

September 10 2004

## UASC master pays heaviest penalty for pollution

**T**HE Pakistani master of a United Arab Shipping container vessel has received what is thought to be the heaviest sentence imposed by a French court since the French authorities began taking tougher action to stamp out marine pollution off its coasts.

The Marseilles criminal court imposed on 54-year-old Anis Yazdani Zuberi a 12-month suspended prison sentence and a euro 500,000 (\$600,000) fine, although it stipulated that the bulk of the fine — euro 485,000 — should be paid by the vessel's owner.

### Pollution slick

The 1983-built, 32,534 gt Khaled Ibn al-Waleed was spotted from the air at the head of an 18 kms long, 50 m wide pollution slick off Cap Siciè, near La Seyne sur Mer on the French Mediterranean coast, on February 11 this year.

The same court imposed a euro 300,000 fine on the Turkish master of a 4,289 gt container ship, the Cimil, which was spotted on January 29 at

the head of a 5 km long, 50 m wide slick off Cap Couronne, west of Marseilles.

The master of the Cimil was 29-year-old Bourak Vurnal, but, as in the case of the Khaled Ibn al-Waleed, the vessel's owner, given by Equasis as Cimil Denizcilik of Istanbul, was ordered to pay the bulk of the fine — in this case euro 290,000.

### Waste dumping

Damages ranging from euro 3,000 to euro 18,000 were also awarded to five environmental organisations, including Greenpeace France, which took legal action on its own account. The two sentences were condemned by Marc Guerin, the lawyer representing the two masters, who said that French courts were currently under "enormous pressure" from the government and other authorities to be "extremely severe" in cases of waste dumping by vessels at sea.

"I explain this by the government's desire to teach lessons which in my opinion is not really the role of the judiciary," he said after the case.

Last year, the government signalled its intention to get tough on marine waste dumping off its coasts by transferring jurisdiction for deliberate offshore pollution from Paris to courts in Marseilles, Brest and Le Havre.

### Fine dodging

Since then, the courts have sought to prevent fine dodging by masters and owners by bringing offending vessels into port and ordering payment of heavy bail as a condition of their release.

Such was the case for the two vessels whose masters were tried in Marseilles.

In addition, since March this year, maximum penalties for deliberate marine pollution have been increased.

The maximum fine has gone up from euro 600,000 to euro 1m or up to four times the value of cargo of the vessel concerned, while the maximum prison sentence has gone up from four years to 10.

**Andrew Spurrier**  
Lloyd's List Correspondent

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AL SAHIN SAH HIND	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returning to Mundra due heavy weather but struck rocks in Kori Creek and sank in lat 23 20N, long 68 18E, Aug 28. All 20 crew rescued.
ASTRO ALTAIR	product tanker	GRC	AB	53,074	98,880	1997	Lost steering while travelling upriver in River Mississippi and struck ferry landing at Algiers Point Aug 28. Gash in hull above waterline. Towed to St. Rose area for repairs. Ferry landing damaged and may be out of action for 2 weeks.
CANDY COTTON	—	USA	—	99	—	1997	Struck a jetty at Cameron in lat 29 48N, long 93 19W, Aug 26. A number of compartments flooded and vessel had to be grounded to prevent it sinking. Still aground Aug 28, temporary repair required before vessel can proceed for repair yard.
FEDOR SILIN	general	RUS	RS	484	454	1965	Reported Sep 1 grounded near Kitovy settlement, Iturup Island, due to typhoon "Chaba". Punctured in several places, engine-room flooded. Crew still on board.
JACKIE MOON	general	ATG	RI	1,616	2,014	1986	Ran aground in lat 55 56.68N, long 04 55.38W, Sep 1. Listing five degrees to starboard. Tug on scene and second tug proceeding. Refloated Sep 1 and anchored in Clyde Bay for inspection. Still anchored Sep 2.
MECIT KAPTAN	general	TUR	—	1162	1,801	1998	In collision with general cargo <i>Boris Babochkin</i> at Constantza Aug 26. Damage to No 1 double bottom tank and No 1 hold port side. Beached following collision. Still aground Aug 30, surveys being carried out.
PENG YANG	bulker	CHN	LR	30,325	53,439	1973	Grounded on rocks at Yam O, Hong Kong, in lat 22 20.34N, long 114 01.81E, Aug 23. Holes torn in tanks and cargo holds. Reported listing and bow pitched down. Salvors to assess vessel's condition. Still aground Sep 2, hull repairs in hand.
SAINT NICHOLAS	product tanker	GRC	AB	22,009	39,225	1984	Grounded in lat 55 53.7N, long 10 56.4E, Aug 30. Tug in attendance. Diver's survey to be carried out prior to salvage operations. Still aground Sep 1. Salvors negotiating salvage plan. Part cargo to be removed.
SVITZER BIDSTON	tug	GBR	LR	369	210	2004	Reported 30 Aug 2004 under repair after reportedly slipping off blocks at a dry dock on the Mersey. Damage reported to propellers and skeg, and hull punctured in way of fuel tank.
VAL CADORE	lpg	ITA	RI	5,778	7,504	1997	Contacted Boudewijn Lock Aug 27. Damage to starboard side and ballast tanks. Unable to proceed. Sailed Antwerp Aug 28 & arrived Flushing same day.
VIHAN 5	general	VNM	NK	5,552	7,045	1990	Grounded near Uwajima, in lat 33 01N, long 132 23 E, Aug 30, during typhoon "Chaba". Bow block broken and engine-room flooded. Listing. 16 crew rescued, 4 missing. Tug proceeding.

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## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### AFRIN (Turkey)

London, Aug 27 — General cargo *Afrin* departed from Diliskelesi on Aug 17.

### AL SAHIN SAH HIND

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Twenty sailors were missing today after a cargo ship sank off India's west coast, coastguard officials said. A search was called off at nightfall after the Indian ship, carrying rice for Somalia, went down 20km off the western Indian port town of Jakhau. "We sent out a helicopter, five boats and one of our ships to rescue the crew members, but the sailors could not be traced by dusk," coastguard spokesman S.B.Venketeswamy said, adding that a fresh search would be launched tomorrow. It was not immediately known whether the rice was meant for the civilian population of drought-hit Somalia or Indian soldiers deployed there as UN peacekeepers.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from Mumbai RCC, timed 1505, UTC: Vessel *Al Sahin Sah Hind*, local registration number BDI1315, Mundra for Somalia, laden with 575 tonnes of rice, sank at 0630 hrs, Aug 28, in lat 23 20N, long 68 18E. All the crew have now been safely rescued.

Mumbai, Aug 31 — Vessel *Al Sahin Sah Hind*, which was on its way to Somalia from Mundra Port, sank about 20 nautical miles from the Jakhau coast in Kutch district of Gujarat. However, the Coast Guard heard the vessel's S.O.S. and swiftly swung into action and rescued all the 20 crew. The vessel, 39.2 m in length and of 600 gt was transporting 575 tonnes of rice and had begun its voyage from Mundra Port on Aug 21. The vessel reportedly sailed about 200 kms, but due to stormy weather and rough sea it was returning to Mundra Port when it hit the rocks in Kori creek and sank. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALGONTARIO (Canada)

Thunder Bay, Sep 1 — Bulk *Algontario* is still undergoing repairs at the Pascal Engineering dry dock. Understand the vessel is expected to depart around Sep 24-25. — Lloyd's Agents.

### AQUA SIERRA (Cyprus)

Monrovia, Aug 30 — General cargo *Aqua Sierra* is still in port. Its condition is worsening and no information is available locally regarding its possible departure.

### ARNOYTRANS (Norway)

London, Aug 27 — Following received from Aberdeen Coastguard MRCC, timed 1655, UTC, today: Ref *Arnoytrans* (282 gt, built 1926), in ballast, in lat 58 42.5N, long 03 13W, three miles north-west of Isle of Stroma, at 1219, UTC, requesting assistance due jammed rudder. At 1229, UTC, Thurso RNLi all

weather lifeboat launched and proceeded. At 1330, UTC, tow commenced by Thurso lifeboat but line parted frequently. Orkney towage contracted for tug availability. Tug *HHarald* contracted under cast agreement and stood by casualty until 1700, UTC. At 1552, UTC, *Arnoytrans* regained use of rudder and being escorted into Scrabster, ETA 1800, UTC.

London, Aug 27 — Following received from Aberdeen Coastguard MRCC, timed 1807, UTC, today: Ref *Arnoytrans* arrived safely alongside Scrabster harbour 1751, UTC. Search and rescue operations terminated.

### ASTRO ALTAIR (Greece)

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The U-S Coast Guard says product tanker *Astro Altair* (53074 gt, built 1997) lost steering on the Mississippi River and slammed into a ferry landing across from the French Quarter this afternoon. Petty Officer Nick Cangemi, a Coast Guard spokesman, says there were no reports of injuries and the tanker did not leak any oil into the river. Officials say the ferry landing at Algiers Point was damaged and that the ferry would not be in use for an undetermined amount of time. The ferry takes cars and people to and from the Algiers neighborhood and the French Quarter. The 813-foot long vessel, which was carrying 643-thousand gallons of crude oil, lost steering while travelling upriver and hit the ferry landing at about 1420 hrs. Cangemi says the vessel would be towed to near Saint Rose for repairs. (Note — *Astro Altair* passed Gibraltar West Aug 15 for U.S.A.)

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated Aug 28, states: There was a gash on the hull of product tanker *Astro Altair* about 25 feet above the vessel's waterline, Petty Officer Nyx Cangemi, a Coast Guard spokesman, said. The vessel has a double-layered hull. Cangemi said the vessel was towed by tugs tonight to near St. Rose for repairs.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated Aug 29, states: The state plans to get the owners of product tanker *Astro Altair* to pay for damage to a ferry landing their ship rammed into after it lost steering on the Mississippi River. "We will seek damages from the company," said Mark Lambert, a spokesman for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, today. He said it was too early to say how much it might cost to repair the landing. Ferry service between Algiers Point and Canal Street, which is at the entrance to the French Quarter, could be out for two weeks or longer. The accident ripped apart the ferry landing, throwing guide wires, beams and two spans from the shore to the ferry, one for pedestrians and the other for vehicles, into the river, Lambert said. Also, a pontoon barge that is part of the landing was dislodged and cracked, he said. Today, divers recovered much of the landing's apparatus, Lambert said. "We're trying to recover and salvage what we can. If it's just wet, that's fine, but if it's twisted,

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then we'll have to order new parts," Lambert said. He said much of it seemed salvable. The loss of ferry service will be inconvenient for many people who live in the Algiers neighborhood. There is no pedestrian bridge across the river. About 3,000 people and about 520 vehicles make the crossing everyday on the Algiers Point ferry. To make up for the interrupted service, officials will increase the number of runs the ferry between Gretna and Jackson Avenue makes. Also, that ferry will be supplemented by a pedestrian ferry used at Algiers Point and service will be kept up over weekends, which it normally does not do, Lambert said. That ferry is located upriver from Algiers.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The ferry service between Canal Street and Algiers Point will be out for at least two weeks, Louisiana transportation officials said yesterday, a timetable speeded by the discovery that some of the Algiers ferry landing structure that fell into the Mississippi River in a tanker collision, on Aug 28, was salvable. Seeking to restore the ferry service quickly, the Department of Transportation and Development entered into an emergency contract with Boh Bros. Construction Co. for repairs, department spokesman Mark Lambert said. The ferry landing was knocked out of commission at about 1430, Aug 28, when product tanker *Astro Altair*, carrying 643,000 gallons of crude oil, lost its steering controls and crashed into it. The tanker hit a floating pontoon barge that was tied to two bridges, one for vehicles and another for pedestrians, which fell into the water, Lambert said. The bridges are flexible on the land side and move according to the river level, he said. Divers yesterday afternoon recovered the two spans and found that they were salvable. The state plans to get the owners of the oil tanker to pay for the damage to the landing, the cost of which is still being calculated. Meanwhile, maritime surveyors were in Ama inspecting damage to the tanker, which did not leak any of the oil it was carrying, the Coast Guard said. *Astro Altair* was moved from the ferry landing at about 1900, Aug 28, and arrived at the Ama anchorage about 2300 hrs. Maritime surveyors and representatives of the tanker's agent, Maritime Endeavors Shipping Co. of Metairie, examined the vessel to be sure it was stable before moving it to the Grand View Anchorage, just above the Gramercy bridge. Moving the tanker to Ama was safe because the damage from the crash was 25 feet above the water line. The vessel will remain there until it can enter the St. James Sugar Dock, the petroleum facility where it was destined to unload. No hearing on the accident had been scheduled. In Algiers, divers inspecting the damaged ferry landing, found a crack in the barge portion, which was taking on water. The barge will be put in dry dock Wednesday (Sep 1) for repair, which may take about a week. Divers

were checking the conditions of the underwater mooring devices at the landing.

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

See "Karnaphuli River, Bangladesh" under "Pollution."

#### **BEAUFORT (Panama)**

Guayaquil, Aug 27 — Confirmed today that chem.tank *Beaufort* is still anchored at the El Salitral area. At the moment no prospects as to the release and/or possible departure of the vessel could be provided by El Salitral Operations Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BEKKIE (Nigeria)**

London, Aug 31 — Product tanker *Bekkie* sailed from Tema Aug 12, bound for Apapa-Lagos, where it arrived Aug 19.

#### **BORIS BABOCHKIN (Ukraine)**

See *Mecit Kaptan*.

#### **BRONNY G. (New Zealand)**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Bronny G.* wrecked on Banks Peninsula rocks in March ran aground because the 16-year-old junior deckhand on watch was chronically fatigued and fell asleep, the Transport Accident Investigation Commission (Taic) has found. Skipper Archie Laird and the senior deckhand were off-duty and asleep at the time. *Bronny G.*, crewed by Mr Laird and two deckhands, hit rocks at Steep Head on Banks Peninsula at 0215, Mar 26 as it returned to Lyttelton after a day's fishing. Salvors were unable to save the trawler due to sea conditions and they, the boat's operator and the regional council, Environment Canterbury, decided to abandon it a week later. After a five-month investigation, Taic found *Bronny G.* ran on to rocks because nobody was monitoring it. The junior deckhand on duty had fallen asleep, chronically fatigued after his eight hours' sleep in the previous 24 hours were broken into three periods. "The deckhand who was on watch fell asleep because he was probably impaired by the effects of fatigue," the report said. "It is more likely that the junior deckhand fell asleep considerably earlier than he remembered." Mr Laird and the senior deckhand were also fatigued but "would not have been chronically fatigued", the commission found. Neither crew member was named in the commission's report. On the voyage out, Mr Laird had discovered the vessel's autopilot was broken and it had to be manually steered for the rest of the trip, increasing the crew's workload. The number of crew on board was, however, above the minimum required by maritime law. The watchkeeping alarm was also not working. "Had the watchkeeping alarm been working and in use, it is probable that the accident would have been averted," the commission found. Before the accident, the junior deckhand had gone to make himself a hot drink and returned to the

wheel to find the trawler had swung about 180 degrees. The commission recommended fatigue management guidelines be in ship's manuals and that watchkeeping alarm systems be made independent of other systems. Mr Laird and crew were paid, in accordance with standard practice, with a share of the value of the catch. The commission said this led to longer working hours and minimising crew numbers, which "may have led to working arrangements that would increase the probability of the crew becoming fatigued". Since the accident, the ship's operators, Pegasus Fishing Ltd, along with other measures, had instructed that no crew member under the age of 18 should be on watch alone when it is dark. The commission found the junior deckhand was the least rested of the crew at the time of the crash.

#### **BUCHANAN-14 (U.S.A.)**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Norfolk-based tug *Buchanan 14* (76 gt, built 1957), sank just east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel according to the Coast Guard Monday night (Aug 30). By the time rescuers arrived, the three crew members had been rescued by sister tug *Buchanan 11*. The Coast Guard is still trying to determine why the tug capsized.

London, Sep 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 0130, UTC: Tug *Buchanan 14* is still in the same position. Salvage crews attempted to raise the tug yesterday but they had problems with their lifting wires. Another attempt is to be made tomorrow.

#### **CALDIRAN (Turkey)**

Istanbul, Sep 1 — General cargo *Caldiran* (1497 gt, built 1973), Varna for Ashdod, experienced an engine breakdown at 0725, local time, Sep 1, while transiting the Dardanelles. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Caldiran* sailed Varna Aug 31 for Ashdod.)

#### **CANADA SENATOR (Liberia)**

See *Mondisy*

#### **CANDY COTTON (U.S.A.)**

London, Aug 27 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1400, UTC: Crewboat *Candy Cotton* (99 gt, built 1997), official No.1059196, struck a jetty at Cameron (lat 29 48N, long 93 19W), at 1206, UTC, yesterday. As a result a number of compartments were flooded and the vessel had to be grounded to stop it sinking. The vessel is still aground with a salvage plan being drawn up.

London, Aug 28 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1403, UTC: Crewboat *Candy Cotton* remains aground. It is understood some temporary repairs will have to be effected before the vessel can be removed and transferred to a facility where permanent repairs can be effected.

#### **CLARE (NIS)**

London, Aug 30 — Ro/ro *Clare* arrived Aberdeen 1118, Aug 24, sailing later the

same day, at 1810 hrs, bound for Lerwick.

#### **CORN DIVA (Malta)**

London, Aug 28 — At 2030 hrs, on Thursday evening, Aug 26, the incoming general cargo *Corn Diva* (4983 gt, built 1984), hit the door of the lock of the Westsluis in Terneuzen, while entering the lock. The vessel sustained heavy damage on the port side forward and also has a big indent under the port anchor. The door of the lock has extensive damage and will have to be repaired. However, the authorities are not yet aware of the full extent of the damage. The lock was obstructed and closed from 2030 hrs until 0100 hrs, yesterday, Aug 27. The *Corn Diva* was towed by tugs *Holland* and *Braakman* to the Zevenaerhaven in Terneuzen, on the inside of the locks. The vessel is still moored there this morning.

London, Aug 29 — General cargo *Corn Diva* sailed from Terneuzen at 1752 hrs, Aug 28, destination Bayonne.

#### **DIEPPE (France)**

London, Aug 30 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1115, UTC: At 0616, UTC, today, passenger ro/ro *Dieppe* (17672 gt, built 1981), with 66 passengers and 33 crew, reported aground in lat 50 46.61N, long 00 03.66E. Locally based tug *Nore Commodore* was quickly on the scene and connected a line, but this parted. Then one of the tugs engines failed. Tug *Anglian Monarch* was ordered to proceed from anchor at Folkestone. *Dieppe* reported dropping port anchor and using own engines to get afloat. At 0828, UTC, vessel was reported afloat and making its way into Newhaven harbour. All units were stood down shortly after.

#### **DONA ELVIRA (Panama)**

Monrovia, Aug 27 — Ro/ro *Dona Elvira* is still in port. Destination not yet stated. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Aug 31 — General cargo *Dong Hua Men* arrived Santos 0945, Aug 30.

#### **FAIAL (Portugal)**

Ponta Delgada, Aug 26 — After satisfactory Port State Control inspections, general cargo *Faial* left Ponta Delgada at 1200, local time, today bound for Ceuta. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FAMILLE DUFOUR II (Canada)**

London, Aug 30 — Ferry *Famille Dufour II* sailed Quebec 1133, Aug 24.

#### **FEDOR SAILIN (Russia)**

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

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

#### **FERRIES IN COLLISION NEAR RIDDERKERK, NETHERLANDS**

London, Aug 30 — The two ferries that

were involved in the collision on Aug 28 were ferry *Johan de Witt* and ferry *Maarten Tromp*.

#### **FERRIES IN COLLISION NEAR RIDDERKERK, NETHERLANDS**

London, Aug 29 — Two fast ferries of the company Fast Ferry, that maintain a passenger service between Rotterdam and Dordrecht, collided nearly head to head on the Nieuwe Maas near Ridderkerk with a speed of about 30 km/hour, at approximately 1500, local time, Aug 28. Both vessels sustained extensive damage on starboard side. The river police state that the passengers and the crew of both vessels had no injuries. One of the ferries had to be towed away by an inland cargo vessel, while the other took over the passengers and landed them at Dordrecht. The cause of the accident is not known yet, but the River Police are making an investigation.

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

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Aug 31, states: Coast Guard crew saved Newport-based fishing *Freedom* (82 gt, built 1987) that was stranded in the path of tropical storm "Hermine". The Coast Guard said it responded yesterday to a distress call from *Freedom*, which was 160 miles east of Newport. *Freedom*, with four people on board, was disabled without steering. In an attempt to make repairs at sea, the crew of cutter *Vigorous* launched a Coast Guard rescue helicopter and lowered replacement parts to *Freedom*. The crew of *Freedom* was unable to repair the steering, and the boat was taken in tow before tropical storm *Hermine* arrived. *Vigorous*, towing the disabled boat, is expected to reach Newport this afternoon.

London, Sep 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 2345, UTC, Sep 1: Fishing *Freedom* arrived Newport yesterday.

#### **GARYOUNIS (Libya)**

London, Aug 27 — Passenger ro/ro *Garyounis* departed from Valletta on Aug 23, under the new name of *Dubai Coast 1* and under Dominican Republic flag. Vessel is bound for Dubai.

#### **GIGLIO ESPRESSO II (Italy)**

See *Tacanuya*.

#### **GODEWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Kiel, Sep 2 — C.c. *Godewind* is still under repair at Husum for an unknown time period. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GREEN MALOY (U.K.)**

London, Aug 27 — Ref *Green Maloy* arrived at Flushing at 1830 hrs, Aug 26.

London, Aug 29 — Ref *Green Maloy* sailed from Flushing at 1551 hrs, Aug 28, bound for Frederikshavn.

#### **HANDY TIGER (Philippines)**

Buenos Aires, Aug 27 — Bulk *Handy Tiger* (23207 gt, built 1985), San Lorenzo for Callao, with 12,000 tonnes corn and 20,120 tonnes soya bean meal, grounded at Mile 398.4, River Parana, at 2034, Aug 25. The vessel refloated by

its own means at 0310, Aug 26, and resumed its voyage to Callao. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HERNES (Cyprus)**

London, Aug 27 — Bulk *Hernes* departed from Gdansk on Aug 23, bound for St. Petersburg. Vessel has been renamed *Wilson Trent*, but remains under Cyprus flag.

#### **HIBISCUS ISLE (Panama)**

London, Aug 31 — C.c. *Hibiscus Isle* was reported arriving at Qingdao on Aug 25, sailing later the same day, for Shanghai.

Yokohama, Sep 2 — It was reported c.c. *Hibiscus Isle* resumed its voyage to original destination. In respect of the containers overboard, they were started to be collected on Aug 27 after discussion between the consignees, insurers and local workers. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HYUNDAI NO.105 (Panama)**

London, Sep 1 — Salvors are lining up for up the wreck removal of vehicle *Hyundai No.105* from the Singapore Strait. *Hyundai No.105*, operated by Eukor, lies in Indonesian waters and would be one of the world's largest wreck removals. Liesye Wuntu, head of public relations and foreign co-operation in Indonesia's Directorate-General of Sea Communication, Legal Division, said that under Indonesian domestic law, the sunken ship was the responsibility of the owner. Lying just two cables south of the traffic separation scheme in the Singapore Strait, it is understood to have a clearance of between 13 m and 16 m, meaning it could still be hit by a large vessel that strayed out of lane. According to industry sources, the ship's P&I insurers, the UK P&I Club, issued a tender in July seeking bids to remove the wreck of *Hyundai No.105*. Leading salvors, including Smit, Switzer Wijsmuller and Titan, are reported to have submitted bids for the wreck removal. However, last week Dr Liesye said: "We have not received any information yet. The main issue is when they are going to remove the wreck and how they are going to do it." The Indonesian Directorate-General of Sea Communication wants to appoint its own commander to oversee operations once the salvage begins. Bids are understood to vary, including partial removal, while some salvors have offered a lump sum solution and others on a day rate. Switzer Wijsmuller, appointed by Eukor, has already removed 900 tonnes of bunkers from the vessel.

#### **HYUNDAI PROSPERITY (South Korea)**

See *Seaspan Discovery*.

#### **JACKIE MOON (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 1 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0725, UTC: General cargo *Jackie Moon* (1616 gt, built 1986), in ballast, six persons on board, ran aground in lat 55 56.68N, long 04 55.38W at 0353, UTC,



today. Vessel has a five degree starboard list. A tug is on scene and another tug is proceeding. No pollution reported.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Jackie Moon*, from Dundalk, on its way to Glasgow to pick up scrap, with six people on board, has run aground off Dunoon on the west coast of Scotland. The vessel was heading for Glasgow when the accident happened about 0500, BST, near a new breakwater. A Clyde Coastguard spokesman said neither the Ukrainian crew nor the vessel was in any danger and that a tug was going to their aid. An attempt to refloat the unladen ship is unlikely to take place before the tide changes early this afternoon. A Clyde Coastguard spokesman said "It's well and truly stranded and we won't be able to refloat the ship until high water this afternoon." Divers were checking that fuel from the ship's engine had not leaked into the sea.

London, Sep 1 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1420, UTC: General cargo *Jackie Moon* refloated at about 1130, UTC. Vessel is currently in Clyde Bay awaiting inspection. Understand vessel will proceed to Greenock for further investigation.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A crew member of general cargo *Jackie Moon* that ran aground off the west coast of Scotland today was arrested, police said. The 40-year-old man was held after *Jackie Moon* grounded at Dunoon Esplanade on the Firth of Clyde at around 0500 hrs. None of the six Ukrainian crew on the vessel, which was not carrying any cargo, was injured when it grounded near a breakwater. A Strathclyde Police spokeswoman said: "A 40-year-old man has been arrested and is presently detained in police custody in connection with an alleged breach of the Merchant Shipping Legislation." He is expected to appear at Dunoon Sheriff Court tomorrow. The ship was refloated this afternoon at high tide with the help of a coastguard tug and anchored near Greenock. The vessel, which came from Dundalk was on its way to Glasgow to pick up scrap at the time. Divers are waiting to assess if there is any structural damage to the hull before it resumes the journey. Clyde Coastguard said there did not appear to have been any leakage of fuel from the vessel. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will also investigate the incident.

