

CasualtyWeek

August 20 2004

Fewer spills mean financial thrills for tanker owners

INTERNATIONAL Tanker Owners Pollution Federation chairman Helmut Sohmen reported a "relatively light" case load of new oil spills this year in the association's 2004 report and accounts.

ITOPF attended 14 incidents on site in the 12 months to February 20 this year, including the Tasman Spirit in Pakistan and the Roknes in Norway.

In the five years since non-tankers were included in ITOPF's associate membership, the federation has attended 91 incidents, of which 45 involved tankers. Out of the 14 spills attended this year, seven involved non-tank vessels.

Dr Sohmen said that while the Prestige oil spill continues to cast "a long shadow", he was encouraged to note signs that "the emotive language prevalent in the immediate aftermath of the spill is being replaced by calmer and wiser voices".

He believed that calls for international measures under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization in preference to regional solutions were "gaining ground, and rightly so".

The association's spill response this year has been dominated by the

Polembros tanker Tasman Spirit, which ran aground in Karachi port approaches in July 2003.

As Dr Sohmen pointed out the accident was "marred by discord" between vessel interests and the Pakistani authorities, which led to the detention in Pakistan of the crew of the ship and its salvage master.

Persecution

While the so-called Karachi Eight have now been allowed to leave the country, a move Dr Sohmen welcomed, he added that this was another example of "the persecution of innocent seafarers and salvors that serves no useful purpose and jeopardises an orderly response to major incidents, for which effective and proven international remedies exist".

ITOPF has indeed been named in legal action planned by Pakistani interests, an almost unprecedented occurrence.

If the case load of new spills has been lighter this year, ITOPF has been kept busy with a number of training initiatives and the preparation of a study for the European Commission on oil spill response capabilities in 14 European states.

This gave the federation the opportunity to "promote a coherent

strategy for oil spill response across Europe, and to encourage greater international co-operation as the most cost-efficient means of improving response capabilities," Dr Sohmen said.

The report was submitted to the commission in April.

ITOPF has also been involved in assisting government officials in Galicia with response procedures following the Prestige oil spill.

As of February 20, tanker tonnage in ITOPF membership was 206m gt, compared with 198m gt the previous year, although the figures reflected the active scrapping and newbuilding programmes by members rather than a change in membership profile, Dr Sohmen said.

Associate members' tonnage was up to 339m gt compared to the previous year's 320m gt. The federation posted a surplus of £241,423 (\$442,450) after tax for financial 2003/04.

Membership dues will be adjusted for 2004/05 to 0.75p per gross tonne from 0.85p the previous year. The rate for associate members will be 0.29p per gross tonne compared with 0.23p the previous year.

Sandra Speares
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BUXTEHUDE</i>	general	CYP	GL	2,565	3,020	1985	Towed to and is presently at Commercial Quay, Vigo, awaiting docking permission for repairs, Aug 10.
<i>CANADA SENATOR</i>	container	LBR	GL	30,567	31,160	1993	In collision with yacht Mondisy in lat 46 42.57N, long 71 25.24W, Aug 11. The yacht sank. Two sailors recovered, two lost. Vessel undamaged and is at Quebec anchorage awaiting an investigation.
<i>EDHA II</i>	ro-ro	IDN	KI	1666	476	1968	Sank in the northern Arabian Gulf Aug 8. All 12 crew members safely rescued by USS Seattle. Cause of the sinking not known.
<i>HALIFAX</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	20,646	30,100	1963	Grounded while docking at Sombra, in lat 42 41 48N, long 82 29 28W, Aug 5. Damage unknown. Refloated Aug 6. Discharging cargo near Fawn Island. To proceed to Sarnia for inspection.
<i>KELVIN</i>	general	NOR	NV	575	533	1968	Grounded in lat 66 50N, long 13 16E, Aug 10. Refloated with tug assistance same day and entered harbour.
<i>LADY NORA</i>	general	MNG	—	5,985	7,250	1980	Had engine failure north of the Al Halaniyat Islands, southern Oman, Aug 11. A Navy corvette picked up the vessel's distress call and rescued its crew and transported them to Salalah. No details regarding vessel's salvage/repairs.
<i>MELRIVIC TEN</i>	ferry	—	—	280	—	—	Dragged to the shore in bad weather off Poro Town, Camotes Island Aug 10. Vessel still aground Aug 11, awaiting high tide. Coast Guard are to inspect for any damage.
<i>MISS NEVELYN</i>	support vessel	USA	—	194	—	1998	Vessel keeled over off Guayaguayare Bay, Trinidad Aug 8. Vessel sank in 45 feet of water. All 24 crew rescued. Vessel will be out of service until results of the investigation are known.
<i>SCOT PIONEER</i>	general	GBR	GL	1,587	1,901	1984	Stopped in lat 50 23.5N, long 01 24.8W, Aug 5 to effect repairs to shattered water pump bearing. Reported Aug 6 taken in tow for Southampton. Arrived Aug 6 and entered shipyard.
<i>SHEN QUAN HAI</i>	bulker	CHN	CS	27,491	45,518	1984	Touched bottom at Matarani Jul 27. Docked to discharge cargo. Inspection found damage to propeller and steering gear. Taken in tow Aug 2 for Callao. Arrived Aug 5.
<i>TANTO PRIMA</i>	general	IDN	KI	4,003	6,272	1977	Struck by a barge Aug 4 while moored at Perawang. Hole torn in hull and water ingress into hold. Listing badly, with bow partly submerged. Work in progress Aug 6 to seal hole and remove cargo.
<i>TRAKYA</i>	ro-ro	ITA	RI	20,775	14,413	1999	Reported fire in engine-room in lat 40 11N, long 07 25E, Aug 5. Fire extinguished Aug 5 and vessel awaiting tug. Reported Aug 6 proceeding to Oristano under own power. Arrived Aug 6. Cargo transhipped. Still in port Aug 12.

CONTENTS

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

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Port State Control	7
Seizures & Arrests	7
Pollution	8
Weather & Navigation	8
Earthquakes	13
Volcanic Activity	14
Political & Civil Unrest	14
Labour Disputes	18
Awards & Settlements	19
Railway Accidents	20
Miscellaneous	21
Fires & Explosions	23
Aviation	26
Space Vehicles	29
Product Recalls	30
Port Conditions	30
Port Conditions charts	30



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ALAMOA (Brazil)

Santos, Aug 6 — Chem.tank *Alamoa* sailed Santos 1540, local time, Aug 5, in tow of tug *Perseus*. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGOFAX (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Aug 11 — The weekly newsletter of Optima Shipbrokers reveals that product tanker *Algofax* (8646 gt, built 1969) has been sold for scrapping in India. Laid up at Halifax, the vessel was sold on an "as is" basis for US\$250 per ton. While in the upper lakes in June the vessel sustained serious mechanical difficulties and it was widely rumoured at the time that its career was at an end. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

AMBAR

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

ANDREW J. BARBERI (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The city's director of ferries pleaded not guilty today to 11 counts of manslaughter in last year's wreck of the Staten Island ferry *Andrew J. Barberi*. Patrick Ryan left the federal courthouse without speaking to reporters. His attorney, Tom Fitzpatrick, said he and Ryan were taken aback by the harshness of the charges. The Oct 15 crash was one of the worst mass-transit disasters in New York history. Eleven people died and dozens were hurt when the ferry's pilot blacked out and *Andrew J. Barberi* slammed into a maintenance pier. Ferry pilot Richard Smith pleaded guilty yesterday to 11 counts of manslaughter, acknowledging he neglected his duties by taking medications that made him lose consciousness at the helm. Prosecutors accused Ryan of slipshod management, saying years of neglect were "a tragedy waiting to happen." They allege Ryan neglected long-established safety practices, including a requirement that a ship's captain and assistant captain share the wheelhouse during docking. Ryan never told new pilots about the rule or enforced it, prosecutors said. Authorities say the ferry's captain was not in the wheelhouse when Smith passed out at the helm. The ferry's port captain and a doctor who treated the ferry's pilot also pleaded not guilty to making false statements after the crash.

ANTARES (Gibraltar)

Montevideo, Aug 10 — Chem.tank *Antares* is still at Montevideo under repairs. As per ship agents information repairs are expected to conclude on or about Aug 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARCTIC SUN NO.1

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 10 — Barge *Arctic Sun No.1*: The owners have contracted with Overseas Salvage of

Exuma, Bahamas, acting in conjunction with another local firm, to undertake righting of the barge at its present location near the Berry Islands on a "no cure-no-pay" basis. It is understood preparations are being made at the moment to mobilise the salvage effort and it is anticipated some results within the next 24-36 hours or so, barring major problems. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARTEMIS (Netherlands)

Dunkirk, Aug 6 — General cargo *Artemis* sailed Boulogne at 1612, Aug 4, for Seville, following replacement of the turbo-charger. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASHLAND (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sherman Minton Bridge carrying Interstate 64 traffic across the Ohio River was closed for more than seven hours Wednesday night (Aug 4) and yesterday after a barge hauling gasoline hit one of its supports. Tug *Ashland* (713 gt, built 1966) was pushing seven barges from Marathon Ashland Petroleum in Catlettsburg, Ky., to Louisville when it reported difficulty steering at about 2300, Wednesday, said Lt. Cmdr. Jerry Nauert of the Coast Guard's Louisville division. Nearby tug *Blazer*, also owned by Marathon Ashland, responded and tried to tie up *Ashland* but was unable to do so before a barge hit one of the bridge's centre piers, said company spokeswoman Linda Casey. There were no spills or environmental damage, she said. The contact prompted officials to close the bridge between Louisville and New Albany, Ind., until inspectors could be sure there was no structural damage, said Dell Ballard, Falls City subdistrict manager for the Indiana Department of Transportation. He said damage was minimal because the barge hit the column with a "glancing blow." The bridge reopened at 0609, yesterday, Ballard said, adding that traffic had been diverted using Interstates 265 and 65, causing some backups just before rush hour. Nauert said the incident appears to have been caused by equipment malfunction, although an investigation is ongoing. Casey said the company has concluded that a pressure release valve failed in the hydraulic system, making it impossible to steer. She said the part was replaced, and the barges docked at the Algonquin Terminal for removal of the gasoline.

BALTIC MERIDIAN (Liberia)

Istanbul, Aug 11 — At 1945, local time, Aug 10, bulk *Panormos* (22450 gt, built 1984), Cartagena for Bourgas, was in contact with ref *Baltic Meridian* (10424 gt, built 1980) at Ahirkapi. Both vessels, which are reportedly undamaged, are presently anchored at Ahirkapi anchorage, awaiting the necessary formalities. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Panormos*, which sailed Cartagena Aug 3, subsequently passed Dardanelles 1951, Aug 9. *Baltic Meridian*, which sailed Savona Aug 6 for Varna, subsequently passed Dardanelles 2200, Aug 9.)

BENARITA (NIS)

Buenos Aires, Aug 5 — Bulk *Benarita* (23594 gt, built 1984), Nueva Palmira for Russia, loaded with Eucalyptus trunk, grounded at Km. 161 of the River Parana, at 0150, Aug 4. The grounded vessel is not obstructing navigation, and is not being assisted by tugboats. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 5 — Understood bulk *Benarita* refloated, by own means, at 0945, local time, today.

Buenos Aires, Aug 6 — Bulk *Benarita* refloated by its own means at 0950, yesterday, and is continuing navigation towards Russia. — Lloyd's Agents.

BUFFALO 405 (U.S.A.)

New Orleans, Aug 5 — Product tanker *Torm Mary* was anchored at Sun Anchorage in Port Neches, Texas, at 0020, Aug 2, when tank barge *Buffalo 405* contacted as the barge came along the starboard stern to load bunkers. This resulted in a crack of 1.20 metres to 1.30 metres from engine-room into HFO Tk 2 starboard side, approximately 50 cm on HFO Tk 2 starboard side and approximately 70 cm on engine-room side. Height of crack from waterline is approximately 2.20 metres. Due to the crack in the HFO Tk 2, fuel oil bunkers has leaked into the water. *Torm Mary* was loaded with gasoline and MTBE, cargo tanks were not affected. Temporary repairs to *Torm Mary* have been awarded to Gulf Cooper. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Port Arthur, dated Aug 5: The Coast Guard established a safety zone today on the Neches River from just north of the DuPont plant to the Veteran's bridge. No recreational boaters will be allowed into the safety zone until more of the oil has been removed. Both the Coast Guard and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be patrolling the area to ensure that recreational boaters observe the parameters set by the safety zone. Since the Neches River's opening at approximately 1144 yesterday, a significant amount of ship and barge traffic has been allowed to move in and out of port. As of 1600, today, ship and barge traffic is largely back to normal with the exception of nine ships and barges that must be washed down before heading into uncontaminated water. Crews will work throughout the night to de-oil these vessels and prepare them to sail. Port Neches park boat ramp and waterfront will remain temporarily closed to continue launching resources aiding in the clean up effort. The park remains open, however people are urged to use caution when visiting the park, as there is still a lot of activity with response personnel and vehicles moving in and out of the area. As river clean up continues, the costs rise. The latest figures from the unified command put the cost at just over \$2 million.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Coast Guard Port Arthur, dated Aug 9: Product tanker *Torm Mary*, which was involved in the oil spill, transited to the Gulf of Mexico without incident at 2325 yesterday and clean up

along the Neches River continues. In the early hours Aug 2, *Torm Mary* was struck by tank barge *Buffalo 405* during a routine refuelling operation, resulting in a rupture to the ship's fuel tank. An estimated 25,200 gallons of heavy fuel oil was spilled. Coast Guard Captain Sharon Richey, Commanding Officer of the Marine Safety Office in Port Arthur, said "The Coast Guard is making every effort to open the Neches River to all traffic this week, and to have the Port Neches Park re-opened as soon as safely possible." The United States Coast Guard, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and other state and local agencies have closely examined a 44-mile stretch of the Neches River from north of the Sun Anchorage to the entrance of Sabine Lake to determine environmental impact from the spill. Of that 44 miles, 28 miles were deemed affected by the oil. Approximately 13 miles had moderate oiling, nine miles had light oiling, and six miles had very light oiling. The Coast Guard has established a safety zone on the Neches River from just north of the DuPont plant to just south of Port Neches Park. Recreational boaters are not yet allowed into the safety zone until more of the oil has been removed. Both the Coast Guard and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be patrolling the area to ensure that recreational boaters stay out of the safety zone. The latest estimates from the unified command put the cleanup costs at approximately \$4.5 million.

BUXTEHUDE (Cyprus)

Vigo, Aug 10 — General cargo *Buxtehude* (2565 gt, built 1985) has been towed to and is presently at Commercial Quay, Vigo, awaiting docking permission for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

CALA PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Curacao, Aug 6 — C.c. *Cala Panama* is still under repair and is expected to complete repairs Aug 7-8. — Lloyd's Agents.

Curacao, Aug 11 — C.c. *Cala Panama* left Curacao in the early morning, Aug 9, destination unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

CANADA SENATOR (Liberia)

Montreal, Aug 11 — C.c. *Canada Senator* (30567 gt, built 1993), Montreal for Europe, loaded with containers, collided with a 54-ft sailing vessel in fog near Saint Nicolas, above Quebec City, approximately 0600 today. The sailing vessel sank. There were four people on board; two were recovered and the other two lost. Divers are searching the area. *Canada Senator*, which was undamaged, is at Quebec anchorage awaiting an investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 11 — C.c. *Canada Senator* was in collision with yacht *Mondisy* (18.65 gt, built 1967) in lat 46 42 57, long 71 25 24W, off St.Nicolas on the St.Lawrence river, at 0554, EDST, today. The yacht has sunk, two persons are missing and two have been recovered.

CANADIAN TRANSFER (Canada)

London, Aug 6 — Bulk *Canadian Transfer* arrived at Port Dolomite on Aug 3. (See issue of Aug 6.)

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

Cape Town, Aug 10 — Bulk *Cape Africa* sailed Cape Town Aug 9. Understand the vessel is heading for Dubai, for drydocking. — Lloyd's Agents.

CATHERINE DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, Aug 9 — General cargo *Catherine Desgagnes* (5691 gt, built 1962) while heaving starboard anchor in lat 41 49 44N, long 83 08 33W, the Maumee River, near Toledo, the cable broke at 0330, Aug 6. The vessel lost 28 metres of cable and an anchor. Attempts are being made to retrieve the anchor and cable.

CELTIC SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Aug 11 — General cargo *Celtic Spirit* passed Brunsbuttel Aug 9, bound Cardiff.

COLORADO (U.S.A.)

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

CORAL ACROPORA (Netherlands)

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been taken to hospital and 10 others have been treated after an explosion at Runcorn docks. Those involved were all sailors and dock workers. Police said it happened on board *Lpg Coral Acropora* (2274 gt, built 1993), at 1150, BST. It happened as a container of vinyl chlorine monomer was being unloaded at the docks on Percival Lane. Cheshire Police said the chemical dispersed in the air and there was no danger to local residents. Two people were taken to Countess of Chester Hospital, in Chester as a precaution, while the other 10 were discharged. It was classified as a "cloudburst", which means it was treated as a major incident by the police, fire and ambulance services. (Note — *Coral Acropora* passed Dover Strait Aug 7, Rotterdam for Runcorn.)

CORONA BOREALIS (Canada)

Montreal, Aug 11 — Passenger *Corona Borealis*: We believe the damage to the vessel was mechanical and not structural. It is understood to be back in operation running tours between Montreal and Quebec City. — Lloyd's Agents.

COSMIC LEADER (Philippines)

Bangkok, Aug 9 — Reported that vehicle *Cosmic Leader* (8889 gt, built 1991) came into contact with the rubber fender of the Wharf Shed No.6, The Port Authority of Thailand, about 1710, local time, Aug 1. Stated that there was no damage to the rubber fender but details of damage to the vessel is unknown. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Cosmic Leader* sailed Yokohama Jul 22 for Bangkok.)

Bangkok, Aug 5 — Vehicle *Cosmic Leader* sailed Bangkok Aug 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

**COTSWOLD PRINCE
(New Zealand)**

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly three weeks after leaving Bell Bay, general cargo *Cotswold Prince* (1459 gt, built 1970) has been forced to stop at Albany, in Western Australia, for engine repairs. The Albany Port Authority Harbourmaster said the vessel had arrived on Monday evening (Aug 9). He said the ship's owner, Les Dick, had said the ship would be in the port for about two weeks. "The basic plan seems to be to get some spare parts and do some repairs, sourcing parts from a trawler in Esperance," he said. *Cotswold Prince* broke down a little over a week into the trip to Mumbai. (Note — *Cotswold Prince* arrived River Tamar previous to Jan 23, 2001 and sailed Jul 21 for India.)

**CSAV RIO PUELO
(Marshall Islands)**

See "Cargo Damaged Following False Security Alert, New York, United States" under "Miscellaneous."

**DONG HUA MEN
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Durban, Aug 6 — General cargo *Dong Hua Men* sailed Durban Aug 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

DWEEP SETU (India)

Kochi, Aug 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* is still in port undergoing repair and will dry-dock at Cochin Shipyard. There is no delay in drydocking due to the fire. As the vessel is involved in the passenger service between the main land and the Lakshadweep Islands, service will resume by Sep 15, when the out ports will open for traffic after the monsoon season. — Lloyd's Agents.

EAGLE MEMPHIS (Singapore)

London, Aug 12 — Crude oil tanker *Eagle Memphis* sailed Convent Aug 6.

**EASTERN NAVIGATOR
(Antigua & Barbuda)**

Miami, Aug 6 — General cargo *Eastern Navigator* came into Port Everglades on Jul 31 and departed on Aug 4. The Harbour Master advised it was going to Veracruz, Mexico. The agent was Florida Transportation Services, who advised the vessel departed at 0800, Aug 4, but was still at Port Everglades anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

EDHA II (Indonesia)

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: U.S. Navy sailors have rescued the 12-member crew of ro/ro *Edha II* (1666 gt, built 1968) that sank in the northern Arabian Gulf, the Navy said today. Sailors from the *USS Seattle*, the Navy's largest combat logistics vessel, took four crew members off the deck of *Edha II* by helicopter yesterday. Eight others were rescued from a life raft already in the water, the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said in a new release. The Navy did not disclose the nationalities of the rescued crew. The 12 rescued sailors were taken to the navy

vessel for medical treatment and will remain aboard pending repatriation, the Navy said, adding that the cause of the *Edha II's* sinking was unknown.

EGASCO FORTUNE (Egypt)

Alexandria, Aug 10 — Bulk *Egasco Fortune* is not under arrest but is still at Alexandria, there is some problem with the vessel's owner over cargo stowed in the holds that is now rotten. — Lloyd's Agents.

FLYING DOLPHIN XVII (Greece)

London, Aug 9 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin XVII* (130 gt, built 1984), operating a service Volos-Skiathos-Glossa-Skopelos-Alonissos, sustained engine damage during the morning of Aug 7 while berthing at Skiathos with 145 passengers on board. The port authority prohibited the vessel from departing, pending inspection of the repairs. The vessel was permitted to depart the next day.

FU SHAN HAI (China)

Gothenburg, Aug 5 — A local court at Roenne, Bornholm, Denmark, has sentenced a Polish seaman from the collision between general cargo *Gdynia* and bulk *Fu Shan Hai* north of Bornholm in August last year. The low fine of DKK 3,000, approximately EUR 403, is explained by the fact that the seaman confessed and explained at an early stage of the investigation. He was fired from his job directly after the incident and thereafter has been unemployed. *Fu Shan Hai* sank after the collision at a depth of 60 metres and is still there. The salvage cost DKK 36 million, EUR 4.8 million. — Westax Marine Services AB.

GALICIA SPIRIT (Spain)

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

GDYNIA (Cyprus)

See *Fu Shan Hai*

GIGLIO ESPRESSO II (Italy)

See *Tacanuya*.

GORDON C. LEITCH (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Aug 9 — Bulk *Gordon C. Leitch*, which grounded last week in the St. Lawrence Seaway, arrived at Port Weller Drydocks on Aug 8 for inspection and repair. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

GOTLAND (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Aug 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Gotland*: The special "Environment DA" is considering prosecuting the line due to the outlet in the port of Visby. Several thousands litres of oil polluted water poured out from *Gotland* after having earlier experienced problems in the cooling system, where engines stopped and took three-and-a-half hours to repair, causing the vessel to drift. Large amounts of water were onboard and, after repair completed, was pumped into a sludge-tank which became overfull and poured from a ventpipe and into the port basin, causing an oil film at the docks. Since

the crew knew about the leakage and did not check the tank when filled, resulting in the overflow, the matter may be brought to court for environmental negligence. — Westax Marine Services AB.

GSF ADRIATIC IV (Panama)

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Eni reports that during drilling operations on the gas production platform *Temseh*, operated by Petrobel on behalf of Eni/leoc, EGPC (Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation) and BP, a fluid release occurred and subsequently the installation caught on fire. The *Temseh* platform is located in the Mediterranean Sea, about 60 kilometres from Port Said. All the staff aboard the platform had been safely evacuated and without any casualty before the fire broke out. According to Eni, measures aimed to control the blow out have been promptly activated. Later reports state that GlobalSantaFe's drill platform *GSF Adriatic IV* (7854 gt, built 1983) also sustained damage during the fire and collapsed about one hour after noon, local time. The rig was under contract to Petrobel.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from GlobalSantaFe, dated today: GlobalSantaFe today reported that the company's drill platform *GSF Adriatic IV*, was severely damaged during a fire and sank in the Mediterranean Sea approximately 25 miles offshore Egypt. The fire occurred at 0845, local time, today following a well control incident. There were no injuries and all 79 persons onboard the drilling rig were safely evacuated by boat to the nearest shorebase. The personnel on the rig included 44 GlobalSantaFe employees and 35 contract workers. At the time of the incident, the rig was located over a production platform owned by Petrobel, a joint venture between Eni and the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation. The rig had been at the location for 58 days.

**GSF ADRIATIC IV (Vanuatu not
Panama as before reported)**

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Six teams of firefighters backed by helicopters were seen leaving Port Said early today for the *Temseh* platform, some 60 kilometres away, where the blaze was set off yesterday, apparently by accident. An oil source said it would take five days to extinguish the fire. All 150 workers on the platform, run by Petrobel and owned by Italy's ENI, British Petroleum and Egypt's General Petroleum Corporation, were evacuated in time to prevent any casualties. *Temseh* is one of Egypt's largest gas deposits, producing between 150 million and 180 million cubic feet per day. The platform had been shut for maintenance at the start of the month. The fire initially broke out on drill platform *GSF Adriatic IV* linked to the platform, which was destroyed by an explosion and sank. Officials said it was caused by an overflow of natural gas during drilling. The initial blaze was brought under control yesterday afternoon, but

for reasons that are under investigation it later spread to the platform, which erupted into a ball of flames jumping more than 20 metres in the air. "Equipment damage was considerable," an oil ministry official said today, without giving a precise estimate.

