

## Ballast water rules 'could have caused Cougar Ace casualty'

by Janet Porter and Marcus Hand.

**R**ULES designed to protect the marine environment could have caused the car carrier Cougar Ace to roll on to its side,

Ballast water was almost certainly responsible for destabilising the ship, which is now listing heavily more than 200 miles offshore.

Mitsui OSK Lines, operator of the stricken vessel, confirmed yesterday that the ship had not collided with some object or grounded.

### Instability

After talking to the ship's captain, MOL president Akimitsu Ashida said instability developed during a ballast water adjustment process.

Ships are required to change ballast water before entering some ports to ensure alien species are not released into local waters.

The Cougar Ace was heading to Vancouver and then on to the US west coast ports of Tacoma and Port Hueneme, a particularly environmentally sensitive part of the world, at the time of last Sunday's accident.

MOL said yesterday that the ship, carrying nearly 5,000 vehicles, was still floating although listing.

Another expert contacted by Lloyd's List, a former master mariner, concurred that the accident appeared to be a ballasting error. The ship would have started sinking by now if it had been holed.

"There is very little evidence of water ingress from the outside," he said. "If you have water ingress to the hull the ship would not be far from sinking."

### Flood

He added that in such cases the edge of the deck was considered the tipping point. Once the deck reached the water there were many places where water could seep in and flood the ship.

The ship's deck remains out of the water with the vessel listing at around a 60 degree angle.

Rescue efforts have yet to begin, but salvage experts said yesterday the 13-year-old car carrier could probably be saved as long as a port of refuge could be found that would accept the crippled ship.

The first step would be to correct the ballast situation, "a very difficult exercise" but one that could be done if a decision was taken to tow Cougar Ace into port.

Only then would cranes be brought in to return the vessel to an upright position.

"It is not a lost cause," one salvor said.

"There is always the possibility to do something if circumstances allow."

But persuading a port to let the ship to enter may be as big a challenge as the physical rescue.

The US Coast Guard said that some observers had spotted fuel leaking from its tanks of the ship, which was carrying carrying 430 tonnes of fuel oil and 112 tonnes of diesel.

### Reach

A salvage team from Crowley Marine is not due to reach the Cougar Ace, about 230 miles south of the Aleutian Islands, until next Wednesday.

The ship was loaded with Mazda cars being exported from Japan to North America.

More than half are Mazda 3 models, the car manufacturer's best selling vehicle. Another quarter are Mazda's new 2007 CX7, a crossover utility vehicle.

The shipment is fully insured against loss, spokesman Jeremy Barnes said. The company has been unable to verify the condition of the cargo with MOL since the accident.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AMBASSADOR</i>	bulker	VUT	LR	24,094	37,263	1983	Made heavy contact with the Canso Canal in lat 45 38N, long 61 24W, Jul 12. Sustained damage to ballast tanks.
<i>ARKLOW REBEL</i>	general	IRL	BV	2,999	4,395	2005	Reported in drifting in lat 59 25.1N, long 00 29W, with broken fuel pump, Jul 14. Tug <i>Dunter</i> proceeding to tow vessel to Lerwick.
<i>CONTAZ CARRIER</i>	container	UKR	RS	9,548	9,141	1983	Moored at at Ikonio Terminal, Piraeus, and contacted by bulk <i>DS Montrose</i> , Jul 18. Serious bow damage, some pollution & water ingress near hold No.6. Departure prohibited.
<i>DEWI BUNYU</i>	general	IDN	—	355	—	—	Sank in stormy weather about 51 nautical miles off Keelung in lat 25 51N, long 121 11E, Jul 15. Seawater entered tanks & capsized. All 8 crew rescued. No pollution at present.
<i>FU XING I</i>	bulker	PAN	CS	10,965	17,693	1977	Understand grounded in the Solomon Islands Jul 18. Still aground Jul 20, awaiting tug from Papua New Guinea. Small hole in hull.
<i>GLORY MOON</i>	cement	PAN	LR	16,534	25,424	1973	Had fire in accommodation which spread to the bridge about 400 nm west of Sumatra in lat 00 17.4N, long 90 32.3, Jul 12. Reported Jul 15 under way under own power. Tug to assist during voyage. Arrived off Singapore Jul 20 in tow of tug <i>De Da</i> .
<i>ISABELLA 3</i>	fishing	SYC	—	—	—	—	Ran aground on a reef on Suhaili Island, Lakshadweep, Jul 15. Abandoned by crew. Vessels assisting. Still aground Jul 19.
<i>KUSAN</i>	general	KOR	—	1,972	3,443	2005	In collision with general cargo <i>Yusho Ocean</i> and sank in lat 33 45.7N, long 132 26.3E, Jul 15. Oil spill observed.
<i>LADY MOURA</i>	yacht	BHS	LR	3,914	—	1990	In collision with passenger <i>New Flamenco</i> at Ibiza Jul 5 and pushed against a concrete pier, sustaining severe damage to hull and gangway. To be repaired at Hamburg.
<i>LURONG OIL 66</i>	tanker	CHN	—	—	—	—	Capsized 500 metres from Rongcheng City, Shandong Province, China, in strong winds, Jul 14. Three crew rescued, one missing.
<i>MERWEGAS</i>	lpg	ANT	GL	2,712	3,403	1981	Anchored in lat 55 27N, long 06 27.3W, about 12 miles north-west of Rathlin Island, with broken main engine piston Jul 14. Being towed to Londonderry by tug <i>Shrove</i> . Tow passed to another tug & arrived late Jul 14.
<i>MOON LIGHT</i>	general	KHM	BV	2,698	—	1978	Hit by rocket 80 km off Lebanon during Israel-Lebanon dispute Jul 14. One crew member badly injured. Vessel seriously damaged & abandoned "in situ".
<i>NEW FLAMENCO</i>	passenger	PAN	LR	17,042	2,497	1972	In collision with yacht <i>Lady Moura</i> at Ibiza Jul 5.
<i>SPARKLING STAR II</i>	fishing	GBR	—	131	—	1987	Reported an electrical fire in the engine-room in lat 58 38N, long 03 30W, one mile north of Scrabster Jul 13. Extinguished by crew. Towed to Scrabster by lifeboat. Repaired & sailed Jul 14.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## AGHIOS MAKARIOS (Greece)

Buenos Aires, Jul 14 — At 0755 hrs, Jul 13, bulker *Aghios Makarios* (47828 gt, built 1987) grounded at Km 315 (River Parana) on left margin on her way to San Lorenzo, without obstructing navigation. The draught was of eight metres. At 1745 hrs, the same day the vessel refloated by its own means. It was authorized to resume navigation for the port of San Lorenzo, where corresponding after grounding surveys will be carried out. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Aghios Makarios* sailed from Amsterdam at 1345 hrs, Jun 21, bound for San Lorenzo(Arg).)

## AGIOS GEORGIOS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Agios Georgios* (5122 gt, built 1972) sustained mechanical failure last week and was under repair at Piraeus. Damage was repaired and she sailed Jul 14 for west Cyclades Islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ALEXA

### (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Crew Of St Vincent & Grenadines Vessel At Copenhagen, Denmark" under "Labour Disputes."

## ALGIERS STAR

### (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 18 — Container carrier *Algiers Star* sailed from Augusta on Jul 14, bound for Salerno, arriving on Jul 15. The vessel departed later the same day, proceeding to La Spezia, where it arrived on Jul 17.

## ALICE (Malta)

See *Twin Star*.

## AMADA (North Korea)

Piraeus, Jul 20 — General cargo *Amada* remains under arrest at Kalamata port. Prospects of release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

## AMBASSADOR (Vanuatu)

London, Jul 13 — Bulker *Ambassador* (24094 gt, built 1983) was reported to have made heavy contact with the Canso Canal (lat 45 38.51N, long 61 24.49W), at 1840, UTC, Jul 12. There was damage to ballast tanks, but no pollution reported.

## ANA B. (Panama)

London, Jul 18 — Understand that as of Jul 17 combined chemical and oil tank *Ana B.* was still aground.

## ANDRE (Hong Kong)

Vancouver, Jul 13 — Bulker *Andre* has now sailed. Fifty percent of the shoreline clean-up is complete. Estimates are that 120-180 small boats were affected together with docks, piers and pilings. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ANNA (Georgia)

Riga, Jul 14 — Chemical tanker *Anna*, during manoeuvring for departure, collided with the city bridge. Some broken constructions of the bridge were on the deck, vessel was grounded by fore. On the starboard side near the steven was a visible hole one metre by one metre above waterline. Bridge heavily damaged, traffic impossible. At about 1100, local time, Jul 13, vessel was towed to the shipyard for discharging damaged constructions from the forecastle, survey and repair. Port prepares the claim against owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

Riga, Jul 18 — Chemical tanker *Anna* is at the Liepaja Shipyard. Repair of the damaged hull has commenced. Planned docking for repair of the underwater part. — Lloyd's Agents.

## APHRODITE (Italy)

London, Jul 18 — Container Carrier *Aphrodite* arrived at Shanghai on Jul 16.

## AQUA JEWEL (Greece)

Piraeus, Jul 19 — Passenger ro/ro *Aqua Jewel* completed repairs and sailed from Rafina port Jun 23 for Andros island. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ARABIAN SUN (Liberia)

Dubai, Jul 16 — Product tanker *Arabian Sun* is still at Fujairah port under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ARGENTA

### (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: A vessel loaded with bananas is on fire in the Gulf of Finland. According to the preliminary information, nobody has been hurt, a source at the regional emergencies department told Itar-Tass. The fire broke out in the vessels engine-room during unloading. The crew of 21 was evacuated. Firemen are fighting the blaze, the source said.

St. Petersburg, Jul 19 — According to available information, a fire occurred at/about 1300 hrs, Jul 14, in engine-room of refrigerated general cargo *Argenta* (7098 gt, built 1979), when the vessel was berthed in BKZ (St. Petersburg). All the cargo had already been discharged. The fire was extinguished at 1451 hrs, by the fire brigade and water damage can be expected. The vessel's 21 crew members were evacuated. At present *Argenta* is in Kanonerskiy Shiprepair Yard, waiting for owner's instructions. The vessel's local agent refuses to comment. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Argenta* arrived at St. Petersburg on Jul 11. Her previous port of call was Puerto Bolivar, Ecuador, from where she sailed at 2320 hrs, Jun 14.)

## ARKLOW REBEL (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC: Timed 0606, UTC: Tug tasking report: General cargo *Arklow Rebel* (2999 gt,

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built 2005), Dublin for Odda, cargo 4,300 tonnes zinc concentrate, in lat 59 25.1N, long 00 29W, at 0518, UTC, drifting at 0.5 knots, bearing 202 degrees. Vessel has one fuel pump broken down and replacing it with a spare one.

Timed 0648, UTC: At 0633, UTC, vessel reported it had another problem which it hoped to rectify by 1200 hrs. Coast Guard tug *Anglian Sovereign* is proceeding.

Timed 1155, UTC: Tug *DunterP* will be leaving *Sullom Voe* shortly to take *Arklow Rebel*, which cannot repair itself, in tow for most probably Lerwick.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0609, UTC: Owners of general cargo *Arklow Rebel* have organised towage with Shetland Towage, using the tug *Dunter*, which has an ETA on scene of 2100, UTC. Intention is for the tug to tow the vessel to Lerwick. Anchor handling tug/supply vessel *Anglian Sovereign* continues to stand-by and will continue to do so until VHF communications are established between *Dunter* and *Arklow Rebel*.

London, Jul 15 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1104, UTC: General cargo *Arklow Rebel*, in tow of tug *Dunter*, arrived alongside at Lerwick at 1000, UTC, today.

#### **ASTRO LUNA (Greece)**

London, Jul 20 — Crude oil tanker *Astro Luna* arrived at Fujairah Anchorage on Jul 12, departing later the same day. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS at 0925 hrs, today, it was anchored 0.8 nautical miles off Dubai, in lat 25 15.948N, long 44 16 1.38E.

#### **AVANT (Bahamas)**

Zeebrugge, Jul 14 — Chemical tanker *Avant* (1640 gt, built 1975) sailed Ghent 0704, local time, today for Antwerp, with ETA 1300 hrs. At 0830 hrs the vessel struck the "door" of the Westlock. Vessel sailed for Terneuzen locks at 0957 hrs. At 0959 hrs vessel was at Terneuzen piers where nautical expert required. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Jul 15 — Chemical tanker *Avant* anchored in River Scheldt at 1145, Jul 14. Vessel raised anchor at 2220 same day and subsequently berthed at Berth 647, Antwerp, at 0249 today. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jul 17 — Chemical tanker *Avant* sailed from Antwerp at 0202 hrs, Jul 16, bound for Odda.

#### **BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)**

Chittagong, Jul 18 — Owners of crude oil tanker inform *Banglar Shourabh* remains in the same position. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The fate of crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh*, which caught fire last month at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port, is likely to be decided tomorrow whether it will be repaired or scrapped. State Minister for Shipping M Quamrul Islam is scheduled to visit Chittagong

tomorrow to give the final decision about the wrecked tanker, according to sources. Shipping Secretary Rafiqul Islam and other high officials of the ministry will accompany the minister and hold a meeting in Chittagong, the sources added. "We will try our best to repair the ship and make it operative again," Quamrul Islam told The Daily Star. He said before making the final decision the government will examine all the investigation reports submitted by committees formed after the incident. Two investigation committees formed by the ministry and Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) already submitted its report to the government. Another expert committee formed with teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is likely to submit its report today. The members of the BUET expert committee visited the ship, committee sources said. The investigation committees formed by the ministry and the BSC expressed almost similar views regarding the causes behind the fire. The committee observed violation of international regulations and handling of equipment by unskilled operators were to blame for the accident. The BSC probe committee has already submitted its report. The three-member committee headed by General Manger [workshop] Saidullah found gross irregularities in recruiting people by a section of BSC officials. The committee found the BSC officials tampered the certificate of nautical cadet Mehdi Hasan who died in the accident. He had no tanker endorse certificate, which is necessary for working on an oil tanker, the report said. Besides, there was another minor accident at the ship around 12 hours before the huge accident. The BSC authorities ignored the minor accident, the probe committee found, according to sources. The experts observed the repairing of the ship would be cost effective only if it is done in the country. Otherwise, if the ship is repaired abroad it might not be so cost effective, the source pointed out.

#### **BELLATRIX (Antigua & Barbuda)**

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

#### **BENEGAS (Panama)**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Benegas* carrying liquefied natural gas caught fire as it unloaded in Aqaba port today, injuring 12 people, the manager of the port said. Four of the injured were fire-fighters, who needed an hour to bring the blaze under control, said Awwad al-Maaytah, the director general of Aqaba Port Authority. The eight other injured were crewmen. The ship was promptly evacuated and towed away from the pier in the port. The fire began at about 1000 hrs (0700, UTC). By the time it was towed away, it had unloaded only half of its cargo. Al-Maaytah confirmed a state news agency report that nobody was killed in the fire, and said the cause was

under investigation. The state agency Petra said the injured people were taken to the military hospital in Aqaba.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Nineteen people were injured yesterday after a fire broke out on Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Benegas* loaded with liquid gas anchored in the port of Aqaba, officials said. "Twenty people were on deck at the time and 15 of them were suffering from exposure to thick smoke," said Lieutenant Colonel Farid Shara. Four Jordanians were among the injured admitted to hospital, which also included 13 Filipinos, one Russian and one citizen of Montenegro, according to the official. "The fire started on the ship at around 0940 hrs, when one of the pumping pipes exploded," Shara said. The vessel, chartered by a Jordanian company, was carrying 4,200 tonnes of gas, of which 2,144 tonnes had been transshipped, the official said. "The ship was moved half a kilometre offshore in order to hose down the fire, which swept through 30 to 40% of the vessel," said Shara. Firemen from Aqaba's Civil Defence Department, Aqaba Airport, Maan Governorate and the Royal Navy brought the fire under control after two hours, Shara said. The ship is now anchored one kilometre offshore and five fire engines are on standby in case the fire spreads again. An investigation committee has been formed to determine the cause of the blaze, he added.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from the Athens-based managers of liquid petroleum gas carrier *Benegas*, dated today: At 0943 hrs, yesterday, whilst discharging her cargo alongside at Aqaba, the *Benegas* was affected by a significant fire understood to have started outside the ship/on shore, which then spread to the vessel. On fire, the ship was taken off the berth. The fire was extinguished at a safe distance from land with the aid of firefighting tugs. Fifteen crew members required medical treatment and were immediately taken to hospital. Last night, twelve of the crew were discharged from hospital and subsequently returned to the ship. However, three were required to remain in hospital overnight and their safe discharge is now expected tomorrow. The manager's representatives are providing them with every support. It is believed that four shoreside personnel were also injured as a result of the fire. The *Benegas* is currently lying outside the port with seventeen of her crew attending the ship onboard, on watches. A firefighting support boat and a tug remain on standby. The intention, once initial damage assessments and safety checks have been completed, is for the remainder of the cargo to be discharged. The manager's technical superintendents are in Aqaba to help the crew manage this process. The managers would like to thank the local authorities for their support and rapid response in providing assistance. The cause of the

fire is unknown and is now under investigation. The managers are co-operating with the local authorities to help establish causation.

#### **BERIT (U.K.)**

London, Jul 14 — A watch officer on container carrier *Berit* was text messaging with his mobile phone for 40 minutes, as his vessel, on a regular run from St Petersburg, overran its alter course position and grounded on a Baltic bank in January this year. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch report into the grounding off Gedser also found that the night lookout had been stood down and the watch alarm had been turned off as the Ukrainian second officer concentrated on his mobile phone messages. The MAIB report was critical of navigational practices on the vessel, with too great a reliance being placed on the basic information provided by the electronic chart system which was not fully functioning, and no regular fixes of the vessel's position by other means. "In this accident," noted the report, "with little demanded of the OOW, he became easily distracted and missed the scheduled alteration of course." It was also noted that while the master was aware of the use of mobile phones, this was not "actively managed" by the master. The vessel was damaged, but refloated and was able to sail to Rotterdam for temporary repairs.

#### **BINA (Indonesia)**

Chittagong, Jul 17 — Local agents of product tanker *Bina* have advised that the vessel presently still lying at Myanmar port, effecting repairs on her generator. After completion of repairs the vessel will depart and is scheduled to enter Bangladesh on Jul 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BOCAUE (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 16 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported today product tanker *Bocaue* (597 gt, built 1997) ran aground at the mouth of the Manila's Pasig River at around 2000, Jul 13. The vessel was carrying one million litres of aviation fuel from Bataan to the Pandacan petroleum depot in Manila when strong winds and waves brought about by Typhoon "Florita" forced the vessel into the shallow waters of the Pasig River. A tugboat dispatched by Herma Shipping and Transport Corp., owner of the vessel, freed the barge a few hours after it ran aground. The *Bocaue* then proceeded on its own power to the Pandacan oil depot jetty along the Pasig River. The Coast Guard did not say if the vessel sustained damage from the grounding. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 17 — The Philippine-registered product tanker *Bocaue*, which ran aground at the mouth of the Manila's Pasig River Jul 13, sustained a four-inch diameter hole to its bottom hull, Herma Shipping and Transport Corp. reported. The hole is located on the bottom, starboard side, between tanks 4 and 5, Herma Shipping officials said. "This was the only

damage to the vessel. Everything else, including the machinery, propeller and rudder are intact," Herma Shipping fleet manager Lito Manansala said. Mr. Manansala explained that despite the hole, none of the *Bocaue's* cargo of aviation fuel leaked out when it ran aground because of its double-hull. The tanker is currently docked at the Pasig River jetty where it is undergoing tank cleaning. The vessel will then leave under its own power for Herma Shipyard in Bataan province for emergency drydocking. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 19 — Product tanker *Bocaue* entered Herma Shipyard in Bataan province Tuesday afternoon (Jul 18). The vessel is scheduled for dry-docking today to have a four-inch diameter hole in its bottom hull repaired. Repairs are expected to be completed in a week's time. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **BRILLIANT SKY (Panama)**

London, Jul 17 — Bulker *Brilliant Sky* sailed from Aden on Jul 4, bound for Jeddah.

#### **BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* cannot remove fuel from the ship until insurance companies complete a report on the grounded vessel. Kadavau Holdings Limited manager Ratu Sela Nanovo said most people blamed the company for not having the ship removed, almost a month after it got stranded off Rotuma. However, he said the two insurance companies involved AON Risk and Dominion Insurance, were causing the delays. AON Risk's Paul Dunk said he could not comment because he was not aware of Ratu Sela's comments. "We have been accused of ignoring the oil spill because of commercial considerations but that is not true," said Ratu Sela. "During the first two weeks after the ship ran aground, there was no way for us to get to the island because there were no boats, plane and no form of communication," he said. "Towards the second week, government provided a vessel for our team to travel on but the insurance team were not able to travel with us." "The team reached Rotuma last week and carried out interviews with the final crew and I hope the report will be compiled by the end of the week." "Once that report by the insurance team has been compiled, we will know where to go from there," he said. He said arrangements had been made for 36 empty 200-litre drums to be taken to the island but the company couldn't siphon fuel out of the ship because they would be liable for lawsuits if there was a spill.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An insurance company says assessment of damage on passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* grounded off Rotuma is still being carried out. Dominion Insurance says it is not fair to blame it for delay in completing assessment on the vessel as it took time to do the job properly.

The vessel has been stuck on a reef for over a month. Dominion Insurance manager client services Vikash Kumar said they were waiting for their loss adjuster's report in order to be in a position to make a comment. "We cannot just write a cheque to be given out. We are waiting for the report from our loss adjuster who is carrying out an investigation and assessment of the damage," he said. Mr Kumar said inspection of the vessel and interviewing of all the crew and the captain was over. Ship owners Kadavu Shipping claim the inspection process was stopping it from removing fuel from the vessel.

#### **CHARLES M.BEEGHLY (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1420, UTC: Bulker *Charles M. Beeghly* (16284 gt, built 1959) experienced problems with water feed to boiler at 0317, local time, today, in the area of Mud Lake, Sault Ste Marie. Vessel has anchored to carry out repairs and same are still under way at present.

London, Jul 15 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1835, UTC: Bulker *Charles M. Beeghly* has completed repairs and proceeded on passage.

#### **CHEMBULK HONGKONG (Marshall Islands)**

London, Jul 19 — Chemical tanker *Chembulk Hongkong* arrived at Rizhao, China, on Jul 12 and sailed on Jul 14, bound for Nantong.

#### **CHRISTOPHER (Belgium)**

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0344, UTC: Fishing (general) *Christopher* (built 1973) reports an engine breakdown in lat 53 58N, long 02 37E. Vessel requires a tow to Belgium. Weather in the casualty area is satisfactory.

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1350, UTC: Another fishing vessel is due on scene of fishing *Christopher* at 0600, UTC, tomorrow, to take in tow to Belgium. *Christopher* has its gear down at the moment, which is acting as an anchor.

#### **CONSING (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 16 — Landing craft *Consing*, which was refloated last Tuesday (Jul 11), is awaiting clearance for its departure from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. The craft is still moored off Cawag town inside the Subic Bay Freeport but is expected to received clearance from the authority today. It will be towed to a shipyard in Navotas, Manila, for repairs. Clearance for departure has been held by Subic Freeport authorities because of heavy seas brought about by typhoon "Florita" last week. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 17 — Landing craft *Consing* which was refloated last Tuesday, (Jul 11), left Cawag town, in Subic Bay, under tow, at 2000, local time, Jul 16. The vessel was bound for Navotas in Manila for repairs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

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Manila, Jul 18 — Landing craft *Consing* arrived in Navotas, Manila Monday morning (Jul 17) after being towed from Subic Bay. The vessel will be dry-docked at a shipyard in Navotas. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **CONTAZ CARRIER (Ukraine)**

London, Jul 18 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1120, UTC: A collision occurred early today between container carrier *Contaz Carrier* (9548 gt, built 1983) and bulker *DS Montrose* (17944 gt, built 2001) at Ikonion, Piraeus. *Contaz Carrier* is reported to have sustained, as yet unknown, damages. *DS Montrose* is undamaged.

London, Jul 18 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: This morning bulker *DS Montrose* contacted the bow of Container Carrier *Contaz Carrier*. At the time of the incident *Contaz Carrier* was moored at the Ikonion terminal and *DS Montrose* was proceeding under pilot to Eleusis for drydocking. Both vessels have been damaged. *Contaz Carrier* sustained serious damage to her bow and pollution was caused.

Piraeus, Jul 19 — Bulker *DS Montrose* collided with container carrier *Contaz Carrier* on July 18. The incident happened as *DS Montrose* was leaving Piraeus port. Her bow contacted the starboard of *Contaz Carrier* which was berthed at Ikonion, Piraeus. A crack in the hull of the container ship resulted in a fuel oil spill and ingress of water was ascertained at her hold no.6. Also dents were noted at her superstructure. *DS Montrose* sustained damages to her bow's bulb and forecastle. No injuries were reported. The oil spillage which covered an area of 150 sq.m. was contained by private cleaning unit. The Piraeus port authorities prohibited the vessels departure until inspection and repair of damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CP VALOUR (Bermuda)**

Ponta Delgada, Jul 13 — Container carrier *CP Valour* remains aground. Operations to remove the cargo (containers) on board the vessel are continuing and if all goes well, they are expected to be completed by the end of this month. After removal of all containers the intention is to proceed with the attempts to refloat the vessel, otherwise the vessel will be dismantled "in situ". — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 18 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Yesterday evening, a fire broke out in the engine-room of grounded container carrier *CP Valour* off Praia da Faia. The tug *Battle Axe* quickly responding to the fire and was quickly able bring it under control. The engine-room was flooded but much of it was pumped out later. The probable cause of the fire was heat from cutting metal on the vessel. *CP Valour* is being dismantled with the help of the jack up barge *MEB-JB1*.

#### **CROWN PRINCESS (Bermuda)**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: About 30 people were injured when they were flung across the decks of passenger (cruise) *Crown Princess* (117477 gt, built 2006) that unexpectedly listed heavily after leaving Port Canaveral in central Florida yesterday. The US Coast Guard attributed the tilt to a problem with the vessel's steering mechanism and said it was not yet clear how far the vessel had listed. But those on board the vessel, which has a capacity of 4,800 passengers and crew, said it leaned dramatically. The vessel is operated by Princess Cruises, a Santa Clarita, California-based unit of Carnival Corp. It issued a statement saying the ship was "safe and seaworthy". A spokeswoman for the Canaveral Port Authority said the port was told to prepare for 50 injured people. "I'm hearing about 30," said Coast Guard spokesman James Judge, when asked to confirm the injury toll. The statement on the company's website said: "Initial reports are that a number of passengers did sustain serious injuries. There are also numerous reports of injuries such as cuts, bruises and fractures." As the *Crown Princess* headed into Port Canaveral, passengers wearing life jackets could be seen on deck. The vessel was escorted by Coast Guard vessels and ambulances and emergency vehicles lined the dock, waiting to pick up the injured. Two helicopters also stood by, waiting to take the most seriously injured to hospitals.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A steering problem caused passenger (cruise) *Crown Princess* to roll abruptly Tuesday (Jul 18), throwing passengers and crew to the deck and injuring dozens, including two critically, officials said. One passenger said seawater flooded several upper decks of the *Crown Princess*, forcing water from a swimming pool "like a mini-tsunami," and breaking windows and furniture. The vessel, with about 3,100 passengers and 1,200 crew, had just departed Port Canaveral on Florida's east coast en route to New York when it listed badly to its left side, said Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer James Judge. He said the vessel reported problems with its steering apparatus. The vessel then righted itself before returning to port, where the Coast Guard said all passengers and crew had been accounted for. Besides an adult and a child who were critically hurt, 12 people were seriously hurt and about 70 had lesser injuries, said Cape Canaveral Fire Rescue Capt. Jim Watson. Thirty-three people were taken to hospitals, he said. Most had bruises and minor back and neck injuries. A passenger said several of the upper decks were flooded and the elevators were inoperable. Gym equipment flipped over, TVs fell off their shelves and shattered glass was strewn across the deck, he said.

London, Jul 20 — A National Transportation Safety Board advisory notice, dated Jul 19, states: The National Transportation Safety Board has sent a three-member team to Port Canaveral, Florida, joining representatives from the United States Coast Guard as the preliminary investigation into yesterday's steering incident involving passenger (cruise) *Crown Princess* begins. *Crown Princess* experienced a hard roll reportedly injuring a number of passengers. The incident occurred about 11 miles south-east of Port Canaveral where the vessel is now docked.

#### **DE YUAN YU 001 (China)**

See "Chinese Trawlers Seized by Australia" under "Seizures & Arrests."

#### **DE YUAN YU 002 (China)**

See "Chinese Trawlers Seized by Australia" under "Seizures & Arrests."

#### **DELMAS FORBIN (French Southern Territories)**

London, Jul 15 — Container Carrier *Delmas Forbin* sailed Hong Kong 1017, Jul 10, and arrived Singapore Jul 13.

#### **DEWI BUNYU (Indonesia)**

London, Jul 17 — Taiwan's environmental protection authorities were on alert yesterday after an Indonesian general cargo *Dewi Bunyu*, carrying some 1,000 tonnes of chemicals sank off the island. The cabinet-level Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) set up a contingency group after it emerged that the 355 ton vessel was carrying 1,000 tonnes of ethyl acetate, a solvent widely used in glues and nail polish removers. The eight crew on board were rescued by Taiwan's coastguard, AFP reported. "We have set up a special group to make sure it would not cause grave environmental impacts," Lu Hung-kuang, head of the EPA's Water Quality Protection Bureau, told reporters. The EPA was also concerned about the 27 tonnes of fuel carried by the vessel.

Taipei, Jul 17 — General cargo *Dewi Bunyu*, laden with approximately 1,000 tons of "Ethyl Acetate" with bunker on board (fuel oil 27 tons, diesel oil five tons and the lube oil 0.8 tons), approximately 51 nautical miles off Keelung, in lat 25 51N, long 121 11E, at around 0600, Jul 15. Vessel encountered with the stormy weather (typhoon "Ewinia" approached/crossed Taiwan during the period from Jul 13 to Jul 15) and allegedly the sea water entered the vessel's tanks and flooded then resulted in the vessel capsized. Immediately the rescue boat was launched by Taiwan Coast Guard at around 0935, same day. Thereafter all the crew members (total 8 crew including master) were safely rescued, subsequently the said vessel partly sunk/drifted in way of the above position at around 2152, same day. According to the information of the Environmental Protection Administration, ROC., the cargo

seemed not leaking from the headed vessel up to now, but bunker/oil patch was noted to have drifted nearby the scene and is now under monitoring by Authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

**DISCOVERY (U.K.)**

London, July 17 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1359, UTC: A telephone call was received at 1153, UTC, stating fishing (general) *Discovery*, BF268, (145 gt, built 1981), with five persons on board, was aground in lat 60 22.3N, long 00 59.7W. Lerwick lifeboat stood by vessel until sufficient water under hull to safely pull it off rocks. Vessel clear of rocks at 1344, UTC. Search and rescue operations terminated at that time.

**DOLLART GAS (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 2341, UTC, Jul 13: The managers of liquid petroleum gas carrier *Dollart Gas* have contracted a tug, which is currently on scene and preparing to take the vessel in tow, possibly to Taichung or Kaohsiung.

London, July 14 — Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 0655, UTC: Liquid petroleum gas carrier *Dollart Gas* was taken in tow by tug/supply *Huacai* at 1200, local time, today, destination not yet decided.

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Dollart Gas*: Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract has been signed with Tsavlis and vessel was towed to Kaohsiung outer anchorage yesterday. It is currently at anchor there and repairs are expected to commence today or tomorrow. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

**DS MONTROSE (Bahamas)**

See *Contaz Carrier*.

**EILTANK 31 (Germany)**

London, Jul 14 — Information received, dated Kiel Jul 13, states: Inland waterways tanker *Eiltank 31* (1242 dwt, built 1956), length 85 metres, cargo 1,000 tons naptha, ran aground on the way to Ludwigsafen on the Rhine at Lorch at 2125, Jul 12. It grounded with the foreship after a machine failure. The master thought some of the highly explosive cargo was leaking out. The Rhine was thus closed between Bingen and St. Goar for ships and also car traffic on parallel roads. Police and fire brigade was in action with three vessels. A lighter ship took some of the cargo during the night. Two tugs salvaged the ship on Jul 13 and towed it to an emergency berth at Rudesheim where it will be completely unloaded and then taken into a yard at Duisburg. Experts are investigating the case.

London, Jul 14 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: At 0400 yesterday lighter ship *Ellen* arrived on the site of the grounded inland waterways tanker *Eiltank 31* at Lorch. For a duration of 45 minutes naptha was transferred, then *Eiltank 31* could be refloated and was, escorted by police and fire brigade,

and towed to a berth at Ilmenau, where lightering of the remaining cargo started at 0900 hrs and lasted until 1645 hrs. The work was monitored by police and fire brigade. *Eiltank 31* was then to be towed into a shipyard at Duisburg.

