to be demolished. Senior Constable Wayne Wilson from Victoria Police said the arson squad was treating the blaze as suspicious. "The fire seemed to have started in a plastic storage area and then had spread into the main factory area." Sen Const Wilson said there was yet to be a forensic examination of the scene but investigations were continuing.

FOREST, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

Sydney, Aug 10 -- Vessels plying the Strait of Malacca face a navigational hazard after a thick haze blanketing the Malaysian peninsula yesterday cut visibility to less than one kilometre in parts of the sea lane. There are fears that vessels would have reduced warning of any attack by pirates, particularly in the north. White smoke from forest fires in neighbouring Indonesia has covered parts of Malaysia for almost a week, Reuters reported. Meteorological officials told Malaysian news agency Bernama that the haze had hit visibility in the strait, which carries a quarter of global trade, and posed a hazard, especially to vessels without navigational aids. -- "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated Aug 10, states: Thick acrid smog shrouding a huge part of western Malaysia since last week has affected shipping operations in the Malacca Strait and authorities said today that the air pollution had reached hazardous levels. The Star newspaper reported today that a c.c. CSCL Kobe ran aground due to poor visibility as forest fires in Indonesia's Sumatra and Riau provinces blanketed the region with a thick haze. The vessel beached while being piloted to Westport on Monday (Aug 8). It was freed 12 hours later without sustaining any serious damage. Westport is one of two main ports located in Port Klang, some 50 km north-west of Kuala Lumpur. Port Klang Authority general manager O.C. Phang said port pilots had been instructed to be extra vigilant when piloting vessels arriving or leaving the terminals. The haze caused operations at Westport to be suspended for nearly five hours today. "Vessels were allowed to come in as they have electronic navigational aids. However, container movement in the yard was halted for hours," Phang said. The Port Klang-based Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Centre has been sending out hourly alerts to all vessels plying the Malacca Strait. According to a statement from the Malaysian Meteorological Services Department today, the central and southern parts of the Malacca Strait are experiencing low visibility of less than one kilometre and this condition is expected to remain until Friday. "This hazy situation is hazardous to

vessels without navigational equipment," it said. While Indonesia is seen as the main culprit behind the worsening haze situation, in Malaysia, a peat fire near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport has made the situation worse for those living around the capital. The airport also registered visibility at one km but airport authorities said flights were not being affected. Meanwhile, the Environment Department has classified the air quality in Port Klang as "hazardous" and elsewhere around Kuala Lumpur as "very unhealthy." (See also CSCL Kobe under "Marine.")

HOTEL, GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN AREA, GERMANY

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A huge fire devastated a luxury hotel in the German Alps today, forcing 400 guests to flee. Ten people, including two firefighters, were slightly injured. The fire at the Schloss Hotel Elmau, near the mountain resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, broke out early today. Hundreds of firefighters, some from neighbouring Austria, were still battling the flames in the afternoon. Police spokesperson Klaus Schirgers said the fire was probably caused by a faulty electric blanket in the bedroom of the hotel's 91-year-old former manager, who raised the alarm. Schirgers said the 170-room hotel, built in 1916, had been so badly damaged that it could collapse.

POULTRY FARM, SARANAC, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire destroyed an egg-production building at one of the Michigan's largest poultry farms, killing about 250,000 chickens and causing up to \$5 million in damage, authorities said. No people were hurt. Sixteen fire departments from four counties responded to the fire that broke out late yesterday at Herbruck Poultry Ranch and destroyed the 150-by-600-foot building, which housed egg-laying hens. Firefighters managed to keep flames from spreading to seven neighbouring buildings. They used 22 tankers to shuttle water from several miles to put out the fire, Berlin-Orange fire Chief Matt Bennett told The Grand Rapids Press. The fire started in the middle of the sprawling complex, which straddles Ionia County's Berlin and Boston townships about 15 miles east of Grand Rapids. The building that burned was in Berlin Township. Firefighters remained on the scene this morning to extinguish hot spots and investigate. They hoped to use data from a computer system in the four-year-old building to help determine the cause.

PREMISES, WOODSFIELD, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The fire that destroyed a two story building that housed Heartland Retreaders Inc. tyre recapping shop in Woodsfield on Friday (Aug 5) was estimated to have caused about \$1 million in damage. A cause

has yet to be determined but an investigation by the state fire marshal is continuing with a final determination expected sometime in the next few weeks. About 90 percent of the fire was focused in the rear of the building. The building was declared a total loss, according to Woodsfield Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mike Young. "There was so much equipment that was ruined," Young said. "It's definitely got to be over a million dollars." The building was constructed in the early 1900's and was purchased by Gary Rubel, its owner at the time of the blaze, in 1996. Despite the damage done by the fire and assertions that the building will be completely taken down, a spokesperson for Rubel said that the decision on what to do with the building has not yet been made, but clean-up operations continue. Clean-up operations are expected to take several weeks and the final decision on what to do with the building will be made after Rubel's insurance company is finished with the building.

REFINERY, EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: A major oil refinery shutdown has caused retail diesel to increase towards \$3 a gallon in California. Diesel prices hit all-time high Wednesday in Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego and San Bernardino, according to the Automobile Club of Southern California. The state average is at \$2.76, with San Francisco ahead of the curve at \$2.83. Although diesel prices have been consistently strong throughout the summer, the latest rise is attributed to the shutdown of a 200,000 barrel a day crude processing unit at Chevron Corp.'s El Segundo refinery. A Jul 20 fire damaged the unit, which Chevron says won't be back on line for another week. The company says it will meet contractual supply commitments to its customers despite the outage. However, traders, marketers and brokers doing business with the company have said Chevron cut diesel delivery to large, national account customers outside the Los Angeles basin who aren't on contracts. The diesel shortage will affect truckers moving goods imported through California and agricultural produce from the state.

REFINERY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Valero Energy Corp. said the company experienced a brief fire at its McKee refinery in the Texas Panhandle. The fire, which occurred late last Friday (Aug 5), was extinguished immediately by refinery personnel. The cause of the fire was not known. Valero spokeswoman Mary Rose Brown said Monday that the company's fluid catalytic cracking unit, MTBE and TAME units are all down. Company officials estimate that it will take five days to complete the repairs to the units. The McKee

refinery has the ability to process 175,000 barrels per day of crude oil. The company expects to lose 50,000 barrels per day of gasoline of production while the repairs are being made, for a total loss of 250,000 barrels of gasoline.

STEELWORKS, TEES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people were injured in an explosion at the Corus steelworks on Teesside this morning, police say. The explosion is reported to have happened at the Basic Oxygen Steelmaking plant at its Lackenby site. Cleveland Police said a vessel containing molten metal "exploded". Initial reports said two people were injured, although not seriously. Corus said the plant had not been evacuated and there were no chemical leaks or fires. Police added that there were no offsite implications following the incident. A spokeswoman for Cleveland Fire Brigade said firefighters were called to the plant at 0943 BST, today, where they extinguished a small blaze. She added the brigade was remaining on "protective standby". She said any investigation into the cause of the incident would be carried out by Corus and the Health and Safety Executive.

WAREHOUSE, DALLAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dallas firefighters battled a six-alarm blaze in Northwest Dallas yesterday night. The blaze broke out about 2100 hrs, at Vernon Compressor Sales of Texas at the intersection of Lombardy and Abernathy near Dallas Love Field Airport. The fire quickly went from one and two-alarms to a blazing six-alarm. Firefighters aimed large booster hoses and used aerial ladders to get above the flames. Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Lt. Jesse Garcia said. "We believe there are some chemicals there burning inside. It is very intense." Garcia said a passerby made the initial call for help. It wasn't clear what was fueling the flames, but a hazardous materials team was at the scene.