GUADALUPE (Marshall Islands)

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

GULF HORIZON (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 11 — Following received from Horizon Offshore Inc, dated Houston May 27: Derrick/pipelaying barge *Sea Horizon*, based in South-east Asia, will replace barge *Gulf Horizon* on the Israel Electric project and will mobilise to Israel within the next few days. *Gulf Horizon* is now at a shipyard in South Carolina undergoing an initial damage assessment.

GUY V.MOLINARI (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Aug 9 — After departing Marinette Marine Co. Dock, at 1535, local time, Aug 7, ferry *Guy V.Molinari* (built 2004) developed some type of mechanical trouble. The vessel's crew tried to correct the problem but was unable to and by 2030 the decision was made that the following morning the vessel would have to return to the shipyard for repairs. Early yesterday morning, the tugs *Erika Kobasic* and *Escort* assisted *Guy V.Molinari* back to Marinette Marine. *Guy V.Molinari* advised the tugs of a tentative Tuesday (Aug 10) departure date. The vessel's delivery to New York has already been delayed several times due to various problems. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

HALIFAX (Canada)

London, Aug 6 — Bulk *Halifax* (20646 gt, built 1963), cargo stone, went aground while attempting to dock at the Sombra Wharf, Sombra, along the Saint Clair River, in lat 42 41.48N, long 82 29.28W at 2030, local time, Aug 5. Damage unknown.

Troy, Michigan, Aug 6 — Update at 2100 hrs: Tug *Wyoming* freed bulk *Halifax* this evening. It is unloading at the stone dock on the mainland near Fawn Island and will proceed to Sarnia for inspection. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

HORIZON (Malta)

Montreal, Aug 5 — C.c. *Horizon* was lightered and refloated yesterday afternoon. Vessel is now alongside a pier in Sorel for a diver's inspection of the bottom. If no damage is found, then it will reload the lightered containers and depart for Europe as scheduled. — Lloyd's Agents.

IVER LIBRA (Cyprus)

Ferrol, Aug 10 — Product tanker *Iver Libra* (21142 gt, built 1994), Setubal for Rotterdam, in ballast, entered Izar Shipyard, Ferrol port, at 1430, local time, yesterday, due to an engine problem. It is expected that the vessel will undergo trials, later today, which if satisfactory could result in the vessel sailing tonight. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Iver Libra* sailed Setubal Aug 6.)

Ferrol, Aug 11 — Product tanker *Iver Libra* sailed Ferrol at 0900 today, bound for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

JACARANDA (Panama)

See *Pleione*.

JANE ANN IV (Canada)

See *Sarah Spencer*.

Toronto, Aug 11 — Anchor handling tug *Jane Ann IV* arrived Hamilton Aug 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

JUNEAU (U.S.A.)

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

KELVIN (Norway)

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Bodo RCC, timed 0840, UTC: General cargo *Kelvin* (575 gt, built 1968), cargo fishmeal, grounded in lat 66 50N, long 13 16E, about five minutes ago.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Bodo RCC, timed 1520, UTC: General cargo *Kelvin* was refloated with tug assistance and has now safely entered harbour. Everything reported OK on board.

KHANA (Panama)

Yokohama, Aug 9 — Ref *Khana* arrived Tokyo Aug 6. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jul 28.)

KIRAN PACIFIC (Turkey)

Hamburg, Aug 10 — Bulk *Kiran Pacific* sailed Hamburg Aug 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

LADY NORA (Mongolia)

Karachi, Aug 12 — General cargo *Lady Nora* (5985 gt, built 1980), bound Somalia, had engine failure north of the Al Halaniyat Islands, southern Oman, yesterday. Omani Navy corvette *Al Mua'zzar*, which picked up the vessel's distress call, rescued the crew, gave them first aid and transported them to Salalah, according to Oman News Agency sources. No details are available as to whether the vessel is being towed to an Omani port or being repaired at the scene. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LAKE EVA (Marshall Islands)

London, Aug 9 — Chemical/oil carrier *Lake Eva* (10948 gt, built 1989) while leaving Section 57, port of Montreal, for the Seaway, experienced problems with its controllable-pitch propeller at 0700, EDST, Aug 7. Vessel, assisted by tugs, returned to section 66.

LAYAL (North Korea)

Beirut, Aug 10 — General cargo *Layal* (2915 gt, built 1966) declared General Average while in Istanbul Harbour, following a fire which broke out on Mar 13. The vessel arrived at Tripoli, Lebanon, under towage from Lattakia on Jul 7 and discharged a cargo of about 4,000 tonnes of soda ash which was loaded at Constantza. On arrival at Tripoli the master and the crew all left the vessel. Unloading completed on Jul 30. On Aug 9 the vessel sailed with six crew-members on board declaring their destination as Alang for scrapping. — Lloyd's Agents.

LIONESS C. (Panama)

London, Aug 11 — Bulk *Lioness C.* passed Gibraltar East Aug 8 for El Dekheila.

MAERSK FLENSBURG (U.K.)

Brest, Aug 6 — C.c. *Maersk Flensburg* arrived Brest Aug 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARINCHRIS (Cyprus)

London, Aug 6 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Aug 5, bulk *Marinchris* was refloated with the assistance of tugs and anchored safely in Navarino Bay. Pylos Port authority has prohibited departure pending inspection by class. (See issue of Aug 6.)

London, Aug 9 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Bulk *Marinchris* was given permission by Pylos Port Authority on Aug 7 to depart for a single voyage to Taranto in order to discharge. The vessel was permitted to sail after carrying out the required repairs and being issued a class maintain certificate.

MELRIVIC TEN

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Melrivic Ten* (280 gt), carrying 65 passengers, was dragged to the shore after running into bad weather off Poro town, Camotes Island, yesterday. The vessel, plying the Poro-Cebu City route, had just left Poro port at 1100 hrs when it was hit by high waves and strong winds, said Cebu Coast Guard Deputy Chief Lemuel Alquiza. Barely 15 minutes later, the waves forced the vessel to run aground, 100 metres from the Poro pier. "The vessel got stuck parallel to the shoreline," Alquiza said. All the passengers were rescued safely, one after the other. The vessel has 24 officers and crew, headed by ship skipper Alvin Umawan. The vessel has not yet been refloated because the tide was low. It can only be removed once the high tide sets in, added Alquiza. In addition, Alquiza said the Coast Guard still has to inspect the vessel to determine any damage, especially on the bottom. Despite the absence of a weather advisory from the state-run Pagasa weather bureau, Alquiza advised all light seacraft to refrain from sailing out to sea yesterday.

MENGGALA (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Jul 16 — Ro/ro *Menggala* arrived Bitung Jul 14 and sailed Jul 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERCS HENDALA (Sri Lanka)

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A man was killed when a 180 ton electric wharf crane came crashing down and fell over general cargo *Mercs Hendala* (1403 gt, built 1967) at the Chennai Port, police said. Another person, who was inside the vessel, suffered minor injuries, while the cabin and the bridge of the vessel were damaged, police said. The crane was being used for unloading cargo. Police said the vessel was berthed in South Quay three, when the crash occurred yesterday. Meanwhile, the Joint Commissioner of Police, C

Sylendra Babu, said an investigation has been launched to ascertain the reasons for the crash. (Note — *Mercs Hendala* arrived Chennai Aug 6.)

MIDNITE SUN (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Coast Guard Kodiak, dated Aug 9: The Marine Safety Detachment in Kodiak is investigating the collision of fishing *Midnite Sun* (126 gt, built 1973) and fishing *Rolfy* (146 gt, built 1942) today near Kodiak. The fishing vessels collided at 0500 today in Whale Passage between Whale and Kodiak Islands on the north end of Kodiak. *Rolfy* and *Midnite Sun* are both from Kodiak. Both vessels sustained damage but did transit to Kodiak City without further incident. Both vessels are currently moored at Ocean Beauty Seafoods. Marine Inspectors conducted an initial visual inspection and began crew interviews. The Coast Guard received no reports of any possible crew injuries. The Marine Safety Detachment will continue to investigate the incident.

MISS NEVELYN (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-four people working off the east coast of Trinidad had to be rescued on Sunday night (Aug 8) after lift boat *Miss Nevelyn* (194 gt, built 1998) they were on keeled over in 45 feet of water. At about midnight, *Miss Nevelyn*, a 130 Class lift boat operated by Tucker Energy Services Ltd, encountered difficulties and keeled onto its side. The vessel was sub-contracted to Harbert International. The lift boat was providing a work platform and was involved in engineering works approximately 800 metres off the south-east coast of Guayaguayare Bay, Tucker's quality, health safety and environment manager David Roberts said yesterday. Personnel had to be evacuated when the vessel keeled over. All 24 were accounted for and medically examined. No injuries were reported, Roberts said. The Environmental Management Authority, Coast Guard and the Ministry of Energy were notified of the incident. A full investigation into the incident has been initiated, Roberts said yesterday. The vessel will be out of service until results of the investigation come in.

MITKOF (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Kodiak, dated Aug 6: Fishing *Mitkof* (106 gt, built 1940), based in Petersburg, sank 10 miles north of Petersburg early this morning with 160,000 pounds of fish on board. The Coast Guard received notification at 0157 hrs that *Mitkof* struck a rock and began flooding. Search and rescue coordinators at the Coast Guard Command Centre in Juneau directed the launch of an Jayhawk helicopter and crew from Air Station Sitka and a small boat from the Petersburg-based cutter *Anacapa*. Additionally, they issued an urgent marine information broadcast (UMIB) to any nearby mariners requesting their response to assist *Mitkof* and its crew. Inside of a few minutes *Mitkof* sank. However, the

four people on board are safe today after the Good Samaritan fishing *Angjenl* rescued the group from the water. Littleton heard the UMIB and responded. The Jayhawk crew stood down and *Anacapa* proceeded to the scene to look for pollution and debris. After a thorough inspection of the area they returned to Petersburg. *Mitkof*, an 75-foot salmon tender, sank in about 300 feet of water. Coast Guard responders found no evidence of pollution from the vessel that contained 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel on board when it sank. Officials from Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Juneau are investigating the incident.

MONDISY (Canada)

See *Canada Senator*.

NA MOKU (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Aug 4 — Tank barge *Na Moku* sailed Barbers Point Aug 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAVION STAVANGER (Bahamas)

Hamburg, Aug 10 — Crude oil tanker *Navion Stavanger* sailed Hamburg Aug 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW POLAR (Falkland Islands)

Vigo, Aug 9 — While trawler *New Polar* (ex *Alaskan Star* (2000 gt, built 1997) was docked at Pescanova's private wharf on Aug 4 and 5 and taking on fuel oil bunkers from several Cepsa trucks, fuel started appearing on deck from one of the oil flow pipes situated on the vessel's port side. About 1,000 litres of fuel oil was spilled into the sea and, due to tidal action, spread to much of Vigo Bay. A major clean-up operation was started to protect beaches, mussel rafts and pleasure craft which were partially affected. The Government is now requiring the vessel's master, owners and P&I Club to provide a bond guarantee of euros 601,012, in order to cover future legal settlements and awards, and another guarantee of euros 305,006 to cover the cost of the clean-up operation costs. — Lloyd's Agents.

NISSOS THASSOS (Greece)

London, Aug 9 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The port authority of Kavala permitted the sailing of ferry *Nissos Thassos* yesterday after repair of the damage sustained to the port main engine Jul 29.

ONEGO MERCHANT (Netherlands)

London, Aug 11 — Information received from Sandnes, states: At 0300, local time, today, general cargo *Owego Merchant* (4941 gt, built 2004), under way from Aardalstangen to Sogenfjorden, in ballast, ran aground at Kviane near Lavik. The vessel was hard aground and had sustained several damages to the bow section. There was a pilot on board. No injuries to the crew. The vessel was refloated at 1315, assisted by a tug which arrived from Bergen. *Owego Merchant* has 160 tonnes of bunker oil and 30 tonnes of diesel on board, but there is no reported pollution from the double-hulled vessel.

ONEIDA (Malta)

Montevideo, Aug 9 — Bulk *Oneida* (17825 gt, built 1984), having loaded 22,950 tonnes of soya beans and soya beans meal at San Lorenzo, sailed Jul 22 for Colombia/Venezuela. At about 0300, local time, Jul 24 while vessel sailing in the River Plate its exhaust gas boiler unexpectedly exploded causing severe damage to its superstructures, funnel, engine-room, accommodation and bridge. No crew members were injured. Afterwards the vessel anchored at the "service zone," outside Montevideo, where it remained until Aug 6 when it entered the port of Montevideo to undertake repairs. Repairs are taking place and they are expected to conclude in or about 25 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORION I (Malta)

Piraeus, Jun 15 — General cargo *Katina*, ex *Orion I*, sailed Eleusis Jun 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

OTTON (Panama)

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control."

PANORMOS (Cyprus)

See *Baltic Meridian*.

PLEIONE (Bahamas)

Cristobal, Aug 6 — Bulk *Pleione* is reportedly holed forward, and has been moved from Cristobal outer anchorage to the inner anchorage to allow a detailed survey to be carried out. Bulk *Jacaranda* is able to continue on its voyage and is presently scheduled to transit the Panama Canal Aug 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cristobal, Aug 9 — Bulk *Pleione* remains anchored in Cristobal inner anchorage pending decision on repairs. *Jacaranda* proceeded southbound through Panama Canal Aug 7 and sailed Balboa 0026, Aug 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Pleione* is undergoing temporary repairs to No.2 cargo hold, which flooded. Once temporary repairs are completed, which expected to take three weeks, it will continue its voyage. Permanent repairs are to be made in Japan or in "that area."

PONT-AVEN (France)

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thousands of passengers due to travel on the luxurious new £100 million passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* (41748 gt, built 2004) were left fuming yesterday when their crossing was cancelled after the engine-room flooded. A crack appeared in a cooling valve on Brittany Ferries' flagship vessel, which was due to sail from Plymouth to Roscoff, and the room rapidly filled with water. The vessel had been booked out to its 2,400 capacity for the 1400 hrs crossing, and all passengers were told to go to Portsmouth or Poole and catch another ferry to France. A spokesman for Brittany Ferries said last night: "Whilst moored at Plymouth port earlier today, during routine inspection, it was

discovered that a seawater-cooling valve had cracked, resulting in water entering the engine compartment. "The crew will be working through the night to pump out the water. Once that is done they will be inspecting the damage to assess how long it will take to repair. I would have to say though that it is highly unlikely that *Pont-Aven* will be sailing to Santander tomorrow as scheduled." He added: "No passengers were on board when the water entered and there was no danger to anyone. Individual compensation is being sorted out." Other services were thrown into disarray as a result of the cancellation yesterday. The port in Plymouth only has the capacity for one ferry to dock so the incoming *Duc du Normandie* was re-routed to Poole. Up to three ferry services are run from the dock each day, but while *Pont-Aven* remains in situ, alternative arrangements will have to be made for those journeys.

PRO "V" ISION (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Kodiak, dated Aug 5: Trawler *Pro "v" ision* (162 gt, built 1973), based in Kodiak, grounded on the north side of Long Island in Chiniak Bay at 0200 today. Local contractors and the US Coast Guard are attempting to salvage the vessel.

London, Aug 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2330, UTC, Aug 6: Trawler *Pro "v" ision* is still aground. Vessel originally report 10 ft of water in engine-room. Master and crew member were taken off. Contractors have placed 300 ft of boom around the vessel and taken off the 8,000 gallons of fuel on board. There has been no pollution.

London, Aug 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1945, UTC: Trawler *Pro "v" ision* is still aground. Salvage bids were due in today and salvage operation should start shortly.

ROCKNES (Antigua & Barbuda)

Gdynia, Aug 6 — Bulk *Rocknes* is still under repair at Gdansk. As the vessel is to be fully repaired, the repairs are expected to take another nine months to complete. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROLFY (U.S.A.)

See *Midnite Sun*.

SAEHAN GALAXY (South Korea)

Busan, Aug 6 — Lpg *Saehan Galaxy* arrived Busan Aug 5. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SALVOR (Canada)

London, Aug 7 — Tug *Salvor* sailed Prescott Aug 3.

SAMUR 14 (Russia)

Rijeka, Aug 6 — General cargo *Samur 14* arrived Rijeka Aug 4 and sailed Aug 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

SARAH SPENCER (Canada)

London, Aug 9 — Barge *Sarah Spencer* (14708 gt, built 1959), cargo iron pellets, pushed by tug *Jane Ann IV* (877 gt, built 1978) struck the lock wall while downbound in the McArthur

Lock, St. Marys River at 1915, EDST, Aug 7. The barge sustained minor damage.

SCOT PIONEER (U.K.)

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1158, UTC: General cargo *Scot Pioneer* (1587 gt, built 1984), Wicklow for Hull, in ballast, stopped to effected repairs to shattered bearing in the water pump in lat 50 23.5N, long 01 24.8W at about 0709, UTC. Vessel estimated 12 - 13 hours to complete repairs. Solent Coastguard maintaining regular radio contact with the vessel.

London, Aug 6 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1308, UTC: General cargo *Scot Pioneer* was taken in tow by vessel *Wye Forth* at 1300, UTC, today, bound for Southampton, ETA not yet known.

London, Aug 8 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0749, UTC: General cargo *Scot Pioneer* arrived Husband's Shipyard, Southampton, at 1621, Aug 6.

SEA PRINCESS

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

SETIA JAYA (Singapore)

Colombo, Aug 10 — Chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* remains in same position. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHEN QUAN HAI (China)

Mollendo, Aug 5 — Bulk *Shen Quan Hai* (27491 gt, built 1984) arrived at Matarani roads Jul 27 with 7,000 tonnes of maize for Matarani and 28,930 tonnes maize/soya in transit for Callao and Salaverry with 9.75 metres forward and aft. On entering the port the same day at 1500 hrs, vessel touched bottom but proceeded to dock at 1700 hrs, to discharge the Matarani cargo. On inspection, damages were found to its propeller and steering gear. Vessel could not proceed on its voyage before considerable repairs and it was towed by tugs *Triton* and *Kuelap* to Callao. Vessel sailed at 2230, Aug 2, ETA Callao midday Aug 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

Lima, Aug 6 — Bulk *Shen Quan Hai* arrived Callao in tow Aug 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHINEI MARU NO.85 (Japan)

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Shinei Maru No.85*, which ran aground outside Halifax harbour last year, had no full-time captain, no helmsman, no navigator and no look-out on the ship's bridge when it smashed into rocks south of the Nova Scotia capital. A preliminary investigation by the Canadian Transportation Safety Board determined "no one was monitoring the vessel's progress when it ran aground." In an October, 2003, letter, obtained by The Canadian Press under federal access to information laws, the board summarized the preliminary findings of investigators in the accident. "In the 11 years I've been with TSB, I've never come across something like this where there was no one looking where the

vessel was going," said Pierre Murray, the board's manager of marine operations in Halifax. Automated pilot systems on modern vessels are primarily designed for — and used in — the open ocean. Murray said it is too risky to use them close to shore because of the danger of either a collision with other vessels, or running aground. The letter pointed out several other concerns, including a language barrier between the harbour pilot and the crew, and inadequate operating procedures on the bridge of the vessel. The document was sent to both the vessel's owners and Japan's commissioner of marine accidents and safety. To date, Murray said, Canadian officials have not received a reply. It is not clear, at this point, whether the vessel or any of its officers will be charged under Canadian transportation laws. The vessel ran hard aground in Portuguese Cove, NS, shortly after leaving Halifax on May 3, 2003. Three forward fuel tanks were ruptured, causing a minor fuel spill along the shoreline. There were no injuries to the vessel's crew of 24 Japanese and Indonesian sailors. At the time, RCMP checked into reports that the helmsman may have been drunk, but the theory was discounted and no charges were laid. Investigators determined that the vessel had been "set to auto pilot" almost from the moment it left dock in Halifax. The vessel's progress was also not monitored either by radar or by a plotting chart, said the Oct. 3, 2003 document. A local marine pilot did guide the vessel to the edge of the harbour and gave traffic safety instructions to the vessel's radio officer, "whom he assumed to be the master since no introductions had been made." The mix-up was attributed to "a language barrier" problem. The Atlantic Pilotage Authority did an internal review to determine if the harbour pilot left the vessel too soon, but spokesman Capt Anthony MacInnis said pilots have the discretion to decide when to board or depart vessels. "I've not come across anything like that either," he said. "I don't believe the pilot did anything wrong under the circumstances. When introductions were made, he did assume this was the master. The person came across with that kind of authority, but there was definitely a language problem." MacInnis said it was an unusual situation because most foreign vessels have someone who speaks either English or French and can act as a translator. Further complicating the matter was the fact that the vessel's acting master was doubling as the vessel's fishing master — jobs that are usually distinct on other vessels.

SONJA DORIS (Denmark)

London, Aug 9 — Following received from the insurers of trawler *Sonja Doris*, dated today: *Sonja Doris* had a fire in the upper part of the engine-room. The vessel's superstructure, including the bridge, has totally burned out and the main deck is severely distorted from the vessel's aft to midships. Four repair yards have been contacted to tender for repairs, and a decision could be taken by Aug 16.

SUPERFERRY 12 (Philippines)

Manila, Aug 12 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* arrived Manila Aug 7 from Cebu. — Lloyd's Agents.

TACANUYA (Cayman Islands)

Genoa, Aug 6 — At 1100, local time, Aug 5, yacht *Tacanuya* was in collision with passenger ro/ro *Giglio Espresso II* (499 gt, built 1959), about half a mile north-east of Punta Palau, Sardinia. *Giglio Espresso II* sustained damage to the fore, involving cargo-port, causing delay in loading/unloading operations. *Tacanuya* sustained damage to stern superstructure. — Lloyd's Agents.

TANTO PRIMA (Indonesia)

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An accident between an incoming barge, fully loaded with wood chips, from Bengkalis, and general cargo *Tanto Prima* (4003 gt, built 1977), owned by PT Indah Kiat Paper and Pulp (IKPP), moored at a Perawang shipping dock, Riau province, forced dock crew to work around the clock to save a Rp 6.3 billion (US\$ 663,158) shipment of pulp. The barge slammed into *Tanto Prima* at 1230, local time, Aug 4, ripping a hole in its hull. PT IKPP Perawang spokesperson Nurul Huda said yesterday that the accident at the company's new dock had workers busy with pumps late into the day trying to keep water out of the hold so that as much of the 2,300 tons of pulp as possible could be salvaged. "Forklifts are busy loading the pulp onto trucks. Some of the pulp is scattered on the new dock and some has been swept away in the Siak River. Cranes are also being used to salvage the pulp from the vessel because water is gradually filling up the hold of the vessel," said Nurul. *Tanto Prima*, which was struck on the right side of the bow, was listing badly with its stern in the air and its bow partially submerged as salvage workers attempted to weld the hole shut to keep the vessel from sinking completely. The vessel had been scheduled to leave for Surabaya yesterday to deliver the cargo of pulp. The company has yet to determine the actual losses incurred by the accident. But with the current price of pulp at around US\$300 per ton, the losses could reach up to \$690,000 or about Rp 6.3 billion.

THOR HAWK (DIS)

Kochi, Aug 11 — C.c. *Thor Hawk* is still under repair. The repairs are expected to be completed by next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR TRIBUTE (Thailand)

London, Aug 11 — Bulk *Thor Tribute* arrived Camden, NJ, Aug 10.

TORM MARY (DIS)

See *Buffalo 405*

TORM MARY (DIS)

See *Buffalo 405*

TRAKYA (Italy)

London, Aug 5 — Following navigation warning issued at 0727, UTC, Aug 5: Ro/ro *Trakya*, ICZI (20775 gt, built 1999), 24 persons on board, reports fire

in engine-room in lat 40 11N, long 07 25E. (Note — *Trakya* sailed Marseilles Aug 4 for Tunis.)

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1416, UTC: Ro/ro *Trakya* reports fire has been extinguished and the vessel is awaiting a tug.

London, Aug 6 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1155, UTC: Ro/ro *Trakya*: Fire is extinguished and vessel is proceeding to Oristano at five knots, under its own power. ETA 1600, UTC, today.

London, Aug 8 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0856, UTC: Ro/ro *Trakya* arrived Oristano Aug 6. The vessel's cargo has been transhipped to passenger ro/ro *Ulysse* for onward transport to Tunis. (See issue of Aug 9.)

London, Aug 9 — Understood ro/ro *Trakya* is still alongside at Oristano.