#### **JADE STAR (Canada)**

Montreal, Aug 27 — Chemical/oil carrier *Jade Star* is underway and a survey is planned for Quebec City on Aug 31 afloat to ascertain the extent of damage. It is understood there is propeller damage only. Damage to the buoy not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JOHAN DE WITT (Netherlands)**

See "Ferries in Collision near Ridderkerk, Netherlands".

#### **KANG SHUN (Hong Kong)**

See "Ban on Iron Ore Shipments, Buchanan, Liberia" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **KELSO (Belize)**

Cape Town, Aug 27 — Understand repairs to fishery protection *Kelso* have been completed and the vessel is due to depart for fishing grounds this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **KELVIN (Norway)**

Narvik, Aug 31 — General cargo *Kelvin* grounded near Mo i Rana on Aug 10. The vessel was refloated the same day, partly assisted by general cargo *Fjordbulk*, and sailed to Kvernhusvik repair yard at Hitra, where it is still repairing the bottom grounding damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)**

London, Aug 27 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still aground. Operations are currently under way to discharge the cargo, after which the condition of the vessel will be assessed.

London, Sep 2 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still aground. Salvors are removing the vessel's bunkers today.

#### **KINEI MARU NO.18 (Japan)**

Yokohama, Aug 30 — A collision occurred at 0655 hrs, Aug 26, off Futaojima in Yamaguchi Prefecture, between general cargo *Pokoj* (18846 gt, built 1977), "bound for Qingdao" and fishing *Kinei Maru No.18* (409 gt, built 1992), bound for Futaojima. *Pokoj* was holed in the port bow. *Kinei Maru No.18* experiencing "bending" damage to its quarter bulwark. There were no injuries to either crew, no pollution was caused and both vessels were able to proceed under their own power. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Pokoj* was reported arriving at Shimonoseki on Aug 26 from Qingdao.)

#### **KOPNES (Iceland)**

Reykjavik, Sep 2 — The crew of three was saved when fishing *Kopnes* sank shortly after 0900, local time, today, off the north coast of Iceland. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LADY NORA (Mongolia)**

Muscat, Aug 26 — The position of general cargo *Lady Nora* remains unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LAKE EXPRESS (U.S.A.)**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Lake Express* (96 gt, built 2004) cancelled its final round trip of the day yesterday after sustaining damage caused by rough waters on Lake Michigan. One of the doors to the car deck came off its runners on the afternoon trip from Muskegon, Mich., to Milwaukee, said Jeff Fleming, ferry spokesman. The door, which operates like a garage door, fell on two cars parked on the deck. None of the passengers, who are not allowed on the car deck during the trip,

was injured. Officials cancelled the final run, which leaves Milwaukee at 1830 hrs and returns at midnight. The door was being repaired late yesterday. Although a final decision was to be made last night, Fleming expected repairs to be complete in time for today's 0630 hrs departure. Yesterday was the third time the ferry was forced to cancel a trip because of rough conditions on the lake, he said.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated Aug 30, states: Ferry *Lake Express* resumed operation yesterday after rough waters caused one of its car deck doors to come off during a trip from Muskegon, Mich., to Milwaukee the day before. Two cars parked on the deck were damaged and rough water forced cancellation of the ferry's final round trip Saturday, said spokesman Jeff Fleming. The rough waters caused the bow deck doors to come off its rudders and smash into two cars being carried by the ferry. Officials repaired the door and the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety office in Milwaukee investigated. The vessel was allowed to resume operations yesterday.

#### **LAVENDER PASSAGE (Panama)**

Yokohama, Sep 2 — *Lpg Lavender Passage*: Understand its engine was repaired off Wakayama. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MAARTEN TROMP (Netherlands)**

See "Ferries in Collision near Ridderkerk, Netherlands".

#### **MARIO G. (Canada)**

Halifax, Sep 1 — Fishing *Mario G.* was towed into port of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, where it remains under repair. The full status of repairs is unknown at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MECIT KAPTAN (Turkey)**

Bucharest, Aug 27 — General cargo *Boris Babochkin* (12030 gt, built 1984), during entrance manoeuvre to Constantza port was in collision with general cargo *Mecit Kaptan* (1162 gt, built 1998), which was leaving the port, at approximately 2330, Aug 26. Preliminary information is that the bulbous bow of *Boris Babochkin* slid into double bottom tank No.1 and hold No.1 port side of *Mecit Kaptan*, which was voluntarily beached subsequent to the collision nearby the head of southern breakwater, in shallow waters. *Mecit Kaptan* had arrived Constantza Aug 24 and loaded approximately 2,000 tonnes of maize for Libya. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Aug 30 — General cargo *Mecit Kaptan* is still in the same position, safely aground, no action being taken so far, except various surveys.

The divers survey carried out on general cargo *Boris Babochkin* showed no damages. The vessel is presently loading a shipment of soda at berth No.57 in Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MEKONG VICTORY (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Aug 30 — C.c. *Mekong Victory* sailed Singapore 1040, Aug 26. Understand vessel has been renamed

*Tanger*, but is still under Antigua & Barbuda flag.

#### **MOHAWK II (Norway)**

Zeebrugge, Aug 30 — Training *Mohawk II* remains at Scheldepoort Repairyard, but is not under repair yet, as the vessel was not insured for accidents in Dutch coastal waters. Payment for salvage services has not yet been paid by the owners and the vessel is under custody of the Dutch government. Volunteers are trying to raise funds. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **MONDISY (Canada)**

Troy, Michigan, Sep 1 — The 54-foot yacht *Mondisy* which sunk in the St. Lawrence River in the early morning of Aug 11 after it was in collision with c.c. *Canada Senator*, will be salvaged. Transport-Canada has awarded the operation to Groupe-Ocean of Quebec City. *Mondisy* is resting in the navigational channel in front of St. Nicolas in 20 metres of water. The wreck is considered a potential hazard to navigation and Groupe-Ocean is already present on the scene to begin the operations expected to last several days. Two people from the yacht lost their lives: the owner and the person at the helm. Two others were rescued. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

#### **NAZEK T. (North Korea)**

Bucharest, Sep 2 — General cargo *Nazek T.* was refloated on Aug 23. Vessel is presently alongside berth No.111, Constantza South Agiea. The precise extent of damage is not known, but Constantza Port Administration estimates that it might eventually be scrapped, as its present condition would make repairs uneconomical. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NEPTUNE (Panama)**

Aden, Aug 28 — General cargo *Neptune* is still laid up at Aden Harbour, No.5 Inner Moorings, adjacent to Steamer Point. Understand owners are considering "moving the vessel to Dubai for repairs". Vessels' crankshaft is damaged. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ONEGO MERCHANT (Netherlands)**

Hamburg, Sep 1 — Local agents of general cargo *Onego Merchant* advise that the vessel is still in the dockyard for repairs. Repairs have commenced and will be completed by the end of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PAN GRACE (South Korea)**

London, Aug 31 — General cargo *Pan Grace* arrived Busan Aug 27.

#### **PATRIACH**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: The Shannon-based rescue helicopter took three people from a trawler which caught fire and was in danger of sinking off the Galway coast. The helicopter arrived on the scene as the fire spread and succeeded in winching the crew to safety. Efforts to put out the fire on the 80-foot trawler have now been abandoned, with coastguard services saying their greatest concern

is that the boat may cause pollution or drift ashore. The crew were unable to get the fire under control have now been flown to Knock Airport. The trawler was en route from Kilronan in the Aran Islands to Ballyglass, Co Mayo.

London, Sep 2 - Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 1210, UTC: Fishing *Patriach* ex *Terno* is lying burnt-out, on rocks, in lat 53 22N, long 09 55.5W. Vessel is not insured.

#### **PENG YANG (China)**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The mystery surrounding the grounding of bulk *Peng Yang* (30325 gt, built 1973) has deepened after an initial Marine Department investigation ruled out mechanical failure. However, the department yesterday stopped short of blaming human error for the incident in which the vessel was grounded near Tsing Lung Tau last week. One of the department's pilots was on board at the time. "So far we have not identified any technical problems," a spokesman said. "We cannot at this stage say whether the incident was caused by human error. We need some time to gather all the relevant information and interview people, including the pilot." He confirmed *Peng Yang* was under the direction of a Hong Kong pilot when it hit underwater rocks near the Ma Wan channel. The vessel, which was carrying a cargo of coal, was secured at Yam O where its cargo was being unloaded. The Marine Department said an investigating officer has been appointed to probe the cause of what it describes as "a very serious accident". The investigation is likely to take several months. The department spokesman said the ship, which is owned by Shenzhen Marine Company, may have grounded after the pilot took action to avoid approaching traffic. The Ma Wan channel, as the main route between Hong Kong and Shekou and the Pearl River estuary, is one of the busiest sections of the harbour. The spokesman said holes were ripped in the tanks and cargo holds of the vessel when it grounded, partially spewing its cargo of coal into the sea. The cargo holds are flooded, pitching the vessel bow down with a slight list to starboard. "A lot of work needs to be done to prevent the possibility of pollution as well as remove the vessel from Yam O," he said. Mainland salvage experts will conduct damage assessment to decide if the ship is worth repairing. Fish farmers in the area have already vowed to fight for compensation because they claim coal and dust from the breached holds threaten fish stocks.

London, Aug 31 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0050, UTC: Bulk *Peng Yang* grounded at Yam O, lat 22 20.34N, long 114 01.81E, at 1423, local time, Aug 23. Current situation of vessel not known.

London, Sep 2 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0330, UTC: Bulk *Peng Yang* is still aground, with hull under repair.

#### **PETIMATA OT RMS (Bulgaria)**

London, Aug 31 — Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* arrived Santos 1800, Aug 22 and sailed 0525, Aug 27, bound for Paranagua.

#### **POKOJ (Cyprus)**

See *Kinei Maru* No.18.

#### **POMMERN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 1 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 2237, UTC, Aug 31: A 999 call was received from a member of the public stating a vessel had struck moored yachts at Poole Quay, Poole harbour. Both Poole lifeboats and Poole Coastguards were tasked to attend. The incident occurred while general cargo *Pommern* (2061 gt, built 1994) was shifting berths in the vicinity of Poole and Bulwark Quays. The vessel was being "walked" to another berth and the vessel was using its engines. The vessel's stern swung out and struck yachts that were moored directly opposite the vessel's new berth. No injuries were sustained on board *Pommern* or the other vessels. A surveyor from the Maritime Coastguard Agency will board the vessel am, tomorrow, Sep 1, to investigate. Weather on scene: Wind south-west 2 (light breeze), smooth sea, no swell, good visibility.

#### **PORTHOS**

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

London, Aug 26 — General cargo *Porthos* arrived at Harwich on Aug 25 from Antwerp.

London, Aug 26 — General cargo *Porthos* sailed from Harwich on Aug 26, bound for Famagusta.

#### **POSEIDON C. (Cyprus)**

London, Aug 31 — Passenger ro/ro *Poseidon C.* arrived Brindisi Aug 22 and sailed later the same day.

#### **PUTRI SATU (Indonesia)**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in Larantuka, East Nusa Tenggara, said yesterday they were intensively investigating the cause of a fire and explosion in tanker *Putri I* (? product tanker *Putri Satu*, 1150 gt) that left at least two crew members dead. Another member was still missing and seven others were injured in the accident on Friday night (Aug 27) in Larantuka, East Flores. "An investigation team is looking into the cause and source of the fire," East Nusa Tenggara Police spokesman First Insp. Chusnul Waton said in the provincial capital, Kupang. According to surviving crew members, the fire started after an explosion occurred in the ship's engine-room. The tanker, carrying 550 kilolitres of premium gasoline, caught fire off Larantuka at around 2120 Friday following the engine-room explosion. It was sailing to a fuel depot of state oil company Pertamina in Larantuka before heading to neighbouring Ende and Waingapu. The ship fire was blamed by local officials on shortages of premium gasoline in East Flores due to supply cuts. Larantuka Pertamina



depot head Sukandar said he had asked the company in Kupang to quickly send another tanker to supply gasoline to the town. "In order that residents do not panic, we have sent a request for premium gasoline in East Flores," he added. Chusnul said the police were carrying out patrols to prevent speculators from profiting from the accident by raising gasoline prices. A rescue team of police and related officials is searching for the missing person, identified as Madjeni, who was the chief engineer.

#### REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA (Italy)

Falmouth, Sep 1 — Passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* is still in dry dock at Falmouth. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### RIVER DART (U.K.)

London, Aug 28 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo *River Dart* (536 gt, built 1981), laden with stone, bound for Rye, grounded at the mouth of the River Stour, in lat 50 55.8N, long 00 46.5E, at 1720 hrs, Aug 24. Vessel refloated, under its own power at 1055 hrs, today and is currently anchored near the fairway bouy. Vessel is undamaged and will enter Rye tomorrow.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: General cargo *River Dart* remains at anchor and reports it will not now enter Rye until tomorrow.

London, Aug 30 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0910, UTC: Understood that general cargo *River Dart* is currently alongside in Rye..

Dover, Sep 1 — On Aug 24, while approaching Rye Harbour with a cargo of stone, general cargo *River Dart* touched the bottom and swung round. The vessel refloated on Aug 28 and went to anchor to pump out remaining ballast. Vessel berthed at Rye on Aug 29. There was no damage or leakage reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### RYBAK SAKHALINA (Russia)

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

#### SAINT NICHOLAS (Greece)

London, Aug 31 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0730, UTC: Bulk *Saint Nicholas* (22009 gt, built 1984), Riga for Brunsbutt, laden with 38,000 tonnes of coal, ran aground at 1832, UTC, Aug 30, in lat 55 53.7N, long 10 56.4E. A tug is in attendance, but vessel will undergo a diver survey before any refloating attempt is made, to assess whether the vessel has sustained any damage. However, there is no pollution.

London, Aug 31 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1420, UTC: Bulk *Saint Nicholas* remains aground. No pollution. Salvors are still negotiating a salvage plan.

London, Sep 1 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 2135, UTC: Bulk *Saint Nicholas* remains aground. Permission has been given to remove part cargo, 3,000 tonnes of coal, however, it is not known at the moment when this will take place.

#### SAMMARINA M. (Romania)

Bucharest, Sep 1 — Ro/ro *Sammarina M.* is still at Constantza under repair. The vessel's owners have advised that the vessel is undergoing re-conversion works, but the estimated time for completion of repairs is not known at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SEASPAN DISCOVERY (Canada)

London, Sep 1 — Tug *Seaspan Discovery* (435 gt, built 1984) reported striking bulk *Hyundai Prosperity* (77650 gt, built 1990) while assisting with the unberthing at Roberts Bank, B.C., in lat 49 00 53N, long 123 08 34W, 1445, PDST, Aug 31.

#### SETIA JAYA (Singapore)

Colombo, Aug 30 — Chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* has been sold to Global Marketing Systems, U.S.A., and towed to Chittagong Aug 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SILVER PEARL (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Yeu Island, France" under "Pollution."

#### SOUTHERN MOANA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 1 — Understood general cargo *Southern Moana* was refloated Aug 27.

Sydney, Sep 2 — Pacific Direct Lines (PDL) has secured the services of a new vessel to the Pacific Island to replace the damaged general cargo *Southern Moana*, beginning at the end of September. *Southern Moana* grounded on a reef in late July when attempting to enter the harbour at Futuna and has been out of service since. Part of the cargo on board *Southern Moana* was discharged by helicopter at Futuna, with the remainder was removed at Suva, where the vessel has been towed after a salvage operation. PDL commercial manager Alan Foote said finding replacement tonnage was difficult but a regular replacement service had been arranged to start at the end of the month. Mr Foote said disruptions to cargo movements in the Pacific had been minimised by diverting two vessels off their normal lines and by outside assistance from other lines. However, there are some exceptions, such as Funafuti, which has not received a service for about five weeks. No decision has been made on where *Southern Moana* will be taken for repairs and Mr Foote was unable to elaborate on the extent of damage or expected repair time. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

#### STOLT KITE (Cayman Islands)

Maassluis, Aug 27 — Chem.tank *Stolt Kite* is presently in dock at Flushing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### SUMMIT (Bahamas)

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Celebrity Cruises is cancelling its Sep 10 sailing of passenger *Summit* (90280 gt, built 2001) to replace a radial-bearing unit that is showing premature wear in the ship's starboard propulsion system. The

replacement must be made in dry dock, so the ship will enter San Francisco Drydock shipyard on Sep 12 to make the repairs. The cancelled cruise is a seven-night, round-trip Alaska sailing departing from Vancouver. The ship is expected to resume service Sep 20. Guests booked on the Sep 10 sailing will receive a full refund for their cruise, plus a free future Celebrity cruise, in North America, of up to seven nights, departing on or before Dec 31, 2005, excluding holiday sailings. Travel agents will receive their full commission for the Sep 10 cruise, plus a \$50 re-booking fee, per stateroom, when their clients reschedule their cruise. *Summit* is operating safely, merely with its speed reduced from 23 to 18 knots. *Summit's* current sailing, a seven-night Alaska cruise from Vancouver to Seward, which concludes on Sep 3, will not be impacted by the bearing issue. The ship's seven-night Sep 3 sailing, from Seward to Vancouver, will make minor adjustments to two port calls. *Summit's* Sep 17 sailing, a 14-night Alaska and West Coast cruise, departing Vancouver and concluding in San Diego, will be delayed three days and depart on Sep 20. Celebrity will contact each guest booked on that cruise to rearrange their embarkation in Vancouver and provide further details.

#### SVITZER BIDSTON (U.K.)

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Svitzer Bidston* (369 gt, built 2004) is undergoing repairs after being involved in an incident at a local dry dock on the Mersey. It is rumoured that during an attempt to drydock the tug it slipped from the blocks and damaged its azimuthing propellers, skeg and puncturing the hull in one of its fuel tanks. At present it is in dry dock and the propellers have been removed and work continues to repair it.

#### TACANUYA (Cayman Islands)

Genoa, Aug 30 — Repairs to yacht *Tacanuya* were completed at La Spezia Baglietto shipyard on Aug 14. The vessel sailed the same day, for cruising. Repairs to passenger ro/ro *Giglio Espresso II* have been completed and the vessel has resumed service between La Maddalena/Palau. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### TAVASTLAND (U.K.)

London, Sep 1 — C.c. *Tavastland* arrived Hamburg Aug 30 and sailed Aug 31.

#### TRAKYA (Italy)

Genoa, Sep 1 — Ro/ro *Trakya* arrived at Genoa on Aug 26 from Oristano and is presently undergoing repairs at Cantiere Mariotti shipyard, which will take about one month. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### TURCHESE (Liberia)

London, Aug 30 — Reported chem.tank *Turchese* sailed Antwerp 1750, Aug 23, bound for Tarragona.

#### VAL CADORE (Italy)

Maassluis, Aug 27 — Lpg *Val Cadore* (5778 gt, built 1997) on its way from Quay 457 for Milazzo, was in contact with



the Boudewijnsluis at approximately 1025 today. Vessel sustained damage on starboard side and ballast tanks. The vessel cannot proceed. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Val Cadore* had arrived Antwerp 0638, Aug 26.)

London, Aug 29 — Lpg *Val Cadore* sailed from Antwerp at 0200 hrs, Aug 28, arriving at Flushing approximately three hours later, at 0502 hrs.

#### VIHAN 5 (Vietnam)

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

#### WILSON TANA (Malta)

London, Aug 28 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Bulk *Wilson Tana* (4907 gt, built 1977) Rostock for Mo i Rana, today experienced engine problems three nautical miles outside Kvassheim Light, south of Stavanger. Tugs have been sent from Stavanger and the vessel will be towed to Egersund later today. The weather in the area is rough. (Note — *Wilson Tana* sailed from Rostock at 2110 hrs, Aug 22. Vessel then arrived at Gdansk at 1840 hrs, Aug 23, sailing at 1820 hrs, Aug 25, bound for Mo i Rana.)

London, Aug 28 — Following received from Stavanger MRCC, timed 1247, UTC: Bulk carrier *Wilson Tana* is presently in the approximate position lat 58 25N, long 05 47E. A tug is alongside and the bulk carrier will now be assisted into Egersund.

London, Aug 28 — Following received from Stavanger MRCC, timed 1810, UTC: Bulk *Wilson Tana* is proceeding, under own power, at 1.5 to two knots, bound for Egersund. A rescue vessel and a tug are in attendance.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from Stavanger MRCC, timed 1017, UTC: Bulk *Wilson Tana* has been safely escorted into Egersund.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from sandnes, dated today: Bulk *Wilson Tana* arrived at Egersund at 1800 hrs, Aug 28, assisted by a tug. The vessel is now alongside a quay in Egersund, undergoing repairs to its engine.

London, Aug 31 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1100, UTC: Bulk *Wilson Tana* completed repairs and sailed Esbjerg Aug 29.

## Port State Control



#### PORTUGAL

See *Faial* under "Marine."

## Seizures & Arrests



#### AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Shocked by the

disappearance last week of seized product tanker *African Pride*, from Nigerian waters after Naval personnel deployed to provide security for the ship allegedly connived with the master, the police have sought the assistance of the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) in their bid to re-arrest the ship. The return of the ship was said to be crucial to the prosecution of a case involving the theft of a large quantity of crude oil now before a Federal High Court. A Police source said that the ship was last year caught along the Benin river between Delta and Edo and Bayelsa states with 12,000 tons of crude oil allegedly siphoned through bunkering when it was intercepted by Naval authorities. It was in the ship that the 11 Russians currently facing trial in Nigeria for oil smuggling were arrested, the source said adding, that Nigerian authorities had already removed the oil in the ship before it escaped. Expressing shock at the development, the source said it was worrisome that a ship of 12,000 capacity which is the material evidence in the trial of the Russians could disappear into thin air. He said that though Naval authorities had arrested the personnel involved and detained them, the police were still determined to get back the ship hence the recourse to INTERPOL. According to the source, joint intelligence reports of both the Navy and the police are of the belief that the ship is currently in international waters between Ghana and Benin Republic. Naval authorities on their part who were angry over the disappearance particularly when they went the extra mile to be part of the war on bunkering were said to have launched a separate helicopter search for the ship within the Nigerian sphere of international waters in case it was yet to go out. The police source continued, "There is no way we will not get that ship. It can run but cannot hide because we have secured all necessary documents for its arrest anywhere in the world. On why the ship was left in high seas rather than inside Nigerian waters where it would be properly protected without the Naval personnel exposed to corrupt tendencies, the source said it was due to the fact that it was a massive ship that can only stay outside because of the shallow nature of our internal waters."

#### ALBATROS (Cambodia)

Trieste, Aug 12 — Ro/ro *Albatros* remains in port under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ARDEAL (Romania)

Khulna, Sep 1 — General cargo *Ardeal* is still under attachment at Mongla. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### CAPO GRIFO (ITALY)

Genoa, Aug 30 — Chemical tanker *Capo Grifo* is currently still laid-up at Genoa. Understood no sale has been arranged to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### CATUMBELA RIVER (Madeira)

London, Sep 1 — Ro/ro *Catumbela River*, currently lying at Harwich, is

scheduled to be sold, by sealed tender, "as is, where is," on the Admiralty Marshal's Conditions of Sale. The deadline for offers is noon, Sep 9.

#### FERROMINA HARVEST (India)

Mumbai, Aug 25 — Supply *Ferromina Harvest* (629 gt, built 1971), which arrived at Mumbai on May 25, is detained by the Mercantile Marine Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### GURU KRIPA (India)

Mumbai, Aug 25 — General cargo *Guru Kripa* (1592 gt, built 1997), which arrived at Mumbai on Aug 4, is detained by the Mercantile Marine Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### LAVERNA (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Sep 1 — General cargo *Alkman*, ex *Laverna* is under arrest in Piraeus. The vessel sailed from Thessaloniki on Sep 25, 2003, in tow by tug *Sirios* and arrived at Piraeus on Sep 29. The vessel has been under arrest ever since its arrival at Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### MARATHA CORAL (India)

Mumbai, Aug 25 — Bulk *Maratha Coral* (2217 gt, built 1999), which arrived at Mumbai on Aug 8, is detained by the Mercantile Marine Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### NAIME S. (Comoros)

Limassol, Aug 30 — General cargo *Naime S.*, which was under arrest, was released on Aug 27. It has changed its name to *Uranus L.*, flag and callsign remain the same. Vessel sailed from Limassol on Aug 29, for Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### NAVEGANTE MAGALLANES (U.K.)

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fishing *Navegante Magallanes* (339 gt, built 1973) has arrived in Cobh, Co Cork to be inspected by Government officials, after it was detained for alleged breach of fishing regulations. The Navy stopped the vessel, which had a mainly Spanish crew, last night about 80 miles south of Fastnet Rock. This is the 15th fishing vessel to be detained by the Navy inside the Irish exclusive fishing limit this year.