WILDFIRES, CANADA

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters in Ontario are battling more than 130 fires in the north-western part of the province, including a huge blaze burning close to Thunder Bay. Called Thunder Bay 57, the 5,000-hectare fire is burning about 100 km north-west of the city of more than 100,000. Helicopters and water bombers are on the scene near Armistice Lake, about 1,000 km north-west of Toronto. Late yesterday, people were ordered to leave a campground near Timmins, about 600 km east of Thunder Bay. A seven-hectare fire is raging dangerously close to the Big Water campground, said fire officials. Hot, dry weather across the province has aggravated the forest fire threat over

the past few weeks. "Lightning is the main cause of fires in this part of Ontario at this time of year," fire information officer Deb MacLean said. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources employee said about 180 out-of-province firefighters and support staff have been sent from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to help tackle about 130 blazes that are now burning in Ontario. The biggest fire near Thunder Bay is not threatening any communities, but three cottages in the area have been fitted with equipment to protect them, said MacLean. "Those are basically industrial-strength sprinkler systems, positioned on the eaves of the cabins and any other buildings, such as sheds," she said. They are powered by gas-powered pumps and will be turned on by fire officials if the flames approach. Another cluster of fires north and east of Thunder Bay 57 also has fire officials worried, given a forecast that includes more thunderstorms and possibly tornadoes. Ministry equipment has recorded 150,000 lightning strikes in Ontario over the past week.

WILDFIRES, FRANCE

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two new fires were spreading in south-eastern France today, while a blaze that began earlier near the southern city of Aix-en-Provence was in check but not yet under control, firefighting officials said. Firefighting services deployed a new type of water-dropping plane, while the main fleet of 10 such aircraft remains grounded pending an investigation into a fatal accident on the island of Corsica on Monday. Rescue services said the two new fires were near Hyeres in the Var region and at Greoux-les-Bains, near Manosque in the foothills of the French Alps. The fire near Manosque sparked the evacuation of a campsite, while the Hyeres blaze stayed in the city's outskirts and required no evacuations, firefighters said. A large fire that began yesterday near Aix-en-Provence, affecting some 500 hectares of land and leading to the evacuation of some 100 people, was meanwhile being held in check. The blaze left 10 firefighters suffering from burns or smoke inhalation. Up to 10 houses were damaged or burned down by the fire, sources said. Fires are frequent in southern France in the summer, but concern has been heightened this year because of hot, dry conditions in much of southern Europe. According to a preliminary official report for the southern French region, 1,510 fires destroyed 10,600 hectares through the end of July, nearly double last year's toll but less than in 2003 when more than 30,000 hectares burned.

WILDFIRES, INDONESIA

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian rangers were today struggling to put out forest fires which have created a

choking haze that has also cloaked parts of neighbouring Malaysia, but there were too few to tackle the annual problem, officials said. They said the haze that has cloaked Kuala Lumpur and most of its surrounding areas since Tuesday (Aug 2) was caused by ongoing illegal land clearance by farmers on Sumatra island and Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo. Haze in Pontianak was at its worst from midnight until early morning, forcing people to stop morning outdoor sports activities. Visibility was down to 500 metres at 0700, local time, but airport officials said it later improved enough not to hamper flights. About 46 hotspots caused by forest fires and land clearance were detected around Pontianak and in Sambas district, near Malaysia's Kuching town in neighbouring Sarawak.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 2,700 firefighters battled about 30 wildfires racing through parched woodland on Portugal's hottest day of the year yesterday, and authorities warned temperatures would continue to exceed 104 F through the weekend. About 790 vehicles and 21 aircraft supported the fire crews who fought against strong, hot winds from Africa, the Civil Protection Service said. Portugal is enduring its worst drought on record and woodland is tinder-dry, officials said. Wind drove the wildfires into remote villages and burned some houses, news reports said. Panicked residents fled their homes, television images showed. Police closed the main north-south highway yesterday evening due to low visibility caused by thick smoke. Most fires were in heavily wooded areas of northern Portugal.

London, Aug 7 -- A press report, dated Aug 5, states: Thousands of firefighters are tackling a new wave of forest fires that have been raging for two days as Portugal is gripped by a heatwave. Portuguese interior minister Antonio Costa urged people in the centre and north of the country to remain vigilant and help prevent the fires spreading. Speaking after visiting firefighters in the central town of Leiria, he warned that the situation could get worse. Water shortages and temperatures above 40C are making the operation difficult. About 3,000 firefighters, with help from hundreds of vehicles and 16 aircraft, have been struggling to bring about 17 fires across the country under control. Some homes in remote villages were evacuated and one man, trapped by the flames, was badly burned near Ourem, 120 km north of Lisbon. People in rural parts have been asked to clear an area of 50m around their homes as a safety precaution. The worst of the fires were in Leiria and Aveiro to the north of Lisbon. Fires near Aveiro, on the coast, forced the closure of a 15km stretch of the main Lisbon-Porto road. Fires have destroyed 68,000 hectares of forest this year in Portugal.

London, Aug 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Embattled firefighters were tackling 16 separate forest fires in northern and central Portugal late yesterday, after a brief respite earlier in the day when the number of blazes out of control had gone down to only five, the national fire services said. The country has mobilised over 400 soldiers to boost more than 3,000 firefighters, equipped with 826 vehicles and 31 water-dropping aircraft. The worst hit area was in Viseu, where at least four major blazes were under way. The main motorway linking the north and south of the country had to be closed again yesterday although was later reopened. Six firemen have died fighting the flames, which have ravaged more than 68,000 hectares of forest and brush since the beginning of the year.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: An elderly man was found dead and two people were reported missing in parched northern Portugal today, as emergency workers struggled to bring raging fires under control. Domingos Dias, mayor of Vila Pouca de Aguiar, said that the 74-year-old man -- whose body was found in Peilas, in the district of Vila Real -- had probably died of asphyxiation while attempting to put out fires on his property. Five other people were injured, none of them seriously, because of the fire which firefighters brought under control early yesterday after it burned for more than 24 hours, he told a news conference. The blaze destroyed 10,000 hectares of land and 21 homes in four villages, Dias said. A large number of people were moved to shelters in the Vila Pouca de Aguiar region, which has declared a state of emergency. More than 120 firefighters backed by 333 vehicles were still at the scene of the blaze to guard against flare-ups, emergency services said. Nationwide, over 900 firefighters backed by 266 vehicles and 22 aircraft were mobilized yesterday afternoon to tackle separate fires raging in the center and north of the country.

WILDFIRES, SPAIN

London, Aug 9 -- A fire which has laid waste to some 3,000 hectares of vegetation in the southern Spanish region of Jaen remained out of control today, two days after breaking out, local government sources said. Some 500 firefighters are battling the inferno, which has destroyed a section of Spain's largest natural park at Sierras de Cazorla, with some 500 people, many of them tourists, evacuated from the area since the blaze first broke out on Sunday, according to Cadena Ser radio. Another fire in the northern central region of Leon which has destroyed some 4,000 hectares of land was meanwhile under control, as were most of the blazes which have broken out in recent days across the northwestern region of Galicia.

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Spanish firefighters brought a forest blaze under

control today after it burned for nearly four days in the southern part of the country. The fire in the Sierras de Cazorla, Seguray las Villas nature reserve had been tamed by early today, and fire-fighters, water-dropping aircraft from the outside region had been withdrawn, the state-run news agency Efe said, citing local fire-fighting officials. The regional government estimated that the fire, which broke out Sunday (Aug 7) and was caused by lightning, burned more than 5,100 hectares in total, most of them woodland. About 1,500 people, many of them tourists, were evacuated from the area as a precaution, but have since been able to return. Spain is experiencing its driest summer since record-keeping began in the 1940s, and has seen more than 50,000 hectares of woodland ruined by about 5,000 forest fires so far this year.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Residents of at least 150 homes in south-eastern Washington were forced to evacuate as a fire that had charred at least 15,000 acres moved north out of the Umatilla National Forest onto private land. The leading edge of the fire, which had covered just 150 acres yesterday morning, was about 10 miles south of the rural community of Pomeroy, authorities said today. "At the moment it's zero percent contained, burning vigorously in timber, grass and brush," said John Townsley at the Northwest Fire Co-ordination Centre in Portland, Oregon. The cause of the fire was not yet known. No lightning strikes were reported in the area on Friday (Aug 5), when it started in tinder-dry conditions. In central Washington, a 1,075-acre wildfire near Lake Wenatchee that had threatened 140 homes was 50% contained, said Patrick Lonergan, spokesman for the Central Washington Area Incident Management Team. He said he expected that fire to be fully contained by Wednesday. Elsewhere, 10 houses near Alberton, Mont., were evacuated yesterday after a fire that started along Interstate 90 crossed over a ridge above the houses, officials said. The fire was one of four that started on Thursday along Interstate 90 in western Montana that had burned a total of 3,300 acres. Montana highway officials reopened westbound I-90 yesterday but travellers were told to expect restrictions as fire crews worked in the area between Alberton and Tarkio. For a time on Friday, about a 90-mile stretch of I-90 was closed. Officials reopened eastbound lanes on Friday night.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Cooler, damper weather gave an assist today to crews battling a wildfire that had exploded in size and destroyed at least 35 cabins. The blaze in forests and wheat fields in the fertile Palouse region of southeastern Washington had grown to 32,000 acres from only 150 acres on Saturday (Aug 6). An additional 120 homes could be at risk and had been