**EL MANSOURA (Tunisia)**

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Tunisian fishing (general) *El Mansoura*, NA 289, sank following an alleged collision with a merchant vessel in lat 38 05N, long 11 24E, at 1205, UTC, Jul 12. Vessel's five crew were rescued by an Italian trawler.

Tunis, Jul 17 — Fishing *El Mansoura* and general cargo *Oran Star* (5966 gt, built 1983) were in collision in lat 38 05N, long 11 24E at 1208, UTC, Jul 12. *El Mansoura* sank. It has been reported that five crew members were rescued by an Italian fishing boat. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Oran Star* sailed La Spezia Jul 11, arrived Marsaxlokk Jul 14 and sailed same day for Tripoli.)

**EL MORRO (U.S.A.)**

Santo Domingo — Jul 13 — Repairs to tug *El Morro* have not been initiated yet due to congestion/lack of space. — Llyd's Agents.

**ELINAKOS (Panama)**

Montreal, Jul 13 — On Jul 11, bulker *Elinakos* (38364 gt, built 1997) was discharging its bulk cargo at Port Alfred when the stevedores crane displaced the ship's side opening hatch cover. Permanent repairs are being carried out concurrently with the discharge. These should be complete on Jul 14 and the vessel will depart Port Alfred in its normal manner. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ENTERPRISE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 18 — Bulker *Enterprise* arrived at Melbourne (under tow) at 0400 hrs, Jul 15.

**EXPRESS SANTORINI (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Express Santorini* (4590 gt, built 1974) sustained mechanical failure at her port main engine on Jul 15. She had sailed from Piraeus for Paros, Naxos, Ios and Santorini islands. The vessel berthed safely at Piraeus port and will remain until repair of the damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FEDJEFJORD (Norway)**

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Roll On Roll Off *Fedjefjord* is now back in normal service.

**FLOATING DOCK 7 (Cambodia)**

See "Tropical Storm 'Bilis'" under "Weather & Navigation".

**FLYINGCAT 3 (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jul 19 — Ferry *Flyingcat 3* returned to service on Jun 24 and sailed from Rafina with destination Spain. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FOLEGANDROS (Greece)**

London, Jul 19 — Product tanker *Folegandros* has been refloated.

**FRISIAN SPRING (Netherlands)**

Troy, Michigan, Jul 15 — A breakdown occurred yesterday with the general cargo *Frisian Spring* (4060 gt, built 2006) delivery tow. This caused the shutdown of the Seaway at the Snell Lock near Massena N.Y. From radio passages it appears the tug *Robinson Bay* went to help secure the tow to the lower approach wall below the Snell Lock. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

**FU XING I (Panama)**

London, Jul 19 — Information received from Canberra, dated today, states: Bulker *Fu Xing I* (10965 gt, built 1977), which arrived Noro, Solomon Islands, Jun 23, grounded Jul 18. Some damage sustained.

London, Jul 20 — Following received from Honiara RCC, timed 0445, UTC: Bulker *Fu Xing I* is still aground, awaiting tug assistance from Papua New Guinea, ETA unknown. Vessel has sustained a small hole to its hull.

**GLORY MOON (Panama)**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Indian Space Research Organisation's satellite-based search and rescue network has helped save 30 members of the crew of stranded bulk cement carrier *Glory Moon* (16534 gt, built 1973) which was drifting in Sri Lankan waters after its communications and navigation systems were destroyed in a fire that occurred Jul 11, India's space agency said in a statement. ISRO said its geostationary communication satellite INSAT-3A relayed the first distress signals transmitted by the distress beacon that was still functioning on board the *Glory Moon*. The Indian Mission Control Centre of ISRO detected the distress signals and immediately alerted the Coast Guard for search and rescue operations, it said. "Though the ship was in Sri Lankan waters, it was the initiative shown by INMCC that resulted in the rescue of all the 30 crew members.

London, Jul 20 — The following press release was issued by on Jul 13, by Belden Shipping Pte., Ltd., managers of bulk cement carrier *Glory Moon*: On Wednesday Jul 12, we were informed by the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) Chennai, India, that they had received an automatic EPRIB distress alert message from *Glory Moon*. *The relayed position was lat 00 17.4N, long 90 32.3 W, some 400 nautical west of Sumatra, Indonesia. Since then futile attempts have been made to establish contact with the vessel.* *Glory Moon* has 30 crewmembers on board and their safety and whereabouts is, of course, our greatest concern. *Glory Moon* departed from Porbandar anchorage, India, at 1400 hrs, Jul 4, on a ballast voyage to Tanjung Priok, Indonesia. ETA was Jul 15. The last active contact with the ship was on Jul 11,

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



when the vessel reported its noon position. MRCC Chennai has co-ordinated a search and the product tanker *Arabiyah* and container carrier *Alianca Singapore* searched the area on the evening of Jul 12, until dark. Other vessels in the vicinity have today been conducting searches. There have so far been no sign of *Glory Moon*. Neither has oil nor debris been observed in the water. The weather in the area is reportedly normal for the season with good visibility, some choppy seas and winds up to 20-25 knots. Two airplanes will be joining the search; one Hercules operating out of Singapore and one Beechcraft from Sumatra. We are co-operating closely with our protection & indemnity insurers Assuranceforeningen Gard and our hull & machinery insurers Norwegian Hull Club. The Belden group would like to extend their sincere thanks to those who have provided and offered support and assistance so far.

London, Jul 20 — The following press release was issued by on Jul 15, by Belden Shipping Pte., Ltd., managers of bulk cement carrier *Glory Moon*: Following some days of uncertainty, we are now happy to confirm that *Glory Moon* is underway under own power towards Singapore. The vessel had sustained a fire in the accommodation spreading to the bridge, and as a result thereof had lost her normal means of communication and navigation. General cargo *Glory Star* arrived alongside *Glory Moon* this morning and is presently assisting with navigation and communication. To enable safe transit of the Malacca and Singapore Straits we have hired an oceangoing tug to assist on that part of the voyage. The crew on board *Glory Moon* is in good health, doing well under the circumstances.

London, Jul 20 — Following received from Belden Shipping Pte., Ltd., managers of bulk cement carrier *Glory Moon*, dated today: *Glory Moon* arrived off Singapore earlier today, under tow of salvage tug *De Da*. Two representatives are currently on board *Glory Moon* assessing the damages. The vessel will be towed by *De Da* to Bataan for repairs. No ETD is available as the crew have to be interviewed by the authorities, before the vessel can depart.

**GOLIATH (Australia)**

Melbourne, Jul 14 — Bulk cement carrier *Goliath* (11754 gt, built 1993) experienced deck generator problems at Glebe Island, Sydney, Jul 12. The vessel effected repairs and returned to service Jul 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GORKY (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 14 — According to Cartagena Port Authority general cargo *Gorky* is at Muelle E002 - Fertilizantes, Escombreras, for repairs.

**GOTALAND (Sweden)**

London, Jul 18 — Passenger ro/ro *Gotaland* arrived at Lubeck at 0412

hrs, Jul 12 and sailed at 0035 hrs, Jul 13, bound for Hanko.

**GRAND MARS (Canada)**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: Five fishermen are safe after abandoning fishing (general) *Grand Mars* (70 gt, built 1984), which was burning off the coast of Newfoundland. The fire on board the vessel was reported this afternoon almost 150 kilometres east of St. John's. The men jumped into a liferaft before they were picked up by another fishing boat. A Cormorant search-and-rescue helicopter from Gander, an Aurora aircraft from Greenwood and two nearby fishing vessels responded to the emergency.

**HANSEATIC STAR (Gibraltar)**

London, Jul 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The German police on the river Weser at Lemwerder, boarded general cargo *Hanseatic Star* (1590 gt, built 1985), which was on the way from the "Industriehafen" (industry harbour) to Norway, on the evening of Jul 12. The vessel had forced other vessels to get out of its way and was driving in "snakelines". The police stopped the vessel and found not only the master drunk, with 2,7 promille, but also a damaged machine. They ordered tugs and a pilot who brought back the *Hanseatic Star* to Bremen where it was detained. (Note — *Hanseatic Star* arrived Bremen Jul 11 from Aalvik.)

Bremen, Jul 14 — General cargo *Hanseatic Star* left Bremen Industriehafen with a load of timber bound for Norway yesterday. As the voyage was not straight but swinging across the river there was considerable danger for other vessels. The radar control tried to make contact with the captain. This was in vain and therefore the water police was called in for assistance. It took them considerable endeavours before they were able to board the vessel. On the bridge they realised that although showing "full speed ahead" the vessel was travelling only with a speed of four knots. There were irregularities with the machinery. Further the master appeared to be drunk. It turned out that he had 2.7 per mille in his blood. The vessel was anchored and later brought back to Bremen. The master has been fined on the spot and a replacement has been ordered. The vessel has to undergo further repairs which have been requested by the ship's safety board. Yesterday it was not yet certain when the vessel would be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 17 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today, At 0830 hrs, today, general cargo *Hanseatic Star* took a pilot at Skudefjorden, bound for Aalvik, where ETA 1400 hrs. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0838, UTC, *Hanseatic Star* was reported in lat 59 11 11.4N, long 05 20 51.12E, course 357.6, speed 8.4 knots.)

**HIGHSPEED 3 (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Ferry *Highspeed 3* (2377 gt, built 2000) sustained

mechanical failure last week and was under repair from Jul 10 to Jul 14. Damage was repaired and she sailed Jul 14 from Rafina to Cyclades Islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HYBUR STAR (Panama)**

Miami, Jul 18 — Refrigerated general cargo *Hybur Star* was temporarily repaired and sailed on Jul 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

**INFINITY (Bahamas)**

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bahamas Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

**IRAN SHARIAT (Iran)**

London, Jul 14 — Bulker *Iran Shariat* arrived Santos Jul 10 from Becancour.

**IRMGARD GERHARDT (Germany)**

London, Jul 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: In the evening of Jul 17 non specific tanker *Irmgard Gerhardt* collided with the pier off the old Kiel-canal lock in Brunsbuttel and was damaged at the bow.

London, Jul 20 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: The incident involving specific tanker *Irmgard Gerhardt* (home port: Berlin-Zehdenick) on Jul 17, was caused by a rudder failure. The vessel was coming from Hamburg and was proceeding to the oil harbour in Brunsbuttel for unloading. The vessel's bow was slightly damaged, on port side. After investigations by the police the vessel was allowed to resume its voyage.

**ISABELLA 3 (Seychelles)**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: A fishing vessel flying the Seychelles flag, with 33 fishermen on board, ran aground the reef off the western coast of the uninhabited Suhaili island of Lakshadweep late last night, Coast Guard sources said. Fearing that the fishing vessel *Isabella 3*, would sink any moment, the fishermen abandoned ship, jumping into the water and were attempting to swim to shore, the Coast Guard continued. A Coast Guard helicopter was assisting them. The aircraft had established contact with *Isabella 3* early this morning. The crew had made a fervent plea for help. However, after the sea became rough, the crew felt it better to abandon the vessel. The island is situated near a lagoon and some stretches are shallow while at certain points water is deep. The Coast Guard sources said cargo vessel *Cheriyam*, which was in the area, has been requested by the Coast Guard to offer assistance. A Coast Guard vessel *Varuna* is also assisting in the rescue operations. *Isabella 3* is carrying about 190 tonnes of engine oil, which is a cause of concern to the authorities.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A fishing vessel flying the Seychelles flag ran aground, Sunday, on a reef off one of the Indian Lakshadweep islands. Fishing *Isabella 3*, a Taiwanese long-line fishing vessel, hit the reef in heavy seas on its way



from Oman to Singapore. The 33-man Taiwanese, Chinese and Philipino crew abandoned the ship and swam to the uninhabited Suhaili island, fearing the vessel, which is carrying 190 tonnes of engine oil, could sink. On receiving a distress signal, the Indian Coast Guard launched a search and rescue operation by sea and air and has airlifted all 33 crewmembers to the island of Kavaratti. Local maritime authorities confirmed that they have been informed of the incident and are in contact with their Indian counterparts and the owners of the vessel.

#### **KAPITAN DUDIN 1 (Russia)**

Chittagong, Jul 20 — Refrigerated general cargo *Kapitan Dudin 1* is still lying at Chittagong outer anchorage. No repairs are expected to be carried out since the vessel had already been sold as scrap and is awaiting completion of formalities and beaching, according to its local agent. Product tanker *San Carlo* was beached for demolition on Jul 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **KARIM I (Cambodia)**

Bucharest, Jul 20 — General cargo *Karim I* was refloated at 1600, local time, Jul 19. The vessel is currently still near Sorena Constantza facility, where it sank on May 29. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Kennicott* (12635 gt, built 1998) was headed to Seward for temporary repairs, cancelling two visits this week to Kodiak. Her Saturday (Jul 15) night departure from Kodiak was delayed about 18 hours so the source of water filling a compartment under the engine room could be tracked down. Her crew called in the Marine Safety Office after water was found in a hollow space in the hull, Coast Guard Lt. Patrick Lee said. The crew regularly sounds these void areas of the ship to make sure they are dry, Lee said. When water was found in one after they docked Saturday, they were required to call the Coast Guard. After the water was pumped from the void area, the problem was discovered to be a leaking raw water discharge pipe, part of the saltwater cooling system. Usually, after it's been used to cool systems in the ship, the pipe discharges the water overboard. *Kennicott* was cleared to depart for Homer on Sunday afternoon, Lee said. She was headed to Seward for temporary repairs, and then it was to head to the Panhandle on Tuesday, Alaska Marine Highway System spokesman Mike Chambers said. After the two cancellations this week, she is now scheduled to return to Kodiak on Jul 28.

#### **KUSAN (South Korea)**

London, Jul 17 — Following received from Japan Navigational Warning, dated Jul 15: Sunken wreck *Ku Sun*, 1972 tons, exists in vicinity of lat 33 45.7N, long 132 26.3E.

London, Jul 17 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0050, UTC: General cargo *Kusan* (1972 gt, built 2005), C/S DSO13, sank in about lat 33 45.7N, long 132 26.3E after a collision with general cargo *Yusho Ocean* (2525 gt, built 1994). *Yusho Ocean* proceeded on voyage.

Yokohama, Jul 19 — General cargo *Kusan* and general cargo *Yusho Ocean* were in collision near Ozo-shima, Ehime Prefecture, at 0455, local time, Jul 15. *Kusan* sank following the collision, oil spill was observed. *Yusho Ocean* sustained damage to bow. No personal injuries from either vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LADY MOURA (Bahamas)**

London, Jul 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Yacht *Lady Moura* (3914 gt, built 1990) is to be repaired at Blohm & Voss Yard in Hamburg after its collision with passenger (cruise) *New Flamenco* (17042 gt, built 1972) in the harbour of Ibiza on Jul 5, as soon as a berth is available. In the incident the cruise ship had pushed the stern of *Lady Moura* against a concrete pier. Thereby the hull and the gangway were severely damaged. Also a sailing yacht of the Baroness of Thyssen was involved in the incident, it first struck the *New Flamenco* and then *Lady Moura*. *Lady Moura* is the tenth biggest luxury yacht in the world and belongs to Nasser el Raschid in Saudi Arabia. Parts of the gangway have already been sent to Hamburg.

#### **LASS URANUS (Germany)**

London, Jul 13 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container carrier *Xin Fu Zhou* has returned to Hamburg and is berthed at the Predohlkai. The containers in the damaged starboard area are presently being unloaded. Then the ship will eventually be repaired at Blohm & Voss, but this is not confirmed yet. The repair is expected to last two to three days.

London, Jul 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Xin Fu Zhou*, which had been hit by general cargo *Lass Uranus* on the Elbe, entered Blohm and Voss for repairs to the starboard side, above the waterline, on Jul 13, after completion of unloading in the damaged area at Predohlkai. The bow of the *Lass Uranus* was smashed in the collision.

London, Jul 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Lass Uranus* proceeded to the Peterswerft Wewelsfleth on Jul 13 for repairs to its bow. Investigators meanwhile found out that the vessel was only using its port engine when hitting the *Xin Fu Zhou* and the starboard engine was not working.

Bremen, Jul 14 — Understand that a collision occurred on Wednesday (Jul 12) at Hamburg-Finkenwerder. Container carrier *Xin Fu Zhou* collided with general cargo *Lass Uranus*. There were no damages to any persons. *Xin Fu Zhou* sustained a crack of about eight metres in length

to the outside plating. *Lass Uranus* sustained damages to her bow. Both vessels returned to Hamburg pending further investigations. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 17 — Container carrier *Xin Fu Zhou* was still berthed at "Schuppen 77" (warehouse 77), Kaiser Wilhelm Harbour, in Hamburg, yesterday. An Arnold Ritscher pontoon was alongside and a patch was fixed on the gash on starboard side. London, Jul 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container carrier *Xin Fu Zhou* completed repairs to the damage caused by the collision with general cargo *Lass Uranus* (which is under repair at Peterswerft, in Wewelsfleth) on Jul 17 and left Hamburg towards its original destination. *Xin Fu Zhou* passed Cuxhaven towards the North Sea in the evening hours.

London, Jul 20 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0743 hrs, today, general cargo *Lass Uranus* was reported anchored 0.7 nautical miles off Wewelsfleth, in lat 53 50 17.64N, long 09 24 7.98E. Container Carrier *Xin Fu Zhou* arrived at Antwerp at 1904 hrs, Jul 18. It sailed at 0651 hrs, Jul 19, bound for Rotterdam, arriving at 1530 hrs, Jul 19.

#### **LATO (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Lato* (25460 gt, built 1975) sustained mechanical failure on Jul 13. The vessel was scheduled to sail from Piraeus port with destination Chania port, Crete. Finally the damage was repaired and the vessel sailed Jul 15, bound to Chania. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LAVADARA (Greece)**

London, Jul 15 — Bulker *Lavadara* arrived San Lorenzo(ARG) Jul 4.

#### **LIN I (Panama)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

#### **LURONG OIL 66 (China)**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Non specific tanker *Lurong Oil 66* capsized off East China's Shandong Province Jul 14. Three crewmen were rescued but another one was missing. Frontier guards in the city of Weihai said the vessel was overturned amid strong winds on the sea about 500 metres from a dock in Rongcheng city.

#### **LYSBRIS (NIS)**

London, Jul 16 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0930, UTC: General cargo *Lysbris* (7409 gt, built 1999) had engine blackout and grounded in lat 59 07N, long 11 20E, at 1330, local time, Jul 14. Vessel was refloated by tug *Herbert* about 1600, local time, same day and has berthed safely in the port of Halden. No damage reported.

Halden, Jul 20 — General cargo *Lysbris* sailed from Halden at 1330, local time, Jul 14 and grounded at 1400. The vessel returned to Halden at 1800. *Lysbris* then departed for Moss and Horten (Shipyard). The

vessel returned to Halden this morning and is due to sail this afternoon. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**MAERSK DISPATCHER (Canada)**

London, Jul 19 — Auxillary generator of anchor handling tug/supply *Maersk Dispatcher* (5470 gt, built 2005) sustained a mechanical failure (crankcase explosion) in the Newfoundland region in lat 47 34 06N, long 52 42 12W, at 0820, NDST, Jul 15. Oil spray ignited and was quickly extinguished by the automatic water mist system.

**MAJESTIC UNITY (Marshall Islands)**

London, Jul 18 — Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 0500, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Majestic Unity* (156852 gt, built 1996) ran aground in the vicinity of Dalian port early Sunday (Jul 16). Understand vessel refloated and is safely in port.

London, Jul 18 — At approximately 0605, local time, Jul 15, crude oil tanker *Majestic Unity* broke free of its moorings due to heavy weather, while berthed at Dalian, China, and subsequently grounded. No one was injured as a result of the incident and its cargo of crude oil remains fully intact. The vessel was re-floated at 0945, local time, that same morning, on a rising tide, and proceeded to a safe anchorage with the assistance of local harbour tugs. *Majestic Unity* will remain at the anchorage until a full inspection has been carried out in order to ascertain any damage that it may have sustained as a result of the grounding. OSG (UK), operators of the vessel, is working in co-operation with the authorities in order to establish the exact circumstances surrounding this incident.

**MARIA I (Panama)**

Piraeus, Jul 19 — Product tanker *Maria I* (558 gt, built 1978) collided with the small passenger (cruise) *Polo Nantia* 3.4 nautical miles south-west of Kanakia islet, near Salamis Island on Jul 13. No injuries or pollution were reported. No information regarding the extent of the damages was available. *Polo Nantia* berthed safely at Salamis port. *Maria I* anchored at Piraeus roads and after inspection the port authorities permitted her departure. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARIE CLAIRE (U.K.)**

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0336, UTC: Urgency call received from trawler *Marie Claire* (157 gt, built 1946) at 2309, UTC, Jul 13, reporting the vessel was taking water in lat 49 59.4N, long 06 10.95W. St. Marys Lifeboat launched. The lifeboat placed a pump on board the vessel and escorted it into St. Marys harbour, where the fire brigade continued the pumping operation alongside. Rescue operations terminated at 0237, UTC.

Falmouth, Jul 18 — Understand that the St. Mary's lifeboat went to the assistance of trawler *Marie Claire* on Jul 9, 50 miles south of the Islands and escorted it to Bishops Rock, where the Penlee lifeboat took over and escorted her to Newlyn for repairs. At 2300, Jul 14, the St. Mary's lifeboat was call out again to a position about three miles south of the Islands assist putting extra pumps on board and bringing her to St. Mary's. After fixing a faulty pump switch on the forward pump the sailed for Newlyn at about 0700, Jul 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARIS (Honduras)**

Chittagong, Jul 18 — Bulker *Maris* is presently discharging its cargo at Chittagong outer anchorage, after completion of cargo discharge, vessel will undertake some repair, if necessary. Product tanker *Atlantica I* is presently lying at Chittagong outer anchorage under attachment from the date of collision and awaiting for delivery to the buyer. Master of the vessel is still under treatment at Holy Crescent Hospital of Chittagong City. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MB 54 (U.S.A.)**

Miami, Jul 14 — Barge *MB 54*: Damage to the Howard Franklin Bridge was primarily cosmetic. The engineer investigating the damage reported no damage of a nature that would compromise the structural integrity of the bridge. *MB 54* did sustain some damage, primarily to the anchor spuds. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MERWEGAS (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 0854, UTC: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Merwegas* (2712 gt, built 1981), Stanlow for Gdansk, with 1,826 tonnes butane, anchored, but dragging, in lat 55 27N, long 06 27.3W, at 0723, UTC, approximately 12 nautical miles north-west of Rathlin Island. Vessel has broken piston on main engine and attempting repairs on cylinder head. Tugs tasked by owners.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1008, UTC: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Merwegas* was in lat 55 26.8N, long 06 26.5W, at 1004, UTC. Tug *Shrove* tasked from port of Londonderry, intending to tow vessel into Londonderry harbour. *Shrove* ETA 1400, BST.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1510, UTC: Tug *Shrove* has reported that it will be on scene with Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Merwegas* in the next ten minutes or so and is awaiting instructions.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1620, UTC: Tug *Shrove* secured a tow on liquid petroleum gas carrier *Merwegas* at 1515, UTC. The vessels are now underway and are proceeding for Lisnahally, Lough Foyle, where ETA 1830, UTC.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 2000, UTC: Tug *Shrove* has transferred the tow of liquid petroleum gas carrier *Merwegas* to another tug. The two vessels are now proceeding to Londonderry and are expected to arrive very shortly.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 2203, UTC: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Merwegas* secured on berth at Fish Quay, Lisahally Dock at 2147, UTC.

Belfast, Jul 20 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Merwegas* sailed from berth at 0910, today, to go to anchorage for repairs to be completed. Repairs expect to take around two days. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MIDNIGHT RIDER (U.S.A.)**

Boston, Jul 18 — According to Edgarton Harbour-master, fishing (general) *Midnight Rider* is still aground, despite attempts to pull it off earlier today. An excavator is being brought to the site of the grounding, in order to dig the vessel from the sand to try and tow it off at high tide, possibly as early as tomorrow. Vessel's owner has no insurance and no funds to hire a salvage crew. Because the beach is a conservation area for nesting plovers, the State of Massachusetts Department of Conservation has hired a salvage company. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MOON LIGHT (Cambodia)**

See "Israel-Lebanon" under "Political & Civil Unrest."

**NAPOCOR POWER BARGE 105 (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 20 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge 105* remains moored at Masbate pier in central Philippines. State-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor), owner of the power barge, is still undecided on whether to declare the vessel as a constructive total loss or have it repaired. Napocor said that it was awaiting the results of an assessment made by a team of original equipment suppliers who have been asked by the power firm to determine the cost of replacing the damaged equipment on the barge. "Based on their inputs, Napocor will decide on its course of action regarding the barge." Napocor vice-president Lorenzo Marcelo said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**NATHANIEL BOWDITCH (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Seventeen passengers and six crew members of the coastal schooner passenger (cruise) *Nathaniel Bowditch* were safe Tuesday after the vessel struck Nautilus Rock, just south of Castine Harbor, the Coast Guard reported. The 80-footer was coming from an anchorage south of Brooksville below Castine and was bound for Castine when it hit the rock, according to Lt. Daniel McLean, supervisor of the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Belfast. The



passengers were taken off in the *Nathaniel Bowditch's* tenders and to the town pier in Castine. The Coast Guard was called at 1152 hrs. The crew remained on board while the incoming tide refloated the schooner. Low tide at Castine was at 1139. A Coast Guard marine inspector was dispatched to determine the vessel's safety status. *Nathaniel Bowditch* is owned by Capt. Owen and Cathie Dorr of Camden. The vessel operates from the MBNA dock at Rockland Harbor. Divers discovered "negligible damage" to a fairing above the keel, McLean said. A fairing is a piece of wood shaped to form a streamline mold between the keel and the hull to keep things such as lobster pot buoys from getting caught in the keel, he explained. The ship refloated after about 2.5 hours, McLean said. There were no hull breaches, he said.

#### **NEPTUNIA MEDITERRANEO (Brazil)**

Buenos Aires, Jul 13 — Container carrier *Neptunia Mediterraneo* is still under arrest, with no interim developments. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NEW FLAMENCO (Panama)**

See *Lady Moura*.

#### **NORDEUROPA (DIS)**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire engulfed combined chemical and oil tank *Nordeuropa* (23740 gt, built 2000) at the port of Providence last night, sending large plumes of smoke and fireballs into the air. It was not yet known if anyone was injured, and it was not immediately clear what was fueling the blaze. The fire happened at a terminal owned by Motiva Enterprises, a Houston-based joint operation between Saudi Refining Inc. and Shell Oil Co. Darci Sinclair, a spokeswoman for Motiva, said the company was not immediately sure what the vessel was carrying when the fire started. Sinclair said the cause was under investigation, and Motiva's emergency responders were en route to the scene. Preliminary reports were that lightning had struck the vessel. A lightning storm swept through Providence last night. The vessel was burning very close to large storage tanks at the port, although it was unknown whether the tanks on shore had anything flammable in them. It was expected it would be several hours before firefighters get the blaze under control.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire engulfed a dock area at the Port of Providence yesterday night when lightning struck as a tanker was unloading gasoline, sending large plumes of smoke and fireballs into the air. Officials said the Combined chemical and oil tank *Nordeuropa* was able to safely pull away from the dock. Assistant Fire Chief Mark Pare said the 600-foot tanker was unloading gas when lightning struck nearby and set off a fire. He said no injuries were reported. The blaze had been largely contained

by early this morning, although firefighters were allowing smouldering flames near the dock to burn out, said Armand Randolph, a spokesman for the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. The state Department of Environmental Management is investigating whether any fuel spilled into the harbour, said Jeff Neal, a spokesman for Gov. Don Carcieri. Early, incorrect reports were that the ship was burning. Roy Nash, Coast Guard captain of the port for southeastern New England, said ship traffic was temporarily suspended in Providence Harbour until the tanker was able to dock elsewhere. He said the ship was under its own power, and was believed to still have some fuel on board. He said it would be checked for any damage. Forecasters at the National Weather Service had issued a severe thunderstorm watch for the area earlier in the evening, and bolts of lightning flashed overhead as firefighters poured water onto the flames. The fire happened at a terminal owned by Motiva Enterprises, a Houston-based joint operation between Saudi Refining Inc. and Shell Oil Co. Darci Sinclair, a spokeswoman for Motiva, said the company was investigating.

London, Jul 19 — Dampskibsselskabet Norden AS, operators and managers of combined chemical and oil tank *Nordeuropa*, report that while the vessel was discharging at the Motiva Terminal, Providence, Rhode Island, at approximately 2225, local time, Jul 18, during a violent thunderstorm with wind speeds recorded between 70-80 knots, a fire broke out in the terminal which involved one of the discharge hoses from the vessel. Further cargo operations and discharge of gasoline blendstock was immediately stopped and the fire was extinguished by the terminal. *Nordeuropa* has now moved to a safe anchorage. There were no injuries to crew of the vessel and no material damage or pollution has been reported. The master of the tanker has received reports from the terminal that no injuries were sustained by any terminal workers. The vessel operators and crew are co-operating fully with an investigation into this incident.

Boston, Mass, Jul 19 — A fire is said to have begun when lightning struck the port while combined chemical and oil tank *Nordeuropa* was discharging a cargo of gasoline. The vessel was able to sail from the pier, reportedly with some damages, which will require the attendance of a classification surveyor, according to the local pilotage company. The incident occurred at approximately 2200, EDT, Jul 18. The vessel was able to divert to the Jamestown (RI) anchorage following the incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 20 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Nordeuropa*: A United States Coast Guard press release, dated Jul 19, states: The Unified Command at the Motiva Terminal here continues to respond to and investigate the cause of a gasoline fire that began at the terminal pier

yesterday, about 2230. The Providence Fire Department, which has maintained on-scene command since 2237, yesterday, continues to suppress smoldering and occasional flare ups on the pier and plans to monitor the situation throughout the night. Motiva Enterprises personnel secured facility valves to the pier moments after the initial blaze and has since closed the entire facility. Arrangements are being made for alternative storage and distribution of fuel products to minimize the effect on public supply. Motiva has clean-up crews on site and will begin clean-up operations once authorized by the fire department. The Coast Guard continues to investigate the cause of the blaze. The Coast Guard, assisted by Providence Police Department, also maintains a 100-yard safety perimeter around the effected area. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has completed thorough shoreline assessments, has determined minimal impact to the environment, and will remain on site. Air quality tests conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency were within the acceptable range.

#### **NORQUEEN (Canada)**

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1550, UTC: Fishing (general) *Norqueen* is currently under tow of a commercial tug, with Coast Guard cutter escorting, and is expected to arrive in Sitka within the next hour.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2123, UTC: Fishing *Norqueen* was safely towed into Sitka yesterday and underwent a Coastguard inspection at 1853, UTC, yesterday. Vessel was experiencing ingress of water through the stern and various other problems. The vessel will have to complete remedial work, before a restraining order, preventing her from leaving, is lifted.

London, Jul 17 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1843, UTC: Fishing (general) *Norqueen* remains in Sitka undergoing temporary repairs. ETC unknown at present.

#### **OCEAN JEWEL OF ST. PETERSBURG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Santo Domingo, Jul 13 — Repairs to passenger (cruise) *Ocean Jewel of St. Petersburg* have not yet started in view of the fact that they have not effected payment for the same, so they (CIRAMAR) cannot anticipate when the same will be starting. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **OLYMPIA PALACE (Greece)**

Ancona, Jul 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Olympia Palace* arrived Anona Jul 11 from Igoumenitsa and sailed same day for Igoumenitsa. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Jul 19 — Passenger ro/ro *Olympia Palace* struck breakwater at Patras port on Jul 4. After inspection vessel returned to service and sailed from Patras on Jul 6 with destination Igoumenitsa. — Lloyd's Agents.

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



**ORAN STAR (Panama)**

See *El Mansoura*.

**ORIENTAL MIHO (Panama)**

Yokohama, Jul 19 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Oriental Miho* (3450 gt, built 2006) ran aground offshore of Kurokami-shima, in the port of Tokuyama, at 2155, local time, Jul 14. Vessel sustained damage to starboard-side fuel tank and oil spill was observed. Vessel refloated at 0115, local time, Jul 18, and arrived at Kudamatsu anchorage for temporary repair. No injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PACIFIC ADVENTURER (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 18 — General cargo *Pacific Adventurer* was reported arriving at Hong Kong at 0036 hrs, Jul 17.

**PACIFIC FANTASY (Bahamas)**

Portland, Oregon, Jul 15 — General cargo *Pacific Fantasy* departed the Columbia River, subsequent to effecting repairs to its main engine at 2330, local time, last night, for Grays Harbour, Washington. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PETER II (Germany)**

London, Jul 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger launch *Peter II*: Investigations have been completed and the injured people are now out of hospital.