Cagliari, Aug 12 — At 1700, local time, Aug 6, ro/ro *Trakya* arrived in Oristano roads with main engine partially out of action due to a fire generated by an electrical problem. At 1800 the vessel berthed in the port in order to estimate the extent of the damage and to tranship its cargo of trailers. Today, *Trakya* is still alongside the berth, trying to remove all oily residues in the main engine in order to estimate damages. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TRINITY (U.S.A.)

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Brest, Aug 12 — No decision has yet been taken by the owners of general cargo *Ursula Leonhardt* about whether to carry out repairs at Brest or at another port. Pending further disposition, a decision has been made to keep the cargo of fertilizer on board the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

VALIA (Greece)

London, Aug 9 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Following completion of repairs at Keratsini and a survey by the marine inspectorate, product tanker *Valia* was given permission to sail on Aug 7.

VAMAND WAVE (Cyprus)

London, Aug 9 — Bulk *Vamand Wave* (16623 gt, built 1985), while downbound in Lock 1, Welland Canal, lost main engine power and struck the arrester cable at 1834, May 27. Damage was sustained at the arrester cable winches. (Note — *Vamand Wave* sailed Burns Harbour May 21 and subsequently passed Gibraltar Jun 20 for Tripoli, Libya.)

YAQUINA (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A US Coast Guard dive team and a crew of Brooking port employees teamed Wednesday (Aug 4) to recover a 5,000-pound anchor lost by the hopper dredger *Yaquina* (3846 gt, built 1969). The dredge's starboard side bow anchor broke during its last visit in June, depositing a portion of it in the harbour near the river entrance. It took

the crew of five, two divers and three support personnel, approximately 90 minutes to locate the anchor. The port crew lifted the anchor fluke from approximately 12 feet of water onto the deck of a crane barge. *Yaquina* moors at the port's receiving dock each year when it is dredging the Rogue River and Chetco River channels and the Port of Brookings Harbor. The ship, specifically built at 200 feet in length to fit into the port's turning basin, had the anchor break when it was doing that work this summer. "It wasn't a hazard to navigation, but it was a hazard to dredging," said Port Director Russ Crabtree. The Corps decided to retrieve the piece before it sank too deep into the silt.

YUE YOU 201 (China)

London, Aug 7 — Product tanker *Yue You 201* arrived Hong Kong Aug 6.

Port State Control


NETHERLANDS

Zeebrugge, Aug 6 — Firefighting tug *Otton* is still in the port of Flushing, with no prospects for release. Crew detained after conviction. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Seizures & Arrests


AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)

Beirut, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of people were forced to spend the night on the road in front of Beirut Port on Sunday (Aug 8) after they were prevented from boarding passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* (11779 gt, built 1970) which was to have transported them to Italy. Citing a financial dispute between the Egyptian owner of *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* and its Lebanese investor, the crew told the would-be passengers to wait until the matter was resolved — a wait which lasted through the night and into yesterday. The vessel had been involved in a dispute only hours earlier after its crew tried to unload passengers in Syria instead of Beirut. By the time the vessel arrived in Beirut 14 hours later, tensions on board and at the port were already running high. "We have been waiting on the streets in the heat since yesterday, and we still have no clear idea on why we are being delayed," said Ali Abou Eid, one of the passengers who was to have boarded the vessel. "Officials told us that the owner of the vessel and its investor disagreed over financial issues, but it's not our problem, we have already fully paid for our tickets." Many of the

passengers stranded through Sunday and yesterday are of Lebanese origin and had previously arrived on board the same vessel from different European countries. Abdel-Hafiz Qaisi, director general of land and maritime transport at the Public Works Ministry, said there had been a certain "problem" between the Egyptian owner of the vessel and the Lebanese investor, but that the ministry was working on finding a solution for it. "There are some financial issues between them we will sort this problem out today," he said yesterday, asserting that the passengers would leave on the vessel by today at the latest. "We have impounded the vessel, and it will not move unless the passengers are on board." — Lloyd's Agents.

AMBAR

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

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Aug 5 — General cargo *Biga* is still under arrest at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Aug 5 — We have contacted the port authority who advise that general cargo *Boreas* remains under arrest in the port of Bilbao and it is so far unknown when any decision will be taken by the Court regarding its future. — Lloyd's Agents.

CATUMBELA RIVER (Madeira)

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Catumbela River*, lying at Harwich, is to be sold by sealed tender on the Admiralty Marshal's Conditions of Sale. Offers must be submitted by noon, Sep 9.

HALIA (Isle of Man)

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Although everything is being done to maintain the good relations between Madagascar and Mauritius, the prime minister, Paul Berenger, looks annoyed when he mentions the "Galana saga". A solution has finally emerged: there will not be any power cuts while awaiting product tanker *Halia* from the Persian Gulf. It is expected between Aug 15 and 17 with 27,000 tons of heavy oil. More than 20,000 tons are for the Central Electricity Board. Nevertheless, the Mauritian government believes that Madagascar jeopardized the Mauritian economy as a whole when the Office Malgache d'hydrocarbures prevented Galana from delivering 24,130 tons of heavy oil to Mauritius. The OMH prohibited *Halia* from leaving Toamasina and thus blocked all exports to Mauritius. The Central Electricity Board was waiting for this cargo to ensure the electricity supply to the whole island. The prime minister made it clear that a solution was found thanks to Mauritian resourcefulness. He congratulated the MEPZA, the Central Electricity Board, the State Trading Corporation and the ministers concerned for finding a solution to minimise the consequences on the

industrial sectors and the population as a whole. As soon as the State Trading Corporation was informed of the situation, it contacted all the stakeholders that could suffer from the problem and they all worked together to find a way out. "This allowed all stakeholders to take necessary measures to avoid any risk at an economic level."

INDONESIAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Navy patrol boats have apprehended six Indonesian fishing boats in Australian waters to the west and east of Darwin. Two fishing boats were found about 670-km west of Darwin in the Timor Sea, three other boats were found 300-km to the east of Darwin and another was apprehended near Thursday Island. Five of the six boats will be handed over to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority when they arrive with their crew in Darwin today. The remaining boat has been towed to Thursday Island. Twelve foreign fishing boats have been apprehended in North Australian waters since Jul 1.

MEDAWAR II (Belize)

Alexandria, Aug 10 — General cargo *Medawar II* has been sold to Arabian Trading Co. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Medawar II* was reported under arrest at Alexandria Aug 20, 1997 and reported still in port as of Sep 15, 2003.)

MEGAMAR (Honduras)

Rio de Janeiro, Aug 10 — General cargo *Megamar* still under arrest at Niteroi. No prospects for releasing. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, Aug 10 — Passenger ro/ro *Orestes* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

PISHVA (Iran)

Abu Dhabi, Aug 7 — Ro/ro *Pishva* is still under arrest at Abu Dhabi. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)

London, Aug 12 — Ro/ro *Sea Serenade* arrived Izola shipyard Jul 12 and was still there as of Aug 6.

SHAMROCK (French Southern Territories)

Portland, ME, Aug 11 — Ro/ro *Shamrock* is still anchored in Portland harbour, and has been seized by US Federal Marshals. The vessel's owner has reportedly failed to make mortgage payments since 2001. Negotiations are presently under way. — Lloyd's Agents.

YASSMIN M. (Syria)

Alexandria, Aug 10 — General cargo *Yassmin M.* has been sold to Arabian Trading Co. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Yassmin M.* was reported Mar 17, 2003, under arrest at Alexandria and was still under arrest as of Jun 5, 2003.)

Pollution



MWEENISH ISLAND, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill near the coast of Mweenish Island near Carna, which was being treated as "potentially serious" was last night deemed to be under control, according to a spokesperson for the Irish Coastguard. The spill was reported to the Galway County Council by local residents on Tuesday night (Aug 3), and it is understood that the oil came from the wreck of an old boat which had been abandoned in the area for a number of decades. A Coastguard helicopter and senior engineers from Galway County Council visited the scene yesterday to investigate. The extent of the spill was unknown last evening, but pollution control equipment was sent to the scene to prevent as much marine and nature damage as possible. The Irish Seal Sanctuary advised people living in the Mweenish and Carna areas in the area to keep their dogs on the leash in case oiled birds might be washed up on the beaches.

NEDERLAND AREA, NECHES RIVER, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See *Buffalo 405* under "Marine."

Weather & Navigation



BAY OF BENGAL

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 48 fishermen went missing after they ventured out into the rough sea for fishing yesterday. Official sources in Kolkata said today that 48 trawlers had ventured out into the Bay of Bengal yesterday. All the trawlers, except six, managed to return. The sources said a search operation was on to trace the six trawlers and rescue the 48 fishermen.

CHINA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods in China have caused direct economic losses of 26.5 billion yuan (3.2 billion dollars) and destroyed water projects worth 4.8 billion yuan so far this year, state media reported today. The losses, revealed by the general office of State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, were however, less than the average level of yearly flood damage of 80 billion yuan, the office's deputy director Tian Yitang was quoted by the Xinhua news agency saying. So far, a total of 5.49 million hectares (13.56 million acres) of farmland and 71.63

million people have been affected by floods, with 340,000 houses destroyed by flood waters, Tian said. Since late June, incessant heavy rains have led to severe mountain torrents, mud-rock flows and landslides in several parts of China, with 584 people reported killed or missing, the Xinhua report said. Among these cases, two major mountain torrent disasters, mud-rock flows and landslides on July 5 and 20 claimed 16 lives and left 87 missing in the Dehong prefecture in southwest China's Yunnan province. In mid-July, southwest China's Chongqing municipality reported 187 mudslides, leaving 11 people dead. During the rainy season, major Chinese cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Wuhan, have been struck by strong rainstorms, causing severe damage. Last year, floods claimed more than 1,900 lives and left millions homeless. The worst floods in recent years happened in 1998 when more than 4,000 people died. China, meanwhile, is bracing for yet another series of tropical storms and typhoons. As many as three tropical storms are currently forming in nearby waters, and "one or two" are likely to hit China within the next week, according to the China Meteorological Administration. All rights reserved.

ETHIOPIA

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Six people have died in Ethiopia's northern Tigray State in two separate incidents related to heavy rains pounding the region, police said today. A family of three perished when their house collapsed and three other people were killed by lightning yesterday in the state, regional police commander Hagos Girmay said. The official Ethiopian News Agency said the rains have destroyed crops, government offices, homes and schools in Tigray. Rains in the vast country usually intensify in August, according to the Ethiopia's meteorological department.

FIJI

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage to roads in rural areas caused by heavy rain and flash flooding Monday (Aug 2) is being assessed. District Officer Ba Tomasi Mucunabitu said at least five low-lying areas of Ba were under water for several hours. He said roads in Koronubu, Veisarua, Rarawai, Toge and Moto were affected. Mr Mucunabitu said feeder roads sometimes got washed away and damaged during heavy rains and a survey had begun. He said the cost of the damage would be estimated after the survey was completed. District Officer Tavua Semisi Kauata said flooding in Tavua had receded quickly. He said no reports of damage were received. Mr Mucunabitu, who is the acting planning officer for the division, said people living in flood prone areas should take extra care during the rainy season. He said staff at the district offices started monitoring the situation as soon as the weather changed and it started raining heavily. Schools in parts of Tavua and Ba were forced to close

early on Monday because of disruptions in bus services and the rising water levels in the rivers. In Tavua the Yaladro Flats and the Mataniwai Road were closed to all traffic while a crossing at Toge was under at least eight feet of water with Balevuto Road was closed as well. The weather office said Ba received twice the amount of rain it normally received under such weather conditions.

HURRICANE "ALEX"

London, Aug 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Alex": Hurricane centre located near lat 46.5N, long 41.5W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 6. Position accurate to within 45 nautical miles. Present movement towards the east-north-east, or 065 deg, at 45 knots. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds nil north-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 75 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 300 nautical miles south semicircle, 75 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 400 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 300 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 250 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 75 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 47.0N, long 33.2W. Extratropical. Radius of 50-knot winds nil north-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 300 nautical miles south semicircle, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 7: Position lat 47.0N, long 22.0W. Extratropical. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, nil elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 300 nautical miles south semicircle, 50 nautical miles elsewhere.

HURRICANE "CHARLEY"

London, Aug 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Charley": A tropical storm watch may be required for Jamaica later this morning. Storm centre located near lat 13.0N, long 66.3W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 10. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 285 deg, at 21 knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds and 12-foot seas 50 nautical miles north semicircle, nil elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 13.9N, long 69.3W. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles north semicircle, nil elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 11: Position lat 15.0N, long 72.9W. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere.

Miami, Aug 11 — Tropical storm "Charley" headed toward Jamaica and

other Caribbean islands today, rapidly gaining strength. Jamaica and the Cayman Islands offshore banking centre issued hurricane watches and Haiti issued a tropical storm warning as the storm, which formed yesterday, moved west-north-westwards at 25 mph with winds of 65 mph, not that far off hurricane strength, the US National Hurricane centre said. By 2300 yesterday (0300, UTC, Aug 11), the storm was 300 miles east-south-east of Kingston, Jamaica. Its trajectory could take it over or near Jamaica today, possibly as a hurricane, then the Cayman Islands before heading to Cuba and ultimately Florida, the centre said. "Rainfall totals of three to six inches are likely..." the centre said, adding that large and dangerous battering waves should also be expected along the Jamaican coast. The government of the Cayman Islands told residents to prepare to batten down. "If the storm continues to strengthen as forecast, a hurricane warning may be issued tomorrow morning," the government said in a statement. — Reuters.

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Florida braced for a potential double dose of hurricanes today, ordering Florida Keys visitors to get out of the path of hurricane "Charley" and preparing for possible flooding as tropical storm "Bonnie" approached the already soaked Panhandle. "Bonnie", which was approaching hurricane strength yesterday, was forecast to hit the state early today, at least 12 hours earlier than "Charley". The prospect of back-to-back hurricanes prompted Governor Jeb Bush to declare a state of emergency for all of Florida as schools and government offices announced closures and forecasters warned residents to prepare for the worst. The National Hurricane Centre issued a hurricane watch or warning for most of north-west Florida, from the Alabama border to the Suwannee River, because of "Bonnie". The warning means hurricane conditions are possible within a day, while the watch means within 36 hours. "Charley" grew to hurricane strength around midday yesterday before spinning by Jamaica. A few rooftops were reported damaged in the capital of Kingston, where residents rushed to supermarkets to buy bottled water, flashlights and other emergency items before the storm hit. The country's main airports were shut down and cruise lines were diverted. "Charley" prompted a hurricane watch for the Florida Keys and Florida Bay, at the state's southern tip, north to Anna Maria Island, on the southern edge of Tampa Bay. Watches were also issued for the south-western Florida mainland from Flamingo to just north of Naples, and western Cuba. A hurricane warning was issued for the Cayman Islands. "Charley" was forecast to hit or pass close to the lower Keys late today, then hit the south-western Florida mainland early tomorrow with winds of 85-105 mph, forecasters said. Monroe County emergency officials told visitors to evacuate the entire 100-mile-long island chain. Residents were not being told to leave. Key West Mayor

Jimmy Weekley asked bars, shops and restaurants to shut down at 2200 today, saying the city would offer new guidance after the storm blew by. Officials in Collier County, which contains Naples, were requesting the voluntary evacuation of residents and tourists in coastal areas, emergency services spokesman John Torre said. Neighbouring Lee County, which contains Fort Myers, was also warning people to consider leaving. Bush activated the Florida National Guard to prepare to respond to any damage and said more evacuations may be needed. Public schools were scheduled to be closed today and tomorrow in the Keys, while schools and government offices were to be closed today in parts of the Panhandle. At 2300, EDT, yesterday, "Charley" had top sustained winds of about 75 mph and was expected to strengthen. It was centred about 195 miles east-south-east of Grand Cayman, and was moving west-north-west at 17 mph. In the Caymans, the storm's centre was forecast to pass between Grand Cayman and two smaller sister islands today; government offices were closed and beach bars put up sandbags. "Charley" was expected to remain at hurricane force when it passes over central Florida, but could go anywhere from Miami to the Panhandle, forecasters said. Three to six inches of rain were expected, with locally higher amounts possible, forecaster Daniel Brown said at the hurricane centre. At 2300 yesterday, "Bonnie" was centred about 260 miles south of Apalachicola and moving north-east at around 12 mph. "Bonnie" was expected to make landfall along the central Panhandle this morning, when isolated tornadoes were also possible, forecasters said. The storm's maximum sustained winds dropped from 65 mph to 60 mph last night, but forecasters said "Bonnie" could still become a hurricane overnight. Tropical storm force winds extended 70 miles from the centre. "Bonnie" could dump four to six inches of rain, leading to coastal storm surges two to four feet above normal, forecasters said. Because the Panhandle is already soaked from days of rain from a different system, some low-lying areas may have to be evacuated if there is flooding, said Craig Fugate, the state's emergency management director. The storms were forcing vessels to change their routes in Florida, which has the busiest ports in the world for cruise ship traffic. Carnival Cruise Lines was reshuffling the ports of call for several vessel to avoid the storms, and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. was doing the same, officials said. According to Hurricane Centre projections, after Florida both storms could spread rain along the East Coast. Heavy rain from the storms was forecast for North Carolina.

London, Aug 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Charley": A hurricane warning has been issued for the Florida Keys, from the Dry Tortugas to the Seven Mile Bridge, and for the south-west Florida coast from East Cape Sable to Bonita Beach. A tropical storm

warning has been issued from the Seven Mile Bridge to Ocean Reef, and along the south Florida mainland from Ocean Reef to East Cape Sable, including all of Florida Bay. A hurricane watch has been issued from north of Bonita Beach to Tarpon Springs. A hurricane warning remains in effect for Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. A hurricane watch remains in effect for the western Cuban provinces of Pinar del Rio, La Habana, Ciudad de la Habana, Matanzas and the Isle of Youth. This watch will probably be changed to a hurricane warning this morning. Hurricane centre located near lat 18.6N, long 79.9W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 12. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-west, or 305 deg, at 14 knots. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles north semicircle, nil elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles south-east quadrant and nil south-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 75 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 175 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 20.3N, long 81.3W. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles north semicircle, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 13: Position lat 23.3N, long 82.5W. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 25 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles elsewhere.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Emergency repairs on a primary gateway for barge traffic on the Mississippi River have become more complicated than expected causing worries whether the United States can meet its grain demands. Rising river and ground water delayed for two weeks a major repair by the Army Corps of Engineers to the 1,200-foot main chamber at Lock and Dam 27 near Granite City. Barge tows hauling grain, rock and coal have been waiting 48 hours or more to pass through. The process usually takes 90 minutes to two hours. Chris Brescia, president of Midwest Area River Coalition 2000, said an average of 40 barge tows northbound and southbound were waiting in line. He said delays were

costing those tows a combined \$500,000 a day as they waited to pass through a smaller, auxiliary chamber. "The Japanese grain guys are worried about us meeting their demands," said Brescia, whose coalition includes agricultural interests pushing to modernise the Upper Mississippi's lock-and-dam system. For barges heading down the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois rivers, Lock 27 is the last lock they need to clear before heading to New Orleans. Corps of Engineers spokesman Alan Dooley said there was no good time to repair Lock 27, which is on the Chain of Rocks Canal. The tensioning rods on the 51-year-old lock's gates have started to fatigue. More than 80 million tons of cargo pass through the canal each year, he said. "The consequences of not doing the repairs could be catastrophic," Dooley said. "If the tensioning rods broke off, the gates would become inoperative." Delays at Lock 27 occur when barge tows must be broken up so they can pass through the 600-foot-long auxiliary chamber. That is not necessary when the main chamber is operating. To complete the repair work, 30 million gallons of water must be taken out of the main chamber. However, rising river levels from heavy rains made the job more difficult. The work originally was set to begin Jul 12. Work eventually began Jul 26 and was expected to take two weeks. As of yesterday, Dooley could not predict when the project would be completed.

NIGERIA

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Some 15,000 people from the southern Nigerian town of Ughelli have been driven out of their homes by flooding, following three days of heavy rain, the Delta State information commissioner said today. "More than 3,000 houses were submerged by the flooding because of torrential rains and some 15,000 people are now homeless," Magnus Onyibe said. He said the rains forced two rivers — Cassidy and Eriemu — to overflow their banks, destroying farmland, livestock and properties worth millions of naira.

NORTH KOREA

Seoul, Aug 10 — Nearly 40,000 North Korean families are homeless after torrential rain last month, South Korea has said, confirming a recent Red Cross report of extensive damage that is also hindering aid work. Rainfall exceeded the average for the normal rainy season on the Korean peninsula by more than one-third and it was concentrated late in the month, a South Korean official said today. "Our assessment is that the rain exceeded the average of normal years and damage is extensive," the official said. Much of the secretive communist North was affected by the heavy downpour that fell over two days in late July, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said recently in a report. Many parts of the country affected were inaccessible for rescue and aid because the deluge destroyed roads and bridges into the areas, the

report said. Impoverished North Korea relies heavily on outside aid to help feed its people. In two counties alone relatively close to the capital Pyongyang, 24 people had been killed in flooding, the Red Cross report said. Destruction of property was particularly high in the northern province of Ryanggang where nearly 20,000 families were believed to be homeless, the report said. North Korea's official KCNA news agency had put an estimate of the damage on Aug 2 at more than 1,000 homes destroyed, with extensive damage to crops and railway lines. — Reuters.

SIERRA LEONE

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: After more than a week of torrential rains across Sierra Leone decrepit buildings in Freetown have tumbled and perimeter fences wrenched from the ground, sending huge chunks of concrete and building material into the already impassable streets, officials from the ministry of lands and environment told AFP.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Severe storms and flooding have left up to 15,000 people homeless in the city of Cape Town. Emergency centres have been set up to provide food and shelter for thousands of families left homeless by the floods. The impoverished townships of the Cape Flats were worst affected. The heavy rains and strong winds severely damaged houses. Some people lost their possessions when they were swept away by the floodwaters. Government officials are yet to estimate the cost of the damage.