evacuated as crews concentrated on protecting them today, officials said. Evacuations also were ordered for homes near a small town threatened by a fire in north-western Montana. Nearly 600 firefighters near Pomeroy, WA, were aided by lower temperatures and rising humidity today but the wind was expected to pick up, said Don Ferguson, a spokesman for the Northwest Fire Coordination Centre. Dense smoke grounded firefighting aircraft for a second day, he said. The cabins that were destroyed, mostly summer residences, were located within the Umatilla National Forest, and the number was expected to rise once firefighters can enter the area for a detailed survey, Ferguson said. "There was a clump of them in a place called Baker Pond," Ferguson said. The fire, some 10 miles south of Pomeroy, was about 20% contained, Ferguson said. No injuries were reported and the cause had not been determined, Ferguson said. Flames had jumped the Tuncannon River and three campgrounds in the area were evacuated. Farmers were ploughing up broad firebreaks of bare earth through fields, trying to protect the rest of their wheat and other crops, officials said. In central Washington, a 1,100-acre wildfire near Lake Wenatchee that had threatened 140 homes was 60% contained, officials said today. About 100 homes had been evacuated and other residents were advised to be prepared for possible evacuation. Elsewhere, authorities ordered a number of homes evacuated near the small town of Eureka, MT, because of a wildfire that had blackened more than 1,500 acres since starting yesterday. Neither the Forest Service nor Lincoln County officials had a count on the number of homes affected. Some buildings had been destroyed, said Marc McGill, Lincoln County emergency management director. "We haven't determined if they were residences or outbuildings or what they were." Near Alberton, MT, an evacuation order remained in effect today for 10 homes that were threatened by one of four fires that started last week along Interstate 90. The four fires had burned more than 4,000 acres as of today. Two of them were only about 30% contained, but the others were no longer considered serious threats, said fire spokeswoman Sharon Sweeney. The fires also threatened a major power line, Sweeney said.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters yesterday began to assess the damage from a 37,000-acre wildfire that whipped through canyons, wheat fields and forestland in southeastern Washington, destroying more than 100 residences near Pomeroy. About 840 firefighters were assigned to the School fire, which was considered 20 percent contained, George Broyles, a spokesman for the interagency team fighting the fire, said Monday night. Fire crews had good lines around three sides of the fire yesterday, but

they remained concerned about heavy timber in the Umatilla National Forest to the south. However, there are few homes located in that timber country, said Clay Barr, director of emergency management for Garfield County. More than 100 residences were believed to have burned in the blaze, most in the forest, though firefighters were still working to assess damage in areas still smoldering Monday. About 20 of those residences were probably full-time homes, with the rest being hunting cabins, recreational homes and pads for recreational vehicles, Barr said, adding he and sheriff's deputies had been in the area and seen the burned structures. In north-central Washington, the Burnt Bread fire was estimated at 1,300 acres yesterday afternoon and was 25 percent contained. The Dirtyface fire near Lake Wenatchee, about 18 miles north-west of Leavenworth, was 60 percent contained yesterday at about 1,100 acres. No homes were evacuated. More than 675 firefighters were assigned to the blaze. The Lick Creek fire near Cle Elum had charred about 670 acres and was considered 50 percent contained yesterday night, said fire spokesman Dale Warriner, adding full containment might come Thursday (Aug 11) or Friday. The fire, which started Thursday (Aug 4), was believed to have been caused by logging equipment that caught fire, Warriner said. Nearly 500 firefighters were assigned to that blaze. No structures had burned, and no injuries were reported. The cost of fighting that fire so far was \$1.7 million, 40 percent of the cost for aircraft, he said.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters battling a 41,000-acre wildfire in south-eastern Washington said they had established good lines around three sides of it and were working to hold their gains against the wind. The fire was moving more slowly yesterday, although humidity remained low and temperatures were in the mid-90s, said Earl Bassett, a fire crew spokesman. Officials said they had the fire about 35% contained. More than 1,600 firefighters were working on the wildfire, which has destroyed more than 100 residences over the weekend. Officials said the structures included hunting cabins, vacation homes and pads for recreational vehicles. The fire, which started Friday (Aug 5), continued to burn into rougher terrain in the Umatilla National Forest.

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 850 people were fighting wildfires burning along Interstate 90 in western Montana near the Idaho border that had grown to 4,300 acres. An air tanker was assigned to the Montana fires to help protect a major Bonneville Power Administration line that supplies electricity to the Pacific Northwest. So far this year, wildfires have charred 5.1 million acres nationwide.



ACCIDENT, PESHAWAR AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Aug 7 -- The Peshawar airport in North West Frontier province, Pakistan, closed for flights after a Pakistan Air Force fighter jet made crash landing on Friday (Aug 5) damaging the runway. Civil Officials at the air traffic control told journalists that yesterday that all incoming domestic and international flights had been diverted to Islamabad and other airports, while flights from Peshawar were cancelled and passengers were transported to Islamabad. The official sources said that a fighter jet of PAF made crash landing after developing some "technical fault" at around 1200, Friday, causing damage to the runway. Officials said that the personnel of the Civil Aviation Authority and PAF were engaged in the repair of the runway. They said the flight operation would be restored soon. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

C-FDXH

London, Aug 8 -- At 1522 hrs, Aug 6, two Cessna A185F float equipped aircraft, C-FDXH & N581DB, were conducting separate take-offs from Kempenfelt Bay, Lake Simcoe, Ontario. Each pilot was apparently unaware of the other aircraft. The aircraft were on converging tracks during the initial climb after take-off and they collided at approximately 250 feet above the water surface. The pilot of N581DB, with two pilots and a passenger on board, was able to maintain control and he landed on the water surface. The tail section of C-FDXH (two persons on board) was cut off during the impact sequence and the aircraft impacted the water surface. C-FDXH was destroyed and the pilot and passenger received fatal injuries. A TSB investigator is attending.

C-FQEI

London, Aug 10 -- At 1520 hrs, Aug 4, the DeHavilland DHC-3 (C-FQEI) was transporting eight passengers into Louis Lagoon on the north west end of Nootka Island, British Columbia. While on the downwind, left-hand leg of the approach, the engine stopped and the pilot conducted a forced landing into the lagoon. During the after-landing deceleration, the aircraft entered shallows on the east end of the lagoon and flipped over in about one foot of water. Only the pilot received minor injuries and everyone on board escaped.

C-FXAV

London, Aug 8 -- At 1430 hrs, Aug 3, the pilot of C-FXAV, a float equipped Cessna 172 aircraft, was on final

approach to land on Rice Lake, Ontario, (15 nautical miles south-west of Gogama) when, at about 20 feet above the water, the aircraft encountered a downdraft and struck the water hard. The lake surface was choppy and the weather was reported as hazy with thunderstorms building in the vicinity. On contact with the water the right float broke off at the front and the windshield was broken as the aircraft rotated forward on its nose; however, the aircraft remained upright. The pilot and passenger were uninjured and were able to egress. It was reported that the aircraft remained on the surface but was mostly submerged.

C-GNOS

London, Aug 10 -- At 1130, Aug 7, the private Enstrom 280FX helicopter (C-GNOS) crashed onto Wigeon Lake, British Columbia, while on approach to the shoreline. The pilot and two passengers escaped without injury, and the helicopter sank in 50 feet of water.

C-GWPQ

London, Aug 10 -- At 1625 hrs, Aug 2, the MD369D helicopter (C-GWPQ, SN 700755) crashed while conducting a toe-in landing at Terrace, Northern British Columbia. The helicopter was consumed by post-crash fire and the pilot was seriously injured. There were no ground injuries.