**PICO EL AGUILA (Panama)**

Ponta Delgada, Jul 13 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Pico el Aguila* is still at Ponta Delgada outer roads awaiting arrival of spare parts to carry out the necessary engine repairs. The spare parts expected to arrive Ponta Delgada by plane tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Jul 14 — The spare parts for combined chemical and oil tank *Pico el Aguila* arrived by plane at Ponta Delgada. The vessel was put alongside the inner port quay this afternoon for repairs to the cylinder problems. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Jul 17 — Repairs to combined chemical and oil tank *Pico el Aguila* have been completed and the vessel departed from Ponta Delgada on Jul 14 bound for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PINTAIL (Cyprus)**

See *Twin Star*.

**POLARIS S. (Panama)**

London, Jul 15 — Bulker with container capacity *Polaris S.* has been refloated and is now safely bethed inside Preveza port.

Piraeus, Jul 19 — Bulker with container capacity *Polaris S.* was inspected and will sail today (Jul 19) with destination Koper. No information regarding extent of damages and repairs available. — Lloyd's Agents.

**POLO NANTIA (Greece)**

See *Maria I.*

**PONTONOSTOS (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: While the Kandla Police had arrested and released three crew members of the bulker *Pontonostos*, on their getting bail from a Gandhidham court in the barge-ship collision case of Jun 29 at Kandla, search is on to catch two more persons. They include Indian pilot Bharat Modi, engaged by the port trust to escort the vessel for its safe navigation in the port's navigational channel, and the tandel (head boatworker) of the ill-fated barge. "Since our investigation found them mainly responsible for the accident, we initiated action for the arrest of the key personnel of the ship - its master, chief officer, the third officer, an Indian pilot responsible for safe navigation of the ship till Outer Tuna Bouy and a local pilot of the barge involved in the collision. We have not been able to arrest Modi and the tandel of the barge as they could not be traced," Kandla police station PSI and investigating officer of the case, B L Vavaiya, said. The collision occurred in the evening of June 29 when the foreign flag vessel sailing back home after unloading its cargo at Kandla port hit a barge of a local dredging company from behind. The barge was carrying shift duty staff to the dredger which was engaged in the deepening and widening of the port channel for bigger vessels. In all 15 workers aboard the barge died while two remained missing. The vessel was then ordered to go back to the port harbour for investigation. But since the owners of the ship gave bank guarantee and left behind three key crew members of the ship for investigation, it was allowed to resume its homeward journey last week. "We had detained the ship, but allowed it to go on getting clearance both from the Kutch Police and the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) of the Directorate General of Shipping," said Captain H K Sibal, deputy conservator of the port trust heading its marine department. Meanwhile, the ill-fated barge of the Jaisu Shipping company has sunk to the bottom after it remained floating for several days after the accident.

**PROBO ELK (Marshall Islands)**

Los Angeles, Jul 13 — Repairs to combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Elk* have been completed and the vessel is presently undergoing inspection by the Coast Guard. No information is available as yet on its departure. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PXXI**

London, Jul 17 — SMIT Salvage BV are still working on operations to salvage oil platform *PXXI*, now renamed *A Turtle*. Weather conditions on scene have been very unfavourable.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: The salvage of the oil platform *PXXI* (since renamed *Turtle A*), aground off Tristan da Cunha, is not going well and has run

into further complications with the unavailability of yet another Cape Town tug, *Sea Tiger*. The tug was supposed to have sailed last week for the South Atlantic but for "technical reasons" will not be going. Earlier one of the tugs involved with the towing of the *FPSO Dalia*, *Fairmount Sherpa* was also withdrawn from availability. Smit Salvage is now understood to be trying to obtain the services of another tug currently working off Cameroon in West Africa. This vessel was supposed to be available from the immediate past weekend. Meanwhile salvors at Tristan da Cunha report further damage to the platform, following a period of poor weather. Since the grounding mixed weather and other considerations have seen little success achieved and the platform remains firmly aground. On some days diving and other salvage activities have been hampered by weather and sea conditions but on others the team has been able to undertake repairs to damaged ballast tanks and to pump water from one of the platform's columns. Then comes more bad weather and more damage. The latest report says that further damage to the platform has been noted and this was followed by a call for a second tug to assist. The place where the platform has gone aground is remote and seldom visited because of its inaccessibility, but is the home in spring to rockhopper penguins which use it for nesting. There is some concern whether the salvage operations will be over before these creatures begin arriving in August.

**PYTHEAS (Greece)**

London, Jul 14 — Bulker *Pytheas* sailed Quebec about Jul 12.

**QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A remarkable underwater video released yesterday by BC's Transportation Safety Board shows images from inside passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* during a dive by a remote-controlled submersible last month. The video shows the submersible's manipulator arms clearing the ferry deck of debris, breaking a bridge window to gain access and taking images of the controls. It also shows the submersible retrieving bridge computerised electronic systems that could shed light on what led to the fatal accident. "It's real-time video going up a fibre optic cable," Jim Harris of the Transportation Safety Board explained. The images from inside the vessel were taken during a two-day dive by a submersible called an ROPOS (remotely operated platform for ocean science) operated by a Vancouver Island company, the Canadian Scientific Submersible Facility. The submersible retrieved the hard drive from the electronic chart system. Even though the hard drive was in salt water, data was downloaded from it. Also retrieved were the automated identification system unit, the global positioning

system receiver and the digital selective calling radio. Analysis of the data retrieved from these components is continuing. "We have all the equipment we wanted to get," Harris said. The RCMP also used the submersible to check for any sign of the two missing people none was found and BC Ferries used the submersible to look for environmental damage caused by the sinking, he said.

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

London, Jul 14 — Following received from the operators of roll on roll off *Reef Zanzibar*, dated today: *Reef Zanzibar* is due to arrive Mahe this morning.

#### **RUM 4006 (Russia)**

Vladivostok, Jul 14 — Vessel *Rum 4006* (102 gt) capsized and sank near the east coast of Kamchatka during the night of Jul 13-14 while under way from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy to the west coast of Kamchatka. Following information received from was got the RCC of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. The vessel reportedly had 17 persons on board, five crew and 12 passengers. The capsized vessel was discovered by container carrier *Kapitan Sergievskiy*. Fishing *Sea Wind* arrived on scene soon afterwards. *Kapitan Sergievskiy*, with four survivors and one casualty from the sinking, has now arrived at Petropavlovsk. *Sea Wind*, with five survivors and four casualties on board, will arrive later today. Four vessels are currently carrying out rescue operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people have been killed when a Russian search and rescue vessel (*Rum 4006*) sank off the coast of the Pacific peninsula of Kamchatka, according to emergency officials. The vessel went down off Kamchatka's western shore in just minutes, Yulia Stadnikova, a spokeswoman for the federal Emergency Situations Ministry said. Three crew members are still missing, but strong winds and waves are hampering their efforts. Local media said the ship, which had 17 people on board, had its hull ripped open by an unknown object and that no SOS was sent because an emergency buoy malfunctioned.

#### **SAFMARINE AGULHAS (Liberia)**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Two-thirds of the cargo has been removed from the grounded container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* and the rest will be steam-cleaned before being taken ashore, the National Port Authority (NPA) said today. NPA East London spokesperson Terry Taylor said 475 containers have been offloaded — all the cargo from the deck and two dry holds — leaving 199 containers submerged and contaminated with oil in two completely flooded holds. "All of the containers in holds two and three will be brought above deck and steam-cleaned with high-pressure steam and

detergent. They'll be cleaned on the ship. We won't allow them to come ashore in that condition." Divers are being used to help offload the flooded cargo. "They will feel around and connect up the ropes," said Taylor. He said the divers wear special wetsuits to protect them from the oil. Two wetsuits have been flown in from Rotterdam in The Netherlands. Taylor said all the containers have been accounted for. "Nothing has been lost overboard." He said all 88 tonnes of diesel fuel is off the ship and about 600 tonnes of the 662 tonnes of bunker fuel. "They won't attempt to refloat her at this stage until all the containers are off." Although the *Safmarine Agulhas* is leaking, Taylor and Smit Salvage spokesperson Clare Gomes both said her back has not been broken. "Nothing has changed overnight with regard to the vessel's structure ... nothing's changed since last week," said Gomes.

London, Jul 17 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: Container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*: Salvage operations continue. Cargo and fuel have been offloaded.

East London, Jul 17 — Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* is still aground off East London Western Breakwater. All deck cargo removed, 97% of fuels removed and discharge of underdeck containers commenced. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Marine salvors were attempting to remove the remaining 20 tons of heavy fuel oil from Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*, after a crack on the port side of the vessel started leaking diesel oil this afternoon. Environmental affairs representative Nazeera Hargey said officials were unsure about the quantity of oil leaking from the crack but were dealing with the matter. She said that the *Kuswag 4* was ready to contain the spillage, before it got to the beaches. "The situation is also being monitored by the *Kuswag 8*, and by taking aerial photographs," she said. Inclement weather during the past weekend made it difficult to remove remaining containers and further compromised the structural integrity of the vessel. "There are still about 180 containers and 20 tons of heavy fuel oil left. As the vessel gets pummelled by heavy seas, it puts pressure on the structural integrity of the vessel. The longer it remains out there, the vessel is taking strain and a slight seep of diesel oil is leaking into the water. The situation is being treated," National Ports Authority spokesman Terry Taylor said. He added that the operation to remove the remaining containers was going well at the moment, and there was no environmental risk.

London, Jul 18 — A SMIT Salvage report, timed Cape Town 1700, Jul 17, states: Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* remains firmly aground. Subject to grounding forces and the continuous powerful action of the sea, the deterioration of the vessel's structural integrity remains cause for

concern and is being assessed and monitored by the onboard salvage team. Following a fuel removal operation that has seen some 720 tonnes of heavy fuel oil being removed from the vessel in the last 17 days, today light oily sheen was reported to be emanating from the vessel, as spotted by the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism's (DEAT) patrol aircraft *Kuswag VIII*. The patch of sheen was spotted moving away from the coast in a southerly direction and the oil pollution abatement vessel *Kuswag IV* is on the scene and working to great effect to assist in breaking up the light sheen. The situation with respect to sheen emanating from the vessel is being constantly monitored and the DEAT's patrol aircraft is stationed in East London and overflying the casualty daily. A team of experts from DEAT has been stationed in East London since the vessel ran aground and oil spill abatement equipment is on site and will be utilised if necessary. The team is conducting daily beach patrols to monitor any impact on the environment. With the vast majority of the heavy fuel oil off of the vessel, the risk that *Safmarine Agulhas* now poses to the marine environment has been significantly reduced. All parties are working together to expedite the completion of the fuel removal operation and the cargo removal operation. Of the 747 tonnes of heavy fuel oil onboard the vessel when she ran aground, all but 20 tonnes remain unaccounted for. The salvage team continues efforts to skim heavy fuel oil from the engine-room and holds in which water ingress has been reported. All deck cargo as well as containers located in two of the vessel's four holds have been removed and the salvage team is now focussing on removing the remaining 199 containers from the cargo holds open to the water. By this evening 24 of these containers had been removed from *Safmarine Agulhas*. Should the vessel's structural integrity deteriorate, a decision will be made as to whether any future refloating attempts will be possible. Tug *Smit Amandla* remains connected to *Safmarine Agulhas*. Adverse weather conditions on July 14 resulted in master, officers and crew of *Safmarine Agulhas* as well as the salvage team from SMIT Salvage being evacuated from the ship as it became more lively due to its lightened condition and the high swells. Operations onboard the vessel were suspended overnight and by Saturday morning the salvage team and ship's crew were back onboard and the cargo removal and fuel removal operation continued in improved conditions.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvors will continue off-loading containers from container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* today, the National Ports Authority said. "The vessel is stable, there are no oil spills into the sea," spokesperson Terry Taylor said. He said once all the container were off-



loaded, the salvors, owners and the insurers would have to decide on the next step after assessing the damage.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The removal of cargo from on board container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* is proceeding slowly, said National Ports Authority spokesperson Terry Taylor yesterday. By 1600 hrs salvors had only managed to off-load seven of the containers still in the holds, bringing the total number of containers off-loaded from the vessel since Saturday to 32. "It's been a slow process, but we're winning," said Taylor, adding it was difficult to give a specific date when all the cargo is expected to have been removed. Off-loaded containers were being stored at a specially allocated area on the West Bank side of the port, Taylor said. He also said that salvors managed to discharge further fuel from the ship. Meanwhile, tug *Smit Amandla* together with *Kuswag 4*, has been moved into port where it has been placed on 20-minute standby notice for any problems that might arise.

London, Jul 19 — A SMIT Salvage report, timed Cape Town 1430, today, states: No pollution has been reported to be emanating from the grounded Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* in the last 36 hours and the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism's (DEAT) patrol aircraft *Kuswag VIII* remains stationed in East London and continues to overfly the casualty daily to monitor the situation in this regard. A team of experts from DEAT has been stationed in East London since the vessel ran aground and oil spill abatement equipment is on site and will be utilised if necessary. The team is conducting daily beach patrols to monitor any impact on the environment. With the vast majority of the heavy fuel oil off of the vessel, the risk that *Safmarine Agulhas* now poses to the marine environment has been significantly reduced. Of the 747 tonnes of heavy fuel oil onboard the vessel when it ran aground, all but approximately 20 tonnes remain unaccounted for, with 727 tonnes having been removed from the vessel in a fuel removal operation undertaken by the team from SMIT Salvage. Efforts to skim heavy fuel oil from the engine-room and holds in which water ingress has been reported continue. All deck cargo as well as containers located in two of the vessel's four holds have been removed and the salvage team is now focussing on removing the remaining 199 containers from the two cargo holds open to the water. Thirty-two of these containers had been removed from the vessel thus far. This phase of the cargo removal operation is more challenging than the removal of deck cargo and is being conducted with due concern for personnel safety. Tug *Smit Amandla* remains on contract to the *Safmarine Agulhas* salvage operation and is currently in the port of East London where it is on 20 minute standby. It will be utilised in the operation as and when required.

#### **SAN CARLO (Malta)**

See *Kapitan Dudin 1*.

#### **SANKO SPARK (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 15 — Bulker *Sanko Spark* arrived Rotterdam Jul 13 from Santa Marta. (See issue of May 25.)

#### **SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)**

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Jul 20 — Anchor handling tug *Sir Michael* is still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SIRTE STAR**

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

Messina, Jul 18 — Container carrier *Sirte Star* (6819 gt, built 1986) at anchorage off Messina, in emergency condition, is being towed into the Port of Messina, presumably for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SPARKLING STAR II (U.K.)**

London, Jul 13 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 2017, UTC: At 1811, UTC, wooden fishing (general) *Sparkling Star II* (131 gt, built 1987), on passage from Scrabster with six persons onboard, reported an electrical fire in the engine-room, when in lat 58 38.5N, long 03 30.8W, one nautical mile north of Scrabster harbour. The engine-room hatches were sealed. Thurso RNLi Lifeboat was launched and took the vessel in tow, towing it into Scrabster harbour, where it was met by the Scrabster Coastguard rescue team, fire brigade, ambulance and police units. The vessel arrived alongside at 1926, UTC. One crewman was transferred to Wick General Hospital, as a precautionary measure after inhaling smoke.

Glasgow, Jul 17 — Scrabster Harbour inform fishing *Sparkling Star II* reported engine room fire, Scrabster lifeboat launched at 1915, Jul 13. Fire was extinguished by crew, and vessel escorted in to Scrabster Harbour, and berthed at 2020, Jul 13. No reported casualties. Fire believed to be electrical, cause not known. Following repairs, vessel sailed at 1650, Jul 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SPEEDRUNNER I (U.K.)**

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Speedrunner I* (3003 gt, built 1990) sustained mechanical failure in one of her four engines last week and since then performs routes under conventional. She is scheduled to be drydocked and undergo repairs on Jul 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STEN MOSTER (Gibraltar)**

Nantes, Jul 17 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Moster* (11935 gt, built 2006) contacted berth at St. Nazaire yesterday afternoon, sustaining minor damage and causing a small amount of damage to the dock. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STOLT AUSTRALIA (Australia)**

See "Crew Of Australian-Flagged Vessel At Hobart, Australia" under "Labour Disputes".

#### **STOLT PERSEVERANCE (Cayman Islands)**

Zeebrugge, Jul 13 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Stolt Perseverance* arrived Antwerp 0455, local time, Jul 13, from Destrehan. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **SUPERFERRY II (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry II* (4986 gt, built 1974) sustained mechanical failure to her port main engine on Jul 14. She had sailed from Rafina port for Andros Island. She berthed safely at Andros port, damage was repaired and sailed the same day for Tinos and Mykonos Islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TADLA (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Tadla* departed from Genoa on Jul 13.

#### **TWIN STAR (Panama)**

Lima, Jul 19 — Bulker *Twin Star* is still lying in three pieces at the entrance channel to the port of Callao. The bunkers were withdrawn, however the cargo of steel sheets is still "keeping the vessel company." There is a salvage team working on the vessel, but no news is forthcoming on when, firstly the cargo will be lifted and secondly when they will raise the vessel. Bulker with container capacity *Pintail* and general cargo *Alice* left the port of Callao pm, Jun 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 20 — Bulker with container capacity *Pintail* arrived Caleta Patache, Chile on Jun 23. It sailed on Jun 24, bound for Antofagasta, arriving on Jun 25. It departed on Jun 27, and next arrived at Ilo, Peru, on Jun 28. The vessel sailed from there on Jun 30 and is expected to arrive at Montreal later today.

#### **TWOFOLD BAY (New Zealand)**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The harbour master in Napier and a response team are monitoring the situation of trawler (All types) *Twofold Bay* (155 gt, built 1966) which ran aground at Kaiuku on the northern side of Mahia Peninsular. The 23m vessel, which has three people on board and is carrying about 14,000 litres of diesel, ran aground about 0330, today. Hawke's Bay Regional Council staff are on the way to Mahia with booms and other oil recovery equipment. Two vessels including a tug from Gisborne are trying to pull the trawler off the beach.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Trawler (All types) *Twofold Bay* has been refloated after running aground off Mahia. Rescuers have been working all day to refloat *Twofold Bay* which ran aground on flat rock at Kaiuku just before 0330 this morning. Hawke's Bay Harbour-master Charlie Rycroft says local trawlers were on standby after the first tow rope broke. He says *Twofold Bay* was successfully refloated just before 1400 this afternoon, after a tug from Gisborne was able to provide a



stronger tow rope. Mr Rycroft says none of the three people on board were injured in the grounding and there were no spillages.

**UAL TEXAS (Netherlands)**

Hull, Jul 13 — According to the Port of Tyne Authority general cargo *UAL Texas* is at present in Tyne Dock afloat and undergoing repairs. It is anticipated that the vessel will remain at this location for the next several days. — Lloyd's Agents.

**UMFOLOZI (Cyprus)**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Umfolozi*, the former Ocean Africa Container Lines vessel, which sank in Walvis Bay harbour in September last year after a collision with suction hopper dredge *Ingwenya*, has escaped the attention of the law and a detention order in Walvis Bay by slipping away from the port last Saturday (Jul 15). According to the Windhoek newspaper *The Namibian*, the container vessel, now renamed *Michael S*, made its escape on Saturday and is thought to have reached Angolan waters. Two security guards stationed on board the vessel, which was recently sold to a new owner, were locked in a room and later evicted from the vessel as it sailed. Earlier the crew had come on board on a pretext. After refloating the 8,328-gt vessel, which was built in 1982, was renamed and sold to a Alexander Saleh, who is reportedly a Greek citizen. The newspaper says that Saleh fled out of Namibia on Saturday, the same day his vessel departed and headed for Angolan waters. The Namibian Defence Force is cooperating with its Angolan counterparts in an effort to discover the whereabouts of the vessel and vessels of the Angolan and Namibian Navies are searching for her.

**UNION BEAVER (Belgium)**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Sixty firefighters battled a blaze on board salvage *Union Beaver* in Great Yarmouth's harbour yesterday morning. The intense fire on board *Union Beaver*, docked at Gas House Quay, took 10 fire crews from eight stations to get it under control. The raging fire erupted in a storage room in the ship's main hold and engulfed the lower decks with thick smoke. Previous reports had pointed to a faulty freezer unit as the cause, however fire communications officer Martin Barsby confirmed yesterday it was due to welding work being carried out on deck. He said: "The fire started after heat from welding work on deck transferred to the decks below and there were combustibles in the store room. The fire heavily damaged a freezer unit and there is smoke damage." The ship had arrived in port at 2130 Tuesday, carrying a cargo of diving equipment.

Hull, Jul 14 — Port of Yarmouth Authority have advised that the salvage *Union Beaver* experienced a fire in a hold/storage area on Jul 12.

The fire was brought under control by the local fire brigade with no apparent structural or superficial damages being noted. It was apparent that the fire was caused by hot work (welding) being undertaken on the vessel and the MCA upon attending have recommended a review on the vessels hot work procedures. The vessel is still at Yarmouth and is expected to sail within the next few days. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 17 — Salvage *Union Beaver* was reported arriving at Beverwijk at 0850 hrs, Jul 16.

**VENTURE (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1410, UTC: Fishing (general) *Venture* (194 gt, built 1988), seven persons on board, was reported taking water off Nantucket, in lat 40 54N, long 69 55W, at 2330, UTC, Jul 13. Crew managed to dewater vessel and it was able to proceed under its own power to Fair Haven, Conn.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard helped the New Bedford-registered fishing (general) *Venture* to avoid sinking after it began taking on water Thursday night (Jul 13). The *Venture* was 30 miles south of Nantucket when its on-board pumps stopped working, according to a Coast Guard release. The vessel notified the Coast Guard of the problem around 1928 hrs and a Coast Guard falcon jet was sent to the scene. The jet, which arrived on scene at 1945 hrs, dropped a pump to the *Venture*. Once the flooding was under control, the fishing vessel was escorted by the Coast Guard Cutter *Sailfish* to Buzzards Bay, where it passed a safety examination. The vessel returned to Fairhaven about 0415 yesterday.

**VITSENTZOS KORNAROS (Greece)**

London, Jul 14 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jul 12, passenger ro/ro *Vitsentzos Kornaros* (9735 gt, built 1976) collided with the quay at the port of Diafani. No injuries reported to the passengers. At the time of the incident the vessel was performing the schedule Siteia-Kassos-Karpathos-Diafani-Chalki-Rodos-Kos-Kalymnos-Samos-Thessaloniki. Following the incident the vessel was prohibited from departure pending inspection by class.

Piraeus, Jul 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Vitsentzos Kornaros* sailed from Diafani port, Rhodes on Jul 13, bound for Kos-Kalymnos-Samos islands and Thessaloniki port. No information regarding repairs was available. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VOLGO-DON 5105 (Russia)**

London, Jul 18 — Tug *OT 1515* with barge *TMI 4*, Astrakhan to Rostov, in collision with general cargo *Volgo-Don 5105* (3973 gt, built 1989) Mariupol to Volzhskiy, 4511 tons alumina, 3.4 metres draft, River Don, Jul 14. No injuries. Barge slightly damaged fore,

no leakage. *Volgo-Don 5105* slightly damaged fore, ballast tank leaking. Both vessels anchored, waiting for investigation. River traffic not affected.

**XIN FU ZHOU (People's Republic of China)**

See *Lass Uranus*.

**YUSHO OCEAN (Panama)**

See *Kusan*.

**ZENOVIA (Malta)**

Houston, Jul 13 — We have been attending bulker *Zenovia* (25899 gt, built 1992) (in Houston) for the discharge of steel cargoes and report that a crane wire parted resulting in a portion of the load falling onto the dock. This occurred on the No.2 crane on Jul 12, with the ship's crew changing the wire, which was noted as being some three years old. The crane was back in operation today. Today, almost 24 hours later, the No.1 crane hoisting wire parted while it was pulling a forklift from the hold for placement on the dock. The forklift fell about 10-15 feet down on the dock with the gear striking some previously discharged cargo. The Forklift is "totalled". — Lloyd's Agents.

**ZHI QIANG (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 17 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0242, UTC: Bulker *Zhi Qiang* is still in tow bound for Port Moresby, ETA Jul 19.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Zhi Qiang*, carrying sugar from Australia, is on its way to Port Moresby after being salvaged from a reef in Papua New Guinea. The salvagers Adsteam Marine say they do not yet know the extent of damage to the ship and the cargo. The ship will be assessed when it arrives in Port Moresby later in the day.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Zhi Qiang* arrived off Port Moresby harbour around midday (today) with one tug towing and two others at its side. It was refloated last Thursday (Jul 13) with the aid of two tugs, one sent from Brisbane by Australian salvage company Adsteam Marine and one from the PNG firm Pacific Towing. Adsteam Marine spokeswoman Paula Wilson said from Sydney, the ship would tie up in Port Moresby and be handed back to its managers, Cosco Hong Kong Shipping. The full extent of damage to the ship and cargo was not known and assessments would be made in port, she said. PNG Maritime Safety Authority officers were making inquiries into whether there was any pollution from the ship after it grounded.

**ZWERVER (Belgium)**

Zeebrugge, Jul 20 — Fishing (general) *Zwerver* is still berthed and lying in the port of Ostend for

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repairs. There is approximately for still two or three months work to do. — Lloyd's Agents.



**SOMALIA**

Manila, Jul 17 — The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed today that hijacked tanker product tanker *Lin I* and its Filipino Master and 19 Filipino crew, who had been held in Somalia by pirates since March 29, had finally been released. "The *Lin I* and its crew were released near Mogadishu on Friday (Jul 14) and is now in international waters," Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Rey Aquino said. He said he did not know if ransom was paid. The vessel is heading for its home port at Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates. It is expected to reach port by Friday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.



**BELGIUM**

London, Jul 16 — General cargo *Bellatrix* sailed Antwerp Jul 6 for Buras.



**ASPEN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jul 17 — A report from the Admiralty Marshal, dated today, states: General cargo *Aspen* (1999 gt, built 1989) arrested at Royal Portbury Dock, Bristol, Jul 3 by owners of cargo ex vessel, as a result of claim for damages re cargo carried. Released Jul 4. (Note — *Aspen* arrived Bristol Jul 2 and sailed Jul 5.)

**ATHANASIOS T. (Greece)**

London, Jul 17 — A report in the Jul 14, edition of Newsfront, states: Seized in March by the Piraeus Port Authority, in pursuit of a Euros 3,460 claim in an action against the registered owners Navigator Naftiki Eteria, product tanker *Athanasios T.* (427 gt, built 1972), has been listed for auction on Jul 26. Lying in Perama, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euros 10,000.

**CHINESE TRAWLERS SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of

suspected illegal foreign trawlers *De Yuan Yu 001* and *De Yuan Yu 002*, is suing the Federal Government in a multi-million dollar action, after the vessels were destroyed by fire. As the masters of the two vessels await trial on illegal fishing charges in Darwin, the boats' owner has launched a \$5 million compensation law suit in the Federal Court in Sydney. Navy patrol boat HMAS *Ipswich* intercepted the two 31m steel-hulled trawlers in March after they were spotted northwest of the Wessel Islands, off the Northern Territory coast. Authorities found 55 tonnes of reef fish and 27 Chinese crew on board. The boats were escorted back to Darwin, but were destroyed in a fire in early June. NT Police are investigating the fire, but do not believe it was suspicious. Uruguay-registered company Dalian Mengyuan Fishery Co Ltd has launched the Federal Court action seeking up to \$5 million compensation for the detention and destruction of the vessels. In a statement of claim before the court, the company said the federal government and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) had "wrongfully seized and detained the vessels". It said the loss of the vessels, the equipment on board and the catch was caused by "negligence" and failure to provide adequate security and protection of the vessels. The company is seeking more than \$1 million for each of the vessels, including \$450,000 for each trawler, up to \$100,000 for the tonnes of frozen fish on board each vessel, and compensation for the communications and navigation equipment. It is even seeking up to \$36,000 for one of the boat's air conditioners and flags. The claim also requests \$270,000 for "nervous shock" incurred by the 27 crew members on board the vessels, and \$2.4 million for loss of production while the boats were held by authorities. A directions hearing is due to be held in the Federal Court in Sydney on Jul 24. An AFMA spokesman said the authority "will be defending the claim vigorously", but could not comment further as the matter was before the courts. The two masters from the vessels are awaiting trial in the NT Supreme Court on charges of bringing foreign boats fitted with fishing equipment into Australian waters, and obstructing authorities who tried to board the vessels. They have pleaded not guilty and are due to face court in late August.

**EDCO (Egypt)**

Charleston, S.C., Jul 13 — bulker *Edco* remains under arrest and is anchored at Charleston. It is believed that attempts are being made to arrange wire transfer of funds. The vessel's crew is fine and has ample stores/supplies. Arrangements are being made to shift the vessel in the next few days to a local berth to receive fresh water, lube oil and more stores. — Lloyd's Agents.

Charleston, Jul 18 — Bulker *Edco* is still under arrest. A court hearing is

scheduled for tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HANSEATIC STAR (Gibraltar)**

See under "Marine."

**HAPPY CLOUD (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 13 — Container carrier *Happy Cloud* (3970 gt, built 1990), which arrived at Hong Kong at 2213 hrs, Jul 12, is today reported at South East Lama Anchorage, Hong Kong, under Admiralty and High Court arrest.

London, Jul 14 — Container arrier *Happy Cloud* sailed from Hong Kong at 2005 hrs, today.

**INDONESIAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The federal Fisheries Minister believes seven foreign fishing trawlers apprehended in Australian waters on Friday (Jul 14) were operating as part of a large illegal fishing syndicate. The Indonesian flagged ice boats were escorted to Darwin today, with 67 crew on board and more than four tonnes of reef fish. Senator Eric Abetz says he has received information that the boats were purchased by organised crime groups and staffed by Indonesian villagers. He says the seizure will be a huge financial blow to those organisations. "To have caught seven of them you're looking at around the \$200,000 mark," he said. "You then have all the equipment that was on board plus the 4.3 tonnes of reef fish and you're looking at a haul of around \$250,000."

**J.KING (Hong Kong)**

London, Jul 13 — General cargo *J.King* sailed from Hong Kong at 0635 hrs, today.

**NISSOS KALAMOS (Greece)**

London, Jul 17 — A report in the Jul 14 issue of "Newsfront" states: Seized mid-May by a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 22,961 claim against the registered owners, Portolos Salvage & Towage, tug *Nissos Kalamos* has again been listed for auction, on Jul 26. Lying in Perama, the vessel has a start-up price of Euros 140,000.

**RUSTAVI (Georgia)**

St. Petersburg, Jul 19 — Fish carrier *Rustavi* is still under arrest (at Murmansk). — Lloyd's Agents.

**SPANISH TRAWLERS ARRESTED BY NORWAY**

London, July 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Norway's Coast Guard has been cracking down on trawlers suspected of illegal fishing, and have now halted two more from Spain. Spanish trawlers *Arosa Doce* (665 gt, built 1987) and *Arosa Nueve* (665 gt, built 1987) were spotted fishing at Hopenjupet in a protected zone around Svalbard yesterday. The Coast Guard reported today that a routine inspection of the vessels revealed the trawlers had violated regulations that apply to foreign



vessels fishing in the zone. The trawlers are suspected of “underreporting considerable quantities of cod” after the Coast Guard inspection determined that the amount of cod found on the vessel did not correspond to the amount on written reports. Both vessels are sisterships of trawler *Arosa QuinceP*, which was arrested and escorted to Tromso on July 8, also charged with illegal fishing. Both *Arosa Doce* and *Arosa Nueve* were being escorted to Tromso by the Coast Guard vessels *KV Svalbard* and *KV Senja*, and were expected to arrive over the weekend. The Coast Guard said it was viewing the alleged violations “very seriously,” describing them as “gross environmental and natural resource crimes.”

**SPIROS LEKKAS (Greece)**

London, Jul 17 — A report in the Jul 14 issue of “Newsfront” states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor mid-May in pursuit of a Euros 72,568 claim in an action against the registered owners: Portolos Salvage & Towage, tug *Spiros Lekkas* has again been listed for auction, this time on July 26. Lying in Perama, the vessel has a start-up price of Euros 133,333.



Pipeline Accidents

**PETRONILA AREA, CORPUS CHRISTI, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A natural gas pipeline burst yesterday morning, sending flames as high as 100 feet over a field near Petronila. Gas flows through the pipeline under about 850 pounds per square inch of pressure, making it impossible for firefighters to control the blaze with water, said Dale Scott, chief of the Flour Bluff Volunteer Fire Department. “It was under way too much pressure to even get near,” Scott said. Gas company workers shut off the gas supply in the line, and the fire burned out about 1230 hrs, nearly two and a half hours after it started, Scott said. No injuries were reported.