SOUTH ASIA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: Heavy rain inundated villages in western India, collapsing houses, washing away telephone lines and killing at least 24 people just a week after farmers prayed for rain to end a prolonged dry spell. Rescue workers also found 10 more bodies as floodwaters receded in eastern Bihar state, relief officer Upendra Sharma said today. In Bangladesh, a farmer, his wife and daughter drowned when a small boat sank in a flooded lake in north-eastern Habigonj district, police said. The new deaths raised the toll from six weeks of monsoon floods in South Asia to 1,861, according to official figures. More than 1,000 of those deaths occurred in India, mostly from drownings, mudslides and waterborne diseases. The death toll could rise as reports arrive from remote areas of western Indian states cut off by the flash floods, officials said. The rains have blocked rail and road traffic in several parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra states. At least 15 trains connecting Mumbai and other western cities with northern states were cancelled today, Western Railway spokesman S. Bhagwat said. Hundreds of passengers remained stranded at the Mumbai Central railway station, he said. Rescue workers cleared boulders

and debris from two national highways passing through Mimbai that were blocked after three days of heavy downpours. In northern Punjab state, soldiers were posted along the banks of the overflowing Ghaggar River to help rescue people fleeing the floods. The state reported its first deaths, a woman and two children, yesterday. Most of the devastation from the latest phase of flooding has been in Gujarat, a heavily industrialised state, where at least 181 people have died recently. Heavy rains and thunderstorms severed power lines to water pumps used by farmers. In Bangladesh and eastern India, where floods were receding after monsoon rains moved west, officials discussed how to care for hundreds of thousands of homeless villagers while battling waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid. Nearly two-thirds of Bangladesh was submerged by the worst flooding in six years, and 641 people have died. The government estimated \$7 billion in damage to agriculture, industry, housing and infrastructure. The government said 20 million people — or one-seventh of the population — would need food aid over the next five months. "Tens of millions of Bangladeshis now face grave food insecurity, waterborne disease, a badly mangled infrastructure and extremely poor prospects for the next rice crop," said Douglas Casson Coutts, the UN resident co-ordinator in Dhaka. The United Nations will launch an appeal for international aid next week, he said.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: At least six Indian children drowned when a tractor carrying them home from school in heavy rain slid into a reservoir and a mudslide smothered 11 sleeping workers as the death toll from the monsoon season across South Asia rose to at least 1,931, officials said today. The 11 workers were buried in mud as they slept in a tin shed by the Vaishno Devi shrine in Dhaba Moth, in Jammu-Kashmir state. Three co-workers were pulled alive from the debris, police Superintendent M.L. Mehra said. In the western state of Gujarat, six children were confirmed drowned and two others were missing after the tractor pulling them on a trailer skidded and plunged into a reservoir in Junagarh, police said. The driver swam to safety. Five days of heavy downpour have inundated villages and killed dozens in India's north and west, where farmers had been praying for rain only a week earlier amid a prolonged dry spell. Monsoon rains have drenched India's remote north-east and the eastern state of Bihar since June. At least 1,119 people have died in India, 683 in Bangladesh, 124 in Nepal and five in Pakistan from the monsoon since June, mostly from drowning, mudslides and waterborne diseases. Floods continued to recede in much of Bangladesh today, after a high point that saw nearly two-thirds of the country under water. However, a high tide in the Bay of Bengal swamped dozens of low-lying villages in the southern coastal district of Bhola, marooning at least 15,000 people, officials said. The Bangladeshi

government's health directorate reported more than 9,000 people ill with waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, pneumonia and respiratory problems. Such illnesses have caused more than 60 deaths since June, it said. The flooding in Bangladesh has left some 20 million people in need of food for the next five months, the government has said. It estimates \$7 billion in damages to agriculture, industry, housing and infrastructure. In the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, Red Cross officials said they were appealing for \$2.17 million in emergency aid from international donors to help some 127,000 families affected by monsoon rains.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: A flood-swollen river was overflowing a major Indian dam, threatening villages as 41 more deaths were reported across South Asia, taking the death toll to 1,972 in a season of rain destruction. Twenty-nine people died during the past 24 hours in the badly affected Bharuch district in India's western Gujarat state, officials at the local police control room said. The Narmada River dam, one of the largest such projects in India, was overflowing by more than 13 feet, said S.K. Mahapatra, the dam's administrator. He said the amount of water flowing was more than 25 times the levels of a week ago at the 360-foot high dam. "Because of continuing rain in the last 72 hours, it has started overflowing dangerously. We are monitoring the situation with the help of satellite images," Mahapatra said. Thirty villages have been put on alert for emergency evacuation, he said. The flooding in Gujarat has affected some 300,000 farmers and their crops of groundnut, cotton and sunflower, said Chief Minister Narendra Modi, the state's top elected official. In Bangladesh, the official flood death toll stood at 691 in Bangladesh after eight more deaths were reported yesterday, the Disaster Management Ministry said. The floodwaters have receded from most parts, said officials at the government's Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre. Four people were electrocuted in the village of Arada, in India's eastern coastal state of Orissa, in heavy rains, said police official R. Parida. Utility wires fell on the men when they were inspecting their crops in the area, about 310 miles west of Bhubaneswar, the state capital. Indian officials also said that a lake formed by landslides in China's Tibet region is threatening to burst its banks and inundate hundreds of villages in Indian territory. The lake, rising by the hour, is 3.5 miles long and nearly a mile wide, said L.R. Jhamtha, a government official in India's Himachal Pradesh state bordering China. Jhamtha said villagers in Himachal Pradesh were being evacuated. At least 1,152 people have died in India, 691 in Bangladesh, 124 in Nepal and five in Pakistan from the monsoon since June, mostly from drowning, mudslides and waterborne diseases.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: The death toll from

this season's monsoon rains across South Asia passed 2,000, as authorities in India reported today that 39 bodies were found floating in receding flood waters and four children were killed when a house collapsed. At least 1,195 people have died in India, 694 in Bangladesh, 124 in Nepal and five in Pakistan, bringing the overall figure to 2,018, according to figures supplied by authorities in each country. Victims have mostly died from drowning, mudslides and waterborne diseases. In northern India's Himachal Pradesh state, 20 workers were rescued today after being trapped for a day in a tunnel being built as part of a power project, said engineer Nirmal Prasad. Mudslides had blocked the tunnel's entrance. The state's authorities said they evacuated nearly 1,000 people from 15 villages that are likely to be submerged if a seasonal lake in Tibet bursts its banks. Although rains in the mountainous region stopped today, "the threat persists," Manish Garg, deputy commissioner of the Kinnaur district, said. The lake, formed by landslides, is 1.2 miles long and about 3,000 feet wide, Garg said, citing the latest update from the Indian government, which has been relying on Chinese authorities for information. The Indian government had earlier reported the lake was much bigger. The Indian foreign ministry said it has been receiving "useful information" from the Chinese government and was awaiting permission for an Indian team of hydrologists to visit the site. Meanwhile, 39 bodies were recovered from floodwaters across eastern Bihar state, said government official Upendra Sharma. In western India's Gujarat state, a flood-swollen river continued to feed into an overflowing dam and 30 villages downstream were put on alert for possible evacuation, said S.K. Mahapatra, the dam's administrator. Four siblings, aged six to 10, were killed when an outer wall of their house collapsed yesterday because of heavy rains in Bhavnagar, a town 85 miles east of Ahmadabad, Gujarat's main city, police said. The flooding in Gujarat has devastated the groundnut, cotton and sunflower crops of some 300,000 farmers, said state Chief Minister Narendra Modi. In Bangladesh, the Food and Disaster Management Ministry reported today that three more people had died from waterborne disease as floodwaters receded from two-thirds of the country.

TROPICAL STORM "BONNIE"

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Tropical storm "Bonnie" formed today in the Gulf of Mexico, the second named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season. The storm, formed from the remnants of a tropical depression, was centred about 390 miles south of the mouth of the Mississippi River and was moving north-west at about six mph. The storm was forecast to turn north and then north-east tomorrow. Maximum sustained winds near 50 mph were expected to slowly strengthen through tomorrow. The storm could reach

Florida by Thursday (Aug 12) on a trajectory that would take it inland over northern Florida towards Georgia and South Carolina, according to the National Hurricane Centre.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Bonnie": Interests in the north-central and north-eastern Gulf of Mexico should monitor the progress of tropical storm "Bonnie". Storm centre located near lat 23.6N, long 90.1W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 10. Position accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 295 deg, at seven knots. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 12-foot seas 50 nautical miles. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 24.2N, long 90.7W. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles north-east quadrant, nil elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 11: Position lat 25.5N, long 90.7W. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles.

Miami, Aug 11 — Tropical storm "Bonnie" disrupted gas supplies in the Gulf of Mexico, even as it weakened marginally as it carved a loop from its birthplace north of the Yucatan peninsula towards the Florida panhandle, where a tropical storm watch was issued. A "very small tropical storm," "Bonnie" was located about 295 miles south-south-west of the mouth of the Mississippi river at 2300 yesterday, and was moving north at five mph. A gradual turn to the north-east and increase in pace was expected today, the US National Hurricane Centre said. Maximum sustained winds were near 45 mph, and while the storm had weakened slightly, the centre warned that conditions in the next day or so appeared to favour some strengthening. The tropical storm watch extended from the Florida/Alabama border eastwards to the Suwannee river. US Gulf of Mexico gas suppliers cut some of their pipeline shipments as a precaution. — Reuters.

London, Aug 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Bonnie": All hurricane warnings and watches are discontinued. A tropical storm warning is in effect for portions of the Florida Panhandle and north-west Florida from the Alabama/Florida border eastward to the mouth of the Suwannee River. Storm centre located near lat 28.4N, long 87.5W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 12. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-east, or 035 deg, at 14 knots. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 60 nautical miles. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 30.4N, long 85.6W. Inland. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots.

Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 13: Position lat 35.1N, long 81.1W. Inland. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. (See also "Hurricane Charley.")

TROPICAL STORM "MALAKAS"

London, Aug 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Malakas" near lat 32.2N, long 164.8E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 12. Movement past six hours 055 deg at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Becoming extratropical. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 33.5N, long 168.3E. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Extratropical. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 13: Position lat 35.3N, long 172.4E. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Extratropical.

TROPICAL STORM "MERANTI"

See "Typhoon 'Meranti.'"

TYPHOON "MAEMI"

Busan, Jun 9 — Lng *Galicia Spirit* sailed Incheon Jun 8. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Galicia Spirit* grounded at Pallangpo breakwater, Geoje Island after mooring ropes released during typhoon "Maemi" Sep 12, 2003. Vessel refloated by salvors Sep 19 and was towed to a yard.)

TYPHOON "MERANTI"

London, Aug 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Meranti" near lat 29.6N, long 168.6E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 6. Movement past six hours 035 deg at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 50 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 31.3N, long 169.7E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 85 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 7: Position lat 33.1N, long 170.8E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 110 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere.

TYPHOON "RANANIM"

London, Aug 9 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical

storm "Rananim" near lat 20.0N, long 130.3E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 9. Movement past six hours 360 deg at five knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles south semicircle, 70 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 21.0N, long 130.3E. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles south semicircle, 80 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 10: Position lat 22.4N, long 130.0E. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 110 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Rananim" near lat 22.1N, long 128.1E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 10. Movement past six hours 345 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles south semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 23.4N, long 127.2E. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles south semicircle, 85 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 11: Position lat 24.6N, long 126.1E. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 110 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere.

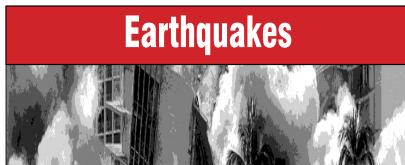
London, Aug 11 - A press report, dated today, states: Taiwan's weather bureau warned residents today to protect themselves against approaching typhoon "Rananim", which it said could bring strong winds and heavy rains that could cause landslides. Residents in low-lying areas were asked to guard against floods while those in mountainous regions were urged to watch out for landslides. Fishing boats took shelter in ports. The typhoon was 430 kilometres east-southeast of the capital Taipei at 1500 hrs, the bureau said. With a radius of 250 kilometres, it was moving north-west at an hourly speed of 17 kilometres and could bear down on the northern part of the island tomorrow, it said.

London, Aug 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Rananim" near lat 27.4N, long 122.6E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 12. Movement past six hours 315 deg at 15 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum

sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles north semicircle, 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 28.4N, long 121.0E. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 13: Position lat 29.1N, long 119.2E. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

UNITED STATES

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: Thunderstorms pounded Oklahoma with heavy rain, large hail and wind up to 90 mph today, knocking out power to thousands of customers and contributing to two traffic deaths. Oklahoma City firefighters were sent to rescue people who became stranded in their stalled cars after driving into high water. Maj Brian Stanaland said flooding had affected several main thoroughfares through the heart of the city. Oklahoma Gas and Electric said nearly 10,700 customers lost power in central Oklahoma, but more than half had electricity back by this evening. Wind up to 88 mph was reported at Guthrie, just north of Oklahoma City. Power lines and trees were blown down, some on top of cars, said Michelann Ooten, public information officer for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. One home and a city storage building were destroyed, and officials asked for emergency generators to run water and sewage plants, Ooten said. Roof damage was reported on Guthrie's community centre, water plant and library. More than four inches of rain fell in Guthrie, in the town of Spencer just east of Oklahoma City, and in Shawnee, the National Weather Service said. A woman was killed in Tulsa when she was hit by a van while she examined damage to the car she had been riding in, which had hydroplaned on wet pavement and hit a retaining wall, according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. In south-western Oklahoma, a man died when his pickup truck ran off the road and hit a concrete culvert, troopers said.



Earthquakes

AFGHANISTAN

London, Aug 10 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0147, UTC, Aug 10. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Hindu Kush region, Afghanistan, lat 36.389N, long 70.831E, depth 207 km.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale and centred in the Hindu Kush mountains jolted cities in neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan today, injuring at least two people, officials said. Tremors were recorded at 0647 hrs in the Afghan capital Kabul and across Pakistan from northwest cities Peshawar, Chitral and Swat to the capital Islamabad and the easternmost city Lahore, an official of Pakistan's Meteorological Department said. The epicentre of the "moderate intensity" quake was located in Afghanistan in the Hindu Kush ranges, some 450 kilometres north-west of Islamabad, the official said. Pakistan's state-run television said at least two people were injured in Mansehra district, some 70 kilometres north-east of Islamabad.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

London, Aug 9 — A report, dated Aug 7, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0930, UTC, Aug 7. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located south of the Aleutian Islands in lat 51.847N, long 166.454W, depth 10 km.

ANDAMAN ISLANDS

London, Aug 9 — A report, dated Aug 6, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1435, UTC, Aug 6. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Andaman Islands, India region, in lat 12.439N, long 95.017E, depth 23 km.

INDONESIA

London, Aug 10 — A report, dated Aug 9, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1418, UTC, Aug 7. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located south-west of Sumatra, Indonesia, in lat 06.226S, long 95.677E, depth 21 km.

JAPAN

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake registering 5.6 on the Richter scale shook northern Japan today, the meteorological agency said, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The quake occurred at 1513 hrs, with the focus located 50 kilometres under the seabed off the coast of Iwate prefecture, some 500 kilometres north of Tokyo, the agency said. There was no danger of tsunami tidal waves, it added.

MEXICO

London, Aug 10 — A report, dated Aug 9, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1149, UTC, Aug 7. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in Oaxaca, Mexico, in lat 17.279N, long 95.099W, depth 102 km.

RUSSIA

London, Aug 6 — A report, dated Aug 5, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2115, UTC, Aug 4. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located off the coast of Kamchatka, Russia, in lat 52.350N, long 159.470E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 55 km.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT SPURR, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount Spurr, which last erupted twelve years ago, is restless again. Fifteen to 25 small earthquakes a day have been rumbling beneath Mount Spurr for the past month. Last week, the Alaska Volcano Observatory raised its level of concern from green (dormant) to yellow (restless). On Tuesday (Aug 3), scientists found a giant hole, 165 feet in diameter and 82 feet deep, in Mount Spurr's ice cap that may have been formed by the heat under the surface of the volcano. Such a hole has not been seen on the mountain in memory, said John Power, a seismologist with the observatory. But the volcanic activity is different from what preceded the three eruptions in 1992 and scientists say there is no imminent threat of an eruption. "It is unusual, that is why we raised the colour of the level of concern," Power said Wednesday. "The most likely scenario is that this is going to die off with no eruptive activity." But, he added, the possibility of an eruption cannot be ruled out. So far, no smoke from the volcano has been spotted.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: An Afghan aid worker and his driver, working for a German relief agency, have been killed by gunmen in the south-east of the country. The Malteser relief agency said it was shocked by the killings and had suspended its operations in the region. The men were shot on the road between Gardez, south of Kabul, and Zormat in Paktia province. Malteser was working with the United Nations in Paktia on vocational training and other projects for refugees. Many aid organisations have withdrawn from south-east Afghanistan, where remnants of the ousted Taleban are waging a guerrilla campaign against the central government and its backers.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Insurgents attacked American forces with rocket propelled grenades and explosives on roads in southern Afghanistan today, injuring at least eight US soldiers, two seriously, the US military said. The first attack occurred at 0700 hrs as a 10-vehicle convoy made its way along a road east of Daychopan, in southern Zabul province. About 10 suspected

Taliban insurgents fired rocket propelled grenades at the convoy, prompting the American forces to fire back with small arms. One of the RPGs struck a Humvee, injuring five troops, two of whom were being prepared for evacuation to a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. About six hours later, rebels set off a roadside bomb near Zabul's provincial capital, Qalat, as a US convoy passed. Three soldiers were injured, but all returned to duty. It was not clear if there were any rebel casualties, said Maj Rick Peat, a US military spokesman. In neighbouring Uruzgan province, a convoy carrying election workers was also reportedly ambushed yesterday. Four jeeps carrying staff from a UN-sponsored program to register voters for upcoming elections and their guards came under fire in remote Char Cheno district, provincial police chief Rozi Khan said. He said the vehicles were destroyed and that two drivers and one election worker were missing, but had no further details. Zabul and Uruzgan have been the scene of some of the worst fighting in recent months, and attacks have increased as the nation gears up for its first direct presidential election on Oct 9. The Taliban have vowed to disrupt the vote, and at least ten people helping prepare the election have been killed so far this year. Twenty-one American soldiers have also died in action this year, already the worst tally for the US military since it entered Afghanistan in 2001. The bloodshed has failed to dissuade Afghans from signing up to vote, with more than 90% of the estimated 9.8 million eligible already registered. The presidential election, which interim President Hamid Karzai is expected to win, is to be followed by parliamentary elections in the spring. Both votes were delayed from June because of insecurity and logistical problems.

Kabul, Aug 9 — Government forces have killed six Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan amid rising violence ahead of October's landmark presidential election, a senior official said today. The six were killed in a clash yesterday in the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar province, the Taliban's former main stronghold, the governor of neighbouring Uruzgan province said. On Saturday (Aug 7), government forces arrested five local Taliban commanders in an area of Uruzgan following a tip-off, said Governor Jan Mohammad Khan. He said government forces suffered no losses. No Taliban official could be reached immediately for comment. None of the arrested commanders appeared close to Mullah Mohammad Omar, the Taliban's reclusive leader who has been on the run since his regime was overthrown by U.S.-led forces in late 2001. The reported Taliban deaths coincided with the killing of at least two local election workers and two U.S. soldiers and the wounding of nine American military in separate attacks in parts of southern Afghanistan over the past few days. — Reuters.

ALBANIA

Bari, Aug 11 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

BANGLADESH

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Sylhet city in northeastern Bangladesh, where two bombs exploded last night just in front of two cinemas leaving one death and seven injured, was tense as police have launched a hunt to nab the criminals. Police said the bombs at two cinemas exploded almost at a time, when shows were in progress in the packed cinemas. The bomb exploded at around 2100, last night. Police and hospital sources in Sylhet, 344 km northeast of Dhaka, reached by phone told Xinhua Friday that no more deaths were among the injured. According to the sources, one teenage boy was killed in the incident. Another bomb which was hurled in front of the Monika cinema in the city did not explode. Army bomb experts were called immediately after the incident and they made the bomb ineffective, but did not defuse it. Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles have surrounded the scene where the bomb is lying and they are still guarding it. All the injured are getting treatment at Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Dhaka, Aug 7 — A bomb blast wounded at least 30 people outside a hotel in Bangladesh's north-eastern Sylhet town. The explosion occurred today, two days after blasts outside two cinemas in the town, 300 km from Dhaka, killed one man and wounded 15. A leader of the main opposition Awami League party was among those hurt in today's blast in a car park outside the hotel, witnesses said. Some 25 people were taken to hospital, doctors said. Police said the bomb was packed with shards of metal. They did not immediately know who was behind the attack or what the motive was. Hundreds of opposition activists staged a noisy protest, demanding those responsible be punished. A bomb blast at a mosque in Sylhet in May wounded more than 50 people, including the British High Commissioner in Bangladesh. — Reuters.

BURUNDI

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The two main sides in Burundi's peace talks failed again today to agree on a power-sharing formula, splitting along ethnic lines with Hutus accepting the proposal and Tutsis rejecting it. Jean Baptiste Manwangari, leader of Uprona, the main party representing Tutsis, said that all 10 Tutsi parties at the talks rejected the deal proposed by South African mediators. "For us, this is not an agreement," Manwangari said. "It is an accord that satisfies Hutu only." The latest setback follows a similar failure last month on the issue of power sharing, the main stumbling block. A last-minute effort to break the deadlock by former President Nelson Mandela, who brokered the initial cease-fire agreement in 2000, also didn't work. South African President Thabo Mbeki

and Deputy President Jacob Zuma interceded during three days of talks in Pretoria this week, but Tutsi parties still rejected the deal because they felt it unfairly favoured Hutus.

COLOMBIA

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Marxist rebels killed nine peasant coca growers in the mountains of north-east Colombia yesterday, close to the site of an earlier massacre in a war over cocaine crops, according to police and local authorities. Members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) shot the peasants before dawn outside the small town of Tibu in Norte de Santander province, near the Venezuelan border, said local officials. The rebel army killed 34 coca growers in the same area in June, after accusing them of working for rival far-right paramilitary outlaws, security forces said.

GEORGIA

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: Georgian forces and South Ossetian separatists exchanged intense gun and mortar fire in the breakaway region, and officials said today that at least eight people were injured. The exchange of gunfire overnight yesterday, which South Ossetian officials called especially fierce, came as Georgia's defence minister was wrapping up three days of talks in Moscow intended to defuse tensions over South Ossetia and another Georgian rebel region, Abkhazia. Gigi Ugulava, Georgia's deputy security minister, accused Russian peacekeepers deployed as a buffer in South Ossetia of joining in the fighting. A Russian official, Col-Gen Yuri Baluyevsky, angrily dismissed the allegations. Tensions are simmering in South Ossetia, which has been de facto independent since breaking away from the central government in a war in the early 1990s. South Ossetians, many of whom hold Russian passports, seek to unite with their ethnic brethren in North Ossetia, across the border in Russia. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has vowed to reunite his fractured country by reining in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and Georgian officials have accused Russia, which has close ties to both provinces, of meddling in those efforts. Tbilisi has accused Russian aircraft of violating Georgian airspace at least three times in recent days, a charge denied by Moscow.

IRAQ

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 17 people were killed and a US helicopter was shot down in the fiercest fighting between multinational troops and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen in Iraq since a truce was brokered in June. Clashes carried on throughout yesterday, and officials reported more than 100 people wounded in the Shi'ite south and the Baghdad slum stronghold of radical militia leader Moqtada al-Sadr. By late night, US jets were still intermittently shelling militia positions in the cemetery in Najaf, but ground fighting had ceased in the

Shi'ite holy city, said an AFP correspondent. Earlier, planes were heard roaring over the capital. A helicopter attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary unit was forced down in the Najaf region in the morning, a US military spokesman in Baghdad said, adding that the crew was recovered alive. The incident took place just hours after the fighting first started between Iraqi police and Sadr's Mehdi Army militia. Near Najaf, a US soldier was killed and five were wounded when their convoy was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire. Najaf's general hospital, attacked by rockets in the morning - killing a doctor and seriously wounding four other staff members - said nine people died in the fighting and another 34 were admitted with injuries. The US military said "approximately seven" insurgents were killed in Najaf, but it was unclear whether they were among those recorded by medics. Sadr aides accused US troops of damaging a minaret of the city's holiest shrine, the mausoleum of Imam Ali. Sadr spokesman Sheikh Ahmed al-Shaibani told AFP later that the militia was "ready to confront (US forces) and use whatever means possible" to boot them out of the holy city. In what could be a sign of a fresh coordinated onslaught against foreign troops, Sadr's representative in Iraq's second city of Basra declared holy war against British forces after four militiamen were arrested. Three militiamen were killed and another three wounded in a brief skirmish with British troops in northern Basra, Sheikh Saad al-Basri said, although the military could confirm only two deaths. By dusk, a British spokesman described Basra as "quiet but tense" and said military commanders were negotiating with local leaders in a bid to calm the situation. In Baghdad's Sadr City, five people were killed and 58 wounded in fighting between US forces and the Mehdi Army, the health ministry said. In Nasiriyah, an AFP correspondent said militiamen armed with rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikovs clashed with Italian soldiers in the residential al-Shamia district in the southern city. There were no casualties, but four people were wounded when a British position came under mortar fire in the southern city of Amara, medics said.

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Coalition forces battled militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in several Iraqi cities today, saying they killed about 300 militants in Najaf over two days of fighting. Battles in other Shiite areas of the country have killed dozens more, according to Iraqi authorities. The death toll among the anti-coalition fighters was among the largest in a single continuing engagement since the end of the war to oust Saddam Hussein last year. Two US Marines and an American soldier were killed in Najaf yesterday, and 12 troops were wounded, the military said. Fifteen US soldiers were wounded in Baghdad.

Basra, Aug 6 — Clashes between British troops and fighters loyal to a

radical Iraqi Muslim cleric have intensified this evening in the southern city of Basra. A witness said today that residents took shelter as British troops fought street battles with members of the Mehdi militia in the centre of the city. Automatic weapons fire echoed from the area, along with the sound of mortars or rockets. A British military spokeswoman in Basra said she had no immediate information on the fight. Battles have raged in several Iraqi cities in the past two days between fighters from the Mehdi army of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and foreign and Iraqi security forces. In the worst fighting, US marines said today they had killed about 300 Mehdi militia in the holy city of Najaf in the past two days. The fighting appears to have shattered a two-month-old ceasefire between US forces and the Mehdi militia. — Reuters.