C-GWZX

London, Aug 9 -- On Jul 30, Cessna 182E (C-GWZX) was on a VFR flight from Edmonton to Abbotsford. While enroute, the pilot landed at Blue River and then at McBride to refuel but was unable to obtain fuel in either place. The pilot then continued to Valemount. About eight nautical miles north of Valemount, the engine stopped as a result of fuel exhaustion. The pilot moved the fuel selector from "both" to the "left" tank, and the engine ran momentarily but then stopped again. The pilot landed in a wooded area adjacent to the highway. The passenger sustained minor injuries, and the pilot was uninjured. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

CANCELLATION OF BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHTS AT HEATHROW AIRPORT, LONDON

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four British Airways flights from Heathrow were cancelled because of a lack of food following a dispute between a catering firm and its staff. Yesterday's cancellations came after Gate Gourmet sacked about 500 staff it said went on an unofficial strike over plans to restructure the company. Travellers are being offered food bags and vouchers to buy their own meals before they get on the flights. There are no plans for talks between staff and managers at present. Legal advice The Transport and General Workers' Union and the company had agreed to meet tomorrow but that was prior to

the sackings. Gate Gourmet said it had told the union it was facing a financial crisis and claimed the actions of the 500 staff had jeopardised the livelihoods of the entire 2,000-strong workforce. But the TGWU said managers had provoked the dispute and the union was taking legal advice over the company's actions. About 50 long and short-haul BA flights left the west London airport on Wednesday with only basic supplies of water, tea and coffee.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF SICILY

See TS-LBB.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF TALLINN

London, Aug 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter with two pilots and 12 passengers crashed in the Baltic Sea off the coast from the Estonian capital today, rescuers said. The Sikorsky 76 helicopter was on a scheduled flight from Tallinn to Helsinki, Finland, when it went down for unknown reasons about three miles off the coast, the Estonian rescue service said. There was no immediate word on casualties. The tail section of the helicopter was sticking out of the water when rescuers arrived, but the rest of the aircraft was submerged, said Mati Raidma, head of the Estonian rescue service. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. A storm in the area caused operators to cancel the fast ferries between Tallinn and Helsinki.

Helsinki, Aug 10 -- Copterline's passenger helicopter has crashed into the sea off Tallinn. The helicopter left Tallinn at 1240, today and disappeared from the radar approximately three minutes after taking off. According to Estonian authorities, the helicopter has been lifted up from the sea. There were 12 passengers and two pilots onboard, of which six are Finnish, four Estonian and two American. The nationalities of the two pilots is yet unknown. The helicopter line company, Copterline has confirmed the accident, but it is still unknown what happened to the people onboard. At the time the accident took place the wind speed was 17-20m/s. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH INTO SEA, OFF CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A naval ship may have found the wreckage of a light plane which crashed off the north Canterbury coast on Sunday (Aug 7), killing one of New Zealand's most successful businessmen and his wife. Dr Russell Smith and his wife Marian D'Ve died when their Cessna 182 crashed into the sea. Dr Smith's company was believed to have an annual turnover of more than \$50 million. It sold Braille and speech technology, screen-reading software and video-magnification solutions. Their aircraft was not reported missing until yesterday morning. As authorities began to work out where to search, two bodies were found

washed up on Amberley Beach. Naval reserve vessel HMNZS Kiwi was sent to the area and may have found the wreckage of the plane in about 12 metres of water. Kiwi commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Peter Drew, said divers may go down to inspect. "We have detected last night some objects on the sea floor about one (nautical) mile south of that position," he told NZPA. "The pieces are consistent in terms of size and location with what we are looking for." The ship was continuing to search, Lt Cdr Drew said. Yesterday, The couple's neighbour alerted emergency services at 0800 hrs, after noticing the middle-aged pair had not returned from Nelson to their private Aylesbury airfield, about 35km west of Christchurch, as scheduled at 1640 hrs, on Sunday. A member of the public walking on Leithfield Beach found the woman's body at 1000 hrs, yesterday, before police found the man about one kilometre away. A helicopter and ground search in fog yesterday found two wheels of the Cessna 182 about 5km north of the bodies. Some other small pieces of wreckage and papers were found close to the Waipara River mouth, several kilometres north of Leithfield Beach. Pettet said there was no sign of the plane's fuselage. Pettet said the Civil Aviation Authority would investigate the crash, which would be reported to the coroner. The Press has been told the last recorded radar contact with the plane was near the river about 1645 hrs. Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokesman Steve Corbett said the Cessna last had radio contact with Nelson air traffic control about 1345 hrs, on Sunday. "We don't know if that was when they were taking off or in flight," he said last night. Short non-commercial flights were not required to file a flight plan, which could explain why the alarm was not raised sooner, Corbett said. Ken Mitchell, of Airways New Zealand, said the aircraft was not under air traffic control, and details of its route were sketchy.

CRASH, CARDIFF, WALES

London, Aug 6 -- A press report dated today states: A pilot who crash-landed his plane in a road on the outskirts of Cardiff has been praised for avoiding a tragedy. The man narrowly avoided houses and a caravan park to carry out the forced landing on Wentloog Road, St Mellons. "It was remarkable piece of skill, taking ability and bravery," said Simon Robinson, operations manager for the Cardiff Academy flying school. "The instructor trains for these sort of emergencies but actually doing it takes a lot of courage," he added. "A major tragedy has been averted. He was flying over a very heavily-populated area when the engine failed but he managed to put the plane down in the safest possible place." Two men were on board the twin-seated Cessna 150 light aircraft, but neither was seriously injured. Emergency crews were called to the

scene shortly after 1230 BST. The road was closed as a precaution as fuel had leaked from the £30,000 plane, which had a damaged propeller and front wheel. Mr Robinson said the pilot was forced to glide to the ground after the engine cut out. "He tried to put it down in a neighbouring field but ended up on the road," he said. "It is amazing that no-one was hurt." The road was closed while the wreckage was cleared. A spokesman for the South and East Wales Ambulance Service said both the pilot and his passenger walked away from the scene, and did not require medical treatment. It is understood that the plane had taken off from Cardiff International Airport earlier in the day. The aircraft was recovered from the scene by 1600 BST. An investigation into the cause of the crash is being carried out. A spokeswoman for Air Traffic Control, which monitors air travel in the UK, said a May Day call was received from the pilot minutes before the aircraft came down. "The pilot sent out a May Day signal around 1230 BST, saying there were engine problems and that they were 20 miles north-east of Cardiff," she said.

CRASH, NEW KUSH AREA, SUDAN

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Aviation experts have recovered the voice recorder (black box) of Uganda's presidential helicopter M1-172 in which Sudanese first vice president John Garang died last Saturday (Jul 30) in southern Sudan, according to a press report today. The experts including three Ugandans, a team from the Sudan Aviation Authority and Kenya, recovered the black box from near the scene of the crash. They are currently studying the equipment to ascertain the mechanical condition of the aircraft before came down in the southern Sudan mountain ranges. However, the report said it is yet to be established whether the black box is to be flown to the helicopter manufacturers in Belarus for further investigations or the inquires are to be completed in Sudan. Meanwhile, the United States has deployed experts from its National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to assist in the search for what caused the fatal president helicopter crash. The US State Department's spokesman Tom Casey told journalists on Wednesday (Aug 3) that President Yoweri Museveni and the new Sudan People's Liberation Army leader and defacto new Sudan's first vice-president, Salva Kiir, requested the United States assistance the investigation

CRASH, QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

London, Aug 10-- A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft crashed on take-off at Queenstown Airport today resulting in minor injuries to some of its five passengers. The Cessna aircraft crashed at about 0830 hrs, just after becoming airborne.