Pollution

**CHRISTINA RIVER, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 17 — Workers tried to clean up 2,100 gallons of spilled waste oil yesterday that fouled a five-mile stretch of the Christina River on the Wilmington Riverfront. The oil spewed into the river after a hose ruptured Saturday (Jul 15) evening during a transfer of waste oil from one tank to

another at the International Petroleum Co. of Delaware facility, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The facility is operated by USFilter, a subsidiary of Siemens. The cause of the rupture was under investigation, said Vince Glorioso, a business unit manager for USFilter. After the hose failed, a secondary containment system held 5,800 gallons of waste oil, but the remaining 2,100 gallons escaped into the river, Glorioso said. The slick spread from the mouth of the Christina River to the Interstate 95 overpass and into the Brandywine River. The affected water was closed to traffic, although the Port of Wilmington remained open, Petty Officer John Edwards, a Coast Guard spokesman. About 75 people - including state environmental officials - were working to contain the spill, and 10 boats were on the water laying down barriers and skimming oil off the surface, Edwards said.

**LAEM CHABANG, THAILAND**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Local people living near the Laem Chabang shore in the eastern province of Chon Buri have been suffering from an oil spill that was reportedly caused by a leak at Unithai Shipyard and Engineering Limited, the largest shipyard in Thailand, located at Laem Chabang port on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand in Sri Racha district. Residents told a Phoojakkarn Daily reporter that they heard a very loud bang that sounded like a jet landing, which they suspected came from Unithai Shipyard, that lasted for about an hour early yesterday morning. When they went to the beach later in the morning, they found black oil stains extending for a distance of four or five kilometres along the beach and some 100 metres into the sea. Local government officials went to the area to inspect the incident and urged Unithai Shipyard to investigate the case, Somchai Plainchaisuk, an environmental officer with the company, later admitted that the spill was indeed oil leaked from the shipyard. He added that the cause of the leak and the quantity of oil discharged were not yet known. At press time yesterday, Unithai Shipyard officers were trying to get rid of the oil spill and clean up the area with chemicals.

**PRUDHOE BAY, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: BP has shut 12 producing wells at its Alaskan operations after workers told the Financial Times the wells were leaking oil or diesel insulating agent. The British oil firm said they had been shut while the allegations were being investigated. The 12 wells being shut at Prudhoe Bay, North Star, and Milne Point fields pump a combined 8,000 barrels of oil a day. BP’s move comes as the firm could face a criminal investigation in the US over a massive

oil spill in Alaska in March. It is under investigation by a grand jury over the spill of some 267,000 gallons (one million litres) discovered at the Prudhoe Bay field, and the largest ever on Alaska’s North Slope region. The leaking liquids in the latest claims are a freeze protection material used in well cellars. The material known as “arctic pack”, is usually crude oil or diesel fuel added to the well. None of the leaked material had reached the Arctic tundra, the firm said. The recently appointed head of BP’s US operations, Robert Malone, has made cleaning up the firm’s public image a top priority. BP says Mr Malone has ordered that an ombudsman should be employed by September to independently deal with staff concerns about environmental or safety issues.

**SAVANNAH RIVER, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An oil spill shut down a 12-mile stretch of the Savannah River and part of the Intracoastal Waterway today, with oil visible from the Savannah area to the Atlantic beaches of Tybee Island. The Coast Guard estimated about 5,000 gallons had been spilled. Coast Guard crews were using large booms to try to corral and trap the oil, first reported at 0640 hrs. The river runs along the Georgia-South Carolina line and is used by ships to access the Port of Savannah. Coast Guard Cmdr. David Murk said at a news conference that investigators were still trying to determine the spill’s source and whether the oil came from a ship or a pipeline. He said the spill didn’t appear to be growing, making it unlikely a ruptured pipeline was to blame. Murk said the river could be closed to commercial ships for a day or longer, but added that “one of my biggest priorities is to get the port opened.”

London, Jul 19 — A United States Coast Guard press release, dated Jul 18, states: Wildlife experts with the state of Georgia are optimistic about the impact to the area’s wildlife in the wake of the Savannah River oil spill. Coast Guard investigators are still searching for the source of the oil spill. Clean-up crews are continuing the arduous task of recovering oil in the hardest hit areas of the Savannah River and Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The Georgia on-scene coordinator has reported that only roughly 20 percent of the brown pelicans, the animal most response crews were concerned about, have been affected by the oil spill. There’s been no reports of dead or injured wildlife associated with this oil spill. Coast Guard investigators have sent samples of oil collected from the Savannah River and from nearby vessels and facilities for analysis. The number of response personnel from all the agencies responding has gone up to

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almost 80 people with over 10 boats for clean up and safety zone enforcement. Coast Guard and Moran Environmental Recovery crews began shoreline and surface clean-ups in the area near Elba Island, which is the area most affected by the spill. Coast Guard and Moran Environmental Recovery will continue to conduct aerial, surface and shoreline assessments to monitor the flow of the oil and the success of clean-up operations. The largest pockets of oil were contained in booms in the hardest hit areas by crews from Moran Environmental Recovery yesterday. The unified command received reports of tar balls on the Northern beaches of Tybee Island, Ga., Clean-up crews spent most of the day trying to clean the 900-yard stretch of beach most heavily affected by the tar balls. Field responders working for the Georgia on-scene coordinator observed over 246 birds in the Georgia and South Carolina of those only 62 were oiled. The oil didn't greatly affect feeding and nesting areas of the brown pelican or any other birds indigenous to the area. No birds were affected enough to warrant being captured and cleaned. The public is reminded not to approach or attempt to clean any affected wildlife. Because a responsible party has not been identified, the specific amount of oil impacting the river is currently unknown. During the pollution investigation, oil was observed on the shoreline along the Savannah River from Elba Island to Tybee Island, as well as the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The Coast Guard is inspecting all facilities and vessels in the area attempting to locate the source of the oil. The Captain of the Port has re-opened the Savannah River, but all vessels must maintain minimum safe operating speed with one-way traffic while transiting the river from the mouth of the Savannah River to Fort Jackson, Ga. Waterway users are urged to use extreme caution when transiting this area and should be on the look out for boom, which is being used to contain oil pockets. These booms are just above water level and are not being marked by lights or response crews. The Coast Guard, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Moran Environmental Recovery are all responding to this oil spill that has spread oil across roughly seven miles of inland waterways.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The U.S. Coast Guard said today it lifted all waterway restriction on the Savannah River and on the Intracoastal waterway. An estimated 5,000-gallon crude oil spill detected early Monday (Jul 17) had prompted the authorities to close the channel. The river re-opened to vessel traffic at limited speeds on Tuesday as the cleanup effort began, but a portion of the

Intracoastal Waterway communicating with the Elba Island liquefied natural gas terminal remained closed until today. The cause for the spill is still unknown, and the cleanup work continues, the Coast Guard said in a release.

London, Jul 20 — A United States Coast Guard press release, dated Jul 19, states: Wildlife experts with the state of Georgia report less affected wildlife than was reported after their initial assessment yesterday. The Coast Guard has lifted all waterway restrictions on the Savannah River and on the Intracoastal Waterway. Coast Guard investigators are still searching for the source of the oil spill. Clean-up crews are continuing the arduous task of recovering oil in the hardest hit areas of the Savannah River and Atlantic ICW. After further wildlife assessment with more sophisticated equipment, the Georgia on-scene coordinator has reported that only two brown pelicans have been affected by the oil spill. Coast Guard investigators are waiting for analysis results of oil samples collected from the Savannah River and nearby vessels and facilities. The Captain of the Port has re-opened the Savannah River and the ICW with no restrictions. The number of response personnel from all the agencies responding has gone up to almost 80 people with nine boats for clean-up. Field responders working for the Georgia on-scene coordinator observed 246 brown pelicans in Georgia and South Carolina. The oil didn't greatly affect feeding and nesting areas of the terns or any other birds indigenous to the area. No birds were affected enough to warrant being captured and cleaned. Because a responsible party has not been identified, the specific amount of oil impacting the river is currently unknown. During the pollution investigation, oil was observed on the shoreline along the Savannah River from Elba Island to Tybee Island, as well as the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Coast Guard and Moran Environmental Recovery crews are continuing shoreline and surface clean-ups in the area near Elba Island, which is the area most affected by the spill. Clean-up crews are switching their boom from hard to absorbent boom to attempt to soak up as much oil as possible. The largest pockets of oil were contained in booms in the hardest hit areas by crews from Moran Environmental Recovery. The unified command has not received any new reports of oil or tar balls. The Coast Guard, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Moran Environmental Recovery are all responding to this oil spill that has spread oil across roughly seven miles of inland waterways.

## Weather & Navigation



### CANADA

London, Jul 20 — Environment Canada is now investigating the instance of a tornado touching down in Newmarket during Monday (Jul 17) night's flash storm. The mayor of North East Manitoulin and the Island is seeking financial help from the province and Ottawa to help with the devastated area. Hydro One is resuming its efforts to restore power to the effected areas. About 70,000 customers remained without power last night. Dozens of barns, homes and marinas were ripped apart in northern Ontario resulting in millions of dollars worth of damage. A state of emergency is in effect in the hard hit northern Ontario communities of Callander, Bonfield, West Nipissing and Mattawa and a spokesperson from Hydro One said some of these areas won't see power until today.

### HURRICANE "BUD"

London, Jul 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Bud" was located near lat 19.5N, long 125.9W. Present movement towards the west north-west or 290 degs at 13 knots. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 15 nautical miles north semi-circle. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles north semi-circle, 20 nautical miles south semi-circle. Radius of 34-knot winds: 50 nautical miles north semi-circle, 40 nautical miles south semi-circle. At 0600, UTC, Jul 15, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.9N, long 135.7W, with maximum sustained winds of 35 knots and gusts to 45 knots.

### HURRICANE "CARLOTTA"

London, Jul 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Carlotta" was located near lat 19.9N, long 120.5W. Present movement toward the west of 280 degs, at 10 knots. The position is accurate to 30 nautical miles. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 40 knots, with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 60 nautical miles. At 0600, UTC, Jul 17, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.5N, long 124.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots and gusts to 35 knots.

London, Jul 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Carlotta" was located near lat 18.1N, long 112.8W. Present

movement toward the west or 280 degs, at seven knots. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 35 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. The maximum wave height is 13 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 15, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.4N, long 116.1W, with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots.

London, Jul 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Carlotta" was located near lat 19N, long 116.5W. Present movement towards the west, or 280 deg, at nine knots. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 15 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 45 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 35 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. At 0600, UTC, Jul 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.3N, long 119.7W, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots.

#### **HURRICANE "DANIEL"**

London, Jul 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Daniel" was located near lat 12.2N, long 115.2W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west, or 270 degs, at 10 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 994 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jul 19, the centre is predicted to be near lat 12.2N, long 118.5W, with maximum winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

London, Jul 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Daniel" was located near lat 11.8N, long 119.0W. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west, or 265 degs, at eight knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 975 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 20 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The radius of 34 knot winds: 100 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants, 90 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 80 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC,

Jul 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 12.1N, long 121.9W, with maximum winds of 100 knots and gusts to 120 knots.

London, Jul 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Daniel" was located near lat 12.2N, long 121.9W. The position is accurate to within 10 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west, or 280 degs, at eight knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 960 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 100 knots with gusts to 120 knots. The radius of 64-knot winds: 40 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 30 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The radius of 50-knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants, 50 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The radius of 34-knot winds: 110 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants, 90 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jul 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 13.0N, long 124.6W, with maximum winds of 115 knots and gusts to 140 knots.

#### **HURRICANE "RITA"**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews have begun repair work on the Port Arthur Civic Center nearly ten months after Hurricane "Rita" came ashore. Hurricane-related holes and other damage to the roof have allowed rain to enter the structure. Port Arthur officials hope the one million dollar repair job, which started this week, will be done by November first.

#### **JAPAN**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people have been injured, including one person who was left unconscious, as heavy rains in western Japan caused mudslides and a train derailment, officials said today. The train carrying about 30 people derailed this morning when heavy rains triggered a mudslide in Matsue, an official of Shimane Prefectural Police said. The train's first car tilted about 45 deg, and one person was taken to a hospital for a bruise, according to police official Kyohei Sakane. In the nearby city of Utsunomiya, two people were injured in a mudslide early today, Sakane said. An evacuation advisory has been issued to about 10,200 residents in the north-western city of Kaga, according to city official Seiichi Takano. The advisory was issued this morning after water levels of nearby rivers rose, he said.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three people went missing early today as mudslides, triggered by heavy rain, hit five to six houses in Fukui City, Fukui Prefecture, the local police and fire department said. The police and firefighters are searching for the residents who went missing around 0010 hrs. The Fukui prefectural

government asked for Self-Defense Forces' help. The houses are located in a residential area several kilometers from JR Fukui Station. According to the Fukui meteorological observatory, the seasonal rain front has brought heavy rain measuring 398 millimeters in the city since 1400, Saturday (Jul 15). The Japan Meteorological Agency warned earlier in the day that heavy rain was expected to hit many parts of Japan yesterday and today, bringing the danger of mudslides and flooding. In Kakamigahara, Gifu Prefecture, a car was found by passers-by sunk on the bottom of the Shinsakaigawa River. The front-triggered downpours prompted local authorities to order thousands of people to evacuate. By early today, about 3,100 households, or 9,500 people, in Fukui, Fukui Prefecture, had been ordered to evacuate. In Ishikawa Prefecture, about 2,850 households, or 6,000 people, in Kaga and about 2,700 households, or 8,500 people, in Komatsu received similar orders. In the village of Minaminowa, Nagano Prefecture, 115 households, or 470 people, were ordered evacuated.

#### **KOREA**

Seoul, Jul 19 — At least 129 people have died in North and South Korea as a result of flooding and landslides over the last few days, according to officials and a leading international relief agency. In secretive North Korea, over 100 people died and thousands of people were left homeless, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said, citing reports. At least 29 people have been killed and another 32 are missing in South Korea after a week of torrential rain, officials said. In the last four days, a storm dumped more than 50cm of rain in some eastern provinces of South Korea, killing at least 19 people, the National Emergency Management Agency said. The storm, coming on the back of Typhoon "Ewiniar" which slammed into the Korean peninsula a few days earlier, washed away parts of highways, flooded subway stations and caused Seoul's Han River to spill over its banks. Tens of thousands of buildings have lost power and thousands of families have been evacuated from their homes, it said. Officials estimated the cost of the damage at more than 300 billion won (\$490 million) by Jul 13, adding the final cost would certainly rise. The Federation said that farmland had been inundated, wiping out much of the coming harvest in the North Korean provinces of Pyongan, North Hwanghe and Kangwon. "In some remote areas, whole villages have been swept away and essential public services, such as healthcare clinics, have been destroyed," said Jaap Timmer, the Federation's head of delegation in the North Korean capital. "There has also been widespread damage to roads and bridges, which has left many people displaced or stranded," he added in a statement. North Korea said in an



official media report over the weekend that it been hit hard by the storms. "Agricultural and other sectors of the national economy and people's living were badly damaged by heavy rains in some areas," its KCNA news agency reported. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A landslide triggered by monsoon rains swept through a village in north-west Nepal before dawn today, killing at least 17 people as they slept, officials said. Another 13 people were missing and feared dead after the wall of mud and rock buried seven houses, local administrator Badri Ghimire said. About 200 soldiers were working with residents to dig through the debris in Ulleri village, about 125 miles north-west of the capital, Katmandu.

#### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jul 17 — The Sulina channel was re-opened at 1200 hrs, Jul 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SOUTH KOREA

Seoul, Jul 16 — Torrential rain in South Korea has killed 10 people and 17 others are missing and presumed dead, the national emergency agency said today. The central and eastern regions of the country including capital Seoul are under a heavy rain warning, and nearly two thousand people have fled their homes and are in emergency shelters, the National Emergency Management Agency said in a report. The national meteorological agency is forecasting more heavy rain through today and into tomorrow, with some regions receiving more than 25 cm of precipitation before midnight, today. — Reuters.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Landslides and flash floods caused by heavy rains in eastern South Korea killed at least 13 people and left another 18 missing, officials said today, and warned of further downpours across the country in the coming days. Authorities issued an "orange" alert, the second-highest of four alert levels, for the capital, Seoul, and the surrounding area, as well as in the mountainous Gangwon province on the country's east coast, the National Emergency Management Agency said. The upgraded alert was issued because of "a high likelihood of major disasters," the agency said. The rest of the country was put on "yellow" alert, one notch below orange. The Korea Meteorological Administration warned of more heavy rain nationwide through Thursday as a seasonal rain front moved southward. President Roh Moo-hyun visited the emergency agency today and called for "through preparations to minimize damage," the agency said. Roh's office held an emergency meeting, and all related government departments were on high alert to ensure a swift response to major disasters, the office said in a statement. Up to 50 centimetres of rain fell in the Gangwon, the hardest-

hit area, from Friday, according to the emergency agency. Mudslides killed 11 people in Gangwon and another 18 people were missing after landslides and flash floods, the emergency agency said. In other parts of the country, two people were also found dead. More than 200 people remained isolated in Gangwon, with major roads inaccessible because of flooding, according to the agency. Most of the displaced are in temporary shelters in the province, where electricity and telephone communications were cut off in many parts, it said. Torrential rains also flooded some 1,300 homes across the nation, forcing nearly 3,000 people to seek refuge elsewhere, the emergency agency said. The government has provided them with first aid kits and basic necessities, like water and food, it said. In Seoul, which received some 30 centimetres of rain, a flood advisory was issued for the Han River which runs through it, according to the weather agency. Today, North Korea reported that heavy rains had "seriously flooded farmland" across the country, but did not mention any human casualties. "The heavy rains continue and an investigation is underway to estimate damage," North Korea's state news agency KCNA said.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 people have been killed in South Korea as heavy monsoon rains continue for a fourth consecutive day. The National Emergency Management Agency says 26 others are missing following landslides and flash floods. Many people are trapped in remote villages.

Seoul, Jul 18 — At least 29 people have been killed and another 32 are missing in flooding and landslides after a week of torrential rain across South Korea, officials said today. In the last four days, a storm dumped more than 50 cm of rain in some eastern provinces, killing at least 19 people, the National Emergency Management Agency said. The storm, coming on the back of Typhoon "Ewiniar" which slammed into the Korean peninsula a few days earlier, washed away parts of highways, flooded subway stations and caused Seoul's Han River to spill over its banks. Tens of thousands of buildings have lost power and thousands of families have been evacuated from their homes, it said. Officials estimated the cost of the damage at more than 300 billion won (\$300 million) by Jul 13, adding the final cost would certainly rise. — Reuters.

#### TROPICAL STORM "BERYL"

London, Jul 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Beryl": A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the eastern coast of North Carolina from north of Cape Lookout northward to south of Currituck Beach Light. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Beryl" was located near lat 34.7N, long 73.7W. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement

is toward the north, or 360 degs, at six knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1005 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34 knots: 60 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and zedro nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jul 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 36.9N, long 73.7W, with maximum winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Beryl" headed north today, with the worst of its rain and wind remaining several miles off the North Carolina coast. At 0800, EDT, "Beryl" was centred about 105 miles east of Cape Hatteras. It was moving north at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph, just over the 39 mph threshold for a named storm and well below hurricane strength of 74 mph. The National Hurricane Centre expected to discontinue a tropical storm watch from Cape Lookout to the Currituck Beach Light by afternoon. "Beryl" could strengthening somewhat over the next 24 hours but isn't likely to grow into a hurricane, the National Hurricane Centre said. The storm appeared likely to move parallel to the East Coast instead of heading ashore, said Richard Pasch, a hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

Miami, Jul 20 — The U.S. National Hurricane Centre issued a storm warning for southeastern Massachusetts today, as Tropical Storm "Beryl" headed north after bypassing North Carolina. The storm, the second cyclone of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, strengthened as it moved over warmer waters in the Atlantic Ocean and its maximum sustained winds were near 60 miles per hour, the centre said in a bulletin. "Beryl"'s centre was about 210 miles south of New York and about 295 miles southwest of Nantucket, Massachusetts, at 0500 hrs (0900, UTC), and was moving northward at around nine mph. The new warning, meaning residents could see storm conditions within 24 hours, was in effect from Plymouth southward and westward to Woods Hole, including the summer vacation destinations of Cape Cod, Nantucket Island and Martha's Vineyard. The hurricane centre said additional watches or warnings may be issued for parts of Long Island and the New England coast later in the day. The storm was expected to turn toward the northeast and gain pace over the next 24 hours, bringing its centre near the southeastern coast of Massachusetts tonight or tomorrow morning, the centre said. A storm watch for the North Carolina coast was lifted yesterday as the storm moved past well out to sea.

London, Jul 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Beryl": A tropical storm warning is in effect for south eastern Massachusetts from Plymouth to Woods Hole, inculing



Cape Cod, Nantucket Island and Martha's Vineyard. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 37.8N, long 73.2W. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north, or five degs at eight knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1001 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 20 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 50 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Jul 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 40.6N, long 70.7W, with maximum winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

#### TROPICAL STORM "KAEMI"

London, Jul 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Kaemi" was located near lat 11.9N, long 140.9E, approximately 220 nautical miles north-east of Yap and has tracked west-north-westward, or 300 degs, at 15 knots, over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The maximum sustained winds are 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. The maximum significant wave height is 11 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 14.7N, long 136.7E, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

London, Jul 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Kaemi" was located near lat 13.5N, long 137.7E, movement past six hours 330 degs at 12 knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The maximum sustained winds are 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 70 nautical miles north-east and north-west quadrants and 60 nautical miles south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 11 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.2N, long 134.7E, with maximum sustained winds of 90 knots and gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 50 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 115 nautical miles north-east and north-west quadrants and 110 nautical miles south-east and south-west quadrants.

#### TYPHOON "BILIS"

London, Jul 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Bilis" was located

near lat 26.4N, long 119.2W. Movement past six hours: 305 degs at 12 knots. The position is accurate to 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 200 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 110 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jul 14, the centre is predicted to be near lat 28.1N, long 116.1W, with maximum sustained winds of 20 knots and gusts to 35 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

London, July 14 — Ships were advised to take shelter and more than 250,000 people were evacuated from China's Fujian province on today before severe tropical storm "Bilis" struck the east China coast around 1400, local time. People were also moved out of low-lying areas in Zhejiang province south of Shanghai as the storm approached the China coast. Packing 90 kmph winds the storm tore across the northern tip of Taiwan overnight yesterday before crossing the Taiwan Strait today. The storm brought torrential rain, but caused relatively little damage. The ports of Keelung and Kaohsiung were closed as a precaution, but operations at Kaohsiung returned to normal by 0800, local time, today with more than 10 vessels berthing at the port by 1000 hrs. Taiwan's central disaster response team said more than 4,000 Chinese fishermen had been allowed to take temporary shelter at ports around Taiwan.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Chinese authorities say at least 42 people are dead and more than 100 are missing in the country's south-east after tropical storm "Bilis" caused severe rainstorms and flooding. The latest figures take the storm's death toll to 59 after it killed 14 in the Philippines and three in Taiwan. Authorities say the storm weakened after hitting mainland China but caused serious flooding in eastern and southern Hunan province, where it claimed most of its casualties. More than 500,000 people were evacuated from their homes before the storm arrived. In southern Taiwan, a 29-year-old soldier was killed by a falling tree in his camp and another two people drowned. In the Philippines, six of the 14 fatalities were children swept away by floodwaters or buried in landslides. More than 51,000 people have been displaced, seven are still missing and 15 have been injured across the northern part of the south-east Asian archipelago.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Bilis" killed at least 48 people and injured hundreds as it churned across China's southeast, toppling houses and forcing authorities to evacuate a prison and thousands of villagers, news reports said today. More than 100 people were missing after "Bilis" swept through the densely populated

coast early Friday (Jul 14) and turned inland, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing disaster officials. Hardest-hit was the inland province of Hunan, where at least 39 people were dead and 100 missing, Xinhua reported, without saying how the deaths occurred. It said 349 people were injured in Hunan and 12,000 stranded by high water, while 31,400 houses collapsed and 36,630 hectares (91,200 acres) of crops ruined. In the city of Lechang, waters were three metres deep in some places, forcing authorities to move 1,663 inmates from a prison to higher ground, Xinhua said. Rising water damaged the main railway line linking Beijing with the southern business capital of Guangzhou, near Hong Kong, causing delays for thousands of travellers on the busy route. In the southeastern coastal province of Guangdong, nine people were dead and 13 missing, the agency said. The area is the centre of China's export-driven manufacturing industries. Losses in the neighbouring coastal provinces of Zhejiang and Fujian were estimated at 1.1 billion yuan (\$140 million), Xinhua said. It didn't give figures for Guangdong or Hunan. The storm flooded farmland and cut roads and power lines, Xinhua said. A Russian vessel sank off the coast during the storm, but the 11-member crew were rescued, Xinhua said. China had evacuated more than 250,000 fishermen and others from coastal areas and cancelled airline flights. "Bilis" weakened from a typhoon to a tropical storm early Friday after lashing Taiwan. At least 349 people died in China in June due to flooding, landslides and other weather-related disasters, with another 99 people missing, the government says. Damage was estimated at \$2.5 billion.

Beijing, Jul 17 — Torrential rains killed at least 164 people across south China over the weekend, flooding major cities, sweeping away houses and cutting off a main rail link, state media reported today. The rains were triggered by Tropical Storm "Bilis", which killed dozens in the Philippines and Taiwan before hitting China on Friday (Jul 14). Forecasters had said the storm would weaken as it hit China, but instead it wrought havoc across the country's south. Downpours continued today across much of southern China, where 12 million people in six provinces have been affected by floods and 138 are still missing, state-run China Central Television (CCTV) said. A section of the Beijing-Zhuhai highway that links the national capital to the country's southern industrial hubs has been submerged by water as deep as three meters in Hunan, CCTV said. In far-southern Guangdong province, floods severed water supplies and caused blackouts in Shaoguan, a city of half a million, the television said. In the southeastern coastal province of Fujian, where Bilis made landfall in China, floods swept away 19,000 homes and forced the evacuation of 519,000 people, the Beijing News said.

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

CCTV showed pictures of residents wading in water up to their knees on flooded streets in the provincial capital Fuzhou. The Beijing-Guangzhou railway was cut near Shaoguan, disrupting cargo and passenger services, and it was unclear when train services could resume, CCTV said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 17 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Tugs *Topaz* and *Lazurit*, Vladivostok for Vungtau, Vietnam, towing Cambodia-flagged *Floating Dock 7*, with 11 all Russian crew, went into the area of Typhoon "Bilis" on July 13. The wind was 25-28 metres/sec, the swell six metres. The dock started taking water and listed and it was decided to evacuate the dock's crew. On Jul 14, the *Floating Dock 7* sank. Ten of the crew were rescued, but the captain is missing. The *Topaz*, *Lazurit* and Chinese salvage ship *Dong Hai 198* were reported to be searching the area for the missing captain.

Beijing, Jul 18 — Floods fed by torrential rains caused by Tropical Storm "Bilis" were retreating in south China today after claiming at least 188 lives, officials said, as people coped with water shortages, ruined roads and other damage. Rain was still forecast for the worst-hit provinces of Hunan and Guangdong over the next two days, but officials and residents there reached by telephone today reported only intermittent drizzle and even sunshine. In the far-southern province of Guangdong, where at least 44 were killed, the government was distributing clean water in Shaoguan, a city of half a million that was flooded. About 8,800 passengers had been stranded for more than 40 hours after the Beijing-Guangzhou railway was cut by floods and landslides near Shaoguan, Xinhua news agency said. Trains resumed today. In nearby Lechang, a prison was besieged by flood waters and more than 1,600 inmates and 220 guards struggled without fresh food and drinking water for three days before helicopters airdropped supplies on Monday, Xinhua said. Vice Premier Hui Liangyu flew to neighbouring Hunan province yesterday, where 92 were confirmed dead and more than 100 were missing, a local official said by telephone. State television showed footage of soldiers evacuating villagers stranded on the roofs of their homes in Hunan. The biggest problem now is drinking water. Many wells in the countryside were flooded, an official surnamed Huang in Leiyang, one of Hunan's worst-hit areas, told Reuters by telephone. "And it is very hot today. There is an epidemic threat." The rains also claimed 43 lives in the southeastern coastal province of Fujian, where Bilis made landfall in China, and nine in the southwestern region of Guangxi. Some 2.2 million people were evacuated because of Bilis, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said. Direct economic losses from the storm totaled 12 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) after 160,000 hectares of crops

and 113,000 houses were destroyed, the Ministry said on its Web site.

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 6,900 people, mainly seafood farmers, had been evacuated from their homes in Southeast China by this afternoon as Typhoon "Bilis" approached, local authorities said. As of 1700 hrs, today, the eye of "Bilis" was located about 120 km southeast of Hualien, Taiwan Province, and was moving northwestward at around 15 to 20 km per hour toward eastern Taiwan, packing winds of 117 km per hour, the provincial observatory of Fujian said. "Bilis" is estimated to land on northeastern Taiwan tonight and on the mainland province of Fujian at noon tomorrow. The observatory issued alarms against rainstorms and strong winds. As of 1630 hrs, today, more than 8,900 fishing boats had been directed back to harbour. All passenger liners had suspended services in Fujian. Air traffic in the province continued, but local airports were on high alert to make responsive changes in flights, according to the provincial office for flood and drought relief. Meanwhile, water conservation workers were checking reservoirs in preparation for flooding as the storm was expected to bring rainfalls of up to 250 mm from tonight. The fishery departments of eastern Zhejiang Province, neighboring Fujian, has also issued warnings of high seas and rainstorms, advising vessels to return to harbor ahead of the storm.

#### TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, Jul 13 — Offloading of the cargo of sulphuric acid from tank barge *Billy Star* which was scheduled to begin today had to be put off because of stormy weather brought about by typhoon "Florita." The typhoon is expected to be out of the country by Saturday (Jul 15) and offloading operations are expected to begin by then. Salvors intend to first pump out the 1,270 tons of sulphuric acid contained in the barge's four stainless steel bullet tanks through an acid-resistant hose. This will go directly into a sulphuric acid treatment facility installed on a work barge positioned above the wreck. The sulphuric acid will then be neutralised with caustic soda then offloaded to another barge which will dump it in a designated disposal area 25 nautical miles south-east of Lubang Island. Only after its storage tanks are emptied will the *Billy Star* be raised. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 18 — Divers inspecting the wreck of tank barge *Billy Star*, found it's four storage tanks empty of its cargo of sulphuric acid raising fears that the chemical could have escaped and contaminated the surrounding waters. The *Billy Star* was carrying 1,270 tons of sulphuric acid in four stainless steel bullet tanks bolted to its upper deck when it sank while moored at Keppel Batangas Shipyard's K-yard pier on Jun 24. The divers had gone down Sunday (Jul 16), to inspect and prepare the barge for

the pumping out of its sulphuric acid cargo, when it was discovered that the storage tanks were empty. The barge was also found to be in a brittle state, as a result of the corrosive effects of the sulphuric acid. The unexpected development has forced salvors, Harbor Star Shipping Services and Titan, to rethink their original salvage plan of first pumping out the sulphuric acid for treatment on a floating waste chemical treatment facility before refloating *Billy Star*. With the disappearance of the chemical cargo, the floating waste treatment facility will no longer be needed. Raising the barge will be more difficult, however, as it could easily break apart because of its brittle state. In the meantime, the salvors are awaiting the arrival of chemists to determine if a chemical spill has occurred. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jul 19 — Refloating of tank barge *Billy Star* faces another delay as salvors, Harbor Star Shipping Services and Titan, are looking to bring in a 200-ton capacity floating crane to lift the chemical barge. Sources involved in the salvage operations said that the crane will have to be brought in from overseas as the Philippines does not have a floating crane with the required lifting capacity. Sourcing and moving the floating crane to the Philippines would take several days. Original plans involved the use of external air bags or buoyancy assist barges to refloat *Billy Star*. Salvage divers, however, have found that the barge's structure has turned brittle making it impractical to refloat it in one piece. Salvors are now looking at cutting the barge into pieces and lifting the pieces with a crane. In the meantime, Hideya Waste Management, has begun demobilizing following salvage divers findings that *Billy Star's* storage tanks have almost been emptied of its sulphuric acid cargo. Hideya Waste Management reported that it had withdrawn one of two vessels it had positioned at the site. Hideya Waste Management has been contracted by Titan to neutralize the sulphuric acid cargo of the *Billy Star* and transport to a disposal site. The company has positioned a tanker with a waste treatment facility on-board and another tanker to move the treated sulphuric acid to the disposal area. The tanker with the waste treatment facility remains on-site. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods have caused \$100 million of damage in just one US valley, a local government economist has claimed. Damage is said to have been "substantial" and both large and small businesses have put up to 600 people out of work because of the disaster in New York state. Although the floods struck in late June, it has taken until July 10th for the scale of the damage to become apparent. County economic developer



Kenneth Rose said that the damage is “pretty substantial in the small villages that are our economy” according to The Business Review. One company alone has put its damage in the floods at \$25 million and another at \$4 million, while others say that their production schedule has been put back weeks. While larger companies look set to continue operations despite the flood damage, up to 30 small business employees look set to go due to the cost of flooding.