Najaf, Aug 7 — US marines clashed with Shi'ite militiamen in the holy Iraqi city of Najaf for a third day today, witnesses said. They said the combatants exchanged machinegun fire, shells and mortars into the early hours of today. By mid-morning the fighting died down but sporadic crackle of machinegun fire continued to echo in some parts of the city. Hundreds of militiamen loyal to radical Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr roamed the streets around the city's holy shrines, ignoring an ultimatum by the US-appointed governor to quit Najaf by the evening. Shops and businesses remained closed as residents stayed indoors. Some of the few who ventured out were clearing rubble of badly damaged shops and buildings. The US marines said yesterday they had killed 300 fighters of Sadr's Mehdi Army militia in two days of fighting in Najaf. However, a militia spokesman said only 36 militiamen had died in several Iraqi cities from clashes that have fuelled fears of a new rebellion of radical Shi'ites. The fresh fighting marks a major challenge for US-backed Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and appears to have destroyed a two-month-old ceasefire between US forces and Sadr's Mehdi militia. — Reuters.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi signed an amnesty today intended to persuade militants fighting a 15-month-old insurgency to put down their weapons and join government efforts to rebuild the country. However, the law pardons only minor criminals, not killers or terrorists, and appeared unlikely to dampen the violence, as some insurgent leaders called it "insignificant." Meanwhile, sporadic explosions and gunfire echoed through Najaf, south of the capital, as Shiite leaders appealed for a renewed cease-fire to end two days of bloody battles between insurgents and Iraqi and US forces in several Shiite communities. At least 12 explosions rocked central Baghdad tonight, apparently targeting the fortified Green Zone enclave housing the US Embassy and Iraqi interim government buildings. The military said some of the explosions appeared to be

mortars. The Najaf fighting has threatened to revive a Shiite insurrection that broke out in April and was calmed only in a series of truces in June. Five US service members have been killed in Najaf, including two Marines who died yesterday, the military announced. The military said hundreds of militants had been killed, though the militiamen put the number far lower. Also yesterday, an insurgent fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a US vehicle in Baghdad, killing one soldier. At least 925 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March, 2003. The Iraqi government also ordered the offices of the pan-Arab television station Al-Jazeera closed for 30 days, accusing it of inciting violence. "They have been showing a lot of crimes and criminals on TV, and they send a bad picture about Iraq and about Iraqis and encourage criminals to increase their activities," Iraqi Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib said. An Al-Jazeera spokesman called the closure "unwise" and said it restrained freedom of the press. The long-delayed amnesty, coupled with a tough emergency law passed last month, was supposed to help end the violence by coaxing nationalist guerrillas to the government's side. The amnesty applies to minor crimes — such as weapons possession, hiding intelligence about terror attacks or harbouring terrorists — and appears intended to persuade people with information on attacks to share it with police. The amnesty forgives those who committed minor crimes between May 1, 2003, just after Saddam Hussein's regime fell, and today, Allawi said. "This amnesty is not for people who have killed. Those people will be brought to justice, starting from Zarqawi down to the person in the street," Allawi said, referring to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose followers have claimed responsibility for deadly suicide bombings. Rape, kidnapping, looting and terror attacks are also excluded. Iraqi officials earlier said the amnesty might extend to those who killed US and other coalition troops. US officials said an early draft was ambiguous on that issue, but later drafts ruled it out. The amnesty was rejected immediately by militant Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose militia has been fighting coalition forces in the Shiite holy city of Najaf and elsewhere since Thursday (Aug 5). "This is a trivial and insignificant statement," said al-Sadr aide Ahmed al-Shaibany. "Amnesties are for criminals, but resistance is legitimate and does not need an amnesty." Those eligible would need to turn themselves in during the next 30 days and provide information on their crimes and other crimes they know about, Allawi said. The amnesty period could be extended. Scattered fighting continued today in Shiite areas of Iraq, as Shiite leaders appealed for a ceasefire to end the violence, which threatens to re-ignite a two-month Shiite insurrection that broke out in April. Al-Sadr aides met in Baghdad with Iraqi dignitaries and UN official Jamal

Benomar. "We called for a more effective UN role, the end of military actions, respecting the truce and a political solution for this crisis," said Ali al-Yassiry, an al-Sadr aide. The Shiite Political Council, an umbrella group representing 38 Shiite movements, said it would boycott a national conference this month if violence continued. Explosions and gunfire continued today in Najaf but most streets appeared deserted. US warplanes flew overhead and American armoured vehicles and Humvees blocked main roads into the city. Allawi said more than 1,200 people had been arrested during the clashes, including followers of Saddam's regime and common criminals released by Saddam. "The Iraqi police, National Guard and the army will escalate their operations against the outlaw people. This should be clear," he said. The US military said it secured the cemetery where insurgents were hiding. Marines found weapons caches, including bomb-making materials, rocket-propelled grenades, assault rifles and ammunition. However, the militants appeared to control Najaf's old city, with vehicles and gunmen spread throughout the streets. Militia fighters also insisted they controlled the southern city of Amarah. Television news footage showed them directing traffic and driving police cars in the city. The insurgents have overrun small police stations in town and looted them, "but they haven't overtaken the whole town," said British military spokesman Maj Ian Clooney. In the southern city of Basra, gunmen attacked the governor's office at dawn with rifles and mortar rounds. Police returned fire, repelling the attack and killing one gunman, police Capt. Mustaq Talib said. In other violence, a militant group said today it had taken a Turkish truck driver hostage and threatened to behead him within 48 hours if his company did not leave Iraq. His company quickly announced it would withdraw. Militants have taken scores of foreigners hostage in recent months, trying to drive coalition troops out of Iraq and hamper reconstruction efforts.

Baquba, Aug 9 — A suicide car bomb exploded outside the house of a local official north of Baghdad killing six people and wounding 17, police sources said today. They said deputy governor for Diala province Akil Hamed was among the wounded when the bomber detonated explosives in his car at the entrance to the official's house in the village of Balad Ruz. Hamed and his bodyguards were leaving the house when the bomber struck today. The official was rushed to a US military hospital. His condition was not immediately known. The other casualties, who included bodyguards, police and members of Hamed's family, were taken to a local hospital. Insurgents have killed scores of local officials who had been appointed by US forces since the fall of Saddam Hussein last year. — Reuters.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: A Kuwaiti company which had seven drivers kidnapped in Iraq has withdrawn from negotiations

to secure their release, a spokeswoman said today. "We have pulled out of the negotiations," Rana Abu-Zaineh said without explaining why. Her company, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Co, had been negotiating with officials in Iraq and an Iraqi tribal chief to secure the release of three Indian, three Kenyan and an Egyptian driver kidnapped in the war-ravaged country on Jul 21. The kidnappers, who call themselves "The Holders of The Black Banner," have repeatedly extended their deadlines for killing the seven hostages. Relations between the company and an Iraqi negotiator, Sheik Hisham al-Duleimi, have been tense recently over his involvement in negotiations to secure the men's releases. Militants in Iraq have kidnapped more than 70 foreigners in recent months in an effort to push countries out of the US-led coalition that invaded the country and toppled its former leader, Saddam Hussein, more than a year ago.

Najaf, Aug 10 — Fresh fighting has broken out in the southern Iraqi town of Najaf, with explosions and gunfire echoing from the heart of the holy city where militiamen loyal to a radical Shi'ite Muslim cleric are dug in. A witness said today that US warplanes were flying overhead while smoke was rising from near the city's ancient cemetery, a haven for fighters from Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army who have been battling American marines for six straight days. Clashes also erupted in an impoverished Shi'ite Baghdad suburb as militiamen ignored a curfew order from Iraq's interim government, witnesses said. They said gunfire was heard not long after dawn in Sadr City, scene of fierce fighting in Baghdad since Thursday (Aug 5). US tanks and Iraqi national guardsmen were advancing near the area. The radical Shi'ite uprising has virtually shut down several cities in Iraq and given Prime Minister Iyad Allawi his sternest test since taking over from US-led occupiers on Jun 28. Sabotage to an Iraqi export pipeline yesterday forced a cut in oil output, but had not halted flows, an oil official said. Officials had previously said threats from the Mehdi Army had stopped oil output altogether, helping push world oil prices to record highs. Allawi has ordered Sadr's men to leave Najaf but the young firebrand cleric responded with defiance yesterday, saying he would keep resisting and never leave his hometown. US marines say they have killed 360 of Sadr's loyalists since last Thursday in Najaf, home to the holiest Shi'ite Muslim shrine, some 160 km south of Baghdad. Sadr's spokesmen say many fewer of their men have died. Citing the deterioration of security, the Polish-led multinational division that had been responsible for Najaf has handed command of the area to American forces. The latest Najaf clashes erupted just after 0800 hrs (0400, UTC) following a night of intermittent gunfire. Battles in other cities have killed dozens in recent days. In the southern city of Basra, a British military spokeswoman said the streets were calm after clashes yesterday that

killed one British soldier and wounded four others. Pumping from southern oilfields to the offshore Basra oil terminal was disrupted when insurgents blew up a section of one of two export pipelines yesterday, an oil official said. He said exports were now flowing at 1.1 million barrels a day, from the normal 1.9 million bpd. A roadside bomb apparently aimed at a US military convoy exploded near hotels used by foreigners in Baghdad early today, but Iraqi police said there were no casualties. During the night, insurgents fired a dozen mortars or rockets in central Baghdad, most of them aimed at the Green Zone compound housing the interim Iraqi government and the US embassy. It was unclear if those blasts caused any casualties. Insurgents have stepped up mortar and rocket attacks in Baghdad in the past week, appearing to take advantage of the lower US military profile since the handover of sovereignty. In Kirkuk, the deputy governor of the northern city escaped an assassination attempt late yesterday when attackers opened fire as he left his house. Police said he was unhurt. While around 20 foreigners remain in the hands of kidnappers in Iraq, a Syrian, two Jordanians and two Lebanese have been released, their families said yesterday. — Reuters.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq stopped pumping oil from its key southern oil fields today because of the violence plaguing the region during a renewed Shiite uprising, an official with the South Oil Company said. About 1.8 million barrels per day, or 90 per cent of Iraq's exports, move through Iraq's southern port of Basra, and any shutdown in the flow of Iraq's main money earner would badly hamper reconstruction efforts. A senior official with the oil company, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the southern oil fields stopped pumping oil today after militants loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr threatened to target the oil infrastructure in Basra. Oil in storage tanks at the port was still being loaded onto tankers, the official said. The British military, which patrols Basra, said it had no reports on the shutdown.

Baquba, Aug 11 — At least six Iraqis were killed and 10 wounded in a bombing at a market north of Baghdad today, hospital sources said. They said the explosion occurred in Khan Bani Saad village, around 40 km north of the capital today. There were no further details. — Reuters.

Najaf, Aug 12 — US marines, backed by aircraft, have launched a major offensive to crush a week-long rebellion by Shi'ite militia dug in around holy sites in the Iraqi city of Najaf. Thousands of civilians were fleeing the area around Imam Ali Shrine in the heart of the city, witnesses said. A message in Arabic read out from Humvees said: "To the residents of Najaf: Coalition forces are purging the city of Mehdi Army." US tanks were blocking all roads leading to the shrine, one of Shi'ite Islam's holiest sites, as

US aircraft and artillery pounded a nearby cemetery, a stronghold for the militiamen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. The fresh fighting today came after seven days of efforts by US and Iraqi government forces to root out Sadr's troops. A threat by Sadr's militia kept a main southern oil export pipeline shut today although crews had repaired it after sabotage stopped operations for three days, an oil official said. A senior official from Sadr's Mehdi Army, Sheikh Asaad al-Basri, had warned that militiamen would blow up pipelines in the south if US forces tried to storm their Najaf bases. Warplanes and helicopter gunships pounded the outskirts of Najaf's cemetery as troops blocked off all roads leading to Imam Ali Shrine today, and gunmen responded by firing rocket-propelled grenades and mortar bombs at US positions, witnesses said. "The fighting is very heavy. I see smoke rising from the cemetery and warplanes circling overhead," one resident said. Two tanks and four Humvees advanced some 500 metres into the old part of the city near the Imam Ali Shrine, where hundreds of militiamen are deployed, the resident said. Most of Sadr's men and the young Muslim cleric himself are holed up around Najaf's ancient Shi'ite cemetery or the adjoining Imam Ali Shrine. Some 2,000 US servicemen and 1,800 Iraq security men are deployed around Najaf, a city of 600,000 about 160 km south of Baghdad. Thousands of Sadr's supporters vented their anger against interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in the streets of Nassiriya and several other cities yesterday. In Nassiriya, one of seven cities where a radical Shi'ite uprising has taken hold in the past week, demonstrators torched Allawi's political party office and called for his downfall. In fresh violence elsewhere in Iraq, the Iraqi Health Ministry said today that 25 people were killed and 153 wounded in fighting in Baghdad and its suburbs in the past 24 hours. Sadr's followers have also clashed with US forces in Shi'ite suburbs of the capital. Despite the tightening military noose, Sadr has refused to surrender. The latest fighting has shattered a two-month truce between US forces and their most vocal critic in Iraq. US forces say they have killed 360 Sadr loyalists so far in Najaf. Sadr's spokesmen say far fewer have died in what is the second rebellion by the militia in four months. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Gaza, Aug 11 — An Israeli helicopter fired a missile into a Gaza refugee camp today, wounding 15 people as gunmen confronted an Israeli force demolishing Palestinian homes near a Jewish settlement, witnesses said. An Israeli military source said the army was carrying out an operation against Palestinian militants in Khan Younis camp in the southern Gaza Strip and the helicopter had fired at an "open area" to repulse armed men. Medics said most of the wounded today were civilians, including two children and a woman, with at least one gunman among the casualties. One person was

in critical condition in hospital. Palestinian witnesses later said ground forces operating in the area had pulled back, leaving a string of demolished buildings in their wake. The Israeli unit — comprising 10 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and bulldozers — withdrew from the camp after daybreak, military sources confirmed. Violence has surged in Gaza as militants seek to portray Israel's plan to evacuate Jewish settlers from occupied territory next year as a victory, while Israel is determined to prevent that by smashing Palestinian armed factions first. The night-time incursion drew fire from gunmen, witnesses said. A helicopter then launched a missile which the witnesses said exploded near a group of Palestinians. Residents fled as Israeli bulldozers flattened homes bordering the adjacent settlement of Neve Dekelim, where witnesses said a security wall is being built. The army has mounted several such raids in the area recently. The Israeli military is concerned it may have to evacuate settlers under fire from militants, who have launched frequent mortar bomb and rocket attacks against the Jewish enclaves where some 8,000 Israelis live. Israel has carried out many aerial missile strikes and ground offensives in Gaza and the West Bank in rolling campaigns to quell Palestinians in revolt since 2000. In the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday, Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian during what a military source described as an army operation. The source said the troops fired at armed men who approached them, hitting two. Palestinian security officials said the soldiers shot at stone-throwers, killing Salim Qusa. Earlier, Israeli security sources said Israel had suspended a plan to allow Palestinian police in the West Bank to carry arms for the first time in more than three years to deal with internal Palestinian unrest. Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz agreed last week to let some police carry handguns as requested by the Palestinian Authority, which says armed officers are needed to curb lawlessness after a wave of factional strife and kidnappings. But the plan will not be put into action until security chiefs decide whether it risks Israeli lives, the sources said, after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ran into resistance from rightist cabinet ministers, who also oppose the Gaza pullout. Israel banned Palestinian security members from carrying weapons after accusing them of involvement in the violence. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Aug 8 — Two bombs exploded within minutes of each other in a western neighbourhood of Karachi today, killing at least seven people and wounding more than 50. The bombs were attached to two motorcycles parked outside a roadside restaurant next door to a police station and a religious school, police said today. A bomb disposal squad defused a third bomb moments before it was to explode,

Karachi Police Chief Tariq Jameel said. "First there was a small explosion, which was followed by a bigger blast," he said. Doctors and police said seven people were killed, and more than 50 injured were taken to at least three state-run hospitals. Most victims were students of an Islamic school, who frequented the restaurant. Karachi has been rocked by a spate of attacks since Pakistan joined the US-led war on terrorism in 2001. Police blame Islamic extremists and al Qaeda-linked militants for most attacks. An explosion yesterday killed two people and wounded three others. Police and paramilitary rangers threw a cordon around the site of today's explosion. — Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Government forces battled Communist rebels in the deadliest fighting in months in the Philippines, capturing a major insurgent camp, officials said today. Twenty-one militants and soldiers were killed. The New People's Army camp was overrun in southern Agusan del Norte province yesterday. Twelve rebels and five soldiers were killed and 13 troops were wounded, the military said. Today, two guerrillas and two members of police special forces were killed and four other officers were wounded in clashes in Zambales province northwest of Manila, provincial police chief Senior Superintendent Wilson Victorio said. The captured camp in the village of Guinbasan was used as a staging area for rebel operations in the area, about 480 miles south-east of Manila, a military report said. It said the rebels were preparing a raid on the nearby city of Nasipit when two platoons attacked. The government and the rebels have opened talks to end the 35-year-old communist insurgency, but have not agreed to a cease-fire.

SPAIN

London, Aug 7 — Two small bombs have exploded in two coastal towns in northern Spain. There are no reports of injuries in the blasts which took place at about 1300, local time, in the resorts of San Vicente de la Barquera and Ribadesella. Officials said the explosions followed telephone warnings from a caller claiming to represent the armed Basque separatist group, ETA. Today's blasts took place in the northern province of Cantabria and in Ribadesella, in the neighbouring region of Asturias.

TURKEY

Istanbul, Aug 10 — Simultaneous explosions rocked two hotels in tourist areas of Istanbul today, killing two people and injuring up to 10, in what the city's police chief says was an apparent "terrorist" attack. Turkish television pictures showed emergency services carrying casualties, mostly foreigners, to waiting ambulances at the scene of one of the blasts. Glass and debris lay scattered on the street. Separately, two bombs exploded at a

storage complex for liquid petroleum gas in an outlying area of the city, causing damage but no casualties, state-run Anatolian news agency quoted a company official as saying. Police said two people were killed at the Pars Hotel in Laleli district, an area near major tourist sites and also popular with Iranian and east European traders. CNN Turk said 10 people were injured in Laleli and at the other hotel blast in the historic Sultanahmet district. "These appear to be a terrorist attack," Istanbul police chief Celalettin Cerrah told state-run Anatolian news agency. Anatolian said one of the dead as 31-year-old Haydar Baydar from Van in eastern Turkey and the other as Mahdi Pooliki from Iran. It said seven were wounded — two Dutch citizens, two Chinese, a Ukrainian, a Turk and a Turkmenistan national. There was no claim of responsibility for the blasts, but Kurdish militants, far-leftists and radical Islamist groups have all carried out bomb attacks in the city. Pars Hotel staff said someone had telephoned 10 minutes before the blast to say there was a bomb in one of the rooms. There were 37 guests in the hotel at the time, mostly Iranian. The other explosion happened on the second floor of the Holiday Hotel in Sultanahmet, the historical heart of Istanbul where many of its Byzantine and Ottoman monuments are located. Police sealed off the area around both hotels and forensic teams searched through the debris for evidence. Anatolian said police also searched several other hotels for suspects and further explosive devices. The agency said the blasts at the gas storage complex followed a telephone tip-off about a bomb, and a company official said intruders had cut through a fence at the complex. "These people put two bombs in the storage area, which exploded at a 30-minute interval. There was a gas leak, but we stopped that and there is currently no danger," company official Tayfun Demiroren was quoted as saying. — Reuters.



INDIA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life in Mumbai was affected today after thousands of buses went off the roads following a strike by employees protesting a cut in salaries. The strike by employees of the Bombay Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking, which operates the buses, and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) began at midnight yesterday. BEST and BMC have over 170,000 employees. BMC is reputedly the largest municipal corporation in Asia. The strike put additional pressure on the city's electric trains, which were

packed. Schools and colleges were worst hit by the bus strike.

ISRAEL

Ashdod, Aug 5 — This morning it was announced that the strike in the Israeli ports is over since the parties reached an agreement. This agreement is not final and negotiations are due to continue. Later during the day many of the stevedores in Ashdod port were not happy with the agreement and they are holding a general meeting this evening to maybe replace their union delegates. In short, work is continued at ports but not in full capacity as it was before the strike started three weeks ago. According to information of local shipping news 125 vessels terminated their voyage before arrival to final destination in Israel leaving behind containers in several ports in the area. Estimated loss to the Israeli economy is around 1 billion US\$ as per industrial sources. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ashdod, Aug 11 — The Israeli Port Authority is now working to full capacity. However, the sanctions may resume in the next few days if the ongoing negotiations do not lead to progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: LG-Caltex Oil Corp., Korea's second-largest oil refiner, is ready to go ahead and fire striking union members who fail to return to work by the final extended deadline of 1300 hrs, today. The refiner is poised to lose more than two-thirds of its 2,700-strong work force. "We are considering hiring 100 more employees to fill the empty positions," said LG-Caltex in a statement. Industry observers agree that a mass firing may be inevitable due to the ongoing stand-off between the labour union and management. To no avail, the union has demanded that management withdraw the police guard stationed at the company's Yeosu plant, the headquarters of the striking unionists 450 kilometres south of Seoul, and drop criminal and civil charges. "That's out of the question. We have no intention of relieving them of the police charges when they went ahead with an illegal walkout and inflicted this much damage on the firm," said a spokesman who declined to be named. LG-Caltex says it has lost an estimated 130 billion won in sales thus far due to the strike. The strike, a first at a local oil refiner, was widely criticized in public, especially after learning that LG-Caltex workers receive an annual salary of 69 million won (\$59,250) on average, the highest in the industry. The government also is under attack for failing to quickly arrest the 10 union leaders taking refuge in Myeongdong Cathedral in central Seoul. "We think that if the government hurried up and took some strong action, the other less hostile union members would return," said the LG spokesman.

Awards & Settlements

**BOMBING OF DISCO, GERMANY**

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated Aug 10, states: Libya today agreed to pay \$35 million in compensation for victims of a 1986 bombing in Berlin that killed two US servicemen and a Turkish woman and injured 229 others, the Libyan ambassador to Germany said. The deal applies to Germans who were wounded in the Apr 5, 1986, attack on the LaBelle disco and the family of the slain Turkish woman, but not the families of two Americans, Ambassador Said Abdulaati said. It is the latest step in an effort by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to end his country's pariah status, following agreements to settle the Pan Am and UTA airliner bombing cases. The deal came in negotiations in Berlin between Libyan officials and lawyers for the German victims. "This is a good step," Abdulaati said. A German lawyer involved in the talks also said the two sides had settled. "I can confirm that there has been a settlement for \$35 million in the La Belle case," Sven Leistikow said. The latest talks were held at a secret location in Berlin. The La Belle was a hangout for US soldiers when they were stationed in West Berlin during the city's Cold War division. In retaliation for the bombing, US warplanes carried out airstrikes in Tripoli, killing 37 people, including an adopted daughter of Gadhafi. A Berlin court ruled in 2001 that the bombing was organised by the Libyan secret service and aided by the Libyan Embassy in then-communist East Berlin. It convicted four people of carrying out the bombing, and a federal court upheld their sentences last month.

BREACH OF CONTRACT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: A federal appeals court today upheld a \$381 million damages award against the government stemming from the savings and loan bailout of the late 1980s. The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit agreed with a lower court that the government owed Glendale Federal Bank, now part of Citigroup Inc, for costs incurred when the government withdrew regulatory concessions in 1989. A government appeal of the award and Glendale's claim to an additional \$527 million were both denied and the appeals court urged the federal government and thrift industry to fairly dispose of related suits. The appeals court said it was optimistic that the remainder of the so-called Winstar cases could be disposed of by settlement or trial based on the facts and without further dispute over the theory on which damages may be calculated. "It

would benefit the thrifts and the government, since it is not in the interest of either to have endless litigation, for both to stop arguing extreme positions and promptly resolve these cases in a fair and even-handed manner," the court wrote. The cases, which once numbered 122, grew out of efforts in the 1980s by federal bank regulators to encourage investors and healthy thrifts to take over failing S&Ls by allowing them to circumvent normal capital requirements. When Congress eliminated this so-called "supervisory goodwill" in 1989, as part of its nearly \$150 billion rescue of the teetering industry, a number of merged thrifts found themselves technically insolvent, some failed and many sued. According to US Justice Department data, there are 55 suits remaining. Sixty-seven suits have been disposed of, including 36 that were voluntarily withdrawn and eight settlements. Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller said the Glendale opinion was being reviewed but declined further comment. Glendale trial lawyer Ronald Stevens of Kirkpatrick and Lockhart said the decision affirmed the ability of thrifts to recover the higher costs of attracting deposits after the government withdrew its regulatory goodwill. In 1996, the Supreme Court ruled in a suit brought by Glendale and two other thrifts that the government had, in effect, breached its contracts with them, sending the cases to the US Court of Federal Claims to determine damages. The Supreme Court decision became known as the Winstar ruling after one of the original plaintiffs.