The aircraft came down to the right of the runway nose first, causing the nose wheel to break, Inspector Stuart Leighton of police southern communications said. All those on board were reported to be safe with no serious injuries. The Fire Service was dealing with a large quantity of fuel which was leaking from the aircraft. The airport had been closed and the Civil Aviation Authority advised of the crash.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BRUNEI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Royal Brunei Airlines flight, which developed a mechanical problem in its nose landing gear 20 minutes into the flight, landed safely at the Brunei International Airport yesterday. RBA's public relations office in a statement said as a safety precaution, the captain of Flight BI083 decided to return the flight to base where the technical fault could be further investigated and repaired. The Jeddah bound flight that departed Bandar Seri Begawan at 1430 hrs, turned around and landed safely at 1520 hrs at the Brunei International Airport. Following standard safety procedures, airport emergency services were activated immediately. The flight carried 232 passengers and 11 crew members. Meanwhile, according to the Head of Operations for 'B' team of the Airport Fire Services, Hj Yusop B. Hj Ahmad, they were called by the air traffic controller (ATC) for stand-by duty at around 1443 hrs. Fire services personnel took their positions and a full emergency was declared at 1503 hrs.

EMERGENCY LANDING, JOHANNESBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Six passengers were injured on Wednesday (Aug 3) after an Air Zimbabwe Boeing 737 made an emergency landing at Johannesburg International Airport, the South African media reported. Six were injured when they were evacuated from the aircraft via emergency shoots, the SAPA news agency quoted. Ninety-three passengers and six crew members were immediately evacuated. The aircraft had been towed away from the runway. Three of the injured who were taken to the airport clinic have been discharged. Former Zimbabwean information minister Jonathan Moyo was also on the aircraft but escaped unhurt when the aircraft made an emergency landing.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MULTAN AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Aug 7 -- An aircraft of private sector airline in Pakistan-Aero Asia made an emergency landing when it developed a technical fault during landing at Multan airport in Punjab Province on Friday (Aug 5). It

was reported in local media that an Aero Asia aircraft, coming from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, managed to land safely after a fault developed in its landing gear. Later, a team of engineers arrived and removed the fault after which the aircraft left for Karachi on Friday night. Faisalabad-bound passengers left for their destination on a special bus. The engineers declined to explain the fault, but said that it wasn't serious. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

F-GLZQ

Toronto, Aug 4 -- The Air France Airbus A340-300 (F-GLZQ) which crashed in Toronto this week was travelling at almost 100 mph as it careened off the end of the runway during a storm and toppled into a ravine, investigators said today. They said the aircraft's brakes and steering were among items being examined in an investigation that could take months. However, it was unlikely a single factor caused the fiery accident on Tuesday (Aug 2) that was survived by all 309 people on board. "We are examining the steering and the brake units," said Real Levasseur, lead investigator with Canada's Transportation Safety Board. "It's slow, painful work." The wide-bodied jet sped off the runway and burst into flames. A few dozen received minor injuries, including broken bones, incurred as they left the aircraft through escape hatches or down emergency chutes. Levasseur said the crew reported no problems as the aircraft approached Toronto's Pearson International Airport. The aircraft probably touched down at about 160 mph, but had slowed to only 95 mph by the time it ran off the end of the runway. He said thrust reversers, used to brake the aircraft on landing, had deployed on three of the four engines, but the fourth engine was too badly damaged for investigators to say at this stage if the reverser had engaged or not. However, he said the reversers account for only 5-10% of an aircraft's braking power at landing, so even a failure should not have by itself been a major problem. "Causes to aircraft accidents are always multiple. It's never a single cause," said Levasseur, who is leading a team of 35 from Canada and 17 from elsewhere, including the US National Transportation and Safety Board. Investigators planned to interview crew members today and were examining the aircraft's black box flight recorders, which could contain between 200 and 4,000 pieces of information. The aircraft, which had been en route from Paris to Toronto, was reduced to a burned-out carcass after the accident. The team will remove items like wheels and brake fittings for closer investigation. Much attention has focused on weather conditions at the airport. The airport was under a red alert as the aircraft landed, which means there is a danger of lightning and thunder. Aircraft can land but ground activity, like the unloading of passengers, stops. "If it

turns out that weather conditions were a determining factor, we will make whatever decisions are necessary in terms of safety measures that may be needed," Levasseur said. Investigators will also look at whether a wet runway could have caused aquaplaning, or if a sudden tail wind could have blown the aircraft toward the end of the runway. Air France said the aircraft had 28,418 flight hours in more than 3,700 flights and had joined its fleet in September, 1999, making it a relative newcomer compared with the large number of far older aircraft still flying. It was last serviced on Jul 5. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Air France jet (F-GLZQ) that slid off the end of the runway in Toronto last week was virtually unstoppable, investigators say. The investigators are continuing to examine flight recorder data for clues to the crash. The Airbus A340 failed to stop after touching down during a severe thunderstorm at Canada's busiest airport last week, plunging into a ravine and burning to a charred and twisted hulk. All 309 people on board survived. Data downloaded from the flight data recorder shows that the aircraft landed about 1,220 metres from the end of the 2,750-metre runway. "We are talking about nearly halfway down the runway," said Real Levasseur of Canada's Transportation Safety Board. "I am pretty convinced that there was no way the aircraft could have stopped before the end, with the runway conditions that we had, the water on the runway and the braking action, which was poor." Information from the flight data recorder also shows that the aircraft landed at a speed of about 148 knots. The normal speed is 140 knots. "The pilot flying was fairly close to the air speed that he should have been at," said Mr Levasseur. Mr Levasseur, who leads a team of more than 50, has already said there was no evidence to suggest that lightning was a factor in the crash. He also said there was little evidence to suggest that hydroplaning, which would have caused the aircraft to skim along on a film of water without touching the runway, played a role. An expert from the US Federal Aviation Administration is examining the more than 490 metres of tire marks left on the runway. "Definitely because of the weather conditions, the deceleration would have been much slower than what it would have been for a dry runway with maximum braking," Mr Levasseur said. "The brakes are much less efficient on a wet runway than a dry runway." All passengers and crew were able to get out of the aircraft, even though several escape doors were unusable. Mr Levasseur says fire on one side of the aircraft prevented flight attendants from opening two of the doors. Obstacles and sharp objects prompted a flight attendant to close another door after the emergency slide was deployed. Mr

Levasseur says another door partly opened as the aircraft fell into the ravine and some passengers used that one.

I-NCCT

Rijeka, Aug 8 -- Cessna 172, I-NCCT, on a flight from Pula to Unije, crashed into sea, about 200m from landing area, at 1600, Aug 5, at the attempt of landing at Unije island. The pilot was instantly killed, one person was badly injured, while two persons suffered minor injuries. All persons on board were Italian citizens. The visibility was excellent but weather was windy. The aircraft broke into two pieces which enabled immediate rescue of injured persons who were transported to hospital at Rijeka. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INCIDENT AT BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: An arriving cargo jet blew out two tyres that caught fire yesterday when the aircraft touched down at Bush Intercontinental Airport, officials said. The fire on the DHL aircraft was extinguished after it landed about 1815 hrs. No injuries were reported. The runway was closed while crews repaired the damage to the four-engine cargo jet. A Houston Airport System spokesman said operations weren't significantly disrupted.

INCIDENT AT NARITA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Aug 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A panel on the underside of a Japan Airlines aircraft fell onto the runway at Narita airport as the Boeing 777 was landing there this morning, the airport's operator said. Airport workers found six fragments on the runway, which were confirmed to be part of the glass fiber panel of JAL Flight 710 from Singapore. The panel, two metres long and 40 centimetres wide, was a hatch on the bottom of the fuselage to check the air-conditioning system and other instruments.

INCIDENT AT O'HARE AIRPORT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Two United Airlines planes clipped wings on the ground at O'Hare Airport today. No one was injured. While motoring toward a runway, United Flight 618 with 112 passengers headed to Washington, D.C., clipped the wing of Flight 682, which was parked with 111 passengers headed to LaGuardia Airport in New York City. Both flights were cancelled and both planes were taken out of service. A United spokesman said it was unclear why the planes clipped wings, and the matter was being investigated. Passengers were placed on other flights, he said.

N2893V

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 1947 Beech Bonanza landed gear-up at Jabara Airport this morning. No injuries were reported, but the airport is closed until the wreckage from the plane can be removed from the runway. The FAA registry of aircraft lists the owner of the plane as Donald Weeks of Taneyville, Mo. The pilot of the plane was Tom Willis, a Wichita-area pilot. A witness reported seeing the plane come in with all three landing gear retracted. The pilot was being interviewed by the FAA early this afternoon. The plane landed on its belly at about 1130 hrs. Removing the wreckage and reopening the airport was expected to take several hours.