#### VIETNAM

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: With major flooding and damage in northern regions of Vietnam, central and local authorities are taking into serious consideration plans to mitigate the natural disasters and help provide relief. Heavy rains, floods, and landslides this week ravaged the northern mountainous provinces of Bac Can, Lang Son, Cao Bang, Lai Chau, and Tuyen Quang, Phu Tho, and Lao Cai, central and local authorities worked out measures to help people reduce the damage. Yesterday, Vietnam’s President Nguyen Minh Triet and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung issued directives to the Central Steering Committee for Flood Control and Prevention and local provincial people’s committees to swiftly deploy necessary measures to combat floods and get relief to those who need it. An initial survey of the damage revealed that the series of natural calamity has left 12 people dead or missing, over 400 houses collapsed or damaged, and 53 hectares of crops ruined. Floods swept away streets and other public construction sites, causing traffic jams and damage to irrigation networks throughout the northern region. With another storm on the way, fishing boats have been warned to avoid the Truong Sa (Spratly) and Hoang Sa (Paracel) archipelagos, and northern regions of the East Sea.

## Earthquakes



#### CHILE

London, Jul 17 — A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 struck off the coast of Atacama, Chile, yesterday, the US Geological Survey said. The quake struck at 1142, GMT, with its epicentre located 177 kilometres north-west of Coquimbo, Chile, at a depth of 35 kilometres below the surface. The 6.3 reading was based on the open-ended Moment Magnitude scale, now used by US seismologists, which measures the area of the fault that ruptured and the total energy released.

#### CHINA

London, Jul 20 — An earthquake measuring 5.6 degrees on the Richter

scale jolted a county in north-west China’s Qinghai Province yesterday evening, according to the Seismological Bureau. The epicentre was located in a sparsely populated area on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau about 70 kilometres south of the county seat of Yushu.

#### FIJI

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.7 earthquake occurred in lat 19.95S, long 178.52W, depth 582 km at 1602, GMT, today.

#### INDONESIA

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: A moderate earthquake struck in eastern Indonesian waters on Saturday (Jul 15), but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, meteorological officials and residents said. The epicentre of the 5.8-magnitude quake was beneath the Banda Sea, and around 230 kilometres southwest of Ambon, the capital of Maluku province, the US Geological Survey said on its Web site. Lukman, an official at the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said there were no reports of casualties or damage. Residents in Ambon said they did not even feel the quake.

Jakarta, Jul 17 — An undersea earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 struck off the Indonesian island of Java today, the U.S.-based Pacific Tsunami Centre said, but there were no reports of casualties or damage. Indonesia’s state meteorology and geophysics agency initially rated the quake at 5.5 magnitude, but then changed that to 6.8. Officials in the nearest major town to the epicentre, Ciamis, said more than an hour after the quake hit at 0819, UTC, that there had been no reports of damage or deaths. In Jakarta, meteorology agency seismologist Fauzi told Reuters: “We have received no damage report. We don’t know how long it lasted but probably it was below one minute.” Some occupants of high-rise Jakarta buildings felt the quake, which had an epicentre more than 30 kilometres under the Indian Ocean off Java’s southern Pangandaran beach. The beach is located around 270 kilometres southeast of Jakarta. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Jul 17 — A strong undersea earthquake off the southern coast of Indonesia’s Java island today triggered a tsunami that swept away buildings at a popular beach resort and killed at least 37 people, according to local news reports. There were no reports of casualties or damage in any other country. But the news caused panic across the region, which is still recovering from a tsunami less than two years ago that left nearly 230,000 people killed or missing, mostly in Indonesia. The official Antara news agency said 37 people had been killed along the southern Java coast today. “An earthquake has happened and then

was followed by a tsunami on the southern coast of Ciamis (regency),” Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told a news conference. — Reuters.

Pangandaran, Jul 18 — At least 230 people were killed after a tsunami smashed into fishing villages and resorts on Indonesia’s Java island, following a strong undersea earthquake, rescue officials said today. No warnings were reported despite regional efforts to establish early warning systems after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed 230,000, including 170,000 in Indonesia, but many residents and tourists recognised the signs and fled to higher ground as the sea receded before huge waves came crashing ashore. Officials said 231 people were confirmed dead and nearly 130 people were missing after yesterday’s huge waves crashed into the coast, washing away buildings, wooden cottages and kiosks lining the shoreline facing the Indian Ocean. Today, soldiers were trying to retrieve bodies trapped under rubble. Metro TV reported several bodies were found in trees along Pangandaran beach near the town of Ciamis, 270 km southeast of Jakarta. A regional government official in Ciamis regency, the most hard-hit area, said deaths there totalled 171, while the Indonesian Red Cross said the dead in other areas totaled 60. No other country reported casualties or damage from yesterday’s tsunami. Pangandaran, which bore the brunt of the tsunami, is a popular tourist spot with many small hotels on the beach with a nature reserve nearby. Many people returned to salvage belongings such as boat engines and clothes from the wreckage of their homes after the tsunami destroyed fishing boats and damaged cafes, motels and restaurants up to 500 metres from the coastline. — Reuters.

London, Jul 19 — A moderate 5.7 magnitude earthquake struck Manado, Indonesia, at 1127, yesterday, the Meteorological Services Department said. The quake occurred at lat 0.1S, long 125.3E, near Molucca Sea, 187km off Manado and 937km south-east of Tawau. However, there was no tsunami threat, it said in a statement. Yesterday, tsunami struck Indonesia’s Java island, triggered by a quake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, killing at least 200 people.

Pangandaran, Jul 19 — An aftershock sent hundreds scrambling for high ground today in fear of more giant waves, as rescuers pulled bodies from the debris and aid trickled into Pangandaran, two days after a tsunami. While the death toll rose to 525, a search continued for 273 people still missing. Along the coastline heavy equipment was deployed to help in the search for bodies under the rubble. Five bodies were found on beaches in the Pangandaran area alone early today, Red Cross official Mehmet Selamat said. Officials said four foreigners, including a Dutch national, a Swede, a Japanese and a Belgian, were known killed in the

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quake. Government officials said as many as 54,000 people were displaced from wrecked fishing villages, farms and beach resorts, adding to the rehabilitation headache for authorities after an earthquake that killed more than 5,700 people in central Java less than two months earlier. Aid trucks started to arrive for the thousands who lost their homes or who, fearing further tsunamis, had fled to hills above the coast. Many found refuge under plastic-sheeting shelters they made themselves while thousands stayed inside mosques at Pangandaran and nearby Cilacap port. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Jul 19 — Tall buildings swayed as an earthquake struck the Indonesian capital and nearby parts of Java island today, sowing fear two days after an undersea quake triggered a tsunami on the southern coast, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, but people in several areas fled from office buildings and homes. The quake's strength was 6.2 at its epicentre in the Indian Ocean off the southwestern tip of Java, Fauzi, an official at the national earthquake centre, told Reuters. A quake of 7.7 magnitude on Monday (Jul 17) off the southern Java coast triggered a tsunami that killed at least 550 people. Asked on Indonesian news radio Elshinta whether the quake on Wednesday could cause a tsunami, Fauzi said: "If there is a tsunami it won't be big." — Reuters.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.2 earthquake has occurred in the New Britain region, Papua New Guinea, in lat 05.47S, long 150.67E, depth 25 km at 1148, UTC, today.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 19 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.0 earthquake has occurred in offshore northern California in lat 40.28N, long 124.43W, depth 21 km at 1141, UTC, today.



**MOUNT ETNA, ITALY**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Sicily's Mount Etna has begun spewing lava and ash and emitting rumbles that by today could be heard at 10-second intervals, Italy's ANSA news agency reported. Two streams of lava have for several days been flowing from a new crack that opened up on Friday (Jul 14) around 3,100 metres up the eastern slope of the volcano. Experts from the national geophysics institute who flew over the volcano in a helicopter today also recorded an increase in the quantity of ash and lapilli, the small

porous stones ejected by erupting volcanoes. But ANSA said the latest activity posed no threat to people because the area around it is uninhabited. Etna last erupted on June 22, 2001, throwing molten rock 400 metres into the sky and spewing lava down its sides.

**MOUNT MAYON, PHILIPPINES**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: The Mayon volcano erupted today, a day after ejecting ash amid swarms of earthquakes, the Philippines' chief volcanologist said. "It is a quiet eruption as of now," said Renato Solidum, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, who ordered the alert level raised after observers saw "lava trickles" flowing down the slopes of the 8,118-foot volcano. "A hazardous eruption is possible. We don't know when, maybe within weeks," Solidum said. He said scientists had expected lava flows after ash shot out of the volcano yesterday and earthquakes were recorded for two days. Solidum said observers had not been able to see the crater as the top of the mountain had been obscured by clouds. There was no immediate word on evacuations.

Manila, Jul 15 — Philippine disaster officials ordered thousands of villagers today to prepare for a possible evacuation from the south-east slopes of Mount Mayon, a restive volcano in the central area of the archipelago. Late yesterday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert level at the 2,462-metre volcano after a lava spill was observed at its crater. Vulcanologist Jaime Sincioco said the danger zone on Mayon's south-eastern slope, facing Legazpi City and Sto Domingo town, was widened to 7 km because of the lava flow risk. A 6-km danger zone was kept in other areas around Mayon. "We're watching the volcano closely," he said, adding that the volcanology institute has asked disaster and local government agencies to prepare people to abandon farms and homes. An estimated 60,000 people in six towns in Albay province would be evacuated in the event of a big eruption, said Cedric Daep of the provincial disaster coordinating council. "We will start evacuating people once the alert level is raised to 4," Daep said, adding the authorities has started to stockpile food, medicine and relief materials. "We're now on the state of full preparedness." Mayon volcano in the Bicol region showed abnormal activity last month and spewed ashes on Thursday (Jul 13), covering homes in Malilipot town. When lava suddenly trickled from its crater late yesterday, authorities raised the alert level to 3 from 1. At level 3 an explosion is considered possible, at level 4 it is seen as likely and at level 5, the highest alert, an eruption has occurred with lava flows or ash columns reaching 6 km. "Our instruments and observation posts around Mayon detected magma was

rising and pushing molten rocks that had accumulated in its craters to spill and trickle on the slopes," Sincioco said. People on the south-east slopes could see the volcano aglow at night as molten rocks were breaking off from the crater. — Reuters.

Legazpi City, Jul 16 — Flaming mud and rocks the size of a car cascaded from the slopes of Mount Mayon, an active volcano in the central Philippines, raising the risk of a hazardous eruption, a volcanologist said today. "We've observed heightened activities in the volcano," resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta told Reuters. "From 0600 on Saturday to 0600 today, our instruments recorded a total of 111 volcanic tremors, a significant increase from Friday to Saturday's 22." Laguerta said lava was seeping out of the summit of the 2,462-metre volcano forming an elongated mass to about 800 metres downslope. A 6-km danger zone was imposed around Mayon, but was widened to 7-km on the south-east slope, facing Legazpi City and Sto Domingo town, due to the risks of lava flow. "If the activities continued in the next few days, we may upgrade the alert level to 4, which means a hazardous eruption is imminent within hours to days," said Laguerta, adding they have also recorded increased sulphuric gas emissions. — Reuters.

**MOUNT TUNGURAHUA, ECUADOR**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano spewed ash, gases and molten rocks today, forcing authorities to evacuate four nearby villages after the crater registered its most volatile activity since a 1999 eruption. Tungurahua, about 129km south of Quito, has been increasingly active since May when it shot out large clouds of hot gas and prompted officials to renew a limited state of emergency in nearby towns. Civil defence authorities ordered evacuations in four small villages in the areas surrounding the volcano, whose name means "throat of fire" in local indigenous Quichua language. Local television stations showed images of molten rocks blasting from the crater while radio reported ash raining down on the Andean provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo. Authorities have not yet declared a red alert, which would trigger a forced evacuation of all neighbouring areas, one official said.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Several thousand people have been evacuated from their homes in Ecuador by continuing volcanic eruptions. Tungurahua has been spitting out ash and lava for three days, and emitting loud explosions. So far there have been no injuries, but some villagers are reluctant to leave their homes and livestock. President Alfredo Palacio has announced \$4.9m in aid, after touring the affected area at the weekend. Nearby towns have been covered in volcanic ash, as the wind



carried the dust up to 120km from Tungurahua. There have been 24 explosive cycles since Saturday (Jul 15), according to an official at the country's Geophysical Institute. Some locals have refused to move away from the area. "They said to evacuate but we're not going to leave because we're not going to throw away the animals, the houses," said Manuel Rosero.

Quito, Ecuador, Jul 17 — Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano spewed gas and ash for the fourth day today as droves of evacuees returned home to salvage what little was left from their ash-covered villages. Tungurahua, located about 80 miles south of Quito, has been increasingly active since May, when it blew out big clouds of hot gas and prompted officials to renew a limited state of emergency in nearby towns. Emergency officials said around 1,600 people had taken refuge in make-shift shelters, but some had ignored repeated warnings and returned home to rescue their farm animals and recover belongings. — Reuters.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Patricio Donoso, president of Ecuador's Chamber of Agriculture, said yesterday that 100,000 people have lost their homes and 15,000 hectares of land were destroyed by the eruption of Tungurahua Volcano some 135 km south of the capital Quito. "Farmers in the region are losing everything: livestock and planted land. The situation is very, very bad," Donoso told Teleamazonas television, calling on the government to provide emergency help. The government evacuated 5,500 people who lived close to Tungurahua's crater on Friday (Jul 14). The Andean provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo in southern Ecuador have been put under an orange alert and regional authorities were watching the volcano, ready to declare a red alert which implies the total evacuation of the area around the volcano. Hot and dangerous lava was due to reach the town of Banos, which has 15,000 residents, on Monday, experts told television.



Political & Civil Unrest

**AFGHANISTAN**

London, Jul 16 — At least 26 suspected Taliban militants have been killed in clashes across southern Afghanistan, officials say. A coalition spokesman said 10 insurgents had been killed in an air assault in Helmand province. Other skirmishes are said to have taken place across the south. The coalition says that the latest fighting in the south of the country is part of Operation Mountain Thrust, which was launched in mid-May. "Coalition forces, supported by Afghan and coalition ground forces,

conducted a night-time air assault into Sangin and killed 10 enemy extremists in a brief battle," a coalition statement said. The assault involved more than 300 British paratroopers backed by US and Canadian forces. The offensive is the biggest operation undertaken by British troops in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

Kabul, Jul 17 — U.S.-led forces killed four suspected al Qaeda fighters during a raid in southeast Afghanistan today, as the country's defense minister said Taliban resistance was on the wane. After days of some of the heaviest fighting since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, coalition forces said they had also attacked and destroyed a "safe house" of a known Taliban commander in Sangin district in Helmand province. A British military spokesman said fighting in Nawzad town in the same province, the scene of almost daily firefights or bombing raids this month, had eased today after forces had captured a hospital occupied by militants. Coalition forces said in a statement the raid in Khost province had also resulted in the capture of three suspected al Qaeda members. Residents in the town told Reuters one of those killed was a local cleric. The U.S. military said the raid on the "safe house" in Sangin was conducted yesterday night. It did not name the commander who was targeted, but said coalition forces had been conducting surveillance on the property for an extended period of time. British and Afghan forces came under heavy fire from a hospital in Nawzad town in Helmand province yesterday, days after nearly being overrun in an attack by 200 Taliban. "We managed to take the hospital and we established there were no civilians inside," British military spokesman Captain Drew Gibson said today. Around 50 people were killed in violence mostly in the south over the weekend, including one foreign soldier. The country's defense minister said in an interview published today that Afghan intelligence had learned that the Taliban's command and control structure was fragmenting due to heavy losses and many mid-ranking commanders were fleeing to safety in Pakistan. "I think that in the next two or three months there will be some major changes," General Abdul Rahim Wardak told the Financial Times, predicting that by November Taliban militants would have lost steam. Wardak said Taliban militants had stepped up their attacks to coincide with the alliance deployment, aiming to undermine public support for the Afghanistan mission in European NATO countries. — Reuters.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: US-led and Afghan forces say they have retaken two Taliban-held towns in the southern Afghan province of Helmand. Taliban fighters had seized the areas of Garmser and Naway-i-Barakazayi earlier in the week. Two Afghan soldiers were slightly hurt in the operation, the US-led coalition said.

There have also been reports that many locals have fled the area. General Rahmatullah Roufi, an Afghan army commander, told the Associated Press that hundreds of troops had battled Taliban fighters before entering Garmser yesterday. The operation in Garmser followed a similar operation to retake the town of Naway-i-Barakazayi. US military spokesman Lt Col Paul Fitzpatrick said Afghan and coalition forces "skirmished" with Taliban fighters outside Garmser but met no resistance once inside. "The Taliban appears to be bullying their way around some of the smaller towns in remote areas, but they have no capability to lay claim to any piece of ground," he said. "Afghan and coalition forces in the last week have killed numerous lower and mid-level commanders that the senior Taliban leadership rely on to intimidate villages, threaten elders and lead small bands of extremists to conduct attacks on Afghan and coalition forces," a statement yesterday said. The statement also confirmed that a coalition soldier had died on Monday (Jul 17) in neighbouring Uruzgan province. The nationality of the dead soldier has not yet been released. The troops came under fire after destroying a truck that militants were loading in Tarin Kowt district. Eleven other soldiers were wounded, the coalition said.

**COLOMBIA**

London, Jul 15 — Colombian rebels have killed 10 woodcutters and kidnapped 170 men, women and children in a dense jungle region near the country's border with Panama, a provincial governor said overnight. "The municipal mayor (of Riosucio) tells me 170 were kidnapped and 10 killed, which is a real massacre," said Choco provincial governor Julio Iburguen. He said that the kidnap victims cut wood in the Darien jungle and lived with their families in the settlement of Taparal, several hours from Riosucio.

**EAST TIMOR**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Aid agency Caritas Australia says the humanitarian crisis in East Timor is not over. Caritas spokesman Jamie Isbister says the appointment of Jose Ramos Horta as Prime Minister has brought hope that a feeling of stability will return to the country. But he says there are still 70,000 people living in camps in and around Dili who need help. "The biggest challenge for us now is being able to very quickly look at how we continue to meet the very urgent humanitarian needs and ensure that the basic health, nutritional needs of many of the children and families in those camps are met," he said.

**INDIA**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Indian authorities today named two suspects in this week's Mumbai train bombings, an apparent breakthrough in the

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investigations into the well-coordinated attacks that killed at least 200 people. The government's Anti-Terror Squad released photos of young, lightly bearded men identified as Sayyad Zabiuddin and Zulfeqar Fayyaz, said Sunil Mane, an anti-terror official. However, officials said earlier today that the prime suspect in Tuesday's (Jul 11) bombings is Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, a Pakistan-based Islamic militant group that operates in Kashmir, the Himalayan region at the centre of the long-running India-Pakistan conflict. "Different indicators are there which hint at their involvement," said D.K. Shankaran, the top bureaucrat in Maharashtra state, where Mumbai is the capital city. He said seven teams of investigators were sifting through clues. "The probe into blasts is on track and we should have something substantial soon." A spokesman for Lashkar, Abdullah Ghaznavi, has denied the group was involved in the serial train bombings across Mumbai that left at least 200 people dead and more than 700 injured. The developments came after police conducted raids across Mumbai and detained 350 people for questioning, most of them in Malwani, a north-eastern suburb, said police Inspector S. Goshal. He said none was formally arrested or charged, and they were rounded up only to help with the investigations.

Raipur, Jul 17 — Hundreds of Maoist rebels stormed a government relief camp early today and killed at least 17 people including members of a state-backed, anti-Maoist group in central India, police said. Around 50 people were wounded in the raid by some 600 Maoists, many armed with automatic weapons, in the Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh state, part of a wide swathe of central, eastern and southern India where the rebels operate. Dantewada police chief Om Prakash Pal said three children and three women were among the dead, and another 20 people — all men — were missing. "The Maoists surrounded Arabore camp between 0100 and 0200 hrs (1930-2030, UTC, Jul 16) and opened indiscriminate firing on the tribals," Pal told Reuters. Another police officer said the rebels first attacked armed police guarding the camp and then stormed the camp itself, burning at least 20 houses, mostly inhabited by tribals. The camp is at Arabore village in the Dantewada, around 510 km south of Raipur, the state capital. Heavy monsoon rains prevented helicopters from evacuating the wounded from the heavily forested and remote area. Police said several of those killed belonged to the Salwa Judum (Campaign For Peace) group, an anti-Maoist movement set up by the state government and often the target of the rebels. The Salwa Judum draws members from local tribes, and activists are usually armed only with bows and arrows. — Reuters.

London, Jul 18 — Hundreds of suspected communist rebels attacked

a government-run relief camp and two police stations yesterday in eastern India, killing at least 26 villagers. Four rebels also died. Police and paramilitary forces repelled nearly 500 rebels armed with guns and machetes in a two-hour battle in Chattisgarh state, said Girdhari Naik, the inspector-general of police. The insurgents fired at villagers and torched several houses at the Errabore Relief Camp, Naik said. At least 21 people were hurt, seven of them hospitalized with serious injuries. The guerrillas also raided two police stations, but no police were hurt, Naik said.

#### INDONESIA

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Police say a mob of about 1,000 villagers has killed a police officer with an axe in retaliation for the shooting death of a villager in Indonesia's remote Papua province. Police spokesman Kartono Wangsadasastra says the officer shot the villager during a drinking session in Karu Barga, a tiny village in Papua's highlands. Two people have been flown to hospital in nearby Wamena after being seriously injured in the clashes between police and villagers. Mr Kartono says an additional 60 police have been flown into Karu Barga to try to restore calm.

#### IRAQ

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen kidnapped the chairman of Iraq's Olympic committee and at least 30 others yesterday in a brazen daylight raid on a sports conference in the heart of Baghdad. Armed clashes erupted elsewhere across the capital. Parliament extended the national state of emergency as at least 27 people, including two American soldiers, were killed in sectarian or insurgency-related violence. About 1330, gunmen in about a dozen vehicles pulled up outside the meeting of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, police and witnesses said. They entered the conference centre, blindfolded and handcuffed participants and bodyguards, hustled them into the vehicles, and sped away. Those kidnapped included Ahmed al-Hijjiya, chairman of the Olympic Committee, and the presidents of the taekwondo and boxing federations, according to police Lt. Thaer Mahmoud. The bodies of two of the bodyguards were found later, dumped along a street. The International Olympic Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, condemned "these acts against the sport community" and called for the immediate release of the hostages. The abduction came a day after Iraq's national wrestling team withdrew from a tournament in the United Arab Emirates; the team's Sunni coach was killed Thursday (Jul 13) in a Shiite district of Baghdad. It was unclear how many were kidnapped, though police officials placed the figure as high as 50. In other violence yesterday: - Two US

soldiers were killed in separate bombings in Baghdad, in the Shiite district of Sadr City and in the southern part of the capital, the military said. A bomb hidden in a box near a supermarket exploded in southern Baghdad, killing six people and wounding 11 others, police said. A suicide car bomber attacked a police patrol in eastern Baghdad, killing two paramilitary commandos and wounding four people, two of them civilians, police said. At least six people were killed in scattered clashes between Iraqi soldiers and gunmen in the capital. Small-scale shootings and bombings in Baghdad and the northern cities of Mosul and Kirkuk killed nine people.

London, Jul 17 — The Iraq war has cost 291 billion U.S. dollars so far and could total half a trillion dollars even if the U.S. government pulls all troops out of Iraq by the end of 2009, it was reported Jul 14. The figure comes from an analysis of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), amid debate in Washington over whether to set goals or timetables for U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq, according to the report. The CBO study estimated future war costs based on two scenarios. The more optimistic scenario is based on the U.S. maintaining troop levels in Iraq at 140,000 through next year, but quickly dropping them thereafter and pulling out most of them by the end of 2009. Under this schedule, the Iraq war will cost an additional 184 billion dollars for the 2007-2010 budget years. Under a more pessimistic scenario, with a slower draw down of troops and a continued U.S. presence of 40,000 over the long term, the Iraq war could cost 406 billion dollars over the next decade, the CBO said.

Baghdad, Jul 16 — A suicide bomber killed at least 21 people in a cafe north of Baghdad today, while the head of Iraq's North Oil Company was kidnapped in the capital, the second high-profile abduction in two days. The evening blast at the popular cafe in the town of Tuz Khurmatu also wounded 25 people, police Colonel Abbas Mohammed said. Most of the victims were older men, another police source added. Hospital officials in the town put the death toll at 21. Gunmen earlier seized top oil official Adel Qazaz from his car in northern Baghdad as police continued to search for the chief of the national Olympic Committee, Ahmed al-Hadjiya, who was abducted from a meeting along with 30 others yesterday. The kidnapping of Qazaz is a blow to the country's vital oil sector, which has been trying to attract foreign investment to rebuild its dilapidated infrastructure. He was the second top oil official to have been kidnapped in little over a month. Muthana al-Badri, director general of Iraq's State Company for Oil Projects, has not been seen since gunmen abducted him from his car on June 8. Qazaz's North Oil Company is in charge of Iraq's northern oil fields. Exports from the fields, briefly restored last month after



a lengthy suspension, have been at a standstill again since last week. An Oil Ministry official stressed that work at the company would continue as normal tomorrow, despite Qazaz's kidnapping. He said Qazaz had been travelling back to the northern oil city of Kirkuk when gunmen in two cars forced his vehicle to stop. His bodyguards were overpowered and the oil official driven away. A British soldier was also killed and another wounded during an early morning raid to capture a suspect in the southern Shi'ite city of Basra. After dark, residents heard several dozen explosions from apparent mortar attacks on British bases. A British spokesman confirmed at least one attack. — Reuters.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 55 people have been killed and 58 wounded in an attack on a market outside Baghdad. There are conflicting reports of how the deaths in al-Mahmudiya occurred, with ministry sources saying a car bomb had exploded in the town, 30km south of the Iraqi capital. But police sources say they were hit by a series of explosions followed by an attack by gunmen through the market - an unusual tactic in Iraq against civilians.

Kufa, Jul 18 — A car bomb hit a group of labourers after they boarded a minibus in a market in a Shi'ite city in Iraq today, killing 59 people and sparking clashes between protesters and police, witnesses and officials said. The blast, some 50-100 metres from a Shi'ite shrine in the southern city of Kufa, tore through the minibus after it had pulled out of the crowded market. Hospital and security sources said 132 people were wounded in the blast, which dealt a fresh blow to Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's efforts to promote national reconciliation. Police in the scene were pelted with rocks by angry crowds. Many appeared to be followers of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who has many supporters in the town. Kufa is near the holy city of Najaf, 160 km south of Baghdad. The protesters chanted to the police: "You are traitors!" "You are not doing your job!" "American agents!". Police then fired into the air to disperse the onlookers and confused scenes ensued, a Reuters reporter at the scene said. Najaf Governor Assad Abu-Kalal blamed the Kufa attack on the "criminal Baathists and terrorists of Mahmudiya." Witnesses said the minibus had Baghdad licence plates. The blast destroyed six cars and two restaurants in the area. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 19 — Five people were killed and 22 wounded in a triple bomb attack today near central Baghdad's Technology University, police said. Following a car bomb blast, two bombs planted nearby exploded a few minutes later, apparently targeting a crowd that gathered at the scene. Three policemen were among the wounded. In the west of the capital, a high-ranking Interior Ministry officer,

Major General Fakhir Abdul Mohsen, was shot dead by gunmen as he left for work in the ministry's legal department. In the northern city of Kirkuk, a bomb outside a cafe killed four people and wounded 16, police said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen on today kidnapped 20 employees of a government agency that cares for Sunni mosques and shrines nationwide, and the organization suspended its work until further notice, an official said. Also today, at least 20 people were killed in a string of bombings and shootings, mostly in Baghdad, police said. They included a senior Interior Ministry official slain on his way to work, police said. Sixteen other bodies were found in widely separate parts of the country - apparent victims of sectarian death squads. The announcement by the Sunni Endowment, a major institution within the Sunni community, further escalated sectarian tensions. Endowment spokesman Mahdi al-Mashhadani said the employees were seized as they drove from Baghdad to their homes in Taji, just north of the capital. He said the agency would stop working effective immediately and that its chairman, Also today, six people died when a bomb hidden in a plastic bag exploded inside a vegetable shop in eastern Baghdad, police Lt. Ali Abbas said. Five more people were killed in three small blasts in the Karradah district of central Baghdad, Lt. Mohammed Khayoun said. In west Baghdad, gunmen killed Maj. Gen. Fakhir Abdul-Hussein Ali, legal adviser to the Interior Ministry, as he rode to work. To the south, clashes erupted between gunmen and Iraqi security forces in the tense area between Youssifiyah and Mahmoudiya, another flashpoint of sectarian tension. A member of a Shiite political organization and two of his bodyguards were gunned down today on the highway between the two towns, police said. One person was killed and five were kidnapped today in Mahmoudiya, police said. A roadside bombing killed two people in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, police said. The three others were killed in smallscale attacks in Baghdad and Yousifiyah.

#### ISRAEL-LEBANON

Beirut, Jul 14 — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ordered more intense strikes on Lebanon today, ratcheting up retaliation against Hizbollah guerrillas following the capture of two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid. The move came at a late-night meeting of security chiefs and followed Israel's blockading of Lebanese ports, the bombing of Beirut airport and strikes against two military airbases. "The decision was made to intensify Israel's operations in Lebanon," Army Radio quoted political sources as saying after Olmert met with Israeli security chiefs. Israeli airstrikes and shelling have already killed at least 55

Lebanese civilians since the two soldiers were captured on Wednesday (Jul 12), while a steady barrage of Hizbollah rocket fire into northern Israel has killed two Israeli civilians and wounded 90. Israeli aircraft struck the main highway linking Beirut with the Syrian capital, Damascus, early today, a Lebanese security source said. Two Hizbollah missiles hit the Israeli port of Haifa, in a move Israel described as a "major escalation" since Haifa, home to around 250,000 people, lies more than 30 km from the Lebanese border. No one was injured in the Haifa attacks. Hizbollah denied firing on Haifa. In total, Israel said Hizbollah, backed by Iran and Syria, fired more than 100 rockets at towns and villages in the north yesterday, causing widespread panic and injuries. The military offensive coincided with an major Israeli offensive into the Gaza Strip to retrieve a captured soldier and halt Palestinian rocket fire. Israeli troops fired a tank shell at a vehicle in Gaza today, killing a Palestinian and wounding another, Palestinian medics said. The threat of a larger-scale Israeli ground offensive into Lebanon to prevent the rocket fire gained currency after the Haifa strikes although the military remained tight-lipped. "All options are available," army spokesman Captain Jacob Dallal said when asked about the possibility of an offensive. "Strategically speaking, if the third largest city in Israel is under attack, it's a big thing and a response can be expected." In Tehran, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned Israel not to attack Syria, saying such action would be considered an assault on the whole Islamic world that would bring a "fierce response", state television reported. The bombing of Beirut's international airport forced flights to divert to Cyprus. Later, Israeli aircraft targeted fuel tanks at the airport, setting at least one tank ablaze. Aircraft dropped leaflets in a Beirut suburb, urging residents to stay away from Hizbollah offices, witnesses said, a move that raised the possibility that Hizbollah's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, could be targeted. Israeli naval vessels enforcing the siege turned away three vessels carrying fuel to Beirut, a shipping source said. Israel has rejected Hizbollah demands that it release Arab prisoners in exchange for the captive soldiers. — Reuters.

London, July 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Following the recommendations of defense officials, the entry of ships carrying hazardous materials to the Haifa port has been barred, fearing that they could be hit by Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon. The upsurge of violence is also adversely affecting traffic and infrastructure in the north. Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered a halt to flights in and out of the Rosh Pina airport, after rockets landed adjacent to it. At present, only southbound flights are allowed out of Haifa's airport. Sources in the energy

sector expressed concern over the attacks in the north, as a number of strategic facilities are located in the region, including oil refineries, petrochemical plants and Israel Electric Company power stations. One of the Katyusha strikes yesterday resulted in a sporadic supply of electricity in the Galilee. The IEC noted that it was doing all that it could to return the energy supply to residents in the region. The Israel National Roads Company went on emergency footing Thursday, in case a rocket hit roads in northern Israel. Equipment and raw materials were placed in the vicinity of Kiryat Shmona, as well as other locations in the north, to deal with damage to roads.