#### POLYMOK

#### (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Mumbai, Aug 25 — General cargo *Polymok* (5062 gt, built 1972), which arrived at Mumbai on Aug 17, is detained by the Mercantile Marine Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SANDRIEN (Bolivia)

London, Aug 31 — After nearly four years, work is due to begin on chem.tank *Sandrien*, the asbestos-ridden vessel that was detained in Amsterdam in the "spirit of the Basel ban." If all goes to plan *Sandrien* will be history by spring 2005. Detained in early 2001 at Shipdock the Dutch government believed that the chemical tanker contained hazardous materials, including chemicals and asbestos, and was on its way to the beaches of Alang

without being cleaned up. Ruud de Vlieger, director of Amsterdam Shiprepair's parent company DCG, said the demolition licence heralding the vessel's demise is now a "done deal". He was confident that work should get under way in two weeks. Mr de Vlieger said it would probably take until the end of the year to clean the vessel of any hazardous contents and then a further three months to break it down. The Dutch were keen to prove that vessels can be cleaned up in Europe in an environmentally friendly and economically viable way. The chemical tanker has been in north Amsterdam since August 2000. The vessel was detained under the Basel ban, a ruling established to prevent industrialised countries dumping waste in developing nations. Dock dues had not been paid since February 2001, making the Dutch repair yard one of the largest creditors. Upperton, the Mauritius-based owner, always claimed the vessel was still being traded and also said that asbestos found on board was an integral part of it. "We are focusing on the cleaning of the ship." The vessel could be towed to the yards there and broken down under the supervision of Amsterdam Shiprepair, said Mr de Vlieger. Although it is expected that the Dutch government, hence the taxpayer, will foot the bill for the operation, Mr de Vlieger was not allowed to give any of the final details until a government press conference has been held.

#### SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)

Koper, Aug 30 — Ro/ro *Sea Serenade* shifted from shipyard berth and entered the dry dock at Shipyard Izola, this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SEAGREEN (Cyprus)

London, Aug 28 — C.c. *Seagreen* (13335 gt, built 1986), which arrived at Hong Kong at 0434 hrs, Aug 23, is today reported at South East Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

#### SEMIRAMIS (Panama)

Mumbai, Aug 25 — General cargo *Semiramis* (9603 gt, built 1977), which arrived at Mumbai on Jul 29, is detained by the Mercantile Marine Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SHAMROCK (French Southern Territories)

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal judge has rejected, at least for now, a bid to sell ro/ro *Shamrock* anchored in Portland Harbour. Lawyers for a bank in the Netherlands sought an order for the expedited sale of *Shamrock*, which was seized in July. According to bank officials, the ship's French owner has defaulted on a \$14 million loan. The judge on the case says he'll reconsider the request for sale on Sep 13. He says if the bank makes its case that day, he could order *Shamrock* sold immediately.

#### TRUBCHEVSK (Russia)

Busan, Aug 30 — Local agents of ref *Trubchevsk* advise that the vessel is presently at Gamman Harbour, Busan.

The vessel has been sold to a new Korean owner and will return to normal service in the middle of September, 2004. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### TVILLINGER

Trieste, Aug 12 — General cargo *Tvillinger* is still under arrest in Trieste. Situation unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### YONGTONG (Panama)

London, Aug 28 — Chemical/oil carrier *Yongtong* remains at Kau Yi Chau Dangerous Goods Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Sep 1 — Chemical/oil carrier *Yongtong* sailed Hong Kong 2248, Aug 30, bound for Sandakan.



### Pipeline Accidents

#### BARJISIYA, IRAQ

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



### Pollution

#### BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)

See "Karnaphuli River, Bangladesh" under "Pollution".

#### KARNAPHULI RIVER, BANGLADESH

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Bunker oil allegedly spilled yesterday from the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* (8672 gt, built 1987), anchored at dry dock jetty for repair in Chittagong, has contaminated about three kms of water along the Karnaphuli river. Captain of the tanker Saifullah denied oil spilled from *Banglar Shourabh*. The tanker has, however, been shifted to "distant upstream". Worried at contamination of waters and pollution to the environment the Port Authority today formed a two-member committee headed by Captain Farid Ahmed to inquire into the spillover of oil. The committee is to report its findings in ten days.

Karachi, Aug 31 — Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has asked the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* not to leave the Chittagong port until further notice for the sake of investigation of the oil spillage continuing since Thursday night (Aug 26). According to a local report, Munir Chowdhury, the port magistrate, issued the order. The magistrate, who filed the lawsuit against the vessel, asked the Marine Mercantile Department for a detailed

investigation of the spillage and sought the environment department survey report by Aug 31. Port officials claimed that the intensity of the pollution in the river has been reduced after the spray of oil-spill dispersant. The leak developed after *Banglar Shourabh* had loaded oil in the Kutubdia channel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### ROUGE RIVER, DETROIT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: About 5,000 gallons of waste oil spill into the Rouge River from the same sewer suspected in a major oil spill two years ago. The U.S. Coast Guard officials said last weekend's release was contained and removed by absorbent floating booms and vacuum trucks before it reached the Detroit River. As cleanup crews scoured remaining oil from the riverbanks yesterday, the Environmental Protection Agency worked to determine who released the oil. Investigators say they believe that it was flushed into the river after heavy rain Saturday (Aug 28) overwhelmed the Detroit regional sewer system. That forced the diversion of some sewage away from the treatment plant and into streams. The oil was too much to have simply been the normal mix of oils in the sewers that comes from roads, drains and permitted industrial releases, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Sean Moon said. The sewer pipe is the final link in a system that connects to hundreds of Detroit and Dearborn industrial operations. Federal investigators suspect the same pipe was the source of a 2002 oil spill that released an estimated 255,000 gallons into the river. No one ever was blamed. The investigation and cleanup cost at least \$5 million.

#### YEU ISLAND, FRANCE

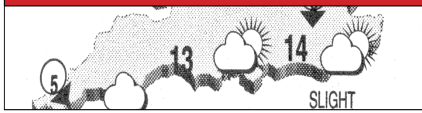
London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated Aug 30, states: General cargo *Silver Pearl* (5370 gt, built 1973) was ordered to dock in Bayonne after authorities suspected it of causing pollution off the Atlantic coast, maritime officials said. It was being escorted to dock in Bayonne after it was found trailing oil pollution off the island of Yeu, over an area said to be 20 kilometres long and 30 metres wide, supposedly after illegally dumping fuel. *Silver Pearl's* master "appears to be following the orders" given by the French navy patrol ship *Athos*, officials in Brest said. The two ships were expected to arrive in Bayonne early tomorrow. (Note — *Silver Pearl*, Narvik for Pasajes, passed Dover Strait Aug 28.)

London, Sep 1 — General cargo *Silver Pearl* has become the latest ship to fall foul of France's anti-marine pollution campaign. The owners of the vessel have been ordered to pay Euro 250,000 bail to have it freed from detention off Bayonne. It was ordered to Bayonne by the French judicial authorities in Brest after being spotted from the air on Monday (Aug 30) at the head of a 20 km-long pollution slick, some 150 km off France's northern Atlantic coast.



The French authorities said the pollution stopped as soon as the vessel was contacted by radio by a French Navy aircraft. It was moored outside the port of Bayonne yesterday pending payment of bail by its owner.

## Weather & Navigation



### AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Isolated storms have seriously damaged stonefruit crops around Swan Hill in north-west Victoria. Storms hit areas between Lake Boga and Piangil between 1700 and 1900, AEST, last night, dumping one centimetre hailstones and up to 25 mm of rain. Stonefruit growers say early blossom that has been emerging on trees for about two weeks has been lost, but it is not yet clear if more extensive damage has been caused to buds and branches. Lake Boga grower Brian Richardson says the storm was ferocious. "Then all of a sudden the hailstones just hit the roof and it was of such ferocity that we've got a wide front veranda and the hailstones were right up against the front door, so that's come in about six or seven feet," he said. "The whole property was just covered by white hailstones and it was up to about two inches thick."

### HURRICANE "FRANCES"

Miami, Aug 27 — Hurricane "Frances" gained strength and became a major hurricane with 115 mph winds in the Atlantic today as it took a path that should carry it north of the vulnerable northeastern Caribbean islands early next week. "Frances" powered up over the warm Atlantic waters but was still many days from striking any populated land area. At 2100, GMT, its centre was about 800 miles east of the Leeward Islands in lat 15.7N, long 49.8W, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. It was moving to the north-west at about 12 mph, forecasters said. "Frances" had grown quickly since it formed in mid-Atlantic and was a Category 3 hurricane on the five-stage Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity. Forecasters said it could become a Category 4 storm during the weekend. — Reuters.

London, Aug 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Frances" was located near lat 17.0N, long 51.3W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement, toward the northwest or 310 degs at 10 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure: 962 mb. Eye diameter: 15 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds: 100 knots with gusts to 120 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 29, the centre is predicted to be near lat

19.0N, long 54.3W, with maximum winds of 110 knots and gusts to 135 knots.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Frances": A tropical storm watch may be required for portions of the northern Leeward Islands later today. Interests in the northern Lesser Antilles and the northeastern Caribbean Sea should closely monitor the progress of "Frances" over the next several days. A hurricane warning remains in effect for coastal South Carolina from the Savannah River to Little River inlet. A tropical storm warning remains in effect from north of Little River Inlet to Surf City, North Carolina. At 0900, UTC, today, the tropical storm watch from south of the Savannah River to Fernandina Beach, Florida is discontinued. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of "Frances" is located near lat 18.4N, long 53.7W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement is toward the west-north-west or 295 degs at eight knots. Estimated minimum central pressure: 948 mb. Maximum sustained winds: 115 knots with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 30, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.5N, long 57.4W, with maximum winds of 120 knots, with gusts to 145 knots.

London, Aug 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Frances": A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the following Leeward Islands by their governments: Antigua, Barbuda, St. Maarten, Anguilla, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Eustatius and Saba. St. Martin and St. Barthelemy may also be threatened. A hurricane watch remains in effect for the British and northern U.S. Virgin Islands including St. Thomas, St. John and surrounding islands. Also for the islands of Culebra and Vieques. A hurricane watch may be required for Puerto Rico later today. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Frances" was located near 19.0N, long 56.8W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement is toward the west or 275 degs at nine knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 958 mb. Eye diameter: 20 nautical miles. Max sustained winds: 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants, 25 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 75 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.6N, long 62.0W, with maximum winds of 110 knots and gusts to 135 knots.

London, Aug 31 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Frances" centre located near lat 19.9N, long 62.8W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 280 degrees at 13 knots. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots with gusts to 135 knots. Radius of 64 knots, 50

nautical miles north-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 35 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast position lat 20.4N, long 65.0W, at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Forecast position lat 21.3N, long 67.7W at 0600, UTC, Sep 1. Maximum winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Frances" strengthened as it churned near the islands of the north-eastern Caribbean with ferocious winds expected to graze Puerto Rico today before the storm moves on towards the Bahamas and the south-eastern United States. Some Puerto Ricans put up metal storm shutters to shield their houses from winds that intensified slightly to 125 mph today. "Some of the outer bands are likely to start moving across Puerto Rico today and between one and three inches of rain is possible," said Steven Baig, an oceanographer at the US National Hurricane centre in Miami. "After that, the track will take it to the Bahamas." The storm's outer bands of wind and rain were expected to scour Puerto Rico's coastline by this afternoon. Hurricane "Frances" prompted tropical storm warnings for Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands and the northern US Virgin Islands. Storm watches were issued for the Dominican Republic, St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands, French St. Martin and St. Barthelemy. Tropical storm warnings also were posted for Antigua and Barbuda, Dutch St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Eustatius and Saba. Some airline flights were cancelled. At 0800, EDT, today, the powerful Category 3 hurricane was about 200 miles east of Puerto Rico and was moving west at about 15 mph. Hurricane-force winds extended 70 miles from the centre, while tropical storm-force winds extended 175 miles. In the next few days the hurricane is forecast to head to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas. Officials in the Turks and Caicos have issued an alert urging residents to prepare. Forecasters also warned US residents from Florida to the Carolinas to monitor "Frances", which is the third major hurricane of the Atlantic season. Carnival Cruise Lines said yesterday it diverted three cruise vessels to avoid the hurricane, as did Royal Caribbean International. Violent waves more than 12 feet high were forecast, along with coastal flooding in some areas.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Frances" brushed Puerto Rico with pounding surf and blustery winds today as its powerful vortex swirled offshore on a path for the Bahamas and the south-eastern United States. "Frances" strengthened to a dangerous Category 4 hurricane today, with sustained winds up to 140 mph. Many Puerto Ricans remained in their homes and prepared to ride out the winds and rains on the fringes of the hurricane. Though little damage was expected in the U.S. territory, many offices and schools



closed. Courts cancelled session, and all 18 casinos in Puerto Rico were closed because government inspectors were sent home. Offices and schools also were closed in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the hurricane brought rains and gusty winds. The hurricane prompted tropical storm warnings for Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands and the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The Bahamas issued a hurricane warning for its south-eastern islands and a hurricane watch for its central islands. The Bahamian government was urging people in the south-eastern cays to move to larger islands, said Carl Smith, the national disaster co-ordinator. One of the most vulnerable islands was Great Inagua, with a population of about 600. At least 14 flights from Puerto Rico were cancelled, said Fred Sosa, the general manager of Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in San Juan. At 1400 today, the hurricane was about 140 miles north-north-east of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and was moving west at about 16 mph. Carnival Cruise Lines said it had diverted four cruise ships. Royal Caribbean International said it rerouted at least three.

London, Sep 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Frances" centre located near lat 21.2N, long 68.5W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 1. Position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 285 degrees at 15 knots. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots, with gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 70 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 55 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast position lat 22.0N, long 70.6W, at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 125 knots, gusts 155 knots. Forecast position lat 24.3N, long 74.8W at 0600, UTC, Sep 2. Maximum winds 130 knots, gusts 160 knots.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A hurricane warning remains in effect for all of the Bahamas and for the Turks and Caicos Islands. A hurricane watch remains in effect for the Florida East Coast from Florida City northwards to Flagler Beach, including Lake Okeechobee. Some or all of the hurricane watch area will likely be upgraded to a hurricane warning this morning. A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the Middle and Upper Florida Keys from south of Florida City southward to the Seven Mile Bridge, including Florida Bay. At 0200 hrs, the centre of severe hurricane "Frances" was located near lat 22.7N, long 72.5W, or about 35 miles north-east of Mayagua Island in The Bahamas. "Frances" is moving toward the west-north-west near 14mph and this general motion is expected to continue for the next 24 hours. On this track, the large core of Hurricane "Frances" will be moving near or over the Southeastern Bahamas this morning, and near the Central Bahamas this afternoon and evening. "Frances" remains a Category Four Hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Scale.

Reports from an Air Force Reserve hurricane hunter indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 145 mph with higher gusts. Fluctuations in intensity are expected during the next 24 hours. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 80 miles from the centre, and tropical storm winds extend outward up to 185 miles. The minimum central pressure just reported by the hurricane hunter is 937 MB. Rainfall amounts to 5 to 10 inches, locally higher, are possible in association with "Frances". Storm surge flooding of six to 14 feet above normal tide levels, along with large and dangerous battering waves, can be expected near the eye of "Frances" on the West side of Eleuthra Island, and on the north side of Grand Bahama Island. Storm surge flooding of four to six feet above normal tide levels can be expected on the west side of the other islands of the Bahamas.

#### HURRICANE "HOWARD"

London, Aug 31 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Howard" centre located near lat 14.0N, long 106.0W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 40 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-northwest or 295 degrees at 9 knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast position lat 14.8N, long 107.4W at 1800, UTC, today, maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 15.9N, long 109.5W, at 0600, Sep 1. Maximum winds 55 knots, gusts 65 knots.

London, Sep 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Howard" centre located near lat 15.9N, long 110.0W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 40 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 300 degrees at 11 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 987 mb. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 20 nautical, miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 16.6N, long 111.5W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Forecast position lat 17.7N, long 113.6W at 0600, UTC, Sep 2. Maximum winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots.

#### PHILIPPINES

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A huge part of Central Luzon became a virtual calamity area today as sea defences were breached, further swelling the floods that have rampaged through farms and subdivisions — even malls — since monsoon rains fell heavily in the middle of the week. Eighteen of Pampanga's 20 towns and two cities are now flooded; in Paniqui, Tarlac, soldiers mounted a daring rescue of hundreds trapped on rooftops, including the vice mayor going around town to warn people to move to higher ground; and major highways from Metro Manila to Central and Northern Luzon were impassable in some parts owing to floods and mudslides. Disaster-mitigation teams stepped up operations

as more than 300 of 761 barangay affected by Wednesday's (Aug 25) heavy downpour in six regions including Metro Manila remained under water and thousands of families were still in distress. The death toll rose to 17, while the number of missing persons rose to four, officials said. Affected areas besides Metro Manila are the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and the Cordilleras. The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported today that at least 342 barangays in 28 towns and two cities in Pangasinan are still under water. A total of 29,158 families comprising 158,999 persons are affected. The NDCC said that the San Roque Dam reached its critical level, forcing authorities to open its gates. The water released from the dam flowed into the Agno River, which caused floods in the areas. Two portions of the dike on Amburayan River in barangay Maria Cristina East and West and Consuegra in Bangar, La Union, collapsed owing to strong current, the NDCC said. In Paniqui town in Tarlac, 11 villages went under water, prompting residents to leave their homes early today. In Pangasinan alone, the NDCC said damage to crops, property and fishery was estimated at P17, 285, 930. The Armed Forces, meanwhile, sent engineers to assist local governments in restoring damaged bridges, roads and dikes. Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, Air Force commander, sent three helicopters from the 505th Search and Rescue Group and the 207th Tactical Helicopter Squadron, following reports that some Paniqui residents were trapped on their rooftops. In Cavite, six fishermen were rescued on Wednesday midnight by Navy personnel after the vessel they were using was damaged by strong winds and heavy rains. Pampanga has been declared in a state of calamity after 18 of its 20 towns and two cities have been flooded following continuous rains. The Pampanga Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) reported that as of 12 noon, today, a total of 53,990 families or at least 266,533 persons have been affected by floods in 225 barangay of the 507 total barangay in the 18 flood-stricken towns.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Vast areas of northern Philippines were inundated after a week of heavy monsoon rains and the death toll in the flooding climbed to 35, disaster relief officials said today. At least six people were reported missing and eight others injured in the floods that have affected more than 1.4 million people in Manila and northern provinces, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said. In Bulacan province's Calumpit town, 27 miles north-west of Manila, families ate lunch on the rooftops of their half-submerged homes. They said they have also been sleeping there. One resident struggled through neck-deep waters on a raft of banana stalks and wood lashed together, trying to reach his submerged home. His three young children and the relief goods from local officials were perched atop the raft. The disaster

council said the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan and San Miguel town in Bulacan province, where many roads remained under water or were blocked by landslides, have been declared recipients of emergency funds for relief and rehabilitation. The disaster council said fresh reports, which came in today, showed 35 dead, mostly from drowning. Many of the dead are children and teenagers. Nearly 27,000 people in several northern provinces had been evacuated. Others were trapped in their homes by the sudden rise of the water overnight, Aug 26, when authorities were forced to open gates of dams north of Manila to prevent damage. Meteorologists said seasonal rains were worsened by Typhoon "Chaba" and Typhoon "Aere", which hit the northern Philippines before heading to Taiwan and south-eastern China.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in massive flooding in the Philippines due to continuing torrential rains rose to 43 today, with more than one million people displaced, civil defence officials said. Four provinces in the main island of Luzon have been placed under a state of calamity following last week's heavy monsoon rains induced by Typhoon "Aere", officials said. Most of the deaths were due to drowning or landslides, they said. Portions of the main north-south Luzon highway remain cut off after the Pampanga and Tarlac rivers burst dikes, while landslides blocked key arteries in the upland Cordillera region of northern Luzon. Floods had slowly receded at the weekend, but fresh rains in the past two days dashed evacuees' hopes that they would soon return to their homes, officials said. Television footage showed that houses in the northern province of Bulacan and Pampanga remained submerged, with residents using canoes and rubber boats to leave.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Dengue cases are on the increase in the northern Philippine villages as the flood caused by heavy typhoon rains is still worsening, the Department of Health (DOH) said Thursday. The DOH officials told radio dzMM that more dengue cases had been detected in at least three villages in Pampanga, one of the Central Luzon provinces hardest hit by widespread flooding earlier this week. Dengue, which is transmitted by infected mosquitoes among humans, are common in tropical areas such as Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The DOH said it had stationed medical workers in the afflicted villages to monitor the health situation. Aside from dengue, it was also reported that some residents have been afflicted with sore eyes, the department said. One week after two typhoons, "Marce" and "Chaba," launched the northern Luzon islands, waist-high flood waters continued to submerge the Pampanga Delta. According to report released by the DOH's National Epidemiology Center, dengue cases in the Philippines reduced to 3,269 with 33 deaths from January to June this year, 50 percent

down from the same period last year. The majority of the cases across the country were male and about 47 percent of the cases belonged to the one to nine years age group, the report said.

#### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Aug 30 — The Sulina Channel was closed at 1630 hrs, Aug 28, due to bad weather, winds east-north-east, force five-six and was re-opened at 0630 hrs, on Aug 29. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### TROPICAL STORM "GASTON"

Miami, Aug 28 — Tropical storm "Gaston" formed in the Atlantic Ocean today and forecasters put the U.S. east coast from northern Florida to North Carolina under a storm alert. Newborn "Gaston", carrying 40-mph winds, was expected to be near the South Carolina coast tomorrow, forecasters said. At 1100, today, the centre of "Gaston" was about 130 miles south-east of Charleston, South Carolina, at lat 31.4N, long 78.5W and was drifting slowly westward, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. A tropical storm warning, telling residents storm conditions were likely within 24 hours, was in effect along the South Carolina coast from the Savannah River to the Little River Inlet. A tropical storm watch, which means possible storm conditions in 36 hours, stretched from Little River Inlet to Surf City, North Carolina, and from the Savannah River to Fernandina Beach, Florida. "Gaston's" could dump up to 6 inches of rain along its path. — Reuters.

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Gaston" came ashore in South Carolina, today, with near hurricane-force wind. Rain flooded roads as the storm knocked out power to thousands of people. "Gaston" made landfall near McClellanville. Gov. Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency today and encouraged people to stay in their homes, so that damage assessment crews, utility truck crews and debris removal crews can do their jobs. As much as eight inches of rain had fallen along some parts of the coast by midday and a flash flood watch was in effect. Hundreds of residents were urged to evacuate ahead of the storm. Hours after the eye of "Gaston" came ashore, steady sheets of rain pelted Mount Pleasant. Tree limbs littered flooded roadways, some of which were impassable. Palmettos were pushed to the pavement and road signs twisted in the wind. Across the harbor in Charleston, "Gaston" flooded streets and pushed over power poles. At least 125,000 people were without power at the height of the storm. The rain tapered off along the coast by midday, but blustery wind still raked the coastline near Charleston and intersections throughout the area had no traffic lights. By midday, "Gaston" was moving north about eight miles per hour toward inland South Carolina, weakening along the way, but still prompting flood watches and warnings of wind gusts as high as 60 mph. Forecasters said the weakened

storm could reach North Carolina by tonight. Legare said the storm had picked up speed, which could mean less flooding.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Minor delays may be experienced at the port of Charleston, which closed at 0420 hrs, yesterday, due to tropical storm "Gaston". The port re-opened at 1730 hrs, yesterday afternoon, and is operating normally.

London, Aug 31 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Gaston" centre located near lat 38.4N, long 73.8W at 0900, UTC, Aug 31. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the east-northeast or 60 degrees at 16 knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts to 45 knots. Forecast position lat 40.0N, long 70.4W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 42.3N, long 64.0W, at 0600, UTC, Sep 1, becoming extratropical maximum winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: An area of about 20 blocks of downtown Richmond was roped off and was declared uninhabitable today after the remnants of Tropical Storm "Gaston" flooded the city and other parts of central Virginia with a foot or more of rain. At least five people were killed. The area included most of the city's historic and low-lying Shockoe Bottom area, known for bars and restaurants. A brick building of at least two stories had collapsed in the trendy Shockoe Bottom area, and several dozen buildings had extensive water damage after the rain that fell yesterday afternoon and evening flooded the area as much as 10 ft deep, Mayor Rudolph McCollum said today. In places, rushing water floated cars and trucks and smashed them into buildings. City officials said the damage would easily be in the millions of dollars but said it was too early to provide an estimate. Gov. Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency, making state resources available and putting the National Guard on standby, and toured the area today. "The devastation to a lot of the businesses in Shockoe Bottom is overwhelming," Warner said at a news conference. About half of the historic neighborhood was flooded. Most of the buildings in the low-lying district are two- and three-story brick, primarily warehouses and other commercial structures converted to restaurants, nightclubs and apartments. A few buildings date from before the Civil War. A flood wall was built in the 1990s to protect Shockoe Bottom from the James River, but the river was not a major factor in yesterday's flooding. More than 61,000 customers of Dominion Virginia Power still had no electricity this morning. Many roads were still closed by high water. "Gaston" surprised meteorologists, who had expected the storm to move through more quickly as it came north from the Carolinas and predicted no more than 4 inches of rain. Downtown Richmond got up to 12



inches of rain yesterday afternoon and evening and suburban King William County measured 14, the National Weather Service said. Warner said five people died. In nearby Chesterfield County, public affairs officer Dave Goode said police and firefighters rescued about 40 people during the night.