London, Aug 10 -- Beechcraft Bonanza 35 N2893V made a gear-up landing at Wichita, Kansas, at 1730, Aug 8, following a flight from Taneyville, Missouri. The aircraft sustained minor damage. The one person on board was not injured.

N3188C

London, Aug 8 -- Cessna 180 N3188C crashed near Fairbanks, Alaska, at 2000, Jul 30. The two persons on board were killed.

N3209K

London, Aug 9 -- Globe GC-1B Swift N3209K crashed near Houston, Texas, at 2155, Aug 7. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N3268B

London, Aug 9 -- Beechcraft Bonanza D35 N3468B crashed near Decatur, Alabama, at 1539, Aug 6, while on a flight from Decatur. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

N35166

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small plane crashed in the Medicine Bow Mountains about 35 miles north-west of Laramie, killing two people, authorities said today. Carbon County Undersheriff Mike Morris said the wreckage was spotted this morning, about 12 hours after the plane left Rawlins for Wray, Colorado. Search crews on foot were able to reach the wreckage, but there were no survivors. The plane left Rawlins at about 1930 hrs, yesterday. Civil Air Patrol members in Wyoming and Colorado were notified after the plane didn't arrive in Wray. Morris said the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board had been notified and would investigate the crash.

London, Aug 11 -- Cessna 177B (Cardinal) N35166 crashed near Laramie, Wyoming, at 0200, Aug 9, while on a flight from Rawlins, WY, to Wray, Colorado. The two persons on board were killed.

N421KC

London, Aug 9 -- Cessna 421C (Golden Eagle) N421KC crashed near Wheeling, Illinois, at 1730, Aug 5, while on a flight from Wheeling to Mackinac Island, Michigan. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N454MA

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A turboprop cargo plane flying for an Adams County check haulier crashed early today while on approach to Centennial Airport, killing the pilot and destroying the plane. The Mitsubishi MU-2B-60 vanished from airport-tower radar amid heavy rain about one to two miles south of the airport around 0200 hrs, Becky O'Guin, spokeswoman for the Parker Fire District, said. Authorities identified the pilot in the crash as Sam Hunter of West Valley City, Utah. A representative of American Check Transport, which operates out of Front Range Airport, said Hunter had flown with the company for about five years. The aircraft was flying into Centennial from Salt Lake City. No one else was on the plane. As part of the accident investigation, air safety officials will review weather conditions at the time of the accident, said David Bowling, regional director of the National Transportation Safety Board office in Denver. Officials said heavy rain, low ceilings and bad visibility were present at the time of the crash. Because of the weather conditions, the pilot was relying on the plane's instruments while approaching the airport, and the accident inquiry will attempt to verify that the plane's instruments and Centennial's instrument landing system were working properly, Bowling said. The pilot was cleared to land when air-traffic controllers issued him a "low-altitude alert," said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer, but there was no response from the pilot. It was the third fatal accident in six years for MU-2B-60 aircraft flown by American Check pilots.

London, Aug 8 -- Mitsubishi MU-2B-60 N454MA crashed near Denver, Colorado, at 0810, Aug 4, while on a flight from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Denver. The one person on board was killed.

N480FX

London, Aug 9 -- Enstrom 480 N480FX crashed near Goshen, Indiana, at 1600, Aug 5, while on a flight from Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Goshen. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the three persons on board was seriously injured and the other two suffered minor injuries.

N49646

London, Aug 4 -- Convair BT-13A N49646 crashed near Lyme, New Hampshire, at 1403, Aug 3. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N500SD

London, Aug 9 -- Hughes 369HS N500SD, operated by the Bernalillo County Sheriff, crashed near Albuquerque, New Mexico, at 0830, Aug 6, while on a flight from Albuquerque. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the three persons on board were seriously injured and the third suffered minor injuries.

N581DB

See C-FDXH.

N627DM

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a small plane died when his plane crashed Saturday (Aug 6) evening near the Chiloquin State Airport, about 25 miles north of Klamath Falls, Klamath County Sheriff Tim Evinger said. The pilot, identified as Paul William Spencer, 43, of Santa Rosa, Calif., was the only person on board the 1947 Cessna 120, a single-engine, two-seat aircraft, Evinger said. The cause of the crash is under investigation, and the National Transportation Safety Board assigned a Federal Aviation Administration investigator to the crash. According to witness accounts, the plane took off into the wind and took a steep angle of ascent before plummeting to the ground. Officials are waiting for permission to remove the wreckage from the airport, but Evinger said the airport is open during the investigation.

London, Aug 9 -- Cessna 120 N627DM crashed near Chiloquin, Oregon, at 0005, Aug 7. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N6305W

London, Aug 9 -- Weatherly 620 N6305W crashed near Osage, Iowa, at 2200, Aug 6, while on a local flight from Osage. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was seriously injured.

N66234

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: Two small planes collided over Renton this evening just before 1800 hrs, and one of them crashed into a school, killing two people on board. An eyewitness reported that the plane that crashed went through the roof of Kennydale Elementary School after the collision. The second plane, a float plane, apparently landed safely at Renton Airport. Everyone on board the float plane appeared to be safe. The tail number on that aircraft is N741DB. Federal records indicate that it is a DeHavilland Beaver, registered to a leasing company in Edmonds, Wash. Police said that two people on board the plane that crashed into the school died. The plane was a single-engine Cessna 152, a Federal Aviation Administration representative said. The victims were not immediately identified. "It went straight down,"

one eyewitness said. "It lost power and stalled and went twirling straight down." No one on the ground was injured, according to initial reports.

London, Aug 8 -- Cessna 150M N66234 and De Havilland DHC-2 Mk I (Beaver) N741DB collided in mid-air over Renton Municipal Airport, Washington, at 0045, Aug 5. N66234 crashed into a nearby school building. N741DB was able to return to the airport. N66234 was destroyed and the two persons on board were killed. N741DB sustained substantial damage and the five persons on board were not injured.

N741DB

See N66234.

N838DM

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police have identified a 77-year-old Westboro man as the pilot of a single-engine airplane that crashed while trying to make an emergency landing at the Nashua Municipal Airport on Saturday (Aug 6) in a collision that left both pilot and passenger uninjured. Deputy Fire Chief John Allison said "The pilot and passenger were shaken up but didn't sustain any injuries. It's kind of a miracle because it was a severe crash. The plane was totalled." The single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza A36 was en route from Laconia, NH, to Worcester when it suffered an unknown problem at about 3,500 feet, Allison said. Flight controllers in Boston told the plane to land in Nashua and switched control of its flight to the Nashua control tower, he said. The tower in Nashua had visual contact with the airplane, which was approaching from the West end of the airport, when "he just dropped out of sight and into the treeline," Allison said. Crews were initially unable to locate the plane because it crashed into a heavily-wooded area about a half-mile from the nearest road, Allison said. With the help of a helicopter scrambled from the airport crews found the airplane after 20 to 30 minutes and transported Massad and Putnam from the scene on all terrain vehicles.

London, Aug 9 -- Beechcraft Bonanza A36 N838DM crashed near Nashua, New Hampshire, at 0010, Aug 7, while on a flight from Laconia, NH, to Worcester, Massachusetts. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were not injured.

N8540W

London, Aug 9 -- Two people were killed and a third person was injured yesterday when a small aircraft leaking fuel crashed into a runway at Big Bear City Airport, authorities said. A woman and man were pronounced dead at the scene and another woman was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center with mild to moderate injuries, said Staci Johnson, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County sheriff. The

passengers' identities were not released. It took authorities 20 minutes to extract the three from the aircraft, Johnson said. Although authorities found a fuel leak and sparking electrical circuits, the exact cause of the crash is still unclear, Johnson said. Witnesses said the single-engine Piper Cherokee 235 was trying to land when it touched down too far along the runway and lost control. The aircraft bounced and flipped over before landing upside-down in a bushy ravine, authorities said.

London, Aug 10 -- Piper PA-28-235 (Cherokee) N8540W crashed on landing at Big Bear, California, at 2010, Aug 8. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third was seriously injured.