Beirut, July 14 — The undermentioned vessels mooring outside Beirut port are refused entrance or sailing by the Israeli Navy and also the vessels at Tripoli port. Container carriers *Glenmoor*, MSC Mia Summer, *Kormoran*, *Cala Panama*, *Ali M-1* and livestock *Friesian Express*. *Friesian Express* with 1,800 head of cattle on board of Brazilian origin not allowed to receive water or enter port for food supply. Jieh electricity power station has been bombarded causing an electricity cut to all the areas feeding by this station. Beirut airport was hit many times last night and this morning and the fuel jet tanks caught on fire. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Jul 15 — Israeli aircraft pounded areas in south, east and northern Lebanon today, a day after Hizbollah's chief declared an open war against the Jewish state following the bombardment of his stronghold in Beirut. The strikes killed four civilians and wounded 16, security sources and witnesses said. One of the raids targeted a gas station in the city of Sidon, the largest in south Lebanon. During a telephone call to Hizbollah's television, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah announced yesterday that the Lebanese guerrilla group had hit an Israeli warship off Beirut and threatened to launch deep strikes inside the Jewish state. Israel confirmed four of its sailors were missing after the strike, part of the bloodiest bout of violence in Lebanon in a decade, started by an attack on Wednesday (Jul 12) in which Hizbollah guerrillas captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight. The Israeli army was still searching for its missing today. It said a civilian boat, possibly from Egypt, was also hit by a missile in the same attack that damaged its vessel. The violence in Lebanon coincided with an Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip launched last month to try to retrieve another captured soldier and halt Palestinian rocket fire. Celebratory gunfire erupted in Beirut following Nasrallah's speech, which raised morale among his supporters after Israel imposed an air, sea and land blockade on the country and launched air strikes on roads, bridges and airports that have killed a total of 67 people, almost all civilians. The

Iranian- and Syrian-backed group, which wants to trade its captives for Lebanese prisoners held in Israel, fired more rockets across the frontier yesterday, killing two Israelis. Israeli air strikes destroyed Nasrallah's apartment building and a main Hizbollah office in southern Beirut. Syria's ruling Baath Party said it would support Hizbollah and Lebanon against Israel's attacks. Israeli aircraft rocketed runways at Beirut's already closed international airport and bombed a flyover just to the south. Hizbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel have now killed four Israelis and wounded more than 150, causing panic. In Gaza yesterday, Israel bombed offices of Hamas lawmakers, destroyed a bridge and fired a tank shell that killed a Palestinian. Palestinian gunmen blew a hole in the border wall between Gaza and Egypt, allowing hundreds of Gazans who had been stranded on the closed border for two weeks to enter the Strip. — Reuters.

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of two of the four Israeli soldiers missing in a Hezbollah attack on their warship off Lebanon were found today on board the damaged vessel, military officials said. The vessel was severely damaged yesterday either by a drone loaded with explosives or a missile fired by Hezbollah as the Israeli navy blockaded Lebanon as part of its military offensive against the guerrillas. The warship was returning to the Israeli port of Haifa today when the remains of the two soldiers were found in the wrecked part of the vessel, the military officials said.

Jerusalem, Jul 15 — Rockets fired by Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon struck deeper into Israel than ever before today, injuring at least eight people in the Sea of Galilee town of Tiberias, Israeli officials said. More than a dozen Israelis were wounded throughout northern Israel as about 80 rockets rained down from Lebanon. It was the fourth straight day of rocket barrages since fighting erupted after two Israeli soldiers were captured in an infiltration into Israel by Hizbollah militants, who also killed eight Israeli troops in ensuing clashes. Four Israelis have been killed by the rockets since Wednesday (Jul 12) and 300 hurt in attacks of unprecedented intensity on more than 20 towns. Israeli officials said three barrages of Katyusha rockets slammed into Tiberias, a town about 35 km from the border with Lebanon, injuring eight people and damaging two residential buildings. In Karmiel, another Israeli town struck by rockets, the mayor urged residents to stay with relatives in the south of the country until the violence subsides. Several people were injured in an Israeli-Arab town across the road from Karmiel on Friday. Brigadier General Ido Nehushtan said the Israeli army believed Hizbollah has 10,000 to 12,000 rockets in its arsenal with ranges of 30 to 70 km, suggesting they could reach far beyond Haifa or Tiberias. — Reuters.

Beirut, Jul 15 — Israeli fire targeted ports in Beirut and the northern city of Tripoli today, a Lebanese security source and witnesses said. Aircraft fired two rockets at Tripoli's port radar while two missiles fell in the vicinity of Beirut port, the source said. Israeli warships bombarded Beirut's lighthouse and also hit two ports in Christian areas north of the capital, a Lebanese security source said. They said ports in Jounieh and Amsheet came under fire shortly after attacks against two other ports. There was no immediate word on casualties. — Reuters.

London, Jul 16 — An Egyptian civilian ship off the coast of Lebanon was hit during an exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli military, Egypt's foreign ministry confirmed on overnight, but the crew of 12 survived. "The 12 sailors have reached Syria safely," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alaa el-Hadidi said, adding there were no casualties among the crew of the Egyptian-owned ship. The Egyptian vessel was hit early yesterday after Hezbollah launched an attack against a fleet of military vessels Israel has deployed to impose a naval siege on Lebanon after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers on Wednesday. Israel said that a missile fired at an Israeli naval vessel off Lebanon missed its target and hit the Egyptian civilian vessel instead. Egypt's state news agency MENA reported the vessel was hit by mistake by Israeli fire. "It (the ship) was hit and it was damaged," Mr Hadidi added, saying it appeared the vessel was caught in crossfire between Israeli forces and Hezbollah. But he said it was too early to say which side had fired the shot that hit the ship. The official Syrian news agency SANA said the sailors were receiving treatment in a Syrian hospital. The sailors were transported to the port of Tartous, where a health official said most of them were in a stable condition, except for one sailor who had serious wounds, SANA said.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Moon Light* (2698 gt, built 1978) was hit by a Hezbollah rocket, injuring one crew member, during the guerrillas' attack on an Israeli warship off Beirut, an Egyptian transport official said yesterday. On Friday (Jul 14), the *Moon Light*, bound for the Syrian port of Tartous with a cargo of cement, was struck by a rocket and set aflame, the official said. One of the 12 Egyptian seamen on board was injured in the incident, he said. The *Moon Light* was 35 kilometres off of the Lebanese coast when it was hit, according to Mohammed Al-Redi of the Al-Redi Agency that owns the vessel, meaning that it was outside the 4.83-kilometre blockade Israel imposed on the Lebanese shoreline. Another vessel, general cargo *Marwa*, also carrying cement and owned by the same company, rescued the crew and took it to Syria, Al-Redi said. He said the company did not know what happened to the vessel after its crew was



rescued. Along with its cargo, the *Moon Light* is valued at \$2.5 million. Both vessels departed Wednesday from the Egyptian port of Damietta. Also, the Israeli warship struck by a Hizbollah-fired missile, killing two on board and leaving two others missing, returned to its home port in Haifa yesterday, according to Israeli TV footage. The *Spear* was severely damaged Friday night after it was struck by an Iranian-made, radar-guided C-102 missile. A military official said the ship is one of the most technologically advanced in the Israeli fleet, boasting an array of Harpoon and Gabriel missiles, along with a system for electronically jamming attacking missiles and other threats. The official said the missile detection and deflection system was not operating apparently because the sailors did not anticipate such an attack by Hizbollah.

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Director General of Syrian Ports Brigadier Mohsen Hassan ruled out today that the missile that targeted general cargo *Moon Light*, manned by 12 Egyptian sailors, had been launched from Lebanon. Speaking to Syrian Television, he said that the vessel, which had been 80 kilometres off the Lebanese shores and flying the Cambodian flag, was more likely to have been hit by a missile launched from one of the Israeli warships or planes that were besieging Israel. He added that what indicated this attack took place with the knowledge of the Israeli marine forces was that it was they who contacted the vessel that rescued the sailors. Israel had denied it had launched its missiles at the vessel, and accused Hezbollah of having staged the attack. Meanwhile, director of the Basel Hospital where the sailors had been taken after being rescued said that their condition was “very good” with the exception of one who had been severely wounded and had to undergo surgery. He said this sailor was now in the intensive care unit. Moreover, medical sources at the hospital told KUNA the sailor’s leg had been amputated as it was almost severed at the time of his admittance to the hospital.

London, Jul 17 — An Israeli warship off the Lebanese coast hit Beirut’s airport with four missiles yesterday, setting a fuel tank ablaze, Lebanese security officials said. The Rafik Hariri International Airport has been closed since Israeli aircraft fired missiles at its three runways Wednesday (Jul 12), the first of five days of attacks on targets in Lebanon. The airport now has been hit four times. Israel has struck bridges, roads and army bases, knocked out electricity to much of the Lebanese capital and imposed an air and sea blockade since Hezbollah guerillas captured two Israeli soldiers Wednesday. The Lebanese Hezbollah movement has responded to the Zionist entity’s bombardment of Lebanon by launching a barrage of rockets at the city of Haifa in the

Northern part of Occupied Palestine. Some of the rockets landed on Haifa’s oil refinery and gas storage tanks, setting them ablaze. The attack resulted in the killing of at least 13 Zionists. Iran’s al-Alam Arabic language TV network quoted “Israeli” security sources as saying that ten rockets hit the oil refinery and gas storage tanks, some 45 kilometres from the border with Lebanon, killing 13 Israelis and injuring 30 more. Some of the injured are reportedly in a critical condition. The Lebanese Hezbollah has confirmed firing dozens of rockets at important installations in the port city of Haifa in Northern Occupied Palestine, and targeting the refinery there, saying the rockets were in response to recent Zionist bombardment of key infrastructure in Lebanon. The Hezbollah has also fired a barrage of rockets at Haifa’s Railway Station completely destroying it.

Port Said, Jul 17 — General cargo *Moon Light* was hit in Lebanese territorial waters, while underway to Tartous with a full cargo of cement loaded in Damietta. The vessel sustained serious damages and the crew were rescued by the Syrian authorities and repatriated to Cairo yesterday, except for one crew member who is still in hospital in Syria. The vessel was abandoned “in situ”. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Jul 18 — Two truck drivers waiting to pick up cargo in Beirut’s port were killed when Israel launched another offensive on the city in the early hours of yesterday. The bombing was the second attack on Beirut’s international port within 48 hours. Damage was light the first time with no injuries reported, but the later strike was much more serious. Beirut Container Terminal’s 25-strong morning shift had been about to start work when the port was hit. Port infrastructure appears to have escaped so far, but yesterday’s attack was directed at a part of the port where trucks were parked outside the terminal ready to collect cargo bound for local shops and markets. The port, including the recently opened container terminal, has been blockaded since last Thursday (Jul 13), but four small container ship feeders ordered to remain in Lebanese waters have now been allowed to sail. In Israel the northern city of Haifa was closed yesterday following Hizbollah rocket attacks from Lebanon, the transport ministry said. Meanwhile, a group of the world’s top container lines that belong to the Europe Mediterranean Trade Agreement have warned shippers that they may impose a war risk surcharge if their insurance costs increase. As well as the two trucker fatalities in Beirut there were several injuries in the latest rocket attack, and vehicles were also destroyed. The almost new container terminal, used as a transshipment hub by global box lines Mediterranean Shipping Co and CMA CGM, has managed to shift more than 1,000 containers since the Israeli strikes began last Wednesday, but

there are still around 3,800 boxes of import merchandise waiting to be delivered. Many contain consumables including food urgently needed by local residents. About 80 refrigerated boxes are also still stranded on the terminal where there have been power cuts from time to time.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Lebanon said Sunday (16 Jul) that massive damage incurred by Israeli military strikes on its territory had already cost its fragile economy more than half a billion dollars. “The losses to the infrastructure alone have surpassed 500 million dollars,” Finance Minister Jihad Azur said. He warned that the figures were provisional because it was too early to conduct a thorough review of the damage, “particularly to roads and communication networks”. Azur said the Israeli air raids, because they had effectively halted the tourist season, had dealt a blow to a blossoming sector of the Lebanese economy. “I think it will be difficult to reach the growth target for this year of four to five per cent that we had been counting on,” he said. And the government’s hopes of setting a tourism record this year with 1.6 million visitors have also been dashed, he said. Nevertheless, Azur insisted that the Lebanese economy was “stable” and said there was no danger of a devaluation of the Lebanese pound. He added that the Beirut stock exchange was still up and running Friday, the last normal business day, and that it was determined to open again next week. The Beirut stock exchange has lost 10 per cent since the Israeli raids began Wednesday, dragged down by a steep drop in real estate giant Solidere’s share price.

Beirut, Jul 18 — Three Navy vessels have been allowed to enter Beirut port by the Israeli Navy to evacuate people holding foreign passports. These vessels are *Ira Petra*, *Hual Transporter* and *Durant de la Penne*. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The evacuation of foreigners from Lebanon is being stepped up, as Israeli warplanes carry out a seventh day of air strikes. France and Italy have moved 1,600 Europeans by ship to Cyprus, and British warships are preparing to transport thousands of Britons. The United Nations has warned of a humanitarian disaster in Lebanon as people flee their homes. Israel is targeting Hezbollah fighters, who have captured two of its soldiers. More than 200 Lebanese citizens have been killed since Israel launched air strikes last Wednesday (Jul 12). Twenty-four Israelis have died - 12 as a result of Hezbollah rocket attacks. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni reiterated today her government’s demands that soldiers captured last Wednesday should be freed without condition and that Hezbollah should be disarmed. She was speaking after talks Tuesday with a UN team trying to negotiate a ceasefire. Tens of thousands of foreigners are set to

leave Lebanon by land, sea, and air in the coming days. This morning, a ferry chartered by France brought 1,200 Europeans to the Cypriot port of Larnaca. Nearly 400 people arrived on an Italian navy vessel yesterday night. British warships are standing by to transport up to 12,000 Britons and a further 10,000 people with dual British-Lebanese nationality to Cyprus. US military helicopters have started flying American citizens from Lebanon to Cyprus. A commercial ship escorted by a US destroyer is due to move another 25,000 people to safety. Canada has also chartered ships to evacuate thousands of its nationals. Other governments are organising pullouts by land to Syria. Correspondents in southern Lebanon says the roads are clogged with packed vehicles. The UN's top humanitarian official, Jan Egeland, said air strikes on roads and bridges were hampering efforts to help the people fleeing their homes. Israel has continued its air raids over southern Beirut, where Hezbollah has its headquarters, and others parts of Lebanon. Six bodies were pulled from the rubble of a home in the border village of Aitaroun, and another family was killed in the coastal city of Tyre. Meanwhile Hezbollah has continued to fire rockets into northern Israel. Several landed in Haifa on Tuesday. There were no reported casualties. Overnight, five people were injured in a rocket attack on the Israeli town of Safed. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he expects European nations to contribute troops to a proposed stabilisation force to end the fighting.

Ashdod, Jul 18 — As a result of the damage caused by a missile that was fired from the Lebanese coast towards general cargo *Moon Light* near the coast of Lebanon, all vessels sailing in the East Mediterranean sea are warned no to go under the range of 50 miles from the coast of Lebanon. This message is valid from 0500, UTC, Jul 15. Haifa Port: Due to a rocket barrage that hit the city of Haifa, a port city of some 250,000 people, 18 miles from the international border, and the port of Haifa, the Home Front Command ordered the Haifa Port Authority on Sunday to evacuate all cargo vessels from the port until further notice. Due to the situation and the fear that the Hezbollah will continue targeting Haifa, the Home Front Command ordered Israelis in the Haifa region to stay in bomb shelters and secured areas. Customs offices were ordered to close as well as other government offices. Local customs brokers as well as freight forwarders are unable to operate due to staff shortages. Following the Haifa port's evacuation, ships have been routed to the port of Ashdod. The Ashdod port has started preparing for large-scale absorption of cargo and passenger ships. The management made sure to reinforce manpower and recruit additional employees in order to enable continuous work on the docks. The Israeli National Federation

of International Freight Forwarders & Customs Clearing Agents declared yesterday that at the time being the customs brokerage industry, as well as the freight forwarding sector in Haifa, will be unable to provide its regular daily service. The federation management declared that together with the Israeli Customs Authority, they are doing their best to find ways to ease the situation and release as many shipments as possible. Despite the large number of incoming rockets, their effectiveness is low and the number of casualties and property damage is relatively small. South of Haifa life routine is not substantially affected. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The Home Front Command ordered on Sunday (Jul 16) the Haifa Port authority to evacuate all cargo vessels from the port until further notice. The Ashdod port has started preparing for large-scale absorption of cargo and passenger ships. Due to terrorists attacks and rocket barrage that hit the city of Haifa and the port of Haifa, the Home Front Command ordered the Haifa port authority on Sunday to evacuate all cargo vessels from the port until further notice. Due to the situation and the fear that the Hezbollah will continue targeting Haifa, the Home Front Command ordered Israelis in the Haifa region to stay in bomb shelters and secured area. Customs offices were ordered to close as well as other government offices. Local customs brokers as well as freight forwarders are unable to operate due to staff shortage. Following the Haifa port's evacuation ships have been routed to the port of Ashdod. The Ashdod port has started preparing for large-scale absorption of cargo and passenger ships. The management made sure to reinforce manpower and recruit additional employees in order to enable continuous work on the docks. The Israeli National Federation of International Freight Forwarders & Customs Clearing Agents declared yesterday that at the time being the customs brokerage industry, as well as the freight forwarding sector in Haifa, will be unable to provide its regular daily service. The federation management declared that together with the Israeli Customs Authority, they doing their best to find ways to ease the situation and release as many shipments as possible.

London, Jul 19 — The Lebanese ports of Beirut and Tripoli are out of operation following air raids, Jul 18. The extent of the damage has yet to be evaluated. Beirut Airport remains out of action as a result of the continuing situation.

Beirut, Jul 19 — Israel unleashed fierce air strikes on Lebanon today, killing 41 civilians and a Hezbollah fighter, as ships and buses left Beirut laden with thousands of foreigners fleeing the eight-day-old conflict. Israeli ground troops crossed the border in what the Israeli army called restricted attacks on Hezbollah guerrilla positions in south Lebanon.

Hizbollah said it had repelled the raids. Despite international diplomatic efforts, there was no sign Israel or its Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim foes were ready to heed the Beirut government's pleas for an immediate halt to fighting that has cost 277 lives in Lebanon and 25 in Israel. Hizbollah, backed by Syria and Iran, wants to swap two Israeli soldiers it captured on July 12 for Lebanese and Palestinians in Israeli jails. Israel is determined to drive the guerrillas from the south to halt cross-border rocket attacks. At least 12 Lebanese, including several children, were killed and 30 wounded in an Israeli air strike that destroyed several houses in the southern village of Srafa, residents said. At least 29 other civilians were killed in air strikes that hammered other parts of south and east Lebanon, security sources said. Hizbollah said one of its fighters was killed. More Hizbollah rockets fell on the Israeli city of Haifa and one hit an empty seafront restaurant. A few people were hurt. An Israeli helicopter fired two rockets at trucks parked in a leafy road in Ashrafiya, a Christian district in the heart of Beirut, witnesses said. No one was hurt. The conflict has forced about 100,000 Lebanese to flee their homes. Panicked foreigners have flooded out of the country. Nine military ships, including a helicopter carrier and a dock landing ship, and thousands of Marines and sailors were involved in the U.S. operation, U.S. officials said. More than 2,400 Americans are to be evacuated by air and sea today, the first of up to 8,000 to be taken from Lebanon. About 200 Belgians waited to get on buses from central Beirut to the Syrian border. "I got the green light from the Israelis," Belgian consul Karina Tuytschaever told Reuters. Two explosions from an air strike on southern Beirut echoed over the city as the families clustered round the buses. France was hoping to move another 850 of its 10,000 citizens in Lebanon by ship to Cyprus through Israel's naval blockade, after taking out 800 on Tuesday, an embassy source said. Britain said it had six ships ready to start moving some of the 5,000 citizens it expects to evacuate this week. A Royal Navy warship arrived in Cyprus with 170 British evacuees aboard. Israel's offensive in Lebanon has coincided with a three-week-old push into the Gaza Strip to recover another soldier, seized by Palestinian militants on June 25. Tanks pushed into central Gaza's Maghazi refugee camp today, killing four gunmen and two civilians and wounding more than 45 people, including 10 children, Palestinian medics said. The Israeli army said five soldiers were wounded. Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinian gunmen in a raid on a security compound in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus. A frenzy of international diplomacy has failed so far to curtail the violence in the Middle East, tangled with wider regional conflicts involving Syria, Iran, Iraq and others. U.N. envoys will suggest deploying Lebanese troops in



the south and enlarging an international force there to try to end the fighting, diplomats in Jerusalem said today. They said the proposed steps would be presented to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York following talks this week between the envoys and top Israeli and Lebanese officials, but the Western diplomats said this did not mean the ideas already had the agreement of Israel, Lebanon or Hizbollah. U.S. President George W. Bush has called Hizbollah the root cause of the conflict, saying its ally Syria was trying to "get back into Lebanon" a year after its troops ended a 29-year stay. — Reuters.

London, Jul 20 — Lebanon says the military offensive from Israel has inflicted \$2 billion of damage to its infrastructure. As Israeli raids continued yesterday against Hezbollah positions, Lebanon's Finance Minister Jihad Azour said damage costs to the country were growing by the hour. Lebanese authorities say more than 280 people — mainly civilians — have died while Israel says 25 Israelis have died, including 13 civilians. Azour told the newspaper the targets have included roads, bridges, telecommunications, electricity, ports, airports and private sector facilities. The report said banks in Lebanon were restricting the withdrawal of dollars. But Azour said central bank foreign currency reserves of \$13 billion would help keep any pressure on the Lebanese pound under control.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli soldiers are fighting Hezbollah militants inside the Lebanese border, Israeli military officials say. The clashes come as Israel keeps up its bombing of Lebanon, carrying out 80 air strikes early today. The Lebanese prime minister has called for an immediate ceasefire, saying that 300 people have been killed and 500,000 displaced by the violence. Bombed roads are hampering aid efforts, with the UN warning the humanitarian crisis is worsening by the hour. The nine days of fighting - triggered by the capture of two Israeli soldiers by the militant Hezbollah group in a cross-border raid - have left 29 Israelis dead, including 15 civilians killed by rockets fired by Hezbollah into Israel. Captain Eric Schneider from the Israeli Defence Force said there was heavy fighting between Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants in two places inside Lebanon's border and that there had been injuries on both sides. "In one incident an anti-tank missile fired by the Hezbollah struck an IDF vehicle and there have been casualties on the Israeli side in addition to casualties on the Hezbollah side," he said. Many thousands of people continue to flee Lebanon, and a number of countries have sent ships and helicopters to move their nationals. Britons in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, are being told to gather at a conference centre in the city, while about 40 US marines from the *USS Nashville* have come ashore in Beirut to assist with the

evacuation of US citizens. Cyprus, however, says it cannot cope with the influx of evacuees, expected to reach 60,000, and appeals to the European Commission for additional planes to fly evacuees to their home countries. But as thousands of foreigners leave, aid agencies are expressing increasing concern for those who will be left behind, especially people in the south who have been displaced by the fighting. The United Nations' emergency relief co-ordinator, Jan Egeland, said that without a truce allowing aid agencies to begin the relief effort there would be a "catastrophe". "It is nearly impossible in southern Lebanon to move anything anywhere because it is too dangerous. It is too dangerous for our people to move things," he said. Mr Egeland said that neither Hezbollah nor the Israelis seemed to care about civilian suffering, adding that nearly a third of the dead or wounded were children and the wounded could not be helped because roads and bridges had been cut by Israeli air strikes. "The Israeli military attacks are all over the country. There are aerial bombardments which are in hundreds of places really. I think it is a disproportionate response, really," Mr Egeland said. "But I also clearly see that Hezbollah is trying to blend into the civilian population in too many places and they bear also a heavy responsibility for this. They do not seem to care that they really inflict a lot of suffering on their own population," he added. In the southern Lebanese city of Tyre the evacuation of hundreds of foreign nationals who had been trapped by the fighting has begun. The group, which was forced to spend the night in the open on the beachfront after the evacuation was cancelled yesterday, are being transferred in UN convoys to Tyre port then ferried to an awaiting passenger ship. Many Lebanese fear that the violence could escalate further once the foreign nationals are evacuated. Yesterday evening, Israel said 23 tonnes of explosives had been dropped on a bunker in the south of Beirut where senior Hezbollah figures, possibly including leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, were believed to be hiding, but Hezbollah issued a statement saying the building targeted was a mosque under construction and "no Hezbollah leaders or personnel were killed in the strike". Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said the campaign against the militants would continue "as long as necessary" to free its captured soldiers and ensure Hezbollah is not a threat.

#### IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Jul 20 — Traffic flowed and shops and offices opened for business in Ivory Coast's economic capital Abidjan today after youths dismantled barricades they had set up to protest against a pre-election identity scheme. Dozens of roadblocks erected yesterday across Abidjan by youths loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo had paralysed much of the city for the day.

They were taken down overnight after Gbagbo told the protesters to do so in a statement broadcast by state television. Cocoa export activity also resumed this following the temporary shutdown of Abidjan's port during yesterday's protests. The protesters took to the street to oppose a programme which is a key part of a faltering U.N. plan to reunite the war-divided West African state and hold national elections by the end of October. The scheme aims to issue identity papers to around 3.5 million people who are not legally registered with the state. But the country's ruling party has vowed to block the process — administered by a rebel-nominated minister in a unity government — arguing that opposition foreigners may fraudulently gain nationality and voting rights. Doubts about the October poll deadline are growing as delays dog the plans to identify and register voters and disarm the opposing factions. — Reuters.

#### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jul 20 — Ten communist rebels and four Philippine soldiers were killed in a gun battle at a checkpoint on the southern island of Mindanao, an army spokesman said today. Lieutenant-Colonel Francisco Simbajon said soldiers set up checkpoints on a highway in Davao del Norte province yesterday to stop plans by New People's Army (NPA) rebels to disrupt a festival in Kapalong town. "We were alerted by some villagers on the movement of rebels in the area," he told reporters, adding a senior guerrilla leader was among those killed. — Reuters.

#### SRI LANKA

London, Jul 16 — A press report, dated Jul 15, states: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels claimed Friday (Jul 14) to have killed at least 10 government soldiers in fighting earlier in the day, while losing four of their own, according to the rebel-linked TamilNet website. Reuters, meanwhile, quoted a rebel official as saying 22 bodies were found after the incident, which would make it the single biggest death toll in a military clash since a 2002 cease-fire halted two decades of civil war.

Colombo, Jul 17 — Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels killed one soldier and injured 12 other people, including four civilians, in a series of deadly mine ambushes in northern and eastern Sri Lanka today, officials said. The soldier was killed in a blast in the northern army-held Jaffna peninsula, while five navy sailors were injured in the eastern district of Trincomalee and another blast hit the northwestern district of Mannar — all three districts heavily scarred by a two-decade civil war. "The attacks were obviously by the Tigers," said a military spokesman. The attackers used deadly Claymore fragmentation mines, which spray hundreds of ball bearings which can rip through the bodies of vehicles. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jul 19 — Tamil Tiger rebels ambushed an army bus in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula today, wounding nine servicemen, the military said. The attack comes after the suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels killed three people and wounded 23 others on Monday (Jul 17) and yesterday in two similar attacks in the island's north and east. "An army bus was hit by a Claymore mine on the Jaffna peninsula," said military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. Army sources said seven soldiers and two officers were injured in the attack. — Reuters.

#### SUDAN

Rubkona, Jul 19 — Four soldiers and seven civilians were killed in the southern Sudanese town of Rubkona after soldiers of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) opened fire in the middle of town, according to residents. Although people have returned to the streets of Rubkona - adjacent to Bentiu, the capital of Unit State - the presence of armoured vehicles is evidence of tensions. "There was a dispute in the market on Sunday (Jul 16) - between a soldier of the SAF and one of the SPLA - which ended in a fist-fight," said a bystander. "On Monday (Jul 17), the SAF soldier returned to the market with his gun and killed the SPLA soldier and wounded two of his colleagues." Although the perpetrator went into hiding in a barracks of the Sudanese military, SPLA soldiers - who formerly belonged to the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) militia - sought revenge. When they encountered two other SAF soldiers in the street, they shot them on the spot, sparking a spiral into greater violence. "[Subsequently,] both heavily armed groups went into a nearby residential area but avoided a direct confrontation," the observer said. "Instead, the SSIM soldiers shot Arab civilians, while the SAF killed [alleged] SSIM supporters." The presence of the two government-aligned militia groups, the SSIM in Rubkona and the South Sudan Unity Movement (SSUM) in Bentiu, contributed to a highly volatile security situation in the two towns during the civil war. A degree of stability returned after the two militias formally agreed to join the SPLA under the January 9, 2006 Juba Declaration, signed by Paulino Matip, former leader of the SSUM and current deputy chief of staff of the SPLA forces. Tensions can easily flare up, however. The streets are awash with armed militiamen and soldiers, as the SAF and the SPLA keep troops in the area and the two militias largely maintain separate forces, despite their formal alliance with the SPLA. "The SAF has three garrisons in town - their largest deployment in the south," a political analyst said. "At the same time, the SPLA is bringing in large numbers of troops that have withdrawn from eastern Sudan, which leads to tensions." "Although the

SPLA keeps most of its forces south of Bentiu, the former militia forces remain in town and the SSIM's barracks are located between two SAF garrisons in Rubkona," he added. — Reuters.

#### UGANDA

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Peace talks between Uganda's government and rebels are due to continue, a day after the government said the rebels must disarm to receive amnesty. The historic talks in southern Sudan had a difficult start when rebels accused the government of corruption and threatened to continue fighting. The government delegation then called on rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) fighters to hand over their weapons. The talks are considered north Uganda's best chance for peace in years. Over the weekend, mediators in the southern Sudanese town of Juba have been trying to calm tensions between government and rebel delegates. The government side has been angered by what it regards as belligerent remarks by rebels at the opening ceremony. Correspondents say the Ugandan delegation at one stage threatened to return home on what was scheduled to be the first full day of talks. At the opening ceremony on Friday (Jul 14) night, delegates from the LRA warned that the Ugandan government would be "in for a shock" if it thought the rebels were about to surrender. The rebels - who have been promised an amnesty - have not sent their top leaders to the negotiations, but say they are willing to sign a ceasefire. Few of the 17-member delegation that arrived in Juba on Thursday (Jul 13) have combat experience and many of them are based abroad. It is debatable whether they have the influence to negotiate on behalf of the leadership in the bush. LRA leader Joseph Kony and four of his commanders are wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has offered them a full and guaranteed amnesty as long as they renounce violence.



### Labour Disputes

#### CANADA

Toronto, Jul 19 — Teamsters railway workers said today they initiated a strike against Canadian National Railway in an effort to resolve a long-standing contract dispute. The strike targets properties of the former Grand Trunk Western, Detroit Toledo & Ironton, and Detroit Toledo & Shore Line portions of the rail company. The union, which represents about 250 maintenance workers, said the strike comes after months of unsuccessful bargaining and mediation. The talks broke off over seniority rights,

outsourcing and health insurance contributions, the union said. The parties have not met since March. — Reuters.

#### CREW OF AUSTRALIAN-FLAGGED VESSEL AT HOBART, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 14, states: The vessel at the centre of a national dispute allegedly over Australia's new industrial relations laws, chemical tanker *Stolt Australia*, has left Hobart. It is understood an agreement was reached last night between the company, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Maritime Union of Australia. The chemical tanker left Hobart at 2230 hrs, and is believed to be bound for Port Hedland in South Australia before heading to Singapore.

#### CREW OF ST VINCENT & GRENADINES VESSEL AT COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Copenhagen, Jul 14 — Yesterday the crew of refrigerated general cargo *Alexa* (6122 gt, built 1965) was taken off at Copenhagen roads with the help of ITF (International Transportworkers Federation). The crew has not been paid for more than 12 months according to ITF and was out of supplies. The owner, a Russian from Kaliningrad, claims that the vessel has been up ducked by the crew and refuses to pay any of them. So the 30 persons on board was taken off and shipped back to Kaliningrad on ITF. The vessel is now lying for an anchor without anyone on board awaiting the owners decision. — Correspondent.

Copenhagen, Jul 18 — The Danish Port Authorities have confirmed to us that the refrigerated general cargo *Alexa* had its crew taken off at Copenhagen Roads / Anchoring Berth, but no further details could be obtained as the vessel does not report to the Port Authorities while on the Anchorage Ground. — Lloyd's Agents.