London, Sep 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Gaston" centre located near lat 42.4N, long 61.5W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 45 nautical miles. Present movement toward the east-northeast or 65 degrees at 33 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 999 mb. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Forecast position lat 44.3N, long 55.3W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 48.0N, long 44.6W at 0600, UTC, Sep 2. Maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Police and fire officials escorted Richmond residents and business owners into their flood-ravaged homes and shops today, but only to allow them to retrieve pets and essentials such as prescription drugs. Flooding touched off by the remnants of tropical storm "Gaston" on Monday (Aug 30) left at least seven people dead in Virginia and devastated a historic Richmond district. Clean-up and restoration in the Shockoe Bottom neighbourhood of restaurants, shops and loft apartments will have to wait a day or so until the buildings are deemed safe, said City Manager Calvin Jamison. He said 19 of 230 buildings inspected by midday were condemned. The damage was estimated at a preliminary \$15 million and is likely to go higher. Shops and restaurants were a watery, mud-caked mess today, and cars that had crashed into each other as they washed down streets were mired in mud or overturned. The state reported 120 roads remained closed. Many were still under water. At least six bridges were washed out. "There may be a few more, but until the water recedes, we're not going to know," said Linda South, a Transportation Department spokeswoman. "That's how bad it is out there."

#### **TROPICAL STORM "GEORGETTE"**

London, Aug 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Georgette" was located near lat 18.7N, long 115.9W. The position is accurate within 40 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west or 280 degs at 10 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1000 mb. Maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 55 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 75 nautical miles in the north-west and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 29, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.8N, long 117.6W, with maximum winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Georgette" was located near lat 19.1N, long 120.0W. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Present movement is toward the west or 275 degs at 11 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1000 mb. Maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 75 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 30, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.9N, long 123.4W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Aug 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical depression "Georgette" was located near lat 20.0N, long 123.5W. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west-north-west or 282 degs at 10 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1006 mb. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. At 0600, UTC, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.6N, long 127.3W, with dissipating maximum winds of 25 knots and gusts to 35 knots.

#### **TROPICAL STORM "HERMINE"**

London, Aug 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, the centre of tropical storm "Hermine" was located near lat 33.8N, long 71.5W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north or 360 degs at 16 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1000 mb. Maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 40 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 41.5N, long 69.5W, with maximum winds of 30 knots and gusts to 40 knots.

#### **TYPHOON "AERE"**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Aere" inflicted more than 2.1 billion yuan in damage on Fujian province, knocking down more than 8,000 buildings and submerging crops, but local officials yesterday insisted there were no casualties. Civil affairs officials in Fujian and neighbouring Zhejiang province, which was also hit by the typhoon on Wednesday (Aug 25), said they were still waiting for reports of deaths or injuries. However, Xinhua reported earlier that one person was missing in Zhejiang's Butou village, while Agence France-Presse quoted a Fujian provincial official as saying seven people were slightly injured. Fujian evacuated 937,000 people from the path of the storm, while Zhejiang moved another 360,000, state media said. Officials said the massive evacuations prevented any deaths.

"Aere" affected more than 2.5 million people in Fujian alone and at least another 2 million in Zhejiang, government estimates show. The typhoon weakened yesterday and was heading for Guangdong. State television reports said the central and provincial governments would contribute 50 million yuan in relief funds to the disaster-hit areas. Flooding across Fujian swamped at least three cities and destroyed nearly 47,000 hectares of crops, state media said. The province is one of the mainland's top rice producers. A day after the disaster, authorities were struggling to restore electricity and transportation as heavy rains caused more flooding in parts of the province. Rainfall in some areas exceeded 300mm. In Fuzhou city, where the typhoon first made landfall on Wednesday afternoon, parts of the city remained without power while flooded streets brought traffic to a halt, a local official said. Trees and signs blown down by the storm littered the streets. "Aere" later made landfalls in another two areas, Shishi and Hailong. However, authorities had re-opened the airport serving the provincial capital of Fuzhou, which was trying to clear a backlog of cancelled flights. Officials had also opened two main highways shut due to the storm. Boat services to some of Fujian's offshore islands remained cancelled. A resident of Xiamen city, south of where the storm hit, said: "The damage outside Xiamen is extensive." Zhejiang, still reeling from the mainland's worst typhoon since 1956 which hit just two weeks ago, appeared to be less affected. In Wenzhou city, a centre of private enterprise, damage had reached nearly 800 million yuan, Xinhua said. The typhoon toppled nearly 1,500 houses in the city and forced more than 5,500 companies to halt production. It also damaged roads and telecommunication lines.

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty-two people have been killed and more than a million other people received assistance amid massive floods in the Philippines. More than 100 towns and cities of the main island of Luzon went under water or were isolated by landslides following last week's heavy southwest monsoon rains induced by Typhoon "Aere", they said. The extreme weather killed 24 people, mainly drowning victims or buried by landslides, the civil defense office said. Eight other people are presumed dead after being carried off by rampaging floodwaters last week. Portions of the main north-south Luzon highway were cut off after the Pampanga and Tarlac rivers burst dikes, while landslides blocked key arteries in the upland Cordillera region of northern Luzon. Civil defense officials said 1.12 million people out of the national population of 84 million received relief assistance worth 7.96 million pesos (about US\$142 million). Of that number, more than 6,000 lost their homes and sought refuge at government-run evacuation centres. Although the heavy rains have stopped and floods are receding, Red



Cross spokeswoman Tess Usapdin said the affected population would need a week more of food and medical support before things could return to normal. "The waters are subsiding. Hopefully, there would be no typhoons arriving soon that could induce more monsoon rains," Defense Secretary and civil defense chief Avelino Cruz said over DZBB radio.

#### TYPHOON "CHABA"

Tokyo, Aug 28 — Powerful typhoon "Chaba" is slowly bearing down on Japan, threatening to unleash strong wind and heavy rain throughout southern and western parts of the country over the weekend. The storm has been downgraded from "super typhoon" status but is still likely to be the strongest typhoon to hit Japan this year, with winds near its center gusting up to 160 km per hour. "Chaba" was about 300 km east-north-east of Minamidaito island in Okinawa prefecture as of 1100 hrs (0200, UTC) today and moving west at less than nine kph, the Meteorological Agency said. In Kagoshima prefecture on Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu, people were taping up their windows as high waves hit the coast and strong wind shook palm trees, television footage showed. The Meteorological Agency has warned that because of its slow speed, areas in "Chaba"'s course would likely be hit by strong winds and heavy rain for a long time. — Reuters.

London, Aug 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, the centre of typhoon "Chaba" was located near lat 27.3N, long 133.6E, approximately 385 nautical miles south-south-east of Sasebo, Japan, and has tracked west-north-westward, 300 degs, at two knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles in the south-east, south-west and north-west quadrants. Maximum significant wave height is 38 feet. At 0600, UTC, Aug 29, the centre is predicted to be near lat 28.5N, long 131.3E, with maximum sustained winds of 105 knots and gusts to 130 knots.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Chaba" was located near lat 28.8N, long 130.5E. Movement over the past six hours: 315 degs at 10 knots. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by a combination of satellite and radar. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 30, the centre is predicted to be near lat 33.2N, long 131.3E, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts to 100 knots.

Tokyo, Aug 30 — Powerful typhoon "Chaba" tore across south-western Japan today, killing four people and knocking out electricity for thousands as it made its way across the island of Kyushu, home to about a tenth of Japan's population. The typhoon, one of the strongest to hit Japan this year, generated winds of up to 130 miles per hour, near the highest on record for the area, public broadcaster NHK said. More than 350,000 households in Kyushu, one of Japan's four main islands, were without power, Kyushu Electric Power Co. said. About 6,000 people had left their homes to wait out the storm in shelters as authorities warned of flooding and landslides. Television pictures showed people wading through knee-deep water in the streets of the city of Kagoshima, on the southern tip of Kyushu, while huge waves battered seaside buildings. Transport was severely disrupted, with hundreds of flights cancelled in and out of southern Japan. Many train and ferry services were cancelled and sections of motorways were closed due to the high winds. An empty Vietnamese-flagged cargo ship ran aground near the neighbouring island of Shikoku but there were no reports of deaths or injuries among the 20 crew, the Japan Coast Guard said. A 71-year-old man was killed when he fell from the roof of a storehouse on Kyushu and an 82-year-old man died after falling from a ladder, local authorities said. One man was dead and another missing after a truck was washed away in a swollen river, Kyodo news agency said. A 51-year-old woman was killed when she fell from a roof on Shikoku. About 35 people had been injured, NHK said. Some areas of Kyushu, a mixed industrial-farming region, were hit with more than four inches of rain in an hour. The arrival of the storm coincides with the highest tides of the year, increasing concerns about flood damage. "Chaba" is expected to beat its way along Japan's western coast over the next two days.

The centre of the typhoon was near the city of Kumamoto, about 560 miles south-west of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said. Two oil refiners said they had halted crude oil unloading and product shipments by sea because of the storm. Japan's biggest refiner, Nippon Oil Corp., said it had stopped such berthing operations at its western Japan refineries at Mizushima and Marifu due to high waves. The two refineries have adequate crude stocks and Nippon Oil did not expect any shortage, a company spokesman said. Showa Shell Sekiyu KK said it had stopped berthing operations at its Yokkaichi refinery and at a Yamaguchi prefecture refinery, both located in western Japan. — Reuters.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Chaba", with sustained winds of 89 miles per hour, hit southern Japan today, sweeping at least four people to their deaths and injuring 30 others. Torrential rains and strong wind toppled trees and telephone poles and forced a Vietnamese cargo ship carrying

20 crew to run aground. The vessel's crew called for help after running aground near Uwajima in Ehime, the local coast guard said in a statement. General cargo *Vihan 5* (5552 gt, built 1990) was carrying a crew of 20, all Vietnamese nationals, the Coast Guard said. Waves 33 feet high were recorded in the area where the vessel was stranded, it added. Airlines were forced to cancel at least 541 flights, mostly on domestic routes, Kyodo News reported. Four flights from Fukuoka to Shanghai and Hong Kong also had to be canceled, the agency said. Railway lines also had to cancel and delay trains. Heavy rains were forecast across a wide swath of southern and western Japan, with as much as 28 inches of rain expected in Kyushu and Shikoku islands over the next 24 hours as "Chaba" moved north up Japan's western coast.

London, Aug 30 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo *Vihan 5* is aground in lat 33 01N, long 132 23E. Situation at 0900, UTC: Four of the 20 crew are missing. The other 16 are safe. Vessel's bow block is broken and the engine-room is flooding. Vessel was empty at the time of grounding.

London, Aug 30 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Chaba" was located near lat 33.3N, long 131.3E, approximately 50 nautical miles south-west of Iwakuni, Japan, and has tracked north-north-eastward at 20 knots, 25 degs, over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by a combination of satellite, radar and synoptic data. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant over water and 40 nautical miles in the remaining three quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 32 feet. At 0600, UTC, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 42.3N, long 139.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots.

London, Aug 30 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, Tokyo, timed 2007, UTC: Salvage tug *Seiha Maru No.2* is proceeding to the scene of grounded general cargo *Vihan 5*. Contract not signed with owners.

Moji, Aug 31 — At approximately 1159, Aug 29, while Vietnamese general cargo *Vihan 5*, in ballast, was sheltering from Typhoon No.16 ("Chaba") off Uwajima, it drifted ashore and grounded about two to three kms south-east of Yura Cape in Bungo Channel. As a result, two holds and the engine-room were flooded and vessel listed heavily. Between 0100 and "0020" hrs on Aug 31, 16 of the 20 crew members were rescued by helicopter, but four crew are missing. The Japan Coast Guard is searching for them. A little oil is leaking from the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tokyo, Aug 31 — Powerful typhoon "Chaba" was heading towards the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido

today after leaving a trail of at least six dead and four missing after torrential rains that forced thousands into shelters. "Chaba" was generating winds of up to 210 kilometres per hour at one point yesterday as it crossed the south-western island of Kyushu, near the highest on record for the area. The typhoon was travelling over the Sea of Japan today and was expected to reach Hokkaido later in the day. As of 0800 hrs (2300, UTC, Aug 30), the centre of the storm was around 90 kilometres west of the city of Oga in Akita prefecture in northern Japan, the Meteorological Agency said. It was travelling north-east at 65 kilometres per hour. Some 200 mm to 250 mm of rain was forecast to fall on some areas of Hokkaido by tomorrow morning, public broadcaster NHK said. The typhoon caused fresh disruptions to transport, with 140 domestic flights in and out of northern Japan already cancelled today and more cancellations possible, NHK said. More than 750 domestic flights were cancelled yesterday. Some bullet train services in northern Japan were operating at a reduced speed, causing some minor delays, NHK said. A man trapped in a car on a flooded street in Takamatsu, western Japan, was found dead early today, raising the number of people killed in the storm to six, police said. NHK said 176 people were injured and over 4,300 homes had been flooded by water from rivers or high tides. — Reuters.

London, Aug 31 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Chaba" near lat 43.1N, long 143.6E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 45 degrees at 43 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. Forecast position lat 47.0N, long 148.2E, at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 51.6N, long 152.7E at 0600, UTC, Sep 1.

Moji, Sep 1 — One body was discovered at about 1300, Aug 31, but three crew members from general cargo *Vihan 5* are still missing. The Japan Coast Guard are still searching. Oil was found around the vessel and the Japan Coast Guard stretched an oil boom around the vessel to prevent any oil pollution. — Lloyd's Agents.

Vladivostok, Sep 1 — According to the Regional Salvage Co-ordinating Centre today, general cargo *Fedor Silin* (484 gt, built 1965) and small fishery vessel *Rybak Sakhalina* have both run aground, as a result of typhoon "Chaba". *Fedor Silin* grounded "at the raid of the settlement Kitovy", Iturup Island, Russia. All 15 crew members have remained onboard the vessel. There have been no injuries. *Rybak Sakhalina* grounded at Medvezhya Bay, on the north part of Iturup Island. All eight crew members have safely been taken off the vessel. No one was injured. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Chaba"

grounded two Russians vessels on the Iturup island of the Kuril ridge. General cargo *Fedor Silin* was punctured in several places, with its engine-room flooded. The crew of 15 is still on board, Sakhalin's rescue centre told Itar-Tass today. Seiner MRS-335 (fishing *Rybak Sakhalina*) has also run aground. Its crew of eight have been evacuated. None of the people were injured. Typhoon "Chaba," one of the year's strongest storms, packs winds of 144 km per hour.

#### TYPHOON "SONGDA"

London, Aug 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Songda" was located near lat 11.9N, long 164.1E, approximately 110 nautical miles east-north-east of Eniwetok, and has tracked north-westward, 305 degs, at nine knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Maximum significant wave height is 11 feet. At 0600, UTC, Aug 29, the centre is predicted to be near lat 14.3N, long 159.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts of 100 knots.

London, Aug 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Songda" was located near lat 13.8N, long 158.7E. Movement over the past six hours: 295 degs at 16 knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Radius of 64 kt winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 30, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.4N, long 153.5E, with maximum sustained winds of 90 knots, with gusts to 110 knots.

London, Aug 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Songda" was located near lat 15.5N, long 152.8E, approximately 405 nautical miles east of Saipan, and has tracked west-north-westward or 290 degs at 15 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 25 feet. At 0600, UTC, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.1N, long 148.3E, with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 125 knots.

London, Aug 31 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Songda" near lat 16.6N, long 148.5E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 290 degrees at 10 knots. Position accurate

to within 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 50 nautical miles all four quadrants. Forecast position lat 17.4N, long 146.4E, 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, gusts 150 knots. Forecast position lat 18.3N, long 144.4E at 0600, UTC, Sep 1. Maximum sustained winds 130 knots, gusts 160 knots.

London, Sep 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Songda" centre near lat 19.6N, long 145.4E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 325 degrees at 15 knots. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, gusts 150 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 30 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecasts position lat 21.0N, long 143.8E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, gusts 150 knots. Forecast position at lat 21.3N, long 141.5E at 0600, UTC, Sep 2. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots.

London, Sep 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Songda" near lat 21.7N, long 139.9E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 300 degrees at 13 knots. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Position based on eye fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots, gusts 135 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 30 nautical miles north-east and north-west quadrants, 40 nautical miles south-east and south-west quadrants. Forecast position lat 22.4N, long 137.5E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 45 nautical miles. Forecast position lat 22.9N, long 135.1E at 0600, UTC, Sep 3. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Gov. Tom Vilsack declared three Iowa counties disaster areas today after wind and rainstorms pulled down a nursing home's wall, dropped softball-size hail, damaged crops and raised fears of flooding. Residents in the southern Iowa town of Leon cleaned up branches and other debris, as crews repaired cable connections and power lines ripped from homes by last night's storm. A tornado struck rural Hopkington, in north-east Iowa, damaging farm buildings, grain bins and machinery, according to the National Weather Service. Elsewhere, winds were to blame. About 25 miles north of Des Moines, authorities in Story County said grain bins, outbuildings and an abandoned mobile home were destroyed by winds reaching up to 82 mph. Residents reported a tornado near Maxwell and said crop damage was considerable in the area, which saw up to 3.25 inches of rainfall. Police in Hancock County, in northern Iowa, reported homes and cars damaged by hail the size of softballs.



## Earthquakes



### CHILE

London, Aug 27 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0043, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located near the coast of northern Chile in lat 27.472S, long 70.865W, depth 12 km. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained.

Santiago, Aug 28 — A strong earthquake rocked central and southern Chile today, spreading alarm but causing no serious damage or injuries, according to preliminary reports from emergency officials. The quake hit at 0942, local time, and had an intensity of 6.4 with an epicenter near Talca, a small town 150 miles south of the capital Santiago, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Chilean emergency officials said electricity was cut off in the region closest to the epicentre and that they expected only minor damage to some buildings, such as broken windows. In Talca, people ran out of their homes in panic, Chilean radio said. In Santiago, windows and doors rattled and a rumbling noise was heard for about half a minute. The tremor was shallow, which meant the intensity was much weaker in the capital city of 5 million people. — Reuters.

### CHILE-ARGENTINA BORDER

London, Aug 31 — A report, dated Aug 28, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1341, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.5 event has been located in the Chile-Argentina border region in lat 34.841S, long 70.241W, depth 10 km.

### JAPAN

London, Sep 1 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0249, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located near the east coast of Honshu, Japan, in lat 37.017N, long 141.601E, the hypocentral depth was estimated to be 60 km.

### KURILE ISLANDS, RUSSIA

London, Aug 31 — A report, dated Aug 30, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1223, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located east of the Kurile Islands in lat 49.565N, long 157.190E, depth 30 km.

### PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted the southern Philippine island of Mindanao before dawn today, with no reports of damage or casualties, a Philippine government agency said. The quake, which occurred at 0025, local time, rocked the eastern section of Mindanao, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a report. The epicentre, 43.3 km below the sea, was located offshore, about 130

km east of Davao city, and possible sources of the tectonic quake came from the Philippine trench, the institute said. There is no expecting damage and milder after shocks were recorded later, according to the agency. Enditem

London, Sep 1 — A report, dated Aug 31, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1625, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in Mindanao in lat 07.320N, long 126.880E, depth 40.4 km.

### SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Aug 31 — A report, dated Aug 28, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1609, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 08.731S, long 157.214E, depth 10 km.

London, Aug 31 — A report, dated Aug 28, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1613, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 08.631S, long 157.216E, depth 10 km.

London, Aug 31 — A report, dated Aug 28, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1700, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 08.604S, long 157.253E, depth 10 km.

## Volcanic Activity



### MOUNT ASAMA, JAPAN

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano in central Japan has spewed smoke into the air as it erupted, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. The agency lifted its activity rating for Mount Asama to "3" from "2," meaning that a small- to medium-size eruption has occurred or was likely to occur. It was not clear how high the smoke rose because of cloud cover, the agency said in an emergency volcano bulletin. It asked residents to pay attention to further volcanic activity. The 2,568m mountain lies near the resort town of Karuizawa, about 150km west of Tokyo.

### MOUNT EGON, INDONESIA

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A fresh eruption of a volcano on the eastern Indonesian island of Flores sparked panic among thousands of people living on its slopes for the fourth time this year, an official said today. Mount Egon coughed back into life yesterday, prompting many living in the shadow of the peak to evacuate the area, said Domi Pereira, a district official in the Flores district of Sikka. "It began rumbling at around two in the afternoon yesterday, spewing smoke and ash, and the report that I have received so far say that the inhabitants of at least seven villages have fled their homes," he said. But an official at the natural disaster taskforce coordinating post in Maumere, the capital of Sikka district, some 25 kilometres west of the volcano, said that

the panic only lasted for a few hours. It was the fourth eruption of the 1,703-metre Mount Egon this year.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful explosion has killed at least one man in a district of Kabul housing international aid agencies and accommodation for their staff. Police rushed to seal off the Afghan capital's central Shar-e Naw district as fire and smoke billowed up and sirens wailed, witnesses said. Police and witnesses said it appeared to have been a car bomb. Isaf peacekeepers issued a "bunker drill" after the blast, which came just before 1800 hrs (1330 GMT). A senior Kabul police official at the scene said a car bomb may have been involved, while witnesses spoke of seeing the charred wreckage of a vehicle as a fire burnt in a nearby building. Windows in shops and other buildings over a large area were shattered.

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion tore through the office of an American security contractor in Kabul, today, killing seven people, including two Americans, officials and witnesses said. The explosion hit the office of Dyncorp Inc., a U.S. firm that provides security for Afghan President Hamid Karzai and works for the U.S. government in Iraq. The explosion killed at least seven people. Two Americans, three Nepalese and two Afghan nationals, including a child, have been confirmed dead. Hours earlier, a blast at a southeastern Afghanistan school killed nine youngsters and one adult, the U.S. military said. The child victims were said to be between the ages of 7 and 15. Fifteen other people were injured. A Kabul embassy statement described the contractor as also helping train Afghan police. The company also is believed to employ Nepalese guards in Afghanistan, where it reportedly is also involved in anti-drug efforts. The blast occurred in the Shar-e Naw district of central Kabul, an area thick with the offices of international organizations and guesthouses used by their staff. The building was burning fiercely after the explosion, which blew out windows of surrounding houses. The explosion at the Islamic school near Zormat, 80 miles south of Kabul, was believed caused by a bomb, but the U.S. military said the cause of the explosion was unclear.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: U.S. warplanes bombarded a remote village in eastern Afghanistan, killing several people, after assailants attacked a nearby government office, an official said today. The incident began late yesterday when assailants fired 25 rockets at the mayor's office in Mano Gai, 105 miles



east of the capital, Kabul, said Sayed Fazel Akbar, the governor of Kunar province. Police responded with small arms fire, he said. "Then the American planes came and bombarded Weradesh village," from where the rockets had been launched, he said. "There are casualties there, but we don't know how many or if they are civilians or the enemy." U.S. military officials had no immediate comment. Akbar declined to elaborate on who might have launched the attack. But the area is considered a stronghold of militants loyal to renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. U.S. forces man a small camp just a few miles away at Nangalam that has come under repeated attack.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Militants armed with guns and rockets have attacked Afghan troops manning a checkpoint in a Taliban stronghold, injuring three soldiers before American forces came to their aid, the US military said. The squad from the US-trained Afghan National Army were trapped on a bridge near Deh Rawood, 400km southwest of the capital, Kabul, a military statement said. "Anti-coalition militia surrounded the ANA soldiers on the bridge and fired upon them with small-arms fire, machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades," the statement said. The militants "broke contact once coalition reinforcements arrived," it said, without elaborating. None of the soldiers was seriously hurt and there was no information on casualties among the attackers. The military didn't say when the fighting occurred. US-led forces have fought repeatedly with militants near Deh Rawood, the hometown of fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar in troubled Uruzgan province. More than 100 insurgents were reported killed in the region in May and June alone.

#### **BANGLADESH**

Dhaka, Aug 28 — Offices, schools, shops and businesses across Bangladesh shut down today for the second strike in less than a week called by the main opposition party to protest against a grenade attack that nearly killed its leader. At least seven grenades were thrown at a rally that opposition leader and former prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, was addressing in the capital, Dhaka, a week ago. Nineteen people were killed and more than 150 wounded. Hasina's Awami League party launched a wave of strikes and marches in response, to protest against the blasts and the coalition government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. "Even after today's strike, we will continue our protests," said Awami League publicity secretary Asaduzzaman Nur. More than 220 people have been injured in the opposition protests over the past week, which included two days of strikes on Tuesday (Aug 24) and Wednesday. Dhaka's normally teeming streets were almost deserted today. Police patrols and cycle rickshaws were virtually the only people venturing out. Police said

strike supporters set off dozens of small, crude bombs and set fire to at least four vehicles in the capital last night but no one was injured. The Awami League and Hasina say militants close to Islamic parties in Khaleda's ruling coalition were behind the attack on the rally. Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party has rejected the allegations, condemned the blasts and vowed to hunt down those responsible. The government, faced with domestic and international pressure after a series of similar bomb attacks, has sought Interpol's help in investigating the violence and has not ruled out foreign involvement. Analysts say while the opposition strike campaign poses no immediate threat to the government's survival, political tension will stay high. — Reuters.

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bomb blasts and clashes during an anti-government general strike left about 80 people injured in Bangladesh today. Several people were injured when a home-made bomb went off in Dhaka's Postagola area during the day-long strike called by main opposition Awami League, 11-left party alliance and factions of the Left wing Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and National Awami Party to protest the August 21 grenade attack and demand the resignation of the Khaleda Zia government, the private NTV television channel said. At least 70 others were injured in clashes between protestors and police or anti-agitators in six districts, including Narsinghdi and Kishoreganj, the private ATN Bangla channel reported. Some others were injured in overnight strike-related violence. The latest strike was the third in five days.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Shops, offices and schools across Bangladesh are closed after opposition supporters called another 24-hour general strike. They are protesting against a grenade attack on one of their rallies nine days ago which killed 18 people. The main opposition Awami League has blamed the government for the attack which, it says, was an attempt to assassinate its leader, Sheikh Hasina. It wants an independent international investigation into the attack. Reports say the usually crowded streets of the capital, Dhaka, are almost deserted. The stoppage is the fourth since the grenade attack. The government has denied any involvement. Yesterday, the government announced a \$160,000 reward for information leading to the arrests of the bombers. The police are yet to make any arrests, but Bangladesh's government has accepted an offer of help with the investigation from Interpol. The opposition says it will carry on its protests until Prime Minister Khaleda Zia steps down.