N912DB

London, Aug 9 -- Beechcraft Bonanza V35B N912DB crashed near Cantwell, Alaska, at 2110, Aug 5. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N930BD

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Florida pilot is recovering after making an emergency landing at the Suffolk Municipal Airport Saturday (Aug 6) night. Police say George Nieman of Fort Lauderdale had electrical problems on his twin engine Beechcraft 58 that prevented him from getting the landing gear down. Nieman landed the aircraft on its belly in a grassy area beside the runway around 2015 hrs. The Federal Aviation Administration and Virginia State Police are investigating the incident. Nieman, the only occupant of the aircraft, received only minor injuries. He was flying from Florida to Maine, and had planned to stop in Suffolk for fuel.

London, Aug 9 -- Beechcraft Baron 58 N930BD made a gear-up landing at Suffolk Municipal Airport, Virginia, at 2325, Aug 6. The one person on board was not injured.

TS-LBB

London, Aug 6 -- A press report dated today states: At least five people were killed when a Tunisian passenger plane made an emergency landing in the sea off the coast of the Italian island of Sicily. The Tunis Air passenger plane was thought to be carrying at least 35 passengers. Several passengers were reported to have been rescued; some had been seen in the water by emergency services. The plane was on its way from the southern Italian town of Bari to the Tunisian resort island of Djerba. A full search and rescue operation is now under way at the crash site some 30km (18 miles) off the Sicilian coast. Two passengers were seen on the wing of the plane, according to one report. The pilot of the plane advised air traffic control in the Sicilian town of Palermo that he had been trying to make an

emergency landing at Palermo airport, but came down in the sea instead. "The plane had engine problems and was trying to land in Palermo and had to land in the sea," a spokeswoman for ENAV, Italy's air safety agency, told the Associated Press news agency. The aircraft is said to be an ATR-42 twin-engined turbo-prop aircraft which can carry up to 50 passengers.

Palermo, Aug 7 -- Survivors of an aircraft crash that killed at least 13 people described today how they swam for their lives after the Tunisian holiday charter flight ditched in the sea off Sicily and broke apart. The ATR 72 turbo-prop aircraft, with 39 people on board, was taking Italian holidaymakers from Bari in south-east Italy to the popular Tunisian resort island of Djerba when it went down in the sea yesterday after engine problems. "At a certain point we realised one of the engines had stalled," said passenger Rosanna di Cesare who was going on holiday with her boyfriend and his mother. "After a few minutes the other one stalled too and the plane started to lose altitude. Suddenly we hit and then it all went dark and the plane split apart," the 36-year-old from Taranto, near Bari, said. "My boyfriend and I managed to swim out of the plane. The sea was rough and I grabbed hold of one of the wings while my boyfriend continued to look for his mother." The pilot told hospital staff after he was rescued from the wreckage that both the engines failed, forcing him to make an emergency landing at sea. The flight was operated by Tuninter, a subsidiary of Tunisair. "All of a sudden one of the engines stopped," the pilot said, according to Mario Re, chief doctor at the emergency ward of Palermo's Civico hospital. Less than an hour into the flight, the pilot made a distress call asking to land at Palermo, but the aircraft never made land and he was forced to put down 12 miles out at sea. All 34 passengers on the flight were Italian. Three people were still missing by midday today, according to Palermo's chief magistrate Piero Grasso. Newspapers reported that several of the holiday makers had chosen Djerba instead of Sharm el Sheikh because of fears of terrorism at the Egyptian resort where bomb attacks killed at least 64 people last month. Investigators have begun probing the crash, and a team of experts from Italy's air safety agency arrived in Palermo overnight to inspect the largest chunk of the fuselage which the coastguard had towed ashore. An ENAC official said the aircraft had passed safety inspections in Italy, most recently in March. -- Reuters.

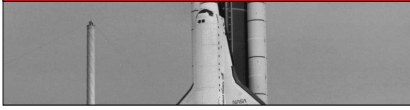
London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Investigators were today focusing on whether tainted fuel or dwindling fuel supplies played a role in the crash of a

Tunisian charter aircraft at sea that left at least 13 dead, officials said today. Investigators say it is rare for both engines to give out -- in this case within minutes of each other. The head of Italy's civil aviation agency ENAC, Vito Riggio, said authorities were investigating the possibility that the pilot failed to check how much fuel was on board or that the fuel gauge malfunctioned. "The plane's fuel could have run out," Riggio said. Other officials suggested impurities from the refueling tanker could have contaminated the fuel supply and clogged the motors, the ANSA news agency reported. Thirteen people were killed and 23 survived Saturday's (Aug 6) crash of the ATR-72 Tuninter charter aircraft, which was bound for the Tunisian resort of Djerba. The aircraft slammed into the choppy waters of the Mediterranean about 10 miles north of Sicily as the pilot, realising he would not make it to the airstrip, brought it down on the water. Survivors said both engines went silent soon before impact. Rescue workers continued their search today for three people missing from the crash. Riggio said the result "was good" in tests for impurities in the type of fuel loaded into the aircraft in Bari, and that several other planes using the same fuel on Saturday experienced no problems. Other tests by Tunisian authorities on the fuel loaded onto the aircraft in Tunisia, where it originated, are pending, said Riggio, and the tanker that refueled the aircraft before its departure from Bari was sequestered. The engines from the aircraft have been recovered, he said. Meanwhile, two officials from the Toulouse, France-based ATR aircraft manufacturer were heading to Italy to take part in the investigation, said spokesman Frederic Lahache. The search for two passengers and a mechanic continued for a third day in the seas around the point of the crash, said Palermo Port Authority Lt Antonino Indelicato. In Tunis, Tuninter's director Mohamed Ali Thili said the missing mechanic verified the aircraft's functions before it took off from Bari. When the aircraft was experiencing problems "the captain called the mechanic into the cabin for help," said Riggio. "He was not strapped in and therefore was thrown from the aircraft when it ditched into the sea." Much of the wreckage, including the engines, was brought ashore on Saturday night, but Riggio said investigators had not decided whether they would try to haul up the remainder or try to retrieve the aircraft's "black box" of instrument recordings, which apparently sank in the 4,000-foot-deep sea. "We have the engines, the fuel tanks, and the pilot and co-pilot are still alive. We have the most important elements," Riggio said.

London, Aug 9 -- Tuninter ATR 72-202, TS-LBB, Bari to Djerba, reportedly developed engine problems at 1524, Aug 6. The crew contacted

Palermo for an emergency landing. They did not make it to Palermo and ditched in the sea around 1540 hrs. Some 20 persons are said to have been rescued by coast guard vessels. Fourteen people have died and five are still missing.

Space Vehicles



DISCOVERY (Space Shuttle)

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: After much analysis, NASA cleared Discovery to return to Earth next week, concluding today that there was no need to send the astronauts out on another spacewalk to repair a torn thermal blanket near a cockpit window. Mission managers could not guarantee that a piece of the blanket won't rip off during re-entry and slam into the spacecraft, but they said the chance of that happening was remote and that it would be riskier to try to fix the problem. Discovery's astronauts today planned to transfer a cargo container from the station back into the shuttle's cargo bay in preparation for the ship's undocking from the station, set for Saturday (Aug 6). Discovery is scheduled to land back at Cape Canaveral, Fla., before dawn on Monday (Aug 8).

London, Aug 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: NASA postponed space shuttle Discovery's return to Earth until tomorrow because cloudy weather around Kennedy Space Centre in Florida made it too risky to land. The orbiter had been scheduled to touch down at the space centre at

0446 hrs. Two attempts were scrubbed this morning, and the shuttle now has as many as six chances tomorrow starting at 0508 hrs, NASA said. NASA regulations dictate that the spacecraft can't come down with rain, thunderstorms or lightning within 30 nautical miles of the landing strip and there are also restrictions for clouds, which could hamper visibility, and wind, which may cause the orbiter to miss its target, Johnson Space Centre spokesman Pat Ryan said. There were scattered clouds at 400 feet to 500 feet throughout the night and the potential for rain and poor visibility at landing time, Ham said. "You don't want the shuttle to fly through rain, because rain can damage the orbiter," Ryan said. The next opportunity will be at 0353 hrs, on Aug 10 if Discovery can't land tomorrow, Johnson Space Centre spokeswoman Laura Rochon said.