Copenhagen, Jul 19 — General cargo *Alexa* is still at Copenhagen roads, anchorage berth. The vessel is retained by the Danish Maritime Authority because there is now crew on board. Reportedly the vessel will be released once a crew arrives and according to information obtained from the owner, a new crew will arrive in a day or two. Until then the Admiral Danish Fleet will keep the vessel under surveillance. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### MEXICO

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Grupo Mexico SA, the world's seventh-largest copper miner, resolved a strike at its Cananea copper mine and will restart operations after union workers shut down the mine Jun 1, said Mexico's miners union in a statement. Mexico City-based Grupo Mexico agreed to pay 50 percent of lost wages during the strike, the union said. Cananea, the country's largest copper mine, produces about 150,000 metric tons of copper content or almost half the 325,000 tons of refined copper that the company produces a year in Mexico.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: About 43 000 commuters were stranded in North West Province, this morning after over 70 bus drivers embarked on strike. Atamelang Bus Transport drivers, affiliated to South African Transport and Allied Workers Union, are demanding amongst others the improvements on benefits and working conditions. The drivers of 126 buses at Atamelang, Mafikeng, Lichtenburg and Zeerust buses depot were toy-toying at the Mafikeng bus depot since yesterday. The police were called after the strikers forced their way into the premises. A great number of buses were parked while the drivers continue with the industrial action. The workers alleged the unilateral changes of conditions of employment that include decrease in travel allowance and changing of payment system from weekly to monthly. Management insists that all the changes were negotiated and agreed upon at the bargaining council early this year. Simon Letseka, the managing director of Atamelang Bus Transport says: "Even if the agreement was reached at the bargaining council, in order to meet our drivers half way, we felt that it was best that we apply or implement the agreement as applicable in the financial year 2005." The workers vow to continue with the industrial action until the management address their demands. On the other hand, the management says "no work - no pay" will apply because the bus transport is losing over R243 000 per day.

**SOUTH KOREA**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 80 people have been injured in scuffles the last several days between police and striking workers who are occupying the headquarters of South Korean steelmaker Posco, police and media reports said today. Since Thursday (Jul 13), about 1,500 construction workers from Posco's subcontracting companies have been staging a sit-in at the 12-story building, demanding better wages. Posco, the world's fifth-largest steelmaker, says it has no direct connection with the workers, but is losing 10 billion won (US\$10.5 million; euro8.3 million) a day because of the strike. Posco workers have been unable to enter the building during the takeover. Yesterday, 55 police were hurt in a violent protest by construction workers, who wielded bamboo sticks near the Posco headquarters in Pohang, about 370 kilometres southeast of Seoul, Kim Tae-ho, an officer at the Pohang Nambu Police Station said. Another eight police officers were injured today. Meanwhile, about 20 of the striking workers have been hurt, Yonhap News Agency reported. At 2300 hrs, yesterday, police made another

attempt, their second in as many days, to remove the workers, but were pushed back by the striking workers, who poured hot water on the police and wielded burning sticks, Kim said. About 6,800 riot police were guarding the building, but it was unclear whether or when they would move into the building again, he said. The workers have been occupying the building after negotiations with their companies for higher wages and better working conditions failed. The strikers are believed to have taken over the building to dramatize their protest.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Unionised workers at Kia Motors Corp. launched a partial strike Tuesday to press for wage hikes and improvements in other working conditions, the latest in a series of labour disputes in the local auto sector. The strike, which started at 1030 hrs, at Kia Motors' plant in Kwangju, South Cholla Province, will last until Thursday (Jul 20), with unionised workers at three local plants taking turns "laying down their tools" for two hours every day, labour representatives said. The strike came after the management and the labour union failed to find common ground on the latter's demand for a raise of 100,000 won in monthly pay and a 100 percent increase in bonuses. Around 20,000 workers at those plants are taking part in the walkouts, the representatives said. The labour disputes follow partial walkouts at other car manufacturers, including the nation's top automaker Hyundai Motor, raising concerns over the protests having an adverse impact on the nation's economy. Disgruntled workers at Hyundai Motor have staged partial strikes since late last month, demanding a 9.1 percent rise in basic salary and other incentives for the past three weeks. The company estimates that the labour disputes by one of the nation's most militant unions have cost 760 billion won in lost production over the period. Unions at smaller automakers GM Daewoo Auto & Technology and Ssangyong Motor also joined the labour activities last Friday (Jul 14) as their negotiations on wage increases ended in failure.

London, Jul 20 — Hyundai Motor Co., South Korea's largest automaker, said today that a partial strike by its labour union has forced it to suspend vehicle exports. "Exports have stopped," Hyundai spokesman Oles Gadacz said. He added that the company has about three month's worth of vehicle inventory already shipped overseas so there has been no supply disruption to dealers. Unionised workers at Hyundai have been on strike for parts of some work days since last month, seeking higher wages and better working conditions. The strike has so far cost the company 78,616 vehicles in lost production worth 1.08 trillion won (\$1.13 billion), Gadacz said.

**Awards & Settlements****"KICKBACKS," UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Medtronic Inc, the world's largest maker of electronic heart-rhythm devices, agreed to pay \$40 million to settle civil claims that its Sofamor Danek unit paid kickbacks to doctors to get them to use its spinal products. The government had alleged that Fridley-based Medtronic paid kickbacks in a number of forms, including sham consulting agreements and royalties, and lavish trips, in violation of federal rules and the False Claims Act, the U.S. Justice Department said in a statement. The investigation was triggered by the filing of a whistleblower complaint in 2002. Under the U.S. False Claims Act, private parties may file whistleblower lawsuits on behalf of the government and collect a share of any recovery. The government then reviews the suits and decides whether to join. "Kickbacks to physicians are incompatible with a properly functioning health care system," Assistant Attorney General Peter Keisler said in the statement. "They corrupt physicians' medical judgment, and they cause over-utilization and misallocation of vital health care resources." Medtronic, which admitted no wrongdoing, will record a one-time charge in its fiscal first quarter, which ends Jul 28, to account for the payment, company spokesman Rob Clark said. Under terms of a five-year agreement, Sofamor Danek must set up an electronic database to capture and manage all non-sales-related transactions with customers. Those transactions will be monitored by company management and an outside review organization. "Medtronic has co-operated fully with the government during its investigation," Chief Executive Officer Art Collins said in a statement. "We realize that any organization may be judged by the actions of a few. We expect every Medtronic employee to adhere to high ethical standards at all times." Shares of Medtronic fell 13 cents to \$47.37 this morning in New York Stock Exchange composite trading.

**CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: After seven years of litigation, a team of Cleveland lawyers won a \$52 million class-action today on behalf of 8,000 workers who sued the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation. Even after the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in 2004 that the bureau's practice of reclaiming money paid by third parties to injured workers was unconstitutional, it took the bureau more than a year to agree

to pay back the millions of wrongly collected dollars. The bureau claimed the money from workers from throughout the state between 1995 and 2001. A bureau spokesman said the money was held in reserve and would not damage the department's bottom line, which already is reeling from failed investments in rare coins and hedge funds. Plaintiffs' attorney Patrick Perotti and his co-counsel, Craig Bashein, called the judgment unprecedented in the state, taking into account the size of the damages to be paid, the size of the payouts expected, and the 100 percent returns to be paid to the workers. In most class action suits, the plaintiffs receive only a percentage of their losses, often as little as 10 percent, the lawyers said. And the class members usually have to share in the expenses and legal fees - costs that won't be borne by the plaintiffs in this case. The plaintiffs' attorneys - four firms worked on the case - will receive 30 percent of the \$52 million damage award.

#### **CONTRACT DISPUTE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: Valeant Pharmaceuticals International said today that a California court levelled a \$2.4 million judgement against the company in a contract dispute with Caleel & Hayden LLC. The lawsuit challenged Valeant's termination of a distribution agreement for Valeant's Kinerase skin-care product line. Valeant said it planned to record the damages as a charge to its second-quarter results. Valeant President and Chief Executive Timothy C. Tyson said he was "disappointed" and added that Valeant intended "to pursue all legal options available to the company."

#### **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The family of a 29-year-old man who died as a result of negligence on the part of Tallaght Hospital in Dublin has been awarded 1.7 million Euros in a High Court settlement. Nicholas Meade went to the accident and emergency at Tallaght Hospital on the Jan 21. He had chicken pox and complained of severe stomach pains. His condition deteriorated and he died on Jan 28.

#### **MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 12 — A boy who suffered acute brain damage when he was starved of oxygen during his birth at Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, has been awarded £4.8 million compensation. Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust apologised publicly to William Kitchener-Thomas, now eight, and his parents Nick Thomas, 53 and Gillian Kitchener, 45. The NHS trust admitted liability during the hearing at the High Court in London. — "The Daily Telegraph."

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A disabled teenager was awarded £1.95million compensation from Basildon Hospital yesterday, because medics failed to spot a tumour. Joshua Pinnell, from Crays Hill, was just three in January 1994, when he began to suffer recurring headaches, deteriorating vision and hallucinations. He underwent CT scans at Basildon Hospital, doctors didn't spot the symptoms of an underlying tumour on the pituitary gland. By the time the correct diagnosis was made, it was too late, the High Court heard. The tumour was removed in 1994, but had destroyed Joshua's vision and left him on life-long medication. Joshua, who is now 16 and has just finished his GCSEs, sued the hospital trust through his mother Rebecca Pinnell, for negligence in failing to detect the tumour in time. The trust admitted liability.

#### **PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 19 — U.S. judge on Monday (Jul 17) withdrew a \$307 million patent infringement award to Rambus, saying the computer technology developer could accept much-reduced damages or face another trial. Judge Ronald Whyte of the U.S. court for the Northern District of California offered Rambus \$133.6 million, agreeing with South Korean memory chipmaker Hynix Semiconductor that the previous award was excessive. In April, a jury found Hynix guilty of violating Rambus patents on a type of memory now found in nearly all personal computers, a big legal victory for the company, which develops technology to make computers run faster. The Santa Clara, Calif.-based company was still evaluating the court's ruling, said spokeswoman Linda Ashmore. Whyte said that the jury's award was based on speculation that inflated the amount Hynix would have paid Rambus in royalties, according to a copy of the ruling posted on Rambus's Web site. The expectation of big legal payouts has boosted Rambus's stock over the past year. Although the shares have lost more than half their value since hitting a year high of almost \$47 after the Hynix verdict, they are more than double their low of \$10 hit last September. Rambus shares closed down 2 percent at \$21.60 on the Nasdaq on Monday.

#### **POLICE RAID ON SCHOOL, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated Jul 11, states: A federal judge yesterday approved a \$1.6 million class-action settlement to compensate students who were searched during a 2003 high school drug raid in which police with guns drawn ordered students to the floor. US District Judge Patrick Michael Duffy approved the settlement in a lawsuit filed against the Berkeley County School District and the Goose Creek Police Department by students' families.

Surveillance videotapes captured the raid at Stratford High School, in which officers drew their guns, ordered students to lie on the floor and used a dog to search them for illegal drugs. Police found no drugs and no arrests were made, though some students were handcuffed for a time. About 140 students were in the school. The students will split \$1.2 million. Their attorneys will receive the remaining \$400,000. The exact amount each student receives will depend on the final number of claims, but could average between \$6,000 and \$12,000 apiece. The raid provoked marches and lawsuits and brought national media attention and the resignation of the school's longtime principal.

#### **PRICE-FIXING, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: De Beers agreed to pay an additional \$45-million to settle a lawsuit by US consumers, retailers and jewellery makers who alleged the company fixed prices from 1994 to 2005, Antwerp-based Polished Prices said, citing a De Beers statement. The sum is in addition to the \$250-million the world's biggest diamond company agreed to pay on Nov 30 last year. The additional payments are still subject to approval by the US District Court of New Jersey, said Polished Prices, a diamond industry newswire.

#### **TOBACCO-RELATED ILLNESS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Gov. Ed Rendell yesterday announced that \$49 million in health research grants from Pennsylvania's share from the national tobacco settlement for 2005-06 will go to 40 health-care institutions, colleges, universities and nonprofit health organizations. The awards include the following institutions in Pittsburgh: Allegheny-Singer Research Institute, \$226,528; Carnegie Mellon University, \$737,186; Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, \$722,169; Duquesne University, \$82,990; Magee-Womens Health Corp., \$600,197; MPC Corp., \$160,481; NSABP Foundation Inc., \$1.58 million; Oncology Nursing Society, \$32,860; Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative, \$26,589; and University of Pittsburgh, \$9.23 million. In addition to Pitt, the largest grants included those to University of Pennsylvania, \$9.23 million; Penn State University at University Park, \$7.84 million; Thomas Jefferson University, \$4.26 million; and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, \$3.46 million.

#### **VITAMINS CLASS-ACTION, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Australia's first-ever cartel class action has reached a \$30.5 million settlement, a Melbourne court heard today. The "vitamins class action" was initiated in the Federal Court, in Melbourne, against three of the largest foreign producers of



vitamin C. The companies, Roche, BASF and Aventis, were accused of fixing prices for a range of vitamin products used for animal nutrition or health over 10 years in the 1990s. The applicants in the class action alleged that as a result of the cartel, individuals, many of them farmers and businesses, lost market share or paid inflated prices. Kim Parker, principal of law firm Maurice Blackburn Cashman, representing the applicants, said the settlement was a great result after seven years of legal battle. She said parties involved in the case appeared at the Federal Court today to seek court approval of the settlement. "If the court approves this settlement it will be the first successfully concluded cartel class action in Australia," she said. "The outcome should send a big signal to powerful companies that anti-competitive behaviour will not be tolerated by their victims or the Australian courts." The Australian class action was initiated after a worldwide conspiracy to raise and fix the prices of vitamins was uncovered. Companies received record penalties.

## Railway Accidents



### **CEDAR FALLS, IOWA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Cleanup is under way in Cedar Falls after a train derailment this morning. Police said nine coal cars went off the track about 0700 hrs near the city's downtown area, spilling tons of coal next to a restaurant that overlooks the Cedar River. No one was hurt. The derailment happened on the Canadian National Railway tracks. The cause remains under investigation.

### **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A train derailed and started a fire during the evening rush hour yesterday, filling a subway tunnel with smoke and forcing dozens of soot-covered commuters to evacuate while critically injuring at least two, officials said. Terrorism was not suspected. Evacuations began after the last car of an eight-car commuter train slipped off the tracks and material beneath the train caught fire, said Chicago Transit Authority President Frank Kruesi. Passengers were moved to safety within an hour. Raymond Orozco, fire commissioner, said that 152 passengers were taken to hospitals. Many were in good or fair condition, officials said, but at least one hospital reported two patients in critical condition. Another hospital said two patients were in serious condition. Thirty-three people declined treatment at the scene, Orozco said. The train had just left the downtown

Clark and Lake station shortly after 1700 hrs when the operator realized there was a problem and stopped the train, Kruesi said. The operator called for power to the train to be cut, then led passengers out of the cars and through the smoky subway tunnel to an emergency exit, where they climbed to the street above. "This thing happened the way it's supposed to happen," he said. Kruesi praised the operator, who he said had been on the job for 19 months and led passengers out of the tunnel holding hands in a single-file line. Bomb and arson detectives were on the scene, but there was no evidence of foul play, Police Superintendent Philip Cline said. Investigators were searching for the cause of the derailment and fire. Service was shut down on a rail line that connects the city's West Side to O'Hare International Airport through downtown, said Chicago Transit Authority spokeswoman Ibis Antongiorgi.

### **HELENA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A train derailment in Helena today resulted in five cars and a locomotive coming off the tracks. It happened at 1105 hrs. Montana Rail Link officials say two of the cars fell on their side, and one was leaking grain. The company says no hazardous materials were spilled, and nobody was injured. The cause of the accident is still under investigation. The train, which originated in Alberta, Minnesota, was on its way to Tacoma, Washington when the derailment occurred.

### **LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: The London Underground is suing Bombardier Inc's rail division for \$41 million over a Jan 25, 2003, subway derailment in which 32 passengers were injured. A spokeswoman for the Montreal-based company's rail unit confirmed yesterday that London Underground has launched a lawsuit alleging that design flaws in the train supplied by the manufacturer led to the accident at Chancery Lane station. "We cannot comment with the matter before the courts," Helene Gagnon said. However, she pointed out that Bombardier inherited the cars when it acquired German rail company Adtranz in 2001. Bombardier Transportation is one of five members of Metronet, a private sector consortium that signed a 30-year contract in 2003 to maintain and upgrade track and trains on about two-thirds of London's Underground subway system, affectionately known as the Tube. But Metronet's operations have been plagued by delays, cost overruns and other problems. It was fined about \$5 million in May for track defects and delays in a program to modernize 36 Tube stations.

### **MATSUE, JAPAN**

See "Japan" under "Weather & Navigation."

### **MCKENZIE AREA, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: Twenty cars from a 110-car freight train hauling soybeans from Breckenridge, Minn., to Seattle derailed near Mckenzie, central North Dakota, a BNSF Railway spokesman said. Three locomotives were pulling the Burlington Northern Santa Fe train about 1515, CDT, yesterday when the cars jumped the single-line tracks about 20 miles east of Bismarck, said company spokesman Gus Melonas in Seattle. Cause of the derailment had not been determined as of early today, Melonas said. Trains were rerouted as railroad crews labored overnight to remove the derailed cars and spilled soybeans so the tracks could be repaired.

### **NEOSHO RAPIDS AREA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A freight train derailment closed part of Kansas 130 this afternoon after 30 to 40 cars left the tracks on the outskirts of Neosho Rapids. No injuries were reported, but Lyon County officials ordered nearby homes evacuated because of potential chemicals on board the wrecked containers. No leaks were reported and the evacuation was more of a precaution, Sheriff Gary Eichorn said. Officials didn't immediately say what caused the derailment.

### **NORWICH TOWNSHIP AREA, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 13 — A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Pennsylvania state environmental officials said test results released today confirmed that fish and insect life at a once-pristine trout stream had been devastated by a chemical spill. A Norfolk Southern train derailed on Jun 30 near Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek, dumping about 48,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide into the stream. The state Department of Environmental Protection said the company was helping to remove cargo and debris from the accident site. The department said almost all fish and insects within about seven miles of the spill site were killed. Environmental officials have said it could take years for animal life to repopulate the creek. Before the spill, the creek was rated as having the highest water quality in the state.

### **TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated today, states: About 65,000 GO Transit commuters were forced to find alternate ways home yesterday after a CN freight train derailed in the Toronto's west end, near the GO Mimico station. Tempers flared during rush hour at Union Station, with some commuters yelling at the GO Transit monitors indicating their trains were cancelled or delayed. All seven lines of the commuter service were brought to a halt by the accident. Between six and 10 VIA Rail trains, carrying more

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than 1,000 passengers, were delayed, said VIA spokeswoman Catherine Kaloutsky. None of the cars was carrying flammable or toxic substances. The cause of the derailment, not far from hundreds of homes, is not yet known. The 129-car freight train, which was heading west from Oshawa to Oakville, derailed in the middle of the afternoon, blocking both east and westbound traffic, said CN spokesman Ian Thomson. Six of the train's cars jumped the track. No one was hurt. But by dinnertime, one track had been cleared and some GO Transit and VIA Rail trains were heading out of Union Station. CN officials said that by early this morning, at least three tracks would be open for use, and by mid-afternoon today it would be business as usual for both train services. CN's Thomson didn't want to speculate on whether the heat, vandalism or equipment failure might have played a role in the accident.



Miscellaneous

**BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, CANADA**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency today confirmed that a dairy cow had tested positive for mad cow disease. The four-year-old cow was first reported on Monday (Jul 10) to have the disease, after preliminary reports indicated the animal may have had it. The entire carcass has been incinerated and did not enter the human or animal feed system, government officials told a news conference. It became the country's seventh case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and came on the heels of Canada's sixth confirmed case of the disease last week. The cow, part of a herd of 300 head of cattle on an Alberta dairy farm, was among 170 other animals that will be tested. (See issue of Apr 18.)

**COLLAPSE OF BUILDING, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A four-storey apartment building collapsed overnight in Nigeria's commercial capital, and Red Cross officials helping pull bodies out of the rubble said today 11 people died. Red Cross official Timothy Oladene said 35 injured people had been rescued so far and sent by ambulance to several hospitals across the city. It was unclear how many people were in the building when it collapsed late yesterday, though an estimated 100 people lived there. Prince Oniru, an adviser to the Lagos state government on infrastructure, said the building was weak and blamed those who built it.

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A member of a rescue team says the death toll from the collapse of a four-storey building in central Lagos in Nigeria has reached 43. "Between Tuesday and today (Wednesday) [local time], we have so far recovered 43 bodies from the collapsed building," a Red Cross official told Lagos-based Channels television. The report did not give the name of the Red Cross official. The report said scores of other residents of the building were still unaccounted for, and may have been buried in the rubble of the building. An initial report had said that at least 20 people were killed in the disaster while 50 others were injured. Witnesses say the building collapsed with a "bang" just as residents were coming home from work last night. The Red Cross initially said 20 bodies had been recovered while 50 injured people were pulled out of the rubble. Red Cross disaster officer Umar Mairiga says the figure can still change as rescuers are battling to save more people. Mr Mairiga says more than 100 people are believed to have been "either inside or around the vicinity" of the building when it collapsed. It contained 36 flats, a penthouse and some shops.

**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A 44-year-old man has died as a result of bird flu infection, say authorities in Indonesia. The man was from eastern Jakarta. He was hospitalized on Jul 10 with a temperature, breathing problems and a bad cough. Authorities said the man had been in close contact with live poultry. Local tests indicated he died of H5N1 avian flu infection. As with all local confirmed tests, samples have been sent on to a WHO recognized laboratory in Hong Kong for final confirmation. (See issue of Jul 11.)

**OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, CHINA**

London, Jul 12 — A new outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was reported in Qinghai Province, the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed on its Website yesterday. Cattle at three farms in Zhoulong Village, Henan County, began showing symptoms of the illness on Jul 1. Fifty-one cattle were affected by Jul 6. On Jul 7, the affected cattle were diagnosed with Asia-1 FMD by the National Foot and Mouth Disease Reference Laboratory.

**OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS VESSEL**

London, Jul 19 — Celebrity Cruises' passenger (cruise) *Infinity* (90228 gt, built 2001) is the latest vessel to be struck by an outbreak of suspected norovirus when more than 100 passengers were taken ill during an Alaskan cruise. The company said yesterday: "105 of the ship's 2,282 guests and 20 of its 952 crew members have experienced the illness, which is thought to be a norovirus brought on board by a guest previously exposed to it. Those affected by the short-lived

illness responded well to treatment administered on board the ship."



Fires & Explosions

**COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

Beijing, Jul 16 — A blast has killed 18 coal miners and trapped 39 at a colliery in northern Shanxi province, Xinhua news agency reported today. It said six other miners escaped the blast yesterday afternoon. A seventh had been rescued and was being treated in hospital for carbon monoxide poisoning. — Reuters.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: An underground gas explosion in a Chinese coal mine killed at least 50 miners and left seven missing, state television reported today. The explosion Saturday (Jul 15) in the Linjiazhuang Coal Mine in Jinzhong, a city in Shanxi province, was under investigation, the report said. The official Xinhua News Agency said a preliminary investigation blamed the blast on airborne coal dust that caught fire.

**FACTORY, SHEFFIELD, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire has devastated a UK bakery plant owned by struggling food processors, Northern Foods, in an incident likely to harm their already faltering profits. Officials will enter the Fletcher's Bakers site in the next few days to assess the extent of the damage and what impact this is likely to have on production at the factory, which produced speciality bakery goods such as muffins, doughnuts and buns. Up to £4m worth of damage to property and loss of business at the Sheffield plant, which employed 650 workers, will be covered by the company's insurance. However, as the insurance company is wholly owned by Northern Foods, this could result in a sizeable dent in company profits. The Fletchers site consists of two buildings, only one of which was damaged by the fire. Five of the 14 production units that were operable at the bakery are still being maintained in the unscathed building, while other operations have been transferred to alternative Northern Foods factories. A spokeswoman for the company said: "We are very optimistic about getting the factory up and running soon."

**OIL REFINERY, VENEZUELA**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out early today at a major oil refinery in western Venezuela, a state oil company official said. Officials were still gathering information about the fire at the 635,000 barrel-a-day Amuay refinery, and no further details were immediately available, a



spokeswoman from Petroleos de Venezuela SA said. Union Radio reported the fire was large and began in the refinery's distillation plant. It said the site has been evacuated and that access was being blocked by security personnel.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: A fire broke out early today at a major oil refinery in western Venezuela, but it was extinguished without reported injuries or loss of deliveries, officials said. The fire began in the distillation unit of the 635,000 barrel-a-day Amuay refinery, said state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA, in a statement Monday morning. "We were able to bring the fire under total control in an hour and a half," Jesus Montilla, the governor of Falcon state, told reporters. PDVSA said the unit affected produces 190,000 barrels a day, but that the rest of the refinery was operating normally. Oil deliveries to the international and domestic markets would not be affected, PDVSA said.

**PAPER PRODUCT PLANT, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A fire that ripped through a paper product plant yesterday evening caused about Can\$3 million (£1.44 million) damage. A total of 15 fire trucks from eight different fire halls attended the blaze from around 1920 hrs., onward as it spread across the roof of Red River Packaging Products at 1750 Inkster Blvd. The fire triggered the evacuation of about 40 employees. John Buchan, an acting platoon chief with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, said the flammable materials inside the building and the quick spread of the two-alarm blaze led fire crews to call for backup right after they arrived. The cause is still under investigation by the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Arson Strike Force. "It will certainly be several days before they complete gathering the information on how it started and how it spread," he said. Two people were treated for smoke inhalation and released at the scene, but no one else was injured in the blaze. The plant, which manufactures paper bags and other paper products and employs 130 people, appeared open for business yesterday.

**PREMISES, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A sprinkler system which would have snuffed out the disastrous blaze at Colchester's Cowdray Centre had been switched off, the Evening Gazette can exclusively reveal. Essex Fire Service confirmed bosses had ignored its warnings by deactivating the system several years ago, when the building was broken up into small, independent units. A spokesman said the sprinklers would have drastically reduced the devastating damage caused by the inferno, which raged for more than six hours and gutted the

premises of dozens of firms. F&C Property Asset Management, which runs the centre, declined to comment on the matter.

**PREMISES, COLINDALE, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: About 100 firefighters were called to a building site in Colindale, north-west London, where two buildings were ablaze. Hundreds of people were moved out of the area, including students at Middlesex University, where the fire spread to one of the halls of residence. At one stage firefighters had to use water from a swimming pool at Hendon Police Training College to tackle the fire.

**REFINERY, VIENNA AREA, AUSTRIA**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire forced Austrian oil firm OMV to shut down one of its 's crude distillation units at its Schwechat refinery near Vienna yesterday. Another fire at the end of March already dented OMV's profits by about ERU 30 million. The fire, the cause of which was yet unclear, broke out at 1521 hrs at the unit and was extinguished by 1640 hrs, OMV said, adding there were no injuries. OMV said it was too early to say how long the unit would be out of operation.

**SUPERMARKET, DUBLIN, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

London, July 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A branch of the German supermarket chain Aldi has been destroyed in a major fire on the outskirts of west Dublin. The fire at the Newlands Cross branch was reported at around 2300 hrs and firefighters spent two hours battling to bring it under control. Nobody was injured, but the supermarket was completely destroyed. The Fire Service and the Gardaí are due to begin examining the site this morning in an effort to determine the cause of the blaze.

**TRAIN, LUXEMBOURG**

London, Jul 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire on a passenger train in Luxembourg, apparently deliberately started by a passenger, injured around 20 people today, Transport Minister Lucien Lux said. "There were four or five people who were unconscious, including a child about two years old, and they were taken to hospital," an official for Luxembourg rail service CFL said. The fire broke out at around 1720 hrs in one of five wagons on a train travelling from Luxembourg's central station toward nearby Esch. Police arrested a man, whom witnesses claim started the blaze by setting fire to a newspaper, Interior Minister Jean-Marie Halsdorf said at the scene. At around 1900 hrs, 14 injured passengers were still being treated at the scene, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

**WAREHOUSE, BOW, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A huge fire has ripped through a six-storey paper storage warehouse in east London. Flames shot 20 to 30 ft into the air and smoke from the blaze could be seen across the city. About 100 firefighters were called to the site in Twelvetrees Crescent in Bow last night but say it needs to burn itself out. Iron Mountain, the firm that owns the data storage unit, said it held "archived, inactive business records." It is thought the building will be alight for between two and three days. A spokesman for Iron Mountain, which stores and manages records for firms around the world, said: "Mostly it is old archives that were not required currently, business records. In most cases we wouldn't even know because most people they use paper documents in boxes, commercial business records." He added: "We are just interested as anybody else to know what could have caused it. It was a fair-sized warehouse but it was full." Four delivery lorries also caught fire, but no-one is thought to have been injured.

**WAREHOUSE, OTTAWA, CANADA**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: An Iron Mountain warehouse in Ottawa, Canada, was hit by fire today. The fire at a warehouse in the Cyrville industrial area, believed to contain thousands of boxes of inactive records, was designated as accidental, the Ottawa Sun newspaper reported.

**WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 700 firefighters backed by more than 200 vehicles battled nine wildfires burning out of control across Portugal today amid scorching temperatures, emergency services said. About 200 firefighters supported by two water-dropping aircraft were at the scene of the largest blaze, which erupted near the northern village of Pias yesterday afternoon and burned along two fronts. Fires were raging in six of mainland Portugal's 18 administrative districts: Aveiro, Beja, Guarda, Porto, Santarem and Viana do Castelo. Firefighters said they hoped to gain control of the flames with the arrival of cooler weather overnight. Temperatures soared to 41 degrees Celsius in some parts of southern Portugal and are expected to rise above normal levels over the coming days, the national weather office said.

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: A 40,000-acre fire burned through California desert wilderness today after destroying 100 homes and buildings, and was on course to possibly merge with a blaze in the San Bernardino National Forest, where it could feed on vast stands of dead trees. The huge Sawtooth fire edged north-west

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towards the forest, burning greasewood, Joshua trees, pinon pines and brush on the desert floor. Containment was just 20%. Five miles away, the Millard fire had scorched 1,200 acres in the forest and was 5% surrounded. Authorities said smoke from the blazes 100 miles east of Los Angeles was smelled in Las Vegas and Ogden, Utah. State fire officials said that both fires could link up on the desert floor but they were at least 15 miles from any areas of dead trees. Kevin Olson, deputy chief of operations in the headquarters of the California Department of Forestry, said it was possible "but not very likely at this time" that the fires would reach the timber stands. The Sawtooth fire was ignited by lightning during the weekend (Jul 8-9) and became an inferno on Tuesday, racing through tiny high desert communities. Forty-two houses, 55 other buildings and 91 vehicles were destroyed in Pioneertown and other communities near Yucca Valley. About 1,350 firefighters worked the blaze with the help of bulldozers, helicopters and air tankers. Nine firefighters and two civilians have been treated for minor burns or smoke inhalation. Evacuation orders were lifted for Pioneertown and several other communities but residents of Burns Canyon and Rimrock were still unable to return home, said Mary Flynn, a CDF spokeswoman.

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters battling a massive wildfire burning on the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest were preparing for the possibility that the blaze could join another wildfire and become even more difficult to control. By late yesterday, a 48,000-acre fire had destroyed more than 150 homes and buildings. While containment was at 20 percent, it was on course to possibly merge with the 8,200-acre fire in the national forest, where it could feed on vast stands of dead trees. Officials have not estimated when the fires might merge, but early today they were about two miles apart, said California Department of Forestry spokesman Jason Goedecke. State fire officials said that even if the fires joined, they were at least 15 miles from any areas of dead trees. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in San Bernardino County yesterday. Elsewhere, crews were working late yesterday to contain a wildfire near Abilene, Texas, that had scorched 500 acres, forced the evacuation of a dozen homes and threatened to burn about 50 large wind turbines. In southern Montana, a group of fires estimated at 30,000 acres were 10 percent contained.

London, Jul 15 — Two vast fires east of Los Angeles have merged after scorching tens of thousands of hectares and destroying hundreds of buildings near the Joshua Tree National Park. Thousands of firefighters fought the blaze that swept through mountain scrub east of Los Angeles for a fifth day,

threatening some 3000 new buildings after engulfing 45 homes and 118 other buildings in an area made famous in western films. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said two civilians and nine firefighters had suffered minor injuries and that mandatory evacuations remained in effect for part of San Bernardino County. The two fires met in the heart of the San Bernardino National Park, where hectares of dry wood weakened by years of drought provided a ready-made tinderbox. Rough terrain also made it difficult for firefighters to battle the blaze. The two blazes have scorched 25,000ha over the past days. California declared a state of emergency yesterday for southern parts of the state, with fires sweeping an area some 200km east of Los Angeles.