#### **COLOMBIA**

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A bomb exploded last night near a Colombian police station in northern Bogota, killing two policemen, injuring seven people including three officers and four

civilians, police said. Police said they had no suspects in the explosion, which triggered panic among the residents in northwest Bogota, capital of Colombia. There were no claims of responsibility for the blast, police said.

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Luis Zorro, mayor of Chamenza, a town 93 miles north-east of Bogota, and Siervo Plazas, a former councilman from the town, were killed, yesterday, by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, after the rebels pulled the two from their car, at a roadblock in eastern Colombia, authorities said today. Zorro's son and others were traveling in the same car and told authorities the rebels killed the men. The 16,000-strong rebel group, which has been battling the government for 40 years, has been targeting municipal officials in rural areas in order to erode government control over Colombia. The two men were headed for a meeting of municipal leaders in Casanare state, where Chamenza is located, to plan how to continue governing amid the violence. Also in Casanare, government troops clashed, yesterday, with right-wing paramilitary gunmen, killing more than 21 of them, the army said. The gunmen were members of the Peasant Self-Defense Forces of Casanare, a paramilitary faction that has rejected ongoing peace talks between the government and the paramilitary umbrella group, the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia.

#### **HAITI**

Port-au-Prince, Aug 30 — A gang chased a French minister out of a Haitian slum under gunfire today, while former soldiers who helped oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide took control of a southern town and defied U.N. forces to remove them. One French gendarme was wounded and a French diplomatic source said he saw at least one person killed in the attack. The French diplomatic source said the country's junior foreign minister, Renaud Muselier, had to be hustled out of the Cite Soleil slum in Port-au-Prince after his entourage was attacked by rock-throwing youths. When Haitian police fired into the air, gang members pulled out shotguns, pistols and other weapons and shot at the visitors, who had been planning to visit a hospital. The violence in the capital, where most of a 2,755-strong U.N. peacekeeping force is on patrol, came after a weekend of trouble in the south that bore echoes of the revolt against Aristide. Ex-soldiers from the army Aristide disbanded in 1995 attacked a police station in Petit-Goave, 40 miles south of the capital and proclaimed themselves in charge of security. A contingent of Brazilian-led U.N. troops, backed by armoured cars and helicopters, were sent today to regain control but withdrew without challenging the former soldiers, who witnesses said numbered around 150. The former soldiers cleared the police station of the white and blue colours of the Haitian national police and repainted it yellow, the color of the defunct army. Former army Sgt. Devil Prophete told Haitian

radio ex-soldiers had also taken over a pro-Aristide radio station in the southern town of Jacmel. Interim authorities under Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, appointed by a council of elders to run Haiti until new elections in 2005, sent special police units to Petit-Goave but they took up position well outside town. Latortue urged the former soldiers to negotiate, but he also indicated that demands for re-establishment of the army might not be met. The interim government has set a deadline of Sept. 15 for all groups holding illegal weapons to disarm. But former army Col. Remissainthe Ravix said the authorities had no moral or legal authority to confiscate his men's weapons. — Reuters.

## INDIA

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A grenade exploded at a crowded market in north-eastern Assam state today, injuring seven people hours after two bomb blasts elsewhere in the state left four dead and 39 others wounded, police said. Suspected militants from the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom hurled the grenade at the market in Tangla town, 60km north of Gauhati, Assam's capital, said Inspector General of Police Khagen Sharma. Earlier today, five people died and 39 others were wounded when a passenger bus and another carrying paramilitary soldiers and their families were blown up in separate explosions elsewhere in the state. No-one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police blamed ULFA rebels. Assam's top elected official, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, said the rebels, who have been fighting security forces since 1979 for a sovereign Assam, are now "waging a war on civilians". (See issue of Aug 24.)

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: In a fresh spate of violence at least six people, including three BSF personnel, were killed and more than 70 injured after United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants blew up two buses at Goalpara and Kokrajhar districts in Assam today. Three BSF personnel, including one of their senior sub-inspectors, were killed and 16 others injured when the ULFA blew up a bus near Dhodhnoi in Goalpara district of Lower Assam this afternoon. This was the fourth bomb attack by the ULFA since last night, forcing Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi to admit that the state's law and order situation has worsened. The militants, in another attack, blew up a bus at Gosaigaon in Kokrajhar district killing two persons and injuring 56 others. Official sources said an unclaimed baggage was found inside the bus at the Gosaigaon bus stoppage. But, before the bag could be removed from the bus, it exploded killing one on the spot. Another person succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. Meanwhile, a middle-aged person, who was injured in the last night's bomb explosion at Dibrugarh in front of Aurora Cinema Hall, succumbed to his injuries in hospital today. The ULFA had also triggered off another bomb

explosion on the railway tracks between Pratapkhata and Choutara in Lower Assam, disrupting railway traffic. A goods train was damaged and three bogies were derailed under the impact of the explosions, the sources added. Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today admitted that the state's law and order had deteriorated and called for an urgent operation in Myanmar and Bangladesh to flush out the militants.

Srinagar, Sep 2 — Indian troops killed three rebels overnight trying to sneak into Kashmir from Pakistan, police said today, days before India and Pakistan hold talks to review a peace process bogged down over the region. Several other militants who were in the group trying to breach the military control line dividing Kashmir into Indian and Pakistani sectors escaped, a police spokesman said. — Reuters.

## IRAQ

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs have attacked about 20 oil pipelines in southern Iraq, reducing exports from the key oil producing region by at least one third, a top oil official said today. The cluster of pipelines was attacked late yesterday in Barjisiya, 30 kilometres south-west of the southern city of Basra, an official with the state-run South Oil Co said on condition of anonymity. The pipelines, which connect the Rumeila oilfields to Barjisiya, were still ablaze today. Associated Press Television News footage showed huge plumes of black smoke and flames leaping from the Zubayr 1 pumping station, south of Basra. Oil exports out of southern Iraq average about 1.85 million barrels a day. The oil official said yesterday's sabotage cut exports to 1.2 million barrels. Squadron leader Spike Wilson, a spokesman for British troops helping maintain security in the area, said he was only aware of one pipeline breach 20 kilometres west of Zubayr. He said it was not clear if that pipeline had been attacked, however. "It's a minor pipeline, it hasn't impeded the export of oil at all," Wilson said. "Because the infrastructure of the pipelines are so old, they frequently just give way." Insurgents have repeatedly sabotaged Iraq's crucial oil industry, the country's main source of income, in an effort to hamper reconstruction efforts.

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated Aug 27, states: Saboteurs attacked two pipelines linking Iraq's southern oilfields to export storage tanks today, an Iraqi oil official said. The attacks came as Iraq sold its first cargo of Kirkuk crude in three months from the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Oil exports from the southern terminals at Basra and Khor al-Amaya were running at about 1.5 million barrels per day, compared to 1.6 million bpd yesterday and 2.0 million earlier in the week. It was unclear whether the fall was due to sabotage or to normal fluctuation in flow rates, shipping agents said. Saboteurs yesterday attacked eight pipelines linking a southern oilfield to a pumping station near Basra. One of the pipelines is 36

inches in diameter linking the South Rumaila oilfield to storage tanks at the Zubair One station near the city of Basra. The station pumps crude to Iraqi offshore Gulf terminals for exports. The second 48-inch pipeline that was hit is also part of the export network, linking the North Rumaila field to storage tanks in the West Qorna oilfield. Saboteurs today also blew up a section of an oil pipeline in central Iraq that feeds the Dora refinery. Reuters Television footage showed a section on fire 30 km north of Baghdad. Another set of pipelines from South Rumaila to Zubair One was attacked yesterday and was still on fire today, Reuters Television footage showed. A bridge running over the pipelines was also destroyed. Amid the attacks, shipping brokers and oil traders said today that oil trading house Vitol had booked the 135,000 tonne crude oil tanker *Sacramento* to lift Kirkuk crude from the port of Ceyhan around Aug 30. The booking, which brokers said was fully fixed, represented the first such sale from Iraq's Mediterranean outlet since May. Oil traders said the million-barrel cargo of crude was bound for Vitol's Canadian Come-by-chance refinery. Shipping brokers said it had European options. Shipping brokers said there was unconfirmed market talk of other bookings in September from Ceyhan, though there were few ships available for early September positions. Brokers said there were no very large crude carriers available to load before Sep 14. Storage tanks at the port of Ceyhan had been gradually filled over the course of the past week at around 450,000 barrels per day (bpd) and now stand at around 6.3-6.5 million barrels, just below capacity of around 7-8 million barrels, shipping agents said. Iraq also halted oil exports to the Turkish Mediterranean coast yesterday, having filled storage tanks nearly to capacity, industry sources said. There were no indications that exports, which have proceeded sporadically this month, had resumed this morning, but sources said they could restart at any moment to top off tanks.

Baiji, Aug 28 — An Egyptian man working in the Iraqi town of Baiji has been killed and another abducted, police in the town said today. Baiji police officer Thafar Salim said attackers killed Jawdee Baker and kidnapped Nasser Juma yesterday. He said the two Egyptians had been working in Baiji, an oil town 180 km north of Baghdad. Yesterday, the bodies of two Turkish hostages were found north of Baiji, apparently shot dead, Arabic television station Al Jazeera reported. The station said Iraqi police had discovered the bodies thrown on the sides of a road. — Reuters.

Najaf, Aug 28 — Shi'ite fighters left the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf yesterday and began turning in their weapons, after tens of thousands of pilgrims celebrated a peace agreement that ended a bloody rebellion. Religious authorities locked the doors of Iraq's holiest Shi'ite shrine after the Mehdi Army militia of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr left. The fighters had defied



U.S. military firepower and the interim Iraqi government for three weeks. Iraq's most revered cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, made a dramatic return to Najaf Thursday (Aug 26) and persuaded Sadr to accept a peace deal to halt the fighting, after a day of violence in which 110 Iraqis were killed and 501 wounded. A Reuters correspondent there said Iraqi police took control of the area around the mosque, as stipulated under the deal. By mid-afternoon, the alleys around the mosque were quiet, destroyed and blackened buildings a testament to fighting that killed hundreds. — Reuters.

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated Aug 27, states: An Italian journalist held hostage in Iraq has been killed, the Italian government confirmed yesterday. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi quickly condemned the execution of Enzo Baldoni while his government vowed to stay active in the war against terrorism. The Arabic-language network Al-Jazeera reported that a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq executed Baldoni because the Italian government did not meet its demands to withdraw its troops from Iraq within 48 hours. It was not known when and where the killing occurred. Baldoni disappeared between Najaf and Baghdad last Thursday (Aug 19).

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated Aug 27, states: A Kuwaiti company has bowed to the demands of kidnappers in Iraq who are holding seven of its employees, saying it will halt operations there. The little-known Black Banners brigade said yesterday that it would release the men if their Kuwaiti employers pulled out of Iraq. Three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian - all truck drivers - were seized in Iraq in July. Negotiations to secure their release have broken down several times. KGL spokeswoman Rana Abu Zaineh says the company has decided to halt all its activities in Iraq. However, she did not know when or how the hostages might be released but said she hoped it was very soon, possibly in the next few days.

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated today, states: United States aircraft and tanks bombarded targets in Fallujah, today, and U.S. forces exchanged gunfire with insurgents on the city's eastern outskirts and the main highway that runs to neighboring Jordan, witnesses said. Fourteen people were wounded in the violence, including eight children, said Dr. Ali Khamis of Fallujah General Hospital. The attacks struck the city's eastern al-Askari neighborhood, as well as the industrial area at the eastern entrance of Fallujah. At least four homes were destroyed. A Marine spokesman, said U.S. troops, based on the edge of Fallujah, had been attacked and marines countered with tanks and artillery. Witnesses said the air raids began at 1900 hrs and clashes between the two sides continued for several hours. Smoke could be seen billowing into the air and fire blazed in the sky after the strikes. One fire in the city

had been sparked by a U.S. strike and was "believed to be related to a hit on a significant weapons cache.

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has vowed to defeat militiamen who refused to disarm, saying they were "making things more difficult in Iraq". His pledge came after deadly clashes between US troops and Shia militants in a Baghdad suburb and an attack on an oil pipeline in southern Iraq. US forces also said today they had killed two Iraqi gunmen in separate incidents in northern Iraq, near Mosul. Yesterday, Sadr loyalists had clashed with US forces in the Sadr City district of Baghdad, leaving at least seven people dead. The US military said eight mortar bombs fired at one of their positions had damaged an electricity sub-station and cut power supplies. A spokesman said militants later fired two mortar shells into a group of civilians. In other developments, a pipeline in southern Iraq was sabotaged at dawn, said workers from the South Oil Company (SOC) as they battled to extinguish the raging fire. The damaged pipeline links the Rumayia and Zubeir 2 oilfields, about 100 kilometres south of Basra, the source added. From Zubeir 2, oil is pumped out to the southern export terminals. An SOC official also said a leak had been discovered on a pipeline leading to the Hamar Mishrif pumping depot, 60 kilometres south of Basra. Meanwhile, French ministers have been holding emergency meetings to discuss how to respond to the kidnapping of two French journalists in Iraq. Arabic TV station al-Jazeera broadcast footage of the two men yesterday. It said the group holding them was demanding that France drop its ban on the wearing of Muslim headscarves in state schools. It is believed that he French government is unlikely to accede to the demand. The two journalists - Radio France Internationale's Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot of Paris daily newspaper Le Figaro - disappeared nine days ago. They were reported to have been heading from Baghdad to Najaf. Al-Jazeera reported that it had received footage saying a group calling itself "The Islamic Army in Iraq" - the same group which reportedly killed kidnapped Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni last week - is holding them. The TV station said the group described the French law banning religious apparel in public schools as "an aggression on the Islamic religion and personal freedoms". It said the kidnappers wanted France to reverse the ban within 48 hours.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil exports from southern Iraq have come to a complete halt because of attacks on pipelines and are not likely to resume for at least a week, a senior Iraqi oil official said today. Oil flows out of the southern pipelines which account for 90 percent of Iraq's exports which ceased late yesterday, an official from South Oil Co. said on condition of anonymity. "Oil exports from the port of Basra have completely stopped since last night," said the

official. He added that exports were not likely to resume for at least one week. A stop in southern oil exports costs Iraq about \$60 million a day in lost income at current global crude prices, said Walid Khadduri, an oil expert who is chief editor of the Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey. Strikes against five pipelines linked to the southern Rumeila oil fields immediately shut down the Zubayr 1 pumping station, forcing officials to use reserves from storage tanks to keep exports flowing for several hours. The reserves ran out late yesterday. The South Oil Co. official said that before yesterday's attack, Iraq's exports from the south were about 600,000 barrels a day - already a third less than the normal average of 1.8 million barrels a day due to a separate string of attacks early last week. The pipelines were still ablaze today, he said.

Baghdad, Sep 1 — Five mortar bombs exploded near Iraq's interim national assembly shortly before it met for the first time today. One Iraqi civilian was wounded, the U.S. military said. Gunmen also opened fire on a convoy carrying prominent Shi'ite politician and former Pentagon ally Ahmad Chalabi as he travelled from the southern city of Najaf to Baghdad. He survived but two associates were wounded. In other developments, an militant Iraqi group said in an Internet statement posted yesterday that it had killed 12 Nepali hostages and showed pictures of one being beheaded and others being shot dead. It was the worst mass killing of captives since a wave of kidnappings erupted in April. France is anxiously awaiting word on the fate of two French reporters held hostage in Iraq after a deadline for Paris to scrap a ban on Muslim headscarves in schools apparently passed without incident. French President Jacques Chirac again rejected the demands by militants holding Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot that the law be revoked, as Foreign Minister Michel Barnier sought Arab support for France's position. Tension rose as the reported deadline neared yesterday night, but was replaced by confusion after an Arab League official said he believed it had been extended by 48 hours starting on Monday (Aug 30), not 24 hours as previously reported. That theory appeared to be strengthened by the absence of a new message from the kidnappers yesterday night. As intense efforts were under way to win their release, militants holding a Turkish truck driver hostage since Aug 7 released a video announcing plans to free him after his Turkish firm supplying the U.S. military halted work in Iraq. — Reuters.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's southern oil terminals are fully operational, with exports running at between 1.7 million and 1.9 million barrels a day, port agents and Iraqi oil officials said today. Terminals in the south were fully operational. Between 70,000 barrels and 80,000 barrels an hour were being loaded from Iraq's offshore Basra oil terminal, the equivalent of 1.7 million

to 1.9 million barrels a day. An Iraqi oil official in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Dow Jones Newswires that the terminal was working at capacity. South Korea's SK Corp. reported no disruption in its loading plans. A very large crude carrier with 200 million barrels capacity started loading Sunday (Aug 29) at Basra port, was filled by yesterday as scheduled and was leaving the port, said company spokesman Sohn Dong-ho. Last week's persistent sabotage attacks caused brief hiccups in the country's exports but have not had a lasting impact on its ability to export crude from the oil-rich south. Southern Iraq has a surge export capacity of 2 million barrels a day, but usually exports about 1.6-1.7 million barrels a day. Last week, a South Oil Company official predicted that sabotage would force a complete shutdown of exports, but officials and port agents say exports have continued normally. Observers also have said that some Iraqi officials falsely claim that exports have ceased to protect pipelines, which have been repeatedly targeted by insurgents.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Seven truck drivers taken hostage in Iraq over a month ago have been released, according to their employer, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport company. The three Indians, three Kenyans and one Egyptian were expected to arrive in Kuwait later in the day. An Egyptian negotiator told the Arabic-language TV network al-Arabiya today he was able to free the hostages with the help of Egyptian, Indian and Kuwaiti officials. However, a spokeswoman for Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport said later it paid \$500,000 ransom to the kidnappers, The Associated Press reported. Indian officials welcomed the news, but declined to say what led to the men's freedom, AP said. In other developments, a U.S. airstrike late today targeted two safe houses used by followers of terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Falluja, U.S. officials said. The Associated Press, quoting a doctor at Falluja General Hospital and other unidentified witnesses, said the attack killed 17 people, including three children, when a residence in the southern Falluja neighborhood of al-Jubail was hit.

Dubai, Sep 2 — An Iraqi militant group calling itself Tawhid and Jihad has killed three Turks it was holding hostage in Iraq, Al Jazeera television reported today. The Arabic television channel gave no further details. Iraqi police earlier said they had found the bodies of two Turkish truck drivers on the side of a road north of Baghdad. The body of another man, possibly also Turkish, was found next to them without any identification cards. — Reuters.

#### ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Aug 31 — A third blast rocked the southern Israeli city of Beersheba today, minutes after bombs exploded on two buses, Israel Radio said. The report said the third explosion

apparently occurred near the city's main indoor shopping centre. Rescue officials said at least 15 people were wounded in the bus blasts. — Reuters.

Jerusalem, Sep 1 — The Israeli army today destroyed the West Bank home of one of two Palestinian suicide bombers a day after 16 people were killed and 86 wounded in back-to-back bus bombings by the militant Hamas group, the military said. The action came hours after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the army to hunt down Palestinian militants. — Reuters.

Nuria, Gaza Strip, Sep 2 — Israeli forces blew up two large apartment blocks in the Gaza Strip today, destroying the homes of hundreds of Palestinians. The army, carrying out its biggest Gaza incursion in weeks, said the operation in the Khan Younis refugee camp targeted twin five-storey buildings used by Palestinian militants for attacks on Israeli soldiers and settlers. "We strongly condemn the Israeli aggression...against our people in Khan Younis," Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat told Reuters, saying it would bring an escalation of violence. The overnight raid followed Israeli threats to step up strikes on militants after a double bus bombing on Tuesday (Aug 31) in the desert city of Beersheba. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: The Nepalese military says it has killed two Maoist rebels in the south of the country, a day after the rebels lifted a week-long blockade of the capital, Kathmandu. The two men are said to have been shot dead as they tried to stop traffic as part of a one-day strike declared by the rebels in three southern districts. In a statement, a senior rebel commander says the strike was called to protest against the alleged killing by troops of five Maoists in the area earlier in August. Police say normal activities in the three districts have ground to a halt, with schools and shops closing their doors. The rebels warn they will resume their blockade of Kathmandu in a month unless the government meets their demands, including an end to the Maoists' classification as a terrorist group.

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Maoist rebels bombed a cosmetics and toiletries factory in southern Nepal early yesterday, causing considerable damage to the plant in their latest action against big business, police said. "A group of 15 Maoists appeared in front of the Nepal Lever Public Limited Company at Basamadi and detonated three powerful bombs around 0300 hrs," police superintendent Ram Chandra Khanal said. A company official said the rebels had overpowered guards and tied them up before entering the factory. "The Maoists planted five or six powerful bombs in the important sections where heavy equipment is installed but only three of them went off, causing considerable damage to the factory," said the official. No casualties were reported.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's government has issued a curfew in Kathmandu after violence broke out in retaliation for the killing of 12 Nepalese hostages in Iraq. The offices of Qatar Airways and Saudi Arabian Airlines in the capital were torched and several mosques in the city are under tight security, as protesters surround the Muslim places of worship. Nepal's ambassador to Qatar, Somananda Suman, confirmed the deaths yesterday and said the government had requested that the bodies be returned to Nepal. He said the men were hired by a Jordanian company to work in Amman and then taken to Iraq to work. Nepal forbids its citizens to go to Iraq. Nepalese heard the news yesterday evening and rallied until about midnight. The curfew, which will go into effect at 1400 hrs (0815, UTC), was issued after widespread reports of violence against Muslims, which make up less than four percent of Nepal's population. There were unconfirmed reports of injuries in several attacks. Some protesters attacked several employment agencies, including Moonlight Consultants which sent seven of the 12 Nepalis to Jordan.

#### NIGERIA

Apapa/Lagos, Aug 30 — A local press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of residents of Abomina, Marine Base and Okrika Waterfronts, in Port Harcourt, were holed up in their houses, yesterday, following renewed hostilities between two rival gangs in the state. Over five persons were said to have lost their lives as a result of the renewed clash. In a swift move to forestall the escalation of the crisis, military authorities in the state have deployed four platoons to complement the efforts of the Navy and the Police Mobile Force, already on ground, to get the situation under control. Up until 1300, Aug 29, heavy gunfire, that started during the early hours of the day, was still being heard along Okrika waterfronts. Many residents of the Old Port Harcourt town were unable to leave their homes because of sustained assault between rival gangs. A resident of Aggrey Road, Port Harcourt, said that the gangs destroyed many houses, but noted that it was difficult to ascertain the number of people who lost their lives during the crisis. He said that the gunmen arrived the area from the creeks and started shooting sporadically, just as another group, suspected to be operating within the neighbourhood, responded with equally heavy firepower. Confirming the development, the Commissioner of Police, Rivers State Command, Mr. Sylvester Araba, said that two suspected gangs were involved in the shoot-out. Araba said that the bandits had been dislodged by a combined team of soldiers, naval men and riot policemen. He also confirmed that the deployment of four military platoons to the affected areas, saying that the situation had been brought under control. He said seven suspected bandits were arrested and transferred to the State Criminal Investigations Department for interrogation, adding



that only one house was destroyed in the fracas. The police said that three casualties were recorded during the joint operations by the security agencies, while a riot policeman and a soldier were wounded. He said security had been beefed up at all the sensitive installations along the waterways in the state, adding that the joint security patrol was capable of handling the bandits. "There is no cause for alarm. Residents of these areas can now go about their legitimate concerns. We have our men on ground and they have the capacity to deal with the miscreants," the police said. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least one person has been confirmed dead and others left with various degrees of burns in yet another pipeline fire in Enugu State. This time, the scene of the inferno shifted to Nenwe in Aninri Local Government area where the inhabitants are now living in fear as smoke and scorching heat have made their environment un-comfortable. The fresh pipeline fire is coming barely a month after a similar incident claimed six lives, including a farmer and his three daughters at Ogbeké village Agbani in Nkanu Local Government. A source at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Enugu, lamented the incessant vandalisation of pipelines saying the corporation has recorded no fewer than nine incidents in the last two months within the state. He said the perpetrators operate as a syndicate by selecting secluded portion of the pipeline to vandalise. From the account of residents, vandalisation at Nenwe followed the same pattern.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Troops have been deployed to Port Harcourt following two days of clashes. At least five people were killed in fighting when two suspected cultist groups exchanged heavy gunfire on Sunday night (Aug 29) and Monday morning (Aug 30). The police, navy and army will jointly patrol the waterfront area, a police spokeswoman said. Gangs vying for territory in the area are involved in the lucrative business of siphoning oil from pipelines. They then use the proceeds to buy weapons which fuel inter-ethnic conflict between the Itsekiri and Ijaw. "The troops are on intensive surveillance of the area to flush out the militias," Rivers State police spokeswoman Barasua Ireju told AFP news agency. Journalist Naphtali Tope Brown said that several houses had been destroyed in the violence, and in unrest last week another 10 people had been killed in Port Harcourt's Njemanze suburb. The governor of River State issued an edict promising to prosecute anyone involved in gangsterism or cults, even if they were government officials, Mr Brown said. According to Rivers State government spokesman Emmanuel Okah the gangs are well armed and are involved in a turf war. "The battle is purely economic. The cult groups are fighting for supremacy and control of the oil producing areas so that they can carry out their bunkering activities," he said.