London, Aug 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The shuttle Discovery has touched down successfully in California, landing at Edwards Air Force Base at around 1212, UTC, after bad weather forced a change to the intended Florida landing site. Nasa will spend about \$1m on returning the shuttle from California to Florida where its launches take place. It should be back at Kennedy Space Center in nine or 10 days.

Product Recalls



TREADMILLS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The CPSC, in cooperation with ICON Health & Fitness, Inc. of Logan, Utah, has

announced the recall of about 16,700 Epic T60 Treadmills made in the United States. Customers should stop using the product immediately. The 2004 Epic T60s are silver and gray colored treadmills with black handrails. They have model number EPTL81804 on a decal located on the front frame near where the power cord enters the machine. "EPIC T60" is written on the hood of the treadmill. The treadmills were sold at Costco Wholesale stores nationwide between September 2004 and February 2005 for between \$899 and \$999. If assembly instructions are not properly followed, the gas spring/shock can be damaged during assembly if the walking platform is folded up and goes beyond the vertical position. This can cause the shock to contact the treadmill roller and be damaged and could propel shock parts out. The parts of the shock could hit a bystander causing injury. ICON has received two reports of minor foot injuries and five reports of minor property damage.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Aug 8 -- Port situation Aug 8: Genoa: One bulk carrier waiting for berth. Average delay in berthing 12-24 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berth. No vessels awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Jul 23 -- Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	08-Aug-2005	Coal: 14 vessels due by 8/9; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected.
Brisbane	08-Aug-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 5 vessels due by 5/9; up to 2 days delay expected at present.
Dalrymple Bay	08-Aug-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 12 anchored; 39 vessels due by 16/9; 5-25 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	08-Aug-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems; some vessels will berth out of turn and berthing may change at short notice. Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 7 vessels due by 19/8; 1-9 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 10 vessels due by 18/8; up to 9 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Gladstone	08-Aug-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 berthed and waiting to load, 3 off port; 31 vessels due by 31/8; 1-5 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 off port; 3 vessels due by 15/9; no delays expected.
Hay Point	08-Aug-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 9 vessels due by 18/9; up to 3 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; No. 1 berth will be closed for 1 month for maintenance from 8/8; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	08-Aug-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessel berthed and loading; 49 vessels due by 26/8; Dykes 4+5: 23 vessels due by 31/8; 2-8 days berthing delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers berthed congestion and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	08-Aug-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: berth closed at present for 48 hour maintenance shutdown; 3 vessels anchored; 6 vessels due by 16/8; 1-4 days berthing delay expected; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 5 vessels due by 16/8; up to 3 days berthing delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 13/8; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 16/8; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected.
Port Kembla	08-Aug-2005	Coal: 13 vessels due by 15/9; no delays expected; CB-1: 2 vessels due by 25/9; no delays expected
Port Walcott	08-Aug-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 17 vessels due by 23/8; Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Brazil		
Paranagua	09-Aug-2005	Thirteen vessels berthed of which 1 container discharger, 1 fertiliser discharger, 3 pellets loaders, 3 sugar loaders, 1 bulk soya loader, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 14 vessels waiting in roads, of which 8 to load (1 reefer, 2 pellets, 1 soya, 3 sugar, 1 other loader), 6 to discharge (5 fertiliser, 1 containers); 38 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	09-Aug-2005	Four vessels berthed of which 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 wheat discharger, 1 other discharger, 1 soya meal loader; 11 vessels waiting in roads; 23 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	09-Aug-2005	Twenty-one vessels berthed of which 8 sugar loaders, 1 wheat discharger, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 chemical products discharger, 2 oil loaders, 1 bulk salt discharger, 2 pellets loaders, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 23 vessels waiting in roads; 30 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termare: no vessels; Rodrimar: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cosipa: 1 coal loader; Ultrafertil: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader, 1 bulk soya loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: no vessels; Dow: 1 chemical products discharger.
Sao Sebastiao	09-Aug-2005	Two vessels berthed, 3 waiting in roads; 3 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	09-Aug-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 1 wheat discharger, 1 sugar loader, 1 pig-iron loader; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tubarao: 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 iron ore loader; Praia Mole: no vessels; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 17 vessels due over the next 7 days

Port Conditions

Bulgaria

Bourgas	08-Aug-2005	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (1 scrap, 1 wheat, 4 coils, 1 empty vessel), 1 discharging steel gasoil; 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 coils, 1 reinforced concrete; 15 vessels due, of which 5 to load (1 gasoil, 1 metals, 1 coils, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 scrap), 9 to discharge (1 iron ore, 2 coal, 1 salt, 4 metals, 1 zinc/lead concentrate), 1 passenger vessel.
Varna	08-Aug-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 1-7 August: Thirty-two vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (4 bulk wheat, 5 soda, 1 sulphuric acid, 1 packed hardboard, 2 bulk cement, 1 bulk clinker, 1 kaolin/silica sand/other, 1 kaolin/other, 1 containers, 1 bulk barley, 1 bulk maize), 7 discharging (2 raw phosphate, 2 bulk coal, 1 bulk feldspar, 1 gypsum board, 1 clay), 7 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

Chile

Antofagasta	08-Aug-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	08-Aug-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
Iquique	08-Aug-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	08-Aug-2005	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 11 vessels due this week.

Egypt

Adabiya	08-Aug-2005	Twelve vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 1 containers.
Alexandria	08-Aug-2005	Twenty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 2 container vessels; 15 vessels dry-docked; 35 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	08-Aug-2005	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 11 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 6 containers; 6 vessels at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	08-Aug-2005	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 8 bulk carriers, 2 containers; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	08-Aug-2005	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 4 containers.
Suez Canal	08-Aug-2005	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 24 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	08-Aug-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 vessel loading at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.
---------	-------------	--

Israel

Ashdod	09-Aug-2005	No labour problems. Seven general cargo vessels loading at berth, 6 vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 tanker); 1 tanker waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	09-Aug-2005	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 2 tankers); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (1 containers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 25 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Kazakhstan

Aktau	08-Aug-2005	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all completed loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load unknown cargo; 2 vessels due by 8/8, both to load unknown cargoes.
-------	-------------	--

Nigeria

Bonny offshore terminal	08-Aug-2005	No vessels loading at berth, 1 anchored, 2 due.
Qua-Iboe terminal	08-Aug-2005	Production at Oso platform remains low. No vessels berthed, 2 anchored, 4 due.

Port Conditions

Russia

Novorossiysk	08-Aug-2005	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 15 loading (1 bulk cement, 2 bulk urea, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 HBI, 1 pipes, 1 barley, 1 coils, 1 cars/pipes, 1 bulk NPK, 1 steel billets, 2 wheat, 1 aluminium), 2 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 8 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 scrap, 1 steel sheets/steel billets, 1 UAN solution, 1 steel billets, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 aluminium, 1 bulk NPK, 1 wheat; 44 vessels due, all to load, of which 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 HBI, 3 slabs, 4 DRI, 1 steel sheets/cars, 6 steel billets, 1 steel billets/cars, 4 scrap, 1 coils/steel sheets, 3 wheat, 2 cars, 4 coils, 4 bulk NPK, 1 bulk cement, 1 aluminium, 1 copper, 1 equipment, 2 diesel oil, 1 non-ferrous metals; Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 3 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
--------------	-------------	--

United States

Galveston	09-Aug-2005	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. b.w. max. deep draft enforced - 40 ft. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic; ADM-Farmland terminal: 2 days delay.
Houston	09-Aug-2005	Pilots report normal 43 ft. 0 ins. max. draft up to Shell terminal, 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft after Shell terminal in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: 2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay.
Kalama, WA	09-Aug-2005	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	09-Aug-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: no delays; Peavey/Paulina: closed; planned re-opening 5/9; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1 day's delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; maintenance being carried out until 5/9; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 1.9 ft. by 18/8. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 34 ft. from Buoy 1 - Mile 28.3 and 36 ft. from Mile 28.3 - Mile 66.9.
Portland, Oreg	09-Aug-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay.
Seattle	09-Aug-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.
Tacoma	09-Aug-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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

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

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

ISSN 0047 4908

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

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