CONTAMINATED FOOD, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Fort Worth discount grocer has agreed to pay \$2.85 million to settle a lawsuit filed by six people who were hospitalised with botulism after eating the store's tainted chilli. The plaintiffs were among eight people who ate the chilli at a church concert in 2001 and became sick enough to be hospitalised. A lawsuit against the Fort Worth-based chilli distributor, Ben E. Keith, is pending. Town Talk Foods, meanwhile, is suing Keith and the chilli manufacturer, First Original Texas Chilli Co, to recoup money it paid in the settlement and other damages. "Town Talk Foods recognized its own liability as a seller of the food and willingly paid its fair share," Carl Mallory, an attorney for some of the plaintiffs in the settlement, said in Saturday's (Aug 7) editions of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The plaintiffs are members of three families from Sanger. The chilli was first sold to a Dallas restaurant, which returned it to the distributor after noticing a bad odour, Mallory said. Instead of destroying the chilli, Keith resold it to Town Talk Foods, Mallory said. Attorneys representing Keith argue that Town Talk Foods had an obligation to destroy any product that was unfit for consumption. Tom Potthoff, owner of Town Talk Foods, said his lawyers discovered the chilli's chain of ownership after a prolonged

court battle to obtain investigatory records from the Texas Department of Health. "We finally learned the truth of this outbreak," Potthoff said. "These customers of mine who have been so loyal have had their faith in us justified. That said, we sold the product. And I did feel we needed to do something for those persons who became ill."

MISTAKEN DRUG PRESCRIPTION, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A US pharmacy chain has been ordered to pay \$US21 million in damages to the family of a brain-damaged girl who was mistakenly given the wrong drugs by one of its stores. A jury in Cook County, Illinois, yesterday ordered the Walgreen Company to pay the compensatory damages to the family of Alexandra Gehrke. The six-year-old was born premature and could not walk or feed herself, and could barely communicate. At the trial, the pharmacy argued that her injuries stemmed from her premature birth in July 1998, but Gehrke's parents blamed it on the drug mix-up. Gehrke's mother told the Tribune that she had to rush her baby to the emergency room five times in two months after a Walgreens pharmacy in Elgin, north-west Illinois, filled a prescription with the adult diabetes medication Glipizide, instead of the anti-seizure medication Phenobarbital that the baby's doctor had ordered.

OPPOSITION TO RADIOACTIVE WASTE DUMP, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Nebraska will pay \$141 million for blocking efforts to build a low-level radioactive waste dump and will be allowed to continue to oppose locating the dump in the state, under the settlement of a lawsuit accepted today. The dump was to have been built in north-eastern Nebraska and take waste from Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. Low-level radioactive waste includes contaminated tools and clothing from nuclear power plants, hospitals and research centres. The Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission — representing the five states — voted 3-1 today to accept Nebraska's proposed settlement of the court fight. Kansas voted against and Nebraska could not vote. US District Judge Richard Kopf in Lincoln ruled in 2002 that former Nebraska Governor Ben Nelson, now a US senator, engaged in a politically motivated plot to keep the regional dump from being built in Nebraska. State officials had argued they did not licence the dump because of concerns about possible pollution and a high water table at the proposed site. Kopf ordered Nebraska to pay \$151 million in damages plus interest, but did not address the issue of where the dump should be placed. Nebraska agreed Monday to drop its appeal of that decision. The dispute had its genesis in 1970, when Nevada, South Carolina and Washington state grew tired of accepting low-level radioactive

waste from the rest of the country. As a result, Congress told the states in 1980 to build their own dumps or join regional groups to dispose of the waste. No regional compact has built a dump yet. Jim O'Connell, Kansas' representative on the commission, said he voted against the settlement because of the way Nebraska blocked construction of the site. "It means that a state can conduct what amounts to a sham review of a licence application, do so at an exorbitant cost and then, when eventually being caught at it, can absolve itself by refunding the money," he said. However, Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns called the deal a success for the state, noting that with interest, the \$151 million judgment would have brought Nebraska's total bill to \$207 million. In addition, the other states had initially insisted after the 2002 ruling that Nebraska was still obligated to host a nuclear waste dump, Johanns said. "Considering the potential downside of this, this is a good settlement for the state," Johanns said. He said tax revenues are improving and he thinks he can pay the settlement without seeking a tax increase. Nebraska has offered to pay Texas a flat fee of \$25 million to take the low-level radioactive waste from the five states, plus \$5 million to cover any unforeseen expenses for storing it. The Texas Legislature has already approved the establishment of two other private waste disposal facilities.

PERSONAL INJURY, QUINHAGAK, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: A Chicago company has been ordered to pay more than \$8.6 million to a 13-year-old girl in the village of Quinhagak in western Alaska. Taryn Andrew received permanent brain damage when a 274-pound folding cafeteria table made by the company fell over and struck her. The Bethel jury last month found Midwest Folding Products Corp. had sold the school two tables whose design made them top-heavy and prone to tip. A national safety organization had previously deemed the tables unsafe. Andrew will receive \$3.6 million for health care costs and as much as \$1.4 million more to defray her attorney fees. She will also get half of a \$5 million punitive damage award, with the state getting the other half because of tort reforms enacted in 1997. The school district settled earlier for \$360,000. Midwest could end up paying \$10 million, said Anchorage attorney Russ Winner, who represented Andrew along with Bethel attorney Myron Angstman. In 1989, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced that six children had been killed and more than a dozen others injured when top-heavy tables fell over on them. The commission required manufacturers to put warning labels on their tables saying that children should not be allowed to move them. Angstman said Midwest and other manufacturers resolved the problem by designing a new table. But before the new tables were manufactured, Midwest sold four of the old tables to the Bethel-based

Lower Kuskokwim School District. Two went to Quinhagak. Andrew has suffered nearly a dozen seizures since the accident, Winner said last week. She is back in school, but she will need special health care for the rest of her life.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: An appeals court in Denver has ordered the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to pay damages to a former convention centre director who said she was fired in part because she was black. A Tenth US Circuit Court of Appeals panel reduced the original \$4.4 million award by \$750,000, but rejected the city's request for a new trial. Attorneys said the punitive damages were "greatly disproportionate" to compensatory damages. Marsha Hardeman sued two city officials, claiming she was fired because of her race, and because she spoke out on audits and other potentially discriminatory activity in the administration. New Mexico jurors ruled Hardeman wasn't fired because of race, but agreed that officials violated her rights to free speech and association.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: All but one of 46 people who accused priests of sexually abusing them as children have agreed to accept a more than \$7 million settlement with the Diocese of Springfield, an attorney for the alleged victims and a spokesman for the diocese said today. "For most of my clients, they want this miserable ordeal to end, so they've had to swallow some pride," plaintiffs attorney John Stobierski said. "Finality to this saga is more important than additional money." Stobierski said his clients had been in arbitration meetings to decide the amount of each person's settlement, which will be at least \$80,000 and will probably average about \$150,000. The amount they receive will depend on the type of abuse and how long the abuse lasted. The diocese also agreed to provide lifetime counselling to victims and appoint a victim of clergy abuse to a lay panel that considers complaints against clergy. The holdout, Marine Corps Capt Francis Babeu, said he planned to move forward with his civil suit against the diocese because he wants church leaders to reveal more about how abuse cases were handled. "The church hasn't accepted responsibility, especially the leadership, and I want to see them accept responsibility," said Babeu, who says he was abused by defrocked priest Richard Lavigne between the ages of 12 and 17 while Lavigne was at St. Francis of Assisi parish in North Adams. Babeu also said he did not speak out while he was being abused, and thus allowed two younger brothers to be molested. Continuing his suit is his way of making up for that, he said. Two dozen of Stobierski's clients said they were abused by Lavigne in the late 1960s and 1970s. The others have accused 17

other priests of abuse between the 1950s and the early 1990s. Some of the accused priests are dead, and all have been removed from the ministry. Lavigne, who served 10 years probation after pleading guilty in 1992 to fondling two altar boys, was defrocked by the Vatican. The settlement will be about \$6.8 million, plus proceeds from the sale of two vacant parcels of land, valued at more than \$585,000, according to Stobierski. Stobierski, who took the cases on a contingency basis two years ago, said he would get one-third of each individual settlement. His firm could receive as much as \$2.5 million. Springfield Diocese Bishop Timothy McDonnell's predecessor, Bishop Thomas Dupre, resigned in February amid accusations he had molested two boys in the 1970s. The two men who say they were abused by Dupre were not included in the settlement. A grand jury is investigating the allegations against the former head of the diocese.



BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Trizec Inc, the Chicago-based owner of a downtown office tower in Baltimore, Maryland, is suing the City of Baltimore and CSX Corp, alleging a July, 2001, CSX train derailment, a fire and the breakage of a water main caused \$750,000 in property damage to its building. The derailment of a cargo train full of chemicals sparked a fire that burned for five days in a tunnel that runs under downtown Baltimore. The lawsuit alleged that the resulting property damage and business interruption losses and additional expenses were caused by the negligence, careless acts and omission of Baltimore City government. The suit also blames CSX for improperly maintaining its train line. A CSX spokeswoman has said the company plans to defend itself against lawsuits arising from the event. Much of the city's west side was shut down as a result of the accident. In filing suit, Trizec joins insurers for the Baltimore Orioles and Maryland Institute College of Art, which are suing the city and CSX for \$1 million and \$100,000, respectively. The Baltimore City Circuit Court cases have been consolidated under the state Business and Technology Court Program. Judge Evelyn Omega Cannon will preside over the case. No hearings have been scheduled. Michael A. Pichini, the Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann lawyer representing Trizec, said the consolidated case will extend the discovery period. "It's going to be a long, drawn-out process," he said. Last month, the city brought a \$10 million suit against CSX, claiming it was the train derailment that caused the water

main break, which flooded streets. CSX has claimed the water main break caused the derailment. The city appears to be gearing up for a lengthy litigation process. It approved \$100,000 in extra funds to try the case at this week's Board of Estimates meeting.

JIGNA, BENGAL, INDIA

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A goods train going to Jamuna bridge, Haryana, from Durgapur, in west Bengal, jumped the rails at the Jigna railway station this morning, disrupting rail traffic on the Howrah-Delhi route for over four hours. Railway sources said a bogie of the goods train derailed at the Up line at Jigna at around 0700. North Central Railway DRM A K Singh and other railway officials rushed a special relief train to the accident site and the derailed train was removed from tracks. Meanwhile, reports from Allahabad said the movement of trains on Allahabad-Mirzapur route of the NCR was disrupted and about 1,000 metres of rail line was damaged. Some important trains including 2815 Neelanchal Express, 2311 Kalka Mail, 8101 Moori Express, Rajdhani and Ranchi Express were running three hours behind schedule. The track was restored at around 1230, sources added.

MIFFLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The main rail line between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg is shut down after a train derailed yesterday in Mifflin County. Thirty six cars from the Norfolk Southern train derailed near the town of McVeytown near Route 22. The rail line is shut down in both directions meaning no Amtrak or freight trains can get through. No injuries were reported. Officials believe a mechanical problem caused the derailment. Emergency officials in Mifflin County say about five of the cars were carrying various chemicals. There were a few small leaks, but they say it poses no threat to the local waterways. Other cars that derailed were carrying food products like mayonaise, chicken seasoning and beer. The rail line is not expected to be open again until tomorrow.

MUNCIE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Eleven cars of a Florida-bound train carrying mostly auto parts derailed in a secluded area of Muncie, Indiana, blocking several intersections for hours. No one was injured in today's accident involving a 136-car Norfolk Southern train, authorities said. The train had been stopped on tracks near the Indiana Steel and Wire plant while the conductor waited for local railroad traffic to clear. Shortly after the conductor started the train back up at about 0900 hrs, its emergency system was activated when the cars jumped off the track at a curve behind the plant. It took railroad crews seven hours to move the derailed cars off into a field. The derailed cars were carrying wheels. Norfolk Southern

did not know what caused the derailment, said spokesman Rudy Husband. The train originated this morning in Fort Wayne and was scheduled to stop in Cincinnati before it made its final journey to Jacksonville, FL.

TAVSANCIL AREA, KOCAELI PROVINCE, TURKEY

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Two passenger trains have collided in Turkey, killing at least six people and injuring about 70 others. The trains crashed into each other head-on near the village of Tavsancil in the north-west province of Kocaeli. One of the trains was travelling from Ankara to Istanbul, the other from Istanbul to Adapazari. Rescue teams are at the scene and some bodies are reported to still be trapped in the wreckage. "The trains are still stuck together, that's why we still don't know the exact number of injured and dead," the Turkish Transport Minister, Binali Yildirim, said. "The search is continuing," he added. Of the 70 injured, 22 are still hospitalised. A spokesman for Turkish state railways earlier said one of the trains had apparently passed through a red light. He added that all the victims were railway staff. The Ankara-Istanbul train was carrying 153 passengers and had nine railway staff on board. Details of how many people were on board the second train, an eight-carriage express service, were not immediately available. Scores of rescuers, soldiers and onlookers, as well as dozens of ambulances, rushed to the site of the accident. Electric saws and axes were used to cut through the sides of the carriages in search for survivors.

WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A train full of corn derailed in north-western North Dakota, spilling its cargo, damaging the tracks and disrupting Amtrak service between Chicago and Seattle. Burlington Northern Santa Fe spokesman Gus Melonas said 31 of the 110 cars jumped the tracks this morning on the outskirts of Williston. No one was injured, he said. The train was en route from Clarkfield, Minn., to Seattle. The cause of the wreck and the exact amount of corn that spilled were not immediately known, Melonas said. Each car carried 110 tons of corn. Twenty-five cars spilled "up to half their loads, maybe more," Melonas said. The tracks, which are used by Amtrak's Empire Builder, were blocked by debris from the wreck, Melonas said.



ACCIDENT AT NUCLEAR PLANT, MIHAMA, JAPAN

Tokyo, Aug 9 — A steam leak at a Japanese nuclear power plant killed

five workers, police said, but officials said no radiation had escaped in the accident, the worst ever in terms of deaths at a Japanese nuclear facility. Several others were injured, some seriously, officials said. "Radioactive materials weren't contained in the steam that leaked out. We've received a report that there is no impact from radiation on the surrounding environment," an official for the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency told a news conference. The accident occurred in a building housing turbines for the Number 3 reactor at the Mihama nuclear plant in Fukui prefecture, 320 km west of Tokyo. Kansai Electric Power Co Inc, which runs the plant, said it had shut the 826,000 kilowatt nuclear power generation unit at the facility after the accident. The company said it was unsure when it would restart. "We are now investigating the cause," a Kansai Electric official told a news conference. The accident occurred at around 1530 (0630, UTC) today just after some workers had entered the facility to take measurements, national broadcaster NHK reported. The temperature of the steam that filled the room was probably about 200 deg Celsius, media reports said. The Fukui prefectural government said the cause of the accident was under investigation, but a trade ministry spokesman said there was no technical problem with the core nuclear reactor at the plant. — Reuters.

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, CANADA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: Ralph Klein's government has quietly passed an order-in-council declaring the mad cow crisis an emergency, a move that opposition parties say sets the stage for a pre-election aid package to Alberta farmers. The order, passed by cabinet last week, lets the governing Tories dip into the province's \$2.5-billion stability fund to give emergency aid to cash-strapped farmers and ranchers before an anticipated fall election. Alberta officials said today that the order enables the province to put more money into a national farm income stabilisation program to help cattle producers through the crisis. But they conceded it could also allow the government to use the fund to provide more emergency aid. Klein has hinted that Albertans could be going to the polls as early as November. A "wall of cattle" has backed up since the United States closed its borders to live Canadian cattle after bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was discovered in a cow from an Alberta farm in May 2003. The province doesn't have the slaughter capacity to deal with an estimated 700,000 surplus cattle. Another million calves will be ready to be fattened up for market this fall. Alberta's agriculture minister, Shirley McClellan, said killing the animals and destroying the meat is not an option at this point, although some farmers say such action is overdue. McClellan said the government has two years to decide what to do with calves hitting the

market chain and could consider a program that pays farmers to pull cattle temporarily out of the production line. A \$65-million program last year kept about 110,000 cattle out of the processing chain for eight weeks. Provincial and federal agriculture officials are meeting in Ottawa tomorrow to devise a national program to deal with the oversupply and other BSE-related issues.

CARGO DAMAGED FOLLOWING FALSE SECURITY ALERT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

New York, Aug 6 — Five shipping containers of lemons rotted on c.c. CSAV *Rio Puelo* (25703 gt, built 2002) held off New York all week after officials received a false tip amid heightened security that the cargo might be biologically contaminated, the US Coast Guard said today. The Coast Guard said in a statement that it boarded the container ship on Saturday (Aug 1) after being told by the US Department of Agriculture of an “unconfirmed anonymous report” that one container of lemons had an “unknown harmful biological substance.” Officials tested the cargo for biological hazards, but none was found, the US Coast Guard said. It was not immediately known how many pounds of lemons were spoiled, but CSAV Group, the shipping container firm that owns the ship, said the containers can hold up to 40,000 pounds of produce apiece. They declined to say how much money had been lost and whether insurance would pick up the cost. “The lemons will be destroyed because they are no good after sitting at sea for a week,” Coast Guard spokesman Jim McGranachan said. The ship, which was delivering the lemons from South America, was escorted from an anchorage off New York into the neighbouring port of Newark, New Jersey today, the spokesman said. — Reuters.

COLLAPSE OF COAL MINE, VORKUTA AREA, RUSSIA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: Three miners have been rescued from a collapsed coal mine in the north of Russia, reports say. The men had been missing since part of the mine, near the Arctic city of Vorkuta, caved in on Tuesday (Aug 3). One hundred and forty six miners got to safety but eight were trapped - the body of one was recovered yesterday and four others are still missing. A special commission is investigating the causes of the accident, Itar-Tass news agency said. It is still not clear what caused the collapse. There was no explosion and no fire. Rescuers have been drilling through the debris to reach the miners and provide them with air and water and heavy equipment is being used to try and clear the fallen rock at the mine.

ILLEGAL DUMPING OF WASTE OIL AT SEA

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: A Connecticut-based shipping company was fined \$4.2

million and placed on three years' probation today for illegally concealing the dumping of thousands of gallons of waste oil and sludge at sea. US District Judge Katharine S. Hayden ordered OMI Corp of Stamford to pay the fine, awarding \$2.1 million of it to a former OMI crew member who reported the dumping to the government. The award is the largest ever under terms of the federal Act To Prevent Pollution From Ships law, which allows the court to grant up to one half of the criminal fine to those providing information leading to a conviction. The crew member's name was not released. “This case should send a message that polluting our environment and lying to the government will not be tolerated,” said Tom Sansonetti, assistant attorney general for the US Justice Department's environment and natural resources division. In its guilty plea, the company admitted it had deliberately discharged waste oil, sludge and oil-water mixtures directly overboard from chemical/oil carrier *Guadalupe* (28539 gt, built 2000) without using required pollution prevention equipment known as an oil water separator. The equipment is designed to separate harmful quantities of oil so they may be incinerated on board a vessel or properly disposed of on shore. Instead, the company bypassed the equipment by pumping the liquids into the ocean using a hose. About 20 discharges took place while the vessel travelled between the United States, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America. The vessel's master, Ashok Kumar, and chief engineer, Elangovan Mani, pleaded guilty in May 2002 and are awaiting sentencing. Both are from India and face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, although the actual penalties are expected to be far less because they pleaded guilty. The company, in its guilty plea in January, admitted that the chief engineer authorised crew members to bypass the incinerator and separator system and that false entries were made in the oil record book. The book is required of vessels entering US waters, and was inspected Sep 10, 2001, when Coast Guard personnel boarded the vessel at the Port of Carteret in central New Jersey. When the vessel docked there, the second engineer walked off and went directly to Carteret police headquarters to report the dumping.

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated Aug 10, states: An Iowa-based shipping company has been fined \$2 million in Cedar Rapids for illegal dumping at sea, the Justice Department said today. The US attorney's office said Sabine Transportation Co of Cedar Rapids admitted it deliberately dumped waste oil, sludge and oily mixtures from bulk *Juneau* (57692 gt, built 1974), non specific tanker *Trinity* (20572 gt, built 1966), non specific tanker *Colorado* (13919 gt, built 1944) and vessel *Sea Princess* without the use of required pollution prevention equipment. The deliberate discharges were then concealed in false Oil Record Books, which are regularly inspected by the US Coast Guard, the government said. Two

crew members who served on board *Trinity* and *Juneau* told the US Coast Guard about the illegal dumping when the vessel arrived in Jacksonville, FL. A crew member from *Juneau* told the Coast Guard in Portland, OR, that hundreds of tons of diesel-contaminated wheat had been dumped into the ocean. A federal judge ordered \$1 million of the fine paid to the three former crew members.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS ACROSS NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Clouds of locusts swarmed Nouakchott today, crunching underfoot, blurring people's vision and causing traffic accidents as sub-Saharan's biggest plague of the insects in more than a decade swept south from the desert. Burning smoky bonfires of tyres and trash, the people of Nouakchott tried to fight back the onslaught of the crop-eating bugs — estimated by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation to be moving as fast as 60 miles a day and settling at a rate 200,000 locusts per acre. Blankets of the insects covered houses, cars and roads. The locusts' descent on a major sub-Saharan city made vivid a growing international warning: Unseasonably heavy rains up north had spawned the north-west Sahara's largest locust population since 1988. Experts warned of threats to vital rainy-season planting now and harvests later. They urged urgent international action for an arid, hardworking region already perpetually on the edge of food shortages. “Farmers are just now planting the seeds in the ground. Some farmers now are afraid to plant any more seeds — they're afraid once seeds germinate and the little plants come up, they will be attacked by the locusts,” said Keith Cressman, a locust forecast officer with the Rome-based UN agency. “The last risk is that when the crops are ready to be harvested, around September, that will coincide with the formation of new swarms” from eggs being laid now, Cressman said. “That harvest could be seriously disrupted,” making for a “very difficult summer” for farmers. At risk are sustenance crops of millet, sorghum and other grains that feed millions in vulnerable Saharan states. Vegetable crops for markets were likewise in danger. The locust swarms hit the Mauritanian capital yesterday, making good on weeks of warnings from African leaders and international agencies. Overnight, the desert city's people burned tyres, garbage and whatever else they could spare, hoping the acrid smoke would repel the insects. “My father caused a traffic accident at the main intersection near the capital market because locusts took visibility down to almost nothing,” said Veliha mint Baba, a recent university graduate. The last comparable locust infestation, in 1987-89, cost more than half a billion dollars to combat. About half that came from international donors, Cressman said. This time, aircraft, pesticides, vehicles, sprayers and technical support are needed in the nine threatened

countries. So far, donors including the European Community, Italy, Norway, South Korea, Spain, the United States and the FAO had provided about \$9 million, the UN agriculture agency said. Another \$10 million was in the pipeline, but up to \$83 million was needed, the FAO said. The president of Mauritania's southern neighbor, Senegal, cancelled a foreign trip in recent days to deal with the locusts in the far eastern part of his country. Senegal's neighbor, Gambia, declared a state of emergency. The insects are spreading through Mauritania, Mali and Niger, and UN experts said Chad and the western Sudan region of Darfur were at risk.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A war on locusts has been declared as the NSW Government braces for the worst plague in decades with the largest attack plan yet. Up to 500,000ha are under threat from the insects, which have the potential to cost farmers millions of dollars. The problem is estimated to be three times worse than last year, with the drought having eliminated many of the insects' natural predators. "It's potentially the worst outbreak in 30 years," Agriculture Minister Ian Macdonald said. The Government is preparing to spray 325,000ha in central west NSW after the underground locust eggs hatch but before the pests can take flight. Mr Macdonald said this gave authorities a window of just three to four weeks to wage "all out war" on the locusts. A 100-member response team will be stationed in Dubbo, Gunnedah and Wagga and farmers have been urged to notify authorities at the first sign of the pests emerging.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An outbreak of bird flu decimated the lives of about 1500 ostriches in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, according to a report yesterday. The Eastern Cape health and agriculture department said that there are about 20 to 200 ostrich deaths per day since the flu, also called avian flu was first diagnosed on July 25. Police and soldiers are manning roadblocks in the Somerset East area of the Eastern Cape to enforce a quarantine following the outbreak of avian influenza. "We have quarantined 15 farms in the area and extended the quarantine area radius to 30 km," said Mahlangu Segoati, national spokesman for the Department of Agriculture. He said the movement of all poultry products, as well as humans, were being monitored as part of the precautionary measures put in place since the bird flu was detected. Segoati said test results determining the nature of the virus were expected by the end of the week. A particular strain of the avian flu virus can be transmitted to humans and cause death. Segoati said the department was also trying to trace the origins of the outbreak, which originally affected three farms in the Somerset East region. The two farms currently

affected were Endo and Glentana. Eastern Cape health official Bevan Goqwana said all energies would be channelled into protecting the public first and preventing the spread of the disease. He assured the public that the situation was "under control and strictly confined to birds." The Western Cape department of agriculture has requested their Eastern Cape counterparts not to send birds for slaughtering to the Western Cape, until there was more clarity on the infection. "The disease could pose a serious threat to the export of ostrich meat from the ostrich exports abattoirs in the Western Cape," agriculture official Cobus Dowry said. The European Union could "immediately revoke" the Western Cape's export status should the disease spread. Dowry confirmed that a ban has been put in place on the movement of ostriches from the Eastern Cape to the Western Cape, with the situation to be reconsidered once a clearer picture emerged.