## PAKISTAN

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Five rockets slammed into a residential area of Bannu, 135 south-west of Peshawar, North West Frontier, before dawn today, damaging some homes and injuring at least five people, police said. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack. Local police said they were still investigating. Bannu is located at the edge of a tribal region, where Pakistani forces have been searching for al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives. It has been hit by small bomb explosions and rockets attacks in recent months.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A homemade bomb exploded outside a shop in a remote area of south-western Pakistan today, killing three people and wounding seven others, a senior police official said. It was not immediately clear who was behind the blast at a busy bazaar in Qilat, a city about 200km south of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. "A homemade bomb has exploded in Qilat and three people have died, but we have no idea who did it," police chief Zafarullah Loni said. He said police were investigating. Another police official, Ghulam Qadir, said the dead were two shop owners and an unidentified man. Baluchistan has been the scene of a series of attacks in recent months, amid discontent among local people over government plans to establish military garrisons to improve security in the province. Gunmen riding on two motorcycles yesterday ambushed a vehicle carrying policemen in Dera Murad Jamali, about 350km south-east of Quetta, killing three of them.

## RUSSIA

Grozny, Aug 31 — Chechnya's new leader vowed today to rebuild the shattered region and crush extremists, after winning an election condemned by rights groups as a stage-managed show and by Washington as seriously flawed. Alu Alkhanov, the former Chechnya interior minister who was handpicked for the job by Russian President Vladimir Putin, won 73.48 percent of yesterday's vote according to preliminary results, the election commission said. Alkhanov said his administration would focus on reviving Chechnya's economy, shattered by war, and creating 150,000 new jobs in the next five years. A State Department spokesman said the Chechen vote "did not meet international standards for a democratic election." "There were serious flaws in the electoral process there, especially the earlier disqualification of a leading candidate on a mere technicality," Richard Boucher told reporters, apparently referring to wealthy businessman Malik Saidullayev. The International Helsinki Federation rights group said the election had been neither free nor fair. Tanya Lokshina of the Moscow Helsinki Group said the poll was a repeat of Kadyrov's election, also criticized by western rights groups for being neither free nor fair. Alkhanov's predecessor Akhmad Kadyrov was assassinated in May. He was the third of the region's

post-Soviet leaders to be killed and rebels have promised to dole out the same fate to Alkhanov. — Reuters.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Armed attackers have seized a secondary school in Russia, with reports saying 200 pupils are being held hostage. Russian officials were quoted as saying 17 armed men and women, some wearing explosive belts, stormed the school in the city of Beslan in North Ossetia. At least 200 pupils and possibly some parents are believed to have been in the school at the time, as it is the first day back after the holidays. An envoy in the region said a gun fight had broken out with police. The seizure comes amid heightened security following a suspected suicide bomb attack in Moscow last night, and the bombing of two passenger aircrafts last week. Security officials are at the scene in Beslan trying to negotiate with hostage-takers. Interfax news agency quoted Ismel Shaov, a regional Russian security services spokesperson, as saying at least 17 armed attackers are involved. Some of the attackers, which included women and men, were wearing belts of explosives. There are unconfirmed reports a second school in the town was also seized.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A woman strapped with explosives blew herself up outside a busy Moscow subway station yesterday night, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 50, officials said. A militant Muslim web site published a statement late yesterday claiming responsibility for the subway bombing on behalf of the "Islambouli Brigades," a group that also claimed it caused two jetliner crashes with suicide teams last week in retribution for Russia's war with Islamic rebels in Chechnya. The veracity of the claims could be confirmed. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov told reporters near the Rizhskaya subway stop in northern Moscow that the bomber was walking toward the station shortly after 2000 hrs, but turned around when she saw two police officers. She "decided to destroy herself in a crowd of people" in a busy area between the subway station and a nearby department store-supermarket complex, Luzhkov said, adding that the bomb was packed with bolts and pieces of metal. "There was a desire to cause maximum destruction," he said. A spokesman for the Federal Security Service, Sergei Ignatchenko, told NTV television that the casualty toll had risen to 10 dead and 51 wounded, of whom 49 were hospitalised. Many of the injured were believed to be seriously wounded, and the death toll was expected to rise.

Beslan, Sep 2 — Russia ruled out for now using force to free hundreds of children, parents and teachers being held under threat of death for a second day today by armed men at a school near rebel Chechnya. "There is no question at the moment of opting for force. There will be a lengthy and tense process of negotiation," Valery Andreyev, head of the FSB security service in North Ossetia province, told

journalists. The gang of men and women, some strapped with explosives, held talks by telephone in the morning with a well-known paediatrician, Lev Roshal, who helped negotiate the release of children during the deadly Moscow theatre siege in 2002. There was no word on the progress of the talks. Officials said the gang had threatened to kill 50 children for each of their comrades killed. The armed gang killed seven people when they broke into the school and herded pupils, parents and teachers into a gym. The gunmen have said they would talk only to Dr Roshal and regional leaders — apparently to press their demands for the release of rebels held by authorities. The gang had rejected offers to deliver food and water, but had assured Roshal the children were fine. Across the border in Chechnya itself, two Russian soldiers were killed and seven people were wounded when their convoy was blown up by a mine just south of the regional capital, Grozny, Interfax news agency said. — Reuters.

### SOMALIA

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Somalia is poised to establish its first central government in more than 15 years. The first stage of the process - the setting up a new parliament - is expected to be completed today in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. The process suffered a delay last week, when one of the country's four major clans refused to name representatives to the 275-member assembly. The new body is expected to elect a president to be based in Mogadishu. After lengthy peace negotiations, rival factions in January agreed in Kenya to sign deal to set up new parliament. Most of the body's 275 members were sworn in at a ceremony in Kenya last week. Today, the remaining Darod clan named their representatives. Kenyan diplomat Bethuel Kiplagat, who has been chairing the talks, said that although a handful of delegates still needed to be named, the parliament's representatives would elect a speaker. "We can not wait until they (members of the transitional parliament) are all selected," he said. According to a charter signed by delegates in January, Somalia's four major clans are each able to select 61 members to the parliament, while one coalition of smaller clans is permitted to select 31 members. The president they select will pick a prime minister, who will form a government. Somaliland, a breakaway region in the north of Somalia, is not included in the new parliament.

### SRI LANKA

Colombo, Sep 1 — A spate of killings in Sri Lanka's east is piling pressure on a truce that halted two decades of civil war, but Tamil Tiger rebels and their army foes both want peace, the top ceasefire monitor said today. After a three-month Tiger boycott, rebels and army officials will meet next week in the eastern Tiger stronghold of Batticaloa in a step towards reviving peace talks that stalled last year, said Trond Furuhoide, the retired Norwegian general overseeing the two-

year truce. "The ceasefire will be under pressure for some time. However I have a strong feeling we have passed the point of no return ... both sides are now determined to find a peaceful solution," he told Reuters at the Nordic Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission headquarters in Colombo. "But it will take some time," he added. "They feel they are ready, and will have to take some steps now to come closer to the negotiation table ... Just to break the sound wall and to start up again on the local level is extremely important." The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, whose 21-year war for a separate state for minority Tamils killed more than 64,000 people and left swathes of the north and east they dominate in ruins, suspended direct peace talks with the government in April 2003. — Reuters.

### SUDAN

United Nations, Aug 27 — Sudan's marauding militias are maintaining at least 16 military camps in Darfur, some alongside the Sudanese army, despite Khartoum's pledges to disarm the fighters, Human Rights Watch said today. The New York-based rights group said its own survey, based on witnesses, showed the Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed and blamed for atrocities against African villagers, shared control with the army in five of the 16 camps. "Even more ominous, the Sudanese government has incorporated members of the Janjaweed militia and its leaders into the police and the Sudanese army," the report said. The rights group called on the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Sudanese government officials for not fulfilling a pledge to disarm and neutralise the Janjaweed, especially those in militia camps. The Security Council next week deliberates on Sudan's pledges to disarm and prosecute the Janjaweed, accused of widespread killings, rape and uprooting villagers in a struggle over arable land. The council has threatened unspecified sanctions but no action is expected next week. The Sudanese government has disclaimed responsibility for arming the Janjaweed to fight two African rebel groups. But Human Rights Watch said collaboration was close in attacking villages since early 2003 in a campaign of ethnic cleansing. The group said the United States and other nations with satellite capacity should make available past and present photographs of the locations of these Janjaweed camps to confirm and pinpoint their existence. — Reuters.

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Rebel groups walked away from peace talks with the Sudanese government in the Nigerian capital of Abuja today in protest of alleged attacks by the government-supported Janjaweed militia in the embattled Darfur region, a government spokesman said. The break is described by the rebels as a "symbolic 24-hour boycott" and is in response to the rebel claim that 64 people were killed Thursday (Aug 26) in the small southern village of Yassin by the Janjaweed. As of today, no international monitoring group has confirmed the attacks.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Sudanese Government and rebel leaders have inched closer to compromise on a proposed African Union agreement to protect the Darfur region's 1.2 million displaced people from hunger, rape and murder. After eight days of peace talks in the Nigerian capital, envoys from Sudan's Government and Darfur's two rebel movements are still squabbling over the first point on their agenda - a deal to guarantee access to humanitarian teams. When they returned to the table today they were presented with a new version of a draft protocol drawn up by African Union officials, who are keen to demonstrate that the Abuja talks are making some kind of progress.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Sudan's government and rebels have agreed to give aid agencies better access to more than a million displaced people in the Darfur region. The deal was reached at talks in Nigeria, only after more controversial topics, like security, were postponed. The United Nations Security Council will be briefed today on a report which criticises Sudan's handling of the Darfur conflict. Earlier Sudan's UN ambassador described the report as balanced. The humanitarian agreement includes measures on free movement and access, protection of civilians and the role of the international community. Discussions on security issues will continue today. Yesterday the UN World Food Programme (WFP) appealed for \$12m (£6.7m) to help feed tens of thousands of young children and pregnant mothers it fears will otherwise die. Meanwhile, a group of six aid workers, missing since Saturday (Aug 28) in rebel-controlled territory in the north of Darfur, were said by the WFP to have been released unharmed yesterday.

### THAILAND

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: A bomb blast in southern Thailand has killed one person and injured at least 24, on the eve of a visit to the troubled region by the prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra. Police say the bomb, hidden in a motorcycle, exploded at a market in Narathiwat province this morning. Police say a 45-year-old man was killed, and the injured include six policemen and four Thai navy soldiers. Mr Thaksin is scheduled to begin a visit to the region tomorrow. He says he will not let the bomb attack deter him. Narathiwat is one of three southern provinces worst-hit by a separatist insurgency that has left more than 275 people dead since January.

### TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Aug 29 — A train in southeastern Turkey derailed today after hitting a land mine placed by suspected Kurdish separatists, while a separate mine blast wounded 10 soldiers, security officials said. The freight train's driver was injured in the blast, which caused five wagons to derail as the train travelled through Bingol province, an official told Reuters.



In a separate incident, 10 soldiers were wounded when the vehicle they were travelling in hit a mine on a road in Sirnak province near the Iraqi border, another security official. — Reuters.

## Labour Disputes



### BANGLADESH

See under "Political & Civil Unrest".

### BOTSWANA

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Workers taking part in an illegal strike at Botswana's largest diamond mining firm are being evicted from company-owned homes, unions have said. The International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICFTU) does not say how many workers have been evicted. About 444 workers have been dismissed for taking part in the nine-day dispute over pay and bonuses, it said. The company, Debswana, said 2,300 workers were on strike, but the union said the true figure was nearer 3,000. Botswana is the world's largest producer of uncut diamonds and Debswana, which is owned by diamond giant De Beers and the Botswana government, operates four diamond mines. The ICFTU said the evictions were still continuing and were being carried out forcibly. It warned that "such developments could have serious social consequences on the stability of the region". No one at Debswana was available to comment on the alleged evictions. The ICFTU also says that replacement workers "without a proper grasp of health and safety" have been drafted into the mines to work alongside those miners that have not opted to strike. "(Resulting) lapses in health and safety have reportedly led to two deaths and a higher rate of accidents in the last few days," an ICFTU spokeswoman said. The strike has been declared illegal by a Botswana labour tribunal, a judgement which the ICFTU says contravenes the government's ratification of international labour rights. The Botswana Mining Workers Union (BMWU) is trying to get the government's ruling overturned in the courts. Separately, 33 of its leaders are to go before a judge tomorrow to face charges of contempt of court for ignoring the ruling and continuing with the strike. The BMWU says its workers will return to work if the court case against its leaders is dropped and all dismissed staff are rehired. Debswana, which says that some workers are starting to drift back to work, said all workers must return before any substantial negotiations can take place. The strike, which began on 23 August, is about better pay and bonuses. While the union wants to see a 16% salary increase and a 35% annual bonus, Debswana is offering only a 10% wage rise and a one-off 10%

bonus. So far, the strike has had little impact on world diamond markets. "The strike will only have an effect if it spreads and continues for at least a month," said Stephane Fischler, the International Diamond Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) general secretary.

### INDIA

Mumbai, Aug 30 — The seven-day old nation-wide truckers strike, called by the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), to protest against the imposition of 10 per cent service tax in the Union Budget, was called off early Saturday morning (Aug 28). Trucks were immediately back on the roads after the strike ended. It is reported that cargo movement to and from ports was affected only to a limited extent during the week-long strike period, and that the delays and accumulations can be made good and cleared in a few days. As per the agreement signed between the Revenue Secretary and AIMTC, the "government will make suitable rules/notifications as required and also define commercial concerns and consignment note to make it clear that truck owners and operators are not required to pay or collect service tax". — Lloyd's Agents.

### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Members of the rail union RMT will stage a 24-hour strike at stations operated by Channel Tunnel train company Eurostar today. But the company, which operates from London to Paris and Brussels, was confident the pay-and-grading stoppage by customer service staff would have no impact on passengers or services. However, the RMT said the dispute would have a big impact on the processing of passengers and also warned that more of Eurostar's RMT members could get involved in the dispute in the future. Eurostar has put in place contingency plans and is running an extra eight trains to Paris and Brussels over the Bank Holiday weekend to meet passenger demand. Eurostar communications director Paul Charles said: "The RMT have chosen the Bank Holiday period to try and cause maximum disruption but, for Eurostar and its passengers, it's business as usual. Travellers are fed up with the RMT's attempts to disrupt their holiday plans."

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Eurostar claims a strike by RMT members is having no effect on services, although the union says all its members are out. Customer service staff are staging the 24-hour strike over pay and grades at London Waterloo and Ashford, in Kent. Eurostar said only seven staff had not reported for work and branded the RMT union "impotent", but the RMT said all 160 of its members were striking and accused the company of distorting the truth. The RMT Executive will meet on Tuesday (Aug 31) to discuss balloting members at Eurostar about further strike action.

## Awards & Settlements



### AGE DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: A judge has ordered the Pueblo Country Club to pay \$1.5 million for discriminating against an employee of 40 years because of his age. U.S. District Judge Wiley Daniel issued the order last week in favour of Arcenio "Steve" Garcia, who was golf course superintendent. The club replaced Garcia, then 58, in 1998 with a 41-year-old man. Garcia sued, alleging the club violated the federal age discrimination law. At a five-day trial in November, a jury agreed with his contention and ordered the club to pay him \$417,923 as income he would have received if he had not been replaced. On the first day of the trial, the club offered Garcia \$425,000 to settle the lawsuit, the club's attorney, John Keilbach, said in a court filing earlier this year. Over strong objections from the club, Daniel added \$1,096,143 to what jurors awarded. In doing so, the judge took some significant steps, said Garcia's attorney, James Carleo of Pueblo. He said Daniel added \$167,781 to Garcia's award to cover income taxes he is expected to owe because the judge ordered the club to pay for Garcia's attorney's fees. "I believe that's the first time in the country that's happened, at least in an age discrimination case," Carleo said. The money is called a tax enhancement. The judge also ordered the club to pay \$672,000 to Carleo for representing Garcia. That is one of the largest attorney's fees that federal judges in Colorado have awarded to a single attorney representing a single plaintiff in an age bias case, Carleo said. The remainder of the additional \$1 million was \$256,362, which is required by law as damages because jurors concluded the club's discrimination was willful, Daniel said. The amount is based on doubling the amount jurors awarded for back pay. The club denied Garcia's allegations. It said it upgraded the job description of the person in charge of the golf course when it installed a \$1 million computerized irrigation and fertilization system. Yesterday, Keilbach said the club "remains disappointed in the jury verdict and the resulting judgment. Pueblo Country Club never had any intention of discriminating against Mr. Garcia and regrets that the jury felt the club discriminated when it did not place Mr. Garcia in the new position after he refused to apply for that position." Keilbach said the club soon will file a notice to appeal, a requirement if it decides to pursue an appeal. Carleo told jurors in November that his client knew he was "being set up" to lose his job. The judge said Carleo was entitled to be paid \$280 an hour for 2,400 hours of representing Garcia. It took jurors

about nine hours to conclude Garcia was the victim of the club's age discrimination. They rejected his allegation that he, a Hispanic, also was the victim of race discrimination. He was replaced by a white man.

#### **EMPLOYMENT DISPUTE, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated Aug 27, states: A Santa Monica jury awarded \$275,000 in punitive damages to a Filipino woman who claimed she was kept as a domestic "slave" for a year by a Sony Pictures executive and his wife. Nena Ruiz was awarded \$551,000 in compensatory damages yesterday. Because the jury determined Ruiz was duped into coming to the country to work, the total damages are automatically doubled to \$1.65 million, said her attorney Dan Stormer. "We're very excited," he said. "It really sends a message to people within the community that a jury will not tolerate this conduct. Our expert on slave trafficking testified that at any given time there are 15,000 people forced to work involuntarily (in the United States)." James J. Jackson, a vice president of legal affairs at Sony Pictures Entertainment, denied the allegations during the civil trial in Santa Monica. Jackson had testified that he and his wife, Elizabeth, tried to send Ruiz, 61, home several times, but that she begged to stay, the Daily Journal reported Monday (Aug 23). "We plan to make post-trial motions with (Los Angeles Superior Court) Judge (James A.) Bascue," said the couple's attorney Jack Daniels. "And if he doesn't agree to give relief, then we will appeal." Daniels said he had suggested to the jury that the original verdict for compensatory damages was enough. "Their liabilities exceed their assets," Daniels said of his clients. During the trial, the husband testified that Ruiz, a former schoolteacher, came to the United States to care for his mother-in-law, who has lymphoma, but the couple took her in in February 2001 when that didn't work out, the Daily Journal reported. Ruiz testified that she had wanted to go home but that the Jacksons forced her to stay and threatened to notify a law enforcement agency if she left, the newspaper reported. She also alleged the couple made her sleep in a dog bed, paid her \$300 for the whole year and locked up her passport. "We're disappointed with the verdict, but we respect the jury system," Daniels said.

#### **PERSONAL INJURY, AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A teenager has been awarded more than \$5 million damages over a diving accident in the Murray River on the New South Wales/Victorian border. Jason Ballerini was 16-years-old when he dived from a tree trunk into shallow water in the Murray River in December 1996. The accident left him a quadriplegic. He sued the Berrigan Shire Council and the Forestry Commission of New South Wales for \$8 million alleging they were negligent by not removing the log which was known

to be used as a diving board by local youths. The commission told the Supreme Court that Mr Ballerini was also negligent by not testing the water depth before jumping into the river. Justice Tim Smith has found the council and commission were negligent but agreed the teenager contributed to the accident and should only receive \$5.6 million.

#### **PERSONAL INJURY, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated Aug 28, states: A jury has awarded \$1.2 million to a San Diego college student who was blinded in his left eye by an errant golf ball two years ago. His attorney says Jordan Carlson was putting at Mission Bay Golf Course when a ball hit by a golfer about 45 feet away sailed through a chain-link protective fence at up to 60 miles an hour and hit him in the eye. This week Carlson, a Mesa College computer science student, was awarded \$185,000 dollars for medical expenses and one million dollars for pain and suffering. The three defendants are course operator De Anza Harbor Resort and Golf, course manager Terra Vista Management Company, and the golfer who hit the ball, Ted Miniham of San Diego.

#### **ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: The family of a bus driver who died after being ejected through the windshield in her seat during a crash won a \$13.7 million verdict against the company that maintained the bus. Los Angeles County Judge Michael Farrell found Inglewood-based Four Winds Inc liable for the April, 2001, death of 34-year-old LaShaun Clemmons. Her seat was fastened to the bus with "improper" and "inadequate" bolts, family attorneys said. The verdict handed down on Tuesday (Aug 24) will be split between Clemmons' two teenage sons and the boys' father. She was driving the empty charter bus that she owned on an interstate near Valinda when it hit an icy patch and crashed into the median. The driver's seat came loose and flew through the windshield with Clemmons strapped in. She slid across five lines of traffic and was struck by a tractor-trailer, said her family's attorney, Garo Mardirossian.

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Kentucky Supreme Court vacated a \$15 million judgment against Ford Motor Co. in the case of a man who was crushed by his pickup. In a ruling yesterday, justices ordered a new trial in light of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a similar case that damage awards should be related to the degree of actual harm to the victim. Ford had already paid nearly \$5.6 million in compensatory damages, plus interest. Compensatory damages were not at issue in the ruling. The victim in the case, coal miner Tommy Smith, was killed in 1993 when a parked Ford pickup slipped into reverse and crushed him. At trial, jurors heard testimony that Ford sold about 7

million vehicles with defective transmissions and had 23,000 reports of vehicles slipping from park into reverse. Jurors also were told that hundreds of people had been killed and the Smith family's attorney told jurors "to make them pay." The jury set punitive damages at \$20 million. The state Supreme Court reduced the award to \$15 million in 2002. Justice James Keller, writing for the majority, said the jury "was encouraged to punish Ford for its conduct throughout the country." Two dissenting justices said the \$20 million sum was not unreasonable and that a second trial would blur the distinction between compensatory and punitive damages.

#### **SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis said today it would pay \$2 million to settle 18 claims of sexual abuse against five priests and a nun. The archdiocese said it hoped to settle 16 more cases. About one-third of the \$2 million will be paid by insurance, the rest from archdiocese reserve funds, said Bernard Huger, an attorney for the archdiocese. Under the settlement, which involved allegations of misconduct during the 1970s and '80s, the archdiocese also agreed to educate children about what is appropriate touching, tell employees how to recognize child sexual abuse, and post the state child abuse hot line number in all church workplaces. The \$2 million is separate from more than \$1.6 million paid by the archdiocese in June to a family who said a priest sexually abused their son. The Rev Gary Wolken was sentenced in 2003 to 15 years in prison. A victims support group, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, called on Archbishop Raymond Burke to go beyond civil settlements and "aggressively help find witnesses and victims who could aid in criminal prosecution of abusive clergy."

#### **WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The family of an undocumented immigrant shot to death last year by a ranchhand who claims he mistook the man for a wild hog will get \$15 million under a settlement reached with the men a jury found responsible for killing him. The agreement yesterday came a day after a jury decided the family of 24-year-old Jesus Barrera Vazquez should get \$20 million from businessman John R. Hurd and his ranchhand, Juan Garza Mendoza. Hurd, the partial owner of San Antonio-based Hurd Enterprises, a natural gas company, is responsible for 75 percent of the payment because the killing happened on his Hurd-Villegas Ranch near the U.S. border on June 1, 2003. The civil jury was about to begin discussing additional punitive damages before the settlement ended the trial. Neither Hurd nor his attorney could be reached for comment. Plaintiff's attorneys will get 40 percent of the settlement. According to testimony,



Mendoza and other men at the ranch waited up to two hours before calling 911 to let authorities know a man had been shot.

## Railway Accidents



### BINGOL PROVINCE, TURKEY

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

### COSWORTH, CORNWALL, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Newquay to Par branchline has been re-opened after engineers worked overnight to clear a train and its carriages from the track. The Wessex train involved in the collision with a tractor on the level crossing at Cosworth on Tuesday (Aug 31) has been taken to St Blazey for repairs. An investigation is continuing into the collision which left the 20-year-old tractor driver seriously injured. The crossing remains closed to vehicles. Traffic on the unclassified road is controlled by an audible signal and warning lights, switched on by approaching trains. The operation of the lights and signal, similar to other crossings on the line, will form part of the investigation.

## Miscellaneous



### BAN ON IRON ORE SHIPMENT, BUCHANAN, LIBERIA

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A "Chinese" cargo vessel believed to be bulk *Kang Shun* (30963 gt, built 2004) is reported to have, over the weekend, surreptitiously left the Port of Buchanan with tons of iron ore in spite of a Supreme Court prohibition order. A correspondent in Buchanan said *Kang Shun* stole away from the port 1700, Saturday (Aug 28) less than 24 hours after the Supreme Court, through Associate Justice in Chamber, John L. Greaves, served a notice of prohibition on the Government of Liberian and the ship's master to stay all action pending a conference of all concerned scheduled for Friday, Sep 3.

He could not say whether the ship's crew decided on their own to defy the high court's order or whether someone within the National Transitional Government of Liberia had countermanded the high court order but indicated that the action by the "Chinese" ship has caused consternation in the city and raised doubt over the safety of the Liberian seaports. The high court's prohibition is based on a petition filed "September 27, 2004", by a consortium of six civil

society organizations led by Green Advocates praying the high court to, through an Alternative Writ of Prohibition, "restrain (the NTGL) from selling the remaining iron ore stockpiled in Buchanan to the People's Republic of China."