San Francisco, Jul 15 — A Southern California wildfire that has blackened more than 70,000 acres was expected to spare a popular mountain resort town, but one man missing for several days was found dead, officials said today. "It's moving out toward the desert" and away from Big Bear Lake, said Georgia Smith, an official with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection. About 3,800 firefighters were working to contain the fire in the San Bernardino National Forest after two separate blazes caused by lightning merged in rugged terrain yesterday, officials said. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has declared a state of emergency for San Bernardino County as a result of the wildfires, met with firefighters in the area early in the day for a tour and briefing. "It is a huge fire. It is extraordinary how quickly it has spread out," the governor said. "It is a very dangerous situation. ... Wind and a lot of heat, that is perfect condition for wildfires." Officials said the Sawtooth fire across 59,000 acres in the California desert north of Palm Springs was 40 percent contained. The blaze has destroyed 45 houses and damaged sheds, garages, cars and trucks. A second fire across more than 12,000 uninhabited acres that linked up with the Sawtooth fire was only 5 percent contained, the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection said. — Reuters.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fire crews struggled today to quell wildfires still raging across steep, rocky swaths of desert, as the harsh terrain slowed efforts to fully contain the blazes that have destroyed 58 homes and scorched more than 120 square miles. Large wildfires are burning in nine states, most in the West, according to the National Fire Information Center in Boise, Idaho. Two major fires in the California desert have merged, which fire officials described as a positive development. "The fact that they burned together makes it easier for us because now we're only dealing with one perimeter," said Wayne Barringer, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry. One area of

the fire, spanning about 97 square miles, was 60 percent contained, fire officials said. An adjacent fire had grown to more than 23 square miles since merging with the larger fire and was 10 percent contained, officials said. Difficulties in getting to the remote, rugged pockets of fire were hampering firefighters. Fire officials were forced to rely on helicopters to drop in suppression teams, rather than using bulldozers and other heavy equipment. Fire officials estimate damage from the fires at more than \$8.4 million and firefighting costs at \$10.3 million.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Fire crews struggled today to quell wildfires still raging across steep, rocky swaths of this desert region, as the harsh terrain slowed efforts to fully contain the blazes that have scorched more than 77,000 acres. Fire teams have been battling the 62,000-acre Sawtooth Fire and the adjacent Millard complex of fires that had grown to more than 15,500 by today. The Sawtooth Fire was 60% contained, while the Millard blaze was only 10% contained, fire officials said. "Even though they have burned together, we're still treating it as two different fires," said Wayne Barringer, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry. "The fact that they burned together makes it easier for us because now we're only dealing with one perimeter." Today, fire officials began scaling back the number of crews in certain areas. They also closed down a little-used evacuation center in Big Bear City that had been opened to help some residents. Still, difficulties in getting to the remote, rugged pockets in both fires were hampering firefighters' ability to reach some areas by ground. Fire officials were forced to rely on helicopters to drop in suppression teams, rather than using bulldozers and other heavy equipment. Today, fire officials reopened the Rimrock area of the San Bernardino Mountains to residents who had been evacuated earlier in the week. But anyone returning to their homes was being warned to bring flashlights and water because power and water service were out, Barringer said. Elsewhere in Southern California, a 500-acre blaze in Redlands was 100% contained after destroying one building. It broke out Friday night and initially threatened 100 homes. In San Diego County, a 260-acre wildfire sparking by lightning about 10 miles east of the town of Julian also was fully contained.

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Several wild fires are still burning in Eastern Montana. Officials report they're making some progress on the Bundy Railroad fire. Fire Information Officer Michelle Smith says crews started to make some gains on the 80,000 acre fire early yesterday morning, and it's now 30% contained. Ten Type One hot shot crews are now helping fight the flames. A crew from New Mexico



arrived Sunday (Jul 16), and they're checking for hot spots to make sure the fire won't flare up again where it's already burned. A Type One team was scheduled to take over management of the fire Wednesday, but because of the progress being made, and with other fires taking higher priority, the Type Two crew will continue to oversee the Bundy Railroad fire. Smith says they were hoping to make good progress again overnight. About 400 people are working the Bundy Railroad fire. Fire crews are scrambling to get a handle on fires that have broken out around Jordan. Special teams are expected to arrive later tomorrow at two lightning-caused fires that started on the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge near Fort Peck Reservoir. The Soda Creek fire has burned about 12,000 acres, and fire crews are trying to protect ranches, outbuilding and the Crooked Creek Marina. Officials report the Pine Ridge Complex has now burned over 120,000 acres east of Billings. But fire officials say crews have been able to keep control of the fire lines of the three fires in the complex, and the flames are still 90% contained. It's burning four miles from the town of Custer, where residents are still on standby for evacuation. The Horton-Hay Complex of fires continues to burn about 35 miles south-west of Miles City. That fire is also reported to be about 60% contained. So far over 22,000 acres have been scorched there. In total there are now at least eight major fires in southern and eastern Montana which have burned more than 280-thousand acres, the equivalent of more than 430 square miles. (See issue of Jul 18.)



**C-FGOY**

London, Jul 13 — At 1000 hrs, Jul 12, C-FGOY (privately owned Stinson manufactured aircraft) was en route from Thunder Bay to Dryden, when the pilot observed deteriorating weather ahead. He chose to divert to Atikokan (Ontario) and refuel. While landing on runway 24 the aircraft bounced, then ground looped, and traveled through a ditch before coming to rest. The aircraft sustained substantial damage to all areas, however the pilot and passenger suffered only minor injuries. The runway was closed for two hours while the aircraft was removed.

**C-FTAG**

London, Jul 14 — At 1515, UTC, Jul 11, the Bell 212, registered C-FTAG, had been assigned to drop off passengers at a location 210 nautical miles north-west of Station Nord (Greenland). On the return flight, the helicopter encountered reduced

visibility due to fog and landed approximately six nautical miles west of Station Nord. After waiting 24 hours, the pilot saw a clearing and felt the weather would allow him to travel to Station Nord. Shortly after passing a reference point which was actually closer than expected, the pilot lost all visual references. The pilot attempted a turn but the left skid contacted a snow bank at about 40 knots which caused the helicopter to roll over and crash onto its right side. The pilot was not injured. He was able to contact Station Nord via satellite phone and was rescued by snowmobile about 6 hours later. The helicopter was substantially damaged.

**C-GPNG**

London, Jul 13 — At 0630 hrs, Jul 1, Miccar Aerial Ltd. Ayres S2R aircraft, registration C-GPNG, was taking off from Yorkton, Saskatchewan on a ferry flight, with no chemical load on board. Shortly after takeoff, the engine (Pratt & Whitney R1340-AN1) lost all power. The pilot lined up to land on highway 09 which was free of traffic. The aircraft was just about to touch down when the engine restarted. The throttle was still at full-power setting and after the engine started, the engine/propeller torque turned the aircraft off the roadway. The aircraft incurred substantial damage as it descended and struck a ditch beside the highway. The pilot was not injured. After inspection of the aircraft and engine fuel systems and subsequent ground running of the engine, the company is of the opinion that the loss of engine power most-probably resulted from a stuck intake valve.

**CRASH INTO CARIBBEAN SEA, U.S VIRGIN ISLANDS**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: An engine failed on a DC-3 cargo aircraft shortly after takeoff today, forcing the crew to ditch the craft in the Caribbean Sea off the U.S. Virgin Islands. All four people aboard made it onto the aircraft's life raft, and a passing boat took them to shore, said Ricardo Castrodad, a spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard. The four are residents of Puerto Rico, authorities said. A crew member suffered a cut to his head, but there were no other injuries, Castrodad said. The aircraft, operated by Four Star Air Cargo, had taken off from St. Thomas and was en route to Puerto Rico when the engine failed, officials said. No decision has been made yet about recovering the airplane from the sea. The water in that area is 70 feet deep. The Coast Guard said it will send a team to determine whether the plane poses any environmental threats. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the accident.

**CRASH INTO SHAWANO LAKE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: A Chicago man has escaped serious injury after crashing his Cessna 206 amphibious

aircraft into Wisconsin's Shawano Lake today. The Shawano County Sheriff's Department says Ronald Stearney may have deployed the aircraft's wheels while attempting a lake landing, causing the aircraft to flip over. The aircraft came to rest upside down in about four-and-a-half feet of water. Stearney was wearing a safety belt. He climbed out and was sitting on the boat's pontoon when rescuers arrived. Authorities are still trying to determine how to pull the aircraft out of the water.

**CRASH, ANTALYA, TURKEY**

London, Jul 20 — A police helicopter crashed into the centre of the resort city of Antalya on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, killing all five officers on board but causing no casualties on the ground, officials said. Before the eyes of terrified residents, the helicopter, on a traffic-monitoring mission, came down with a huge bang on one of the city's main streets, close to a major hotel, media reports said. Television footage showed a blackened tangle of metal burning in a street lined with palm trees as firefighters battled the blaze. A technical failure is thought to have caused the crash, Antalya's deputy governor Erkan Isilgan said. The pilot is believed to have made an unsuccessful attempt for an emergency landing at a nearby football stadium, and then tried to touch down in the street without hitting the buildings.

**CRASH, BLUE LAKE AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 18 — A press report, dated Jul 17, states: A musician flying to Humboldt County to attend a music camp died when his single-engine plane crashed in a remote area near Blue Lake, California. Search and rescue teams found his plane just before noon today. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office received a report early Monday that the plane flying from Los Angeles had not landed as scheduled yesterday at the Arcata/Eureka airport. A California Highway Patrol helicopter team discovered the wreckage later that morning. The pilot was the plane's only occupant. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

**CRASH, BOLJEVAC, SERBIA**

London, Jul 18 — Bulgarian sports aircraft crashed yesterday in eastern Serbia on its way to a competition in neighboring Croatia, killing all four aboard the plane, said the police. "The crashed plane was found in the territory of Boljevac municipality, in Krivi Vir district, eastern Serbia," police spokesman Zoran Stamenkovic was quoted by Tanjug news agency. The bodies of the four dead passengers including a woman were found, said Stamenkovic, adding that the cause of crash was still under investigation.

**CRASH, CRESCO, IOWA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Two pilots were

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killed and two passengers were injured when a small plane crashed this morning in a cornfield across from Cresco Municipal Airport, a federal official said. The pilots were identified as Clyde Lewis and William Eisner, both of Jackson, Miss., according to the Howard County sheriff's office. Passengers Robert Paulk and Johnny Fayard of Gulfport, Miss., were taken to the Regional Health Services of Howard County in Cresco. A preliminary report indicated the crash occurred near Iowa Highway 9, which is near the Cresco airport, said Elizabeth Isham Cory of the Federal Aviation Administration in Chicago. Federal officials received a call at 1113 hrs about the incident. The plane, a Cessna 560 Citation Encore, which is a multi-engine corporate jet, crashed just after 1100 hrs. Inclement weather probably played a role in the incident, officials said. The plane, which was manufactured in 2003, is registered to Tomco II LLC, a Nashville, Tenn.-based company. The plane left Oxford, Miss., and was headed for Rochester, Minn., Cory said. Officials did not immediately know whether the plane was trying to land in Cresco because of weather or mechanical problems. The Howard County Sheriff's Department in Cresco provided initial information to federal officials about the crash, Cory said. The FAA has joined the investigation, along with the National Transportation Safety Board, she added.

#### **CRASH, DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: Two people were injured in a single engine aircraft crash that went down on private property in the 1100 block of East Parker Road in Douglas County. The aircraft carrying two people crashed in a pasture near Parker yesterday morning adjacent to the Everitt Airfield. The aircraft had just taken off from Everitt Airfield in Elbert County. When the pilot experienced some sort of problem and the aircraft went down, Sheriff Don Hanavan said neither suffered life-threatening injuries. Both were taken to Littleton Hospital. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

#### **CRASH, ELBA ISLAND, ITALY**

Rome, Jul 16 — A single-engined aircraft headed to Germany crashed shortly after take-off from the Italian island of Elba today, killing three people and seriously injuring two others aboard, an airport official said. Smoke was seen coming from the aircraft just moments after it was in the air and the official at the Marina di Campo airport said the crash appeared to be due to engine failure. The victims were all believed to be Germans, he said, but added further checks were necessary. — Reuters.

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crashed yesterday on takeoff from a small airport on the Italian island of Elba, killing five people on board, the

Italian news agency ANSA reported. ANSA said the five killed were Germans and another people was injured. The crash took place at about 1900 hrs, 1700, GMT, at the airport at Marina di Campo, a small beach town on the island.

Leghorn, Jul 18 — Piper 46, Malibu, at 1853, local time, Jul 16, soon after taking off from Marina di Campo airport, Elba Island, crashed on a vineyard at approximately 200 metres from the runway. Besides the Pilot, Peter Fricke, a German doctor from Munich, there were on board four passengers. Two were Doctor Fricke's sons, his secretary and one boy. Only his younger son survived although severely injured, the other four people died in the accident. The aircraft is reported to be a write off. Dr. Fricke had property in Elba Island and was used to spend sometime there using the aircraft to go to and fro Munich. Witnesses had seen the aircraft trying to turn back to the runway with smoke coming out from the engine, but the aircraft then went into a stall and fell down heavily. An official commission has been set up by the competent authorities to investigate on the circumstances in which the accident took place. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CRASH, HILLBORO, OREGON, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: A vintage British fighter jet crashed into a densely populated neighbourhood near an airport during an air show this afternoon, exploding, destroying a home and killing the pilot. Fire officials said no residents or others on the ground were hurt. The 1951 jet was taking off from the Hillsboro Airport to return to California when it went down, said Connie King, a spokeswoman for the Hillsboro Fire Department. The jet slammed into a house at 1628 hrs and destroyed it, she said. No one was home at the time, she said. The pilot's name was not immediately released. Another house with people inside sustained "significant damage," but no one was hurt, King said. The attic exterior of a third house was damaged, and there was fire damage in the yard of another, she said. The plane crashed toward the end of the two-day Hillsboro International Air Show, where the plane had been on display, but did not perform, said Steve Callaway, an air show board member. The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane was registered to Robert Guilford, 73, an aviation attorney from Southern California. According to information on his law firm's Web site, Guilford has been flying planes since 1961. But authorities would not say if he was piloting the plane today. Air show organizers cancelled the show immediately after the crash. It was the first crash in the show's 19-year history.

#### **CRASH, HOXNE, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 17 — A press report, dated Jul 16, states: A pilot was killed when the light aircraft he was flying crashed into a field in Suffolk. Emergency services were called to a field in Hoxne, near Eye, at about 1500, BST after reports of a plane crash. A police spokeswoman said the pilot died at the scene and it was understood there was no-one else on board. The crash scene has been cordoned off and Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) is due to carry out an investigation into the cause.

#### **CRASH, JEANERETTE, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A small plane struck a house and crashed into a mobile home today, killing two people in the plane and one on the ground, officials said. The plane was about three blocks from the airport when it struck the roof of a home, then hit a tree and struck a mobile home across the street, Sheriff Sid Hebert said. A man inside the mobile home died shortly after the crash, Hebert said. His name was not released. Pilot Farrell Skelton of Lafayette and his passenger, John Blackburn of Jeanerette, were also killed, said Richard Harveson, vice president of LCS Corrections Services, which owned the fixed-wing, single-engine Beechcraft. The men had flown to see a jail under construction in Corpus Christi, Texas, and were returning to Jeanerette, Harveson said.

#### **CRASH, KIGOMA AREA, TANZANIA**

See S9-BOF.

#### **CRASH, LAWRENCE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 19 — A press report, dated Jul 18, states: A small aircraft crash in Lawrence County claimed the lives of two region 8 men early Monday (Jul 17) evening. Both men were riding in what was described as an aircraft from either the 1940s or 1950s. The Lawrence County Sheriff's Department responded to the crash. The aircraft went down in a field off of Highway 91 about 10 miles south of Walnut Ridge, near the Hoxie Flying Service. The accident occurred at approximately 1800 hrs. Authorities say that when the aircraft crashed it burst in to flames. All that's left is just the charred framework of the aircraft. The investigation is continuing, and FAA and NTSB officials are expected to visit the crash site today.

#### **CRASH, PETAL, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 20 — A press report, dated Jul 19, states: Two people died today when their single-engine plane crashed into a field in petal and burned, authorities said. Forrest County Deputy Coroner Jonathan Nobles identified the victims as Jim Hartman of Gulfport and Ernest R.



the underside of the product. Manufactured in France, Bulgaria, China, and Romania the beds were sold at IKEA stores nationwide and on the Ikea Web site from April 1999 through to June 2006 for \$40 (chair bed) and \$90 (sofa bed).

## Product Recalls



### LAWN TRACTORS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 12 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 11, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Husqvarna Outdoor Products Inc., of Augusta, Ga., formerly known as Electrolux Outdoor Products Inc., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 174,000 Lawn Tractors. The fuel line on these lawn tractors can separate from the fuel tank outlet. If this occurs, fuel will spill out, posing a fire hazard. Husqvarna Outdoor Products Inc. received 886 reports of fuel lines that separated from the fuel tank outlet and 16 reports of fires related to this issue. There are three reports of minor personal injury. The lawn tractors were sold under the Husqvarna, Craftsman, Poulan Pro, Poulan, Weed Eater, Southern States and Murray brand names. Manufactured in Orangeburg, S.C., the tractors were sold at home centres, retailers, hardware stores and dealers nationwide from September 2005 through to June 2006 for between \$820 and \$1,500.

### NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 13 — Nissan North America Inc. said yesterday it would recall nearly 201,000 Altima and Sentra sedans from the 2003 model year to fix a faulty sensor that can cause the engine to shut down. The recall involves vehicles with 2.5 liter engines. The automaker said changes in temperature can interrupt the signal from a sensor in the engine compartment, leading to an engine stall in low speeds and in stop-and-go traffic. The automaker said the recall involved 186,279 Altimas and 14,587 Sentras. Nissan spokeswoman Jeannine Ginivan said there has been one crash reported and no injuries linked to the defect.

### OFFICE CHAIRS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 12 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jul 11, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Ark., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 762,000 Mainstays Associate Office Chairs. The legs and backs of these chairs can break, and the chairs can

easily tip over, posing a fall hazard to consumers. Wal-Mart has received nine reports of chairs breaking and two reports of tipping. There have been seven reported injuries, including a broken wrist. The recall involves the Mainstays Associate office chair with a five-star nylon base with dual wheel casters and pneumatic seat height adjustment. The chair has a fabric cushioned seat and back that is black/grey in color. The armrests are shaped in half-circle loops. Under the seat is a UPC Code Label #9501401610 with printed Model #VCR1022. Manufactured in China, the chairs were sold at Wal-Mart stores exclusively nationwide from April 2003 through to April 2006 for about \$36 each.

### SAWS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jul 13 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Ryobi Motor Products Corp. formerly of Anderson, S.C. ("RMP"); Ryobi Electric Tool Manufacturing, Inc. formerly of Chandler, Ariz.; and Ryobi Limited, of Hiroshima, Japan, today announced a voluntary recall of about 145,000 Ryobi Radial Arm Saws. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Cracking of the plastic motor housing can cause the blade assembly to fall during operation, posing a risk of laceration to the operator or bystanders. The detachment may occur unexpectedly and without warning. RMP has received five reports of detached blade assemblies, including four reports of lacerated fingers to the saw operators. The recall involves all RA200 and RA202 radial arm saws. These are bench top models with 8 1/2-inch blades. Each unit has a data plate immediately behind the operator grip for the saw, which says "RYOBI 8 1/4 inch Radial Arm Saw" and either "RA200" or "RA202." Sold at home and hardware stores nationwide from 1986 through 1997 for between \$200 and \$300, and higher in some instances. Manufactured in the United States and Japan. Consumers should immediately stop using these radial arm saws and contact Ryobi customer service to arrange to return part of the saw for a payment of \$75. No repair is available. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

### TOYOTA AND LEXUS MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jul 14 — A press report, dated Jul 13, states: Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 367,500 Toyota and Lexus sport utility vehicles in the United States because a piece in the front console area could come loose and interfere with the gas pedal. The recall involves 2004-05 models of the Toyota Highlander and Lexus RX 330 and early 2006 models of the Highlander hybrid SUV and the RX 400h, the hybrid version of the RX 330, said Toyota spokesman Bill Kwong. A clip could come loose and allow a small trim piece of the console, located on the centre-left side of the front

compartment, to interfere with the accelerator. The company has received seven complaints and two reports of accidents, Kwong said. No injuries have been reported, he said. Owners were expected to be notified of the recall in late July, and dealers will install new clips on the console. The recall affects 232,000 gasoline-powered Highlanders and 3,700 hybrid versions of the SUV. Among the Lexus models, 123,500 RX 330 SUVs fall under the recall, along with 8,300 RX 400h hybrid models. A Toyota spokeswoman in Germany said that an additional 20,200 RX models in Europe would be recalled.

### TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jul 19 — Toyota Motor Corp said it was recalling about 420,000 vehicles globally over a faulty engine, the latest in a string of recalls that have raised doubts over whether the automaker can maintain quality standards amid booming sales. The recall affects 268,570 vehicles sold in Japan across 12 models manufactured in 2001, including Corollas, the compact cars Vitz and Platz and the hybrid Prius, the company said in a statement submitted to Japan's Transport Ministry. A faulty engine part could lead to an oil leak in the engine and cause it to stop, the statement said. There have been no accidents blamed on the fault, according to Toyota. The recall also affects about 150,000 cars sold overseas, mainly in the United States and Canada, Toyota spokeswoman Shiori Hashimoto said. These autos were also manufactured in 2001. In the United States, 24,490 cars sold under the name Echo and Yaris, as well as 8,476 Prius vehicles are affected by the recall, she said. Advertisement: Also today, Toyota subsidiary Hino Motors Ltd recalled 1913 trucks across five 2004-05 models, also due to engine problems. Hino said defective engine brackets could break under pressure, causing the trucks' engines to stall. The recall affects Hino's Dutro model, as well as Dyna and Toyoace trucks manufactured by Hino and sold under the Toyota brand. The engines of an additional 10,310 Toyota and Hino trucks manufactured in 2003-05 may have faulty turbine blades, the two companies said. The trucks will be repaired for free though the fault isn't serious enough to meet Japan's recall standards, according to Hashimoto.

## Port Conditions



### ITALY

Genoa, Jul 17 — Port situation: Genoa: One tanker waiting for berth. Average delay in berthing 1/2 to one day. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth. One vessel waiting for special berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — 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
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	24-Jul-06	Coal: 10 vessels due by 10/8; there will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 15/8 to 07.00 21/8; no vessels will be loaded during this period.
Brisbane	24-Jul-06	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 5 vessels due by 17/8.
Dalrymple Bay	24-Jul-06	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 23/7; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 1 vessel due 19/8; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 1 vessel due 22/8; other vessels not scheduled: 12 vessels waiting; 22 vessels due by 3/8.
Dampier	24-Jul-06	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 6/8; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed; 9 vessels due by 27/7; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 24/7; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 10 vessels due by 31/7.
Esperance	24-Jul-06	Iron ore: 1 vessel waiting; 2 vessels due by 6/8.
Geraldton	24-Jul-06	Iron ore: 1 vessel anchored; 3 vessels due by 31/7; congestion expected shortly on berth 4 due to mineral sand and iron ore loaded at same berth; a 24 hour period is required for cleaning of loader belts between cargoes.
Gladstone	24-Jul-06	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 16 waiting; 34 vessels due by 1/9; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 8 vessels due by 20/9; shiploading operations will be shut down for maintenance from 10-15/7.
Hay Point	24-Jul-06	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 4 vessels due by 28/7; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; there will be a maintenance shutdown from 24/7 to 2/8: 5 vessels due by 5/8, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	24-Jul-06	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 15 waiting; 36 vessels due by 16/8; 4-13 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 15 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 19 vessels due by 16/8; 4-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 5 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	24-Jul-06	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 1/8; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 5 vessels due by 3/8; 4 other vessels due by 12/8, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 28/7; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 8 vessels due by 3/8; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 29/7.
Port Kembla	24-Jul-06	Coal: 15 vessels due by 3/9.
Port Walcott	24-Jul-06	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and completed loading, 1 loading; 4 vessels waiting; 17 vessels due by 11/8; shippers currently experiencing shortage of product, which will affect berthing schedules.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheeron	24-Jul-06	Oil products: Five vessels at berth of which 3 discharging (1 crude oil, 1 kerosene, 1 gasoline), 2 empty.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	24-Jul-06	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 wood, 1 coils, 1 reinforced concrete), 6 discharging (2 salt, 1 reinforced concrete, 1 steel sheets, 1 steel billets, 1 copper concentrate); 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 empty vessel to load, 1 vessel to discharge iron ore; 19 vessels due, of which 10 to load (2 containers, 4 coils, 1 wheat, 2 gasoil, 1 copper concentrate), 9 to discharge (2 containers, 1 zinc ash, 1 zinc concentrate, 2 copper concentrate, 1 salt, 1 iron ore, 1 clinker).
Varna	24-Jul-06	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 17-23 July: Thirty-two vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (1 bulk maize, 1 scrap, 6 bulk wheat, 2 bulk clinker, 1 cement in large bags, 5 soda, 1 bulk STTP, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 chamotte/kaolin), 8 discharging (1 steel billets, 4 bulk coal, 2 raw phosphate, 1 bulk gypsum), 5 discharging/loading (4 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases); no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Laranaca	25-Jul-06	Four conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels, 6 passenger vessels due 26/7; no delays expected. .
Limassol	24-Jul-06	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 4 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 3 container vessels, 5 container vessels, 3 passenger vessels due 26/7; no delays expected.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	24-Jul-06	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	24-Jul-06	Twenty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 18 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 2 tankers; 11 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	24-Jul-06	Twenty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 17 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 container vessels; 20 vessel at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	24-Jul-06	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	24-Jul-06	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 container vessels.
Suez	24-Jul-06	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	24-Jul-06	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.

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



## Port Conditions

<b>Estonia</b>		
Tallinn	24-Jul-06	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): Two vessels discharging at berth (1 zinc, 1 cocoa beans), no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
<b>Georgia</b>		
Batumi	24-Jul-06	Oil products: Three vessels loading at berth (1 crude oil, 1 kerosene, 1 gasoil); 1 vessel in roads to load fuel oil; 2 vessels due by 25/7, both to load crude oil.
Poti	24-Jul-06	Oil products: Port open; 1 vessel due 22/7 to load jet fuel/kerosene.
Supsa	24-Jul-06	Oil products: Port open; 2 vessels due by 26/7, both to load crude oil.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	24-Jul-06	Oil products: Two vessels loading crude oil at berth; 3 vessels in road to load; 3 vessels due by 25/7, all to load.
<b>Mozambique</b>		
Maputo	19-Jul-06	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 ferro chrome, 1 magnetite, 1 citrus), 3 discharging (1 containers/general cargo, 1 bulk maize, 1 bulk aluminium), 1 loading/discharging containers/vehicles, 1 other vessel; 1 vessel due to berth 19/7 to discharge vegetable oil; 19 vessels due by 1/8 of which 6 to load (2 aluminium, 2 citrus, 2 bulk sugar), 8 to discharge (1 fuel, 4 containers, 1 bulk wheat, 1 bagged rice, 1 bulk aluminium), 5 to discharge/load (4 containers, 1 other vessel).
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	24-Jul-06	Two cement vessels loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (1 lube, 2 coal, 1 urea, 2 general cargo, 4 sugar), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 coal, 1 SBM, 1 vehicles, 1 palm oil); 4 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 ethanol), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	24-Jul-06	Six vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 sugar, 1 canola, 1 VCM, 1 coke, 1 fuel oil); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 containers, 1 cement), 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 canola, 2 sugar, 1 acetic acid).
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	24-Jul-06	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 14 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 pipes, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 scrap, 1 H-beams/steel billets/WRIC, 2 wheat, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 copper, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk NPK, 1 steel billets, 1 aluminium, 2 diesel oil), 2 discharging (1 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil); 6 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 pig-iron, 2 copper, 1 coils/steel billets/tin plate, 2 steel billets; 58 vessels due, of which 51 to load (5 slabs, 3 cellulose, 1 scrap, 1 barley, 1 HBI, 1 DRI, 8 wheat, 1 steel sheets/pipes, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 bulk NPK, 8 steel billets, 3 aluminium, 1 H-beams/tin plate/steel sheets/pipes/vehicles, 1 steel billets/lead pipes, 1 steel billets/vehicles, 1 UAN solution, 1 bulk cement, 1 steel billets/steel blooms, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 5 copper, 2 steel sheets, 1 steel blooms/vehicles, 1 steel billets/steel sheets), 4 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 debars, 1 maize, 1 vegetable oil), 3 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	24-Jul-06	Port working normally. Ten vessels berthed of which 1 Ro/Ro loading general cargo, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 1 tanker discharging liquid cargo, 2 vessels discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo, 4 loading sawn timber/general cargo; 21 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo, 6 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 4 to load bulk cargo, 4 to discharge bulk cargo.
<b>Spain</b>		
Bilbao	24-Jul-06	Twenty-seven vessels operating (4 tankers, 23 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 14 discharging, 7 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	24-Jul-06	Twenty-five vessels in port operating, of which 20 discharging (17 steel products, 1 fruit, 1 gas, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 5 loading/discharging (3 general cargo, 2 vehicles); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	24-Jul-06	Cargo operations at Sri Lanka Ports Authority operated berths are at present experiencing a "work to rule" by port workers which started 13/7. Delays are affecting all port users. Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Eight container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 20 vessels discharging at berth (13 containers/feeders, 2 bagged fertiliser, 2 bulk palm oil, 3 bulk cement); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk fertiliser); 5 vessels dry-docked; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Turkmenbashi	24-Jul-06	Oil products: Port open; Two vessels loading fuel oil at berth; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to load fuel oil, 1 fuel oil transhipment; 1 vessel due 24/7 to load gasoil.

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**Port Conditions**

**Ukraine**

Illichevsk	24-Jul-06	Five vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 slabs, 1 sunflower oil), 2 discharging containers, 1 loading/discharging containers; 2 vessel in roads, both to load, of which 1 steel products, 1 sunflower oil; 18 vessels due, of which 10 to load (3 steel products, 5 sunflower oil, 1 sulphur, 1 iron ore concentrate), 1 to discharge tropical oil, 7 to load/dischage containers.
Mariupol	24-Jul-06	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 7 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 ammonium saltpetre; 10 vessels in roads, of which 7 to load steel, 2 to discharge (1 heavy lift cargo, 1 equipment), 1 to load/dischage fire-clay/containers; 63 vessels due, of which 60 to load (35 steel, 11 coal, 8 fire-clay, 1 coke, 1 pitch, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 kaolin, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 barley/wheat), 2 to discharge (1 equipment/ containers, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay.
Odessa	24-Jul-06	Twenty vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 ore, 9 metal), 7 discharging (3 luggage, 1 bananas, 2 general cargo, 1 sand), 1 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessels; 5 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (2 metal, 1 cement), 1 to discharge general cargo, 1 to load/dischage containers; 58 vessels due, of which 33 to load (28 metal, 1 pig-iron, 2 scrap, 1 ferro alloy, 1 timber), 4 to discharge (1 metal, 1 wheat, 1 ore, 1 fertiliser), 21 to discharge/load containers.

**United States**

Beaumont	25-Jul-06	No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft enforced); Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Columbia River	25-Jul-06	Columbia River draft advisory: Maximum permissible deep draft is 40 ft. 0 ins.
Corpus Christi	25-Jul-06	Channel open under normal traffic. New restrictions in draft (Max 42 ft. 0 ins. BW draft enforced). ADM terminal: no delays expected; Interstate grain terminal: no delays expected.
Galveston	25-Jul-06	Channel open under normal traffic. Normal 39 ft. 6 ins. BW max. channel draft enforced - 40 ft. 0 ins. with ideal conditions. ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Houston	25-Jul-06	Channel open. Shoaling to 42 feet is confirmed in the inner bar channel. Vessels drawing over 42 feet are advised to give due regard to the state of the tide. Vessels drawing over 40 feet are advised to avoid meeting like vessels between lighted buoys 9/10 and 11/12. (Normal Max channel draft is 45 ft 0 ins. to Shell, 40 ft. 0 ins. above Shell to 610 Bridge area) LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: no delays expected.
Kalama	25-Jul-06	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans	25-Jul-06	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no delays expected. Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 5-6 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 5-6 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 5-6 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 5-6 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. 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: relocated for several weeks; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to remain unchanged at 2.0 ft. by 3/8/06 Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: Drafts for the Mississippi River remain as follows: SW Pass to Pilottown - 47 ft. for all vessels; Pilottown to Nola - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 233.5) to mile 180 in. - 45 ft. for all vessels (vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled but are approved by pilots on a case-by-case basis based on current river conditions); Mile 180 to Baton Rouge: 45 ft.;
Portland, Oreg	25-Jul-06	Maximum recommended transit draft for the Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 23 ft. Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle	25-Jul-06	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma	25-Jul-06	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, Wash	25-Jul-06	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected.

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