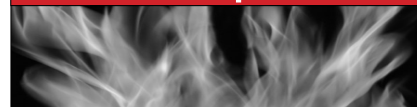
London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: South Africa's government has ordered the slaughter of 30,000 ostriches in an effort to contain an outbreak of bird flu in the south of the country. Scientists said the ostriches were infected with a strain of the disease related to the epidemic which hit East Asia earlier this year. The announcement was made after the death of around 2,000 birds in Eastern Cape province. Exports of ostrich meat and other poultry have also been suspended. The government said they had done this as a gesture of goodwill towards the international community. It is thought the slaughter will cost farmers around \$17 million in lost income. Tests of infected meat at a laboratory near Pretoria revealed that the strain of bird flu was one known as H5N2, a related strain to the one which severely affected parts of East Asia this year. The government has been trying to reassure the South African public that this strain is unlikely to harm humans and that there is no evidence that it has spread beyond the farms affected which have been sealed off with road-blocks.

POWER OUTAGE, DERBY, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated Aug 10, states: A major power failure leading to the loss of signals near Derby has caused widespread delays to rail travellers. Peak evening services calling at Derby suffered disruption, while trains between London and Sheffield or Nottingham have been diverted. A spokeswoman for Network Rail said the power had gone down at Derby control centre between 1540 and 1850, BST, today but had since been restored. Passengers on services to Derby have been taken by bus to their destination. The signal failure led to immediate short notice alterations, cancellations and delays to services due to call at Derby. The Network Rail spokeswoman said trains run through Derby by Midland Mainline, Virgin Cross Country, Central Trains and freight operators had been

affected. She said the cause of the power failure was not yet known but it could be linked to flooding as a result of recent torrential rain in the area. She warned it might take some time for services to return to normal. A spokeswoman for Midland Mainline said travellers were being taken to the nearest station to their destination to be put on to buses.

Fires & Explosions



COAL MINE, HEJIN CITY, CHINA

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Ten miners were killed and five others were believed trapped after a gas explosion in a mine in northern China, the state news agency said. They were among 99 miners working underground in the Xiaowangou coal mine in Hejin City in Shanxi province. Another five trapped workers were rescued after the blast, which happened early yesterday. Rescue teams were at the scene and the cause of the explosion was under investigation, officials told Xinhua.

FACTORY, DANDENONG, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been injured in a blast at Dandenong, south east of Melbourne. The Country Fire Authority says a number of walls at a factory in David Street have blown out. The cause of the blast is not known. The CFA has five trucks on scene and the injured have been taken to hospital.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are combing through rubble and flames looking for victims of an explosion at a Melbourne factory. Two injured people were being treated at the scene by paramedics this morning. Details were still sketchy, but the blast was believed to have occurred at Hoerbiger Rings and Packing, in David Street, Dandenong. "Currently CFA (the Country Fire Authority) has two jobs," spokesman Peter Philp said. "They are trying to search the building in the rubble to make sure that there is nobody trapped there. However, the building is very unstable and very dangerous to work in. There is also a fire burning in the building." Seven trucks, including a large rescue vehicle, and 35 firefighters have been rushed to the scene from surrounding suburbs. Mr Philp said the fire was still out of control and the cause of the blast was not known.

FACTORY, TORONTO, CANADA

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews responding to an early-morning call rushed to a furniture factory in the northern suburbs of Toronto city yesterday morning to tackle a blaze that quickly burned out of control.

Dozens of firefighters, police, and emergency personnel arrived at International Woodcraft at 117 Vulcan Street, an industrial area in North Etobicoke, finding that the wood furniture factory had been engulfed in a three-alarm fire. The fire department quickly raised that to a four-alarm fire, the second-highest level in Toronto. Intense heat and massive flames as high as 15 metres caused part of the roof to collapse, and the north wall was completely ablaze and in danger of caving in. Several small explosions inside the factory filled the nearby area with black smoke, prompting emergency personnel to call in the Ministry of the Environment to monitor air quality due to phosphates and other fumes from wood products inside the plant. Fire officials were also concerned that another factory to the immediate east would go up in flames, resulting in toxic chemical smoke in the area. However, the blaze was contained to the furniture factory, and was largely extinguished by mid-morning. The factory sustained extensive damages, estimated at 1 million US dollars. However, No injuries and deaths were reported. the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

FACTORY, TROSTRE, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are tackling a blaze at the Corus tinplate works at Trostre, near Llanelli. Mid and West Wales Fire Service said the fire broke out just before 0900, BST today, with the building still alight several hours later. The fire service added that no-one was trapped inside the works and that no chemicals were involved in the blaze. The plant, which has a workforce of around 1,000, was evacuated when the fire broke out. Corus spokesman Mike Hitchcock said: "Production has been affected - for how long and to what extent is not known at this stage." Police reassured residents that thick black smoke coming from the fire was not toxic and no chemicals were involved.

FACTORY, TUA MARINA, NEAR BLENHEIM, NEW ZEALAND

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: A major fire which gutted a cheese factory at Tua Marina near Blenheim early today has left the future of the 45 staff in doubt. The fire completely gutted the factory, which has been a Marlborough landmark since 1895. Fire crews from Blenheim, Renwick and Picton were called to the blaze while a command team came from Nelson. Blenheim chief fire officer Gary Price said the difficulty of getting water to the factory made the job difficult. Firefighters had to wait while portable pumps were set up to bring water from the Tua Marina stream and across State Highway 1. Mr Price said the fire was confined to the main cheese hall after crews had prevented the blaze from spreading to the back of the building, where flammable chemicals were stored. Mr Price said it was too early to say what the cause of the fire

was, fire safety officers were starting their investigations this morning, but the blaze was not being treated as suspicious. Fonterra Ingredients acting director of operations Ross McCowan said it was not known when the plant might reopen, but all milk that would have gone to the plant could be processed elsewhere. "We have processing ability elsewhere in the South Island which we can use," he said. "We're working through how we might transport the milk." At the peak of the season the Tua Marina plant processed 330,000 litres of milk a day from the Marlborough region, manufacturing mostly cheese with some cream products, Mr McCowan said. Insurance assessors were investigating the extent of damage and the cause of the fire today. It was too early to say how much damage had been done but it was "obviously millions". The plant had been closed for the low season, although some maintenance would have been under way, he said. No staff had been in the plant at the time of the fire. Traffic on SH1 and the nearby railway line were halted at the height of the fire.

PREMISES, WICHITA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire that destroyed two businesses in a large building just north of Wichita's Old Town area caused an estimated \$4.5 million in damages, chief fire investigator Ed Bricknell said today. It took firefighters about four hours to bring the fire, reported about 2030, yesterday, under control. Six alarms were sounded and more than 100 firefighters responded. Firefighters were still on the scene spraying hot spots after daybreak today. Bricknell said nobody was in the building when the fire broke out. He said one firefighter suffered a minor injury in a fall. Bricknell said the fire destroyed two of the businesses in the nearly block-long building. He said the cause had not been determined.

REFINERY PRODUCING UNIT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire forced the closure of a gasoline-producing unit at the third-largest refinery in the United States, sending oil prices to fresh record highs on concerns of potential disruptions to supplies. News of the BP fire pushed global oil prices to fresh record highs, with U.S. light crude futures striking \$44.77 a barrel and London's Brent crude hitting \$41.50 a barrel early today. The gasoline-producing ultracracker was shut at BP's 470,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) plant in Texas City, Texas, following a flash fire that was quickly extinguished yesterday, the Texas City Fire Department said. Bill Stephens, spokesman for BP at Texas City, said all other operations at the plant were running normally but that it was unclear how long the unit would be shut. There were no injuries in the blaze. The closure underlined the vulnerability of supplies as producers pump almost at full tilt to meet escalating global demand, leaving little

leeway for any hiccup in the supply chain. Earlier, Citgo Petroleum Corp. failed to restart a gasoline-producing fluidic catalytic cracking unit from a seven-day maintenance shutdown and sources close to the refinery operations said it may take another 10 days to restart the plant.

RIDING SCHOOL, LESCHERAINES, SAVOY REGION, FRANCE

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: Seven teenagers and two adults were believed to have died today when a fire swept through a riding school in the Savoy department of south-east France overnight, police said. Emergency workers picking through the debris of the buildings had discovered the remains of six bodies and were awaiting the completion of their task before officially confirming the toll. A team of experts was sent from Paris to help with identification.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Authorities today put the final death toll at eight — including six teenagers — as investigators searched the rubble of a French riding camp, trying to determine why a dormitory burst into flames. The victims died as they slept. Yesterday's pre-dawn blaze swept through the traditional wooden building at the equestrian school nestled amid the Bauges mountains in Lescheraines, eastern France. Officials have recovered eight bodies and believe all the victims are accounted for. Originally, investigators feared nine people were killed. Only one person, a 22-year-old instructor, escaped. She was being treated for burns that were not life-threatening, officials said. Investigators have not yet spoken to her, LCI television reported. Authorities have not yet ruled out any possible causes of the fire, which took 45 firefighters two hours to bring under control. "There was no doubt a stock of hay inside, but we can't confirm anything," said Alain Lhuillier, deputy director of the regional fire-rescue squad. "I haven't heard about any criminal leads." The school's horse stable was some distance from the dormitory that burned. The riding school was registered with the state and affiliated with the French Federation of Equitation, Lamour said. However, the Sports Ministry said it had no control over the 12-bed dormitory. "It's a private building. We don't have any particular documents about it," said town Mayor Anne-Marie Gagneur. She added that authorities had asked for an investigation into how the centre was run. The teenagers were from the area but stayed overnight at the school, authorities said.

SHOPPING CENTRE, ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Authorities today lowered the death toll from a weekend supermarket blaze, announcing that 399 people were killed and 144 remained missing in Paraguay's worst tragedy in decades. Attorney General Oscar Latorre said authorities struck 27 names from the list of the dead after reports filed by hospitals, morgues and

rescuers were found to contain duplications and other errors. He said 52 of the 399 bodies had not yet been identified. Authorities have charged a co-owner of the Ycua Bolanos supermarket and four others with manslaughter after a security guard said he was ordered after Sunday's (Aug 1) fire broke out to lock doors to prevent people from stealing. Forensic experts were still studying the site today, trying to determine the cause of the blaze, which some officials speculated may have been started by an exploding gas canister in the store's food court. Four other supermarkets in the Ycua Bolanos change remained shuttered, sparking a protest by some 800 workers who insisted the stores should resume operations.

WAREHOUSE, STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: A team of investigators from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are today scheduled to start working through the ruins of a four-alarm fire at a Stockton, California, warehouse that caused an estimated \$1.5 million in damage. The Saturday (Aug 7) fire destroyed Benny's Produce at 1345 North Broadway Ave and Onions Etc at 1433 North Broadway. The blaze, aided by a westerly wind, also jumped across the street and burned a field and then across Highway 99 and burned another field, said Stockton Battalion Chief Bill Costanza. "The investigation is not going to get started until we get the water pumped out of here," Costanza said at the scene yesterday. Costanza said the two buildings that burned down were attached but were separate businesses. The owner of the warehouse with the onion business was listed as Louise Chinchio, according to property tax records. At that site, Onions Etc., operated as shipper and a repacker. Their products include various onions found in stores throughout the country, including S-Mart Foods and Food 4 Less. The fire went from a single alarm to a four-alarm fire in about 16 minutes. "It was 100,000 square feet and the type of structure made it necessary to get as many people there as we possibly could," said Matt Short, a spokesman for the Stockton Fire Department. Short said ATF investigators were brought in due to the extent of the damage. "Sometimes fires of this size require us to have other agencies assist with the investigation. You need help," he said. Stockton fire officials received help from fire districts in Linden, which sent a fire engine, and from Waterloo-Morado, which sent a water tanker. Firefighters from other agencies also arrived in Stockton to assist. They also staffed the city's fire stations. Off-duty Stockton firefighters were called in. Fire officials said it took about two hours to get the fire under control. It was extinguished at about 2330 hrs.

WAREHOUSE, SYNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have started

to mop-up after a blaze in a kitchen manufacturing warehouse that forced the evacuation of about 100 people in Sydney's south-west. NSW Fire Brigades Superintendent Ian Krimmer said emergency services were called to the premises on Liverpool Road, Cabramatta about 1515, AEST. Six fire engines, two aerial platforms, one rescue unit and one hazardous materials unit brought the blaze under control shortly after 1600, AEST, Fire Media said. No injuries have been reported, but about 100 people were evacuated from nearby businesses. Fireman are now assessing the extent of the damage and the cause of the blaze.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Firefighters in south-east Queensland are keeping a close watch on a number of bushfires. There are fires burning at Carbrook and at Eagleby, south of Brisbane. Crews are also monitoring separate fires at Narangba and Torbull, to the north of Brisbane. No homes are being threatened in any of the blazes, with easing winds today reducing the fire threat.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Firefighters say they are getting the upper hand as they battle a large bushfire at Mango Hill, north of Brisbane. Queensland Fire and Rescue spokesman Ted Ireland says at one stage the flames came close to nearby homes. "There has been no property losses throughout this. We had one firefighter who was overcome by smoke and heat," he said. The fire is burning in a state forest.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Firefighters are continuing to battle a large grassfire on Queensland's Gold Coast. Several rural fire units and SES crews are fighting the blaze in Monaro Road at Mudgereeba. Crews are back-burning near homes, but at this stage no properties are being threatened. Meanwhile two grassfires at Mango Hill and one at Bribie Island, north of Brisbane, have been contained.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters in south-east Queensland are bracing themselves for the impact of strong winds today, which the weather bureau says will produce a very high fire danger. Fire crews were kept busy yesterday fighting grass fires at Mango Hill, Bribie Island and Woodford, to the north of Brisbane, and at Mudgeeraba on the Gold Coast. Firefighters battled the fire at Mudgeeraba through the night and are likely to need reinforcements today. Senior fire communications officer Daryl King says the weather is a real concern.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Farmers affected by a large bushfire west of Gympie are likely to be eligible for disaster relief. The blaze burnt through more than 1,000 hectares of land at Glastonbury last week, destroying massive amounts of valuable pasture. Cooloola Shire mayor Mick Vernados says Queensland

Government representatives believe there is enough damage to invoke Exceptional Circumstances regulations. He says about 12 properties have been affected. "Quite a few farmers have lost their total fodder," he said. "I have contacted the Premier's Department and the Department of Primary Industries and they have indicated there is sufficient damage, particularly for property owners, to have the area declared an area for Exceptional Circumstances."

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters say easing wind conditions will give them the chance to recheck burnt-out areas in south-east Queensland. The weather bureau says the fire danger remains high, but that the gusty south-westerly winds, that have been fanning the fires for the past week, are likely to ease. The Fire and Rescue Service's Daryl King says fire crews fought a number of fires yesterday, including on Whites Mountain in Samford Valley on Brisbane's northside. "We've had a lot of blazes in the last week, there's a lot of smouldering areas, just because the wind has dropped, the weather bureau is still issuing a high fire danger," he said. The Gold Coast is blanketed in smoke this morning as exhausted firefighters complete major back burning operations in the hinterland. Two dozen crews worked through the night to remove fire fuel from behind homes in the Mudgeeraba and Bonogin areas. Len Jeavons, from the Rural Fire Service, says a blaze at Bonogin took several hours to control. "That was a wildfire situation that started in a paddock and the fire did encroach up behind some houses," he said. "We had some urban crews in place, but as the fire approached those houses, we commenced backburning operations and the houses were not under threat at any time." The fire was controlled overnight with the easing conditions. Another small fire on the Sunshine Coast is believed to be the work of an arsonist. The firebug is suspected of lighting more than 50 recent bushfires in the Belli area, near Kenilworth. The latest blaze at on Oak Tree Road at Belli was quickly brought under control.

WILDFIRES, FRANCE

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Firefighters have brought under control a blaze which swept through the French countryside near Bordeaux destroying more than 500 hectares of pines and dry scrub. More than 300 firefighters with 70 water tankers fought the blaze which was whipped up by strong winds. A dozen firefighters suffered from smoke inhalation and heatstroke, three of whom required hospital treatment. The turbulent winds split the kilometre-long fire front in two, making the firefighters' job more difficult. Four Canadair water-dropping planes and a Convair transport capable of carrying 12,000 litres of water were drafted in. The cause of the outbreak, in the Medoc area west of Bordeaux, was not immediately known, but firefighters said one area at the town of Sainte-

Helene had been hit by thunderstorms. Thick, choking smoke hampered their work today. The meteorological office said there had been no rainfall in the area since the beginning of August. Temperatures reached 35 degrees Celsius in the region today. Over 200 firefighters were still tackling the blaze and were preparing to work throughout the night.

WILDFIRES, SPAIN

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Thousands of rare tortoises have died in forest fires that have raged across south-eastern Spain, fanned by high temperatures and warm winds. At least 2,400 tortoises died during one fire in nature reserves in the Murcia region, the Global Nature Foundation group says. Some 300 hectares of Mediterranean forest, the reptile's natural habitat, were burnt. The foundation says it could take up to 20 years to restore the habitat. Blazes in southern Spain are said to be some of the worst seen in a decade. The fire in the Murcia region of semi-arid and low-lying forests spanned an area 20km across at its widest point. Juan Luis Castanedo of Global Nature Foundation, which promotes and protects 67 nature reserves in the region, said that tourists were to blame for accidentally starting the fire. A total of 41,084 hectares have burnt in Spain since the beginning of the year, some 9,000 hectares more than over the same period last year, according to the environment ministry.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Firefighters today battled to contain several wildfires that blackened thousands of acres and forced scores of people to evacuate their homes. A new fire moved rapidly through thick brush in Riverside County, charring 400 acres and triggering evacuations as it threatened an unknown number of houses in the tiny desert community of Anza, about 110 miles south-east of Los Angeles. Residents scrambled to protect their property. The fire reportedly started on the nearly 900-acre campus of Trinity Children and Family Services, which houses troubled youth. About 300 firefighters and nine aircraft battled the blaze in heat that reached 112 deg Fahrenheit. Nearly 700 firefighters converged on another blaze in the Angeles National Forest that had burned 1,200 acres near the Los Angeles suburb of Castaic and destroyed two outbuildings. The firefighters faced temperatures of nearly 100 deg. The fire, reported yesterday afternoon, was expected to be fully contained late today, said Dianne Cahir, a US Forest Service spokeswoman. The cause remained under investigation. Yesterday, the fire briefly threatened a mobile home park, but residents using garden hoses kept it at bay. They were evacuated but allowed to return after the flames passed. No homes were threatened today, Cahir said. Firefighters expected to extinguish the remains of three

Northern California wildfires that began on Friday (Aug 6) and consumed more than 4,000 acres near Angels Camp, about 110 miles east of San Francisco. The largest blaze charred more than 3,400 acres near Copperopolis, apparently sparked by a mechanical problem with a passing car. It forced the evacuation of about 210. It was 90% contained Sunday. A fire near Avery was 65% contained after destroying two homes and charring nearly 900 acres. The third blaze had covered less than 100 acres and was 90% contained. Causes of the blazes had not been determined.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: A wildfire erupted today in the San Gabriel Mountains and quickly grew to nearly 100 acres before firefighters began to get the upper hand. The Springs Fire was 30% contained tonight with full containment expected within 24 hours, said California Department of Forestry spokesman Bill Peters. He said it had burned across approximately 86 acres. Six homes in the sparsely populated area were evacuated soon after the fire began at 1600 hrs, but all evacuees were allowed to return home tonight, Peters said. The fire was burning away from the town of Wrightwood toward Pinon Hill, a steep, hilly, sparsely populated area about 35 miles north-east of Los Angeles, said Kathy Peterson, a spokeswoman for the Angeles National Forest. The blaze followed a busy weekend for firefighters throughout California.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: A 600-acre fire in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada prompted the evacuation of 250 people, one of several fires around California that have scorched thousands of acres and driven people from their homes. Two firefighters were injured and one building was destroyed by the fire, which was half contained by this morning, fire officials said. Firefighters were mopping up the remains of three other wildfires that destroyed two homes and burned more than 4,000 acres in Calaveras County. Arsonists started two of the three fires, authorities said, and the third was caused by a car with mechanical problems. The largest fire burned than 3,400 acres near Copperopolis and forced about 210 people to flee their homes. More than 300 firefighters were working against a fire that started yesterday afternoon on the slopes of Mount Hamilton near San Jose. About 370 acres had been burned but no structures were destroyed. Authorities are still investigating what caused the fire. In the San Francisco Bay area, authorities were blaming a discarded cigarette for sparking a fire near Hayward. The fire broke out yesterday afternoon in an area of thick brush and eucalyptus trees, damaging the roofs of several homes before it was contained, according to the Hayward Fire Department. A 350-acre wildfire that burned through chaparral and forced people to evacuate dozens of homes in Riverside County was fully contained this morning, authorities said. The fire

had threatened the tiny desert community of Anza, but residents were allowed to return last night. Elsewhere today, officials in north-central Washington state evacuated 38 homes near Dryden after a wildfire grew to about 150 acres. The fire started yesterday but officials said the cause was not yet known.

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: A wildfire destroyed at least 40 structures near Shasta Lake in northern California today, and forced evacuations from the resort area. The fire spread from 100 acres to 800 acres in less than four hours and was moving towards the Jones Valley resort. People were evacuating the area on the lake's eastern edge by boat, according to a California Department of Forestry spokeswoman. More than 700 firefighters worked to contain the blaze amid temperatures that climbed above 100 deg Fahrenheit. At least 300 other structures were threatened, authorities said. In Washington state, an 850-acre fire near Dryden forced residents to evacuate 24 homes, and dozens of other residents were on evacuation alert. No structures have burned. Also in north-central Washington, a helicopter pilot was killed while ferrying supplies to firefighters in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The cause of the crash was under investigation. In the Yakima area, one house was evacuated and a dozen others were put on notice as a blaze there doubled in size to 2,600 acres, said Jim Kohl, a county fire official. Meanwhile, several lightning-sparked fires on Humboldt mountain in northern Arizona threatened a Federal Aviation Administration site, forest officials said. Two FAA employees were evacuated, and a Tonto National Forest ranger was ordered from a fire look-out tower next to the FAA site, forest spokesman Dave Killebrew said. Officials were most concerned with two blazes burning within a mile of each other and within a mile of the peak, where the FAA site and lookout tower are located. Together the flames had consumed about 70 acres. The FAA site is one of several that provide communication for commercial air traffic. Killebrew said he was not aware of any FAA communication interruptions today. Six engines, an air tanker and two helicopters were being used to fight the flames fuelled by 30-40 mph winds, Killebrew said.



ACCIDENT, MAE HONG SON AIRPORT, THAILAND

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A Thai Airways International ATR-72 skidded out of control yesterday when its front wheels failed to fully extend while landing at Mae Hong Son airport. The aircraft on a

flight from Chiang Mai skidded for about 100 metres after landing, stopping with the fuselage blocking the runway. None of the Thai and foreign passengers onboard was hurt. The flight had left Chiang Mai at 1610 hrs for the 35-minute flight to Mae Hong Son. Airport staff said the airport will be closed for up to two days while the damage is repaired.

AIRCRAFT PUTS BACK TO MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A Jetstar aircraft has been forced to return to Melbourne during a flight to Hobart today because of a problem with one of the engines. The incident caused delays for passengers on five other Jetstar services. Jetstar spokesman Simon Westaway says the 717 has been grounded for inspection. "We experienced a problem with the left-hand side engine," he said. "The pilots took what is appropriate activity and that is to return that aircraft."

COLLAPSE OF TERMINAL, PARIS AIRPORT, FRANCE

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: A terminal at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport which was closed in May when part of the roof collapsed, killing four people, is to partially reopen later this month, officials announced today. A safety commission unanimously approved the partial reopening of Terminal 2E, regional government official Jacques Lebrot told reporters. The Paris Airport Authority (ADP) said two central sections of the terminal would reopen in the second half of August. "This initial step will enable us to receive about 10 flights daily," ADP said in a statement. The accident has cut the airport's capacity by 15%, forced airlines to use other terminals and caused many flight delays.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF DENMARK

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A private aircraft has crashed into the sea near a beach in Denmark, killing all four people on board. Dozens of holidaymakers who were on the beach about 20 miles southwest of Copenhagen saw the accident happen. Ambulances, divers and a rescue helicopter were sent to the scene. Witnesses said the aircraft had been flying very low when one of its wings touched the waves, sending the aircraft crashing into the sea. The aircraft is reported to belong to Copenhagen Air Taxi, a small company based at the nearby Roskilde airport.

CRASH, BURNET COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See N927RP.