### COLLAPSE OF BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ESKISEHIR, TURKEY

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A factory being built in central Turkey collapsed today, killing two people and trapping at least two others, an official said. Gov. Kadir Calisici said rescue teams were trying to pull out the two injured people trapped inside the building. "I hope they come out alive," he told CNN-Turk television. Calisici said two people were killed in the collapse of the building site in the central Anatolian city of Eskisehir. It was not clear if other people were buried under the rubble or had been injured in the collapse. Private NTV television put the injury toll at three.

### COLLAPSE OF FLOOR INSIDE NIGHTCLUB, GUARULHOS, BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Aug 29 — The second floor of a crowded Brazilian nightclub collapsed early today, killing six people and injuring 110 on the level below, police said. "The mezzanine fell onto people on the dance floor," said Simone Salgado, a police official from Guarulhos, a town on the outskirts of Brazil's biggest city Sao Paulo. About 1,000 people were estimated to be in the nightclub, according to police, who are investigating the cause of the accident. — Reuters.

### COLLAPSE OF PIERS, PHILADELPHIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Portions of two Delaware River piers in South Philadelphia have collapsed in the last week, but a spokesman for the owner, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, said the incidents caused no injuries or loss of cargo. William McLaughlin III said that the partial collapses were under investigation, that maritime engineering firms have been hired to prepare repair plans and that port commerce has not been affected. The first pier to sustain damage was Pier 80, which the authority calls its Forest Products Distribution Center. Part of the seawall failed, McLaughlin said. The pier is leased to the Penn Warehousing and Distribution Co. Inc. The second pier affected was Pier 84. About 100 feet of the pier's 855-foot apron collapsed on Wednesday (Aug 25), McLaughlin said. The pier primarily handles cocoa beans. The next vessel is expected in late September, McLaughlin said. "We don't expect any interruption in cargo handling. It will either be handled there or nearby piers," he said. Some Pier 80 shipping will shift to Pier 82 or the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal. Meanwhile, city officials said that the last pier-safety report that was done on the two troubled piers showed that they "needed some work but that

they weren't dangerous," said L&I Acting Commissioner Bob Solvibile. As of April, the city no longer has inspection responsibilities for the state-owned piers, he said, due to a new state construction code. Those duties now are with the state Department of Labor and Industry. The Philadelphia Regional Port Authority is a state agency that owns the city's general cargo terminals.

### INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

Dakar, Aug 31 — Only a military-style operation with bases across West Africa can stop the worst locust invasion for 15 years, Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade said on Tuesday as the insects swept into his capital. As Wade and delegates from a dozen West African nations met in Dakar to draw up a battle plan, the airborne pests appeared over some parts of the coastal city like dark snowflakes. "The war is far from being won," Wade told the conference, saying more planes and pesticides were needed now to battle the desert locusts. "We should set up four operating bases. One could be in Senegal, one in Mali, one in Mauritania and another in Niger... I stress the need for the mobilisation of the army, because for me this is a real war," he said. As a first wave of insects arrived in Dakar, others were busy mating in nearby fields, threatening to unleash fresh devastation on vital crops when a new generation comes of age in about six weeks. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned last week that the locust swarms infesting countries from Mauritania to Chad could develop into a full-scale plague without additional foreign aid. Farmers across the region, backed by soldiers and agricultural experts, have managed to spray just three percent of the 2.3 million hectares at risk, according to a joint statement issued at the Dakar conference. The FAO has said \$100 million in aid is needed to fight the infestation, but Wade said only planes and pesticide, not cash, could win the war. "I don't want money. I need materials — pesticides and aircraft to go to the front line. If I'm given \$2 million, by the time I have invited bids for the work, the locusts will have eaten everything up to my palace," he said. Mauritania's President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya saw his palace gardens eaten earlier this month as the desert locusts swept down from northern Africa. In a sign of how far the swarms have spread, experts raced to watch mating, yellow insects tuck into a field of water melons about 45 km south-east of Dakar yesterday. — Reuters.

### RADIOACTIVE LEAK, NECKAR RIVER, GERMANY

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A radioactive leak at a nuclear power plant in southwest Germany has polluted a tributary of the Rhine river, the regional environmental ministry said today. The incident happened in late July when the plant underwent an annual check-up, said the ministry in Stuttgart, capital of the state of Baden-

Wuerttemberg. The leak at Neckarwestheim released a tiny amount of radioactivity into the Neckar river which flows into the Rhine not far from Heidelberg. The ministry said the population in the area was not at risk but the leak still raised concern as two similar incidents had been reported from a nuclear power plant in the same region, at Philippsburg. The ministry has asked plant officials at Neckarwestheim to explain why the incident was only reported about a month after it occurred.

#### **SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES, MADRID, SPAIN**

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated Aug 29, states: Police in Spain have seized over one million packets of contraband cigarettes allegedly bound for the UK. The authorities say the cigarettes were found in a lorry and a warehouse in a Madrid suburb, hidden among plant pots. Police have requested international help in the search for the driver of the truck, who fled the scene. The cigarettes are set to be destroyed.

### **Fires & Explosions**



#### **AVIATION FACILITY, CHARBATIA, INDIA**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire at a top-secret aviation facility run by India's external intelligence agency in Orissa today caused extensive damage to its equipment, officials here said. The fire at the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)'s Aviation Research Centre at Charbatia village near Cuttack, broke out at about 2015 hrs. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known. Senior civil and police officials rushed to the spot with fire service personnel to bring the fire under control. RAW operates aircraft that gather electronic and other intelligence from the centre at Charbatia.

#### **CHEMICAL FACTORY, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: One of the biggest chemical fires in Brisbane in recent years is now under control. The blaze started in a cleaning chemicals factory at Coopers Plains around 0900, AEST. Local residents who were forced to leave their homes were allowed to return to the area just before 1500, AEST. Colin Hartley from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service says 15,000 litres of flammable liquids stored at the factory posed a challenge. "We've had to call in the environmental protection agencies and our Emergency Services' CAM unit for their advice," he said. "We've dammed off all the drainage, consequently some got into the drains in the early stages of the fire and that's been contained and been pumped away."

#### **CHEMICAL PLANT, SECUNDA, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, from Australia, dated today, states: Five people have been killed and 142 were injured in a blast yesterday in an ethylene plant run by South African minerals and hydrocarbons group Sasol in the town of Secunda east of Johannesburg. "I can confirm that five people have died and 142 treated for minor and for serious injuries," Sasol communications manager Johann van Rheede said. He said the blast occurred when "a gas cloud exploded during routine maintenance" at about 0930, local time, at the plant, the world's biggest coal-to-synthetic fuels facility which is spread over 14 square kilometres.

#### **CHURCH, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire gutted an historic church in Melbourne's northwest today. Police are treating the blaze at the Uniting Church in Maribyrnong Road, Moonee Ponds, as suspicious. It started about 0030, AEST, and 35 firefighters battled for 50 minutes to bring the blaze under control. Melbourne Fire Brigade Commander Colin Harris said no-one was hurt, but only the four walls were left standing.

#### **FACTORY, WHITTLESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated Aug 30, states: A major fire that ripped through a factory near Peterborough is thought to have been brought under control, Cambridgeshire police said. The factory, owned by Winpack Packaging Ltd, contains plastics and paper. The surrounding area has been cordoned off and road diversions will stay in place for a few more hours. The scene will then be sealed for both police and fire investigators to look into the possible causes of the fire. There are no reported injuries. The blaze at Lattersey Hill Trading Estate at Benwick Road in Whittlesey was tackled by 10 appliances. A waterfoam unit and a turntable ladder were also at the scene. An eyewitness said there was a series of mini-explosions at the site. He also said there was a huge plume of smoke coming from the factory. A spokesman for Cambridgeshire Police said the smoke was non-toxic, but advised nearby residents to keep their windows closed.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is under way after a major fire ripped through a factory near Peterborough yesterday. The blaze was tackled by 10 appliances. A waterfoam unit and a turntable ladder were also at the scene.

#### **FILM SET, MADABA, JORDAN**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Official sources have told The Jordan Times that investigations into the cause of a fire that gutted a filmset in Madaba are

still ongoing. The official committee is still investigating the incident and will issue a report soon, a senior official told The Jordan Times today. The premises contained flammable material such as wood, hay and jute which helped the fire spread. Chief Executive Officer for the Arab Tele Media Services Talal Awamleh told The Jordan Times today that the losses to the filmset, the second largest in the Middle East, amounted to around JD1.5 million (US\$2.1 million). Awamleh said the filmset was being used to film a Ramadan series entitled Last Days of the Dove. He added that the company plans to rebuild the film-set for future television series and films.

#### **FORESTS, RUSSIA**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Forest fires resumed in the Russian Far East after a long lull, the regional environmental protection department said today. It reported nine fires from Yakutia to Chukotka and said over 90 firemen and dozens of firefighting vehicles had been engaged in Primorye, Khabarovsk and Magadan regions. It is unusually hot in the Far East for this period of the year with temperatures rising up to 30 degrees Centigrade. The environmental protection department said there has been a total of 756 forest fires in the region this season that destroyed 31,700 hectares of taiga.

#### **FORESTS, TURKEY**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Six forestry workers were killed today while battling a forest fire in a rugged area of the southern Turkish province of Antalya, a local forestry official said. "The workers asphyxiated on smoke as they were running away from flames fanned by the wind" near Gundogmus, some 100 kilometres east of the province's main city, also called Antalya, the official said on condition of anonymity. The victims had been dropped off by helicopter after the fire broke out in a region difficult to access by road, he said. Their bodies have been recovered and are awaiting identification, the official added. The forest fire, which broke out earlier in the day.

#### **MARINA, LAKE KEOWEE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated Aug 30, states: A fire at a Lake Keowee marina sank one boat, damaged three others and did nearly \$1 million in damage. Authorities said a fire broke out on a 33-foot cabin cruiser around 0230 hrs, today at the Keowee Marina. The fire spread to three other boats, causing considerable damage to the boats and the marina's awning. The burning boat then drifted about 100 yards from the dock, exploded and sank in about 60 feet of water. Divers were sent to check out the sunken boat after it began leaking about 150 gallons of gasoline. Hazmat crews put absorbent booms around the growing slick on the water. No one was injured in the fire.



**NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITY,  
MOSS BLUFF, TEXAS,  
UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The fire's out at a natural gas storage facility northeast of Houston. The blazing well to a gas-storage cavern at Duke Energy's Moss Bluff storage site burned itself out Wednesday (Aug 25) night. That's a week after it ignited. But authorities can't say how much longer it'll take to finish capping the cavern so more than 30 families can return home. Yesterday, crews worked to weld a new valve atop the Liberty County storage cavern. North Carolina-based Duke Energy owns two other storage caverns at the site. A Duke Energy spokeswoman says the company does not know how much gas remains inside the cavern. But she says it's believed most of the six billion cubic feet of gas that had been stored there was consumed by the fire.

**PREMISES, BLACKPOOL,  
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 80 firefighters have tackled a blaze which threatened the tallest rollercoaster in Europe. Twelve fire engines were called to Blackpool Pleasure Beach when flames were reported at a building near the Pepsi Max Big One rollercoaster. However, crews brought the fire under control within hours of arriving at the scene at 0100 BST, yesterday. No-one was injured in the fire and the site is expected to open as normal this morning. Several other buildings in the complex are believed to have been badly damaged. Barry Shelmerdine, Assistant Divisional Officer of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The blaze started in a building housing a Hall of Mirrors type attraction on the ground floor and a restaurant on the first floor. "It threatened the structure of the Big One but we did really well to contain the fire and the ride appears to be just smoke stained." Fire investigation officers and officials from the Pleasure Beach are set to visit the site at 0900 BST.

**PREMISES, FERRIS, TEXAS,  
UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: A fire and chemical explosion at a plant today injured at least a dozen people and prompted the evacuation of about 800 others in the small north Texas town of Ferris, authorities said. Chemicals released in the blast included cyanide. Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman Tom Vinger said the blast occurred at an aircraft parts refurbishing site. The injured were being treated for chemical inhalation. "What happened was there were employees on the plant grounds who were transporting chemicals," Vinger said. "Two chemicals or multiple chemicals that mixed together caused a fire and explosion. The fire has been put out." Environmental experts checked the scene after authorities determined the mixture of released chemicals included cyanide, which is

potentially deadly. Hazardous materials teams also were at the scene. Aerial views of the facility showed emergency vehicles surrounding a business identified as C&G Manufacturing. The company polishes, repairs and refurbishes aircraft parts, Vinger said. By this evening, authorities had lifted the evacuation order for all but a few blocks around the plant. Access to the area surrounding the plant was closed by the Ellis County Sheriff's Department. Ferris, about 20 miles south of Dallas, has about 2,300 residents.

**RESTAURANT, GRAND FORKS,  
NORTH DAKOTA**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Authorities today investigated what caused a fire that likely destroyed a restaurant in Grand Forks. The blaze at the Green Mill started in the attic above the kitchen area around 2300, yesterday, said police officer Donnie Bryant Sr. About 75 restaurant customers were evacuated, along with patrons at the nearby Borrowed Bucks Roadhouse bar. No injuries were reported. Restaurant owner Dirk Lenthe said he will rebuild. If the building is declared a total loss, the damage estimate would be around \$2 million, he said.

**TIMBER FACTORY, WELSHPOOL,  
WALES**

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated Aug 29, states: A large fire at a timber factory in mid Wales was fought by fire crews from six engines, according to Mid and West Wales Fire Service. Emergency services were called in at 1409, BST, yesterday, to Severn Timber Products, at Severn Farm Industrial Estate, Welshpool. No injuries have been reported.

**VESSEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION,  
MARUGAME SHIPYARD, JAPAN**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Two workers were killed and two others injured in an explosion yesterday afternoon at the bottom of a vessel under construction at a shipyard in Marugame, Kagawa Prefecture, local police said. The explosion at Imabari Shipbuilding Co's Marugame Shipyard occurred while the four workers from an affiliate of the shipbuilder were painting the unfinished vessel, the police said.

Yokohama, Aug 27 — A vessel, 76000 gt, under construction at Imabari Shipbuilding Co, Kagawa Prefecture, had an explosion at around 1600, yesterday. Two workers were killed and two workers were injured. According to the company, thinners to dilute paint may have evaporated and ignited for some reason. — Lloyd's Agents.

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire on the Colorado-New Mexico border spread to more than 1,200 acres yesterday, burning over at least one gas well that was shut off to prevent an explosion. The fire, burning on the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian

reservations near Mesa Verde National Park, was more than 20 percent contained by late yesterday. More than 200 firefighters extended the containment lines around the fire, burning near Redmesa. An air tanker was dropping water in the more remote areas. The Well Fire, named for the natural gas wells, started after a lightning strike last week.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated Aug 31, states: The wildfire in southwestern Colorado had burned roughly 1,200 acres of pinon and juniper as of late yesterday afternoon, the U.S. Forest Service reported. Firefighters had contained 40 percent of the blaze as of yesterday night and said they hoped the fire would be out by tomorrow night. About 240 firefighters were working the blaze, San Juan Public Lands Center spokeswoman Pam Wilson said. Several gas wells scattered in the area were shut down by operator Burlington Resources. Crews were outfitted with gas detectors. The fire was about two miles southwest of Redmesa on Colorado 140. It was burning on both Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute reservations and crossed just south of the New Mexico line yesterday.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: About 150 firefighters were battling a 1,945-acre blaze on Diamond Mountain, in Utah, today. The fire, on Mail Draw northeast of Vernal, consumed mostly Bureau of Land Management land, but some state and private lands were also involved. Officials reported steep, rocky terrain and little access to most of the land. No structures were immediately threatened, and the cause of the fire was still under investigation.

**ACCIDENT AT VENICE MUNICIPAL  
AIRPORT, FLORIDA,  
UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people on a Cessna Citation II flying in from Fort Pierce got a scare yesterday afternoon when the landing gear on their jet aircraft collapsed as the plane touched down. No one was injured in the accident, which took place shortly after 1600 hrs at Venice Municipal Airport. "Its two gears collapsed when it landed," said Airport Manager Robert Hernandez. "The plane suffered damage to the wings and a minor fuel leak." Emergency crews were immediately sent to the runway, where firefighters contained the leaks. The three people had not been identified by press time. City spokeswoman Pam Johnson said the twin-engine jet was registered to Grafair, a business aviation service company with offices in the United States and Sweden.

**AIRCRAFT EVACUATED, MINNEAPOLIS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Forty-four passengers were evacuated from a Mesaba Airlines jet today after passengers saw what they thought was smoke in the rear of the cabin. The 69-seat regional jet was taxiing toward a runway for takeoff when a hydraulic line failure caused hydraulic fluid to form a mist in the air, said Mesaba Airlines spokesman Dave Jackson. He said there was no fire. The crew inflated emergency exit slides and the passengers and the four crew members evacuated. The passengers, who were heading to Fargo, N.D., were being rebooked on other flights tonight. Jackson said the airline was investigating the failure in the hydraulic system, which controls mechanics such as braking and steering. He said the pilots could have controlled the aircraft in flight despite the failure.

**AIRCRAFT EVACUATED, SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: White powder found in the bathroom of a Virgin Blue aircraft which sparked a security alert at Sydney Airport is believed to be harmless. Passengers and crew were evacuated from the flight from Melbourne, and specialist police and fire brigade units were called in to investigate the potentially hazardous powder. The substance has not yet been identified but authorities are confident it posed no risk to passengers or crew. NSW Fire Brigades spokesman Superintendent Ian Krimmer said Hazmat crews had tested the substance on board. "We determined there was no immediate risk in terms of chemical hazards to the public or the environment," he said. "At this stage the substance is yet to be identified but we have ruled out any of the nasties." Botany Bay police Acting Inspector Paul Beudeker said forensic investigators were working to identify the powder. "Our forensic services group are currently examining the aircraft to ensure there's nothing further and also the nature of the substance that is on board," Insp Beudeker said. "At this stage it's still difficult to determine exactly how the substance got there or why it's there." Passengers were kept on the aircraft then put into a cordoned off area. None required medical attention.

**AIRCRAFT HIJACKED, SUDAN**

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft has been hijacked and forced to land in Sudan, apparently by a group of Eritrean asylum seekers. The hijackers of the aircraft - which was deporting the Eritreans from Libya - later surrendered to security forces. No-one was badly hurt, reports said. One Sudanese official said the hijackers were hoping to find asylum in Sudan rather than return to Eritrea. According to human rights groups, Eritreans who are forcibly repatriated face detention and torture. Michael

Lindenbauer, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees deputy representative in Khartoum, said the aircraft had left southern Libya for Eritrea, and landed at about 1400, local time at Khartoum airport. One Libyan crew member is believed to have been slightly injured. Tarek Abu Saleh, a Sudanese foreign ministry official who was at Khartoum airport at the time, said 20 suspected hijackers were now in Sudanese custody. A senior Sudanese official said that Libya had refused the Eritreans refugee status and that the Libyan authorities had chartered the aircraft to take them home. The aircraft was heading for the Eritrean capital Asmara when some of the occupants seized control, he said. Libya's official news agency Jana news agency quoted the country's interior ministry as saying that the aircraft was carrying "illegal immigrants" - 145 Nigerians and 84 Eritreans - and that knives were used to force it to land in Khartoum.

**AIRCRAFT EVACUATED, SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: Police at Sydney Airport have confirmed that a white powder found on board a flight from Melbourne to Sydney did not pose a risk towards passengers. A investigation began after the powder was found in a toilet at about 1800, AEST. Police are trying to determine what the powder is.

**C-FETE**

London, Aug 26 — Amphibious DeHavilland DHC-2 Mk.1 (Beaver), C-FETE, took off from Lindsay airport destined to the pilot's cottage on Sturgeon Point, Ontario. After take-off the landing gear was not retracted and on touchdown on the water the aircraft became inverted and began to sink at 0935, EDT, Aug 25. The pilot evacuated the aircraft and was not injured.

**C-FYRJ**

London, Aug 30 — Piper PA-28-235 (Cherokee), C-FYRJ, operated by Olds-Didsbury Flying Association, on a flight from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, reportedly en route to Gimli, Manitoba, with one person on board, crashed, at 2200 CDT, Aug 26, in a wooded area 15 miles south-west of Ashern, Manitoba. The pilot died. The aircraft was substantially damaged by impact forces and a post-crash fire. Transport Safety Board investigators were deployed to the site.

**CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS AT HEATHROW AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: British Airways passengers suffered more travel disruption today as six flights were cancelled due to "technical difficulties". The first flight to be scrapped had been due to depart from Baltimore to Heathrow, while a round-trip flight from Heathrow to Amsterdam was also cancelled. Other flights cancelled were round trips to Oslo and Zurich. BA spokesman Tony Cane said the flights were axed due to minor technical

difficulties. He said: "There have only been two flights cancelled this morning and hopefully there won't be any further cancellations today." He said there was no way to predict what the situation would be like over the Bank Holiday weekend, but stressed that the flying programme was still under continuous review. The problems at BA started on Monday when it scrapped 50 flights from Heathrow due to technical difficulties and staff shortages. A further 31 flights were cancelled on Tuesday (Aug 24), and seven flights were axed yesterday, resulting in delays and frustration for thousands of passengers. BA has warned that it could merge some services over the next few days due to the knock-on effects of staff shortages. Chief executive Rod Eddington and 11 other directors will also be working at Heathrow over the weekend to help things run smoothly. BA chiefs had hoped their troubles were over when a planned 24-hour strike by workers over the Bank Holiday weekend was called off. The strike had threatened to cause travel chaos for tens of thousands of holidaymakers.

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: British Airways, plagued by staff shortages and technical hitches all week, today announced two dozen flight cancellations for the coming days, including several trans-Atlantic round trips. The airline has scrapped more than 100 flights to and from Heathrow Airport over the past five days. Thousands of travelers have been stranded or faced long waits for alternative flights. British Airways said passengers scheduled to fly on today's cancelled round-trip flights to Aberdeen, Glasgow and Manchester would be accommodated on later flights. BA said it was canceling 24 flights in the coming days. Tomorrow's cancellations include round trip flights from Heathrow to Amsterdam, Netherlands; Copenhagen, Denmark, and Phoenix. One of the airline's several daily round trips between London and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport was cancelled for this Sunday (Aug 29), Monday and Tuesday. Round trip flights from Heathrow to Zurich, Switzerland, and Oslo, Norway, were cancelled for this Sunday, and from Heathrow to Glasgow and Aberdeen in Scotland on Monday. On Tuesday, the airline is cancelling round-trip services to Brussels, Belgium and Zurich. A BA spokeswoman emphasized that the cancellations were only 1 percent of the airline's total flights. Chief executive Rod Eddington and 11 other directors have pledged to work at Heathrow over the weekend. They will be among 300 employees who don't normally work at the airport but have volunteered to do so this weekend, the airline said. BA last week headed off a strike planned for the holiday weekend by offering its baggage handlers and check-in staff more pay.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: British Airways has cancelled a further six flights today, as



investigations continue into last week's travel disruption. Staff shortages and technical problems led BA to cancel over 100 flights last week. The latest cancellations are return trips from Heathrow to New York, Brussels and Zurich. BA chief executive Rod Eddington and 11 other directors visited Heathrow at the weekend to boost morale at the crisis-hit airline. The directors were on hand to help out and greet passengers, but did not fill in for regular staff. Six flights were cancelled on Saturday (Aug 28) were out of a total 540, and the spokesman said things were running "pretty normally". The airline warned then that services might be "merged" in coming days to cope with the problems, but said any changes would be made well before departure times.

#### **CRASH, BOURNEMOUTH, DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people have been seriously hurt when a small plane crashed close to a south coast airport. Eyewitnesses report that the aircraft burst into flames after it came down in a hedge as it was taking off from Bournemouth Airport. Dorset Ambulance said three people were "at least very seriously hurt". Two of the casualties have been airlifted to Salisbury Hospital - which has a specialist burns unit - the ambulance spokeswoman confirmed. The plane came down south west of the airport near the Alice in Wonderland theme park. No one from the theme park is reported to have been hurt. A police spokeswoman said: "Shortly before 12 noon a light aircraft taking off from Bournemouth Airport crashed into hedge just outside the airport. "There were casualties on board and police are making inquiries in relation to these. The civil aviation agency and the air accident investigation board have been informed."

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft crashed today just 20 yards from the entrance to a theme park packed full of children. A man in the aircraft was killed in the accident close to the Alice in Wonderland theme park in Bournemouth. Two other men in the privately-owned aircraft, a Tobago, were taken to Odstock Hospital, in Salisbury, with severe burns and were being treated in intensive care. All three people were from Guernsey. The single engine aircraft crashed shortly after take off from the Bournemouth International Airport at around noon. The aircraft caught fire on impact.

#### **CRASH, EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Two British tourists have died after their light aircraft crashed in the outback in north western Australia. The twin-engined Cessna 421 had just taken off from El Questro when it hit the ground and exploded. A police spokeswoman said the two victims were born in Britain, but had been living in Australia. Their

daughter, who lives in Perth, has been told of their deaths. A Foreign Office spokesman said details had not yet been formally confirmed. The privately-owned, Swiss-registered aircraft, which was carrying only the two people killed, came down at noon local time (0500 BST). Eric Siewert, general manager of the El Questro homestead, said the tourists were leaving after spending two nights at the exclusive wilderness park near the town of Kununurra. He said: "Just after take-off from El Questro airstrip, the port engine failed, we believe. It banked to the left and turned upside down and crashed. It was very quick and it exploded." The aircraft exploded on impact and was consumed by fire. It appeared the pair had been trying to come back to ground with engine problems when they crashed. Investigators from the Air Transport Safety Bureau are leading the inquiry into the crash.