CRASH, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: About 110 people on an Air Guinea flight from Sierra Leone have escaped with nothing more than minor injuries after their aircraft

ditched into a swamp as it tried to take off. An airport official says the Boeing 737 had just left the ground at Lungi Airport in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, when it lurched into a swamp three miles from the runway. The accident left one wing partly submerged in mud. "A combined team of airport fire and security services quickly moved to the scene and helped to save the passengers and crew," airport spokesman Mohamed Swarray said. Sierra Leone's civil aviation authority says the cause of the crash is not yet known. Hospital officials say about 50 of the passengers have been treated for shock and minor injuries.

CRASH, OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

See N79404.

CRASH, OSTERSUND AREA, SWEDEN

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: An aircraft carrying seven people on a skydiving trip crashed just after taking off from an airstrip in northern Sweden on Friday (Aug 6), killing four passengers, police said. The Cessna aircraft had just taken off when it crashed about 500 metres beyond the runway, bursting into flames near Ostersund, 560 km north of Stockholm, rescue officials said. The aircraft did not radio to the control tower before the crash, officials said. Three others on board the aircraft — two men and a woman all between 20 and 30 years old — were hospitalised with injuries. One was in serious condition, and two were in fair condition, hospital workers said. "The aircraft burned, and investigators are on their way to the scene," police spokesman Ola Sundqvist said. "We don't know yet what caused the accident."

CRASH, RADUZHNOYE AREA, TYUMEN REGION, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen passengers and crew have been killed in a helicopter crash in Russia's western Siberia. The helicopter crashed and burst into flames in the Tyumen region, bordering with Kazakhstan, today. "All 15 people are dead," said a spokesman for the emergencies ministry, adding that communication was lost soon after the Mil Mi-8 helicopter took off. The helicopter crashed 55 miles from the village of Raduzhnoye where it had taken off. Reports said the helicopter had been on patrol with a contingent of firemen searching for forest fires. The charred remains of the helicopter were discovered by an accompanying helicopter which was able to land near the scene. A commission has been set up to investigate the circumstances of the crash.

CRASH, STAWELL AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A Crop-dusting pilot escaped with a broken arm after

his Piper PA-25 (Pawnee) hit a tree in Victoria's west and broke into three pieces today. The man took off from Stawell at about 0900, AEST, and had flown five km south when he struck trouble, a police spokesman said. "It is believed there was a bit of a down-draught; the pilot tried to dump the cargo and he struck a tree." The pilot received non-life-threatening facial injuries as well as the broken arm. Air safety investigators are to be notified and an investigation carried out into the cause of the crash. The injured man was said to be an experienced, full-time pilot with AG Airwork, a crop-dusting and fertiliser-spreading firm based at the Stawell aerodrome.

CRASH, WANGARATTA AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

See VH-TNP.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT, HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Nobody was hurt late today when a British Airways jet bound for London safely returned to Houston due to an engine fire. The Boeing 777 had departed Bush Intercontinental Airport when the pilots detected fumes in the cockpit. Airport spokesman Roger Smith says the pilots determined there was a fire in the left engine and returned to the airport. The fire was quickly put out by emergency personnel on the ground. The aircraft was carrying approximately 130 passengers, who were evacuated onto the tarmac. Smith says the aircraft was headed for London's Gatwick Airport. The passengers were being rerouted.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Aug 7 — Air India Flight 854, bound from Kuwait to Mumbai via Dubai and Goa, made an emergency landing 30 minutes after its 0315 hrs take-off from Dubai International Airport on Thursday (Aug 5). According to civil aviation sources, the aircraft, with more than 300 passengers on board, experienced "a technical snag" and was grounded at Dubai for nearly nine hours. It finally took off at 1149 hrs. Ratan Bali, Air India's marketing manager, said engineers rectified the fault and the aircraft resumed its flight. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A full emergency was declared at Exeter International Airport yesterday after a flight was diverted there after a warning systems alert. Flight BE229, flying from Southampton to Jersey and carrying 67 passengers, was diverted to the airport yesterday morning after the flight crew were warned of a possible hydraulics system failure. As a precautionary measure, the captain made the decision to land the flybe plane at Exeter and to

initiate emergency landing procedures. Police, ambulances and four fire engines were called to the scene as soon as the decision was taken to divert the aircraft at 1035 hrs. The emergency services remained on standby until the flight had landed safely at Exeter at 1050 hrs. The passengers were disembarked and the airline arranged for a separate flight to take them on to Jersey.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GERMANY

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An Amsterdam-Zurich flight of Swiss International Air Lines made an emergency landing at Frankfurt Airport yesterday after two of its four engines failed, the airline and German authorities said. The Avro RJ-100, carrying 51 passengers and five crew members, made the emergency landing without difficulty at about 0920, GMT.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GREATER MONCTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CANADA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft from Prince Edward Island made an emergency landing on its belly today in Moncton, N.B. The Navajo aircraft, owned by the charter airline Prince Edward Air, was scheduled to fly from Halifax to Charlottetown. But the pilot reported that an indicator light showed the landing gear wasn't working. Chris Farmer, director of operations at the Greater Moncton International Airport, says the plane circled the airport a couple of times before landing at 1345 hrs. "There was a full emergency response. The airport activated its emergency plan and there were no injuries from anyone from the aircraft," he says. "Right now the aircraft is in the process of being recovered from the runway, where it will go back to the maintenance hangar at Prince Edward Air." The Transportation Safety Board is investigating what happened.

EMERGENCY LANDING, OSAKA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines (JAL) jetliner made an emergency landing at Osaka Airport this afternoon after lightning hit the aircraft and cracked one of the windows on its cockpit, aviation authorities said. None of the 214 passengers and crewmembers on Flight 1720 bound for Tokyo's Haneda Airport from Fukuoka Airport was injured. At around 1520 hrs, the JAL Boeing 777-300 was struck by lightning while climbing at an altitude of about 3,600 metres following its take-off from Fukuoka Airport. The lightning caused a 60-centimetre crack on one of the windows of the cockpit. The aircraft made an emergency landing at Osaka Airport. Passengers were forced to transfer to another flight to Tokyo.

N232MC

London, Aug 5 — Bell 47G-5, N232MC, crashed near Bunnell,

Florida, Aug 4. The one person on board was killed.

N243D

London, Aug 10 — Hughes 500, N243D, crashed near Anchorage, Alaska, at 1656, Aug 6. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N3352W

London, Aug 5 — Piper PA-32-260 (Cherokee Six), N3352W, crashed near Mineral Wells, Texas, at 1630, Aug 4, while on a flight from Mineral Wells. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N4171D

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Two passengers, one with serious injuries, were flown to Hunterdon Medical Centre after the Piper PA-32 (Saratoga) they were riding in crashed yesterday in the front yard of a Franklin, NJ, home, officials said. The aircraft, carrying four people, crash-landed in the front yard of a house at around 1230 hrs, bounced into the yard of a neighbouring house and hit a tree before breaking in two. The front part of the aircraft then slid nose-first to a stop, just yards from an airfield at Sky Manor Airport in neighbouring Alexandria. No one on the ground was injured. Township police refused yesterday to release the names of those on board, as well as any information about the crash, such as whether it happened during take-off or landing. It will be at least a day before any information about a cause would be available, said Holly Baker, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Rescue units from the Quakertown Fire Co, Quakertown Volunteer Emergency Medical Services, and paramedics from Hunterdon Medical Centre responded to the crash site, along with ambulances from the Kingwood and Clinton First Aid & Rescue squads. Firefighters also controlled a fuel leak caused by a hole in one of the Piper's wings, according to the Quakertown Fire Co.

London, Aug 12 — Piper PA-32R-301 (Saratoga IIHP), N4171D, crashed near Pittstown, New Jersey, at 1635, Aug 8, while on a flight to Pittstown. The aircraft was destroyed. Three of the four persons on board were injured.

N450CM

London, Aug 10 — Eurocopter EC 130, N450CM, crashed near Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, at 0050, Aug 7. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N6186F

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Two small aircraft collided in New Jersey this morning, killing both pilots and sending one aircraft plunging into the back yard of a home, authorities said. No one on the ground was injured said Luke Schiada of the National Transportation Safety Board. A Piper PA-28 that had taken off from an airport in Lincoln Park

collided with a Cessna 150 that had left an airport in Caldwell, Schiada said. He said it was not immediately clear where the two aircraft were heading, and that there was no information about whether the pilots had communicated with each other before the crash. The aircraft crashed to the ground about half a mile apart in Kinnelon, about 20 miles north-west of Newark. The Piper broke apart in a wooded area and the Cessna — mostly intact — hit nose first, Schiada said. The pilots were identified by county authorities as Eric Meyerwald, of Bogota, NJ and William P. Schott, of Riverdale, New York. The Cessna was registered to Meyerwald and the Piper was registered to Schott, according to the FAA. The Cessna crashed in the wooded back yard of a home. Schiada said the aircraft were being prepared to be moved to a local airport for an investigation.

London, Aug 10 — Cessna 150L, N6186F, and Piper PA-28-140 (Cherokee), N95314, collided in mid-air over Kinnelon, New Jersey, at 1315, Aug 8. Both aircraft were destroyed. The one person on board N6186F was killed, as was the one person on board N95314.

N79404

London, Aug 5 — Cessna 182P (Skylane), N79404, crashed near Port Angeles, Washington, at 0400, Aug 4, while on a flight from Port Angeles to Boeing Field, WA. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the three persons on board was killed and the other two suffered minor injuries.

N911JR

London, Aug 11 — Cessna 172P (Skyhawk), N911JR, crashed near Gunnison, Colorado, at 2330, Aug 9. The two persons on board were killed.

N927RP

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: A Piper PA-32 crashed in a remote area of central Texas yesterday, bursting into flames and killing two people, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said. The aircraft crashed at about 1830 hrs in western Burnet County, about 35 miles south-west of Waco, after dropping off the radar at an FAA facility in Houston, said John Clabes, FAA spokesman for the south-west region. The sheriff's department had not identified the victims late yesterday. Officials believed the aircraft was headed for Lubbock, TX, Clabes said. The FAA's aircraft registry lists a Lubbock resident as the owner of the plane. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were headed to the site to investigate, Clabes said.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: The Texas Department of Public Safety today identified two people who died when their single-engine aircraft crashed in a remote area of the Hill Country. The Piper PA-32 crashed in western Burnet

County, about 15 miles south-west of Lampasas, after dropping off the radar at an FAA facility in Houston, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman John Clabes said. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the crash.

London, Aug 10 — Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six), N927RP, crashed near Lampasa, Texas, at 2200, Aug 7, while on a flight from Austin, TX, to Lubbock, TX. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N9442L

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Federal officials were yesterday investigating the emergency landing and crash of a small aircraft near Eudora, Kansas, that left two people injured. The Grumman two-seater which came down yesterday morning in a field north-east of Eudora took off with a pilot and passenger from New Century AirCentre in Gardner, said Trooper Josh Kellerman of the Kansas Highway Patrol. Perry resident Isse Bergstrom was taken to Lawrence Memorial Hospital, where she was treated and released. The pilot, Robert G. Hutchinson, of Gardner, also suffered minor injuries but chose not to go to the hospital, Kellerman said. Hutchinson owns the aircraft. Kellerman said Hutchinson had taken off with no route planned when the engine of the 1971 aircraft either stalled or quit. "It was an emergency landing," Kellerman said. "I don't think he had a choice. He had to try to set it down." The landing area Hutchinson picked was a recently ploughed wheat field just off of North 1420 Road. The ground was soft enough that the aircraft's wheels sunk in, causing its nose to drop down and dig into the soil, flipping the aircraft onto its top. Kellerman said Hutchinson and Bergstrom were able to escape the crash on their own. At 0944 hrs, Hutchinson called for assistance on a cell phone and emergency workers responded from Douglas and Johnson counties. The Federal Aviation Administration was called to investigate the incident.

London, Aug 10 — American Aviation AA-1A (Trainer), N9442L, crashed near Eudora, Kansas, at 1430, Aug 6, while in a local flight from Olathe, Kansas, with two persons on board. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

N95314

See N6186F

VH-TNP

London, Aug 7 — Piper PA-31T (Cheyenne), VH-TNP, was destroyed when it crashed approximately 18 nautical miles southeast of Benalla Airport, Victoria, at 1100, local time, Jul 28. The accident occurred during a GPS approach to the airport in low clouds and rain. The six occupants on board the aircraft were killed. The flight originated from Bankstown Airport, Sydney with a planned destination of Benalla.

Space Vehicles



RUBICON 1

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Two young men have vowed to keep trying to launch a manned rocket into space although their craft, with three test dummies on board, blew up shortly after lift-off over the US Pacific coast. Phillip Storm and Eric Meier, presidents of Space Transport Corporation, are vying for the US\$10 million Ansari X Prize, for the first group to send into space a privately-funded craft carrying three people twice within two weeks. The 26-year-old pair's Rubicon 1 rocket exploded on Sunday (Aug 8) shortly after take off. It was the rocket's first attempt. "We will keep on working," Mr Meier said. "We are going to repair it and launch it again." The duo, whose company is based in Forks, Washington, is not alone in its space dreams. In all, 27 teams are vying for the X Prize, which was created by the US-based X Prize Foundation to encourage commercial space travel. The teams are from Argentina, Canada, Great Britain, Israel, Romania, Russia and the United States. "This business is an intense challenge," said Mr Meier, who along with Mr Storm, raised \$US220,000 to build Rubicon.

Product Recalls



GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: General Motors today issued a voluntary recall of 246,433 Saturn VUEs after the sport utility vehicle's rear suspension failed during rollover tests by federal regulators in June. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a wheel collapsed on both the four-wheel-drive and front-wheel-drive VUEs during fish hook turns at 45 miles per hour. The NHTSA also cited the case of a driver not associated with the test, whose vehicle rolled over under similar circumstances. Adding to the pressure, consumer advocacy groups like the Center for Auto Safety and Public Citizen reportedly called on GM to voluntarily recall the vehicles sold between 2002 and 2004 because the NHTSA tests showed a design flaw. Saturn dealers across North America began notifying owners via phone late yesterday.

GROUND BEEF PRODUCTS, CANADA

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: The Canadian Food

Inspection Agency has initiated a mass recall of ground beef products distributed by Calgary-based Westfair Foods Ltd after two people in Manitoba were poisoned with potentially deadly E. coli bacteria. The recall also has the agency tracing back "a number of E. coli cases" across Canada in the past few months — including in Alberta — to see whether there is any link to the tainted meat. Included in the recall are ground beef products sold in several different store chains across the four western provinces and northern Ontario, including the Real Canadian Superstore, Real Canadian Wholesale Club, Extra Foods, Shop Easy and Super Valu. Stores in the Northwest Territories as well as the Yukon are also listed in the recall, which has Westfair Foods voluntarily recalling the affected products. The products in question are regular, lean and extra lean ground beef sold Jun 12-21, with best-before dates of Jun 15-24. The public is warned not to eat any ground beef tied to those dates. Package labels can be returned to the stores for a refund. E. coli 0157:H7, the strain identified in the meat, can cause life-threatening illness by producing a toxin that breaks down the lining of the intestines and damages the kidneys. Garfield Balsom, a CFIA food safety officer, said the agency was notified of two E. coli poisonings in Manitoba. The agency traced the illnesses back to ground beef supplied by Westfair Foods. "We are investigating a number of illnesses across Canada. Provincial health authorities are investigating various outbreaks throughout the country," Balsom said, adding a number of cases in Alberta are being traced to determine whether there is any link with contaminated meat. The food source for the Manitoba cases was confirmed on Friday (Aug 6), with the recall announced late that evening, he said. Westfair Foods said the tainted meat originated at Edmonton-based XL Grinding, which processes the company's ground beef and distributes it to store chains. "My understanding is the CFIA traced it to meat from XL Grinding," said Westfair spokeswoman Lori Stene. It was "impossible" to know the total number of products affected by the recall, she added. XL Grinding is a subsidiary of XL Foods and sister company of XL Meats, which was identified in late July as being the source of E. coli contamination in Quebec. Meat was recalled from a supermarket in St-Eustache, Que, after six people fell ill. Quebec Agriculture officials said three cases were traced to XL Meats products, while the other cases, including an elderly woman who died of the contamination, could not be traced to any particular source. XL Foods' quality assurance manager insisted the Westfair Foods meat in the recall was not tainted at the company's plant. "XL Grinding does do testing on the meat and everything that went to Westfair Foods that day tested negative," said Jacci Holowath.

SLOW-BURN COOKERS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: Some 1.8 million Rival Slow Cookers are being recalled after 45 reports of handles breaking and 14 people being burned by hot contents. The Holmes Group of Milford, Mass., which makes the cooker, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission today advised consumers to stop using the product immediately. The cooker has a removable ceramic bowl inside a metal base. The Rival logo is printed on the front of the unit above the control knob. The bases are round or oval and were sold in various colors and designs. Involved in the recall are model numbers 3040, 3735, 5025, 5070 and 5445 manufactured before May 2002. A date code is stamped on the plug at the end of the power cord attached to each unit. The first two digits represent the week of manufacture and the last two digits represent the year of manufacture. Any cooker with a plug dated from 0199 — the first week of 1999 — to

1802 — the 18th week of 2002 — is included in this recall. Manufactured in China, the cooker was sold at Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target and other discount department stores nationwide from January 1999 through May 2002. It cost between \$15 and \$40.



ITALY

Genoa, Aug 9 — Port situation Aug 9: Savona: One vessel awaiting normal berth, average delay one day. Genoa and La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERMANY

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Cargo ship traffic has been brought to a halt on the Elbe river in eastern Germany as dry

weather forces down water levels and the authorities said today that they expect the problem to get worse. "No shipments are in place in the ports of Riesa, Dresden and Torgau," said a spokesman for the Saxony state inland ports. Several Czech freighter vessels were stuck in port in Magdeburg waiting for the water to start rising, water and navigation authorities there said. Levels on the Elbe sat at 87 centimetres, compared to the summer average of 189 centimetres, and are expected to drop to 65 centimetres by Monday (Aug 16), they said. Traffic was last halted on the Elbe in 2003 amid record summer temperatures.

TURKEY

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Due to past and continuing operational delays and the additional expenses involved in maintaining service schedules at the port of Izmir, Europe Mediterranean Trade Agreement Lines have to announce that they are considering introducing a temporary congestion surcharge.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	09-Aug-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 11 vessels due by 28/8; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	09-Aug-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 5 vessels due by 26/9; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	09-Aug-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 18 anchored; 53 vessels due by 17/9; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 10 days delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	09-Aug-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 5 vessels due by 18/8; 5-11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, long delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; there may be a maintenance shutdown starting ca. 9/8 until 14/8: East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 6 vessels due by 18/8; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Gladstone	09-Aug-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 11 anchored; 26 vessels due by 5/9; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 20/9; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Hay Point	09-Aug-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 4 anchored; 10 vessels due by 17/8; 1-7 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Berth No. 1 will be closed from 07.00 hrs. 10/8 to p.m. 12/8 for the installation of a new crane.
Newcastle	09-Aug-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels loading; 22 vessels due by 17/8; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading; 9 vessels due by 18/8; 1-5 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule.
Port Hedland	09-Aug-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 6 vessels due by 17/8; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 4 vessels anchored; 5 vessels due by 17/8; 3-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 1 vessel due by 16/8; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 2 vessels due by 18/8; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	09-Aug-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed; 11 vessels due by 15/9; CB1: 3 vessels due by 1/9; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.

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

Port Conditions

Port Walcott	09-Aug-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 16 vessels due by 1/9; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant available, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Brazil		
Paranagua	10-Aug-2004	Nineteen vessels berthed of which 2 bulk sugar loaders, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 2 full containers dischargers, 4 reefer loaders, 4 pellets loaders, 5 other loaders/dischargers; 29 vessels waiting in roads of which 14 to load (3 pellets, 3 sugar, 2 soya, 6 others), 15 to discharge (12 fertiliser, 3 full containers); 52 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	10-Aug-2004	Ten vessels berthed of which 1 urea discharger, 1 phosphate discharger, 1 soya meal loader, 2 soya bean loaders, 1 sawn timber loader, 1 potassium chloride discharger, 1 salt discharger, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 3 vessels waiting in roads; 15 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	10-Aug-2004	Twenty-seven vessels berthed of which 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 2 soda dischargers, 1 bulk sulphur discharger, 1 chemical products loader, 2 bulk pellets loaders, 1 bulk juice loader, 16 sugar loaders, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 28 vessels waiting in roads; 103 vessels due over the next 7 days
Sao Sebastiao Vitoria	10-Aug-2004	Six vessels berthed, 3 waiting in roads; 7 vessels due over the next 10 days. Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 27 vessels waiting in roads; 15 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bougas	09-Aug-2004	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 bulk ammonium sulphate, 1 scrap, 2 wheat, 1 coils), 1 discharging iron ore, 1 under repairs; 6 vessels waiting in roads, of which 3 to load (1 wheat, 1 debars, 1 coils), 1 to discharge billets, 2 empty vessels; 7 vessels due of which 4 to load (1 ammonium nitrate, 1 equipment, 1 wheat, 1 coils), 3 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 coal).
Chile		
Valparaiso	09-Aug-2004	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 11 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	09-Aug-2004	Twenty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 19 general cargo, 2 containers, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulker, 1 tanker; 6 vessels at inner anchorage, 11 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	09-Aug-2004	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 9 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 3 containers; 3 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	09-Aug-2004	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	09-Aug-2004	Labour go-slow. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 10 general cargo vessels waiting at anchor to discharge, 4 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 8 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected
Haifa	09-Aug-2004	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 14 vessels loading/discharging at berth (7 containers, 4 tankers, 3 passenger vessels); 9 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (3 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 4 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 7 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Pakistan		
Karachi	09-Aug-2004	Five vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 coal, 2 general cargo), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 rice vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 phosphate, 1 fuel oil, 1 fertiliser); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (2 containers, 1 cement, 1 MOL), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	09-Aug-2004	One coke vessel loading at berth, 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 fuel oil, 1 palm oil).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	09-Aug-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 HBI, 2 scrap, 1 flowers, 1 bulk NPK, 1 coils, 1 UAN solution, 1 diesel oil), 2 discharging (1 bulk sugar, 1 construction materials); 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (1 HBI, 1 wheat, 1 pipes, 1 bulk urea), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 49 vessels due, all to load, of which 4 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 DRI, 1 bulk peas, 2 HBI, 2 steel billets, 4 copper, 1 zinc/lead, 1

Port Conditions

bulk fertiliser, 5 coils, 8 aluminium, 4 scrap, 1 slabs, 2 zinc, 4 bulk NPK, 3 bulk urea, 2 pig-iron, 1 pipes/vehicles/coils/steel sheets, 2 steel sheets, 1 WRIC. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 7 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.

Spain

Cadiz 10-Aug-2004 Sixteen vessels in port of which 10 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 cement, 1 containers, 1 semolina, 1 sugar, 1 cotton, 1 wheat, 1 shipbuilding materials), 6 vessels under repair; no delays.

Sri Lanka

Colombo 09-Aug-2004 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, 14 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 2 bagged cement); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load cement blocks; 7 vessels dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders from principals, 1 changing crew, 1 at SPBM, 1 at new tanker berth; 6 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk 09-Aug-2004 Eight vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 sunflower oil, 2 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 paper), 1 discharging ore, 2 loading/discharging containers; 2 vessels in roads, both to load sunflower oil; 24 vessels due, of which 19 to load (16 steel products, 2 oil, 1 wood-pulp), 1 to discharge nickel ore, 4 to load/discharge container

Mariupol 09-Aug-2004 Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (2 steel, 1 pig-iron, 3 coal, 3 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 1 discharging equipment; 6 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 coal; 47 vessels due, of which 44 to load (19 steel, 1 ferrous metals, 14 coal, 6 fire-clay, 3 wheat, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 2 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 zinc), 1 to discharge/load cars/steel products.

Odessa 09-Aug-2004 Nine vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading metal, 2 discharging (1 sugar, 1 luggage), 2 loading/discharging containers; 1 vessels in roads to load wheat; 81 vessels due, of which 38 to load (27 metal, 4 barley, 1 sunflower oil, 3 ferro alloy, 1 cars, 1 equipment, 1 oil/technical cargo), 2 to discharge (1 oil, 1 ore), 41 to discharge/load containers.

Yemen

Hodeidah 08-Aug-2004 Berths 2, 3 and 4 are occupied; all other berths are vacant; 3 vessels berthed (1 steel, 1 general cargo, 1 soya), 1 container vessel anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/containers/bagged cargoes: no delays; bulk cargoes: up to 2 days.

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

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

Copyright © Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc 2004. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.

ISSN 0047 4908

Lloyd's is the trademark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of "Lloyd's"

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