#### **CRASH, HANJIANG AREA, SOUTH KOREA**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A South Korean light aircraft has crashed during a trial flight, killing the two experts on board. The plane was developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute. The light aircraft, named North Wind, was being developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute. China Radio International reported yesterday. Ten minutes after takeoff on Friday, the aircraft lost contact with the ground station and disappeared from the radar screen. The debris of the aircraft was found near Hanjiang River. North Wind made its successful maiden flight in June this year and was due to be released to the public later this year.

#### **CRASH, PORT EDWARDS AREA, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A biplane giving rides for a fund-raiser in central Wisconsin crashed upside down in a river yesterday morning, killing a Michigan woman, authorities said. The 1941 Steerman biplane's landing gear struck power lines before it crashed into about three feet of water in the Wisconsin River, said Wood County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Ward.

#### **CRASH, SHREVEPORT AREA, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

See N9714Q,

#### **DAMAGE TO RUNWAY AT LAS CRUCES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Officials in Las Cruces said it will cost at least \$1 million to repair a damaged runway at the Las Cruces International Airport after President George W. Bush's visit. The airport's facilities director said the damage was caused last Thursday (Aug 26) by a C-17 cargo airplane that accompanied Bush. The city has closed the runway indefinitely and airport

administrators are asking the White House to pay for damages. A White House spokesman said officials are looking into it.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, DUBLIN AIRPORT, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Dublin Airport was forced to temporarily close its runways last night after a Hungarian aircraft with 185 people on board made an emergency landing. The jet, owned by the Hungarian state airline Malev, was en route from Budapest to Toronto when it was diverted to Dublin. Smoke was seen coming from the aircraft when it landed. The passengers and crew were evacuated safely and spent the night in Dublin. All incoming aircrafts were put on a holding pattern while the emergency was in progress and two flights are believed to have been diverted. Services at the airport have since returned to normal.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Just after 0100 hrs, this morning, a Delta Airlines aircraft from Atlanta carrying 52 passengers made an emergency landing at Gerald R. Ford International Airport. The aircraft was experiencing problems with its front flaps, which are used to help slow down the aircraft. The jet landed safely after circling the airport for a few minutes.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, GLASGOW AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An Air Malta flight has landed safely at Glasgow Airport after fears that one of its tyres had burst. The Boeing 737, with 143 people on board, took off after 1930 BST, yesterday and circled the airport for three hours to burn fuel before attempting to land. The British Airports Authority (BAA) said full-scale emergency procedures were activated. Emergency services on-site were backed up by fire and ambulance crews from the Strathclyde area. The crew reported a suspected problem with a tyre when Air Malta Flight KM197 took off at 1936 BST. An Air Malta spokesman said the crew followed "standard procedure" after suffering loss of pressure in the tyre. A BAA spokesman said the passengers had been through a frightening ordeal but no-one was physically hurt. The passengers were taken off the aircraft and escorted to a secure area at the side of the airfield. No-one was reported to be injured. They were all offered accommodation at the nearby Holiday Inn overnight and are awaiting an alternative flight from Air Malta today.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, KRASNOYARSK, RUSSIA**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A Tu 154, flight number 149 on route Domodedovo to

Krasnoyarsk, made an emergency landing at the destination point, Aug 19. According to a Krasnoyarsk civil defense and emergency situation headquarters officer on duty, shortly before the end of the flight one of three engines was found faulty and the crew took a decision to disconnect it and make a landing with only two remaining engines. This operation was performed in a standard mode, none of the crew members and 28 passengers were injured. A special commission has started clarifying causes of the incident.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SURGUT AIRPORT, RUSSIA**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A TU-154 airliner of the Kogalymavia airlines on a Volgograd-Surgut flight with 166 passengers on board made an emergency landing in the Surgut airport last night. The emergency landing was needed because of the malfunctioning of one of the aircraft's engines, Rashid Abrarov, the chief of the Surgut emergencies agency, told Tass. The services on the ground have been alerted but there was no need for the aid of either medics or rescuers. Nobody was hurt. The crew made a safe landing. A special commission will investigate the causes of the engine's malfunctioning.

#### **HELICOPTER FIRE, NENETS AREA, RUSSIA**

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated Aug 26, states: A Mi-8 helicopter burned down in Russia's Nenets ethnic autonomy. Passengers and the crew survived. A spokesman at the Arkhangelsk regional emergencies centre said today that the helicopter carrying members of an ecological expedition caught fire just after it lifted off. The crew managed to land the craft. Flames engulfed the helicopter seconds after eight passengers and four crewmembers left it. One of the passengers got burns. The Mi-8 burned down fully. Causes of the fire are being investigated.

#### **N197TT**

London, Aug 30 — De Havilland DHC-3 (Otter), N197TT, operated by R & J Aircraft Leasing Corp, while on a flight from McGrath, Alaska, to Kotzebue, Alaska, with three persons on board, crashed 35 miles west of McGrath at 2350, Aug 27. One person died and two seriously injured.

London, Aug 30 — A press report, dated today, states: One man died and two men were injured in De Havilland DHC-3 (Otter), N197TT when it crashed 35 miles north-west of McGrath on Aug 27. A search-and-rescue team from the Alaska Air National Guard found the men yesterday. The survivors spent two nights at the wreckage of their aircraft, under heavy forest fire smoke and severe weather, before they were spotted by crews with the 210th Rescue Squadron. The survivors were flown to Anchorage and taken to Alaska Regional Hospital for treatment, according to Air Guard spokesman Maj.

Mike Haller. Alaska State Troopers planned to recover the remains of the victim with a civilian helicopter. Troopers had not released any names pending notification of family members, Haller said. The survivors suffered cuts, bruises and possibly broken bones. The three men had taken off from McGrath about 1600, Aug 27, in the Otter on a flight to Kotzebue. Another aircraft, travelling with them, had taken off a few minutes earlier. When the Otter did not arrive, the people in other aircraft reported it overdue to the Federal Aviation Administration, Haller said. Smoke and thunderstorms around McGrath kept searchers grounded on Aug 28. The Alaska Rescue Coordination Centre asked the Air Guard to join the search yesterday morning. The Guard launched an HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter and an HC-130 Hercules rescue tanker from Kulis Air National Guard Base. About 1430 hrs, the Hercules crew spotted a man at the wreckage waving. Two rescuers parachuted to the scene. The survivors were taken to McGrath aboard the helicopter and on to Anchorage aboard the HC-130.

#### **N240CJ**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Skipped maintenance procedures, a faulty manual and a lack of mechanic and pilot checks doomed the Colgan Air plane that crashed off Yarmouth more than a year ago. In a probable cause report issued yesterday by the National Transportation Safety Board, the federal agency cited a series of events that led to the crash, which killed pilot Scott Knabe and first officer Steven Dean on Aug 26, 2003. Knabe, of Cincinnati, and Dean, of Euless, Texas, were flying the empty plane from Barnstable Municipal Airport in Hyannis to Albany, N.Y., on a repositioning flight. Almost immediately after take-off, they reported a control problem referred to as runaway trim. As the two struggled with the controls and getting the plane back to the airport, it crashed into the water, barely three minutes into the flight. It was the first flight following maintenance during which a team of four mechanics in Hyannis replaced two elevator trim actuators and a forward elevator trim cable, which help control the pitch of the airplane. While installing the cable on the 19-passenger Beechcraft 1900D, the maintenance crew skipped a step listed in the manual and also did not use a guide wire to help rig the cable, a technique ordered in the manual, NTSB air safety investigator Robert Gretz said. And while the manual, printed by Beechcraft manufacturer Raytheon Aircraft Systems, included accurate written instructions, an accompanying illustration of the trim drum was printed backward, according to the NTSB report. The trim drum connects the elevator cables that control the plane. If installed in reverse, the cable would move the plane in the opposite direction intended by the pilot. Colgan mechanics also did not check during or

after the maintenance to be sure the cable was functioning properly. Colgan Air President Mike Colgan would not comment on the report. In addition to the mechanical issues, the two pilots did not conduct their first flight of the day checks, though aviation sources said that would have done little to highlight the problem. Raytheon manuals came under fire last year because of two fatal crashes, the one at Yarmouth and one at Charlotte, N.C., and one aborted take-off, that followed maintenance. In each case, inaccuracies or omissions were cited as contributing or causal factors, according to NTSB records. Since the Charlotte and Yarmouth crashes, Raytheon has revised the elevator control section of its manual, making seven corrections and one change, Raytheon spokesman Tim Travis said in February. Raytheon issued a statement yesterday in response to the NTSB report, placing the blame on the airline. "As with any case, there are many details to consider and we understand the NTSB's statement of probable cause to be factually correct," Travis said. "Had the mechanic performed a proper functional check as required by the maintenance manual, the error would have been discovered." Travis declined further comment, citing litigation, though records of such a case could not be located as of press time last night. The Federal Aviation Administration is currently working with Raytheon to revise its manuals for the Beechcraft 1900, 1900C and 1900D aircraft, FAA spokesman Les Dorr said. That will include eliminating ambiguous procedures or work instructions. The NTSB recommended that the FAA work with Raytheon after the probable cause ruling in the Charlotte case was issued.

#### **N2477E**

London, Aug 30 — Cessna 172S, N2477E, operated by Uvalde Flight Center Inc, while on a flight from Uvalde, Texas, with one person on board, crashed near Leakey, Texas, at 1640, UTC, Aug 28, and was destroyed.

#### **N248AC**

London, Aug 27 — Erickson S64E, N248AC, operated by Erickson Air Crane Inc., crashed under unknown circumstances while fighting fires near Bastia, France, at 0742, local time, Aug 26. The two persons on board were fatally injured. Damage unknown.

#### **N26486**

London, Aug 30 — Cessna 172R (Restart), N26486, operated by T.J. Aviation Inc, while on a local training flight from Dekalb Peachtree Airport, Georgia, with two persons on board, on take off, landed on top of the fence 1500 feet past end of runway 20R, Chamblee, Georgia, at 1306, UTC, Aug 28. The aircraft was substantially damaged. Both persons on board suffered minor injuries.

#### **N4062X**

London, Aug 27 — Robinson R22 Beta, N4062X, operated by Airman Testing



and Traning Inc., crashed in a wooded area at Boynton Beach, Florida, at 1900, Aug 24. Damage is unknown.

#### **N561ER**

London, Aug 30 — American Champion 8-KCAB-180, N561ER, operated by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Inc, while on a local flight from Prescott, Arizona, with one person on board, during aerobatic manoeuvres, collided in mid-air with American Champion 8-KCAB-180, N562ER, operated by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Inc, with one person on board, at 1545, UTC, Aug 28, five miles east of Prescott. Both aircraft were destroyed and both pilots died.

#### **N562ER**

See N561ER.

#### **N63AC**

London, Aug 30 — Beechcraft Bonanza C35, N63AC, owned in Kalispell, Montana, with two persons on board, crashed into a house in Kalispell, on Aug 29. Both persons on board died.

#### **N86600**

London, Aug 30 — Boeing 75 (Kaydet), N86600, operated by Mark A.Strub, with two persons on board, hit power lines at Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, at 1430 UTC, Aug 28, crashed and was destroyed. One person on board died.

#### **N871CL**

London, Aug 30 — Robinson R-22 Beta, N871CL, operated by Atlantic Coast Helicopters, while on a flight from Islip, New York, with two persons on board, crashed onto Crab Meadow beach, Islip, at 2202, UTC, Aug 29, and was substantially damaged. Both persons on board died.

#### **N9714Q**

London, Aug 27 — Beech BE23, N9714Q, had engine failure and crashed into a wooded area five nautical miles south-east of Shreveport, Louisiana, at 2129, Aug 24. The aircraft was destroyed.

#### **RA-65080**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Russian Tu-134 passenger jet (RA-65080) which crashed Tuesday night (Aug 24) and killed all 43 people on board, did not sustain an explosion as earlier reports said, a Emergency Situations Ministry official said today, citing preliminary investigation results at the site of the tragedy.

London, Aug 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Traces of explosive have been found amid the wreckage of one of two Tupolev aircraft that crashed on Tuesday, say Russian officials. The FSB security service said at least one of the almost simultaneous crashes was a "terrorist act". Details of the discovery came after an Islamic group claimed responsibility for the crashes in a website statement. Investigators are still working to decode the flight data recorders from the crashes, which left 89 people dead. Inquiry chief Igor Levitin said he still

had no "clear idea as to what happened". A Tu-134 (RA-65080) and a Tu-154 crashed within minutes of each other over southern Russia, coming down about 800km apart. The FSB says the traces of explosive were found amid the debris of the Tu-154, which was flying to the Black Sea resort of Sochi when it disappeared from radar shortly after the pilot pressed the SOS button. The same explosive, hexogen, was apparently used in a series of apartment bombings in 1999 that killed around 200 people. In a website statement today, a group called the Islamic Brigades said it had five people on board each aircraft. It warned this act would be followed by others "until the killings of our Muslim brothers in Chechnya cease". The crashes came just days before a presidential election in Chechnya, where separatists recently stepped up attacks on Russian forces and their local allies. Transport Minister Igor Levitin, who heads the government commission investigating the crashes, said yesterday that more time was needed to decode the "black box" flight data recorders. "Not all the flight recorders are in a condition that would allow them to be read immediately," he said before flying to Tula Region, where one of the planes crashed. "Today and tomorrow we will work on them in order to bring the tape to a condition that will allow us to read what happened." President Vladimir Putin's envoy to southern Russia told reporters that the black boxes had "practically switched off immediately". Vladimir Yakovlev said this was "probably more confirmation that something had happened very quickly". Investigators have continued to sift through the wreckage scattered over fields in Tula and Rostov Region. Passenger lists indicate that all the victims were Russian, apart from one Israeli. The vast majority appear to have been ethnic Russians while there has been some speculation that a woman passenger on board the Tu-154 may have been a Chechen. "We have no information that she was a terrorist," said Mr Levitin, adding that investigators wanted to know why no one had come to claim her body. Russia's newspapers have largely poured scorn on the official line that the cause of the crashes was probably technical or human error. The victims' families are to receive 112,000 roubles (\$3,800) each in compensation - unless it is proven that terrorism was to blame, in which case they would receive less.

Moscow, Aug 28 — Explosives have been found in the second of two Russian jets which crashed simultaneously this week killing 90 people, investigators said today, having already announced the same discovery in the first aircraft. The latest finding, disclosed by the FSB security service, supported widely held theories that both aircraft were downed by bombs days ahead of elections in volatile Chechnya. "Additional examination of the fragments of the Tu-134 aircraft which crashed Tuesday ... has revealed traces of hexogen," an FSB spokesman said. Hexogen had also been

found in the wreckage of the other plane. As the investigation proceeded and fragments of wreckage were removed from crash sites, Russia's transport minister toughened security measures and vowed to prevent any recurrence. Igor Levitin said his concern was to ensure safe air travel. Safety measures, previously undertaken solely by airports, would now be shared with the Interior Ministry. — Reuters.

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Russia's transport minister, citing a black box recording from one of two aircrafts that crashed minutes apart last week, said yesterday there was no evidence of a hijacking attempt or any other disturbance before the explosion aboard the jetliner. The conversation inside the cockpit of the Tu-154 indicated the crew was unable to contact traffic controllers and tried to manage the jet for some time after the blast on board. "The words spoken by the crew members among themselves are (about) work by the crew to save the plane," said the minister, Igor Levitin. Also, new details emerged about two Chechen women who are the focus of suspicions that the aircrafts were blown up by terrorists. All 90 people aboard the aircraft were killed. Gen. Andrei Fetisov, chief of the scientific department at the Federal Security Service, said there was no longer any doubt that "both planes crashed as a result of explosions," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported yesterday. He reiterated that traces of the high explosive hexogen were found in the wreckage. How the explosive may have been brought on board the aircrafts that took off from Moscow was still unclear, however, and investigators were scraping for clues about Amanta Nagayeva and S. Dzhebirkhanova, two Chechen women whose names were listed on tickets for the flights. The crashes happened just five days before presidential elections in Chechnya, where separatist rebels have been fighting Russian forces for five years. Officials had warned that insurgents and their supporters could commit terrorist acts to try to undermine the vote. Nagayeva, 30, and Dzhebirkhanova, 37, aroused accident investigators suspicions because they purchased tickets at the last minute and because they were the only victims about whom no relatives inquired after news of the crashes.

#### **VH-DXZ**

London, Aug 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue crews have salvaged the wreckage of a light aircraft which crashed off the Sunshine Coast, killing the pilot. Barry Coventon, 54, died when the aircraft crashed into the sea two weeks ago. His body was recovered three days later. Salvage crews retrieved the aircraft off Point Cartwright yesterday. Air safety investigators, who are still trying to determine the cause of the accident, will now be able to examine the fuselage of the aircraft.

**Product Recalls**

**ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: General Electric Co. is voluntarily recalling 28,300 wall ovens and ranges it made in the United States and Mexico because of faulty wiring, according to a report by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The recall includes General Electric, Hotpoint, Kenmore and Americana brand electric ranges and ovens. The report said consumers should stop using the ovens and ranges immediately, because there is a risk of fire. GE, which makes and sells the products through its Louisville-based GE Consumer & Industrial division, sold the units through distributors nationwide. The ranges, which retailed for between \$250 and \$500, were sold in June and July. The wall ovens, which retailed for \$950 to \$1,500, were sold from April to July. GE, which is conducting the recall with the CPSC, reported that the wiring problem may melt and cause the oven to short circuit. The appliance could then stop working and pose a shock hazard to consumers, the report said. No injuries have been reported. Kim Freeman, a spokeswoman for GE Consumer & Industrial, said the cost of the repair will be paid by the manufacturer of the wiring harness and will not result in charges for GE or its customers.

**HINO MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Hino Motors Ltd said yesterday it is recalling a total of 60,361 units of eight small truck models for free replacement of defective wipers. The vehicles were manufactured between April 1999 and March 2002 and the eight models include the Hino Dutro and the Toyota Dyna, which Hino Motors produces for Toyota Motor Corp, the automaker said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

**MERCEDES BENZ MOTOR VEHICLES, KOREA**

London, Aug 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Mercedes Benz Korea announced today that it will recall a total of 2,956 cars sold in Korea, including the Benz E, S, CLK, and CL Class. The decision was made because a fuel leakage was found in the electronic stability program (ESP), which reduces torque when applying break pressure. Among those to be recalled are the Benz E and CLK Class produced from March 1997 to April 30 2001, the S Class produced from May 1997 to April 2001, and the CL Class produced from March 1998 to April 2001. Also, some models of the S and CL Class were found to have problems with the air-conditioner system, active body control (ABC), trunk lid upholder, and oil pressure line. The company said that they would replace or fix defected parts free of charge in their service centres for one year and six months starting from August 28.

**MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck &

Bus Corp said today it is recalling an additional 300,000 trucks for free replacements of defective cabins and wiring. Subject to the recall are about 54,000 large trucks manufactured between April 1996 and July this year and some 247,000 midsize trucks produced between August 1983 and November 1999, Mitsubishi Fuso said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

**Port Conditions**



**BRAZIL**

London, Aug 31 — Shipping lines and shippers using the port of Santos, in Brazil, face further delays this week as congestion cripples the main highways leading into the port. Last week trucks stretched back out of the port entrance for some 6 km, clogging the main transport arteries. The same is expected this week, with further delays at bulk and container terminals, which all use the same road system. A spokesman for the Santos port authority Codesp said it was a peak period for the sugar and soya export season and this was putting severe strain on the port infrastructure.

**SYRIA**

Lattakia, Aug 14 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Lattakia, Aug 21 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Port Delays**

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	31-Aug-2004	Coal: One vessel at berth, 3 at anchor; 3 vessels due by 14/9; up to 10 days delay expected.
Brisbane	31-Aug-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Four vessels due by 21/9; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	31-Aug-2004	Coal: Three vessels at berth, 28 at anchor; 48 vessels due by 5/10; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 10 days delay expected.
Dampier	31-Aug-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth; 8 vessels due by 15/9; up to 3 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 7 vessels due by 8/9; up to 8 days delay expected.
Gladstone	31-Aug-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth, 4 at anchor; 28 vessels due by 29/9; up to 5 days delay expected; Barney Point: 4 vessels due by 20/9; up to 1 day's delay expected. Operational unions at central Queensland Port Authority (CQPA) ceased work this afternoon 31 August 2004 over conditions of employment. All operations at RG Tanna coal terminal have ceased. We have been advised by the CQPA that they expect unions will resume work at 07.00 hours 01 September 2004.
Hay Point	31-Aug-2004	Coal: One vessel at berth, 10 at anchor; 9 vessels due by 7/9; up to 8 days delay expected. Berth closed for maintenance until 1/9.
Newcastle	31-Aug-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading; 38 vessels due by 14/9; Dykes 4+5: 10 vessels due by 12/9; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 2-15 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	31-Aug-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 7 vessels due by 9/9; 1-4 days delay expected; "B" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 6/9; 1-4 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel loading at berth; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 2 vessels due by 1/9; 1-3 days delay expected.



**Port Conditions**

Port Kembla	31-Aug-2004	Coal: One vessel at anchor; 14 vessels due by 10/10; CB1: 3 vessels due by 18/9; up to 2 days delay expected.
Port Walcott	31-Aug-2004	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 6 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 10/9; up to 6 days delay expected; 2 ship loaders are being used on a more frequent basis, requiring 2 loading plans: one for single ship loader, 1 for dual loader operation; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (10 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively.
<b>Brazil</b>		
Paranagua	31-Aug-2004	Sixteen vessels at berth of which 12 loading, 2 discharging, 2 container vessels; 24 vessels waiting in roads of which 9 to load, 15 to discharge; 42 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	31-Aug-2004	Two vessels loading at berth, 3 discharging at berth; 7 vessels waiting in roads; 42 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	31-Aug-2004	Fourteen vessels loading at berth, 4 discharging at berth, 11 loading/discharging at berth;
Sao Sebastiao	31-Aug-2004	Five vessels berthed; 1 vessel waiting in roads; 4 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	31-Aug-2004	Fourteen vessels berthed; 22 vessels waiting in roads; Vitoria: 1 vessel discharging malt; Terminal Vila Velha: 3 vessels loading (1 granite, 1 cellulose, 1 pig iron), 1 loading/discharging full containers; Praia Mole: 3 vessels loading steel products, 1 discharging coal; Tubarao: 3 vessels loading (2 iron ore, 1 containers), 1 discharging fertiliser; Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: 1 vessel loading iron ore; 14 vessels due over the next 7 days.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bougas	30-Aug-2004	Eight vessels in port of which 3 loading, 5 discharging; 7 vessels in roads of which 5 to load, 2 to discharge; 6 vessels due of which 4 to load, 2 to discharge.
<b>Chile</b>		
Valparaiso	30-Aug-2004	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels at anchorage: 12 vessels due this week.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Alexandria	30-Aug-2004	Twenty-eight vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 20 general cargo, 1 container, 7 bulkers; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	30-Aug-2004	Twelve vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 9 general cargo, 1 bulker, 2 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	30-Aug-2004	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	31-Aug-2004	No labour problems; Eleven vessels loading at berth (7 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 17 discharging at berth (13 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 2 loading/discharging containers at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 8 waiting at anchorage to discharge (4 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 12 waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE (11 containers, 1 tanker); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	31-Aug-2004	No labour problems; Three vessels loading general cargo at berth, 8 discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 8 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 4 tankers); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 13 waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE (8 containers, 5 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	30-Aug-2004	Five vessels discharging at berth, 1 loading and discharging containers; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels awaiting orders; 9 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	30-Aug-2004	Three vessels discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load containers, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; QICT berth: no vessels.
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	30-Aug-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 9 loading at berth, 3 discharging at berth; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 25 vessels due.
Gdynia	30-Aug-2004	Seven vessels in port operating of which 2 loading at berth, 2 discharging at berth, 3 awaiting orders; 14 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 37 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	30-Aug-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, all loading; 3 vessels in roads, all to load; 54 vessels due, all to load; Oil terminal: 2 tankers loading at berth; 5 tankers in roads, all to load; 8 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
<b>Spain</b>		
Cadiz	30-Aug-2004	Eleven vessels in port of which 3 Ro/Ros, 1 container, 1 semolina, 2 shipbuilding material, 1 beetroot, 3 under repairs; no delays expected.
Sagunto	30-Aug-2004	Nineteen vessels in port operating of which 3 loading (1 steel, 1 scrap, 1 feldspath), 13 discharging (12 steel products, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 3 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.

## Port Conditions

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	30-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 berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). Five container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bagged maize, 1 timber/steel); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load, none waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel bunkering, 1 under repairs, 7 dry-docked; 1 vessel awaiting orders, 1 for crew change; 1 vessel at new tanker berth; 6 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.
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### Ukraine

Illichevsk	30-Aug-2004	Four vessels in port operating of which 2 loading steel products, 1 discharging ore, 1 discharging/loading containers; no vessels in roads; 18 vessels due of which 10 to load, 2 to discharge, 6 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	30-Aug-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, all loading; 10 vessels in roads, all to load; 61 vessels due of which 56 to load, 4 to discharge, 1 to discharge/load.
Odessa	30-Aug-2004	Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 15 loading, 1 discharging baggage, 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads of which 2 to load, 1 to discharge sugar; 59 vessels due of which 37 to load, 3 to discharge, 19 to load/discharge containers.

### United States

Houston	31-Aug-2004	Normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. channel draft observed. LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Kalama	31-Aug-2004	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans	31-Aug-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1 day's delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: down for maintenance. Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected. Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 2-3 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 4 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 1 day's delay expected. Five-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 4.3 ft. by 9/9. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. BW; Vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case-by-case basis, based on current river conditions.
Portland	31-Aug-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Tacoma	31-Aug-2004	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

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